

# British International Championship Club

## St Vincent International Provisional Race Report

A total of 6,066 birds were liberated at 6.30am BST on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> of July from the south-western city of St Vincent in France. Of those, 272 birds were from the UK sent by 50 BICC members. This was the third International race in seven days and was closely followed by the liberation of the Barcelona International birds. By Sunday evening, 65 birds had been timed home.

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

### **The Provisional Open and North West Section Winners were, Team Wicker & Wright of Astley Bridge on 1004ypm.**

Even after decades of pigeon racing and numerous wins, Alan Wicker could not contain his enthusiasm and sheer delight at clocking this winning pigeon, to take 1<sup>st</sup> Open St Vincent. The blue cock now named, Never a Doubt, flew 690 miles to Astley Bridge near Bolton at a velocity of 1004ypm, or just over 34mph, on average. Team Wicker and Wright, a partnership of Alan and Steve Wright, of the House of Arden, were set up to test the birds over the extreme distance and once again they were the longest flying loft by well over 100 miles.

At 9.49am on Saturday morning, Alan saw the winning pigeon coming and said he looked just like a young bird, weaving and twisting in the air as he landed. He's a 4 year old 'pure' widowhood cock, who took two good positions last year. He was 59<sup>th</sup> Open Midlands National FC, Nort-Sur-Erdre and 12<sup>th</sup> Open BICC Bordeaux. And, why call him, Never a doubt? Well Alan explained, "I knew he would come back, I didn't know he would win the race in this style but I knew I'd see him again. He is bred from excellent stock, being a double grandson of, Padfield Iron Lady and a grandson of Matt Rakes', Indy, a 1<sup>st</sup> Open National Pau winner."



## The Provisional South East Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> Section, 2<sup>nd</sup> Open, were R Pearmain & Son of Wickford on 877ypm.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Section, 4<sup>th</sup> Open were GM Preece & Son of Dover on 824ypm.**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Section, 5<sup>th</sup> Open F Knowles and Son of Wingham on 819ypm.** The four times Europa Cup winner Simon Knowles clocked a four year old blue hen to maintain his consistent record of timing from the distance. This bird, of M Parish bloodlines, was sent sitting 7 day old eggs for the 540 miles journey. This blue hen has previously taken 12<sup>th</sup> Open Narbonne in 2019 and 66<sup>th</sup> Bordeaux with the BBC in 2018. In preparation, she flew three Staplefield's and three Salsbury's with the Wingham Flying Club, then Falaise and St. Philbert with the BICC. To add the finishing preparation, she had 3 x 65 mile tosses. Simon also took 8<sup>th</sup> Section, 13<sup>th</sup> Open with a 5 year old.



## The Provisional South Central Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> Section, 9<sup>th</sup> Open, Mark Gilbert of Windsor on 890ypm.** Mark also took 2<sup>nd</sup> Section, 14<sup>th</sup> Open on 737 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Section, 15<sup>th</sup> Open on 734ypm. Prior to timing his Barcelona winning pigeon, Mark took these top three positions. Again these pigeons are closely related to Mark's family, as he explains, The first bird was a red cock, the father was a double grandson of Euro Diamond one of the best long-distance birds ever and the mother was Southfield Agen, the winner of 1st National Agen. The second bird was a hen from a son of Golden Barcelona when paired to a double granddaughter of Jella Jellema's, Orion and the third was from a son of, Kanibal Barcelona (4<sup>th</sup> International Barcelona) when paired to a daughter of, Southfield Supreme.



