

British International Championship Club

Provisional Guernsey National Race Report

29th April 2023

The BICC's opening race of the season was from Guernsey, where 246 members sent 3, 219 birds that were liberated at 8.00am on Saturday 29th April. At this race point last season 2,738 birds were liberated so this race saw an increased birdage of nearly 500 birds. Each section sent the following: In the South Centre, 126 members sent 1,724 birds, South East 56 sent 678, South West 41 sent 563, North Centre 12 sent 164, North East 6 sent 54 and in the North West Section, 5 sent 36.

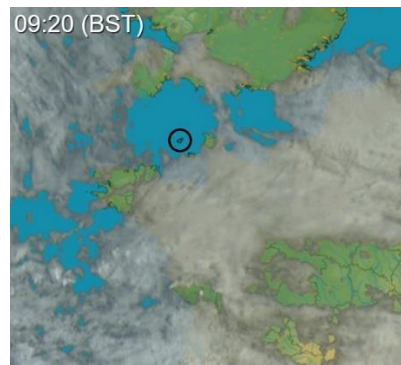
The weather/race report

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

Our convoyers arrived Friday evening in Guernsey and were soon escorted to the liberation site. As expected, Saturday morning dawned bright with low lying mist affecting coastal regions and some areas of the Channel. As forecast, this quickly dispersed resulting in a clear flight path to southern England. This can be seen by the captured satellite image (Guernsey circled). The sky was clear of cloud all the way across the channel. This information was relayed to our convoyers who also reported weather conditions on site were very good and they prepared for liberation. Overall, conditions could not have been better for our first race. At 08:00 hours liberation was affected under clear blue skies. The convoy of 3219 birds cleared the Island immediately. The convoyers reported a light northerly wind, but wind direction did change to a light easterly over the Channel. Viewing the early times and considering the weather conditions, it would appear a successful start to the season for the BICC.



View from Cherbourg Peninsula



Satellite image

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

The Provisional Open and 1st North Centre Section winners were Mr & Mrs John Park, of Bromham, over 203 on 1441. John timed a blue chequer cock, GB21B 02408, to take the honours in the first National of the season for the BICC. John races on the natural system and this is the system he enjoys. He sent his cock bird driving his hen, and it worked well for him on the day. John said, 'I fly a natural system and feed Beyers corn and Paloma corn. The dam of this pigeon was a Herman's hen, bred by Mick Collins. It was bred for the late Brian Ferris and it bred him a 1st Combine winner from over 3,000 birds. I purchased this hen in Brian's clearance sale. The sire I purchased from Howard Jackson's clearance, being a grandson of Propere Rik x Foxy Lady. Propere Rik x Athenas Best. I'd like to thank everyone who has congratulated me, it really means a lot. And to thank the BICC, the convoyers and race controllers for organising a great race to start the season off. All the best to everyone for the season ahead.'



John Park



John Park's winner

2nd North Centre Section, 54th Open was John Garvey, of Walsall over 217 miles on 1318. John's grandson is pictured holding his provisional 2nd section winner. This is a 2-year-old hen, again flying natural. Both parents were gift birds from friends and club members. The cock a Marcelis from Shaun McDonough and the hen, a Brasspening, from Craig Chambers. John said, 'Thanks lads! And I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr & Mrs John Park on winning my section and the Open. What a fantastic performance especially as the wind was totally against them. Also, the conveyor and weather advisors for giving us a great race. I sent 9 sent and had 9 home; with the first 4 in 12 minutes.'

3rd North Centre Section, 59th Open were Mr & Mrs Errington of Rushden over 209 miles on 1312. Mel & Julie said, "First of all congratulations to fellow Kempston Flying Club member John Park for his emphatic win, well done John! The bird we timed to take 3rd Section, was a chequer pied hen with her cock, which was also timed in the race. She is a five-year-old, very consistent, Jan Huybregts with close bloodlines that include notable Huybregts like Southport and Flo Joe. Her preparation for the race was two club races from Stoney Cross and Purbeck and she was our first bird home on both occasions. Always a natural hen until this year, when she was put on the double widowhood / jealousy system to increase the motivation. "



John Garvey's grandson Alex, holding his pigeon



Mr & Mrs Errington's chequer pied hen with her mate

The Provisional North East Section Winners

1st North East Section, 88th Open were D & E Ball of Eyke, Woodbridge over 249 miles on 1280. Dennis and Elaine Ball are pictured with their first two from Guernsey. Both are Vandenebees, flown natural, and both previous Section winners. They said that they had a great race with 100% returns and wanted to send a huge thanks to Fred Cornwell and all his helpers at Basildon Marking Station.

