

British International Championship Club

Thurso National Provisional Race Report

16th July 2022

On Saturday 16th July, 53 members sent 363 birds to Thurso that were convoyed by the NRCC. They were liberated at 6.45am. Each section sent the following: in the South Centre 15 members sent 89 birds, in the South East, 10 members sent 64, in the South West, 4 sent 25, in the North Centre 12 sent 99, North East 5 sent 30 and in the North West, 8 members sent 56 birds.

Thurso is the northernmost town on the British mainland. According to Visit Scotland, it is a 'hive of lovely traditional shops, cafes, bars and restaurants.' It is also a major surfing area which hosts two World Championships for Kayak surfing every year. Over many decades, Thurso has become an iconic race point and perhaps the building of Thurso railway station in 1874 by the Sutherland and Caithness Railway helped Thurso gain this status, when the birds were transported by rail. The station is still open today and is part of the beautiful Highland Railway.

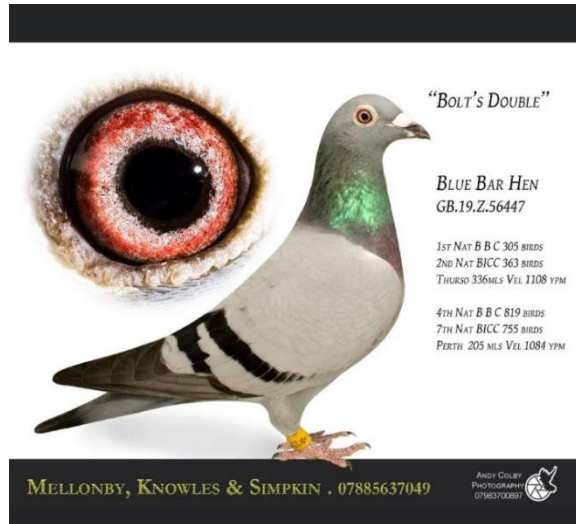
This report is based on the member's first bird verifications and the final result may differ.

1st and 3rd North Centre Section and 1st and 3rd Open was Harry Jackson of Selby on 1202 & 1096 over 349 miles. Harry was chuffed to bits and had a feeling the birds were in form. He said, 'The winning hen is bred from my No.1 stock pair, the cock is a Frans Zwols and is bred down from lines of Young Tip Top and Interest Figo on one side and Dutch Prince and De Diamanté on the other side. The dam of the winner is a Gaby Vandenabeele which was given to me by the top Doncaster flyer Harry Granville, he guaranteed she would breed winners and how true he was. In her first nest she bred an RPRA award winner for me! ... and now a national winner! The hen was racing to 8-day eggs and was in top condition, as were all the team, they had been left to pair up after Perth having been on roundabout all season, and most were on their first pair of eggs of the year. The 3rd placed pigeon was also a Frans Zwols cross being from a German cock I bought from the Algarve OLR because he was a Zwols and a hen that was bred from my RPRA Award winner paired to Jon McCall's RPRA winner, Eileen, we put them together and shared the young late-breds. You can't beat the best to the best! She was also 17th Section, 114th Open from the second Guernsey with the BICC this year. I would just like to thank conveyors Darren and Merv for the excellent condition the pigeons arrived in.' Harry also took 6th, and 8th Open.

2nd North Centre Section, 2nd Open were Mellonby, Knowles & Simpkin of Bridlington on 1108 over 336miles. The partnership have been very consistent on the north road this season and they added this 2nd Section, 2nd Open position their earlier National win and high section positions. Kerry told me, 'This hen has previously scored at Perth and added this win to her record. She is a super hen and a real gem, who has won many times. She is a double grandchild of Leo Heremans' Bolt.'



Harry Jackson



Mellonby, Knowles & Simpkin

The Provisional North East Section Winners

1st North East Section, 7th Open were Mr & Mrs Brian Garnham of Butterwick on 1063 over 412 miles. Brian said, 'Can we pass on our congratulations to the section and open winners, great performances all over. Blue Doro, was our section winners and her preparation for the race was club racing with the Peterborough Fed, then BICC Hexham, where she took 16th Open, 1st Section and BICC Perth 49th Open 19th Section. With her main intended destination to be Thurso. Her dam, Keith's Girl took 1st NRCC Thurso for Andy Kirkman x our own Dio, who was 2nd NRCC Thurso. These provided the genes for the task from a tough Thurso. Flown on our chaos system for yearlings, she was paired to another hen. The eggs chipped out over night before basketing. See we said it was chaos! Can Angie and I say, thanks to the BICC for a great season's racing.'

