

British International Championship Club

Guernsey National Provisional Race Report

12th July 2021

The BICC's eight National race was from Guernsey on the south road, where 455 members sent 5,269 birds that were liberated at 7.20am on Sunday 11th June, after a one day holdover. Each Section sent the following: South Centre, 174 members sent 2,095 birds, South East, 110 sent 1,354, South West, 34 sent 354, North Centre, 17 sent 69, North East, 61 sent 590, North West, 11 sent 168 birds and in the Irish Section, 17 members sent 69 birds.

Guernsey needs little introduction, as most people know that it is a beautiful island in the English Channel off the coast of Normandy, that is part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey, a British Crown Dependency. And it certainly needs little introduction to the BICC convoyers, who got stuck on the Island due to the hold-over and change to the ferry times. I reported previously that they were trying to find a pub to watch the England match on Sunday evening, as they weren't able to get a ferry back after the liberation. Well, their, 'adventure' didn't end there!

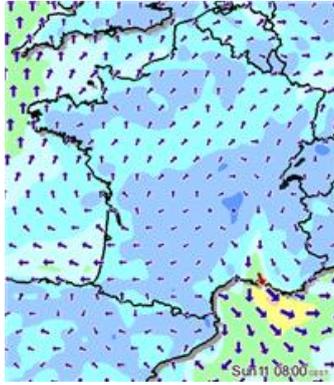
They left Guernsey on the ferry in the early hours of Monday morning but instead of coming directly back to Portsmouth, the boat trundled off to Jersey to make a stop to load and unload. Then shortly after leaving Jersey it stopped in the Channel to do a boat safety drill and launch a lifeboat. With Trevor and Steve just wanting to get home, they weren't best impressed! When they finally docked at Portsmouth, mid-afternoon, Trevor had a drive home to Stowmarket, and Steve to Wiltshire. Fair play to them, and what a demonstration of their commitment, although I'm sure their patience was tested this time! With many organisations having difficulties finding convoyers, let's hope members recognise the work these two guys put in to enable the BICC races to take place and some of the difficulties they encounter along the way. They do an excellent job.

The weather/race report

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

After a one-day holdover due to poor weather conditions on Saturday the B.I.C.C. liberated from Guernsey at 07:20 am on Sunday. The convoyers were happy to report the convoy cleared the Island straight away into a liberation sky. See the view captured at Guernsey Airport. Visibility had increased considerably in the channel from that of the previous day to 20 miles and more. Various cloud formations were identified on the flight path but nothing to obstruct the birds. The relatively early liberation went some way to beat the arrival of heavy showers affecting the West Country and Wales later in the morning. Generally winds were light from the south/south west. Viewing the early times, it would appear to be a very successful race.

Before reporting on the winner, and I'm sure John Haynes won't mind, on behalf of the committee and members, I have to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of Club Secretary, Carol Francis for this race and throughout the old bird season. Carol worked flat out to produce the results for Guernsey and due to the amended race programme, she has worked on consecutive weekends to produce the provisional race results and the final race results, so that they appear on time on the website and in the pigeon press. Carol has once again done an excellent job.



Wind Map



View from Guernsey Airport

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 John Haynes of Fifield over on 1579yph over 159 miles. John's winning pigeon was a blue chequer roundabout cock. The pigeon's breeding is a grandson of Donkere Leo x granddaughter of Princess Lilly on the sire's side and Donkere Leo, Princess Lilly when paired with a daughter of Massive Silvester, a Geernick x Soonjon on the dam's side. The birds are originally from the lofts of 'Mr Belgium', Mickey Collins. Although the chequer cock hasn't done anything special to date, a delighted John was pleased to see him come so well. John said, "I'd like to thank the BICC committee and all the markers and workers for their hard work on marking day. Also, thank you to the convoyers for looking after the pigeons, they returned in excellent condition with 100% returns. Finally, congratulations to all Section winners and I wish all fanciers a great next race. And last but not least, a thanks to Nigel Langstaff for supplying the father of the winning pigeon, thanks once again Nigel".

2nd South Centre Section, 2nd Open was Mark Gilbert of Winkfield, on 1563yph over 157 miles. Mark's timed a cock bird that has already taken 1st Section E in the NFC this year. He said, "Two years ago I bought some middle distance birds from Holland to race, and he is one of them, from a fancier called J and W Molendijk from Strijen."

