

British International Championship Club

Saint- Philbert- du- Peuple National Provisional Race Report

2nd July 2022

July 2nd saw a joint liberation of 5,475 pigeons to race in the Royal Pigeon Racing Association's UK Masters Pigeon Race from St Philbert in France. Four of the UK's biggest organisations joined up to organise the race. The NFC - National Flying Club, the BICC -British International Championship Club, the BBC -British Barcelona Club and the CSCFC - Central Southern Classic Flying Club all came together. There was a terrific amount of hard work put in to make this happen and ensure that fanciers who want to race across the English Channel from France can do so. Credit must be given to the officials from all the clubs and the RPRA who have worked tirelessly to make this happen. So, at 7.30am the five and a half thousand birds were liberated.

In the BICC, 224 members sent 2,922 birds. In the South Centre Section, 90 members sent 1,338 birds, in the South East, 44 sent 534 birds, in the South West, 32 sent 329, in the North Centre 21 sent 291, North West 19 sent 258 and in the North East, 17 members sent 172 birds.

The weather/race report

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

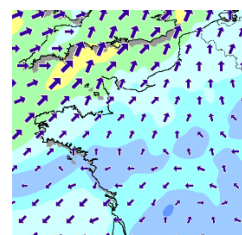
The NFC, BICC, CSCFC & BBC convoy was liberated from St Philbert at 07:30. The convoyers reported the birds cleared the site immediately in a northerly direction under clear blue skies. These good conditions continued all the way through northern France to the channel. See view looking out to sea from the webcam located on the flight path at St Malo. Channel conditions were clear with visibility recorded by the meteorological buoys at 11 miles or more. The other view captured from Cherbourg – en – Cotentin webcam on the peninsula displayed the clear visibility. The weather over England identified a front moving across the country from west to east carrying showery activity which as forecast did dissipate as the day progressed. Temperatures averaged 18 C. Winds were mainly light from the southwest over northern France but did increase in velocity over the open sea to about 15 mph. Over England again winds came mainly from the SW but on occasions did veer to SSW over eastern regions. (See wind flow chart) As is always the case the wind direction determined where the winners were timed in.



View of St Malo



View of Cherbourg



Wind flow map

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

The Provisional Open and 1st South East Section winners was Joe House of Basildon on 1793 over 289 miles. Joe timed a 2-year-old chequer hen raced on the roundabout system. This hen was no stranger to the basket, having had 14 races this season already. The bloodlines are long distance going back to Joe's original Brian Denny birds and to a Pau pigeon raced by the Estuary club secretary Tony Coker. Joe said, 'Although a long distance bird, she always tries to compete with my

sprint birds and race them back to the loft. Sometimes she looks knackered when she races them but from St Philbert she did herself and me proud. Can I say a massive thanks you to John and Teressa Gladwin for arranging the transport to Southampton, without them none of us in my area would be able to send. Also, all those to have made channel racing possible again and I hear Mark Gilbert has gone above and beyond to make this work.'

2nd South East Section, 2nd Open were Gladwin Jarvis and Family of Basildon on 1773 over 290 miles. John said, 'Can I please start by saying a very big thank you to all the BICC committee along with the RPRa and everyone else involved in getting channel racing back on. I know first-hand, that many people have worked so hard to make it happen. Our first pigeon from St Philbert, was a yearling Frans Zwols cock. As a young bird, he was 5th Combine from Guernsey, but since then, he has not shown anything inland this year, which is quite normal for this line. So, the aim was always to get him over the Channel, if, and when we could. He come like a rocket and on first look as he trapped, he looked 100% perfect. However, after about 10 minutes I looked in the loft and he looked tired and, on handling him, he had lost some body weight. It was really at this point that I knew he had put in a lot of effort, especially when our second and third pigeons arrived, as they were bouncing.

