

# British International Championship Club

## Saint- Philbert- du- Peuple National Provisional Race Report

18<sup>th</sup> June 2022

After nearly 2 years, the BICC got back to racing from France. The race was from St Philbert, a small village in the north-west of France, which is situated between Tours and Nantes. The Saint who gave the village its name is also responsible for naming the filbert nut, or hazel nut, as we now call it. The reason for this is that the filbert ripens around the same time as the Saint's feast day, which is on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

This Benzing sponsored race saw 112 members send 2,105 birds, with each Section winner, winning a new Benzing M2 Clock, a Benzing 4 Field Pad, a Benzing Live Smart Hub 5, a Benzing Live Plate, Benzing Finish Line Plate and 20 Benzing Pro Chip rings blue.

In the South East Section, 26 members sent 570 birds, in the South Centre 35 sent 701, in the South West, 22 sent 447, North Centre 9 sent 168, North East 14 sent 132 and in the North West, 6 sent 87.

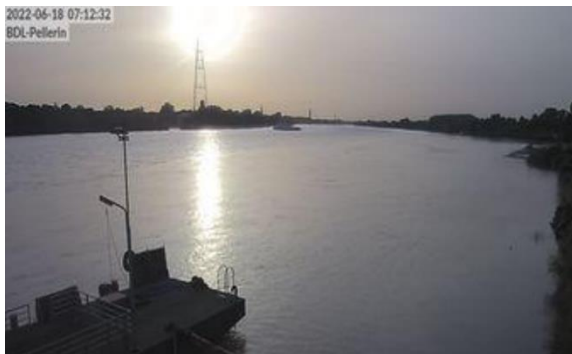
So, on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 5.45am the birds were liberated into the blue sky before the heat of the day began to build. All the birds cleared together and the race from France was on.

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

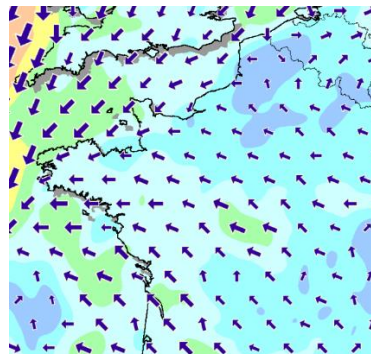
### **Weather report by Steve Appleby - race & weather advisor**

The heat wave affecting France was the main concern for this BICC race from St Philbert. It was essential to give the BICC convoy maximum flying time in the early cooler conditions before temperatures rose. The 05:45 liberation time went some way to achieve this. After liberation the convoyers reported the birds cleared the race point immediately in one batch. Weather conditions overall were very good. As can be seen by the image of the sun rising over a nearby river. Flight path conditions were also good with broken cloud and sunshine all the way to the northern French coastline. The Channel was clear for most of the morning and visibility at 5 miles. Some isolated rain showers were identified in some areas later. The forecast for showers, some heavy, to develop later over Wales, the Midlands and other regions proved to be correct as identified by the rainfall radar images. Winds over northern France were light from ESE but changed to a north easterly direction over the Channel reaching speeds of about 12 mph. A very difficult race mainly down to the heat factor. The convoyers reported temperatures recorded of 37C on their return journey through France.

Steve Appleby, race/weather adviser.



Picture taken near St Philbert



Wind flow

**The Provisional Open and 1<sup>st</sup> South Centre Section winner was Rob Rome of Fleet on 1279 over 271 miles.**

A delighted Rob said, 'The winning pigeon is a 2-year-old mealy hen. A very good racer and winner of many prizes last year as a yearling. Her sire is a 2019 mealy cock bred by my very good friend Frederik Bracke from Waregem, Belgium. He is something special being a direct son of Frederik's 1<sup>st</sup> International Agen 13,189 birds 2017 when paired with the Black Meirlaen, brother of, Best of Belgium, 1<sup>st</sup> International Ace Yearling 2017 for Etienne Meirlaen. The International winning hen for Frederik has attracted much attention and has bred in combination with Gino Clicque, Hugo Battenberg and Pipa Breeding. She is responsible for huge winners in a number of big lofts in Belgium and Holland. In fact, she is great grand-dam of Gino Clicque's Silver Olympic 2<sup>nd</sup> National Ace pigeon extreme long distance KBDB 2021.

