

British International Championship Club

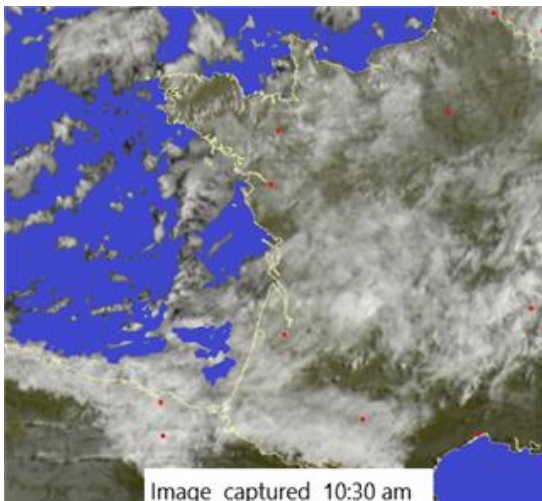
Bordeaux Provisional Race Report

Bordeaux proved a very popular race this year with 345 members sending 2221 birds. They were liberated at 6.40am on Sunday 2nd August after a one day holdover. The distances varied between north and south, by up to 200 miles, with the longest flying member at just over 600 miles in the north centre section.

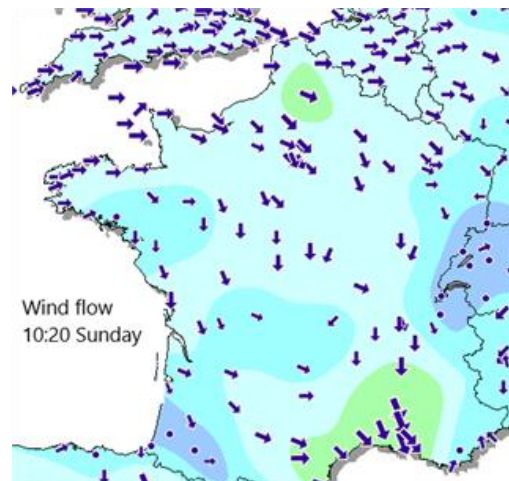
The weather/race report

Steve Appleby, the BICC race and weather advisor, provided the following report:

At first light, Mark Gilbert and myself were concerned about the cloud affecting the race point. Fortunately a clear sky soon developed allowing the B.I.C.C. convoy to be liberated. The satellite image captured over France on Sunday morning clearly identifies the varying cloud formations. This benefited the convoy on their journey north as the pigeons were at times protected from the sun's intense heat. The north- north-west winds drawn off the Atlantic Ocean carried quality unpolluted air over France which was also responsible for the good visibility. So overall, flying conditions were very satisfactory. As the birds reached the Channel, the winds changed to a more westerly direction. The Channel was clear with visibility exceeding 20 miles. The conveyer reported that on his return journey the winds at times seemed to come directly from the north.



Satellite Image



Weather Map

This report is based on member's verifications and the final result may differ.

The Provisional Open Winner and 1st South Central Section was K & J Zerefa of Portsmouth, on 1297ypr. A delighted Kevin had this to say about the race, "Firstly can we congratulate all of the Section winners, in particular the more northerly sections, who recorded some fantastic day pigeons on what turned out to be a pretty demanding race. We only sent two pigeons, the hen that won it for us and a yearling hen that was sent for the experience. At the time of writing, we are still waiting for the yearling hen. The winner was raced on the jealousy hens system at the start of the season and then was allowed to pair and raise a 4 day old baby for this race. On the morning of basketing she was encouraged out of the loft for exercise, but then shot in over my shoulder as I went back into the loft around 20 mins later, so we knew she was keen. This was always going to be her target race and we're absolutely delighted that she's claimed the top spot for us. She has been a pretty consistent performer over the past couple of seasons, with her next best result being 32nd Open BICC Le Mans in 2019. Her sire is, Gareth's Surprise who won the BICC Falaise in 2014. She was loaned to us for a

season by Stuart Treharne of Nantyglo. He is also the grandsire of our 1st Section, 3rd Open NFC Fougères against 9,594b earlier this season; so a pretty special cock. The dam is a hen that comes from the loft of Mark Gilbert, via our good friend Asa Williams of Southampton and she is also the mother of our 1st Open NFC Fougères winner in 2017. Preparation for this race was with the BICC and NFC, plus two 43 mile tosses from Brighton in the week prior to basketing. We'd like to thank everyone for their calls and messages, it has been an absolutely fantastic season for us so far and we really appreciate everyone's kind words. I'd also like to personally thank all of the lads in the, 'Pigeon Obsessions' WhatsApp group for all of the daily banter and encouragement, it has definitely given me extra motivation this year. You know who you are lads! All that's left to say is good luck for the rest of the season #teamzerafa."