3rd South Centre Section, 3rd Open was Nick Wilson of Hilsea, on 1556yph over 112 miles. Nick said, "The 2 year-old hen I timed was sent sitting 14 day old eggs. She is a Vandenabeele out of a cock I purchased at the Blackpool auction of Jos Reilly, from a grandson of Harry and Bliksem. Her dam came from Nigel Langstaff via my good friend Jason Ross. She was the last of the Vandenabeeles Nigel had and I must say well done to John and Mark, so well done gents."



John Haynes



Mark Gilbert



Nick Wilson's blue hen

The Provisional South East Section Winners

1st South East Section, 16th Open was Slawomir Zielinski of Dagenham, on 1489ypm over 187 miles. Slawomir topped the Section with a blue yearling cock of Janssen Van Dyck breeding. He said that he was really pleased with the way his bird came and wanted to congratulate the Open and Section winners.

2nd South East Section, 19th Open was Brian Robinson of Grays, on 1485ypm over 187 miles. Brian's yearling blue pied cock was raced on his own type of chaos system and he came well on Sunday. His dam is a daughter of his Combine winner from Stonehaven and the sire was bought at a futurity sale in the Thames North East Sale.

3rd South East Section, 21st Open were Mahoney Bros of Basildon, on 1478ypm over 195 miles. Pat told me, "Mike our chequer cock that was 3rd Section is a Steve Profitt, UNC, out of his, Paddy Cock which was a 1st and 2nd uncle when crossed with our Planet Bros pigeons that we have raced for over 40 years. Some of his previous performances are 7th Section, 7th Open BICC Falaise 2,672 birds, 17th Section BICC Le Mans, 51st Section 129th Open BICC Falaise 2,546 birds, 12th Section, 585th Open NFC Ancencis, 9th Open East of England Championship Club 555 birds, 1st Open Super 6 Thames North & Eastern counties Bedhampton." A consistent performer for the brother's by anyone's standards for sure.



Slawomir Zielinski



Brian Robinson



Mahoney Bros chequer cock

The Provisional South West Section Winners

1st South West Section, 13th Open were Mr & Mrs Hodges of Templecombe, on 1495ypm over 133 miles. Prilly told me, "The pigeon we timed was a chequer w/f hen bred by Danny Lanahan of Poole. Her bloodlines are from van Gerard pigeons down from the Louder cock x daughter of, Flo, a Bosua pigeon. Because of that devastating Saturday, we only had 3 cocks in the loft and 20 hens, so we left the doors open and let the pigeons do as they pleased. She was paired to two other hens and was sent sitting 6 day old eggs. When she was let out for exercise, she would not come in and would fly on her own for hours. So for the last two days before basketing, we took the other hen away and put her in a section on her own and she then sat the eggs with food in her box. We think this must have done the trick! Also the hen in the section on her own, won the club for us on Saturday."

2nd South West Section, 15th Open was L Nichols of Bedminster, on 1492ypm over 133 miles. Les timed a 2 year-old chequer hen raced on the natural system, which was sent sitting 5 day old eggs. Les' family of pigeons originate from the late Brian Milkins and Nigel Templar, of Garrett and Van Dyke bloodlines. He crossed these two families and they have been successful for him for a number of years. He also took 3rd Combine on the same weekend as the Guernsey race. Les wanted to congratulate the Open and Section winners on a great weekend of racing.

3rd South West Section, 32nd Open were Dave & John Staddon of Ditchat, on 1454ypm over 112 miles. Dave told me, "We timed a yearling hen flown on Chaos Widowhood to win provisional 3rd Section and 33rd Open. She is bred from, Prince of Dreams a Formula 1 Frans Zwols cock bred from their famous Dream Pair. The dam is, Mrs Miracle a direct daughter of our own Miracle Pair which have been the most fantastic pair of breeders and their children and grandchildren are all breeding winners for us. This yearling hen has already won 1st Glastonbury FC Eastbourne, 1st WOESRC Eastbourne 1,344b and 1st Glastonbury FC Littlehampton in 2021. We are very pleased with the early results of the Frans Zwols introduced from the Formula 1 boys. Well done to John Haynes on winning the race and to Gary and Prilly, our club mates, on winning the Section. Returns were very gappy but 100% returned which is the main thing."