The dam is a 2019 blue hen bred by another very good friend Wilfried Vandemaele of Kortrijk, Belgium. She is a full sister of a large number of real ace pigeons for Wilfried including the, Kleine Prince, 1<sup>st</sup> National Ace Yearling of Belgium Pipa ranking 2020. Her sire is a son of Joel Verschoot's Contador, winner of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> National and her mother is a Chris Hebberecht bred hen of the lines Champion, Kleine Dirk Koopman, Harry of Hooymans and Chipo of Benny Steveninck.

The pigeons of Wilfried Vandemaele are base pigeons for the real top lofts in Belgium, including Gino Clicque, Joel Verschoot, Kurt Platteeuw and Cyril Harchies. The Harchies loft won big in 2021 with their, Patrick, 1<sup>st</sup> National and 1<sup>st</sup> National Ace Pigeon KBDB long distance, with an even lower coefficient than the record set by the Armando of Verschoot.

This is my first National win in England, and I'm delighted. I'd like to dedicate the win to my late father, Robert SR Rome, who passed away just over a year ago. Together with my father in Scottish National racing we won 4 x 1<sup>st</sup>, 6 x 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 x 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4 x 4<sup>th</sup>, 2 x 5<sup>th</sup>, 5 x 6<sup>th</sup>, 4 x 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 2 x 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> Nationals plus hundreds of other prizes outside the top-ten National. Also 13 x 1<sup>st</sup> National Sections with the Scottish National Flying Club (SNFC) plus winning the South Scotland Championship (Section Averages) and the Scottish National Championship (National Averages) on many different occasions. In the final year of racing at the Scottish Loft in 2014, we won both the National Ace Old Bird of Scotland and the National Ace Yearling of Scotland. This won the coveted Scottish Homing Union trophies such as the Dewar Trophy for best combined OB performance and Friendship Cup for best performance by a yearling.

At my Cheltenham loft, in the years 2012 to 2015, I won with the NFC 3 x 1<sup>st</sup>, 6 x 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 x 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1 x 4<sup>th</sup>, 4 x 5<sup>th</sup> and 3 x 6<sup>th</sup> Section prizes. My best hen during that period was Fabia. She won from the first race 60 miles to the last, 606 miles at Tarbes. She scored at NFC Tarbes 4 years on the trot winning 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> Section and was the NFC Car winner in 2015.'



National winner



Rob Rome



National winner

**2<sup>nd</sup> South Centre Section, 2<sup>nd</sup> Open was Mark Gilbert of Winkfield, Windsor on 1247 over 281 miles.** Mark's pigeon is a son of Rolex, 1<sup>st</sup> Section 14<sup>th</sup> Open NFC Saintes 2014, and 1<sup>st</sup> Section, 1<sup>st</sup> Open NFC Saintes 2015. He is a sire of 2<sup>nd</sup> Open NFC and now 2<sup>nd</sup> Open BICC. He is a brother to La Belle Etoile, 1<sup>st</sup> Open French Young Bird Derby. Rolex was paired to Nanny Gebr Leideman A&B to breed 2<sup>nd</sup> Open BICC. Nanny herself was 1<sup>st</sup> 114 birds, 10<sup>th</sup> 2,276 birds, 15<sup>th</sup> 8,525 birds 19<sup>th</sup> 5,785 birds. She is a sister to Fabio, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nat S4 3,647 birds 14<sup>th</sup> Nat S4 6,086 birds and Also Aura, 3<sup>rd</sup> Nat S4 6,086 birds.

**3<sup>rd</sup> South Centre Section, 4<sup>th</sup> Open was Denis Baker of Maidenhead on 1205 over 287 miles.** Denis timed a yearling but was not able to provide any more information.

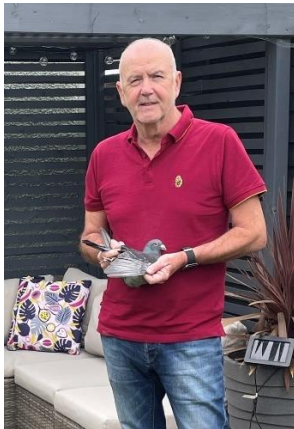


#### **The Provisional South East Section Winners**

**1<sup>st</sup> South East Section, 14<sup>th</sup> Open was Kevin Foster of Longfield Hill on 1069 over 276 miles.** Kevin told me, 'My first pigeon was a 2-year-old dark widower cock bred by John Crehan from his Hooymans pigeons. His sire is a grandson of Beauty Harry and the dam is a daughter of Wizard New Harry, a son of New Harry. So, inbred to Harry in both sides of his breeding. He has always been reliable, with NFC and BICC minor positions often just behind my leading pigeons. I had him earmarked for later in the season, perhaps at about 400 to 500 miles. We will have to see how it goes now. Finally, a big well done to my friend Robert Rome on winning a very hard race. I hope his good lady Faith has received his thanks for her efforts on supporting him. Well done to you both.'

