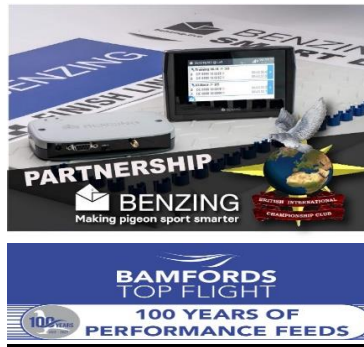


British International Championship Club



St Maixent-Ecole National Provisional Race Report

11th June 2023

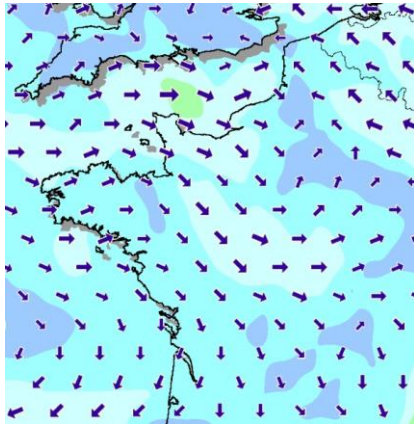
The fourth National race, proved to me a tough one from the new race point of St. Maixent-Ecole, which replaced Poitiers. St. Maixent-Ecole is approximately 30 miles to the south west of Poitiers. This town is twinned with Horsham, the historical market town of West Sussex and to mark the twinning, an original red UK telephone box is sited outside the city hall, in St Maixent.

After a one-day holdover, the convoy of 1,277 birds sent by 149 members were liberated at 10am. Each Section sent the following: In the South Centre Section, 64 members sent 581 birds, in the South East, 39 members sent 385 birds, South West, 27 sent 186, North Centre 8 sent 44, North East 6 sent 52 and in the North West 5 members sent 29 birds.

The weather/race report

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

The race control team had to deal with extensive cloud cover over central France on both Saturday and Sunday. This proved a major headache for this BICC race from St Maixent. Early on Sunday morning to our dismay, the convoyers reported overcast skies at the race point again, which was confirmed by satellite imagery. At about 09:00 hours the cloud started dissipating as the sun tried to break through over the race point. As a result, the convoyers prepared for liberation which was affected under broken cloud at 10:00 am. Winds were very light and variable at the site but generally they flowed from the N/W across northern France. Over the Channel they were again light but from a more westerly direction. (See wind flow chart) The convoyers reported on their return journey an excellent flying day all the way to the Caen docks. The sea was as calm as a mill pond and visibility very good. (See image from webcam taken from Jullouville at the base of the Cherbourg Peninsula) Heavy showery activity affected some areas of the Channel in the morning but as forecast by the afternoon had mainly cleared. This was supported by the rainfall radar images received. During late afternoon thunderstorms, which were mainly isolated affected, some central areas over southern and central regions of England. Temperatures in some areas reached up to 30c towards the end of the afternoon. In conclusion although weather conditions in France were good, the heat factor and developing storms late afternoon, although small in number, did not help matters. Despite these conditions some first class performances were achieved.



Wind flow map 10am



View of Jullouville

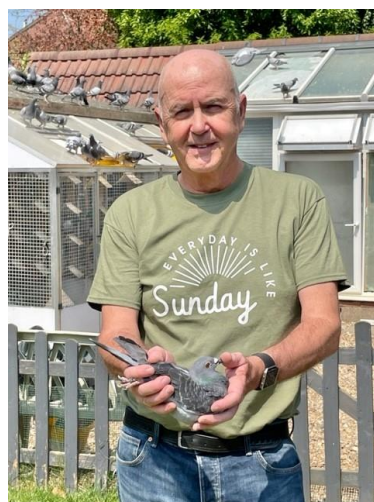
This report is based on member's first bird verifications and the final result may differ.

The Provisional Open winner, 1st South East Section was Kevin Foster of Longfield Hill, on 1146 over 334 miles. A delighted Kevin told me, 'My provisional winner is now called, Lady Maixent and she has previously won 28th, 33rd, 43rd, 126th and 133rd National from Guernsey to Poitiers including 3rd Section in a hard St Philberts' race in 2022, behind a loft mate that won the section. She was bred in the racing loft from two good racers. Her mother winning 25th Nat Alencon. Both the father and mother were from the No1 stock cock, Dark Misty, a great breeder for me, sadly now dead, but bred by my good friend Robert Rome, a multi-national winner and the winner of the St Philbert race in 2022. The paternal grandmother is the Rauw Sablon hen, the dam of 6th National for me and 1st Sect Penzance BICC National. Herself a double granddaughter of 'The Gilbert (Eric Limburg) '1st International Bordeaux. The maternal grand dam is the, Spracklen hen from Neville Spracklen, a direct daughter of Tarmac, his No1 stock cock x Lady Velvet. Tarmac was from Southfield Darkie, 1st Nat Pau, 1st Nat Messac, and Lady Velvet was from Southfield Treble, 21st, 34th and 5th National in same year from over 550 miles. I timed 3 hens on the day who were in immaculate condition on arrival, testament to the way they were looked after in France. It's a wonderful feeling to experience National racing after the recent troubled times and there are a few people who have worked tirelessly, this past 18 months, to get us to where we are. I'll mention no names, but we know who they are, so unlimited thanks.

