

British International Championship Club

Barcelona International Provisional Race Report

July 8th 2022

Barcelona is the capital and largest city in Catalonia, as well as the second most populous city of Spain. It is also one of the largest cities on the Mediterranean Sea, located on the coast between the mouths of the rivers Llobregat and Besòs. And, perhaps most importantly, it is considered by many to be the greatest pigeon race in the World.

On Friday 8th July, 16,485 pigeons were liberated at 6.00am Central European Time, which is 7.00 am British Summer Time to make the epic journey back. Having to break from the flock to their respective countries, covering a huge land mass and of course for the UK birds, the English Channel, after flying over 600 miles. Each country sent the following: Belgium 6,549, France 4,123, Netherlands 4,905, Germany 1,056, Luxembourg 43 and 221 birds were sent by fanciers from the UK.

In the BICC, each Section sent the following: in the South Centre, 18 members sent 66 birds, South East, 24 members sent 105, in the South West 3 sent 7, North Centre 5 sent 17, North West 3 sent 7. In total, 53 members sent the 221 birds.

In such a challenging and disjointed year, many fanciers have included the preparation that they gave their birds for this incredible race.

1st Open were G M Preece & Son of Dover on 774 over 665 miles. The partnership said, 'The 3-year-old cock, called Jubilee Barcelona, is bred from a pair of our Raymund Hermes stock pigeons. The father to Jubilee Barcelona is a son of Hermes' 1st National Narbonne 2013, Jubilar and Miss Barcelona 1st National Barcelona 2012. The mother to our Jubilee Barcelona is a double granddaughter to Hermes' Barcelona 05, 1st National Barcelona 2005. Barcelona 05 is also the grandfather to Jubilar. We are really happy with our team's performance in testing conditions, all pedigrees of our early arrivals will be on our website: internationalseapigeons.com.' The partnership timed 8 birds by the end of the third day, to evidence a truly fantastic team performance. By the end of race time, the Geoff and Clayton had taken, 4th, 6th, 8th, 9th, 14th, 16th, 17th, 23rd, 33rd, 34th 35th and 36th. In total, timing 12 birds home within race time for a magnificent team performance.



G M Preece & Son			
<p>Div 01085 14 6 The winners</p> <p>1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 31st 32nd 33rd 34th 35th 36th 37th 38th 39th 40th 41st 42nd 43rd 44th 45th 46th 47th 48th 49th 50th 51st 52nd 53rd 54th 55th 56th 57th 58th 59th 60th 61st 62nd 63rd 64th 65th 66th</p>	<p>Div 01085 11 1703 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 31st 32nd 33rd 34th 35th 36th 37th 38th 39th 40th 41st 42nd 43rd 44th 45th 46th 47th 48th 49th 50th 51st 52nd 53rd 54th 55th 56th 57th 58th 59th 60th 61st 62nd 63rd 64th 65th 66th</p>	<p>Div 01085 09 895 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 31st 32nd 33rd 34th 35th 36th 37th 38th 39th 40th 41st 42nd 43rd 44th 45th 46th 47th 48th 49th 50th 51st 52nd 53rd 54th 55th 56th 57th 58th 59th 60th 61st 62nd 63rd 64th 65th 66th</p>	<p>Div 01085 09 9000 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 31st 32nd 33rd 34th 35th 36th 37th 38th 39th 40th 41st 42nd 43rd 44th 45th 46th 47th 48th 49th 50th 51st 52nd 53rd 54th 55th 56th 57th 58th 59th 60th 61st 62nd 63rd 64th 65th 66th</p>



2nd Open J Chipperfield of Herne Bay on 731 over 679 miles and 12th and 16th Open. John timed a chequer hen to take 2nd Barcelona. She was raced on the roundabout system and her preparation for the race was 2 x 100-mile trainers, 1 x St Philbert, and then into Barcelona. The sire was a gift bird from Raymond Molevoed from Holland, and the pigeon has already bred 2nd Open Pau and 4th Open

for Robbie Harris. The dam is the mother of Robbie Harris' 1st Open Pau winner. John wanted to say congratulations to Geoff and Clayton Preece.