Our winner is now called, Sophie's Boy after my daughter. He is a grandchild of what I believe is one of the best breeding cocks alive today, D'Artagian. He is sire/ grandsire to 3 x 1st Open NFC, 1st Open BICC National, 1st Open BBC National, 3 x 1st Combine winners, twice at over 500 miles, 1st Amal 5,500 birds, 1st in Holland 19,476 birds etc. The dam of Sophie's Boy is a full sister of Tip Top Tora who won the Agen National for us in 2019. Sophie Boy, as you can see, has all our best national winning bloodlines in him. He was definitely bred for the job. I would like to finish by saying a big well done to Joe House on winning this race, he has flown a very good pigeon all season and it is well deserved.'

3rd South East Section, 4th Open was D Heywood & Son of Leigh on Sea on 1773 over 290 miles. Gary told me, 'The hen that we got from St Philbert, was raced on a celibate system. She has been a really good hen this year, going to Gurnsey 5 times and scoring in the Open and Section every time. Not always our first bird but always there. She is a great granddaughter of Harry on the cock's side, and a great granddaughter of Tip Top Junior on the dam's side. I would like to thank all the people who worked so hard at Southampton marking station, thank you!'



Joe House National Winner



Gladwin Jarvis & Family



D Heywood & Son

The Provisional South Centre Section Winners

1st South Centre Section, 13th Open were Mr & Mrs Carick & Son of Chesham on 1711 over 299 miles. Nick said, 'I'd like to start by congratulating all the winners, well done everyone. My own pigeon has been very consistent this year and last year. He started the year with 3rd Club, being beaten by loft mates. Then he went to Guernsey with the BBC, where he took 14th Open. After that he damaged his leg, so did not race again until St Philbert, where he was sent sitting ten day eggs,

with plenty of training in the last 2 weeks. His sire is my Bordeaux National winner paired to a hen bred by Jimmy Whitehead, RIP. She has the best of the Syndicate lofts bloodlines in her, being Wardrum x Jean Genie, Mario x Sunday girl. I had 8 from my 10 on the day.'

2nd South Centre Section, 14th Open was Damian Szpak of Deptford on 1709 over 278 miles. Damian clocked a yearling hen bred from a Jan Thellen hen when paired to son of his foundation bird, Queen 85. He said, 'She has also taken 108th Open BICC Guernsey earlier in the season. I would like to thank John and Theresa Gladwin for taking my pigeons to the marking station and to congratulate all the winners.'

3rd South Centre Section, 18th Open were Mr & Mrs Burczak on 1692 over 282 miles. They clocked a 6-year-old bird but weren't able to provide any more information.



Nick Carrick



Damian Szpak

The Provisional South West Section Winners

1st South West Section, 61st Open was Graham Glaze of Shaftesbury on 1560 over 268 miles. Graham timed a hen raced on his version of the 'Chaos Widowhood System' where he tries to maximize the use of cocks and hens for racing. Graham told me, 'Unfortunately due to the restrictions regarding south road racing over the last few years and the Dorset Fed flying north, which I was reluctant to do, my birds have had very little, 'proper' racing and have struggled with race form. As a result, this hen has been consistent from the West Country and Guernsey but not outstanding. However, in the days leading up to the race, one bird kept flying across the sky on her own it was 19X39864 really enjoying herself. I did remark to John Halstead, who is a member of our local club, on her antics and said if this was a normal racing season, you would have to fancy a good performance from her. On Saturday she came racing home in the same way and was almost too exuberant on her arrival. A result like this certainly helps remind you about the enjoyment pigeon racing can bring. My family of grizzles originate from 8 Gerhard Schlepphorst pigeons purchased as stock birds from Mr & Mrs P.G.Clare back in 2010. These were well supplemented by a number of grizzles I adopted on the death of Bill Woods of Shaftesbury, a great flyer and a legend to me and those who knew him. I would like to thank John Halstead and Dave Wilson for taking my pigeons to Southampton for marking. Also, a big thank you to those who have worked so very hard to bring back channel racing. Let's look to the future now!'

