

# British International Championship Club

## Lerwick National Provisional Race Report

25<sup>th</sup> July 2021

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July, after a 2 day hold-over, 841 birds that were sent by 147 members were liberated at 11.00am from Lerwick, the capital of the Shetland Islands. Each Section sent the following: South Centre, 46 members sent 220 birds, South East, 31 sent 221, South West, 13 sent 49, North Centre 28 sent 217, North East 12 sent 51 and in the North West 17 members sent 83 birds.

As the birds were held-over, there was a lot of interest from local people who were intrigued as to why a big lorry was parked on the Island for so long. It resulted in Russell Bradford spending an interesting few hours on the internet and messenger corresponding with several people to explain why the lorry was parked up. Russell said that a friend of his who lives near Peterborough, and used to convoy pigeons, has a daughter living on Whalsay, the island next to Lerwick. She was part of a local Facebook wild life community group who were interested in the pigeons. Russell picks up the story, "When a strange looking lorry arrived and parked up, several residents were asking what this peculiar lorry was doing there. So, the lady who lives on Whalsay, called Emma Gale, could of course tell them. This sparked a multitude of further questions, and through her father, Chris Lee, I was then invited into the local 'wild life photography group' over the internet. The interest generated amongst 30 or more contributors was unbelievable and evidently a whole batch of photographers appeared to take photos – hence a photo of the BICC lorry appeared on Facebook at midday on Friday. I was then contacted by the local Scout Leader who wanted to take her pack of scouts along on Friday evening. So I made a quick call to Steve Adamson, our convoyer, to make sure this was ok, and it was arranged. It was a brilliant piece of PR as the Scout leader took her scouts along and Steve was able to spend an hour telling them all about pigeon racing. She emailed me the following morning to say Steve was absolutely brilliant and a wealth of knowledge and none of the scouts had ever seen such beautiful pigeons so close up before. All I can say is well done Steve and Michelle for taking an hour out and creating a lot of good will locally.'

The local newspaper, the Shetland news then reported on the liberation of the birds and BBC Radio Shetland did a follow up interview on the race winners. Overall, it proved to be a very good advert for pigeon racing.

### The weather/race report

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

Friday morning dawned with poor visibility and heavy overcast skies at Lerwick. These skies persisted all day Friday, Saturday and the early part of Sunday morning which made liberation unworkable. The well positioned webcams overlooking the Lerwick harbour (see image) were of prime importance when assessing conditions. Monitoring the various satellite images (see picture, Lerwick located in Black Square) on Sunday morning gave rise for some optimism, as blue skies were identified moving towards Lerwick from the south east. Mark Gilbert and myself discussed this new development and with a clear line of flight to mainland Scotland decided to liberate as soon as a liberation sky presented itself over Lerwick. Our convoyer Steve was informed of this good news and was very happy to report he had liberated the birds at 11:00 hours which cleared the site immediately. The weather conditions on Monday morning through Scotland and northern England were very good and winds were light and variable. Another good race for the B.I.C.C. members resulting top class performances.



Wind Map



Satellite Image



View over the harbour



Birds being liberated

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

**The Provisional Open winner, and 1<sup>st</sup> North Centre Section winner was John McCall of Leeds, on 1524ypm over 436 miles.** John was also 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Open and Section. This topped off an excellent season for John, having previously won the Berwick National on 19<sup>th</sup> June and taken 2<sup>nd</sup> Elgin National on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. John told me this, 'I'm absolutely ecstatic with this performance Mike, as I turned the pigeons purposely for this 440 mile race and although I had some good performances in the other north races, this was my target race. When I saw two dive in together at over 400 miles followed by a flurry of others, I knew they were on point. The first bird was a hen with two National positions under her belt now. She from my main body of birds, a Mark Bullied crossed with my own lines. The second was a late-bred hen bred by L Scaife of York, which was a total surprise and I couldn't believe it when I saw her. My third pigeon was the bird who had already taken a 1<sup>st</sup> from Berwick. I had three more before the close of race, who were all very similarly way bred to the first hen including, GB16 B44483 who is the dam of the winning hen. The birds were trained hard, sharing training with the Harding Bros who were the only ones to split the team. We trained them from 45 to 60 miles 4 days a week between the north races as I didn't want to confuse them with any south road racing. They were run together the day before basketing and given nesting material but were split every 2 hours for 20 to 30 minutes for feeding. I think the BICC did a fantastic job and I have to say, my pigeons have never been in a basket for that long but it didn't bother them at all. They were all in superb condition, which is a credit to the convoyer and those in charge.'