Prilly Hodges



Les Nichols with grandchildren
Toby & Robin



D & J Staddon

The Provisional North Centre Section Winners

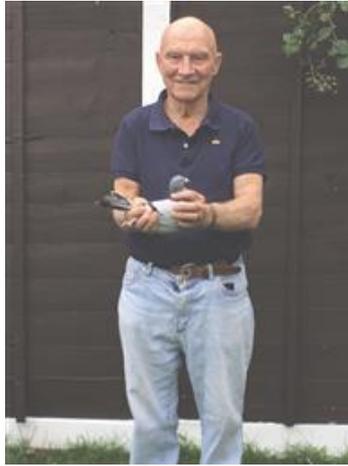
1st North Centre Section, 12th Open was Artur Pawkowski of Northampton, on 1495ypm over 202 miles. Artur told me that he has been a member from Northampton S.R.F.C. Club for last 5 years and before that he was a member at Luton Leagrave Club. Artur said, "My 3 year-old blue pied cock that won the Section, has also won the federation, 757 pigeons, from Lyndhurst on 19th June, which was a very hard days racing. My priority is channel racing and I hope we get back there soon, well done to all the other fanciers who timed good birds."

2nd North Centre Section, 24th Open was Rodney Oakes of Kettering, on 1471ypm over 214 miles. Rod said, "My timer is a 4 year old with plenty of channel experience behind her. She has yet to take the red card but is a very reliable racer. She was bred from a Derrick Jones of Wrexham cock when paired to a hen from the late Brian Garfoot from birds he had from Germany. She will more than likely be turned to the north road next year if that is the way my federation vote. I had 3 from 6 on the day and have yet to see the others. Congratulations to all he Section winners."

3rd North Centre Section, 26th Open were Farrington Bros of Denton, on 1465ypm over 227 miles. Paul said, "This was our first race with the BICC and the pigeon we timed was a 4 year-old blue chequer cock, bred from a Jan Aarden crossed with a blue un-rung pigeon we found in a field." Not a bad find that one, by the look Paul!



Artur Pawkowski



Rodney Oakes



Farrington Bros, chequer cock

The Provisional North East Section Winners

1st North East Section, 76th Open was Stephen Kaschner of Diss, on 1403yppm over 258 miles. The Penzance Section winner Steve Kaschner, followed that up with another Section win. Steve said, "Our 5 year-old hen is bred from direct stock from Bob Fench's Cooremans, the same way bred as our Penzance winner. This hen has taken many positions for us, but this being her best. In our picture, Chris, a friend and neighbour who always comes around for race days, is holding our winner and I'm holding our second bird home, a yearling cock, which will also be high up in the Section." Steve had a good team performance on the day with his birds having been on roundabout all season. They were left together for two days before Guernsey.

2nd North East Section, 108th Open was J Duke Loft 2 of Newmarket, on 1374yppm over 228 miles. John said, "Our bird was a 2 year-old Staff van Reet cock flown on the natural system. He was sent sitting for five days from a small team, as we only send fifteen birds maximum each week. Can we also say well done to all the others who timed good birds on the day."

3rd North East Section, 112th Open was Roly Rix of Newmarket, on 1370yppm over 229 miles. Roly timed a 2 year-old blue cock who took 6th Section for him when he topped the Section from Wadebridge, in the first BICC race of the season. The breeding of this bird is also similar to the Wadebridge winner being the old Linde-du-Puy, Jansen lines. Howard, Roly's loft manager, was present on Sunday, as usual, and was still wearing his new, sparkling set of teeth. They were still working their magic and helped Roly record another good Section position in this race. I spoke to Roly from Torquay, where he was taking a well earned holiday with his wife in between the old bird and young bird seasons. He said, "Mike I've had an exceptional old bird season and really enjoyed racing with the BICC. Can I thank the BICC committee, convoyers and all those involved for putting on some excellent races in this difficult year."