3rd Open Mr & Mrs S Rhodes of Aylesham on 730 over 670 miles and 32nd Open. The partnership said, 'We were thrilled to time our good medium sized Freialdenhoffen hen now known as, Lucky Lady. After all the turmoil of CPH, I felt was it worth it! And if you ask me again, was it especially worth it on a day like this. On these days you get the butterfly's and shakes putting the rubbers in the clock. She is from our direct stock of Barcelona Lady, Marseille Star, Irun Lady and Forest Gump. All of these are close in her pedigree. This was her first competitive race this year, lifted from 130 miles training with Wingham RPC and raced on roundabout. They run with the cocks a few seconds and are then separated. We have sprint birds doing very well on this method too. Her ring says 14, but she was a 2017 late-bred and I used old rings to build our numbers up. She flew Lerwick last year and Barcelona the year before. We feed Country Wide corn and can we'd like to say well done to Geoff and Clayton Preece.'

5th Open Mark Gilbert of Winkfield, Windsor on 673 over 697 miles and 11th and 22nd Open and 1st South Centre Section. Mark 's first pigeon is from a son of Zwart Goud when Zwart Goud was paired to a daughter of Snelle Jelle (Zwart Goud is the father to 1st 3,285 birds, 2nd 2,234 birds, 6th 4,588 birds etc. Snelle Jelle was 2nd Nat Perpignan 5,608 birds) x daughter of New Laureaat x Kleine Jade. New Laureaat was the Gold Wing Winner 2011, 2012 and 2013. He was 1st National Barcelona 10,685 birds and 1st International Barcelona 25,383 birds in 2013. Kleine Jade was 1st International Barcelona in 2014. Mark's first pigeon is the same way bred as the 1st National Agen winner for him 2018. Mark's second pigeon is from a son of New Laureaat, when paired to the dam of Nathan. This cock has also bred the 1st National Poitiers winner in 2018 x daughter of the Special One x Romee. Special One was 1st National, 1st International Barcelona 19,083 birds in 2015. Romee was the dam of 3rd National Barcelona 2019, 29th Perpignan 2018. Romee also won 3rd National Bergerac 10,327 birds and 3rd National Orange 4,302, 3rd NPO St Vincent 1,365 birds, 5th National Brive 7,241 birds. Mark said that he sent an experienced team of birds so they did not need a lot of education and they were privately trained and raced twice from Guernsey as preparation.



John Chipperfield



Mark Gilbert & Troy Birch



Steve, Sally & Shane Rhodes

7th Open Mr & Mrs M Bunney of Portsmouth on 561 over 661 miles and 26th Open. Mick timed a 4-year-old bird but wasn't able to provide any more information.

10th Traian F Ferentz of Romford on 523 over 699 miles. Trian told me, 'I timed a 4-year-old blue chequer hen sent sitting 14 day eggs, she is a half-sister to our 2nd Open Barcelona bird in 2020. Her preparation was 3 x Guernsey, 202 miles, plus a few other club races, complimented by the odd 50 mile training spin. The sire of this pigeon is bred from two original Ronnie Elliott, of Chadwell Heath, pigeons going back to 2009 Barcelona champion, Red Alert. The dam is bred from two original Paul Delea of Rainham pigeons going back to his 2008 Barcelona champion. He had 4 club races and two channel races this year, from Guernsey and St Philbert. I'm very grateful to Paul Delea, I've done well with his pigeons and he is a very knowledgeable man and an absolute gentleman.'

13th Ionel Strunel of Harrow on 480 over 704 miles. Ionel was 13th Open, 4th South Centre Section and 2,957th International out of 16,897 pigeons, with a 5-year-old hen. Ionel said, 'My hen was prepared for Barcelona with the Harrow Club, sent sitting on a baby of 4-5 days. She flew Barcelona

in 2020 but was out of results and as a young bird she flew with the Harrow Club, on 19/8/2017 she flew Guernsey with the BICC, in 2018 she flew with the Harrow Club, on 11/5/2019 she flew the BICC Alencon, on 25/5/2019 BICC Cholet, 28/4/2019 she was 38th in the Harrow club, on 9/6/2019 she flew Le Mans, taking 1st club, 7th fed, 9th UBI and 1st bird nom. Then on 13/7/2019 she flew Falaise taking 27th and in 2020 she flew again with the Harrow Club. On 28/06/2020, St Philbert and the Barcelona but was out of results. In 2021 she flew with the BICC and Harrow Club and was raced with the Harrow club as preparation for Barcelona. She has also bred winners and is a really good hen. Two of her grandchildren flew three times from France as young birds in 2020 and were 1st and 2nd Carentan in the club. Her sire is Van Wanroy from Ben Hendrix and the dam from Tanase Ionut from Romania.'