2nd & 3rd North East Section, 16th & 19th Open, were Mr & Mrs Kingswood of Huttoft on 882 and 798 over 396 miles. Darren and Jackie said, 'Photographed is the bird that took 2nd Section from Thurso, and he has dirty feet. This was taken minutes after he had trapped, and he had been down for a drink as his legs and ring were caked in mud. He is a yearling cock bird that was swapped in at the last minute because the three hens I had wanted to send had all dropped flights and had gaps in their wings. His breeding is Marcellis/ Van Reet on the mother's side and the father was bred by Darren Perry of Alford, a top flyer in the Alford club, that I race in. This bird has not done anything special so far but the last few weeks he has been amongst my first few to home and he was repaired just in case I needed him, so he was my plan B. I got another one shortly after this one that has taken 3rd Section. In total, from this very hard race, I sent 6 and had 3 home. I would like to congratulate Harry on winning and showing us all how to get multiple birds on a hard day.'



Brian Garnham's Blue Doro



Darren & Jackie Kingswood's bird

The Provisional North West Section Winners

1st North West Section, 42nd Open were Mr & Mrs W Lewis of Kempsey on 615 over 449 miles. Bill told me, 'Well what a testing race the BICC Thurso turned out to be for the birds. It did indeed live up to sorting the wheat from the chaff and allowed the cream to come to the top. We would like to salute all the fanciers who did manage to time in and commiserations to the good fanciers who did not see a pigeon in race time. In the picture I am holding our first pigeon now named Freeland's Flying Scotsman, a 2019 bird which is a direct son of our unique Freeland's Gem the 2 X NFC Certificate of Merit bird, flying six consecutive years from Tarbes at 624 miles, when paired to a Mark Gilbert hen, which is a daughter from a son of Euro Diamond X Southfield Jane, 1st National Saintes, 3,568 birds. Beryl is holding our second pigeon, Freeland's Duo a 2016 pigeon which has won two years running, taking 2nd Open Midlands Continental Classic FC from Saintes 450 miles, hence his name. Last year in the BICC Lerwick race he achieved 7th NW Section 47th Open, over 556 miles, being hawked on his way home. He is from our direct Robert Venus Prins Super Crack lines. For interest we have included a photo of our racing mixtures. The light-coloured grain for the shorter races with darker coloured grain for the distance races. We are both looking forward to attending the BICC presentation where you can enjoy fellow fancier's company. Unfortunately, the social side of pigeon racing is a part that seems to be in rapid decline which is a great shame as the saying goes, united we stand divided we fall'.

2nd North West Section, 46th Open, was Mick Howard of Upton-Upon Severn on 490 over 454 miles. Mick timed a 2-year-old Wim Muller, from his original Wim Mullers. He returned injured from Hexham with some flights missing. However, he recovered in time for Thurso and was the only bird Mick timed. He had a few short tosses before the race and 10 days before he was paired up and had been raced on roundabout prior to that. Mick also told me the story about Brian Garnham and Nigel Shaw bringing about 25 pigeons back from Lerwick. The birds had failed to clear the island and they had been contacted by someone on the island who had collected them up. The birds were transported back to the mainland and Nigel drove from Crewe to the top of Scotland, making a 13 ½ hour round trip to pick them up. One of these birds was Mick's and collected it from Crewe and brought back other birds and liberated them for southern fanciers. Mick wanted to thank Brian and Nigel for their selfless actions and to say that they are a credit to the pigeon sport.

3rd North West Section, 53rd Open was John Rodway of Ruskwick on 368 over 446 miles. John said, 'The bird I timed is a dark, white flight 4-year-old cock, sent sitting sixteen days. This bird has been in the clock in the four north road races flown with the BICC in 2022. The race itself turned out to be very difficult for the NW Section members. My bird on arrival was very tired, more likely due to the

hot sun and wind. He is at present my only arrival from five entries. My congratulations to William and Beryl Lewis on winning the section and my thanks to them for taking my pigeons to the Rugeley marking station. Also, congratulations to my fellow club member Mick Howard on his provisional 2nd NW section.'



