

British International Championship Club

Poitiers National Provisional Race Report

16th July 2022

The city of Poitiers, which can be found on the river Clain, is a traditional university centre in the central-west of France. Many famous philosophers and scientists have studied there, including René Descartes, the man who said, 'I think, therefore I am'. And they also had the good sense to twin with the market town of Northampton in the North Centre Section.

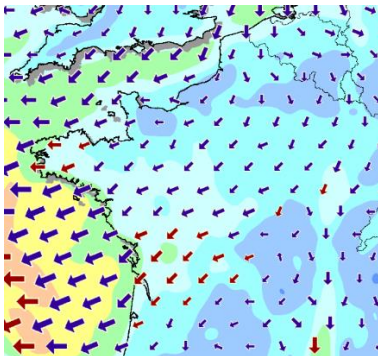
So, for the final old bird, south road national, of the season, 94 members sent 892 birds that were liberated at 6.00am. Each section sent the following: South Centre, 40 members sent 484 birds, South East 18 members sent 143, South West 28 sent 193, North Centre 3 sent 24 and in the North West, 5 members sent 48 birds.

The weather/race report

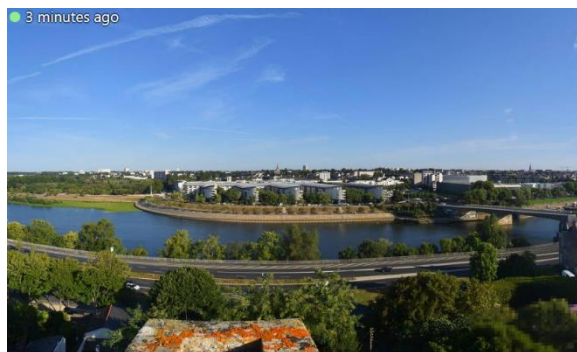
Steve Appleby, the BICC race and weather advisor, provided the following report:

For this B.I.C.C. race from Poitiers the forecast for high temperatures moving up from Spain threatened the staging of the race and was the main cause for concern. Fortunately, the change in the forecast for lower temperatures in France on Saturday proved correct allowing our race from Poitiers to go ahead. The convoyers on site were happy with the cool conditions at daybreak as temperatures of 17C were observed. Liberation was affected at 06:00 under clear blue skies, the convoy quickly disappeared out of view. As the morning progressed temperatures rose and by the afternoon had reached 26C. The blue skies remained over the complete flight path all day reaching as far as Scotland offering no hiding place from the relentless sun. The Channel was clear with a constant 11 miles of good visibility being recorded. The overland image captured of Angers on the line of flight also clearly supports the same conditions. Winds over northern France were a light ENE at about 10 mph but veered to a more north easterly direction over the Channel and southern England. (See wind flow map) This wind direction as we know is not pigeon friendly and created an element of difficulty for the race birds. Despite these testing conditions, viewing the early times some excellent performances were achieved by all those pigeons timed in.

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



Wind flow map



View of Angers

1st South Centre Section, 1st Open was Tony Barrett of Portsmouth on 1292 over 311 miles. Tony timed a blue pied hen named Hayley Triple X to take the provisional first spot and quickly timed a slatey w/f hen named JG, which will probably take 2nd place. Tony's first pigeon was purchased as part of a kit of 30 from Gary Tomlinson's WDW One Loft Race for himself, Jason Ross and Mark

Dracket. Tony explained how they split them up. He said, 'So to decide who was having each pigeon, we put them in the loft and took turns in picking them. I picked the blue pied hen who has been sent to most races this season and has taken the odd card here and there. But, today in a very hard race from Poitiers over 312 miles, in extreme heat, she has taken 1st Open in the BICC, BBC and CSCFC! I started racing this year on roundabout and towards the middle of June I decided to pair them up. This was because I was having a week's holiday. I was getting fed up with just club racing and waiting for my CPH number. So, we went on holiday and a friend of mine, Nicky Wilson, looked after the birds and he did a great job. The birds had a good rest for 9-10 days in the loft. I have to say a big thank you to Nick. I then received my CPH number, and the birds looked fantastic. So, I thought a nice 300-mile race for their last race of the year would do just right. I sent them sitting 10-12 day old eggs and they had an open loft for 5 days and a training toss of 40 miles before I sent them. The ones that have returned so far are still in fantastic condition, so thanks to the transport and convoyer.

I bred the second bird that I timed, from pigeons I had from my friend John Gerrard. I think everyone knows his bloodlines. And I have to say, thanks for some fantastic stock birds, John. The bloodlines I have are from Josef, 7 x 1st Combine's and grandson to, Thomas 6, 1st Algarve Golden OLR plus the best of William de Briym Golden lines. What a way to finish the old bird season. '

Tony also wanted to thank Jason and Kayla Ross for the card and champagne, which I'm sure he enjoyed and with one or two more!