**2<sup>nd</sup> South East Section, 15<sup>th</sup> Open was John Chipperfield of Herne Bay on 1059 over 279 miles.** John timed a 3-year-old chequer cock, the grand sire being Mark Gilbert's, Golden Barcelona, and the dam, Lady Teresa. Lady Teresa was 1<sup>st</sup> Open Perpignan and 2<sup>nd</sup> Open Pau. He was flown on the widowhood system with this being his second channel race. John would like to thank all the organisers who arranged the race, as their hard work is appreciated.

**3<sup>rd</sup> South East Section, 22<sup>nd</sup> Open were Gladwin, Jarvis & Family of Leigh on Sea on 993 over 290 miles.** John said, 'My first pigeon is a 3-year-old Frans Zwols cock, that I am hoping to send to one of the 500 plus mile races this year. He is a direct son of Grandad's Dream, who won the combine for me from Thurso as a yearling in a very tough race, back in 2015. Since going to stock, Grandad's Dream has proved a top breeder. Grandad's Dream is in turn a child of D'Artagain 065 who is also a brilliant breeding Frans Zwols cock for us and others. Like his sire this cock has proved he can do ok in short races but really excels as the distance increases. His past performances include 8<sup>th</sup> Open Thames from Exeter 194 miles 2022, 3<sup>rd</sup> Hullbridge Club, Holmsley 115 miles 2021, 12<sup>th</sup> Open Thames, from Wadebridge 251 miles 2021, 184<sup>th</sup> Open BICC St Philbert 290 miles in 2020.'



Kevin Foster



John Chipperfield's bird



Gladwin Jarvis & Family

### The Provisional South West Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> South West Section, 3<sup>rd</sup> Open were D & J Staddon of Ditcheat on 1234 over 281 miles.** Dave said, 'Firstly we want to thank the BICC, CSCFC and BBC Committees for putting on this St Philbert race and all the marking team at Salisbury who literally worked their selves into the ground to get the birds marked. It was so exciting to be in the first French race in two years. A massive thanks to all of those involved in making this happen, you know who you are. We along with most others were to experience a very difficult race. We believe the intense heat in France had a major part to play in the poor returns on the day. Hopefully, the weather gods will be kinder in the next race. Many congratulations to Robert Rome on winning the Benzing-sponsored National and to all section winners and everyone who clocked. We are chuffed to have won a new Benzing ETS system. We are thrilled to win provisionally 1st, 5th, 6th, 7th, 10th, & 13th West Section & 3rd, 17th, 18th, 19th, 21st, 23rd & 28th Open BICC National in this very difficult race. Our first-timer is a champion 4yo Chaos Widowhood cock Miracle Maker. He is one half of a nest pair of brothers known locally as The Miracle Bros. They have now won 5 x 1st Section (4 x BICC & 1 x CSCFC sections plus 1st Open CSCFC and 2nd & 3rd BICC nationals between them). Miracle Maker alone has won 1st SW Section, 1st Open CSCFC St Philbert, 1st West Section 20th National 2222b Bordeaux, 33rd Nat Falaise, 2nd WOESRC Lyndhurst 3648b, 2nd WOESRC Eastbourne 2394b, 3rd WOESRC Brighton 1601b, 7th WOESRC Eastbourne 840b, 8th WOESRC Brighton 476b, 10th WOESRC Ramsgate 1776b, 12th WOESRC Littlehampton 2726b, 12th WOESRC Lyndhurst 2452b, 18th WOESRC Coutances 1420b 3x 1st club, plus now 1st Section 1st Open CSCFC St Philbert and 1st West Section 3rd Open BICC St Philbert National winning a new Benzing ETS system. His nest brother is called Meteor Miracle has won 1st West Section 510b 2nd BICC National Guernsey 5783b, 1st West section BICC St Philbert in 2020 against 1200b. He is also the winner of 2 x 1st Club, 6th WOESRC Lyndhurst 2452b, 7th WOESRC Brighton 476b, 9th WOESRC Lyndhurst, 3648b, 11th WOESRC Brighton 3035b, and 13th WOESRC Eastbourne, 9th Section 63rd NFC Guernsey 5853b. Another little story about Miracle Maker is that earlier this season he was our single entry in our club to the WOESRC Eastbourne race where he won 1st club 170b 25th WOESRC 1247b. What a pair of nestmates they are. They are bred from our champion breeder The Real Miracle a direct son of our elite breeding couple the Miracle Pair when The Real Miracle was paired to Comet 1st, 3rd & 7th WOESRC up to 5,500b and also the mother of 1st National, Glory 1st NFC Coutances for us. Miracle Maker was 1 hour and 16 mins ahead of our next birds. A yearling cock of Barry Winter Little Gem lines x Bill Lewis's Freelands Gem lines. A 3yo brother of Fahrenheit also Winter x Lewis lines 1st Section 2nd National Rieux Minervois 592 miles. A 2yo cock which is a grandson of our two NFC Ace pigeons Evie and G-Force. A 4yo Daughter of Unbreakable who scored three times in one season over 500 miles, A 2yo hen who is a daughter of Fahrenheit 1st Section 2nd National Rieux Minervois 592 miles and a yearling cock bred from a Formula 1 Lofts Frans Zwols cock called Senna when paired to Miss Comet a full sister to Miracle Maker and Meteor Miracle who won 1st WOESRC Coutances. All birds are raced on the chaos widowhood system and are fed Versele Laga corn. Well done to everyone who timed and I hope everyone gets more birds to work in.'

