

Wadebridge National Provisional Race Report

15th May 2021

The BICC's first race was from Wadebridge, in north Cornwall. Not the race point that was originally planned for, but one that many members welcomed to kick-start the National racing season. As the date of liberation approached, it's fair to say that all thoughts turned to the weather, as the forecast was not good for most of the UK. Fortunately, the BICC pigeons were in the hands of the very experienced Steve Appleby, who ensured a good race with members reporting good returns. Steve's report is printed below.

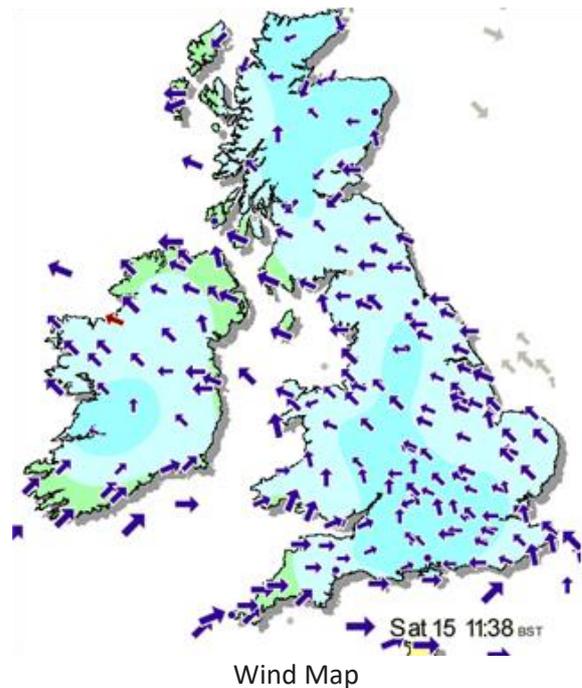
So, at 11.15am some 2,165 birds, sent by 214 members, were liberated into the almost clear blue skies of the west of England, and the opening race was on.

The weather/race report

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

The main concern for this B.I.C.C. race from Wadebridge was a rain belt carrying heavy persistent rain directly on the flight path. Mark and I decided the best course of action would be to wait for this weather front to move away north eastwards, across country before liberating. This would take into consideration all flyers racing into all regions. At 11:15 am under almost clear blue skies, liberation was affected. The convoyers were happy to report an immediate clearance of the race birds. As the race developed, and on checking the rainfall radar images, heavy showers were identified over many areas. Generally winds were light to moderate and mainly from a westerly direction along the south coast line (see wind flow chart) which advantaged the pigeons racing into the south east. Whereas those pigeons racing into the more northern regions, picked up a SSE wind later in the race.

Steve Appleby race/weather advisor.



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

The Provisional Open winner, taking 1st South Centre Section was Simon Ferguson of Brighton, on 1907ypm. Simon timed a 2 year old blue hen over a course of 210 miles. A delighted Simon has named his winning bird, Rosie, after his wife. Simon said, "I'm mad up with the result, and this is my second BICC win, having won the Guernsey young bird race in 2016." Simon wanted to thank Ali McCloud for providing the stock that bred the winner and Lee and Kevin Buddle and Ray Strawbridge for all their advice and encouragement.

Simon continued by saying, "I always said that if I won a big race with a hen that I would call her after my wife. The bird's sire is a son of, King James bred by Ali McCloud, of Koen Minderhoud x Vandenabeele lines. Her dam is granddaughter of Jan Hooymans, Harry x Rudy Vandenabeele also bred by Ali. I must also thank my good friend and silent partner, Paul Gent, who bred these from the pigeons I just mentioned. "

In preparation for the race, Simon gave the hen a 10 mile toss and a 22 mile toss and then she went straight into an 120-odd mile club race, from Honington. She was raced on a roundabout system and Simon feeds the same throughout the season. "I feed as if they are gonna go across the Channel" he said. Simon has been racing since 2013 and has his heart set on competing in the Internationals, and hopes to do this with the help and support of Lee and Kevin Buddle and Ray Strawbridge who he says are lovely fellas. To finish he said once again, "I'm just mad for it, I don't know what else to say, I love the sport and the people in it and if I've forgotten to mention anyone, I apologise."