Kevin & John Zerafa



1st Open winning hen

The Provisional Central South Section Winners

2nd Section & 2nd Open were Khan Bros, of New Malden, on 1292ypm. He was bred by Ace Lofts direct from their stock and the brothers now call him, The Ace. The brothers explained, "He won the section from Fourgeres with the BBC last year and was sent there in preparation for this race. His father is Simba, a direct son of Jan Hooymans, Harry when he was paired to Ruby a 1st National winner herself! We would like to congratulate Kevin and John Zerafa on winning this eventful race and all the section winners."

3rd Section & 3rd Open were Tidbury and Garrett of Ashford, Middlesex on 1284ypm. Dean said, "Firstly I'd like to congratulate Kevin Zerafa and his dad on winning this superb race and the Khan Bros' on being second. The pigeon I clocked is a Van Loon, who is named, Tidbury's Pride after my late grandfather. The sire is from Darren Burton and he's also the father to Rod Sparke's champion sprint cock, Packo. The dam is a pigeon I brought in an auction from Derek Jones of Wrexham – he's from a long line of national performers. I gotta say, what a buzz! When I saw him come, he came like a champion. I was expecting them at about 11 hours, so when he came I thought he'd be close. Finally, I'd like to thank the lads who look after the birds; I sent 4 yearlings and got 3 all in superb condition."



Khan Bros bird



Tidbury and Garrett

The Provisional South East Section Winners

1st Section & 4th Open was Les Stock of Harold Wood Romford on 1261ypm. This is what Les had to say, "My pigeon is a 2 year old dark chequer widowhood cock flying his 3rd Channel race of the year. He arrived very fresh circling four times and was in no rush to enter the loft. His parents were both bred by Jutla Bros of Upton Park, East London from Brockamp stock. The dam is a granddaughter of, Euro Diamond and the sire from a son of, Super Bordeaux, who was 1st International Bordeaux, 11,644 birds."

2nd Section & 5th Open were R&P Thomas of South Benfleet on 1251ypm. Paul explained, "My bird was a blue yearling hen sitting 12 day old eggs. Her sire was bred by Dave and Gary Heywood of Laindon and her dam contains the late Brian Baxter's pigeons. She has had a good season, winning the first inland race in the Hullbridge club from 70 miles and then she flew every BICC national race this year, taking 10th Section, 90th Open Poitiers. Bearing in mind she had been in the basket for 4 nights, she came home in excellent condition which is credit to the BICC team. Once again thank you for the job you do."

3rd Section & 7th Open was Tom Williams of Orpington on 1216ypm. Tom provided this information, "Firstly I wish to commend the BICC for great racing in these difficult times. It is my honest opinion that Carol, our secretary, is top class and our jewel in the crown. I race a team of just 12 widowhood cocks in my only club the BICC. I favour no particular strain of birds, performance is all that matters to me. I don't race young birds and train them only from here there and everywhere for 14 days and then let them grow on. I sent six birds to Bordeaux, four older birds and two yearlings. I got two on the day and three the next day, but I'm still missing a very good bird. My first timer is a three year old cock named, Invincible by Steve Appleby the BICC weather man. His sire is my, Mr Reliable who was 2nd Section, three times in the L&SECC from Tours Bergerac and Tarbes and always homed on the day. He is now my number one stock bird. The dam of Invincible is a double granddaughter of the, Machine. The racing record of, Invincible is 26th ES, 33rd Open Alencon, 7th ES, 14th Open Cholet, 8th ES, 87th Open Poitiers, 1st ES, 33rd Open Cholet and now a possible 3rd ES, 7th Open Bordeaux. An impressive racing record! My second bird is a yearling clocked on the day and is a full brother to Invincible."

