

British International Championship Club

Poitiers Provisional Race Report

11th July 2020

The third National from Poitiers

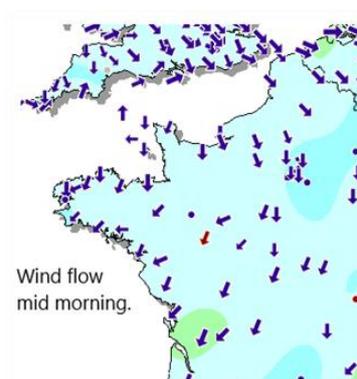
The city of Poitiers, which can be found on the river Clain, is a traditional university centre in the central-west of France. Many famous philosophers and scientists have studied there, including René Descartes, the man who said, "I think, therefore I am". The city is twinned with Northampton in the UK.

On Saturday 11th July, it played host to the third BICC National of the season where 372 members sent 3567 birds.

This report is based on member's first bird verifications, the final result may differ.

Weather report by Steve Appleby - race & weather advisor

Thanks to high pressure developing over England and France during Friday night, fine settled weather presented itself for our race from Poitiers. After discussing the situation with Mark Gilbert, liberation was effected at 06:00 with our convoyer reporting the birds clearing the site into clear blue skies. The satellite image captured at 06:15 on Saturday morning clearly identifies the cloudless skies over France. Generally, temperatures averaged 20C, not such a hot day but, the convoy raced under the bright sun all the time they were in France. As the morning progressed fair weather cloud bubbled up over England giving some relief to the pigeons. Winds were generally light from the north but, varied from early morning NNE to a NNW direction over the channel. The image taken from St Malo illustrates the clear visibility as the sun rises. The wind speed over the channel was about 12 MPH, providing conditions for a good steady race with the cream coming to the top.



Weather Map



St Malo Saturday morning



Satellite image

The Provisional Open Winner

Paul Basham of Burlesdenon took 1st South Centre Section and 1st Open on 1303ypm. Paul timed a dark chequer, yearling cock raced on widowhood, to record his first National win. Paul explained, "I have now named the bird, Brian. His sire is bred from my good friend's G&C Cooper of Peasedown, along the bloodlines of, Farmer George (1st Int. Bordeaux, won by 63 mins) and Farm Ivy (1st Int.

hens St Vincent). His dam is from Mark Gilbert's double national winner Darkie (1st BICC Pau x 1st BBC Messac). This pair is also responsible for breeding my 3rd Section, 6th Open BICC Poitiers winner in 2019".

Paul also timed a second bird within 5 seconds of his first. He said, "Hot on his tail, I clocked a yearling hen, whose sire was bred by David Coward Talbot from a son of That's my Boy, the Taffy Bowen Trophy winner and half brother to 1st Section, 1st Open BICC Falaise, 4928b in 2008 for Mr & Mrs Maull. Her dam is a grand-daughter of Lucas. Lucas was purchased by Brian Long having scored 1st National Tours, 6481b, 8th National Bourges, 8994b and 10th National Houdeng 16,318b. These bloodlines run through many of my performance birds".

The result was made even more special, not only because it was Paul's first National win with the BICC, but it was also the weekend of his dad's 76th birthday. An emotional Paul said, "Dad has been there for me through everything and I owe him a huge debt of gratitude. I thought it appropriate to name my open winner, Brian, after him and after the name of my house, Burseldene. So, he's called, Burseldene Brian."

Paul would like to send special thanks to Geoff and Catherine Cooper, who are at the end of the phone for him on a daily basis, if needed. Also thanks to all the organisers that make the BICC the great club that it currently is and strives to be.

Finally he said, "Thank you for all the calls and texts I received over the weekend. I'm absolutely buzzing and I've hardly slept this weekend despite the celebrations!"



Paul Basham 1st South Centre Section, 1st Open Poitiers



Open Winner -Bueseldene Brian

Provisional South Centre Section Winners

Taking 2nd Section, 2nd Open was Peter Rixon of Reading on 1263ypm. Peter clocked a 3 year old blue cock, who had been the first bird to his loft on a couple of occasions without scoring. The bird was raced as a baby by club mate Don Pembroke but, when he had to give up racing pigeons, following domestic problems, Peter gave it a chance and it certainly proved worthwhile.

Peter explained that he was raced on a new system picked up by Nigel Langstaff on one of his trips to Holland. He said, "With Nigel's guidance I am hoping to give local ace Roger Lowe a run for his

money". Peter would like to thank Alan Webber and his marking team at Steventon and congratulate the winners. Peter described the bird's breeding on the sire's side as, Crammond & Langstaff and Co Breeding, with Mark Gilbert 316 of Lover Boy Gaby Vandenabeele and Golden Gaby M&D Evans. And the dam's side of 316 is through Crammond & Langstaff's Bosua x Van Osch family with a grandfather being a full brother to Spartacus who won 1st NFC Messac.