**2<sup>nd</sup> South West Section, 5<sup>th</sup> Open was John Halstead of North Dorset on 1183 over 269 miles.**

Provisionally 2<sup>nd</sup> South West Section, 5<sup>th</sup> Open is John Halstead from North Dorset with a blue yearling widowhood cock having only his sixth ever race. He was missing for 3 weeks as a young bird but learnt from his mistake and had been exercising well around home in the last fortnight. Up until the last week in May, the loft has experienced regular peregrine visits with the birds reluctant to fly. This cock is bred from a full brother to Nyland Maurice the winner of 1<sup>st</sup> National Palamos, 682 miles, for John in 2011, mated with a Mark Gilbert bred granddaughter of TuffNutt, that has produced some very good birds including 1<sup>st</sup> Section BICC Fougeres in 2019.

**3<sup>rd</sup> South West Section, 9<sup>th</sup> Open was Joe Raeburn of Wiltshire on 1123 over 290 miles.** Joe said, 'Can I start by congratulating Rob for wining a testing race and to all the section winners. My pigeon is a 4-year-old red cock who is a consistent pigeon, raced on widowhood normally but paired for St Philbert. He hopefully will go on to the Pau National. He's flown Pau before, winning 283<sup>rd</sup> Open, 18<sup>th</sup> Section. He also took 19<sup>th</sup> Open CSCFC from Berwick. This season he's had two Exeter's and three Guernsey's winning 60<sup>th</sup> Open 8<sup>th</sup> Section BBC. His Sire is West Bound, who has flown the Tarbes National three times, winning 26<sup>th</sup> Open, 4<sup>th</sup> Section G and 1<sup>st</sup> West Section, 3<sup>rd</sup> Open Barcelona. He's bred from a son of Jimmy Sheppard Nobel Lad, 1<sup>st</sup> Open BICC Pau, when paired to a double granddaughter of Champion Gwen, 1<sup>st</sup> Open San Sebastian National. The dam of the red cock is, Champion Juile. Bred and raced by my good mate Steve Slade, she was the Champion pigeon in CSCFC winning 5<sup>th</sup> Open Messac and 13<sup>th</sup> Open Pau 2017 and 69<sup>th</sup> Open Pau in 2016. She flew Pau three times and her breeding is from John Halstead's Nyland Ashley x Coppenolle x E W Froggatt birds.'

**4<sup>th</sup> South West Section, 12<sup>th</sup> Open was Abi Rakes of Paulton on 1093 over 292 miles.** Although the report usually only contains the first three in each section, Abi Rakes deserves a mention on this occasion. Abi has just turned 16 and enjoys racing her small team of birds as a part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and being encouraged by her Midsomer Norton clubmates. She was disappointed not to be at marking due to doing her French GCSE exam. Abi timed a 2- year-old natural hen that has only been lightly raced and came well from the last BICC Guernsey race with a yearling cock in the clock close behind her. Well done Abi and keep up the good work and remember, the sport needs young people like you.