Stephen Kaschner and neighbour Chris



Paul Duke



Roly Rix

The Provisional North West Section Winners

1st North West Section, 20th Open were Silvester Bros of Stoke on Trent, on 1482ypm over 242 miles. The brothers followed up their Section win from Elgin with another and said they couldn't believe it, in fact they timed two pigeons in quick succession that were nest mates. They said, "The nest mates were bred by our good friend Keith Higham, who sadly passed away last year, and who we really miss. The pigeons are Llambrechts van den Bulcks. We also timed a good third pigeon, which was a Van Reet Custer Cross. Finally, can we say a thank you to all those involved in organising the race. "

2nd North West Section, 23rd Open, were Booth & Roper of Tewesbury, on 1475ypm over 173 miles. The ever consistent loft of Booth & Roper, timed a two year old blue chequer widowhood cock, bred on the lines of Brian Sheppard, Van den Bosche and Jan Aarden families. They said, "His grandmother has a fantastic CV, having had many positions in national competitions including 2nd Section, 9th Open MNFC Portsmouth, 1st Section, 121st Open BICC Guernsey, 9th Section, 36th Open NFC Coutances, 6th Section, 53rd Open CSCFC Coutances, plus 4 x 1st in club races." At the age of seven she is now in their team of stock birds and they would like to congratulate the Open winner and all Section winners and to thank Jill and Clive and their team at Radstock marking station for all they do.

3rd North West Section, 38th Open were Hourihan & Crowder of Croxtoth, on 1444ypm over 273 miles. Paul told me, "The first pigeon we had, was a home bred chequer cock from two Padfield pigeons from Steve Wright of House of Aarden, though Padfield Jack lines. The father flew St Philbert and was the first bird we timed to the loft, flying 11 hours 19 minutes. He flew Bordeaux and was timed on the second day the year before. Our second pigeon was a chequer w/f bird, bred by John Rumney of the north east, though his Jan Thelan pigeons. This pigeon has been very consistent all year. They were both flown on the widowhood system."



Silvester Bros



Booth & Roper



Hourihan & Crowder

The Provisional Irish Section Winners

A special mention has to be made before reporting on the Irish Section. Most fanciers are of the opinion that having to fly over two stretches of water is no mean feat for a pigeon and in race time, two gallant birds had made it home. The Irish Section grew tremendously before the start of the season, to a total of 129 paid up members, and I'm sure that if the original race programme had been flown, many more members would have had the opportunity to race in more of the races. For Guernsey, 17 members from the Republic and Northern Ireland sent 69 birds and Michael Feeney made a special effort to get the birds to the marking station, which wasn't straight forward! After getting off the ferry late Thursday evening, he found that his Satnav didn't work properly and he spent a good few four hours circulating around Wales searching for the motorway. Travelling around the beautiful Welsh countryside might not have been a problem usually but, "Not in the middle of the *flipping* night it wasn't" said Michael or words to that effect! Anyway as you'll read below, his efforts were well rewarded.

1st Irish Section, 395th Open was Michael Feeney of Kilmore West, 420yppm over 312 miles. On the second day at 12.29pm a delighted Michael Feeney timed a 2 year-old chequer hen to take 1st Irish Section BICC. Michael said the chequer hen is a daughter of Musgrove Wizard x Musgrove Insanity/Musgrove Persistent Lines from Nic Harvey of Taunton. Full Credit for the breeding of this hen must be given to Nic Harvey. He has provided me with birds over the last few years direct from his Barcelona birds. Along with Musgrove Wizard who himself flew Barcelona at 710 Miles to Nic. I have kept faith with these birds and now it is justified. Thanks again to Nic for the foundation of what I hope are a family that will eventually compete on an International stage flying into Ireland."

2nd Irish Section, 396th Open were L O'Neil & Son of County Antrim, on 400yppm over 395 miles. Martin said, "The partnership consists of Liam, my father, and sons Martin and Gareth. The wee hen we timed is a yearling raced on widowhood. She was bred out of pigeons obtained from two top Irish fanciers, Billy Brooks of Carlow and Paul Swindell, of Banbridge. We would like to thank Michael Feeney and the BICC for facilitating the race and congratulate all the other section winners."



Michael Feeney's Section winner



Gareth, Martin & Liam O'Neil

The Provisional Top Ten Open Positions

1st J F Haynes of Fifield on 1579yppm, 2nd Mark Gilbert of Winkfield on 1563yppm, 3rd N T Wilson of Hilsea on 1556yppm, 4th Wearn Bros & Neilson of Ramsdean on 1552yppm, 5th Berry & Matthews of Hants on 1526yppm, 6th R Steer & Sons of West Croydon on 1508yppm, 7th R & K O'Connor of South Norwood on 1508yppm, 8th F Bartlett & R Jones & J of Southampton on 1499yppm, 9th C Baldwin & Son of Edgware on 1499yppm, 10th M & J Adcock & Son of Croydon on 1498yppm.

Mike Jackson, Press Officer