John McCall



1<sup>st</sup> Open Winner



2<sup>nd</sup> Open Winner

**3<sup>rd</sup> North Centre Section, 3<sup>rd</sup> Open were Harding Bros of Leeds on 1498ypm, over 438miles.** As John said, the bird that split his team was raced by the Harding Bros. As well as training with John, the preparation for their birds was a race from Chale and Guernsey and to be lifted straight back into Lerwick. The partnership also took 5<sup>th</sup> Section and Open. The brothers told me, "It's always been a dream of ours to win a special race and we were very happy to be 3<sup>rd</sup> in this race with a 2 year old cock raced on round-about. He was re-paired for this race and was sent sitting ten day old eggs. His breeding is pure Geerinckx from Gladiator. We have to say a well done to John and thank him for the training. Also well done to all those who timed pigeons and the organisers for putting the race on.'



Harding Bros

### The Provisional North East Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> North East Section, 36<sup>th</sup> Open was Mr & Mrs Brian Garnham of Butterwick, on 1166ypm, over 498 miles.** The husband and wife partnership clocked a 2 year old dark chequer cock called '71'. Brian said, 'Our Section winner was bred by our good friend David Brackenbury of Boston, this year's NRCC Kings Cup Winner from Lerwick. He is from his Nick Adshead, Menne and daughters based stock, so many thanks Dave. This year '71' had flown on widowhood consistently from Perth, Fraserburgh and Lerwick with the NRCC. He came from the NRCC Lerwick at 6am spinning and fighting with a loft mate on the trap, which booked his trip this time with the BICC. He was re-paired for this race and finished in great condition.' Brian also wanted to recognise the BICC committee for making the decision to hold north road races this season, as he thinks that they have been a great success. Having been involved in the administration of the sport over the years is aware that making these changes can be risky on occasions. This is a decision he thinks paid off and was well worth it by the BICC. He added finally, 'Congratulations to the BICC for putting on this great race and to the winners many of whom made remarkable performances. We salute both the fanciers and the pigeons.'

**2<sup>nd</sup> North East Section, 45<sup>th</sup> Open, was Lester Lynn of Cantley, on 1135ypm over 533 miles.** Lester said, 'You might think my bird is 5 years-old but, she has an old ring on. My 2<sup>nd</sup> Section hen is actually 2 years-old and she was clocked at 8:23.16secs on Monday morning flying 533 miles. I am really pleased with the convoyer and those that made it possible for us to race the pigeons and I want to congratulate the winner and all those who timed in the Section.'

**3<sup>rd</sup> North East Section, 91<sup>st</sup> Open, was S & T Walker of West Earlham, on 1004ypm over 528miles.** Scott and Tom timed a 3 year-old mealy hen. Scott said, 'This hen has flown well for us this year with the BICC. She went to Penzance, Elgin and then onto Lerwick. She is bred from gift pigeons from Mick & Beryl Woodyard, of 'Highway Lofts' of Limerick-Arden lines. Our second pigeon who took 5<sup>th</sup> Section was of similar lines.' The partnership race natural as this suits their requirements.



**Brian Garnham**



**Lester Lynn's bird**



**Tom Walker**

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

**1<sup>st</sup> North West Section, 19<sup>th</sup> Open was Richard Pugh of Worcestershire, on 1250ypm over 560 miles.** Richard said, 'The pigeon I clocked was from my old Van Braune family crossed with a pigeon I borrowed from Mike Lee, so thanks to Mike for this. I sent two pigeons and timed both on the second morning, to take 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Section. Congratulations to the winner and all others who timed.'

