

British International Championship Club

Hexham National Provisional Race Report

Saturday 5th June 2021

The BICC's third National race was from Hexham, on the north road, so not the usual route for the club and 138 members sent 1,917 birds that were liberated at 7.00am. The birdage for each Section was: South Centre 1,049 birds sent by 74 members, South East, 188 sent by 12, South West, 298 by 19, North Centre, 204 by 16, North East, 61 by 7 and finally the North West, 179 birds by 10 members.

Hexham is a market town and civil parish in Northumberland, situated on the south bank of the River Tyne and close to Hadrian's Wall. The town has a population of about 12,000 and is well known for its racecourse, at High Yarridge, often covered on TV. Like many towns on the Anglo-Scottish border, historically Hexham has suffered from the border wars between Scotland and England, including attacks from William Wallace who burnt the town down in 1297. I never noticed that the last time I watched Braveheart but, I'll look out for it next time for sure.

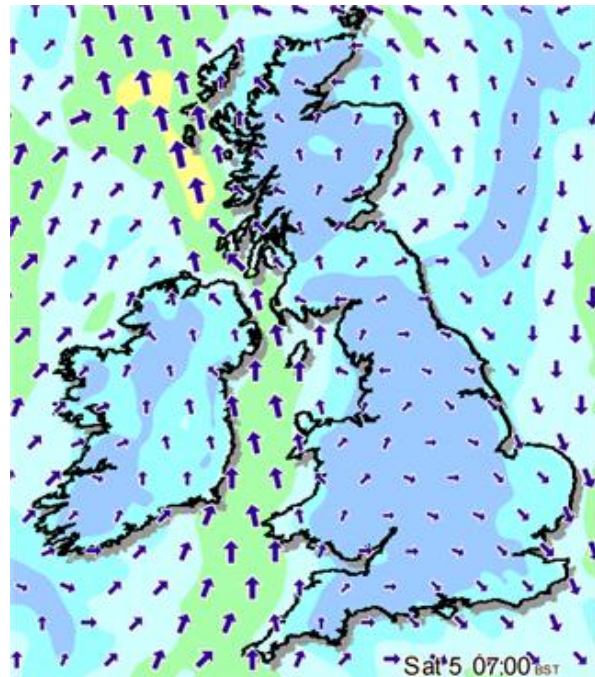
The weather/race report

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

The forecast for Saturday's race from Hexham proved correct as the weather satellite identified clear blue skies at the race point and on the flight path to the south of England. Mark Gilbert and myself agreed to inform the convoyers that the race was to go ahead. Liberation was affected at 07:00 and the convoyers reported a good clearance. The webcams at various locations on the line of flight showed the visibility was excellent including the one at Appletreewick some 50 miles south of Hexham, as you can see from the image. Winds were very light and direction difficult to determine, but the main influence was from the west.



Webcam located 50 miles south of Hexham
Appletreewick: Skyreholme Webcam



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

The Provisional Open winner, taking 1st North Centre Section were Hoggard, Linley and Ellis of Bridlington, on 1510yppm over 97 miles. The partnership is made up of Nathan Hoggard, Stuart Linley and Tony Ellis. Their winning pigeon is a Hereman Ceusters' yearling celibate hen, from Premier Stud lines. Her sire was bred by Shane Reading and the dam was bred by them, from a pair purchased from Premier Stud. The hen was a consistent baby and was 2nd club, 2nd fed in the second race of the season from Huntingdon. She flew from Holmsley with the Midlands National the weekend before Hexham which is 236 miles to Bridlington. Their second timer is also a yearling celibate hen bred by Peter Hornby of Leeds, a friend of Stuarts. They sent 16 hens, all celibate and they have only been flown on the south route and never been trained north. Nathan said, "We thought we would just like to give it a try as the BICC give us the opportunity to do so. We got all 16 hens home on the day and they were in great condition."