Simon Ferguson



Open winner, Rosie

2nd South Centre Section, 2nd Open was Peter English of Portslade, on 1888ypm. A delighted Peter told me, "Believe it or not I am so shocked and so bloody pleased!" And why not be Peter, it's a huge achievement! Peter timed a blue w/f hen whose sire is a little head Messiah, that was Belgian

bought, from the Leah market strain. "I'm not sure what, but I just liked the look of him, when I saw him. " His dam is a Eric Cuelerman from his good friend Shane Betts. The hen was raced on the roundabout system and she had 3 x 30 mile trainers and her first race was last week from 129 miles.

3rd South Centre Section, 3rd Open were L & K Norris of Brighton, on 1880ypm.The partnership told me, "We got two together, the first cock trapping was a four year old mealy pure Staf van Reet cock that's been unlucky in our club, as he's had around 5 second's but never won. But, he's won a fair amount of money over his career! The second cock was a 2 year old chequer pied, also a pure Staf van Reet, as these are the base of all our birds. Can we say congratulations to Simon Ferguson and Paul Gent on winning the race."



Peter English



L & K Norris

The Provisional South West Section Winners

1st South West Section, 5th Open was Miss Mia Hoddinott of Crossways, on 1710ypm. The South West Section winner was the RPR Award winner, 12 year old Mia Hoddinott. Mia said, "I started racing with 13 young birds last year, in 2020, and won the following: 2 x 1st clubs, 3 x 2nd clubs and 3 x 4th clubs. I also won, 5th, 9th and 10th Dorset South Road Fed. I ended the season with 10 young birds out of the 13 that I started with and I won 3 RPR AWARDs too." What a start to her racing career. Mia also explained. "We then had to move house in October, so had to set up a new loft and transfer the pigeons to a new location. Luckily all the birds stayed in the new loft and I had my birds paired up on eggs. And then I thought, I would try the BICC race for my first old bird race, with my birds to my new loft. I was so pleased that I sent 8 birds with my mum taking them to marking station - thank you mum. My first bird, which was one of my RPR Award winners, was also 1st club Wadebridge and 9th Federation. This pigeon was bred from my stock, purchased from Peter Fox of Direct Syndicate Lofts. I had 6 birds back from the 8 birds I sent. Thank you Gill Rogers and team for marking the birds and also well done to the winner of the race! Happy racing everyone. "

2nd South West Section, 14th Open was John Halstead of Gillingham, on 1783ypm. In contrast to Mia, the second section winner was the very experienced John Halsted. John said of his bird, "I took second section with a 3 year old chequer cock that carries the best of my Barcelona winning blood of, Ashley and, Untouchable along with a loaned bird from Cyril Beattie of N .Ireland; carrying the Harkness bloodlines. This widowhood cock was 8th sect 228th Open NFC Pau (540 miles) in 2020 but has been turbo charged this season racing home to a yearling widowhood cock in the same loft. In fact rather than show his hen before basketing the 2 cocks were allowed 10 minutes in the nest bowl together." John told me, the chequer cock was highly motivated and was the only one he pooled of his 11 strong team, and he raced hard to the landing board.

3rd South West Section, 22nd Open was Stephen Moseley of Bishopwort, on 1702yppm. Stephen timed a 2 year old blue cock, whose sire was World Amish / Frans Zwols and his dam was out of the Garrick family of Les Nicholas.



Miss Mia Hoddinott



John Halstead



Stephen Moseley

The Provisional South East Section Winners

1st South East Section, 17th Open was Colin Draper of Yalding on 1748yppm. Colin timed a 2 year old hen, who was sitting tight on her eggs. She had a 20 mile and 40 mile training toss and flew in a club race before going straight into Wadebridge. Colin said, "I usually race roundabout but with the disruption to the season, I left her sitting on dummy eggs and as she was sitting tight when she went. I was really pleased to see her home in such a good time."