3rd Section, 3rd Open, was L & M Dyer, of Nettlestone on 1247ypm. Guy Reed spoke to the partnership of Lee and Maureen Dyer, who live in Nettlestone, on the Isle of Wight and said, "They were delighted to gain this much deserved result from Poitiers. The team are dedicated flyers, and they care passionately for the pigeons who receive all the attention needed to get the birds ready for the national races". Both Lee and Maureen can suffer from, 'the dust' so the lofts are kept in immaculate condition. Lee's wife Hayley and two children Keira and Logan also take a keen interest in dad and nan's sport. The red chequer cock they timed, had flown two races as a young bird and two races as a yearling but, he received slight damage from a hawk attack. In 2020 he was sent to Falaise with the BICC and Wadebridge CSCFC but, he arrived home badly bruised on his breast muscles. This did not deter Lee and Maureen from having some faith in the bird, who recovered well enough after three weeks rest and so he was sent Poitiers. They explained, "His sire is a red chequer from the lofts of Hitchcock & Sons being bred by Mark Gilbert from his DeWeerdts lines with a touch of Lady Sylvia - Lady Becky and Lady Helen and the Narrow cock. The dam is a Muller- Aarde hen the lines of Red Rising Sun - Wanroy -Theelen".



Peter Rixon



Lee & Maureen Dyer

Provisional South West Section Winners

Taking 1st Section, 5th Open were Dave and John Staddon of Ditcheat. This win makes it five in a row for the partnership; they have now won 5 x 1st South West Sections in five consecutive BICC Nationals. This is what Dave had to say about their latest win, "Firstly dad and I would like to offer our congratulations to Paul Basham on winning the Poitiers National, a very worthy winner indeed. Also, a 'well done' to all the Section winners on a tough but fair day. What a season we are having, we are truly gobsmacked to win our fifth straight section in five consecutive races. This now includes 2nd National Falaise and 6th National Poitiers this year. We are lucky to have a very good group of pigeons surrounding us at the moment. We have named this latest winner Red Miracle. He is a yearling chaos cock. His preparation has been an Exeter race with the WOESRC, a Purbeck trainer with High Littleton, Falaise and St Philbert with the BICC. It is most likely he will tackle BICC Bordeaux next. Red Miracle is bred from two outstanding ex-racers Red Treble and My Miracle. Red Treble was 2nd Section 3rd Open BICC Falaise 4065b. The dam, My Miracle, is a direct daughter of the Miracle

Pair and she won WOESRC Saintes 383 miles by a whopping 14 miles, more details can be found on our website. We look likely to also win the provisional 4th and 5th west section positions. At the time of writing we have 32 out of 39 birds home, but it has been a tough race, no doubt about that. The BICC continues to give us great racing and the birds once again returned in great condition so a big thanks to Trevor and Troy”.

2nd Section, 8th Open was the partnership of S Luff & Walker Bros on 1246ypm. The partnership would like to send their congratulations to Paul Basham on winning the race with the only bird to exceed 1300ypm. As for their performance, they said, “We clocked our 2 year old hen, Blue Forty Four, flying an average speed 42.5 mph over 385 miles. She is flown on the true widowhood system with her preparation for this race being both previous BICC races from Falaise and St Philberts. She has always been a consistent performer being our first pigeon from Bergerac in 2019, winning 1st Club, 7th WESRC Bergerac 296b and 6th NW Section, 22nd Open CSCFC Bergerac 1088b. Her breeding is impeccable. Her sire was bred for stock from our NFC Tarbes section winner, Hardy who was 1st Section, 20th Open Tarbes 2014, followed by 4th Section, 25th Open NFC Tarbes in 2015. To breed the sire, Hardy was paired to, Golden Queen bred by Kipp & Son of Althornbach being a daughter of, Golden Glory x Purple Queen. The dam of, Blue Forty Four was bred by Graham Clift's Freildenhofen x Coopers, from, Forest Junior and Forest Gump. This cross has worked very well for us, with both of the hens we took 6th & 8th Open CSCFC Tarbes in 2019, being of the same line”.

The partnership also explained that they are very happy with this result, especially because the birds were moved after racing last year. They built a new loft and all the birds had to be settled and broken to the new location in February. “They performed over and above our expectations”, they said.