D & J Staddon



John Halstead's pigeon



Joe Raeburn



Abi Rakes

## North Centre Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> North Centre Section, 20<sup>th</sup> Open was John Black of Hitchin on 1013 over 319 miles.** John's pigeon, JC, was bred by Johnny Chipperfield and was sent on the chaos system. John said, 'This was his fourth water race this year, three from Guernsey and now St Philbert. His sire is a grandson of A P Overwaters, De Dure cock. The dam was 4<sup>th</sup> Pau and 12<sup>th</sup> St Vincent, and the grand dam is Lady Teresa 2<sup>nd</sup> International Pau and 1<sup>st</sup> International Perpignan. It turned out to be a harder race than I expected and I only got 9 on the day. Well to the National winner and all the Section winners.'

**2<sup>nd</sup> North Centre Section, 21<sup>st</sup> Open was T Bennett of Boston on 1009 over 391 miles.** Terry's hen was sent sitting on 4-day old chicks. She is a Jelle Jellema, bred by PJ lofts. She was the longest flying pigeon on the day and is only a yearling. Terry said he was very pleased with her performance.

**3<sup>rd</sup> North Centre Section, 64<sup>th</sup> Open was K Johnson of Kings Bromley on 713 over 378 miles.** Kevin said, 'My 3<sup>rd</sup> Section bird is a 3-year-old chequer W/F hen, named Kessie. She was sent sitting for 12 days. She gets her name from when she was a youngster flying around the loft kamikaze style and colliding with a hovering Kestrel. She was out for the count and struggled with breathing for a few weeks but eventually made a full recovery. Last year Kessie flew north road with the BICC achieving 51<sup>st</sup> Open from a hard Elgin. She's of Jan Aarden breeding from stock purchased from Louella lofts, based around the True Grit and Incredible bloodlines.'



John Black



Terry Bennett



Kevin Johnson

## The Provisional North East Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> North East Section, 24<sup>th</sup> Open was Chapman and Eastoe of Great Yarmouth on 969 over 372 miles.** Glen said, 'Firstly a massive well done to the people who have got the channel racing back on! Our blue hen is the same hen that won 3<sup>rd</sup> Section from the first Guernsey this season and she was again, racing back to her old nest box as she still hasn't been paired up, due to having too many hens at the start of the year. Thanks to Clayton and Dave for organising and transporting the birds to the marking station. We are really pleased with the Section win.'

**2<sup>nd</sup> North East Section, 40<sup>th</sup> Open, was Simmons and Sparkes of Ipswich on 894 over 326 miles.** Simmons & Sparkes timed, GB17N40368 which is a Raoul & Xavier Verstraete. They said, 'She is bred out of our son of Xtra, who in turn is a son of the renowned racer and breeder Topstar, who features in the pedigrees of several Belgian top breeders. On the dam side is 233, The Special One, and she is another Verstraete and is only the second pigeon bred the same way that Xavier allowed out of the Verstraete loft. As the sire is the brother of Diva, 2<sup>nd</sup> International Dax 2005. On the dam's side there is Major and Admiral, just two of Verstraete's best racers. Even though 233 is a 2011 hen she has raised 6 youngsters this year. Our sons of both Topstar and Xtra are also still producing. When she arrived home, it was clear that she had been down for water as her ring was unreadable, so she had lost time, whereas as our second pigeon's legs were clean.'

**3<sup>rd</sup> North East Section, 43<sup>rd</sup> Open was Jonathan Palmer of Stowmarket on 884 over 334 miles.** Jonathan, a 34-year-old self-employed bricklayer, moved into his new home this year in February

with his partner Sarah and their, then, 3-month-old son Mason. He said, 'We are finding life very busy but managed to settle the team of 60 old birds to a different loft at a new location in Stowmarket, west of Ipswich. The pigeons were allowed to rear a nest of young birds to help bond to the new loft and then flown natural since sitting pot eggs. Unfortunately, much of Suffolk has been under Defra bird flu restrictions up until recently what hasn't helped getting the birds fit, and I feel like I rushed getting them ready for the first channel race. By Sunday lunchtime, I had 3 back from the 18 I sent. The pigeon 19N49741 was sent just starting to look at his hen again and has flown to 3 different locations now, as he was gifted to me at a clearance sale of Paul Hacker, of Essex, as a mature youngster. He had been trained but not raced. He's come on well and has been the first pigeon back to my loft on three occasions, from 4 different National races now. His blood line goes back to the old Scottish long distance blood. Finally, a big thankyou to friend and fellow club mate David Fisher for taking mine and lots of other people's birds all the way from Ipswich to the Salisbury marking station.'



