

## Elgin National Provisional Race Report

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

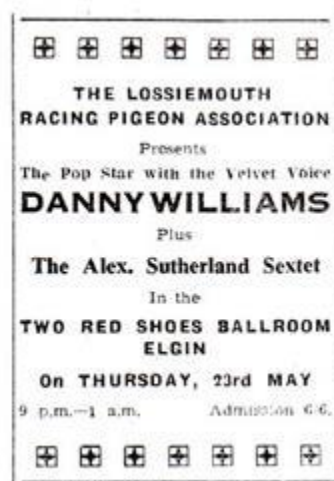
The BICC's seventh scheduled National race of the season was from Elgin, on the north road, where 113 members sent 991 birds that were liberated at 8.15am on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021. The BICC birds were liberated along with BBC and CSCFC birds, making a total of 1,413 birds.

In the BICC, each Section sent the following: South Centre, 31 members sent 237 birds, South East, 17 sent 142, South West 7 sent 36, North Centre, 25 sent 269, North East, 13 sent 114 and in the North West, 20 members sent 193 birds. At the close of the race on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July unfortunately, no member had timed a bird in the South West Section.

Elgin is nestled in a world-famous whisky region, on the south coast of the Moray Firth roughly midway between Inverness and Aberdeen and straddles the River Lossie. The Glen Moray Distillery is in Elgin and whiskey has been distilled on the banks of the River Lossie since 1897.

In the 1960's, it also became a popular destination for young people to see the top bands and singers, who were breaking through at the time. During the 1960s, The Beatles, The Who, Pink Floyd, Cream, The Kinks and Dusty Springfield all performed at the Two Red Shoes Ballroom. The promoter, Albert Bonici, had the forethought or good fortune to book The Beatles on their first tour of Scotland in January 1963. From then on, other bands wanted to play there.

It also seems that when an act played they were promoted by a local organisation like the football club, hockey team or racing pigeon club. So, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1963, the Lossiemouth Racing Pigeon Club promoted the singer Danny Williams who had a UK number one in 1961 with his version of, 'Moon River' and a US top ten hit in 1964, with 'White on White'. Great days for music and of course for pigeon racing.



### **The weather/race report**

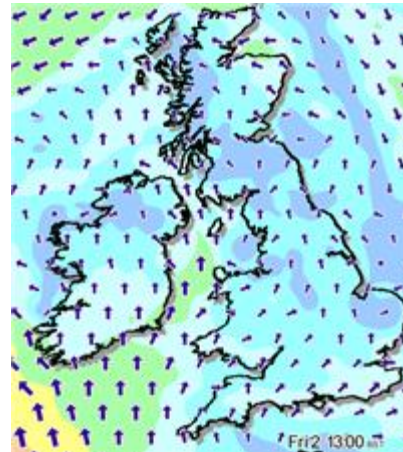
Steve Appleby, the BICC race and weather advisor, provided the following report:

The poor weather conditions over Elgin at first light soon improved as good weather moved across the race point from the east. Liberation was effected at 08:15 and the convoyers reporting the birds leaving the site in one batch. The weather on route was generally dry with the development of some heavy isolated showers mainly in the afternoon. An excellent start to the race as the convoy raced

under broken cloud and some sunshine all the way to Perth. Visibility was very good as can be seen from the image captured by the webcam positioned at the Dinnet Gliding club some 50 miles south of Elgin. Winds light mainly from the south or at times the south east. On monitoring the flight path throughout the day generally weather conditions were good for racing. A tough race and although the winds were relatively light they did create resistance to the birds in flight.