With 3rd Section, 12th Open was Danny Lanahan, on 1231ypm. The pigeon is a 2018 late bred Figo hen which Danny brought at a late bred sale from John Gerard. Danny said, “She only had a small number of trainers that year and had two Channel races as a yearling. This year she has been to Falaise, St Philberts and Poitiers, and will now be set up for Pau. I've raced her on widowhood but she will now be allowed to pair and raced on the natural system”.



Dave & John Staddon



S Luff & Walker Bros



Danny Lanahan

Provisional South East Section Winners

Taking 1st Section, 11th Open was Mr & Mrs Streatfield of Snodland on 1232ypm. Eamonn and Julie timed their 2 year old chequer cock on from Poitiers, on only his second Channel crossing. He was raced on widowhood and had 4 club races, which weren't any longer than 145 miles as preparation. Eamonn and Julie were delighted with the good performance of their bird on the day.

2nd Section, 14th Open was R & P Thomas on 1225ypm. Paul Thomas of the partnership said, “They timed a yearling red chequer hen flown on roundabout. Her father was bred by a local flyer Micky

Harvey of Bowers Gifford and the dam contains the late Brian Baxter blood lines.” They also explained, “She has been flying very well; being our first bird in our last 4 Channel races and was well up in the Section from Falaise this year. She has also scored 43rd Open from Fourgeres as a young bird. She topped a good performance for our team, with 7 out of 11 home in 33 minutes”.

3rd Section, 18th Open was Emberson & Firat of Chatham, on 1217ypm. The partnership timed a 2 year old bird, called Xena. Neil Emberson said, “ Xena is a 2 year old chequer pied hen and she is a class hen. She has always been a good hard day pigeon and she was sent to the race on the roundabout system and was pooled, as she showed good form from St. Philberts two weeks earlier.”



Mr & Mrs Streatfield



R & P Thomas



Emberson & Firat

Provisional North Centre Section Winners

Winning 1st Section, 17th Open was Dominic Gruzelier of Houghton Conquest on 1217ypm. This was Dom's fifth Section win in the last 12 months; his last being two weeks ago from St Philberts. This week, Dom clocked a 2 year old blue chequer w/f hen, raced on widowhood. Dom explained, “She has been a consistent bird for him but this was only her second Channel race. As a yearling she developed an abyss on her back, from an in-growing feather. By the time it had healed, it was too late to race her”. The blue hen's dam won the Mid-Shire Fed from Falaise and scored in the BICC, before she was lost in action. Her breeding is based on Dominic's family own family of pigeons that he obtained from Peter Olberhoster and Hagan over 10 years ago. Dom sent 7 and had 6 back on the night. As always he couldn't do any of this without the help of his loft manager, Josh.

Taking 2nd Section, 49th Open was Clive Brown on 1176ypm. Clive timed a 2 year old hen, who was sitting 11 day old eggs when she was sent to Poitiers. The hen is bred from his best cock, The Lance Corporal, who won numerous races up to 550 miles and her breeding is the Padfield - Jan Arden. These long distance bloodlines are what Clive now looks for. Clive is also the president and treasurer of the Huntington SR Flying Club and wants to thank his club secretary, Arthur Hardy, for doing an excellent job. Thanks are also sent the BICC committee and especially Russell Bradford, BICC treasurer, who is, also, a member of the Huntington SR Flying Club. Finally, Clive would like to congratulate the Open winner and the North Central Section winner, Dom Gruzelier, who he described as “having a fantastic season and sweeping all before him!”

With 3rd Section, 57th Open was J & KJ Connor Loft 1, on 1165ypm. John said that he flies in partnership with his dad, Kevin and they fly as J& KJ Connor loft 1 & loft 2. John picks up the story explaining, “Loft 1 is located at my house and the bird that was 3rd Section is 2 year old chequer hen. I don't know the breeding at the moment, but she was bred by Pieter Olberholster who also bred me a 1st and 2nd Section winner over the last two seasons with the BICC. She was sent racing to the perch after performing well in the St Philberts' National, where she was my first bird, taking 193rd Open. Before St Philberts she had two inland races as preparation and I'm hoping to send her to

Bordeaux on 1st August. I also had a bird quickly after her and I had six from six on the day. All were in great condition and had been well looked after. We have only been racing for two and a half years and we hope to send to more nationals over the coming seasons. We are still learning and also learning from our mistakes, but are happy with our progress up to now". Well, by taking this position, it seems they are fast learners!



