

# British International Championship Club

## Hexham National Provisional Race Report

11<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Hexham is a market town and civil parish in Northumberland, on the south bank of the River Tyne, and is close to Hadrian's Wall. The River Tyne is considered England's premier salmon river, with dace, roach, chubb, pike and sea trout also found in the Tyne. Brown trout are common, with some rainbow trout around too. Hadrian's Wall is Britain's greatest Roman monument and a World Heritage Site, stretching 73 miles from the North Sea to Solway Firth.

This north road National race was flown from historic Hexham on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June. The race was once again a joint race with the BBC and the CSCFC, which saw 93 BICC members sent 1,079 birds that were part of an overall liberation of 4,115 birds. They were liberated at 6.30am.

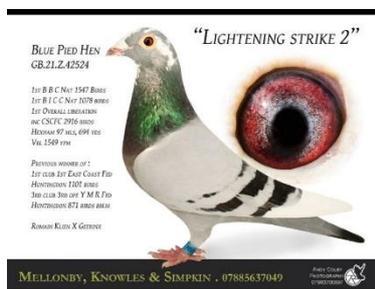
### The weather/race report

Birds liberated in to sunshine and light fluffy clouds and a fresh west southwest breeze. They split in to two batches heading southeast. On route it was forecast for sunny intervals with moderate southwest winds becoming west southwest further south.

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 winners were, Mellonby, Knowles & Simpkin of Bridlington on 1549ypm over 97 miles.**

The partnership had a very good race and are likely to take the first 8 positions in the section, having had all 8 return in quick succession. The breeding of their first bird was a Romain Klein x Premier Stud Geerinck, with the sire bought from Dave Parsons, from a son of Romain Klein's Superstar Bentley. They have named the National winner, a blue pied hen, Lightning Strike 2. The partnership sent 24 of their south road team to Hexham with no training on the north route. They had 23 from 24 in no time at all. The partnership works with Stewart Knowles of Widnes, doing the breeding and Kerry and Colin managing the race team. Kerry said, 'The National birds came right over the top of our lofts, they must have been right on the coast due to the wind. As they dropped, I knew that we had a good chance of winning this one. Can we thank all involved in making these races possible and we are preparing a team for Lerwick in two weeks' time.'



Lightning Strike 2



The partnership



Wing of the National winner

**2<sup>nd</sup> North Centre Section, 2<sup>nd</sup> Open were Hoggard, Linley and Ellis of Bridlington, on 1412ypm over 97 miles.** Nathan told me, 'Our first pigeon is a 2-year-old Hereman Ceuster widowhood hen that has scored numerous times for us in the fed. She is from a grandson of Nieuwe Olympiade and De Jan paired to a daughter of Man O Chester. They have produced good pigeons for us. We had a mixed race with some of the team going past and coming back from the south but returns where

good and we would like to thank the BICC for another good race and we would also like to congratulate our good friends Mellonby, Knowles & Simpkin on their win and a very good race overall.'

**3<sup>rd</sup> North Centre Section, 9<sup>th</sup> Open was G Hoyles & R & P Pratt of Boston, on 1278yppm over 162 miles.** The partnership timed a yearling but were not able to provide any further information.



First bird for Hoggard, Linley and Ellis

### The Provisional North East Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> North East Section, 3<sup>rd</sup> Open were Mr & Mrs Brian Garnham of Butterwick on 1326yppm over 165 miles.** The husband and wife partnership timed a yearling blue hen, who is a full sister to their 1<sup>st</sup> Open NRCC Dunbar young bird winner in 2020. Her sire, Dio, GB14X20440, is Jan Theelen who took 2<sup>nd</sup> Open NRCC Thurso amongst others. Her dam GB18X09848, called Keith's Girl was bred and raced by Andy Kirkman and was a 1<sup>st</sup> NRCC Thurso winner.

**2<sup>nd</sup> North East Section, 4<sup>th</sup> Open, was Nick Barran of Norfolk on 1310yppm over 209 miles.** Nick said, 'Firstly I would like to congratulate the winners, they've had a magical day. I run a small drainage company in Norwich, however, most of my work is in North Norfolk. I've been racing since 1980, both north and south throughout the years and I'm 55 now. I clocked a yearling checker cock after four hours and forty-one minutes for the 209 mile flight from Hexham, two weeks previously, he won Whitby at 146 miles. On return from Hexham, he was as fresh as a daisy and all the birds returned in good condition. He was flown on the chaos system and was bred by Team May. Darren tells me he's bred from the Geeloger and National Wonder blood of Vermerbergan Wilms. He's a full brother to four separate fed winners. We had a good day in the Norwich area. We are all very impressed with the club and look forward to sending in the Perth race in two weeks. I'd like to thank Andy Woods for his efforts in getting the birds to Hemel Hempstead for marking, also David Hicks for sorting the paper work side of things and last but not least, thanks go to Darren May.'

