

British International Championship Club

Guernsey YB National Provisional Race Report

28th August 2021

The BICC's first young bird took place from Guernsey on 28th August where 241 members sent 1,984 birds. The young birds were also liberated along with 1,493 old birds in the any age race. In total, 3,477 birds were liberated.

In the young bird race, each Section sent the following: South Centre, 95 members sent 899 birds, South East 64 sent 385, South West 42 sent 427, North Centre 13 sent 116, North East 11 sent 72, North West 5 sent 44 and in the Irish Section, 11 members sent 41 birds.

Many members were looking forward to giving their young birds some experience of flying over water and with Guernsey situated approximately 75 miles south of the English coast, this race was ideal. It did turn out to be a tough race though, especially for members in the northern sections.

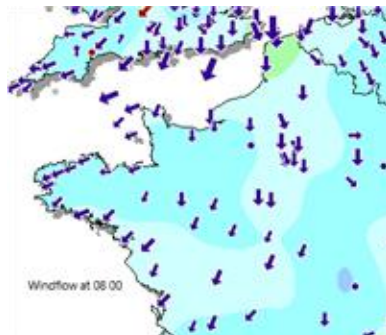
The weather/race report

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

The B.I.C.C. convoy was liberated under blue skies into a fresh north-east wind at 07:35. The weather over Guernsey and the flight path to the English mainland was very good. (See picture over the Harbour Terminal West) Images from the weather satellite also identify the clear conditions. The challenge to this race was the fresh north east winds the birds would encounter over the channel. After liberation the convoyers reported the birds broke into five batches before facing the open sea and leaving the Island. Wind speeds averaged between 14 and 16 mph over the sea but gusts of 22mph (19 knots) were recorded in some areas. Winds always maintain velocity over the sea as there are no obstructions to break up the flow. Visibility was recorded at 11 miles plus which was sustained throughout the day. From the word go this race was always going to be a tough one, purely down to wind speed and direction. (See wind flow chart.) Well done all the birds timed in.



Satellite image



Wind flow



Harbour Terminal West

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

The Provisional Open winner also taking 1st South West Section was V & D Harvey of Penzance, on 1317ypm over 144miles. Duncan Harvey not only won the young bird race but did the double by taking top spot in the any age race as well. Duncan was delighted to win both Nationals on the day and he had some good returns. He told me, 'My first young bird is a blue cock that was bred from the same Vandenebee grandson of, Eisenhower. The dam was a Hereman Cuester x Jelle Roziers than I acquired from the RPRA OLR. My second young bird on 1279ypm was from a House of Aarden Batenburg van den Murwe Cock x LPW double granddaughter of, European Bull gifted to me from my club mate and friend, the late Trevor Jenkin. And my third young bird on 1248ypm is a blue pied hen the same way bred as my 1st Open young bird winner in this race. They really came well for me.'

Duncan started in the sport in partnership with his father in 1972 and still races under the partnership name of V & D Harvey out of respect for his late dad. Duncan's first loft is still in use today and is now used for young birds.

Duncan lives in the small village of St Buryan, nestled at the top of a valley in the far west of Cornwall, just a short distance from Lands End and overlooking the western approaches to the English Channel and the Atlantic Ocean. The location is idyllic in the extreme but, as many have commented, it is not conducive to success in pigeon racing on the National scene due to its location, far off the beaten track and away from the main drag. However, that did not prove the case on Saturday the 28th, as the double was done!

Duncan also wanted to say well done to all the other fanciers who timed in good birds and thank the BICC committee, markers and workers for all their hard work and the convoyers for looking after the pigeons. They returned in excellent condition, he said.



View from Duncan's loft



Duncan Harvey



Penrith Vince

2nd South West Section, 2nd Open was Chris Williams of Plymouth on 1274yppm over 97 miles. Chris Williams only keeps a small team of birds and he trains and races them hard and loves to get them across the Channel. Chris said, 'The pigeon that came for me today, GB21N45114 a chequer cock, was bred by Andrew Mabin, one of 15 that he bred for me, and this was a Hereman Ceuster of, Man O Chester lines, I cannot thank him enough. Words cannot explain how I am feeling at this moment; I am over the moon with the result. I would like to thank everyone in Plymouth & District RPC for their help and the way they do things for me. The bird was flying on the natural system, driving to the nest, waiting for his hen to come home. All the hard work has paid off. Many thanks to my wife, Wendy, for trapping the pigeons this morning and in the evenings and for putting up with me. Also thanks to Billy Baird for doing all my paperwork, I really do appreciate it.'