Tom continued, "I set my alarm for 5am next morning, because I had a very good bird who I thought would have made it on the day, so I pressed the snooze button and went back to sleep. At 6.45am, I did finally stir to find my third bird that I call, 80 frantically searching for a way in. After a mad rush to get dressed, I finally clocked him at 1 minute past 6. I feel so cross that I let him down. He is also bred by, Mr Reliable. 80 has been to France some 25 times, 4 of them from Tarbes where he has scored 26th, 63rd and 116th Open. He has scored 3rd ES, 166th Open Cholet, 9th ES, 89th Open Poitiers and many more in his racing career. His photo is in the Pictorial No 586 that gives his full racing career. He will now be retired and go in the stock shed after 6 years of racing from France. My fourth bird, and second yearling, is bred from my 19th Open Tarbes winner. My 5th and final bird is called, Monty. His sire is a grandson of, The Machine. All the above birds have flown Falaise, St Philbert, Poitiers and Bordeaux this year with the BICC. I feed Irish mix and never to the corn tin, which is the quickest way to disaster for distance birds that face France every second week as mine do. And finally, I'd like

to congratulate all the winners of a very fair and tough fly from Bordeaux. My season is now over and at 81 I can now relax and chill out.”



Les Stock



R&P Thomas



Tom Williams

The Provisional South West Section Winners

1st Section & 15th Open were D&J Staddon of Ditchat, on 1190yppm. A very busy Dave Staddon was delighted and said, “What a weekend for us capped off by this very good Bordeaux race with the BICC. As usual, the birds returned in top-class nick - great job Trevor and Troy. Massive congratulations to Kevin & John Zerafa on their fine win. They have had a season to be proud of. Kevin is as keen as mustard and they are reaping the rewards now. We had an excellent race with 4 of our 10 entries on the day and another 5 home before 7am the next morning, so they all must have been close to home on the day.

Our winner, now named, Miracle Maker was well clear in the section and he really raced for the loft. He is bred from our star middle-distance breeding pair, The Real Miracle x Comet. In fact, he is the nest-mate to our 1st Section, St Philbert winner, Meteor Miracle. How many nests have two sections winners sat side by side? For more details on what this pair has bred please visit our website. The cock is raced on the Chaos Widowhood and had Falaise, St Philbert and Poitiers in preparation for this race. We are really proud of this performance, 1st Section, 15th National in an NNW and West wind to our location against 2200 birds.”

Dave then explained, “This morning I had a count-back and found that we have won 14 x 1st section wins in the past 13 months racing with the BICC, NFC, BBC & CSCFC, long may our hot streak continue. This weekend has lead to a few celebratory drinks after winning 1st, 3rd, 6th, 8th, 10th & 11th Section 3rd, 10th, 28th, 37th, 53rd & 54th National St Vincent, 1st, 2nd, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10 & 11th Section 7th, 43rd, 105th, 122nd, 163rd, 165th, 173rd, 215th NFC Pau (sending 10). 1st 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th Sec 3rd, 11th, 33rd, 40th, 50th, 51st, 55th BBC Nat Pau, 1st, 4th, 8th, 9th, 16th, 17th, 18th Section 2nd, 6th, 24th, 27th, 35th, 36th, 40th Open CSCFC Pau and finally provisional 1st Section 15th National Bordeaux. If Carlsburg did pigeon weekends, this would take some beating. We'd like to thank all our friends who have either called or text or emailed with their warmest congratulations, it means a lot to dad and me. Lastly, I'd like to say a huge thank you to my wife Caroline who supports me 100% in my mad pigeon obsession. I certainly could not devote the time I do to the birds without her total and complete support, she takes pride in our successes and so she should because without her it would be a lot harder.”

2nd Section & 49th Open were S Luff & Walker Bros of Dursley, on 1106yppm. “We timed our blue 2 year old cock, The Protector, named so because he won't let you get anywhere near his nest bowl, at any time without fiercely pecking our hands. He is raced on true widowhood, but as the cocks have been away from their hens since early March we thought we would, 'gee' them up on their last race by leaving them together for the week leading up to basketing. This resulted in them driving to nest hard when basketed.

He has always returned reliably slightly off the pace, always looking great upon his return after being on the wing for 8 to 10 hrs. This prompted us to prepare him for the Bordeaux race with the BICC. On his return from this race he was still bouncing and could go further out next year. His breeding is

100% Frans Zwals, the cock being bred by Stuart Wilcox from, Champion Chow when paired to, Golden Game. Chow is half-brother to, Amor, a great racer for Franz and now a champion breeder. The dam of our cock was bred by Formula 1 Lofts, being purchased at their Utoxetter auction. She is in-bred to, Isabel when paired to her own top son, Mr Cool.”