**3<sup>rd</sup> North East Section, 5<sup>th</sup> Open was Tom Burkill of Mattishall on 1298yppm over 204 miles.** Tom said, 'I would once again like to thank David for executing the plan to perfection, having the birds in super order, but moreover during this last week because I was in Turkey all week with my family, but had the pleasure of watching the pigeon drop on the cameras just before the plane took off. The first pigeon, a red yearling hen GB21X04770 has never shown before this race but was a firm favourite who I knew just needed the right race because she is perfect in every way, her siblings over the years have also been prolific for me. So I was confident she would one day repay her corn bill. Both her parents were bred for me by James Dutton of J&G Dutton. The hen is a mix of James' super Alex Docx and Lambrecht families, thank you to James for supplying me with the best pigeons and advice. The sire to my hen is quickly turning into one of my best breeders, breeding winners every year. He is a son of, 552 one of Alex Docx base breeders, the dam is from GB15A05788 a son of the number 1 cock, Blauwe Witpen x 720 hen when paired to Lady Quievrain, one of Dutton's best hens when he was paired to, The Class Hen, which is the mother to the, Coventry Cock. The race and day was a lot harder than I expected and I have some good pigeons missing but I am very pleased with the performance and look forward to the Perth race in two weeks.'



Brian Garnham



Nick Barran



Tom Burkill, son Archie and loft manager David Hicks

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

#### **1<sup>st</sup> North West Section, 38<sup>th</sup> Open were Booth & Roper of Twekesbury, on 990yppm over 203 miles.**

The ever present top section partnership of Booth & Roper had a day that didn't quite go to plan. Saturday they told me became one of the most stressful days racing ever, as they had to endure a 2 hour power outage. With the bird's due back, having no battery lead for their system. After several phone calls managed to secure one. But, while John fetched the lead the first bird arrived. Ten minutes later they had managed to set the system up. Whilst getting it ready the second bird came, so both birds had to be caught to time them in. Consequently only 38 seconds is between them on the clock, possibly taking 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> NW Section. Thanks goes to Tewkesbury fancier Ken Danby for rescuing the day. The first bird was Trevor and John's good black hen who has always been consistent for them in National races, 2<sup>nd</sup> Section at BICC Hexham last year. The second bird is a blue chequer widowhood cock bred out of Cooper/Mark Gilbert lines. It was just a shame the first bird lost ten minutes on the clock after performing so well against strong winds. She could have been a lot higher in the result. They had 100 per cent returns on the day, so thanks go to the team. They would like to congratulate the open winners and all other section winners.

**2<sup>nd</sup> North West Section, 49<sup>th</sup> Open, were Mr & Mrs W Lewis of Kempsey, on 935yppm over 195 miles.** Bill and Beryl said, 'After a steady head wind race we were relieved to time in a yearling chequer hen flying 195 miles in just over 5 hour to gain 2<sup>nd</sup> North West section. The yearling hen we timed in was sent feeding a big youngster but I only realised when hand feeding the youngster that she had also laid, so would have laid the second in the basket, so not perfect preparation on my part. We had approximately 50 per cent returns on the day with 3 birds returning with injuries which I presume was due to flying low to avoid the wind. I have been told that one Welsh fancier had 2 birds reported dead when a non fancier, motorist, witnessed pigeons being hit by vehicles. She went back and found 2 birds along with others at the side of the road and rang the fancier to inform them of their demise. So, hawks don't cause all the losses, it's just problem our birds have to overcome in modern times. We would like to say well done to all the gallant birds that made it home especially the ones that made the prize list. We are looking forward to the next challenge along with all the other north road competitors.'

**3<sup>rd</sup> North West Section, 51<sup>st</sup> Open was John Rodway of Rushwick on 930yppm over 192 miles.** John told me, 'My first bird was a two-year-old chequer cock sent to the race with his hen having just laid her first egg. He has been a consistent bird without winning any prizes. What a tough race it was for us in the NW section! Although returns were well spaced out, my return were thirteen out of fifteen on the day with one reported in Lancaster in the afternoon. Once again thanks to the team at the Gloucester marking centre, Charfield.'



Booth & Roper



Bill & Beryl Lewis



John Rodway

### **The Provisional South Centre Section Winners**

**1<sup>st</sup> South Centre Section, 13<sup>th</sup> Open was Philip Gomes of Welwyn, on 1194yppm over 228 miles.**

Philip timed a yearling but was not able to provide any further information.