On behalf of the partnership, Nathan also told me, "It's the first time we have sent with the BICC and we only joined last year in the hope, like everyone else, of some distance racing from France. Our hens were all planned for the BICC and Midlands National races. This win feels amazing, we were all shocked but over the moon with it! A lifetime ambition for all of us was to win one of the, 'big ones' and we feel very proud of our hen." He also added, "Some great performances were put up from the lads down south looking at the result sheet, and I would like to congratulate them and also the other fanciers up north who feature in the result."



Winning bird



Eyesign



Nathan Hoggard, Stuart Linley and Tony Ellis.

2nd North Centre Section, 3rd Open was Harry Jackson of Selby, on 1447yppm, over 95 miles. Harry told me, "My bird is a 3 year-old hen bred from an Albert Babington VDB cock and a Frans Zwol hen bred down from Dutch Prince and De Diamant and King of Reem. She has flown the Channel 7 times and always been consistent, making the fed sheet a couple of times. She was raced on my own type of roundabout and fed mainly beans and barley, as are all the racers, with a racing mix towards the end of the week. It feels strange being one of the first droppers, as after I clocked in I had a 4 hour wait to see what time they were clocking down south! Also I'd just like to say, well done to the winner with two good birds up there and also well done the BICC committee in these trying times."

3rd North Centre Section, 4th Open was Nicholas Adshed of Selby, on 1429yppm, over 91 miles. Nick said, "I joined the BICC to have a go at Barcelona and hopefully that may happen one year soon! I believe you can only race what is in front of you and whilst flying north road is not ideal for me it was the best option for me to get some distance racing. My birds have been racing on the south road, with the club, and were turned north just to get some experience in preparation for Lerwick. The birds returned in good shape but I was so surprised to finish so high up in the Open as this little hen is a granddaughter of Milly, my Tarbes Certificate of Merit winner, who is also half sister to Hermia Solus, who won 4th Open Pau last year in the NFC. She was raced on roundabout."



Harry Jackson



Nick Adshed

The Provisional North East Section Winners

1st North East Section, 2nd Open was Mr and Mrs Kingswood of Huttoft, on 1479yppm over 151 miles. The partnership of Darren and Jackie, timed a roundabout blue chequer cock of Lambert Van Reet bloodlines. His grand-dam won Lerwick and his sire has carded from Thurso on two or three occasions. Darren told me, "We pooled this bird and he was our single bird nomination. He really looked lively and had made a miraculous recovery from his accidental fall down the chimney, the week before. We had to get the chimney sweep out to rescue him and when he came out he was covered in soot with eyes budging like a bullfrog! Anyway, he recovered well and we here delighted to see him home so well from Hexham. Congratulations to all the other section winners."

2nd North East Section, 7th Open, was Mr and Mrs P Woolliss of Grimsby, on 1325yppm, over 129 miles. Paul and Wendy Woolliss timed a 2 year old cock, which was a late bred raced to the coast as a yearling, and has only ever been to the south road with no north road training at all. Paul told me, "He raced last week from Maidstone in the federation and I believe pigeons don't know where they are flying from. He is from my long distance family, of the lines of, Ambition, 1st Pau 703 miles, Battenburgh, Frenken Bros weert. Also, Palona, 1st S.B .Nat Palamos 815 miles. He is now named Anniversary Boy, as we were celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary and had a great time. Congratulations to all the other prize winners." Also from me, congratulations and many happy returns Paul and Wendy.

3rd North East Section, 9th Open was Mr & Mrs Brian Graham of Butterwick on 1315yppm over 163miles. Brian wanted to congratulate all the Open and Section winners, and he added, "Our 1st bird was one of our yearlings on widowhood. We sent a team of 6 birds and they all arrived home safe and sound. He is bred from our Wildermeersch / Jan Theelan family and last year its' nest mate won the Midland Social Circle Exchange from Dunbar."



Darren & Jackie Kingswood



Paul and Wendy Woolliss



Brian Graham

The Provisional North West Section Winners

1st North West Section, 61st Open were Mr and Mrs Shaw of Crewe on 1172ypm, over 131 miles.