2nd South West Section, 65th Open were Mr & Mrs M King of Blandford Forum on 1549 over 255 miles. The consistent loft of Mel & Sue King said, 'Congratulations to the winners and all the other Section winners. Our first bird is a 2-year-old widowhood cock of Vandenabeele origin. Bred from the race team. Both the sire and dam are 1st Federation winners, and he is line bred back to our original M & D Gaby's, that we have been cultivating for 23 years. He has previously won 1st Section, 3rd Open NFC Guernsey 2 this year. Thanks go to all involved in putting this race on, especially all the hard workers at the marking stations.'

3rd South West Section, 102nd Open were Philip Boden of Frome on 1473 over 284 miles. Philip told me, 'Mike the bird I timed from St Philbert was a yearling bred by D Atkin of Lincolnshire and the sire

was a pigeon called Dave's Choice. Sire and grandsire of winners out to 413 miles, she was sent to Hexham on the north road before this race.'



Graham Glaze



Mel & Sue King

1st North Centre Section, 16th Open were R & P Montila of Everton on 1696 over 328 miles. The partnership timed a 5-year-old bird but weren't able to provide any more information.

2nd North Centre Section, 46th Open was Dominic Gruzelier of Houghton Conquest on 1593 over 323 miles. The pigeon that Dominic timed, was a home bred yearling hen raced on widowhood. She won the club as a baby and has been consistent. Dom said, 'Her mother is my 63 hen with 2 x 1st Club 2 x 3rd NC Section and 15th Open, plus many other minor positions. The father I bred down from the best Kittle lines obtained from Pieter Oberholster and Pipa breeding.'

3rd North Centre Section, 52nd Open was Dean Coleman of Barrow Upon Humber on 1584 over 434 miles. 'I would like to thank everyone involved in helping to get channel racing back for the UK, they didn't give up when others told them it would never happen,' said Dean. He continued, 'My bird is a 4- year-old widowhood cock, out of middle-distance bloodlines. He flew on the north road with the BICC last year, flying Lerwick. A door had opened from the closed off box above him a couple of days before basketing and he decided he would guard it. It seems to have given him the added impetus to get home, but who knows? Either way, I'm pleased he came as well as he did.'



Josh Gruzelier



Dean Coleman

The Provisional North East Section Winners

1st North East Section, 3rd Open was D Fisher of Ipswich on 1772 over 327 miles. David wanted to say this, 'Well done to the winners, especially John Gladwin for his work in getting birds to the marking stations, which has been important, and to the convoyers as the birds came back in very good condition. Also Dennis Ball, whose help has been really appreciated. We managed to get 12 members birds to the first race via the Salisbury Marking station and 18 members birds to the Steventon marking this time around. Apologies to anyone behind us in the queue! It's a lot of effort but hope it will get easier and I am so pleased with my results this week. I timed my 3- year- old blue hen, on 1772, bred by good friends Eddie and Clayton Oxborough from Syndicate Lofts, of Mike Ganus lines, crossed with a granddaughter of the Boss Busschaerts, which have been good consistent lines for Eddie and Clayton. She was bought in a young bird breeder buyer sale. She has been a consistent hen and was first bird from the Thames North & Eastern Counties Fed two weeks ago. It was a good performance against the wind being the most easterly loft. I joined the Thames late last year to help get the birds further and on a better line for the Nationals and it looks like it's working. My second bird, on 1761, was a dark cock, also from Eddie and Clayton. A 3- year-old from

a double grandson of a son of Shadow, Vandenabeele lines and a Creehan & O'Connor hen. Also, from a breeder buyer and both having been consistent birds to the loft previously. My good Pau hen of Mark Bulled lines was my 3rd bird, previously being 5th Section 94th Open NFC Pau 2020. She will be going back in 3 weeks' time, hopefully! I had 14 on the day and 2 next morning from 23. My birds are mainly distance lines and I was hoping to send to the Internationals, but bird flu restrictions meant this was only my 5th week of racing this year.'