**2<sup>nd</sup> South Centre Section, 19<sup>th</sup> Open was John Adams of Watford, on 1178yppm over 240 miles.** John

said, 'Firstly I would like to thank the BICC and BBC for having a north road programme. My first bird is a 3-year-old celibate cock, which was 3<sup>rd</sup> National BBC Blydon on the same weekend last year.

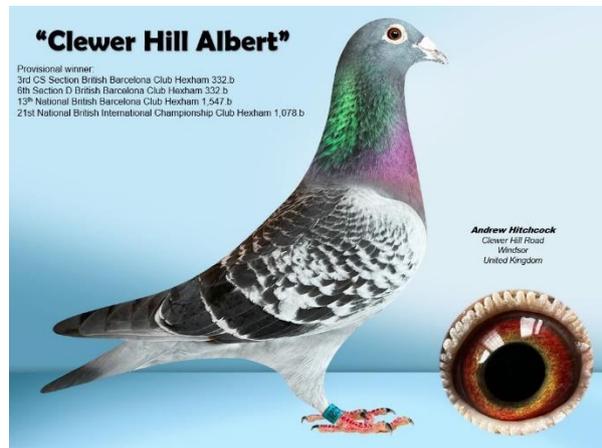
Bred down from my Golden Gaby Dutch Master lines. Grandsire was 1<sup>st</sup> Inter Counties Fed Minstead 1,489 birds. 1<sup>st</sup> Section, 12<sup>th</sup> Open BBC Fourgeus. Dam is from, '777', 1<sup>st</sup> UBI Combine Exeter, 1,987 birds.'

**3<sup>rd</sup> South Centre Section, 23<sup>rd</sup> Open was Andrew Hitchcock, of Windsor on 1148yppm over 249 miles.**

Andrew's bird was provisional 3<sup>rd</sup> South Centre Section British International Championship Club 331 birds, 6<sup>th</sup> Section D British Barcelona club 332 birds, 13<sup>th</sup> National British Barcelona club 1,547 birds and 21<sup>st</sup> Open British International Championship Club 1,078 birds. He said, 'First of all, I would like to congratulate the winners and section winners in what was a particularly hard race. WHU21C40287 named, Clewer Hill Albert a yearling chequer cock of Padfield bloodlines was bred by Jullian Lewis of Aberdare. This yearling cock is full brother to 2<sup>nd</sup> Club, 17<sup>th</sup> Section 24<sup>th</sup> Open Irish National Young birds 333 miles against 1,500 birds in Northern Ireland. The sire is a direct Padfield Family pigeon from the lines of, Albert, 9<sup>th</sup> Open Welsh South Road National Nantes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Welsh South Road National Pau, 31<sup>st</sup> Welsh South Road National Saintes from the best Wil Muller bloodlines. The dam is granddaughter of Padfield invincible, who is one of the best present-day long-distance Jan Aarden-based pigeons to fly into Wales. His wins are: 1<sup>st</sup> GGDC, 1<sup>st</sup> West Section, 2<sup>nd</sup> Open BICC Barcelona at 754 miles 2009, beaten only by a bird flying 200 miles to the east of his Cwmtillery home in a race that saw a strong westerly wind blowing the whole of the race weekend, beating over 25,000 birds in the Barcelona International; 23<sup>rd</sup> Open BBC Nantes, 3,200 birds; 33<sup>rd</sup> Open BBC San Sebastian and 3<sup>rd</sup> Open Single-Bird National; 3<sup>rd</sup> West Section, 31<sup>st</sup> Open Pau BICC; 163<sup>rd</sup> Open BBC St Nazaire. He also won the Welsh Most Meritorious Award six times, 600 miles and 750 miles once. I race a small team of approximately 12 cocks, 15 hens and 25 young birds. The young birds are raced on natural, and I fly the cocks and hens as old birds aiming for the long-distance races. The birds are fed 50% V/I Superstar plus 50% V/L Gerry plus black label for the longer races I add some additional energy mix a few days before, no additional supplements are used other than energy oil day before the race. At stock I have two main families of pigeons for the long-distance sons and daughters from the Padfield National winners and for the sprint to middle distance the Jan Hooyman pigeons based around the line of, Harry. The next few races my birds will be prepared for will be Lerwick, Perth, Berwick and Thurso.'



