

British International Championship Club

Coutances Young Bird Provisional Race Report

The final race of the season was held at Coutances, after the committee decided to change the race point from Messac. If you look up the best things to do at Coutances, you would be advised to visit the large Gothic Roman Catholic Cathedral, which is similar to Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. However, the very best thing to do for the 1,533 young birds sent by 169 members was to make for home and claim their perch for the winter. So at 9.50am, they were liberated into a clear blue sky and cleared the site immediately.

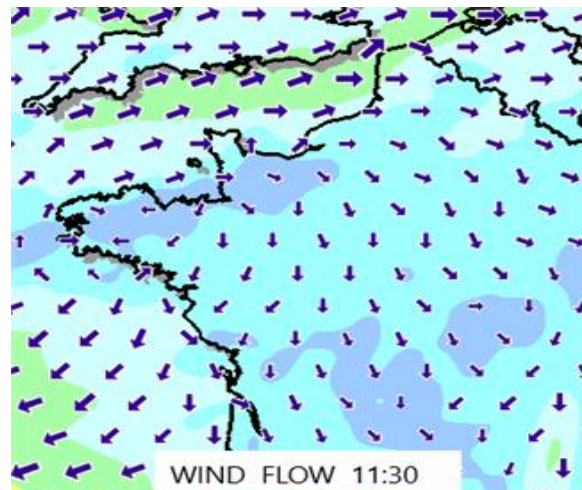
This report is based on member's verifications, the final result may differ.

The weather/race report

Steve Appleby, the BICC race and weather advisor, provided the following report: On Saturday morning the Cherbourg Peninsula was under full cloud cover as identified by the incoming satellite images. Eventually as forecast, the clouds over the Peninsula began to break up. Our convoyer reported the sun had now appeared over the Coutances area. Added to this, England was also experiencing good weather conditions. The Channel was clear with varying cloud formations and visibility was 20 miles as per the Channel Lightship data. With this information to hand, Mark, Trevor our convoyer, and myself agreed to liberate the B.I.C.C. convoy, which was effected at 09:50 into a light westerly wind. The birds cleared the site immediately, the site agent commenting on the good clearance. The Peninsula to some degree can act as a launch pad for the birds to face the open sea and cross the Channel. The west, south westerly winds had increased in strength over the sea and were averaging 14mph gusting up to 20mph. As expected this is reflected in the early times being recorded in the east of the country.



Satellite Image



Wind flow map

The Provisional Open Winner

1st Open and 1st South East Section was John Cowlin of Hullbridge on 1627ypm. John, who is very happy with his recent performances said this; "After such a good race in the NFC from the same race point the week before, in which I had eight come together to take the first eight in the Open, I decided to send all but the first one back to the BICC race because the team seemed in even better condition than the week before.

I had only just sat down to get ready to wait for them, when I saw three birds coming off the line and dropping in like stones towards the trap. They were so quick the first two clocked on the same second and the third one must have hesitated slightly, because he was two seconds later. First on the ETS print out is a pigeon I named, Queen of Coutances after she was 2nd Open NFC last Saturday. She is bred from two of our top Frans Zwols birds. The, Amal Cock, who won 1st and 4th Amal (4,400plus birds) and, Guernsey Princess who won 1st and 3rd Open BICC. They also bred the 1st Open BBC young bird National winner in 2018.

Second on the sheet, but at the same time, is a pigeon I called, Prince of Coutances after he won 4th Open NFC last week. Again this is a very well bred Frans Zwols, with his four grandparents being Amor, Queen of Rekkem, Sky Runner and Tip Top 076.

My third pigeon, which was timed just 2 seconds after, was also 3rd Open NFC last week and is a pigeon I named, King of Coutances. All the names work better now than they did as last week, because I called the winner after our club mate, Frank Aloisio, who died in a tragic accident a few months ago. RIP Frank.

King of Coutances is another top Frans Zwols being direct from, 006 who in turn is bred from, Sun Star the winner of 1st National Morlincourt and the dam is a 2019 bred direct daughter of, Amor and, Tip Top Goldmine. Both of which are children of Tip Top Junior.

Finally after another fantastic race, I'd like say well done to all the winners this season which has been a strange and hard season." John topped off his weekend by also taking Provisional 2nd Open spot in the Old Bird race.