**2<sup>nd</sup> North West Section, 23<sup>rd</sup> Open were Mr & Mrs Lewis of Kempsey, on 1228ypm over 556 miles.** The partnership told me, 'We would like to offer our congratulations to all the Lerwick Section winners and the overall winner John McCall who had an outstanding team performance which was hot on the heels of his 1<sup>st</sup> Open Berwick National race with the BICC. Although we were disappointed by the two day holdover, because we believe pigeons do not improve in condition being kept in the basket, and also having a late in the day liberation which did not allow more pigeons to be timed on the day especially at 500-600 miles. But having said, we would like to congratulate the race controllers and conveyer on the condition of the pigeons which returned. We had 3 out of 4 entered although our second bird had been hawked, missing the middle of its' tail and secondary flights and sustaining a large wound on its side. We fell something must be done to stop this carnage happening. The birds we sent were all pigeons of pensionable age, like most fanciers, one was a 2014 bird, which was our first one home and three 2016 birds which have all flown Tarbes several times. Except for our second bird, the one which homed injured, had been twice 2nd Open in The Midland Continental Classic Flying Club from Saintes, 450miles, two consecutive years, our Freeland's Duo. Our first bird home will now be named, Freeland's Shetland Pride for his efforts. We would like to thank all the BICC officials for arranging us to be able to compete at the distance races; we joined the BICC this year for this reason. We must not forget the marking teams at Rugeley. Richard Chambers and Alan Webber at Stevenson who both made us feel welcome as new members and we were also impressed in the efficient way the marking stations was run. Without these men and women the club does not function. May the BICC go from strength to strength, which I am sure it will, with these officials at the helm. Forgive us for writing what seems a speech for receiving a

Grammy award but you have allowed us to be able to enjoy pigeon racing at its best!' No problem both, you are welcome.

**3<sup>rd</sup> North West Section, 24<sup>th</sup> Open was Mick Howard of Upton-upon Severn, on 1213ypm over 561 miles.** Mick timed one of his long distance birds, which he has been preparing for the Channel races with the ultimate goal of racing from Barcelona. Since Mick re-started racing 4 to 5 years ago, he has been building a team of distance birds and was disappointed that the Channel racing was cancelled this year as he wanted to test the birds over the water. However, he timed a good bird in this distance race and he told me this, 'My 3<sup>rd</sup> Section winner is a granddaughter of, Padfield Invincible lines and a great granddaughter of, Red Rising Sun of Muller Arden lines. I would like to congratulate my club mate Richard Pugh on his Section winner, well done Rich. '



Richard Pugh



Mr & Mrs Lewis



Mick Howard

#### The Provisional South Centre Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> South Centre Section, 20<sup>th</sup> Open was G&M Gilbert of Windsor, on 1238ypm over 600 miles.** Geoff timed a 3 year old bird to top the Section. Geoff's pigeon was bred by Mark and was 21<sup>st</sup> National Boudreaux in last year's BICC National.

**2<sup>nd</sup> South Centre Section, 31<sup>st</sup> Open was Mark Gilbert of Windsor, on 1181ypm over 602 miles.** Mark said he was really pleased with the race and thinks that it has only done the reputation of the BICC good. Personally, he recorded 12 birds on race sheet from his 17 entries. He said, 'The first pigeon was a cock, bred from, New Laureate who was 1<sup>st</sup> International Barcelona when he was paired to, Silvie who was the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Barcelona. The mother was a direct daughter of Jella Jellma's, Romee.'

**3<sup>rd</sup> South Centre Section, 35<sup>th</sup> Open was Andrei Bargaoanu of Basingstoke, on 1169ypm over 614 miles.** Andrei's pigeon was bred by Dave Hawthorne from his Barcelona family of birds. He said, 'The 2 year-old had flown many races across the Channel last year. This year he was 18<sup>th</sup> Open, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sect Elgin with Central Classic over 450 miles, 98<sup>th</sup> Open, 20<sup>th</sup> Section Ilkeston with the Classic over 118 miles, 45<sup>th</sup> Open, 12<sup>th</sup> Sect with BICC, 312 miles and now 3<sup>rd</sup> Sect 35<sup>th</sup> Open BICC Lerwick. He has been a really consistent bird for me. Can I also send congratulations to the winner and all Section winners.'