2nd South East Section, 23rd Open was L & K Buddle of Dover, on 1702yppm. Lee told me this of his bird, "Our Provisional 2nd ES Section is a yearling cock flown on our widowhood type of system, we were very happy that this cock kept going at the velocity he did as we are some of the longest fliers in the race and he could quite easily have slowed down as other pigeons dropped away for their lofts en-route. In preparation for BICC Wadebridge he had 2x 60 mile trainers on Wednesdays with the local Wingham Club, 1x Chichester 95 miles with the Kent Cosmo Fed where he won 4th Club against 410 club birds and 1x Lyndhurst 129 miles again with the Kent Cosmo Fed.

His sire is a son of Tom and Elsa. Tom won – 5th BICC St Vincent 531m 2013, 6th BICC Perpignan 598m 2016, 10th BICC Pau 545m 2016, 15th BICC Pau 545m 2014, 22nd BICC St Vincent 531m 2014, 27th BICC St Vincent 531m 2015, 30th BICC Pau 545m 2013 and the BICC Certificate of Merit Award winner. Elsa won – 1st BICC Narbonne 557miles 2014, 29th BICC Perpignan 2015, 39th BICC Agen 2013 and 47th BICC Pau 2015.

His dam was bred by Tumley Lofts Stud and is a granddaughter of Mark Bulled's 'Legacy' – 1st NFC Tarbes and D Bullen & Son 'IRDB' 1st International Pau. Our feeding is simple, with the same mix given at every feed - a mix made up of Versele-Laga Superstar plus and Verselle-Laga Best Allrounder. We would like to congratulate our good friend's Simon Ferguson and Paul Gent on their superb win of 1st Open BICC Wadebridge, Well done lads!"

3rd South East Section, 46th Open was, T Sparks & P Dallas of Gravesend, on 1624yppm. Tom Sparks and Pauline Dallas clocked a 3 year-old dark chequer cock, whose sire was a Fagg & Nicholas bird and dam, from their Frans Zwol family obtained from John Gruag.



Colin Draper's section winner



L & K Buddle

The Provisional North Centre Section Winners

1st North Centre Section, 82nd Open was R & G Jones and Batt, of Bereton on 1520ypm. Richard Jones was delighted with his section win, and explained, "We fly as, R & G Jones & Batt and our section winner was bred by Price Bros out of their Syndicate loft birds. We timed another bird 6 minutes after this one and I think we may be second section as well. That bird was bred by Graham Jones of Guisborough. We are holding the two birds in our photo. My other partner, Chris Batt, sadly passed away in January but loved classic racing and he would have been made up to see these birds come so well."

2nd North Centre Section, 108th Open was P Lane & Son, of Wooton, on 1474ypm. Phil had this to say about his bird, "My pigeon is a yearling blue hen. It's of Frans Zwol breeding, as most of my breeding stock originates from Formula One Lofts. This bird raced the whole young bird programme last year, eight races in total and this was its third race this season, with no nights out at all. I sent 13 hens to the race and had 12 home on the day, so I was very pleased with the returns. Also, thanks to the race committee for a good race in tricky conditions."

3rd North Centre Section, 110th Open was Richard Chambers of Rugeley, on 1468ypm. Richard told me this about the bird he timed, "The pigeon timed in was a blue white flight cock and is a grandson of S McDonough's "Rollercoaster" and "117 Hen". Both of the parents were bought from the McDonough sale from PIPA last season. This cock did not race as a young bird as he had hit the wires from training early on and it took most of the young bird season to heal. So this year we gave him his first races and in preparation for the race, he had 4 x 94 mile races in the Saturday and midweek clubs and was always one of the first pigeons home. It was great to see him come from 200 miles away considering the lack of racing he has had. He was sent as a spare cock and we just showed him a hen over night, on the night of basking. All in all it was a great weekend for us as our other loft "Chambers Family" also took 1st NW section in the same race."

Richard also gave me an update on the progress of the new marking station at Rugeley, this is what he reported:

It was the first time we had marked pigeons at the Rugeley station and despite a bad weather forecast, and the race-point being a place our area does not fly from, six members sent 58 pigeons, which was a promising start, especially for a new marking station. We had 2 x 1st sections 1 x 3rd section timed there. I have also had a lot of interest from members enquiring about the Alencon

race, in 2 weeks time. So if you are interested in marking at Rugeley, please give me a call on [07922827932](tel:07922827932). We look forward to welcoming you in a few weeks time.



