

# British International Championship Club

## Guernsey National Provisional Race Report

30<sup>th</sup> April 2022

The BICC opening race of the season was from Guernsey and not from Falaise, as planned, and the reasons for this are well documented. Although Guernsey isn't the distance many members had hoped to fly, many said that it gives the birds good experience of flying over water, with Guernsey situated approximately 70 miles south of the English coast. Having said that, it is 200 to 300 miles to the members in the northern and eastern sections. So, on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April, the BICC season kicked off with a 10.20am liberation and 264 members sent 2, 738 birds.

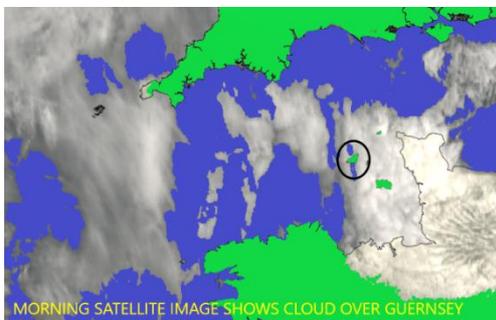
Each Section sent the following: South Centre, 115 members sent 1,066 birds, South East, 49 members sent 644 birds, South West, 60 sent 650 birds, North Centre 17 sent 209 birds, North West 11 sent 107 birds and in the North East 12 members sent 62 birds.

The top ten positions were mainly taken by members in the South West with the exception of two members in the northern sections, flying over 200 miles. Although not making the top 3 of the section, some of the Welsh members did well, with 4 members in the provisional top 10.

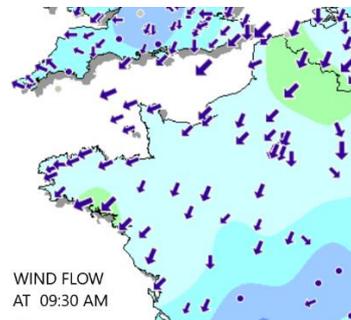
### **The weather/race report**

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

The weather forecast published Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April on the BICC website for this first race from Guernsey defined the wind direction as ENE. This proved to be the case as the convoyers on site commented on the fresh breeze coming from the ENE. Conditions at first light were of an overcast sky so we had to wait for improvements. At about 09:45 breaks appeared in the sky signalling a possible liberation. (See satellite image) After discussing the situation with our convoyers and Mark Gilbert the birds were liberated at 10:20. The convoyers reported the birds broke into 2 batches flying very high as they left the Island. Winds over the Channel reached speeds on average of about 11 knots (15mph) and visibility about 11 miles as recorded by the meteorological buoys. On viewing the BICC website after the race as expected the early times recorded were in the west of the country. The east of the county experiencing a more difficult race due to the wind direction.



Satellite Image



Wind flow Map

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

**The Provisional Open winners, taking 1<sup>st</sup> South West Section were Mike Underhill and John Prettejohn of Plymouth on 1540ypm over 90 miles.** Mike told me, 'Our winning bird was having his first race of the season. 'Marquez', as he is now known, was sent sitting 10 days on eggs. His preparation involved just one 20-mile training toss and exercise around the loft. His sire is, Rossi who took 1<sup>st</sup> NFC Fougères and his dam is the mother of, Sienna 1<sup>st</sup> GB 6<sup>th</sup> Open Algarve Golden Race Final.' Mike and John are in partnership for breeding purposes and race separately, a set up that suits them both very well, they say. Rodney Cheek, the local scribe for the area also told me more about Mike and his achievements. Mike is the head of a large engineering company and chairman and driving force behind Plymouth & District RPC and that he is passionate for the sport to do well. His recent results, other than this Guernsey race, have been 1<sup>st</sup> NFC Fougères 2017, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2nd NFC Messac 2019 with, Grace and Rose, 1<sup>st</sup> Sec D 6<sup>th</sup> Open Tarbes, in a west wind and a clean sweep of 5 regional old bird awards and 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> NFC Guernsey 2021. The latest Guernsey BICC winner is a 3-year-old blue cock, his sire is Rossi, Mike's 2017 National winner and his dam is also the mother of Sienna, who took 1<sup>st</sup> GB, 6<sup>th</sup> Open Algarve Golden Race, winning 10,000 euros. Mike's bloodlines are primarily based on distance events and his latest winner had no previous races this season, with just 1 trainer from 20 miles. Mike's race management has been geared to avoid BOP attacks, which now means that he limits his training and the results speak volumes.