3rd South West Section, 3rd Open were Terry Lee & Terry Dyer of Plymouth on 1264 over 91 miles. Terry and Terry's blue hen, GB21N17446, is a Camphuis Janssen, bred by Bill & Carol Foulstone of Woodsetts, South Yorkshire, who was kind enough to sell them a kit of 20 youngsters to race and they have done exceptionally well for them. Being on the dark, she has just dropped her first flight, having had 5 races with Plymouth & District PRC and Devon South Road Federation up to 125 miles, always being around the top few to the loft, her nest mate won 1st Club, 5th Fed 2 weeks previously. The last couple of weeks the youngsters have been trained once a week from around 20 miles and are fed on Versele Laga Superstar and Best All Round up to basketing day, then Gerry Plus for final feed. The partnership would like to say a big well done to Duncan Harvey of St Buryan, Cornwall and also to club mate Chris Williams.



Chris Williams



Terry Lee & Terry Dyer

The Provisional South Centre Section Winners

1st South Centre Section, 4th Open was Mark Gilbert of Windsor on 1155yppm over 157 miles. Mark took the first spot in the Section in this race and the AA race. He said, 'The first section youngsters are from a son of, New Harry, 1st Niergnies 14,737 birds, 1st Pont St Maxence 12,894 birds when paired to a daughter of, Golden Prince, 1st National Belgium middle Distance Ace.' First class bloodlines as always from Mark and the details of his AA bird can be seen in the AA report.

2nd South Centre Section, 11th Open was Derek Reid of Weybridge on 1050yppm over 158 miles. Derek said, 'My blue hen was having her 4th race, showing no fireworks but just coming steady. She was bred from a Dave Hawkins Vandebeele cock paired to one of my best stock hens, who was bred down from my Section E, NFC Saints bird. This hen came on line and trapped like a rocket and never lost a second. My young birds have really flown well this year, winning the first 5 races in the club. This was a great race, I just needed an earlier one!'

3rd South Centre Section, 12th Open was Peter Gilbert of Oxon on 1045yppm over 152 miles. Peter's young blue cock was bred from a bird he bought at the breeder/buyer sale in the Wiltshire Fed. This bird has taken a few 2nd and 3rd positions for him and is a Busschaert from Steve Hughes of Swindon. Peter said, 'I'd like to thank Steve and congratulate the Open winner and Section winners. I race the young ones on darkness and I intend to put the blue cock back into the NFC race next week.'



Mark Gilbert & Troy Birch



Derek Reid



Peter Gilbert

The Provisional South East Section Winners

1st South East Section, 8th Open was Topp & Mann of Rayleigh on 1071yppm over 200 miles. Topp and Mann would like to congratulate the winner and say a very well done. They said, 'We only sent 2 birds as they were our two breeder/buyers for the Thames and what happened next just blew us away. The birds came right off line and were heading for the trap like rockets and when they dropped they were our two breeder/ buyers and we couldn't believe it. Only sending two and to see both drop together was probably the best result we have ever had. Not only were they 1st and 2nd Section and provisionally 8th and 9th Open they also won the Thames breeder/ buyer race, winning us £8000 ! What a buzz that is! The first pigeon over the trap was from Lee Bastone, of Burnham, he gifted me the parents and she is bred from them. The sire was his best young bird last year and was also 5th Open in a north east wind when he had 5 drop together, when he had no business getting them over here in that wind! And the dam also won the breeder/buyer in 2019, so I would like to say a very big thank you to Lee. The second bird was also a gift bird from my good friend, Tomas Millar of Liverpool and he must know his birds well, as he sent me 12 down to race this year and told me to pick her for the breeder/buyer. She is a Van den Bulk from Kev Moran and Tomas tells me they have bred other winners for him. What can I say, other than a big thank you to both Lee and Tomas. We should never have got them and to get 1st and 2nd breeder/ buyer, it's just unbelievable.'