Dom & Josh Gruzelier



Clive Brown & granddaughter
Matilda



John Connor

Provisional North West Section Winners

Winning 1st Section, 83rd Open were Trevor Booth and John Roper of Tewkesbury on 1142ypm. The partnership described their race as follows, "We timed our dark chequer widowhood cock at 16:19 as provisional North West Section winners. This bird is bred from the lines of Jim Biss, Lionel Brewer, and Brian Shepperd's stock. His grandfather was 6th Section, 117th Open NFC Tarbes. His grandmother was 8th Section, 22nd Open Saintes with the MCC, 3rd Section and 80th Open Poitiers with the BICC. His sire was 3rd Section, 9th Open Saintes with the MCC. His dam was 6th Section, 14th Open Guernsey and 1st Section, 3rd Open Falaise with the BICC. This bird has been consistent for us over the last 2 years and we are now looking forward to going the extra distance with him. We had our second bird within 15 minutes and had all four birds we sent, home by 6:00 pm. They were all in excellent condition and we would like to thank Jill Rogers and her team for the excellent organisation at the Radstock marking station. Finally, many congratulations to the Open and Section winners".

2nd Section, 133rd Open was Craig Gough of Shrewsbury on 1093ypm. Craig's bird was a two year old roundabout hen of Anton Shultz breeding, from Louella lofts. Craig said, "This was her first time over the Channel and I had a good race, with two out of three on the day and the other one early the next morning". Craig also added, "Well done to all the winners on a good flying day!"

Taking 3rd Section, 153rd Open was Team Wicker and Wight of Astley Bridge, on 1071ypm. As reported in the St Philberts' race, this team is made up of Alan Wicker and Steve Wright - Steve being the owner of the House of Arden. They set up the partnership to test the birds over the extreme distance and this week was no exception; as they were the longest flying loft in the race. Poitiers to their loft, in Astley Bridge, is just short of 511 miles. The pigeon they timed this week was a light chequer cock being a half sister to their St Philberts' bird – the Padfield Invincible and Padfield Jack bloodlines. However, this cock is also crossed with Alan's old Buschaert family, based on the 'Copy Cat' lines. A direct brother also scored 2nd Section, 15th Open, 2nd ACE pigeons Bordeaux last year. An impressive performance to the north of England on the day.



Booth & Roper



Craig & Tommy Gough



Team Wicker & Wright

Provisional North East Section Winners

Taking 1st Section, 71st Open, was D & E Ball of Eyke, Woodbridge on 1150ypm. Dennis Ball said that he was delighted with his performance, “400 miles in a head wind that was a real good test.” Dennis also said, “I must thank Jaqui Ivatt at our Club in Ipswich for all the dedicated hard work she does for the club and the BICC Marking Station. Jimmy Jackson of Widnes, must also be mentioned, because he provided me with some super Vandenabeele bloodlines including the sire & dam of this two year old blue hen. She was sent sitting 14 day old eggs and had previously taken 26th Section, 980th Open Falaise, 8365b, earlier this season”. Dennis also timed a second pigeon soon after the blue hen. This was a two year old chequer cock, sent sitting for 15 days. He also flew Falaise earlier this season and is bred from stock birds obtained from Matt Rakes of, Champion Indy fame.

2nd Section, 115th Open, Mr & Mrs Strowger form Leiston on 1109ypm. Mr and Mrs Strowger timed a yearling to record this 2nd Section position.

And, 3rd Section, 129th Open, was Leonard Rix & Son of Mildenhall, on 1097ypm. Len timed a 3 year old light chequer cock from his own family of pigeons. Len explained his birds in his own way, “It’s no good me telling you it was this breed or that breed, because they aren’t, they are just my birds that I’ve had over many, many years”. Fair play Len! He races the birds on the natural system with an open hole, so the birds are out all day. He keeps the young birds and old birds together, and said he only gives the young bird’s one training toss from 5 miles and then races them. Well the light chequer hen came good for him over the 410 miles and his own breed is doing him proud.



Dennis Ball



Len Rix

The Provisional Top Ten Open Positions

1st Paul Basham of Burlesdon on 1303ypm, 2nd Peter Rixon of Reading on 1263ypm, 3rd L&M Dyer of Nettlestone on 1257ypm, 4th JF Haynes of Fifield on 1256ypm, 5th D&J Staddon of Ditchheat on 1254ypm, 6th Mark Gilbert of Windsor on 1249ypm, 7th Mr & Mrs VJ Durrant of Godalming on 1247ypm, 8th S Luff & Walker Bros of Dursley on 1246ypm, 9th Mr P Ayling of Gosport on 1245 ypm, 10th Mr & Mrs May & Son of West Ashling on 1234ypm.

The Closing Race Remarks

Most members seemed to consider this a successful race and a good test for the pigeons.

Can I also thank members for contacting me with their information and remind them they can send information and photographs via email or Whatsapp.

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