3rd Section & 58th Open were Preece Bros & Sons of Abertillery, 1076ypm. This pigeon also secured the Welsh South Road National for the partnership. John said this about the winning pigeon, “The hen we timed is a 2 year old Grizzle roundabout hen. She was bred out of our two best stock pigeons. Her sire is a pure Geoff Cooper, Dewerrtd being a grandson of, Champion Wiggler. We were lucky to have a daughter of Wiggler as a gift from Geoff, given to, our Henry. She is responsible for many Channel performers for us. The dam is called, Two Shades, because she has one blue wing and one grizzle wing. She is inbred to all our mixture of families: Lefabre/Dhaenen/Morgan & Cook/Burgham Bros being a daughter of, Braveheart who was 1st WSR National Tarbes. This pair have bred a least six pigeons to score at Bergerac. The hen has been very consistent for us scoring as a young bird and as a yearling. This year she had 3 inland races to 160 miles, then St Philbert 300 miles, where she took 9th WSR National. She then went to Poitiers, 400 miles, where she had 15 ¼ hours on the wing and then she went to Bordeaux, three weeks later. We would like to congratulate the winners and especially, Dave and John Stadden, who timed in a remarkable pigeon considering the wind.”



D & J Staddon



S Luff & Walker Bros



Preece Bros & Son

The Provisional North West Section Winners

1st Section & 47th Open was Booth & Roper of Tewkesbury, on 1113ypm. “It was a hard race for our birds being in the west and they had a strong west wind to contend with. On the night we had 3 birds drop together, 2 for us and a stray youngster. First in the clock was our 3 year old blue chequer pied hen bred on the lines of, Invincible Dettori and De Smaragd 2 and our good hen, Sportsview Amy. Her grandfather took 10th Section, 42nd Open in the 2010 Tarbes NFC. Our second bird was also a 3 year old dark chequer cock, his sire was bred for stock for us by Alen Gibb from his Cooper family. His dam, a Louella Jan Aarden was 4th Section, 6th Open BICC Guernsey AA, 17th Section, 132nd Open NFC Guernsey, 19th Section, 129th Open NFC Messac. She is bred off a half brother and sister to, Invincible Dettori. We had the 2 birds on the day and 3 the next day, so 5 out of 12 and all in reasonable condition. Our thanks once again to everyone at the Radstock marking station and congratulations to all the section winners and to the Open winner.”

2nd Section & 64th Open was Craig Gough of Shrewsbury, on 1062ypm. Craig wanted to say, “Congratulations to Booth and Roper on their Section win. My bird is a two year old lesbian hen who was over sitting on her eggs when sent. She is off, Nico Volcans lines. I sent 7 and had 4 back by just after 8.00am and I would like to thank Alan Shinton for taking me to the Gwent Station to mark my birds.”

3rd Section & 90th Open was the Chamber's family on Cannock, on 968ypm. “Our first two pigeons were clocked within 30 minutes of each other and are both bred from our own, ‘Dutch Family’ of long distance pigeons. Both birds were inbred grandchildren from our 2014 NFC 1st Section Tarbes winner, Dutch Thunder, who earned his name when he was clocked in torrential rain during a thunder and lightning storm to win 7th Open NFC Tarbes, 660 miles. He is a grandson of our, Bergerac Hen, who won the diploma of distinction in the MNFC and she in turn is a daughter of our first MNFC Bergerac winner, The Dutch Cock. This is where the family name originates. Our first bird was a two year old roundabout hen, flying her first trip over 500 miles and she is bred from a son X ½ sister to, Dutch Thunder. Our second bird is a two year old cock who flew Bordeaux for the second time after being

clocked on the day of liberation with the MNFC, as a yearling in 2019. She flew 14 hrs on the wing. He is bred from a cock we call Twin 74 who is a good distance bird himself and a ½ brother of Dutch Thunder. The dam of our second bird is again another daughter of Dutch Thunder. Out of the eight pigeons we clocked in this weekend, from Pau and Bordeaux, six of them are closely related or direct dissidents of our 1st Section, 7th Open NFC Tarbes cock. This is an encouraging sign and we now have high hopes for this line of our family moving forward into the future.”