## The Provisional South West Section Winners

**1st, 3rd, 6th, 8th, 10th & 11th Section were Dave & John Staddon from Ditcheat.** What an incredible season the boys are having and it was to get even better as last weekend progressed. As Dave said, "We are absolutely delighted to win the competitive south west section again from St Vincent. Congratulations to Team Wicker & Wright on their victory. We timed our yearling hen at 07.18 am. She was really racing hard to the loft and looked as fresh as paint on the trap. She is a small hen raced on chaos widowhood with the fresh air ventilation system. As readers will have seen our loft has aluminium aviaries along its entire length. Some of our widowhood hens will show a tendency to go lesbian as the season progresses and want to lay eggs. We don't like this as it ruins the system. To counteract this, we shut them outside in their aviary day and night 24/7. The only time they go inside the loft is to feed and when the cocks are exercising. The aviary only has v-perches and we find this drastically reduces the lesbian tendencies and the number of eggs we get from them. Thus meaning they are in better condition to compete in the races. So many fanciers believe in closed lofts with pigeons shut away for 22 or 23 hours a day. Our race hens are kept in the fresh air 24/7 rain and shine and their health is amazing. They have not required any treatments for the entire season. The only other thing we did differently in 2020 was to darken our old hens as well as our young birds. Thus delaying the moult with the season pushed back.

The section winner and third national is bred from our 2019 Cholet BICC National winner, Hughie when he was paired to a hen that won 11th Section 52nd Open Agen National 2018 for us as a yearling. She was from an Andy Parsons' cock now with Alan Parker and a daughter of our own NFC Ace pigeon, G-Force. We have high hopes for the future with this hen. Our 3rd Section, 10th National hen was also bred from the race team but as a late bred in 2018, she was bred after the 2018 Agen National. She was raced exclusively inland as a yearling with the West of England South Road Combine. Her first channel race was Falaise this year and she scored 40th National Poitiers in her preparatory race for St Vincent. Her mother won 2nd South West section, 14th National Agen and is from Mark Bulled's Legacy lines, her sire was a son of our own NFC Ace pigeon G-Force."



**2<sup>nd</sup> Section, 6<sup>th</sup> Open Nick Stevens from North Perrott on 801ypm.** Nick timed a 4 year old little pied hen, who was sent sitting on a 2 day old youngster. Nick races on a feral system and this is how he explains it, "The birds are free to come and go at will, hopper fed beans with Countywide Irish, with groats, peanuts and sunflower hearts when needed. They can drink the water in the pond which is home to sickle backs and Rawshorn snails or from the loft which has Quill Boost added. Young birds are not trained or raced and as yearlings they go to two channel races with the West of England Fed. To prepare this pied hen, she had Yelverton, Falaise and then St Philberts. Apart from Yelverton, she homed mid-day on the following day of the race. My good friend Robert Cowley (I think I can call him that!) reckons she walks home and I should put Stockholm tar on her feet to stop her getting blisters. Well it must have worked this time because she was home just after 7.00pm" The hen's sire is a direct Padfield, being a grandson of Jack, Dave and the Dutch Hen. Her dam is from Keith Cousins of Pembroke, again out of his Padfield's birds, being a grand-dam of Abertillery Vince. Nick concluded by saying, " Mr Wicker's and Mr Gilbert's results were excellent, what awesome pigeons and a big thank you to Jack and Christine Frost of Crewkerne Club and the BICC marking station at Treetops and the Committee."



### **Overall International Winner**

The overall international winner was from France. P & F Legrand clocked their pigeon on Friday at 17:43 CEST after a race of 812.32 km, achieving an average velocity of 1324.36 m/min.



### **The Provisional Top Ten Open Positions**

1<sup>st</sup> Team Wicker & Wright, on 1004ypm, 2<sup>nd</sup> R Pearmain & Son, on 877ypm, 3<sup>rd</sup> d & J Staddon on 826ypm, 4<sup>th</sup> GM Preece & Son on 823ypm, 5<sup>th</sup> F Knowles & Son on 819ypm, 6<sup>th</sup> N Stevens on 801ypm, 7<sup>th</sup> R Pearmain & Son on 785ypm, 8<sup>th</sup> Kevin Foster on 782ypm, 9<sup>th</sup> M Gilbert on 780ypm, 10<sup>th</sup> D & J Staddon on 772ypm.

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