Chapman & Eastoe



Simons & Sparkes pigeon



Jonathan Palmer

### The Provisional North West Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> North West Section, 6<sup>th</sup> Open were Booth & Roper of Tewksbury on 1164 over 333 miles.** Their first bird, a 3-year-old blue chequer hen, raced on their own roundabout system, has always been consistent for them. More so this year in National competitions and she was their number one fancied pigeon. They told me, 'This was a tough race with storms enroute, so she did well to navigate round them, flying more than 60 miles further than the winner. She is bred from out old family of Van den Bosche/Dordin strains with a bit of their French hen in her pedigree. Her dam, French Magic, taking 2<sup>nd</sup> Section, 3<sup>rd</sup> Open BICC Falaise, 13<sup>th</sup> Section, 22<sup>nd</sup> Open MNFC Carentan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Section, 4<sup>th</sup> Open BICC LeMans, 3<sup>rd</sup> Section, 26<sup>th</sup> Open NFC Falaise, 1<sup>st</sup> Section, 150<sup>th</sup> Open BICC Guernsey. Her grandsire is Sportsview TJ, who took 3<sup>rd</sup> Section 31<sup>st</sup> Open NFC Messac, 2<sup>nd</sup> Section, 43<sup>rd</sup> Open NFC Ancenis. Two more birds were clocked on the day and they will probably take 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> NW section. The three birds are pictured with John Gerard "Mr Hartog" in the centre. This is the second section win in the last two BICC races, last week from Hexham. It was an incredible weekend winning 3 x 1<sup>st</sup> Sections and getting a round of applause from our club members at Charlton Kings FC when we walked into the pub, made it even more special as it was totally unexpected.' Trevor and John would like to congratulate Rob Rome for winning the open and all section winners. They also want to thank the whole team at Salisbury and behind the scenes for making the race happen. Plus a big thank you for all the messages and good wishes received.

**2<sup>nd</sup> North West Section, 54<sup>th</sup> Open, was Lionel Brewer of Worcester on 797 over 343 miles.** Lionel clocked a dark chequer widowhood cock, who has been consistent this year for Broomhall Lofts. He is a grandson off Lionel's MNFC Tours Open winner. His dam is from the lofts main family of birds who are tried and tested, providing many winners, including 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Section J NFC Guernsey last week. He would like to congratulate Trevor & John on winning the section in a very hard and testing race, and thank the Salisbury marking station for the hard work put in to make the race happen.

**3<sup>rd</sup> North West Section, 68<sup>th</sup> Open were Team Wicker & Wright of Astley Bridge on 640 over 441 miles.** Alan timed the longest flying bird at 441 miles on the second day, the first time in 40 years that he hasn't clocked on the day from this distance. Alan feels that the weather had a major impact on the race and he is missing some good pigeons that have flown 600-700 miles previously. The sire of his first pigeon was a direct grandson of Iron Lady and on the dam's side a grand-daughter of Padfield's Old 89. His third bird was the nest mate to the first.



Booth & Roper with John Gerrard



Lionel Brewer

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

1<sup>st</sup> Robert J Rome of Fleet on 1279, 2<sup>nd</sup> M Gilbert of Winkfield, on 1247, 3<sup>rd</sup> D & J Staddon of Ditchat on 1234, 4<sup>th</sup> Dennis Baker of Maidenhead on 1205, 5<sup>th</sup> John P. Halstead Kington Magna on 1183, 6<sup>th</sup> Booth & Roper of Tewkesbury on 1164, 7<sup>th</sup> Damian Szpak of Deptford on 1160, 8<sup>th</sup> Ian & Scott Smith of Eastleigh on 1156, 9<sup>th</sup> Joe Raeburn of Wiltshire on 1123, 10<sup>th</sup> Garry Inkley of Hillingdon on 1120.

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