John Cowlin



And now 1st Open BICC Coutances

The Provisional South East Section Winners

2nd Section, 2nd Open was David Coward-Talbot of Chelmsford on 1613ypm. David timed two pigeons on the same minute and second and although they came together, the first pigeon to be clocked was a blue cock, bred from the, Champions of Speed bloodlines in Grobbendonk. The sire is inbred to the KBDB National Ace Speed, Sagan. Both grandparents being direct from Patrick and owned by Steve Foster, who gifted this sire to David. The dam of the blue cock is turning out to be one of David's best stock hens and she is the dam of first prize winners with several different cocks. As David said, "In 2019, this pair

also bred my first pigeon from the NFC Young Bird National, around 35th Open, she is top Maurice Hassendonck x lines and was selected at a Mick Collins Auction a couple of years ago by Ronnie Bigwood. My second pigeon was a blue pied hen, bred by my good friend Paul Russell, from his Albert Derwar pigeons. She is through the lines of, Pauline and I was delighted that Paul Russell was watching the race and saw his bird come home." David concluded by saying all the birds returned in excellent condition.

3rd Section, 3rd Open were Gladwin Jarvis & Family of Leigh on Sea, on 1611ypm. John said, "My first pigeon, which was one of seven Frans Zwols, that were timed in under a minute, is a Frans Zwols' cock bred from two, 2017 pigeons I bred for stock. The sire is from the Formula 1 Lofts, Dream Pair, Prince of Rekkem and Dreamy, who are responsible for 5 x 1st National winners since 2017. And the dam is a daughter of, Grandad's Dream when paired to Dream Maker. Can a say a massive well done to John Cowlin on what must be some of the best flying I have ever known."



David Coward-Talbot



Gladwin Jarvis & Family

The Provisional Central South Section Winners

1st Section, 9th Open was Damien Szpak of Deptford, on 1588ypm. Damien had two birds together. He told me, "The first that timed was on a SU ring, bred by Pablo Zurawski and it's of Vercamen bloodlines from a granddaughter of, Electro. Two seconds later I clocked a hen that I bred from my super racer, Lady 85 who I moved this year to the breeding loft. The sire took 3rd Section, 14th Open in last year's BICC Fourges young bird race. After few minutes I had another two together who were also both from, Lady 85. I would like to say thank you to Ian Evans and Steve Finan for the help with the Council and also to Pablo for being a real friend and my other friends and family for their support."

2nd Section, 20th Open was Steve Buckle of Northwood, on 1494ypm. Steve said, "My bird, GB20 A00255, is a blue Janssen hen. All of my young birds are on the darkness system and all of them came well. It was a good race and I'm very happy with the returns. My grandson Baye, pictured with me, is an up and coming pigeon fancier."

3rd Section, 26th Open was Michael Potts of Warlingham, on 1472ypm. "Thank you very much for asking me to do a write-up on my pigeon", said Mike. He continued, "The parents of the bird came from Adrian Duggins of Darley Dale, in Derbyshire. Tommy Rye, of Swanley

and I went 50/50 on the stock birds with the grizzle coming to me in March and he went onto the darkness. When flying out, he was trained short then longer and he has raced the full program of the Surrey Fed plus the South Coast Open race from Wadebridge (220 miles). He has always been there or thereabouts. They say that you lose your novice status when winning a race; well I have won a few but still regard myself as a novice! Since starting up again four years ago, I have had great help from my friend and neighbour, Alan Lucas. I wouldn't be where I am now without him – thank you Ian!”



Damian Szpak



**Steve Buckle & Grandson,
Baye**



Michael Potts

The Provisional South West Section Winners

1st Section, 58th Open was Danny Llanahan of Poole, on 1376ypm. Danny has put up some terrific performances with his young birds and he had this to say about another Section win. “The pigeon timed to take 1st Section, 58th Open with is the same pigeon that was 3rd Section in the first BICC young bird race from Coutances. She was beaten by two loft mates on that day. She is bred from a gift pigeon from an old friend of mine, Louie Wateridge. Louie gave me the pigeon two years ago when I first started racing and the children and grandchildren have been flying well for me. Especially this one, which won the Section by over half an hour! I was expecting to see my old chequer hen first as she won the old bird section in the NFC last week and in the previous two BICC races. I have to say, it's been a great season by taking six 6 Section wins.”