Mike also added that he would like to thank the I/C and BICC for arranging the race, all the other section winners and a special thank you to Mark Tracey, who works for Mike and helps manage the birds especially when he is away from home. Mark, he said, is a great help.



Mike Underhill and John Prettejohn



Rossi, sire of Marquez



Marquez, the National winner



Mike & Mark Tracey

**2<sup>nd</sup> South West Section, 2<sup>nd</sup> Open was Morgan Newman of Tylorstown, on 1525ypm over 115 miles.** Morgan said, I have named this 2-year-old hen, the Oil hen and she was sent to the race on the widowhood system. Leading up to this race she had one 30-mile training toss and a club race from Swindon and has also exercised around the loft for one hour daily. Her sire is inbred to, Miss Magic, bought from Leach Bros and her dam is from Derek Flowers of Pontypool. I'd like to thank all

my club members and family for their constant support and advice and everyone else who has helped me in my short time in the sport. Thank you all.'

**3<sup>rd</sup> South West Section, 3<sup>rd</sup> Open was R Goodier of Marsh Green, on 1487yppm over 92 miles.** Richard told me, 'The pigeon I timed for 4<sup>th</sup> Open Guernsey was a Vandabeele x Van Den Bulck yearling cock raced on the roundabout system. His sire raced well from inland and channel and was purchased in a breeder/ buyer sale, which he won. He was bred by Page, Garrod & Nurse of Plymouth. The dam is a double Fed winner and comes from the best P&D Stud Van Den Bulck lines. He was allowed his hen the afternoon before basketing so they could bond and start building a nest. They are fed on Versa Laga corns to suit the up-coming race. Can I say, well done to good friends Mike Underhill and Robbie Prettejohn on their 1<sup>st</sup> Open win, well done both.'



Morgan Newman's 2<sup>nd</sup> Open winner



Richard Goodier

#### The Provisional South East Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> South East Section, 55<sup>th</sup> Open were A Foster and L Finan of Dagenham on 1289yppm, over 184 miles.** Lee said, 'We are very happy with our start to the season, having also won 3 out of 4 club races. This week's Section win tops off a great week as we also won the Thames last Saturday. Our Section winner is Klaas Krom/Hardy Kruger raced on roundabout and was 4<sup>th</sup> Section 4<sup>th</sup> Open BICC Guernsey AA in 2021. Thanks to all involved, the birds looked great on return and we managed to get all 10 home, fingers crossed we get into France.'

**2<sup>nd</sup> South East Section, 58<sup>th</sup> Open was Dean Childs of Wickford, on 1286yppm over 198 miles.** Dean said, 'The father of my 2<sup>nd</sup> Section bird is a son from, Ted's Lad when Ted's Lad was paired to a daughter of Jan Hoymans, Harry. Bred by my good friend Darren Ede. The mother is a granddaughter of Mark Gilbert's, Southfield Champ, who won 1<sup>st</sup> NFC Saints. The pigeon was racing celibate and having his 2<sup>nd</sup> race of the season. Congratulations to all the Section winners.'

**3<sup>rd</sup> South East Section, 59<sup>th</sup> Open were Mr & Mrs J Buckfield of Wickford, on 1284yppm over 199 miles.** Mr & Mrs Buckfield timed a 3-year-old pigeon to take 3<sup>rd</sup> Section but they weren't able to provide any more information.