Nigel told me, "The first pigeon that we timed from Hexham for 1st Section was a blue yearling hen that I had given to me as a yellow chick from my mates, J & B Oakley quite late on last year, as they say never look a gift horse in the mouth! She was raced as a baby without much success but is now starting to move up the sheet. We had a few pigeons reasonably handy from this race but, we also had a lot missing at nightfall. So, it seemed slow going on this side of the country."

2nd North West Section, 77th Open, were Booth & Roper of Twekesbury on 1110ypm, over 203 miles.

This was the very first race for Trevor and John flying north, although Trevor flew a couple of races when he was in his late teens....a long time ago now! This hen has always been a consistent bird for them, this year she took 14th West of England Combine from Chichester, 4th NW Section BICC, Wadebridge then flew Ramsgate the week before in the Combine. They told me, "She was then sent to Hexham, 203 miles in a head wind, some 70 miles further than the section winner. We sent 6 birds and all were back by late afternoon, so we were very pleased with the team on their first experience flying north, and provisionally taking 2nd Section. We would like to congratulate the Open winner and Nigel Shaw, on winning the section. Also thanks to Richard Chambers for taking the birds to the marking station and returning the clock the next day."

3rd North West Section, 90st Open were Chambers Family of Cannock, on 1023ypm, over 157 miles.

Craig told me, "Our first bird from the Hexham National was a three year old hen raced on the roundabout system that along with all of our other entries, had her very first sight of the north, having received no prior racing or training from that direction previously. This hen is bred from two of our main long-distance stock birds and is a half sister to our 1st Section 7th Open NFC Tarbes winner, plus several other good long distance birds. I would like to congratulate and thank the conveyors as all our birds arrived home in immaculate condition. Congratulations also to all section winners and all those members who were bold enough to send their birds north for the first time. Hopefully, now that people have seen that north road racing can be done without the need for extensive road training, others will give it a go!"



Nigel Shaw



Booth & Roper



Chambers' Family

The Provisional South Centre Section Winners

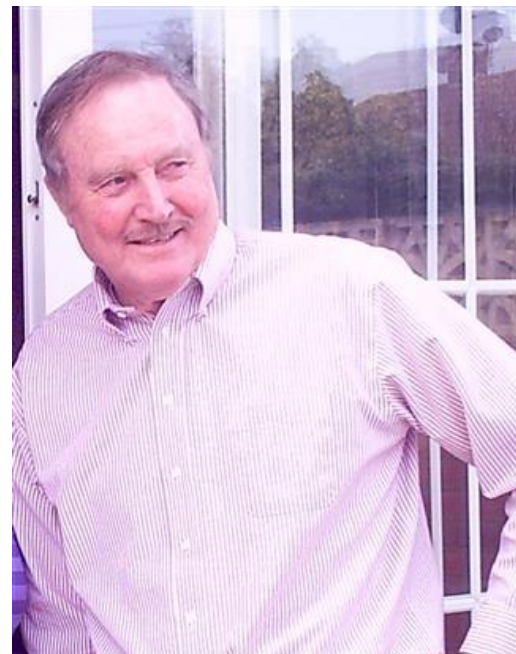
1st South Centre Section, 8th Open was Mark Gilbert of Windsor, on 1315ypm, over 250 miles. Mark said, "My first bird was a hen and granddaughter of my best breeder Golden Barcelona, the father was from Cor Di Heidi 2nd National Barcelona, and the mother a daughter of Golden Barcelona 2nd Ace pigeon of Barcelona Internationals and father of two first National Barcelona winners."

2nd South Centre Section, 11th Open were Wearn Bros & Neilson of Ramsdean, on 1310ypm over 278 miles. The partnership timed a 2 year old bird but, weren't able to provide any more information.

3rd South Centre Section, 16th Open was A & T Deacon of Waterloo, on 1294ypm over 284 miles. Albie Deacon timed a yearling cock from his old Southwell family that was sent sitting eggs.