Bill & Beryl Lewis



Bill & Beryl's racing mixtures



Mick Howard



John Rodway

The Provisional South Centre Section Winners

1st South Centre Section, 26th Open was M J Ayling of Fareham on 803 over 554 miles. Elvin Booth, the secretary of Gosport RPC sent me the report for John and Jackie, who does everything regarding pigeons for John, and I'll like to thank Elvin for this. He said, 'John sent 7 birds to Thurso and clocked the 2 hens on day 2, a blue chequer at 9:52am and a blue bar at 12:10pm. Both his birds were raced natural and are descended from his 2002 NFC Pau winner, Home Alone, the only bird on the day flying 519miles.'

2nd South Centre Section, 29th Open were Cottrell & Richmond & son of Wimbourne on 782 over 541 miles. Tony said, 'We timed a red chequer hen, called Red Hot. That race was hard, and it was hot. I was knackered just waiting for the birds and what game little birds they were, for most of us, keeping going and keeping our dreams alive, on what was one of the hottest days of the year. Red Hot is a 3-year-old bird, now in the stock loft. The sire was on loan from my mucker Shawn Stockley. A red Jan Arden out of the international winning lofts of Hagen Bros. Bought at Doncaster by Ian and Shawn. It took their eye, and it is a fantastic handling bird with an outstanding dark gold eye itself! Fora Red, being Jan Arden based was put to a daughter of, Roger gifted to Ollie Richmond my mate, before we went into partnership in 2002, from Roger Jones. He was broken out to the loft and send to Pau that year, being the first bird into Dorset and high up in the result. Put to stock and paired to the Devil Woman '666', an outstanding racer for us to 525 miles. We kept a hen for stock she and she was paired to the red cock, to breed Red Hot. She is a medium to small hen send sitting three days eggs with a new cock, having lost her cock at Perth. She was my first bird from Thurso last year. This year she had two club races to Chesterfield, to Hexham 3rd to loft, to Perth, 4th to loft the next day, some loft exercise and one toss of 22 miles, two weeks before basketing. My second bird, GB 20 N79256 is out of the old long distance family I've had since 1969, and is paired to Red Hot. He had

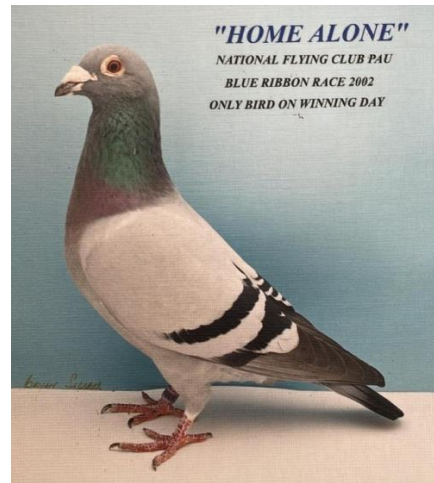
three club races this year and Hexham and Perth. They were fed a fat mix for five days before going and some chopped veg. Lastly, well done to the winners of the respective races and a massive thank you to the secretary and all the club markers that put themselves out to help. Also, to the convoy for looking after the birds. Good luck to all sending to Pau this weekend and thank you all who have phoned me. Until next time be positive keep smiling and above all keep flying.'

3rd South Centre Section, 31st Open was Andrew Hitchcock of Windsor on 741 over 506 miles.

Andrew's bird was 3rd CS Section British Barcelona Club 89.b, 5th Section D British Barcelona Club 61.b, 14th National British Barcelona Club 305.b, 31st National British International Championship Club 363.b. He said, 'First of all, I would like to congratulate the winners and section winners in what was another particularly hard race especially for the longer flyers flying in the extremely high temperatures. WHU21C40166, named Clewer Hill Spirit, a yearling chequer w/f hen. The yearling hen was bred by Jullian Lewis of Aberdare, from his Padfield bloodlines. She is a G.G Child from Padfield Blue Badge winner of 1st Gwent Greater Distance Flying Club, 1st West Section BICC Barcelona, 2nd National BICC Barcelona, 1st NFS Single bird National, 1st West Section BICC Agen, 4th National BICC Agen, 3rd West Section BICC Pau, 10th National BICC Pau, 1st West Section BICC St Vincent, 2nd National BICC St Vincent, 4th Section Tarbes, 5th Welsh South Road National Tarbes, BICC Certificate of Merit winner also in the pedigree is Invincible Spirit and some top Dave Impett pigeons. This was the last old bird race of the season for me, so time to concentrate on my young bird training, overall, I have really enjoyed the north road racing.'