2nd South East Section, 13th Open was T Sparkes and P Dallas of Gravesend on 1044yppm over 184 miles. Tommy told me, 'The sire is a combine winner from my brother Mr Andrew Sparks and the dam comes from Colin Fagg and Linda Nicholas. Congratulations to all the Section and Open winners.'

3rd South East Section, 14th Open was D Wilton & Son of Chadwell St Mary on 1041yppm over 187 miles. Andrew Wilton, of D Wilton & Son, said, 'Our young bird was bought in the Thames North and Eastern Counties breeder/buyer auction and was bred by Russ Ocuneff from two pigeons bred by us from a daughter of our top sprint cock, Louie, when paired to a son of our top breeder Conleo. Both are from our very successful Leo Heremans family paired with our old Jansen line that had been very successful for us in the Classic and National races for many years. We are also very happy to know that our young bird wins the 3rd Thames North breeder/buyer prize, winning £2,200 for us.' Andrew also did well in the AA race, taking the provisional 3rd position and more on that bird is covered in the AA report. Andrew provided photos of 2 magnificent looking grandparents of this young bird.



Topp & Mann



Tommy Sparkes & Pauline Dallas



Louie – D Wilton & Son

The Provisional North Centre Section Winners

1st North Centre Section, 5th Open was John Black of Hitchen on 1117yppm over 200 miles. John clocked a dark chequer hen, a granddaughter of Jimmy Baurress good 600 miles winning Bordeaux cock into Liverpool. Her sire was a son of the Bordeaux cock, and dam Van Den Bulck. John said, 'I've named her Tina after Jimmy's wife and Saturday was one of the best young bird races I've had for years. I had 19 home on the day from the 20 I sent. My first 14 birds where home in just over an

hour and twenty minutes probably taking the first 14 positions in the Section, a fantastic team performance. Thanks to the BICC for looking after them and well done to all the Section winners.'

2nd North Centre Section, 66th Open was P S Wraight of Bluntisham on 896yppm over 225 miles and wasn't able to add any more information.

3rd North Centre Section, 82nd Open was Mr M Turner of Kettering on 843yppm over 212 miles. Mark told me, 'I anticipated a very hard race, tough for the youngsters with the headwind but these are the conditions I think my youngsters excel in. She was racing as an unpaired bird and again familiar bloodlines come through for me. Her breeding is from 50% Stefaan Lambrechts, Nijlen & 50% Luc Vervoort, Hallaar and a half sister to the RPRA Sprint Award Winner 2019.'



John Black



Mark Turner

The Provisional North East Section Winners

1st North East Section, 110th Open, was L Rix and Son of Mildenhall on 748yppm over 238 miles. Len had a great day racing and also took 3rd Section in the AA race. The young cock he timed is bred down from his original Osmond Barkers that he started with 40 years ago, with the addition, now and then of a new bird. These are the same birds that won him £1,400 in the MDP 10 years or so ago. He told me, 'The one that was first for me comes from a guy named Ryan Farrington, from Cambridge, who died several years ago. They are excellent birds and the father of that bird was the first one in the BICC Section about 2 or 3 years, ago over a similar distance. Right now, I can't quite remember off the top of the head which one it was, but anyway I did win that the Section. On a hard cold day in this section they didn't get very quick at all, but they never usually do.' Len's brother Rolly also timed a good bird in the AA race, provisionally taking 2nd Section. Len and Rolly are pictured together, the brothers, 'grim and dim' as Rolly likes to say.

2nd North East Section, 127th Open was Mr & Mrs Strowger of Leiston on 631yppm over 259 miles. Roger said, 'First of all I would like to thank the marking and clocking station in Ipswich. And well done Lenny Rix for winning the section on a very hard day with winds 20 to 25mph north east up here on the coast. The chequer pied youngster I clocked was flying 12 hours. The sire was bred by Terry Ivatt of Ipswich and the dam came from Alan Brown of Northern Ireland. This was a darkness youngster and from sending 21 pigeons, I only got 1 bird on the day and 6 came on Sunday and 1 on Monday hit by a hawk. I would also like to thank John Chipperfield from Herne Bay in Kent who reported one of my youngsters on the night which came in with one of his Weymouth birds. And also I would like to thank Shaun Stockley from Poole in Dorset who also reported one of my youngsters on the night.'