Booth & Roper



Craig Gough



Chamber's Family

The Provisional North Centre Section Winners

1st Section & 14th Open was Dom Gruzelier of Houghton Conquest, on 1190ypm. Dom said this of another section win for him, “My provisional winner is one of my two entries and she is in bred from my best pigeon, Willow. She is from a half brother and sister mating and is the half sister to our St Phibert Section winner. She was raced on full widowhood and she returned like she just flown a 100 mile race - in fantastic condition.”

2nd Section & 87th Open was Chris Turner of Tile Hill, on 981ypm. Here is the information from Chris on the race, “Firstly we would like to congratulate the Open winner, K & J Zerafa and all the Section winners. This 3 year old widowhood cock, now named Buster, has been a very consistent racer, flying Sigogne with the NFC, 465 miles, on the day as a yearling 2018. He also picked up 16th Section Cholet and 20th Section Messac in 2019 with the NFC. He is bred from my Jan Arden based family of pigeons, predominantly Ko Van Dommelen bred from sire Kleine Zwarte which was the sire of my 1st Section, 2nd Open MNFC Bordeaux 2018.”

3rd Section & 98th Open was Marc Bull of Kingsley, on 932ypm. Marc said, “My bird is a 7 year old Jan Aarden bred by Frankie Swallow, whose birds originate from the House of Aarden. This cock has been a very consistent Channel pigeon for me and was my first bird from Poitiers, flying just over 12 hours. I would like to congratulate the winners and all the fanciers who time birds on the day.”



Dom & Josh Gruzelier



Chris Turner



Marc & Jack Bull

The Provisional North East Section Winners

1st Section, 19th Open were Dennis & Elaine Ball, of Eyke near Woodbridge, on 1176ypm. The couple said, "Our 3 year old chequer cock was sent sitting 11 day old eggs. He is a grandson of Matt Rakes', Champion Indy, having previously flown Falaise and Poitiers this year. We were delighted with his completing the 507 mile trip, with 12 ½ hours on the wing and battling through the pouring rain!"

2nd Section, 33rd Open were Jacqui & Terry Ivatt of Ipswich, on 1140ypm. Terry said, "Watching our single entry arrive home in the pouring rain at 7:33pm soaked through was a pleasing sight. She has already been 5th Section, Poitiers in 2019 and 12th Section, Falaise this year. We bred the bird and her dam was 9th Section, Thurso and her sire was 3rd Section, Thurso. Our good old north road '500 milers'. The bird was in good condition when she arrived and we would like to thank the BICC for their care on the transporters and last but not least, all those who have helped us at the Ipswich marking this year."

3rd Section, 54th Open were Mr & Mrs Ian Roper of Newmarket, on 1093ypm Ian said, "The parents of the pigeon that was third section, came from my good friend, Geoff Hannigan, who has since given up pigeons but we still keep in touch. His birds are really coming through for us at the moment and we have also taken 3rd Section NFC Fourgeres, 86th Open 9,600 birds, with these Walter Doux pigeons. Geoff tells me the parents he acquired originally came from the partnership of Eric Shepherd x John Wheatcroft. Sadly Eric Shepherd has passed away, and Geoff mentioned that you couldn't meet a more genuine man than John Wheatcroft, a really nice bloke."



Dennis & Elaine Ball



Jacqui & Terry Ivatt



Mr & Mrs Ian Roper's bird

The Provisional Top Ten Open Positions:

1st Open K & J Zerefa of Portsmouth, on 1297ypm, 2nd Khan Bros, of New Malden, on 1292ypm, 3rd Tidbury and Garrett of Ashford, on 1284ypm, 4th Mr LJ Stock of Romford, on 1261ypm, 5th R&P Thomas of South Benfleet on 1251ypm, 6th Mark Gilbert of Windsor, on 1218ypm, 7th Tom Williams of Orpington on 1216ypm, 8th JF Haynes of Fifield, on 1215ypm, 9th Mr & Mrs Boggins & Son of Watford, on 1203ypm, 10th R&C Blatch of Witham, on 1197ypm.

The closing race remarks

Special thanks should be given to the two convoyers, Trevor Cracknell & Troy Birch, who transported the birds to Bordeaux in searing heat, having to stop regularly to provide water to the birds on route. They parked up Friday morning in a huge lorry park on the outskirts of Bordeaux and Trevor said the place was absolutely filthy with no toilets. They then stopped near Saintes, at a service station on Sunday morning and this was the first hot drink they had had in two days. They eventually caught the ferry home on 11.00pm Sunday evening. What a trip!

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