15th Open, F. Knowles & Son Wingham on 453 over 673 and 24th, 29th 30th Open. Simon timed some very experienced and proven pigeons from this race to add to their list of honours. His first pigeon, GB15S 68321 a chequer hen, took 15th Open BICC Barcelona 2020, 7th Open BBC Barcelona 2019, 19th open BICC Barcelona 2019 and flew Barcelona in 2018. '21' is a granddaughter of Gregory x Little Pea, of C Wells bloodlines, between them having 4th, 22nd, 25th Open BICC Barcelona and 1st, 4th, 8th Open BICC Marseille. GB16F 20819, a chequer cock, had previously taken 14th open BICC Barcelona 2020 and 25th Open BICC Marseille 2019. '19' is a son of Gregory x C Wells bloodlines having 4th, 22nd and 25th Open BICC Barcelona. GB 16F 20768, a blue cock, flew Barcelona in 2020 and in 2019 was 29th Open BICC Narbonne. He is of M Parish bloodlines. GB18F 14257, a blue cock, has been 108th Open BICC Bordeaux 2020. His sire is Big Al 3rd Open BICC Argen and his dam is again M Parish bloodlines. They were all paired up 14 days before sending and sitting 7 day eggs.



Traian Ferentz



Ionel Strunel



Simon Knowles & Alan Annis

18th Open T Wheeler & Son of Eltham on 427 over 692 miles. Terry's arrival was a 2-year-old late bred, who was making his second crossing of the Channel. He flew a few club races and then St Philbert with the BICC as preparation. He was paired up after St Philbert and was sitting 10-day old eggs.

19th Open L & K Buddle of Dover on 425 over 663 miles. The partnership said, 'Our bird is a 6-year-old cock we call, Sixteen-02, was flown on our widowhood chaos type of system. Preparation for the long-distance races this year has been totally different to other years as we were unable to get into France earlier in the season. This cock only had 4 x inland races out to 160 miles, 2 x Guernsey races with the BICC & NFC and 1 x BICC St Philbert, 265 miles, which was a tough race and he was home in the early hours of the second day. Feed as always here is very simple with the same mix being given every day, 7 days a week. It consists of 2/3 Versele-Laga Superstar Plus & 1/3 Best Allrounder or an Irish Mixture, with Fats given after their feeds for the last 3 days before basketing. Sixteen-02 has previously won 2nd Sec G, 10th Open BBC Barcelona, 11th ES, 20th National BICC Barcelona 2020 and 22nd National BICC Perpignan, 593 miles, in 2019. His sire is a full brother to our, Triple Two, 1st Open BBC Barcelona in 2019, being a son of Amoy who took 1st Nat BICC Pau 2009 and Mike, multiple top long distance international prize winner and BICC Certificate of Merit Award winner. His dam is a daughter of, Game, winner of 3rd BICC Perpignan, 7th BICC Perpignan, 15th BICC Pau and 27th BICC Pau. She was a 2003 hen as deep in the base of a lot of our main pigeons. Congratulations to Geoff and Clayton on their win of BICC Barcelona win.'

21st Open D Hales of Hockley on 764 over 699. Duncan Goodchild told me, 'We timed a 4-year-old blue chequer hen sent sitting 14 day eggs. She is a half-sister to our 2nd Open Barcelona 2020 bird. Her preparation was 3 x Guernsey, 202 miles, plus other club races complimented by the odd 50 mile training spin.'