John Adams



Andrew Hitchcock's Clewer Hill Albert

### The Provisional South East Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> South East Section, 21<sup>st</sup> Open was P Stacey of Rayleigh, on 1160yppm over 260 miles.** Paul timed GB20H357509, a hen called Isabella. Paul said, 'Her dam was a hen I raced 2017 in Million Dollar SA (Team Lincs) finished 72th World Open. The ire was from Mick O'Sullivan, Mr Lerwick, direct descendent of the famous Limerick Lady, who flew Lerwick five times.'

**2<sup>nd</sup> South East Section, 29<sup>th</sup> Open was T & A Wilson, on 1041yppm over 230 miles.** Continuing on from their good section positions two weeks ago, the partnership said that they were very pleased to finish in the top three of the section in their second consecutive north road National. They told me, 'Our hen is a great grand-daughter of Brian Hawes, Star crossed with one of our Jelle Jellema stock cocks. She has been very consistent this year after a disastrous young bird season as she came home from her first ever race being hawked, which resulted in her missing the remainder of the young bird season. Again, we wish to congratulate the open winner and all section winners and also the BICC, BBC and CSCFC for working together. We along with most fanciers are hoping that after the great news that all the Nationals are working together for channel racing, that they can also continue to do something similar for north road racing.'

**3<sup>rd</sup> South East Section, 45<sup>th</sup> Open were Pattimore & Rayner of Saffron Walden, on 936yppm over 229 miles.** Chris said, 'My bird is a 2-year-old roundabout cock which was my 4<sup>th</sup> bird from Wakefield 2 weeks previously. His breeding is Padfield crossed with my own family of Heinz 57. I always liked the pigeon even as a squeaker, as he isn't big but just sits perfectly in the hand and never struggles. The race itself was a real hard one with a stiff south wester. We were also racing from Guernsey with the UBI combine and Purbeck with the M11 South Road Club and both of these turned out to be 60 mph races unlike Hexham, which was nearly half that speed. We had 10 birds home on the day and 5 early on Sunday having sent 19. One of the missing birds was reported north of Bonn in Germany, 500 plus miles from Hexham. Sunday lunchtime efforts are being made to get him back to full strength and liberated in Belgium, so watch this space.'



Paul Stacey



Trevor and Adrian Wilson



Chris Pattimore

### **The Provisional South West Section Winners**

**1<sup>st</sup> South West Section, 33<sup>rd</sup> Open were Mr & Mrs King of Blandford Forum, on 1013yppm over 285 miles.** 'Congratulations to the winners and all the section winners. Our section winner was once again from our Vandenabeele family. A two-year-old hen raced on our own celibate to roundabout system as the season progresses. The sire was bred by Joe Raeburn out of his great, Sir Alex when he was paired to a daughter of our 1<sup>st</sup> Open National Falaise BICC winner. The section winners dam is a daughter of, De Chateauroux, 1<sup>st</sup> National Chateauroux K.B.D.B x Daughter Antonio 1<sup>st</sup> National Souillac of Rudi-De Saer. Special thanks to all the hardworking organisers and helpers that keep us racing during these complicated times, thanks Mel and Sue.'

**2<sup>nd</sup> South West Section, 39<sup>th</sup> Open were Smith & Jones of Cwmbran on 990yppm over 230 miles.** The partnership of Norman Smith and Roy Jones timed a 2-year-old this time, to follow up on their 3<sup>rd</sup> Section win from Wakefield two weeks ago.

**3<sup>rd</sup> South West Section, 40<sup>th</sup> Open were Llanahan & Gerrard of Poole on 987yppm over 288 miles.** This 3<sup>rd</sup> Section pigeon was bred by Gary Hodges and is from the, Joseph pigeons paired to a Romanian hen of John's. The partnership raced this yearling cock on the widowhood system.



Mel & Sue King, with grandson  
Archie



Smith & Jones



Llanahan & Gerrard

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

1<sup>st</sup> Mellonby/Knowles/Simpkins on 1549yppm of Bridlington, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hoggard, Linley & Ellis on 1412yppm of Bridlington, 3<sup>rd</sup> Mr & Mrs Brian Garnham on 1326yppm of Butterwick, 4<sup>th</sup> Nick Barran on 1310yppm of Norfolk, 5<sup>th</sup> Tom Burkill on 1298yppm of Mattishall, 6<sup>th</sup> D Hicks on 1287yppm of Mattishall, 7<sup>th</sup> Tony Webster on 1284yppm of Walpole, 8<sup>th</sup> Woods & Batch Loft 2 on 1282yppm of Lakenheath, 9<sup>th</sup> G Hoyles, R & P Pratt on 1278yppm of Boston, 10<sup>th</sup> GV & W Britton on 1254yppm of Newborough.

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