2nd North East Section, 159th Open, was Dave Downing of Suffolk over 229 miles on 1186. Dave told me, "My first pigeon is my favourite seven-year-old Hardy Kruger cock. This cock has been a great performer with 6 previous inland club wins plus many other positions winning nearly £1,000 prize and pool money and a 1st Anglian Classic to his name. Having only ever been flown inland prior

to last year, I nervously sent him to Guernsey with the NFC and he came well to record 9th Section 151st Open from 6,531 pigeons. Having thought hard about whether to retire him to the stock loft at the end of last season, I decided to give him one more year on the road. Always flown on traditional widowhood he had 2 club races prior to Guernsey being the second bird home to my loft on both occasions, only a couple of minutes behind my first arrival. So, I knew he was in good form and he rewarded me with this good performance.”

3rd North East Section, 215th Open was Brian Pearce of Assington over 227 miles on 1016. Brian’s pied cock was sent on widowhood in his 4th race of the season. He is a pure SVR that he hand reared, due to his parents abandoning him. He said, “It was all worth it now and I would like to congratulate Mr Ball on his great section win. He had an exceptional race, on a tough day. Well done once again to the conveyors and the BICC team on a great race.”



Dennis and Elaine Ball



Dave Downing's widowhood cock



Brian Pearce

The Provisional North West Section Winners

1st North West Section, 3rd Open were J & B Oakley of Whitchurch over 241 miles on 1431. The partnership said, “This is a hen we call Super 90, and she has previously had a 2nd Section MNFC BBLM, but is usually over shadowed by her nest sister, Guernsey Girl, who has 2 x 1st sections to her name in National racing. They are bred from our good breeding couple the, 24 Cock and 626, both retired racers winning up to federation and section level themselves; before being put to stock. She is raced on jealousy and has only previously had two races this season at 54 and 109 miles. We were delighted to see her have the spirit to complete the 241 miles and be up there with the leaders. Thanks to everyone involved at the BICC, we had a great race with full returns.”

2nd North West Section, 14th Open, were Booth & Roper of Tewksbury over 173 miles on 1391. Booth and Roper timed a 4-year-old widowhood cock to take provisionally 2nd Section, 14th Open. He is bred from the lines of Cooper/ Mark Gilbert, the parents both bred by Alen Gibb. Last year this cock bird was hit by the hawks several times when training, then in his very first race he was hit again, coming back with all his tail feathers missing. They then decided he'd had enough and didn't race him again that year, looking after him till he started this year. Now he has repaid them. They had 14 out of 14 birds on the day. Whilst waiting for the birds from three races they had a surprise visit from Chris Sutton. Chris, the CEO of the RPRA, had spent some time at the RPRA one loft and decided to call in on his route home. The last time he had been to the loft was to do a report in 2019 on their outstanding season winning the main averages cups in the NFC. They would like to congratulate the Open winner, Mr and Mrs John Park, and J and B Oakley winning the NW section and all other section winners. Their thanks also go to everyone at the Steventon marking station.

3rd North West Section, 15th Open was Sebastian Szul of Telford over 221 miles on 1391. Sebastian timed a 3-year-old pigeon to take 3rd section but wasn't able to provide any more information at this time.



J & B Oakley



Booth & Roper

The Provisional South Centre Section Winners

1st South Centre Section, 2nd Open was John Haynes of Fifield over 159 miles on 1436. John timed a 2-year-old roundabout blue cock to win the section. The sire of the winner is from Malik and Khan and the dam is bred out of one of John's best retired racing cocks, of Vandabeele bloodlines.

2nd South Centre Section, 4th Open was Nicky Hawes of Toddington over 190 miles on 1429. Nicky timed a 3-year-old cock bred by B&K Hawes, out of their ARAMIS pigeons. Nicky told me that he was raced on a very basic roundabout system and was bred from a son of Young Peter x Fast and Furious, from one of his mum and dad's stock pairs.

3rd South Centre Section, 5th Open was Mark Gilbert of Winkfield over 157 miles on 1422. Mark sent 229 distance birds to the race after four training tosses and was not expecting too much from them. But he was very happy with the way the Guernsey race turned out. He also sent one sprint pigeon, who had decided to move lofts, so she remained with the distance birds. She was his first bird back, beating the others by 7 minutes. He said, "It just goes to prove the theory of horses for courses. Until the last minute, I had this hen down on the BICC sheet as my pooler, but I changed my mind at the last moment! My mistake, lesson learned, as she is bred for days like these, from Stefaan Lambrechts bloodlines of the 546 and The 826. "By 4.00pm, the Southfield lofts had 181 from the 230 bridge and were pleased with how the birds had completed their first task. Mark sends his congratulations to John Park the provisional winner and his friend and clubmate John Haynes for winning the section.



