

British International Championship Club

Coutances Young Bird Provisional Race Report

The first young bird race of the BICC programme took place from Coutances, situated in the north east of France in the Normandy region. 132 members sent 1280 birds and they were liberated at 1.00pm on Saturday 15th August.

The membership of the BICC now stands at an all time high with 1,632 members and there were a total of 83 birds entered from members in Ireland, which is also another record. There weren't any Irish birds recorded home at the time of submitting the report and another report will follow, when birds are timed. Can members please note that the entry fee for the young bird races is £3.50.

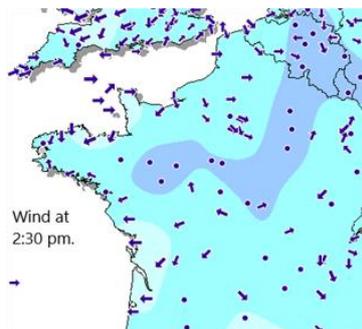
The weather/race report

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

At first light the Cherbourg Peninsula was under full cloud cover. Conditions soon improved, and by 09:00 am the peninsula was under broken cloud and sunshine. The main weather concern was the channel conditions which were under cloud and visibility was down to 2 miles. The Met Office forecast for the channel conditions to improve was correct as the cloud slowly dissipated in a northerly direction. Mark and I decided that we would wait as long as possible before considering a liberation, giving maximum time for improvements to develop. The weather forecast for the next few days was very unfavourable and the possibility of the birds being confined to their baskets for the next 3 days was not a good one. Fortunately Channel conditions continued to improve and by 12:00 hours visibility had increased to 11 miles. The satellite image showed that most of the Channel was under blue skies. At 12:30 pm the camera over looking the yachting marina at the end of the peninsula also shows blue skies. With this information to hand we agreed to go ahead with liberation which was affected at 1 pm. Trevor our convoyer reported an immediate clearance of the convoy and was happy in the knowledge that the convoy had a good flight path. Winds were very light westerly at the site and in the channel changing to a very light north easterly over southern England. Most of southern England was under cloud cover. Although weather conditions were good over the Cherbourg Peninsula and the channel, it was a dead oppressive day added to which very light winds changing direction and high humidity.



Satellite Channel Image



Wind direction



Cherbourg Marina

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

The Provisional Open Winner and 1st South Centre Section winner was Tracy Andrew of Brighton on 1295ypm. Tracey Andrew's winning pigeon was a Pieter Veenstra bred bird from top stock, on loan from his two very good friends Lee and Ian Sullivan, who race as Sullivan Bros. This was the first young bird race for Tracy and this is what he said; "All my young birds are well trained from Portsmouth and various points inland. I go training with my

very good friend of 65 years, Ken Abbot. While out training we often talk about the good old days and invariably miss the turnings we should be taking but at least the birds get back! I'm delighted with this win and I'd like to thank Lee and Ian Sullivan for their excellent pigeons and to young, Danny Sallis for his help to train my birds."



Ian Sullivan, Tracy Andrews
& Lee Sullivan



Winning pigeon's wing



1st Open Countances

The Provisional Central South Section Winners

2nd Section & 9th Open were M Sallis & Son of Brighton, on 1214yppm. Daniel Sallis has been doing most of the work with the pigeons this year, with his dad taking a back seat. Danny likes to train his young birds (also helping out Tracy Andrew) twice a day and his four young daughters and partner, Sheryl, all help out. His daughters, Liberty, Kelsie, Macie and Maddison are keen to let the birds in when they return from the training flights. Danny described the bird that came on Saturday by saying, "My bird was a blue chequer darkness/widowhood cock that was an early bred bird and one I fancied, so I pooled accordingly. The bird's breeding is of Bob Beasant's, Euro Diamond bloodlines."

3rd Section & S Bagha & Son of Southhall, on 1137yppm. Bagha and Son timed a good bird but unfortunately they had a problem with their clock, so they are not sure if their position will stand.