View at Dinnet Gliding Club, some 50 miles south of Elgin



Wind Map

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

**The Provisional Open and 1<sup>st</sup> North Centre Section winner was Jim Nicholson of South Shields, on 1151yppm over 199 miles.** Jim timed a 2 year- old dark chequer w/f cock called Sandancer JW, named after Jeff Walton who bred him. Jim bought him for the princely sum of £40 at a charity sale, and told me, "I'm absolutely ecstatic to win the BICC National and the £500 prize. I joined the BICC two years ago but Covid prevented me from racing until this season. The pigeon was sent paired and racing to a big youngster and came really well on the day. He had been trained at Leicester on the Tuesday and the furthest he'd flown north was Berwick about 7 miles away" Jim, aged 84, said that it's the first time he has raced north for 70 years.

Provisionally, Jim has won the £500 prize money that Mark Gilbert put up to be won by the fancier with the highest velocity in any of the three clubs.

Jim said it's a fair distance to travel to the Cartlon marking station, about a 6 to 8 hour round trip but this makes it all worthwhile and he'd like to thank Harry Jackson and the markers at Cartlon for doing a great job. Although Jim was one of the shorter fliers in this race, for those who have known him over the years they know that he has previously won the Up North Combine on two occasions, from Bourges, 470 miles and Melon, 577 miles. He has also topped Section N in a NFC young birds race from 410 miles. Jim is also particularly proud of the garden that his wife plants and tends every year and it has been featured in the BHW calendar. Finally, he would like to thank all the people who have phoned and put messages on Facebook, he says that he is fine when it comes to Face Time with the grandchildren but, he hasn't mastered all of social media yet! So from Jim a huge thanks to all who have sent congratulations, it is very much appreciated.



Sandancer JW



Mrs Nicholson's garden



Jim Nicholson

**2<sup>nd</sup> North Centre Section, 2<sup>nd</sup> Open was John McCall of Leeds, on 1133ypm over 271 miles.** John followed up his Berwick National win with this very good performance and he told me, "My first pigeon is a blue hen bred from my Mark Bull's Redbull's Ghost x Charlotte birds crossed with my own. These lines have been fantastic at this distance with 3 of my first 6 pigeons from the same cock bred by Mark. They do love the 300 mile hard days and come extremely fresh. I'm very happy with another good performance from the pigeons and must say, well done everyone on a hard day. Some excellent performances from the guys south on a day like this and a large applause for the marking station at Carlton, making it possible for us to compete."

**3<sup>rd</sup> North Centre Section, 3<sup>rd</sup> Open were S & M Cook, of Barton on Humber, on 1119ypm over 296 miles.** Steve and Michael are pictured with their first two arrivals from Elgin and they had four birds on the day. They said, "The first three back were yearling hens and they arrived home in fantastic condition, so thank you to the conveyer and congratulations to the winner."



John McCall



Steve and Michael Cook

### The Provisional North East Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> North East Section, 6<sup>th</sup> Open were Mr & Mrs Kingswood of Huttoft, on 1088ypm over 334 miles.** Darren told me that he was gob smacked to have topped the Section for the third consecutive north road race, having already won Hexham and Berwick. In Wales we would call this winning the Triple Crown, played 3 won 3! Darren said, "We didn't expect to do quite so well, especially with the east wind which had been present in Huttoft all week. On a really tough day of racing, we timed our first 2 birds within 35 minutes and timed 7 birds on the day, which returned in fantastic condition. Our winning pigeon was a yearling blue hen, raced on roundabout and she had been our second bird from Perth with the NRCC a few weeks earlier. This has been our first season with the BICC and we wanted to test our birds against birds flying in different and longer directions. Can we say well done to all the Section winners and the Open winner." And what about going for the fourth win, from Lerwick? Darren said that, that might be a step too far for the birds this year, he is going to settle with the three wins and thanks the BICC for putting on north road racing.

**2<sup>nd</sup> North East Section, 18<sup>th</sup> Open, were Mr & Mrs Wagstaff of Louth, on 931ypm over 323 miles.** The husband and wife partnership timed a 2 year-old Busschaert hen flown on the roundabout system. Kevin said, "In the last few weeks she has flown NRCC Perth, NRCC Fraserburgh, BICC Berwick, this race from Elgin and she is now being prepared for NRCC Thurso. As young bird and yearling she has flown north and south and has been a very consistent bird for us."