3rd North East Section, 140th Open were Mr & Mrs Dyer of Lowesoft on 533yppm over 278 miles. The husband and wife partnership told me, 'We timed our chequer hen on the second day at 09.00, after flying 278miles. I think I'm correct in saying it was the furthest flying pigeon on the young bird

result. The birds were marked Wednesday evening through the Lowestoft BICC marking station and we would like to thank all those involved. The sire is from our own Channel family. The dam is from a Dutch, Van Mellis bird. The build up to Guernsey was 3 races with our local club, Lowestoft Ness Point, the furthest being Woking 125 miles. From our 5 sent, we timed 2 on the second day. The other pigeon was an East Anglian Pied, bred by Bryan Byles of Beccles. We haven't seen the other 3 as yet. We sent expecting a tough race with NE winds forecast. However the wind strength turned out to be much stronger than anticipated. In fact it had blown consistently from Friday night until Monday evening. We would like to congratulate all the winners both Open & Section.'



Len & Rolly Rix



Roger Strowger



Mr & Mrs Dyer's cheq hen

The Provisional North West Section Winners

1st North West Section, 9th Open were J & B Oakley of Whitchurch on 1066yppm over 241 miles. Ben reported, 'We timed two hens within a minute to probably take 1st and 2nd Section. The first one is bred from our good friends Mr and Mrs Nigel Shaw, from their Batt stock crossed with GWP Macaloney bloodlines. The second hen is bred from stock from a couple of great distance fancier friends of mine who have recently passed away, Roy Barton and Graham Baker. It was great to see her drop and spare a thought for my old friends. Our youngsters are raced on the sliding door system and previously had only been raced as far as Bath, 109 miles to our loft, so the BICC Guernsey was a stiff test for them at 241 miles in their first north wind of the season.'

2nd North West Section, 46th Open, were Mr & Mrs Lloyd of Hereford on 946yppm over 180 miles. Gwyn and Joy told me, 'The young hen we clocked provisionally to take 2nd Section is a Jan Aarden x Deweerd Hybrect. We timed another young hen 1 minute after the first bird and two more on the day, which made 4 out of 8 sent, on the day. We were pleased with the result, as it was a tough race for young birds and ours had only previously raced from Bath which is 49 miles to our loft. As always with the BICC birds, they were in great condition. Well done to Mr Oakley and all the other Section winners. Thanks to the Gwent marking team and all concerned with the organisation of racing. Also, what a great feeling it is to have a Channel race at last.' Joy said Gwyn was like a dog with two tails! What a great feeling Gwyn!

3rd North West Section, 54th Open was Sebastian Szul of Telford on 918yppm over 221 miles. Sebastian said, 'It's my first year of racing pigeons in the UK and I have already had a first prize in the Shropshire Fed and two second places, and I only send about 15 birds. This bird, GB21V37954 is a dark cock bred from Grzegorz Czerwinski stock loft, the sire being a Grizzle inbred Leo Heremans, Olimpiade 003. The dam is a black hen, one of the best of the Van den Bulck family from Paul Thumbwood.'



J & B Oakey's Section winner



Gwyn & Joy Lloyd



Sebastian Szul

The Provisional Irish Section winners:

No birds were recorded home in race time in the Irish Section.

The Provisional Top Ten YB Open Positions:

1st V & D Harvey of Penzance on 1317ypm, 2nd Chris Williams of Plymouth on 1274ypm, 3rd Terry Lee & Terry Dyer of Plymouth on 1264ypm, 4th Mark Gilbert of Windsor on 1155ypm, 5th John Black of Hitchin on 111ypm, 6th G & M Clayton & Lovell of Newport on 116ypm, 7th Mr & Mrs A Mabin of Gara Bridge on 1104ypm, 8th Topp & Mann of Rayleigh on 1071ypm, 9th J & B Oakley of Whitchurch on 1066ypm, 10th Preece Bros. & Son of Abertillery on 1060ypm.

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