John & Jackie Fareham



Home Alone



Cottrell & Richmond & son



Andrew Hitchcock

The Provisional South East Section Winners

1st South East Section, 24th Open were Patmore & Rayner of Saffron Walden on 810 over 482 miles. Chris said, 'Yet another difficult race for us in the south. We timed at 7.28am on the second day. Our pigeon was 1st Section from Wakefield earlier in the season having also flown Hexham and Perth. Flown south until this year then turned north, because of a lot of uncertainty with French racing. He is a 6-year-old cock flown on roundabout for most of the season but paired after Perth. He was sent sitting and due to hatch on the day of the race. He is a great grandson of Peter's Dream who won BICC Barcelona, and his mother is predominantly Koopman bred from originals bought in 2003.'

2nd South East Section, 32nd Open were as Norman Holiday & Son of Colchester on 810 over 482 miles. Norman said, 'Our yearling chequer cock is a full-blooded Westcott from the very best of our distance lines, originating from the late great Wally Grantham. His mother was the only bird on the day to time in the two longest sections from NRCC Thurso 2020. His father, a son of our Lerwick diploma cock was 2nd Section NRCC Lerwick last month and one of only two birds to time in the two longest NRCC sections in race time, the other being a loft mate. The 4-year-old sire, who was also in the Thurso race, and was provisionally 6th Section BICC. The yearling has raced on full widowhood throughout the club campaign with NRCC Dunbar as a preparation, where he got in the result in his first Scottish event.'

3rd South East Section, 33rd Open was Mr & Mrs Hawkins of Bishop Stortford on 754 over 480 miles. Les said, 'Thanks to all at the Bovingdon marking station for all their hard work providing a north road programme last year and again this year. Also well done to everyone who clocked on what turned out a hard race. My cock bird, winner of 2nd Section, is the same cock bird that was provisionally 2nd Section from Perth three weeks ago. He is bred from a son of Domino my good Tarbes cock, a winner of 1st GDSBC Tarbes also 28th & 34th Open NFC Tarbes. He was also 1st Section BICC Poitiers, who was a grandson of Mark Bulled's Legacy cock. Domino was also a grandson of a top Eric Cannon hen I had from Mick Parish, that had bred him some good birds. She has left her mark in my loft, especially on hard days. She was a daughter of Culmer Bess, one of Eric Cannon's NFC Certificate of merit winners. The dam of my section cock was bred by the House of Arden and is a daughter of Padfield's blue badge, BICC certificate of merit winner for the Padfield family. This hen is breeding me some good pigeons including my first birds clocked from Thurso and Lerwick last year and my 1st Section winner from Berwick. All of these when crossed with sons of Domino or when paired to Domino himself. My 2nd bird clocked is also a granddaughter of Domino and the Blue Badge hen.'



Patmore & Rayner's bird



Norman Holiday & Son



Les Hawkins

The Provisional South West Section Winners

1st South West Section, 30th Open were Smith & Jones of Cwmbran on 754 over 480 miles. Roy and Norm told me, 'The bird we timed was a grizzle cock, out of Rhys Roger's grizzle family. He wanted Norm and me to have him when he finished racing. Crossed with birds from club mate Ray

Strawbridge. Well done to all concerned, and the winners on a very hard race.' The partnership were the only left to time in the south west.



Smith & Jones

The Provisional Top Ten Open Positions:

1st Harry Jackson on 1202 of Selby, 2nd Mellonby/Knowles/Simpkin on 1108 of Bridlington, 3rd Harry Jackson on 1096 of Selby, 4th S & M Cook on 1092.560 of Barton-on-Humber, 5th Mr & Mrs R Skinner on 1090 of Boston, 6th Harry Jackson on 1076 of Selby, 7th Mr & Mrs Brian Garnham on 1063 of Butterwick, 8th Harry Jackson on 1032 of Selby, 9th S & M Cook on 1024 of Barton-on-Humber, 10th Mellonby/Knowles/Simpkin on 1013 of Bridlington.

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