Geoff Gilbert



Mark Gilbert



Andrei Bargaoanu

### **The Provisional South East Section Winners**

**1<sup>st</sup> South East Section, 25<sup>th</sup> Open was Ross Olive of Wickford, on 1212yppm over almost 594 miles.** Ross timed his 2014 blue chequer hen at 8.57am on the second day. This game hen has previously won 2<sup>nd</sup> Section Thurso NRCC. She's from his late father's distance pigeons originating from Mitchelson x Cannon stock. Ross said, "The motivation for this hen was chipping eggs together with a high fat, high protein diet. I specialise in distance racing and this is now my fourth Section win. I have to dedicate this win to my wife, Danielle, and our his children who have to share me with the pigeons.' Ross races from his mother's garden and has named this Section winner, Lucky Lynne after his mum.

**2<sup>nd</sup> South East Section, 28<sup>th</sup> Open was Dean Childs of Wickford, on 1199yppm over 575 miles.** Dean timed 15 birds on the second day with 11 being in the top 17 of the Section. He told me, 'My first bird is a two year old grandson of Chalice Sidney, my 2017 BICC St Vincent International winner. He is now named, Chalice Luke after my non fancier friend who came to watch the birds come home early in the morning. He is also a grandson of Mark Gilbert's, Starlight. He was prepared for Lerwick by flying the BICC programme up to Berwick, 300 miles to me, and was then paired up and sent to Lerwick on a small baby. Can I say a congratulations to the winner of the National who had a fantastic race and also congratulations to the Section winner Ross Olive. Lastly I would like to thank all the people who have worked so hard in the BICC to allow us to race this year under difficult circumstances, I know so many really do appreciate it!'

**3<sup>rd</sup> South East Section, 30<sup>th</sup> Open was Norman Holiday & Son of Colchester, on 1182yppm over 575 miles.** Norman and Keith sent four pigeons with their first being a 3 year-old chequer hen racing natural to eggs, to take the 3<sup>rd</sup> Section spot. They said that they have had a busy year and have kept going through a tough season, like most of the BICC competitors. Norman told me, 'The sire of the chequer hen is a son of our most consistent racer, a mealy cock gifted to us by a good friend and club mate Mick Hodgson, with the dam being a daughter of our 4<sup>th</sup> Open Kings Cup Lerwick winner. This was our first Lerwick race at Colchester, since moving from Tollesbury. Can I congratulate Ross Olive and say well done to all involved in a great race.'

**4<sup>th</sup> South East Section, 32<sup>nd</sup> Open was Kevin Foster of Longfield Hill, on 1179yppm over 609 miles.** Kevin contacted me to say that he knows I report on the top three in each Section but that his 6 year old bird was worthy of recognition before he retires to the stock loft, and I agreed with him. Kevin said, 'My 6 year old chequer widowhood cock, has flown Tarbes three times with the NFC, twice in the result with both being hard races. He flew Barcelona last year, where I let him down by not clocking on the final day of the race where he would have made the tail end of the result. I kept him ticking over with a few inland races on the south road this year and then sent him to Lerwick, which was our first race on the north this year. So, Barcelona to Lerwick for two consecutive races across the water! You can see from the picture that was taken a few hours after his arrival that you

wouldn't be able to pick him out from other loft mates, as he looked so well. All credit to the conveyors for looking after them. He's off to the stock loft now where four of his children are. Incidentally, on the Saturday before Lerwick one of his sons bred the 7<sup>th</sup> Combine Penzance winner and a daughter bred the 3<sup>rd</sup> Section NFC, both against head winds. His grandsire is a brother to Farmer George from Geoff Cooper, while his dam was bred by Dave Padfield. So, he was bred for the job, showing it on the road and now grandsire to combine and national performers. I think he's ready for retirement now! I think so to Kevin and let's hope he enjoys it.