L & K Buddle



David Hales bird



Terry Wheeler

25th Open W Carr & Son of Guildford on 330 over 684. Bill timed a 3-year-old chequer pied hen of Dr Brockcamp bloodlines of Mark Gilbert that were originally purchased some 20 years ago. The parents of this hen were Tuff Nut/ Denny York on the dam's side and Euro Diamond on the sires. This hen, along with the 6 others that Bill sent, flew Bordeaux 11 days earlier. Prior to that, they flew as far as Truro. Despite the great performance of this hen, Bill thinks on reflection that it was too soon to send them again. They needed 3 or 4 weeks rest he said. At the close of the race, Bill was still waiting for the other 5. They had raced well at Bordeaux and Bill had taken 4th Open, 2nd South Centre Section. He is now preparing a team for Pau.

27th Open D & J Staddon of Ditchat on 282 over 699 miles, also 40th and 1st South West Section. Dave and John continue a fine season with this being their third 1st Section win with the BICC this season, following 1st Section Guernsey, 2nd National, 1st Section St Philbert, 3rd National and now 1st Section Barcelona and 27th National as well as 2nd Section 18th National Agen International. Dave said, 'Mike, we are buzzing to be back racing from France and competing in the Internationals. Well done to all the winners and everyone who has timed in from Barcelona, it was a very hard race. We sent 3 to Barcelona and all were having the first trip to Spain and were sent racing on the Chaos widowhood system. They all had some inland racing with the WOESRC then three guernsey races and the very hard St Philbert National before Barcelona. Our Section winner, a chequer cock, and is now named Pallatt's Pride and was bred by our good friends Dean Pallatt and Dean Junior from their elite breeding centre. He is 100% Jelle Jellema bloodlines, his sire is a grandson of Romee, Zwarte Goud and Snelle Jelle. The dam is a granddaughter of Dirke, the father of Kleine Jade, 1st International Barcelona and also features Rika, Marcus, Golden Future and Frankenstein in her pedigree. Dean sent us some youngsters to race in 2019 and 2020 and this cock was from the first draft. We haven't had any in 2021 or 2022 as we didn't know if we would ever race from Barcelona again. We also got the Section winners' nest mate early on Friday morning, therefore we have 2 birds from the 3 we entered home and hopefully, they can improve on this result in the 2023 season with the experience they have gleaned this year. Dean also recently bred our 2nd Section winner from Agen this year, so a big thank you to him.'

28th Open SR & WH Knox of Tyler Hill on 278 over 676 miles. Bill timed a very consistent bird having flown the Channel 23 times, including 3 x Agen, 3 x Perpignan, taking 24th and 31st BICC Pau and now 28th Open Barcelona. Bill said, 'I thought 2020 would be her year but she was just not right and in 2021 she only had Guernsey. I would normally have stopped her but due to the last two seasons, I kept her going. Her sire has also flown the Channel 24 times including Barcelona 33rd BICC, Perpignan 66th BICC, 2 x St Vincent 34th and 51st BICC, Pau 76th BICC and Tarbes 512th NFC. Her dam took first EECC Pithiviers but returned from Pau with damaged wing. She was sent to Barcelona sitting 2 days having been re-paired due to the late return of her mate from St Philbert.'



D & J Staddon



Bill Knox



Bill Carr

31st Open A Cowan of Southampton on 255 over 665 miles. This was Tony's 5-year-old grizzle cock's 3rd time home from Barcelona. His breeding comes from Brain Sheppard's International winning bloodlines and from Martin Norman's Olympic Rik, 1st Barcelona winner. Tony's bloodlines are 600 to 800 miles, and he timed a second bird just outside of race time. Tony prepared the birds with 3 training races north to Leicester and with 2-3 training tosses of 61 miles each week, taken by a good friend Clive Turner. Tony's ambition to win Barcelona continues and he will be preparing a team for next season.