Tony's 1st bird



Tony's 2nd bird



Tony Barrett

2nd South Centre Section, 3rd Open was Bob Bate of Lovedean on 1285 over 316 miles. Bob said, 'Congratulations to Tony Barrett and all the other section winners. My first bird, a yearling red chequer cock, was flown natural. He was my first bird from St Philbert National, both grand-sire and grand- dam are section winners from Tarbes and Barcelona and they came from Terry Gardner and Alun Maull. I would like to thank all the organisations and hard working team of markers at Southampton. '

3rd South Centre Section, 5th Open was Paul Basham of Bursledon on 1279 over 318 miles. Paul told me, 'My first bird was a yearling hen experiencing the Channel for the first time, having raced all season and most weeks on the north with the Solent Federation. Her last race, prior to basketing for Poitiers, was 3 weeks ago at Hexham where she was second in the clock, with a little road training in between. Her sire is a son of Mister B, our 2nd Open CSCFC Bergerac winner. The dam I purchased from David Coward Talbot, being of Brian Long stock containing the lines of Jos Thone's, Poco, Pauline, Emperor x dt. Of Sars. My second arrival, clocked 3 minutes later, is a chequer hen, also raced on the north. Her final preparation race being Perth, 3 weeks prior. Both sire x dam were bred by Geoff and Catherine Cooper. The sire being an inbred son of George and the dam is a full sister to, Farmer Forrest and Lady of the Night. Thank you to the marking team up at Sarisbury Green which is quite the slick operation and also congrats to Tony Barrett on taking 1st and 2nd Open on a tough day.'



Bob Bate



Paul Basham

The Provisional South East Section Winners

1st South East Section, 21st Open was J M Cook of Bexleyheath on 1155 over 350 miles. Jim told me I clocked a 3- year- old blue cock raced on roundabout and this was his 16th race of the year. His breeding is Willy Jacob x Vandebelle. He's taken two or three cards, but this is by far his best performance. He was my fancied pigeon and I had him pooled to £10 in the section and £10 in the open, so hopefully I might draw a few quid. He's come from good stock and his mother flew Poitiers on three consecutive Saturdays three years ago. She was a very consistent bird for me.'

2nd South East Section, 37th Open was Kevin Foster of Longfield Hill on 1040 over 344 miles. Kevin said, 'After a tough race into Kent my first pigeon was a 5-year-old hen sitting 5 days eggs after flying the previous races as a widower. She has been a useful pigeon, featuring in the section top 10 and top 100 of previous National races. Always steady, if I got 4 or 5 pigeons before her, I had a very good race. She is bred from a Cooremans' cock from Bob Fenech, directly from Obe, 15 x 1st, when paired to a daughter of Tik and Clara. Her dam is a Busschaert from Tim Rodwell. Given the tough conditions I was happy to get 4 from 6 on the day and one the next morning. Well done to the winners and particularly to Jim Cook a very good section winner in our area.'

3rd South East Section, 40th Open was Catalin Olaru of Romford on 1012 over 359 miles. Catalin timed a blue chequer hen, GB21V31509. Her sire is from a Romanian fancier and her dam is from Verweij-de Haan.



Jim Cook



Kevin Foster



Catalin Olaru

The Provisional South West Section Winners

1st South West Section, 2nd Open was Wojciech Blachut of Trowbridge on 1289 over 357 miles. Wojciech said, 'Firstly, I'd like to congratulate the winner of the race Tony Barrett and all the other section winners. This is my third section win this season and once again the winning pigeon is carrying 50 % of all the best Brian Sheppard blood lines crossed with my good friends Robert and Patryk Sulkowski birds, one of the top flyers in Poland at the moment. When I moved to the UK 18

years ago, I couldn't speak one word of English, but I'd always kept pigeons in Poland so wasn't new to the sport. Everyday I'd see pigeons circling about a mile from my house and one day I decided to follow these birds and it led me to Brian's garden. I didn't know who he was or what he had won and achieved, I just wanted to be involved with pigeons again. Brian welcomed me into his garden, and I would just turn up every day and sit and watch his pigeons, but I wasn't able to have a conversation with him. I could have been anyone and he could have just told me to go away but he never and this was the type of person he was. He would help anyone. He trusted me and eventually over time we struck up a close friendship. I will never forget what he did for me, not only just helping me with pigeons but also massively in my private life and became more like a second father to me. When Brian was ill, I promised him that I would try my hardest to win with his birds. So, to get this result on the anniversary of his passing, is even more poignant. That is why I have decided to name the pigeon, 'Brian' in his memory. Brian would always say his family of pigeons can win from 50 to 500 miles and I am so excited to see what the future holds with this cross that seems to have worked well. I would like to thank my partner and my daughter for all their help, for without them this would not have been possible and to all my friends who have helped me with training and getting my birds to marking stations, you know who you are, thanks.'

2nd South West Section, 4th Open was Underhill & Prettejohn of Plymouth on 1284 over 337 miles. Mike timed a 3-year-old bird but wasn't able provide any more information.