A Foster and L Finan pigeon



Dean Childs

### The Provisional South Centre Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> South Centre Section, 21<sup>st</sup> Open was J Attrill of Salisbury on 1380 over 116 miles.** Johnny timed a yearling blue cock, who is a double grandson of, Nightmare, the winner of 5 x 1<sup>st</sup> Sections himself and the winner of 3 RPRA awards. His sire is a son of Nightmare x Gd Olympiad 03, his dam is a daughter of Nightmare x Fatima, direct Kees Bosua, via his friend John Gerard. Johnny said, 'Nightmare himself is a Kees Bosua via Crammond and Langstaff and this young cock is the image of his grandfather, so let's hope he turns out to be a racer like him! He arrived on Saturday with a dream trap, bang on line – sky - landing board - in. It was a great race and congratulations to all involved and all winners, nice tough race ENE wind. Also, thanks all at Horndean marking station, Paul O'Leary and the others, Nigel Langstaff for always giving sound advice, Paul Llewellyn for his feeding tips. Now it's back to drawing board to plan next race, good luck and good health to you all.'

**2<sup>nd</sup> South Centre Section, 34<sup>th</sup> Open were Cowley Bros of Cirencester on 1352ypm over 154 miles.** Andy told me, 'We were very happy to learn that we are provisionally 34<sup>th</sup> Open and 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Centre Section from Guernsey. Our first 2 birds were clocked within 2 minutes of each other and are both Busschaerts. We had all 8 of our entries within an hour and 10 minutes of our first bird. The first bird, a blue pied cock GB20N25798, is a 2020 latebred. He didn't race as a young bird and was lightly raced inland as a yearling. He had 2 inland races with the Wilts Fed before being sent to Guernsey and had been sitting eggs for 5 days before basketing. Our second bird, a chequer pied hen GB19N06150, was our first 5 bird nom pigeon clocked and has previous form in the BICC, being 90<sup>th</sup> Open BICC Falaise in 2020 flying 1991ypm. She was sent on a 14-day old young bird.'

**3<sup>rd</sup> South Centre Section, 42<sup>nd</sup> Open was Steve Buckel of Northwood, on 1328ypm over 172 miles.** Steve Buckles widowhood hen GB20N28267, is a Heinz 57 with mainly Janseen bloodlines and a good channel bird. Steve said, 'It was a great race and I'm very happy with all birds home, well done BICC.'



Johnny Attrill



Andy Cowley, Amy Orchard & Keith Cowley



Steve Buckel

### The Provisional North Centre Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> North Centre Section, 3<sup>rd</sup> Open was S McDonough of Walsall on 1497yppm over 217 miles.** Shaun had a great day racing and told me this, 'The Section winner is a yearling blue hen that arrived with her loft mate, which is also a yearling hen, both are flown on widowhood and both were bred by Pieter Oberholster. It was an excellent race for me as I had another two a few minutes later, with another two a minute after those – a really great race. The breeding of my first bird is the son of Golden Prince x dtr Son Bliksem, my second, is an inbred son MJ1 x dtr Santorini and the third, is a son of Rudy bred by Gaby Vandabeele, when paired to a daughter the son of Bliksem.'

**2<sup>nd</sup> North Centre Section, 23<sup>rd</sup> Open was John Garvey of Walsall on 1375yppm over 217 miles.** John timed a 2-year-old hen, bred by Carl Ford that was donated to the Rushall LHS and sold for club funds.

**3<sup>rd</sup> North Centre Section, 30<sup>st</sup> Open was Ken Booker of Walsall on 1366yppm over 215 miles.** The bloodlines of Ken's 2-year-old blue hen are Jan Hoymans x Koopman from his late friend, Mick Stone of Leamore.



Shaun McDonough's pigeon



John Garvey's bird



Ken Booker's pigeon

### The Provisional North East Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> North East Section, 97<sup>th</sup> Open was Rolly Rix of Newmarket on 1234yppm over 229 miles.** Roly's Section winner was a 6-year-old blue cock that has never really done much until now, he said. He is a Fabry cross bred down from Ray Farrington's NRCC Lerwick winner. He been over the water a few times and had 2 short races to prepare him for this race. Roly told me he sent four birds and had them all home and was very happy with this Section win, this early on in the season.

**2<sup>nd</sup> North East Section, 99<sup>th</sup> Open, were Mr & Mrs I J Raper of Newmarket on 1233yppm over 286 miles.** Ian's Section bird is a 2017 Walter Docx widowhood cock, having his second race of the year, off the back of another tough easterly wind. Ian said, 'He's got a few other minor cards, his brother also has some and generally it's if not this one it's the other that I get and I'm looking forward to the next race!'