33rd Open Mr Philip Hodson of Irlam on 235 miles over 849 miles also 1st North West Section. A really delighted Phil Hodson told me on day 7 of the race, 'Good morning, Mike, I am just calming down now, from clocking a bird in from the BICC Barcelona race! What an experience that has been, she clocked in at 6.56am on the 14.7.22 a few minutes after I had let my son's young birds out. He had a bird with a bruised wing which landed almost straight away, and I watched as a bird landed on my let board. Thinking one of my young birds had got in with his, I returned to the loft to find the hen looking at an empty feed bowl then looking back at me. I said out loud, you can have as much as you want. I had tears in my eyes, what a bird, she had flown 849 miles in a north wind then warm weather though a tough race. I was quite surprised to find she had lost very little weight and was in good shape. What a bird to complete a personal challenge! The hen is from stock birds purchased from Elimar from the original Etienne Meirleen family in March 2019. She is only a 2-year-old, and she was entered in the Masters race to St Philbert on 2nd July and arrived home just 8 minutes behind my first bird taking 4th Section NFC and 4th Section BICC. To say that I am made up is an understatement. It was a truly amazing experience and one I will never forget. Flying from that distance means that Phil is in line to pick up the Jim Emerton Barcelona Dream Trophy for the highest velocity over 750 miles and the Jim Emerton Trophy for the longest flying bird in race time. This is very apt as Phil is an avid reader of Jim's books. When Phil set himself the challenge of getting a bird home from Barcelona, he discovered Jim's Pigeon Man book and has read it from cover to cover several times and puts his success down to Jim's advice.

37th T & J Mather & Steve Hay of Nr Matlock on 190 over 815 miles, also 1st North Centre Section. Tony Mather from Crich, Derbyshire flying over 820 miles timed in a four-year-old cock, called Steve's Delight at 8:32am on Friday morning, the 15th of July to top the section. This is the second time that Tony has sent to Barcelona, and it is the second time he has timed in and seen the pigeon arrive home. He must be in an elite number of fanciers to do just so! He timed, Barcelona 97 who was 2nd Open BCC Barcelona in 2020. Steve's partner Steve Haywood passed away last season and in honour of him, Tony has named this dark chequer cock, Steve's Delight, because Steve would have been delighted by this performance. Steve was distance mad and anything less than 600 miles, he described as a sprint race. Steve's Delight has seen plenty of racing and has crossed the channel many times. He is four years old and has always been a bit different. Instead of perching in the young bird loft, he preferred the corridor in the loft. Tony therefore allowed him to stay there, putting up a single V perch to start with then making him a make-shift box. His box and hen are in the corridor, and he attacks anything that drops into the loft, forcing them into the main shed. Tony says he is like a little 'guard dog', ushering the other pigeons into the main shed, whilst he has the run of the corridor. It certainly seems to have motivated him and he was sent on a young bird which he is still feeding on his return. His sire is a red chequer cock, bred by Alwyn Hill and is a direct son of Wingdown, when paired to a hen that is a daughter of Keith Bush's hen that won 1st Sect, 6th Open

NFC Tarbes. His dam is a direct Peit De Vogel hen bred in 2016, from his renowned marathon pigeons based on Jounge Stayer. So, you could say he was bred for the job!



Phil Hodson



Tony Mather



Tony Cowan

38th Open David E Farr of Bognor Regis on 178 over 654 miles. Dave timed a clue chequer hen GB17N65721 that he clocked at 08.20 on Thursday morning. She previously had Guernsey then the difficult St Philbert and she was raced on roundabout. Dave told me, 'She was just trained from then on when I went to marking at Sunbury and Southampton while marking for the other races. Just trained along the coast in 2021, so just 3 races in 2 years. Her breeding is from a pair John Wills gave me in 2018, and she is out of a cock John bought from Mark Gilbert, from a grandson of Farmer George x grandson of Mark's Southfield Supreme. This hen is out of his old family responsible for many long distance winners.'

39th Andrew Girling of Shottenden on 170 over 672 miles. Andrew told me, 'He is an 8-year-old cock that was bred from stock I obtained from Louella stud in 2013. He contains the bloodlines of Incredible and Red rum. Two of his sisters have previously flown Barcelona for me. He has flown two international races previously. St Vincent, when he was out of race time, and Pau, 50th BICC. I thought I had missed the opportunity to send him after last year. However, he was looking really well this year, and so I jumped him straight off the loft into a 200-mile channel race two weeks before and he was my 4th bird. That was all the preparation he had. Congratulations to everyone who timed in and especially to the Preece family on an outstanding team performance.'



Dave Farr



Andrew Girling's bird

Mike Jackson
BICC Press Officer
Email:mike.jackson026@hotmail.com
Tel:07964448291