3rd South West Section, 8th Open was Stuart Wilcox of Bristol on 1263 over 369 miles. Stuart said, 'We timed a 3-year-old hen that has previously won 3 x 1st club, some top combine positions and 3rd, 8th and 27th National! She is a Frans Zwols x Koen Minderhoud, her sire is a double grandson of Tip Top Junior. Her dam is Sapphire, a direct daughter of Geeloger, 3 x 1st NPO when paired to his own mother, a daughter of, Paulien of Albert Derwa! She was fed on Beyers and Country Wide corns and was flown on widowhood.'



Wojciech Blachut



Mike Underhill



Stuart Wilcox

The Provisional North Centre Section Winners

1st North Centre Section, 30th Open was Dominic Guzelier of Houghton Conquest on 1093 over 392 miles. Taking another first section, Dominic said, 'This section winner is a blue check cock, home bred and raced on widowhood. His father is White Fang who is the father of Poitiers and Alencon winners, plus club winners. The mother is half-sister to Bordeaux, Cholet and Alencon section winners, all breed down from Pieter Oberholster lines. His nest sister was clocked 15 minutes later, with another 4 birds on the night, after a hot afternoon waiting.'

2nd North Centre Section, 71st Open was D Lyden & Son of Yardley Gobion on 469 over 396 miles. Dave said, 'This bird is proving to be a very consistent cock. His sire was a gift bird from my old friend and the Northampton legend, Alf Jones, and is down from a draft of birds that Alf had from Brian Denny stock. The dam is another gift bird from my lifelong friend Danny Pullman from Stony Stratford, and she is of Tornado Grizzle lines, crossed with his fed topper Little Miss Sunshine. Clocking from 400 miles on the second day does not always appear to be 'credible' but given the

extreme conditions and the fact he has not seen a race basket for some 8 to 9 weeks, and that he lost his hen from Lerwick, two weeks previously, I am indeed very pleased to see him home, let alone earn a place in this report.'

3rd North Centre Section, 72nd Open was J M Haverly of Milton Keynes on 432 over 393 miles. John Haverly timed a lovely looking white pied cock, who's sire was Harry Gerrit x M V Lint and the dam, Nicko Volken x Brugman.



Dominic Guzelier



Dave Lyden



John Harverly

The Provisional North West Section Winners

1st North West Section, 32nd Open were Booth & Roper of Tewkesbury on 1073 over 402 miles. Trevor and John timed in their first pigeon, a 2-year-old widowhood cock, in just under 11 hours covering a distance of more than 400 miles in very hot and testing conditions to take 1st NW Section. This cock bird, along with their third bird, had flown all this season on the north road in the BICC from Wakefield, Hexham, and Perth. They decided not to send to Thurso, so four of these birds were sent to Poitiers instead and what honest pigeons they are. The first bird is from their old established family of Albert Babbington's Van den Bosche and Jim Biss Dordin, they had a further two birds and will probably take 2nd and 3rd Section. They said, 'The birds were all in excellent condition on return, so well done to all concerned with the welfare of the birds. They had 8 out of 9 birds back in race time. It was a long journey for them to the marking station, but worth it, and they were impressed with the efficiency at Southampton. We would like to congratulate Peter Hargreaves on a fantastic performance flying 519 miles, in our section, on the day. And congratulations to the Open winner and all section winners.'

2nd North West Section, 49th Open, was Peter Hargreaves of Accrington on 980 over 519 miles. Peter of the Oswaldtwistle Homing Society said, 'It looks like I am 2nd NW Section, 49th Open Poitiers flying 520 miles in 15 hours and 33 minutes. The bird is a 2-year-old Jan Arden chequer cock bred by Alan Wicker of Bolton and was my third bird at St Philbert's two weeks previously. I believe there is a new RPRA trophy for the best performance by an old fancier and as I am 88 perhaps, I stand a chance of winning this one!' Let's hope so Peter.

3rd North West Section, 52nd Open were Chambers Family of Cannock on 942 over 445 miles. Following up on their previous very good section wins, Craig said, 'Our first arrival was a yearling cock who flew just under 14 hours to be the only bird on the day in his section, provisionally taking 3rd Section in the BICC on a tough day for the northern lofts, flying over 400 miles. His dam is our BBC National winner from Coutances in 2020 and his sire was 2nd Section in the MNFC as a young bird from Chale. This season his aunties have topped the section 4 times in national racing with the NFC, BICC and BBC, so it's fair to say this family have become really consistent for us from the national races.'



Booth & Roper



Peter Hargreaves



Chambers' Family

The Provisional Top Ten Open Positions:

1st Tony Barrett of Portsmouth on 1292, 2nd Wojciech Blachut of Trowbridge on 1289, 3rd Bob Bate of Lovedean on 1285, 4th Underhill & Prettejohn of Plymouth on 1284, 5th Mr Paul Basham of Bursledon on 1279, 6th M Gilbert of Winkfield, Windsor on 1273, 7th J F Haynes of Fifield on 1265, 8th Stuart Wilcox of Bristol on 1263, 9th D & J Staddon of Ditchheat on 1250, 10th M Moody of Thornhill on 1244.

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