Ross Olive's Section winner



Dean Childs' first bird



Norman Holiday's hen



Kevin Foster's 6 year old chequer cock



Ross Olive with daughters, Beau & Nancy



Dean Childs' mate Luke

### The Provisional South West Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> South West Section, 21<sup>st</sup> Open was R Strawbridge & J Williams of Newport, on 1229ypp over 593 miles.** For the third year running, Ray Strawbridge has timed the longest flying pigeon into Wales. At 8.45am on the second day Ray clocked a 3 year-old chequer hen flying 593 miles. In 2019, Ray won 1<sup>st</sup> South West Section Barcelona 741 miles; in 2020 he was 1<sup>st</sup> Section St Agen, 565 miles and 3<sup>rd</sup> Section Perpignan, 683 miles. No other fancier in Wales has performed like this, over these distances, within the last 3 years. Ray said, 'Her Sire GB.17.P.24982, is out of my good stock cock, GB.09.P.16838 a chequer w/f, a son of Padfield's "Invincible" and a chequer hen GB.15.S.62148, out of a son of the Padfield's "Iron Lady", when she was paired to a son of "Indy" and a chequer hen GB.12.R.12445, a daughter of "Tom Thumb" & "Marie", bred by Gareth Watkins. Her dam GB.17.P.24115, is out of chequer w/f cock GB.15.S.62192, a son of GB.08.N.75524, out of Padfield's "Mr Impossible" when he was paired to a blue pied hen GB.14.N.81929, a daughter of a son of

“Indy”, when he was paired to Padfield’s “Iron Lady” and my good hen GB.07.A.36732, “Marie”. She had one toss of 110 miles then into Berwick when she came on the second day and then into Lerwick. This was her third time in a basket this season and she was sent sitting on 10 day old eggs. The bloodlines are all Barcelona and Perpignan Section and National winners.’

**2<sup>nd</sup> South West Section, 131<sup>st</sup> Open were Clive & Jill Rogers & Neil Sales of Writhlington, on 825yppm over 615 miles.** They were also 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> South West Section. The first pigeon they timed was GB18P21702 and Jill told me that this two year old chequer cock had certainly earned his perch this year. She said, ‘He started flying in May with the WOESRC and competed from Lyndhurst twice, Chichester, Brighton and Eastbourne. Once the loft had decided to turn their older pigeons north he flew from Ilkeston, Hexham, Blaydon, Berwick, Elgin and finally Lerwick. The total mileage from these races held from 1<sup>st</sup> May until 26<sup>th</sup> July was 2,408 miles. He has been given the name “Treetops Workhorse”. He was bred from a pair of Compton Missiles pigeons, a Crowley & Green sire and hen from Mark Gilbert with Euro Diamond as the main bloodlines in the pedigree. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> South West Section birds were GB18B04523 and GB18R03920. These two pigeons, a cock and hen, are exactly the same way bred and in the same year but two different nests. The sire was bred from Tony Stephens’ Barcelona winner in 2014, Blue Roy, and the mother is a Padfield hen purchased from Dave and Vince in 2016 when the loft was lucky enough to buy several youngsters that were put into their stock loft. The 5<sup>th</sup> Section bird is GB19R01346, which is a two year old cock bred from a bird purchased from Dave Young of Midsomer Norton with, Titch, G & C Cooper bloodlines in the pedigree. The dam was a hen gifted from Rob Brooks of High Littleton also with G&C Cooper bloodlines.’ The partnership clearly had a very successful final old bird race in the South West Section and the photo shows the first three pigeons back to the loft and Jill’s puppy, a German shorthaired pointer called Luna May.

Jill also added, ‘Treetops Loft would like to congratulate the winner of the race, John McCall of Leeds and everyone who timed, especially Ray Strawbridge of South Wales who timed early on the Monday morning to be first in the South West Section. The wind was most definitely not an easy one to time on the west side of the country. Thanks too to Steve and Michelle for looking after the pigeons so well with them having to contend with the long road journey, a ferry crossing and then a three-day holdover as well. ‘



Ray Strawbridge’s 1<sup>st</sup> Section winner



Treetops Lofts, 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Section

### The Provisional Top Ten Open Positions:

1<sup>st</sup> John McCall of Leeds on 1524yppm, 2<sup>nd</sup> John McCall of Leeds on 1524yppm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Harding Brothers of Leeds on 1498yppm, 4<sup>th</sup> John McCall of Leeds on 1492yppm, 5<sup>th</sup> Harding Brothers of Leeds on 1488yppm, 6<sup>th</sup> John McCall of Leeds on 1486yppm, 7<sup>th</sup> John McCall of Leeds on 1483yppm, 8<sup>th</sup> S & M Cook of Barton-on-Humber on 1454yppm, 9<sup>th</sup> S & M Cook Barton-on-Humber on 1447yppm, 10<sup>th</sup> J Finlay of Pudsey on 1427yppm.

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