**3<sup>rd</sup> North East Section, 22<sup>nd</sup> Open were HG Cook & Son & Grandson of Walpole St Peter, on 827ypm over 368 miles.** George and Graham time a red Busschaert hen at 21.18hrs flying the 368 miles. They told me, "The hen was prepared for the cancelled BICC Truro race and by the time of liberation from Elgin would have been close to running her pot eggs. She is a medium sized hen and

has raced from the channel the year before but, she has never been trained or raced from the north. She is a grand-daughter of Champion Harvey, Louella breeding, when paired to a Busschaert hen named, The 5<sup>th</sup> Open Hen. This hen was 5<sup>th</sup> Open Falaise with the MNFC for us. This pairing have bred several birds that have won from the channel and this is the first race on the north road for our partnership since the late eighties.”



Darren & Jackie Kingswood



Kevin Wagstaff



George & Graham Cook

### **The Provisional North West Section Winners**

**1<sup>st</sup> North West Section, 10<sup>th</sup> Open were Silvester Bros of Stoke on Trent, on 1030yppm over 324 miles.** The pigeon the brothers clocked was bred by Andy and Dave Macmillan and they said, “His sire is a full brother to Lee Buddle’s, Elsa and his dam is a granddaughter of, Southfield Supreme from Mark Gilbert and he was flown on widowhood. Can we say a big thank you to all involved in the club and organising the race. “

**2<sup>nd</sup> North West Section, 14<sup>th</sup> Open, were Booth & Roper of Tewkesbury, on 972yppm over 392 miles.** Booth and Roper had 2 hens arrive together and in the clock 2 seconds apart to take provisionally 2<sup>nd</sup> Section, 14<sup>th</sup> Open, and possibly 3<sup>rd</sup> Section, 15<sup>th</sup> Open flying just under 12 hours from nearly 400 miles. They were the longest flying loft in the Section to time in on the day. Roger told me, “The first hen in the clock was a 3 year-old blue chequer Jan Aarden/Dordin/VDB and her grandmother was the ‘Ace Pigeon’ in the Midland National that took several top positions in that club. She was one of our favourite hens back then and is still in the loft and producing at the age 13, unfortunately with a broken wing. The second hen was a 5 year-old blue chequer Jan Aarden from the Louella family of Jan Aarden’s and her grandmother is a half sister to, Invincible Dettori, the winner of the 1<sup>st</sup> North Road National Kings Cup 2007 for Mr and Mrs Johnson. This hen took 7<sup>th</sup> Section, 59<sup>th</sup> Open Pau, 600 miles, in the National FC in 2020.” Roger and Trevor also said that they are so proud of these two brave hens in what turned out to be a very hard race and they returned in top condition. They would like to congratulate the Open winner, Jim Nicholson, and Silvester Bros for winning the North West Section and of course the guys at Rugeley marking station.

**3<sup>rd</sup> North West Section, 15<sup>th</sup> Open were Lloyds Bros of Brymbo, on 958yppm over 316 miles.** The brother’s pigeon was from the Jones & Thomas lines of Wirral. He is a 2 year-old chequer pied cock, flown on roundabout and he was 5<sup>th</sup> Section, 110<sup>th</sup> Open from the BICC Berwick race, two weeks earlier.