Mark Gilbert



Albie Deacon

The Provisional South East Section Winners

1st South East Section, 5th Open was Norman Holiday and Son of Colchester, on 1339yppm, over 245miles. Norman enjoyed a good day's racing and timed three birds in quick succession. He told me, "Our first bird was blue chequer cock who has been a consistent late-bred from Luuk Becker/Anabel/Forrest Junior lines on the sire's side with the dam being from Norman Holliday distance lines, a daughter of his 4th Open King's Cup Lerwick bird, 587 miles. The second bird was a blue cock. His sire was gifted from club mate and good friend Mick Hodgson. The dam is a Westcott from my best mate, Peter Easter and the nest mate to the only day bird, in the two longest sections in the NRCC Thurso 2020, winning the London region RPR award. And our third is the same way bred as the second bird."

2nd South East Section, 13th Open was Dean Childs of Wickford, on 1303yppm over 257 miles. Dean said, "The pigeon I clocked was bred from a cock I bought from my good friend Darren Ede, of Jan Hoymans Harry blood, when paired to my own family. The mother being a full sister of, Chalice Marge who was 3rd BICC National Alencon. He had been given one club race from the south coast, the BICC race the week before, a 30 mile training toss north the day before basketing, and was then sent to Hexham."

3rd South East Section, 23th Open was Mr Norman Flint of Billericay, on 1282yppm over 255 miles. Norman's pigeon was a blue chequer cock of Deweerdt Bloodlines from Mark Gilbert and Geoff & Catherine Cooper. He has flown Pau on the south road, was sent to Wadebridge the Saturday before and then to Hexham, which was his first ever race on the north road.



Norman, Keith & granddaughter Isabella



Dean Childs



Norman Flint

The Provisional South West Section Winners

1st South West Section, 14th Open was Tomasz Fedyk of Melksham on 1299yppm, over 247 miles. Tomasz said, "Congratulations to all winners. I'm pleased to win my section. My first pigeon was a blue hen, which flew the first time from the north, without any training. The sire of this hen is C & G Cooper and the dam is from Steve Slade, a full sister to his best mealy hen, Champion Classic 2017. Once again, thank you to everyone who took care of the pigeons for this race."

2nd South West Section, 19th Open was Mr & Mrs D Peart of Birdlip, on 1290yppm over 215 miles. Dean and Tracy were well chuffed with their 2nd Section position after turning north, on their second race. They said, "This year we decided Tracy would fly hens and me the cocks so a great result for all her hard work! Also congratulations to all the winners, especially to Tomasz Fedyk on winning our section."

3rd South West Section, 38th Open were Clive & Jill Rogers & Neil Sales of Writhlington, on 1230yppm, over 253 miles. Jill told me, "This pigeon has had two races on the north road this year, first the CSCFC from Ilkeston and then the BICC from Hexham. Previously he has been racing with the WOESRC out to the east, racing Lyndhurst, Chichester and Brighton before turning him north,

along with all the lofts' two year olds and above, in an effort to get some distance racing for them in 2021. The old birds were not trained north at all, simply sent to a north road race point. The loft sent 36 birds to the Classic and had 29 back home and to date of the 28 that were sent to Hexham, 19 have returned so far. Clive, Jill & Neil would like to thank the convoyers as the birds returned home in excellent condition, especially considering how hot it was, they were not even overly thirsty. "



Tomasz Fedyk & Steve Slade



Dean & Tracy Peart



Clive & Jill Rogers & Neil Sales

The Provisional Top Ten Open Positions:

1st Hoggard, Linley & Ellis of Bridlington, on 1510ypm, 2nd Mr & Mrs Kingswood of Huttoft, 1479ypm, 3rd Harry Jackson of Selby, on 1447ypm, 4th Mr Nicholas Adshead of Selby, on 1429ypm, 5th Norman Holliday & Son of Colchester, on 1339ypm, 6th John McCall of Leeds, on 1332ypm, 7th Mr & Mrs P. Woolliss of Grimsby, on 1325ypm, 8th Mark Gilbert of Winkfield, on 1315ypm, 9th Mr & Mrs Brian Garnham of Butterwick, on 1315ypm, 10th John Black of Hitchin on 1310ypm.

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