M Salis & Son, with Kelsie holding their pigeon

The Provisional South East Section Winners

1st Section & 2nd Open were Mr & Mrs Beven of Tilbury, on 1255yppm. Stewart and Sandra said this about the race, "Our pigeon is bred from a Gevaert-van-Schoorisse, whose sire was 3rd London North Road Combine and the hen was bought for stock from Yves de Wit from West Flanders, Belgium. The hen is also a Gevaert-van- Schoorisse and we were delighted to see her come from this tough race."

2nd Section & 3rd Open were V Belcher & Son Loft2, of Plumstead on 1221y^{pm}. They timed in at 5.20^{pm}, but weren't able to comment further at the time of submitting the report.

3rd Section & 5th Open were Mr & Mrs Butler of Crowborough on 1206y^{pm}. They had two drop together and were timed within 20 seconds of one another and they said that they felt luckier than most! Ian continued, "My wife and I would like to congratulate the winners and indeed all those who timed on, what proved to be an incredibly difficult day. We sent 6 young birds knowing, like all members, it was never going to be an easy race. We were very pleased to have 2 young hens drop together. The birds are nest mates and have no amazing pedigree, they are simply home bred, well trained, robust youngsters, that for whatever reason, on the day, were prepared to give it a go. Whilst we love timing a good bird up amongst the leaders, we also like to see everyone get a good return and hope that all members get more of their birds back over the coming days. I should like to thank all at Brighton marking station for their usual efficiency and Mr Peter (Pedro) Gretton for all his hard work for local fanciers and for making a clock station available to us, throughout the season. Lastly, on the liberation, I believe the race team for various reasons, made as always, what they thought to be the right decision at the time for which we thank them."



Stewart and Sandra Beven



Ian Butler's two hens

The Provisional South West Section Winners

1st Section & 14th Open was Danny Lanahan of Poole, on 1087y^{pm}. Danny topped the section in this young bird race and in the Any Age race so had a good day racing. Danny timed three birds in quick succession and had this to say, "The first through the trap was a chequer cock which is from John Gerard's, Louder's pigeons crossed with a gift pigeon from Gary Hodges. The second pigeon was a dark cock which is a brother to my CCCFC Open winner, from last year's Coutances. The third pigeon is a grizzle hen which was bred from a gift from an old friend, Louie Walteridge, crossed to another one of the John Gerard Louder's birds. These youngsters were all darkened and have been running together for the last week. It's my first year trying the darkness system and this was my first race with them. I would like to say thanks to John Halstead for explaining his darkness system to me last year which is how I've prepared my youngsters. Also, big thanks to my father in-law, John Gerard, for taking my birds to the marking stations and collecting my youngsters from all over the country when they get it wrong. He's a good driver and one day he might even race his pigeons."

2nd Section & 39th Open was G Owers from Nr. Wareham, on 774y^{pm}. George Owers timed a blue hen racing naturally and to the perch. The hen is the same way bred as George's BBC, Chorlet winner and it's of De Klak, Janseen bloodlines. George would like to thank his good friends, Wyatt and Grey from Wraxhall.

3rd Section & 64th Open was Phil Bond of Ilton, on 400y^{pm}. Phil times in at 8.44^{am} on the second day, but wasn't able to comment further at the time of submitting the report.



Danny Lanahan

The Provisional North East Section Winners

1st Open & 44th Open was Jeremy Nicholson of Ipswich, on 680yppm. Jeremy said, "On a very hard weekend for racing I had low returns but the birds that got through were in fair condition. My section winner is a blue hen that is a part of a young bird exchange and based on performance over the season. The breeders of the hen are Melvyn and Sue Dyer and this is what they told me about her. Her sire has been across the Channel several times always on the day, but this year from Bordeaux, he was clocked on the second day. He was bred from two, N&SSRCC winners. Her dam is from their best channel hen, bred from their old family of Parkside Superman bloodlines. She won the Yare 6 bird last year, from LeMans (2) and was also 23rd Open BICC in the same race. This year she was clocked from BICC Poitiers on the day, which was a difficult race, flying 14 and ¼ hours."



Jeremy Nicholson

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