Silvester Bros



Booth & Ropers 2 hens



Tim Lloyd

### The Provisional South Centre Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> South Centre Section, 9<sup>th</sup> Open was Mark Gilbert of Windsor, on 1075yppm over 442 miles.** Mark said, "We clocked three birds on the day of liberation and these will likely be 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Section. The first was a yearling hen, her father is from Cor de Heijde and is a son of his 2<sup>nd</sup> National Barcelona Blue Dream, and the mother is a daughter of our best breeder, Golden Barcelona and is a full sister to Gold Lady, 1<sup>st</sup> National Barcelona in 2020. The second bird is also a hen and her father is a double grandson of, George of Brockamps and the mother is a daughter of, Southfield Supreme, 1<sup>st</sup> International Dax. Our third bird on the day was a cock, with the father from Jella Jellema's, Zawrt Gold and the mother from, New Laureate, 1<sup>st</sup> International Barcelona. Overall, it was a very hard race and I have now had 31 return."

**2<sup>nd</sup> South Centre Section, 12<sup>th</sup> Open was J F Haynes of Fifield, on 1000yppm over 439 miles.** John said, "Congratulations to the winners of the Elgin race and all Section winners. My 2<sup>nd</sup> Section bird was bred from two gift birds from Mark Gilbert. The pigeon hasn't performed too well in the past but was the fifth pigeon from the hard Berwick race two weeks ago, so is improving all the time."

**3<sup>rd</sup> South Centre Section, 30<sup>th</sup> Open were A & T Deacon of Waterlooville, on 694yppm over 476 miles.** Albie told me, "I timed a 2 year-old dark cock sent sitting eggs. He had flown from Wetherby two weeks prior on the bad weekend, where he took 12 hours to fly 213 miles, but it did not seem to bother him, even in this race he looked well on his return. It was another hard north road race with some poor returns."



Mark Gilbert & Troy Birch



John Haynes



Albie Deacon

### The Provisional South East Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> South East Section, 39<sup>th</sup> Open was Traian Ferentz of Romford, on 579yppm over 442 miles.** Traian said, "The sire of my pigeon is original Ben Hendriks/Van Wanroy and the dam is a combination of

Ronnie Elliott, Van De Poel and Louella Jan Aarden. It's a little dark checker, raced on natural after being trained south with Thames North Club and turned north with the BICC."

**2<sup>nd</sup> South East Section, 41<sup>st</sup> Open was Damien Dumitrascu of Basildon on 552yppm over 447 miles.** Damien's bird was a 3 year-old hen of 75% Freialdenhofen and 25% Kipp breeding. She was sent on chipped eggs, and he was delighted to take another section position this season.

**3<sup>rd</sup> South East Section, 42<sup>nd</sup> Open was Andronache Alin of London, on 544yppm over 451 miles.** Andronache said, "Although this was a very hard competition and the race was also hard, this bird has demonstrated that it has a very good value and I would like to thank Mr Tim Christmas for those wonderful birds and very good breeding. My chequer hen was the original providence for Tim Christmas and I've been very satisfied with the way it has reproduced. I wish all the best to everyone and I'm very happy and I can't wait for the final result." The breeding of Andronache's bird is Benny Stevenik bloodlines from Leading Lofts including the great breeding pair of, Chip and, Pin, De Crack and De Gueret.

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Traian Ferentz



Damien Dumitrascu



Andronache Alin

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

1<sup>st</sup> Jim Nicholson of South Shields, on 1151yppm, 2<sup>nd</sup> John McCall of Leeds, on 1133, 3<sup>rd</sup> S & M Cook of Barton-on-Humber, on 1119yppm, 4<sup>th</sup> Marek Krasowski of Bedford, on 1111yppm, 5<sup>th</sup> Hoggard, Linley & Ellis of Bridlington, on 1095yppm, 6<sup>th</sup> Mr & Mrs Kingswood of Huttoft, on 1088yppm, 7<sup>th</sup> Harry Jackson of Selby, on 1078, 8<sup>th</sup> Nicholas Adshead of Selby, on 1077yppm, 9<sup>th</sup> Mark Gilbert of Winkfield, on 1075yppm, 10<sup>th</sup> Silvester Bros of Stoke on Trent, on 1030yppm.

Mike Jackson

BICC Press Officer

Email:mike.jackson026@hotmail.com

Tel:07964448291