John Haynes



Nicky Hawes



Mark Gilbert

The Provisional South East Section Winners

1st South East Section, 6th Open was Jamie Williams of Eltham over 177 miles on 1418. Jamie said, "My section winner was a yearling Van der Bulck chequer hen raced on roundabout. The sire was bred by Gordon Bros, being a son of the Dream Rode and Best Bulcka, the dam was bred by F.B.I Breeding, being a full sister of F.B.I Niamh and purchased from Central Lofts. I only started back in the sport in 2021, having stopped when I was 18, 29 years ago. This was the first time I have sent with the BICC and I sent 3 birds and had all 3 within an hour and ten minutes after my first bird." So, it's welcome back to the sport and a very warm welcome to the BICC, Jamie.

2nd South East Section, 10th Open was T Buckfield of Hockley over 202 miles on 1410. Tony said, "Hello Mike, first I would like to congratulate the Open winner and all section winners on their pigeon performances on this challenging day. Also, thanks to the professionally run Basildon Post Office marking station. My game little yearling hen is a Gert Hayley x Gaston van de wouwer. Both the sire and dam bred for me are from Mr & Mrs Buckfield. This hen had competed well in the first three club races. Flying home to the perch, with a bit of winding up involved. As a youngster she had 3 short races in the latter part of the season. I sent 15 hens, 3 didn't make the journey home."

3rd South East Section, 11th Open D Wilton & Son of Chadwell St. over 189 miles on 1405. Andrew said, "Our two-year-old cock is from our Heremans Ceusters family. His sire is one of our best stock cocks, Golden Rossi. He is the sire and grandsire to a long list of winners and top performing pigeons. The dam was bred for us by John Jackson from Cornwall from the best of his Eijerkamp Heremans Ceusters, her sire being a pigeon called Castor and her dam a hen called, Selenis. The cock we timed has already performed well for us quite a few times. He won a club race as a young bird and last year as a yearling he won 2nd Thames North Eastern Counties from Guernsey. Two weeks ago, he was our second pigeon to win 2nd club, 7th Thames North Eastern Counties from Holmsley."



Jamie Williams



Tony Buckfield



D Wilton & Son

The Provisional South West Section Winners

1st South West Section, 28th Open were Mr & Mrs Wiffen of Dorchester over 83 miles on 1360. Mick said, "My section winner is a 6-year-old chequer cock raced on widowhood, I've named him Dibben after my mate Ray Dibben of Poole, who bred him. He's bred from a Van Hee cock of Ray's and a hen from my, Scot Storie distance family. Dibben has been a very good pigeon for me and has been well up in the NFC and other clubs over the last few years. My second pigeon is a 5-year-old old blue widowhood cock off my own family. He has consistently raced well obtaining good positions in the sections. My 3rd pigeon is a 2-year-old widowhood cock. He was 4th section in the YB National from Guernsey and flew north last year. Can I thank the BICC for putting on the race."

2nd South West Section, 41st Open was Wojciech Blachut of Trowbridge over 126 miles on 1342. Wojciech said, "Well done to the winner Mr and Mrs John Park and all winners in the section. Both the pigeons came together, Silver and Brian, Silver clocked in 4 seconds before Brian. Both did well in the last season and showed their strengths. The pigeons are both bred from Brian Sheppard bloodlines crossed with pigeon from Poland, from my good friends Robert and Patryk Sulkowski."

3rd South West Section, 42nd Open were Lanahan & Gerard of Poole over 91 miles on 1337. The partnerships 3- year-old chequer hen was a pigeon from Alistair Muir. She was sent sitting 14-day eggs and this was her first race, she had only ever been trained and kept as flying out stock until now.



Mick Wiffen, with Ray Dibben
& John Clapcott



Wojciech Blachut



Lanahan & Gerard

The Provisional Top Ten Open Positions:

1st Mr & Mrs John Park of Bromham on 1441, 2nd J F Haynes of Fifield on 1436, 3rd J & B Oakley of Whitchurch on 1431, 4th Nicky Hawes of Toddington on 1429, 5th M Gilbert of Winkfield on 1422, 6th Jamie Williams of Eltham on 1418, 7th Mr & Mrs D. Waterhouse of Bedhampton on 1418, 8th Mr S Sheffield of Oakley Green on 1416, 9th Peter Rixon of Reading on 1415, 10th T Buckfield of Hockley on 1410.

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