R & G Jones & Batt



Phil Lane



Richard Chambers

The Provisional North West Section Winners

1st North West Section, 54th Open were the Chambers Family of Cannock on 1605y^{pm}, who Richard just mentioned. So, to follow on from Richard's report, Craig told me, "Our single entry for the Wadebridge National was a three year-old Gaby Vandabeele hen that we purchased as a young bird from our good friend Dave Vaughn of Telford. She is a granddaughter of M&D Evans, Champion Shadow. Being bred from a 2004 direct son who has sadly now passed away, but not before filling Dave's loft with generations of top national performance birds. As a yearling and two year old this hen flew approximately 10 races between 230-400 miles with the NFC and MNFC, and so she certainly knows her way home by now. I would like to congratulate the committee of the BICC for having the foresight to open up the marking station at Rugeley for the 2021 season. This is a fantastic move and one I'm sure will attract a lot of members and good bird-age once the channel programme gets established. This will help to cement the BICC as a true national club, in the eyes of many by making races accessible to members throughout the country, rather than just those flying into the southern regions."

2nd North West Section, 118th Open were Paul Stokes & Martin Smith of Fenton, on 1448y^{pm}. The partnership clocked a yearling blue hen bred from a Vandeebelle through Alan Jones on the sire's side and a Van den Bulck on the dam's, bred from a granddaughter and grandson pairing from Goede Rode.

3rd North West Section, 124th Open were Booth & Roper of Twekesbury, on 1432y^{pm}. This partnership told me, "Our first pigeon was a 3 year-old black widowhood hen. She has been a consistent hen for us over the past 3 years gaining several prizes in club racing. We won the West of England Combine the previous weekend and this hen was our 2nd bird taking 14th position. We would like to thank Jill and Clive, and their team and send congratulations to the open winner and all section winners, including Chambers Family. Hopefully now national racing will continue to flourish."



Chambers' Family



Stokes & Smith's blue hen



Booth & Roper's black hen

The Provisional North East Section Winners

1st North East Section, 129th Open was Roly Rix of Newmarket, on 1405ypm. Roly timed a chequer pied hen, he named, Dazzle. This had something to do with the new set of teeth that his loft manager, Howard Moses was wearing. Roly told me that as soon as the bird saw Howard's new gleaming teeth, she shot into the loft! Let's hope Howard keeps them that way for the next race. In all seriousness though, Roly was delighted and told me, "This is the best result I've had in the BICC and the hen has been a consistent racer as a youngster and yearling. She is of the old Linde-du-Puy Jansen lines and was raced as a widowhood hen."

2nd North East Section, 136th Open, Steve Surry of Wisbech, on 1388ypm. Steve clocked a 2 year-old blue chequer hen, of Deklak/Ceuster breeding. She is a previous Fed winner for Steve and he wanted to pass on his congratulations to all the winners.

3rd North East Section, 138th Open, Len Rix & Son of Mildenhall, on 1379ypm. Len, the brother of Roly, timed a yearling in her first race of the season. Prior to this race, she had two training tosses and she is bred down from Osman Baker bloodlines. Her sire is a 10 year-old bird and dam a 5 year-old.



Roly Rix



Steve Surry

The Provisional Top Ten Open Positions:

1st Simon Ferguson, of Brighton on 1907yppm, 2nd Peter English, of Portslade on 1888yppm, 3rd L & K Norris, of Brighton on 1880yppm, 4th Pete Foster, of Shoreham by Sea on 1877yppm, 5th Mis Mia Hoddinott of Crossways on 1870yppm, 6th D & J Novis, of Brighton on 1869yppm, 7th K & J Zerafa, of Portsmouth on 1864yppm, 8th Tom Powers, of Lovedean on 1856yppm, 9th Mr & Mr Bunney of Portsmouth on 1852yppm, 10th Harry Butcher of Portsmouth on 1817yppm.

Mike Jackson

BICC Press Officer

Email:mike.jackson026@hotmail.com

Tel:07964448291