2nd North East Section, 8th Open, were Chapman & Eastoe of Gt Yarmouth on 1743 over 372 miles. Glen said, 'Our first bird this time was a mealy roundabout hen. This was her first season on roundabout as she is normally raced natural. She has been a very consistent over the Channel, winning the section on two previous occasions.'

3rd North East Section, 9th Open was D & E Ball of Eyke, Woodbridge on 1740 over 332 miles. Dennis and Elaine's pigeon has had plenty of Channel experience and was an Ace pigeon as a yearling. He is a Vandenabeele cock and was sent sitting 5 days. Dennis said, 'He is also a sire of 1st Section, 42nd Open Guernsey last year. My second pigeon in this race was just 2 minutes behind! Many thanks and congratulations to Dave Fisher, without whom I wouldn't have sent. And to Jaqui our club secretary for everything she does for our racing.'



David Fisher



Glen Chapman



Dennis Ball

The Provisional North West Section Winners

1st North West Section, 71st Open were Chamber's Family of Cannock on 1534 over 376 miles. On a very successful weekend of racing for the Chamber's Family, Craig said, 'First of all I would like to say thank you to all the well-wishers who have been in contact to congratulate us on our weekend's performances, to top the section in all four national races entered this weekend was a huge surprise and I have been humbled by the response and kind words of our friends. Our first arrival from St Philbert is a yearling hen, now named Heart Breaker. Making her fifth Channel crossing of the season, having raced from Guernsey four times previously in preparation for the longer distance races. She is bred from our best middle-distance family crossed in with a hen from Brian Dearn. Heart Breaker's sire is a full brother to, Big Gir and Blue Lightning, winners of 7th, 10th, 15th, 34th & 44th Open National, up to 9,679b. He is also half-brother to Coutances Queen, our 1st Section, 1st Open BBC Coutances and RPRA award winner from 2020. Heart Breaker's nest mate has also performed well for us this season, winning 6th Section 37th Open in the BICC National a few weeks earlier, when 5,847b were competing. So, you can see that this hen has been bred for the job of middle-distance national racing. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all organisations and the individuals involved in facilitating racing from France this season. All our birds arrived in tremendous condition, and they are a real credit to the organisations who transported them.'

2nd North West Section, 81st Open were Willaims Bros of Oldbury on 1518 over 362 miles. The partnership timed a 2-year-old widowhood cock. They said, 'He has been consistent from the previous Guernsey races but has never had the opportunity to go to the distance he was bred for. Not until now, due to the racing restrictions from France. His sire is a Busschaert, that had himself scored well, being 3rd Open MNFC. His dam was bred by John Bradley and she has bred winners every year including 1st Worcester Fed and 1st Open MNFC.'

3rd North West Section, 99th Open were Mr & Mrs Nigel Shaw of Crewe on 1476 over 406 miles. Nigel said, 'We had two pigeons arrive together, the first one through the trap was a yearling, grandson of Jef 1st National, 1st International Barcelona. He's also a grandchild of Iron Lady and Padfield Invincible, bred by Steve Wright. The second one, being 15 seconds later, was my Pau hen, she was 20th Open Pau 681 miles as a yearling. She is a daughter of the Bat when paired to a daughter of Macaloney's Black Caviar, she's had good time on the wing ready for her next race.'



Chambers' Family



Williams Bros bird



Mr & Mrs Shaw's bird

The Provisional Top Ten Open Positions:

1st Mr J House of Basildon on 1793, 2nd Gladwin Jarvis & Family of Leigh on Sea on 1773, 3rd D Fisher of Ipswich on 1772, 4th D Heywood & Son of Laindon on 1757, 5th T Sparks & P Dallas of Gravesend on 1756, 6th R & P Thomas of South Benfleet on 1750, 7th D Hunt & Sons of Great Hallinbury on 1748, 8th Chapman & Eastoe of Gt Yarmouth on 1743, 9th D & E Ball of Eyke, Woodbridge on 1740, 10th Mr & Mrs R Hume of Rochford on 1738.

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