**3<sup>rd</sup> North East Section, 107<sup>th</sup> Open were Chapman and Eastoe of Gt Yarmouth on 1215yppm over 286 miles.** Glen told me, 'The hen we clocked to win 3<sup>rd</sup> Section is a blue which is racing back to her old nest box, because she hasn't been paired this year yet. She is being readied for one of the longer races. This will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> time she has been 3<sup>rd</sup> Section and she is a very consistent inland and across the Channel. Our three entrants all came within 12 mins and were in good condition on arrival. We were happy with that.'



Roly Rix



Ian Raper



Glen Chapman

### The Provisional North West Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> North West Section, 7<sup>th</sup> Open were Silvester Bros, Nicklin and Clarke of Stoke on Trent on 1467ypm over 242 miles.** The partnership said, 'Mike just a few words about our two early pigeons. The first is a Ceuster cross and the second is a New Laureaat cross. Both pigeons are bred from pigeons acquired from our good friend Paul Morrison from Scotland. The first pigeon was also 5<sup>th</sup> Section 5<sup>th</sup> Open Yelverton last year. We would like to thank the BICC convoyer for the condition the birds were in and Richard Chambers and Co. for the great job they do at the marking station. '

**2<sup>nd</sup> North West Section, 11<sup>th</sup> Open, was Sebastian Szul of Telford on 1417ypm over 221 miles.** Sebastian raced is yearling chequer cock on a widowhood/roundabout system. He said, 'The partner to the race bird stays at home. The sire of this bird is a blue cock from my dad's old Janssens' family and the dam is a beautiful chequer hen from Grzegorz Czerwinski. I try not to use antibiotics in my lofts and go for natural products, which I think are beneficial.'

**3<sup>rd</sup> North West Section, 15<sup>th</sup> Open was Vassil Vassilev of Colne on 1399ypm over 301 miles.** Vassil, known to everyone as Baz, said, 'My 2-year-old hen is called, Little Flo. She is a small sized, balanced bird with closed vent bones. She raced last year as a one-year-old from the Guernsey OH, 301 miles, and finished 9<sup>th</sup> North West Section, 67<sup>th</sup> Open. This year she has had 3 races in preparation, a 98-mile race and 2 x 112 milers. I race her on the widowhood system and train 3 times a week, with Monday and Wednesday loft flying for 45 minutes to one hour in the afternoon. On Tuesdays, they have a 40-mile late afternoon training toss. The reason I train in the afternoon is because that is the time they return from racing. The breeding on the mother's side is, Arma Joe purchased from PIPA with full pedigree and DNA. Arma Joe is daughter of Little Joe. Little Joe is the best breeder and long distance racer for Jos Thone, taking 9<sup>th</sup> Int Marseille from 20,786 birds. The granddaughter of Armani was 1<sup>st</sup> Int. Perpignan 15,094 birds. On the sire's side, Harry Baz is a grandson of the World famous, Harry from Jan Hoymans, purchased direct from Belgium. Last year she raced as a yearling from Guernsey OH over 301 miles with the NFC and finished 9<sup>th</sup> North West Section, 67<sup>th</sup> Open.'



Silvester Bros, Nicklin and  
Clarke



Sebastian Szul



Baz Vassilev

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

1<sup>st</sup> Underhill & Prettejohn of Plymouth on 1540yppm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Morgan Newman of Tylorstown on 1507yppm, 3<sup>rd</sup> S McDonough of Walsall on 1497yppm, 4<sup>th</sup> R Goodier of Marsh Green on 1487yppm, 5<sup>th</sup> Scammell, Peploe & Brom of Pontypool on 1484yppm, 6<sup>th</sup> K Page & Garrod B Nurse of Plymouth on 1481yppm, 7<sup>th</sup> Silvester Brother, Nicklin of Stoke on Trent on 1467yppm, 8<sup>th</sup> T Luscombe of Looe 1457yppm, 9<sup>th</sup> M J Sparey of Abertillery on 1434yppm, 10<sup>th</sup> G Treharne & Son of Nantyglo on 1420yppm.

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