2nd Section, 102nd Open was Wojciech Blanchut of Trowbridge, on 1197ypm. Wojciech had this to say, “Well done to the Open winner and all the section winners. I am very proud that I came second in the Section. The pigeon I timed was a dark blue hen. The mother of this hen is from my best friend Brian Sheppard lofts crossed with my cock.”

3rd Section, 112th Open D & J Staddon of Ditchat, on 1149ypm. Dave told me this, “Mike, we sent 6 young birds and had 4 out of the 6. Our first bird timed was a red cock on his third Channel crossing of the season. He has previously won 3rd SW Section CSCFC Coutances, 6th West Section BICC Falaise and now 3rd West Section BICC Coutances. He's a good steady young cock and just the type we are aiming to produce. He was prepared for racing across the Channel with regular races with the WOESRC from the West Country. Once again this has proved a good education for our youngsters. He is bred from a new pair in our stock loft, Picasso x Red Evie. Picasso was 32nd NFC Tarbes and is a half brother to, Portrait Boy, 1st West Section, 2nd National, 68th International Agen 22,000b. Red Evie is a daughter of our own NFC Ace Pigeon of 2018, Evie, when Evie was paired to our top racing cock, Red Treble. We only put one this way bred in our own race team this year, with the rest being sold. We won't be making that mistake in 2021. Well done to John Cowlin on a

fantastic set of results in the NFC and BICC, truly outstanding mate, and to our Section winner, Danny Lanahan who was the clear winner on the day.”



Danny Lanahan & Louie



Wojciech Blanchut



D & J Staddon

The Provisional North East Section Winners

1st Section, 40th Open were **Mr & Mrs Strowger of Leiston**, on **1439ypm**. Roger was not able to provide any further information.

2nd Section, 54th Open were **Dennis & Elaine Ball of Eyke** on **1400ypm**. They had this to say, “This bird was one of our top Vandenabeele pigeons and this was a great finish to the season for us. Thanks to all at BICC for organising our racing in such difficult circumstances and to all at Ipswich Marking Station. See you all next year!”

3rd Section, 65th Open was **Dave Downing of Newmarket**, on **1355ypm**. Dave timed a Hardy Kruger hen, a full sister to his NFC 1st Section Coutances winner of the previous week. The parents of these two hens have bred many winners for Dave, being one of the first three pairs of Krugers he initially introduced from Premier Lofts, in 2014. The Krugers now form the majority of his racing team and his young birds have flown particularly well this year having scored in all club races and also these two nationals.



Dennis Ball



Dave Downing

The Provisional North Centre Section Winners

1st Section, 55th Open was John Black of Hitchin, on 1392ypm. John told me this, "Mike the bird I timed in first was a chequer hen feeding a small baby, her sire was from Jamie Clarke Snelling in Kent and her dam, from the New Laurent line from Johnny Chipperfield. She was my second bird last week in NFC Coutances race gaining a 14th Section and now she is 1st Section BICC. She is definitely one for the future. I had good returns, five from five so I was well pleased. Finally, I'd like to say, well done to all the Section winners."

2nd Section, 67th Open was P S Wraight, on 1354ypm, but was not able to provide any further information.



John Black

Provisional Top Ten Open Positions

1st John Cowlin of Hullbridge on 1627ypm, 2nd David Coward-Talbot of Chelmsford on 1613ypm, 3rd Gladwin Jarvis & Family of Leigh on Sea on 1611ypm, 4th Micky Watts of Southminster on 1610ypm, 5th Lee Bastone of Burnham on Sea on 1598ypm, 6th Tony Buckfield of Hockey on 1594ypm, 7th D Wilton and Son of Chadwell Street on 1594ypm, 8th Slawomir Zielinsk of Dagenham on 1590ypm, 9th Damian Szpak of Deptford on 1588ypm, 10th P Jackson & Son of Bromley on 1581ypm.

Micky Watts told me that he timed a Frans Zwols bird crossed with a Syndicate pigeon that was sent sitting 5 day old eggs, to take 4th Open. And, the bird Lee Bastone timed for 5th place is a direct brother to Micky's bird.