Finally, can I thank everyone who phoned, text and left messages, I feel humbled with the win and I'm delighted to pick up the Benzing clocking system into the bargain. Many thanks to the sponsors and the BICC for providing this first-rate prize. And can I thank Robert Rome for providing the inspiration to push on, as it doesn't get easier as you get older, and we all need a push now and then. So, thank you, Rob. '



Lady Maixent



Kevin Foster



Wing of Lady Maixent

2nd South East Section, 2nd Open was Dean Childs of Wickford on 1127 over 334 miles. Dean said, 'My first bird was very well bred and full of performance pigeons! His father has already bred me 4th National Guernsey and is himself a son of 2 x National winner 'Gilbert' who was bred and raced by Charlie Simmons of Basildon. His mother, Chalice Joy, was a winner of 2nd National Forgeres herself, and was bred and raced by me. She is direct from one of my top middle distance breeding pairs, Chalice Prince and Chalice Princess, parents to 1st, 2nd, and 6th National. My pigeon, now named Chalice Lee, was raced on the roundabout system and was sent to Alencon and St Philbert before being sent to this race. Finally, can I say congratulations to the winner, Mr Kevin Foster, and his winning pigeon for putting in a superb performance on a very testing day!'

3rd South East Section, 8th Open was Damian Szpak of Deptford on 1039 over 346 miles. As a consistent top section performer this season, Damian said, 'Congratulations to the winners and Kevin Foster, a top racing man. I had 5 pigeons on the day and my first bird was a 2021 late bred cock, who was raced with the old birds up to St Philbert for the first year in 2022. He is from a granddaughter De Figo, who has already bred many top 3 in both sprint and channel racing. The sire is a brother to New Electro, 2nd, and 6th National Ace pigeon sprint in 2 years in Poland. The other 4 birds I timed, were bred close to Queen 85 bloodlines that I've been creating for 6 years now.'



Dean Childs



Damian Szpak

The Provisional South Centre Section Winners

1st South East Section, 5th Open was S Buckle of Northwood, on 1052 over 358 miles. Steve told me, 'It's good to be channel racing again and the race from St Maixent was a hard race. I thought I would get my hens first, but no, I had a widowhood cock come good for me, GB20A00254. I'm very happy with this Janssen cock.'

2nd South Centre Section, 9th Open was I Ripan of Stanmoor on 1038 over 359 miles. I Ripan timed a 5-year-old bird but wasn't able to provide any more information.

3rd South Centre Section, 12th Open was A Holdaway of Emsworth on 1025 over 308 miles. 'My first bird from St Maixent was a 5-year-old hen flown on roundabout. She is certainly bred for hard days like this. Her grand-dam was 1st Open BICC Tarbes, for me, and her grandsire was 13th Open Tarbes. He is sire to my 1st Open Tarbes CSCFC. Also, her dam was 9th Open Tarbes CSCFC. She was on her second race of the year having been to NFC Fougères. She has already won 82nd Open Poitiers BICC, 4th Sec, 209th Open Sigogne NFC, 8th Sec, 106th Open NFC Fougères, 6th Sec, 167th Open Tarbes NFC, 22nd, Sec 33rd Open Tarbes CSCFC. I had 3 birds on the day and 4 the next, having 7 from the 9 I sent.'



Steve Buckle



A Holdaway's bird

The Provisional South West Section Winners

1st South West Section, 3rd Open were D & J Staddon of Ditchat on 1092 over 342 miles. The partnership timed two early birds and will take 1st & 2nd South West Section, 3rd & 4th Open. They reported, 'Hi Mike, yet another very tough race was the order of the day. Congratulation to Kevin Foster on his brilliant win and to Dean Childs as runner-up, also well done to all the section winners. I think Mark, Steve & Trevor got the liberation correct but it was a hard race. We timed 8/21 on the day and now have 17/21. So, we are pleased. This race was principally a training flight for our Pau NFC / Agen International Birds with a few others thrown in for good measure. Our section winner is our best racing cock known as Miracle Maker. He is bred from our elite breeder The Real Miracle x Comet. He has been a champion racer and breeder for us with 4 x 1st Section wins, 2 x 3rd Open BICC Nat, 1st Open CSCFC etc. His full results are: 1st West Section, 3rd Nat BICC St Maixent-Ecole 1277b, 1st West Section, 3rd Nat BICC St Philbert 2105b (Winning Benzing ETS System), 1st SW Section, 1st Open CSCFC St Philbert 2022, 1st West Section 20th National 2222b Bordeaux, 33rd Nat Falaise, 2nd WOESRC Lyndhurst 3648b, 2nd WOESRC Eastbourne 2394b, 3rd WOESRC Brighton 1601b, 7th WOESRC Eastbourne 840b, 8th WOESRC Brighton 476b, 10th WOESRC Ramsgate 1776b, 12th WOESRC Littlehampton 2726b, 12th WOESRC Lyndhurst 2452b, 18th WOESRC Coutances 1420b, 1st Club Lyndhurst, 1st Club Eastbourne, 1st Club Brighton.

He is raced on our chaos widowhood system but, is on the hunt for a new hen as we lost his most recent partner. He has previously been sent to Guernsey BICC, Guernsey CSCFC, Fougères NFC, Messac NFC and St Maixent-Ecole BICC this season. His nest brother has also won the section twice and has been 2nd Open NFC. We are feeding Bamford Staddon Chaos Mix and Bamford Energy corn. Our second pigeon, only 1 minute behind Miracle Maker, was one of our best distance hens Stardust. She was bred by Dean Pallat and is 100% Jelle Jellema. She flew 45th Open CSCFC Thurso, 2nd Section, 18th BICC Nat Agen & 2nd Section, 7th NFC Tarbes 2022, 40th BICC St Philbert and 2nd Section, 4th Open St Maixent-Ecole 2023. Thank you to everyone who has personally congratulated us on our birds' recent performances in the Nationals. 1st & 2nd Section Alençon, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 10th Sec, 2nd, 5th, 7th & 12th Nat St Philbert. 3rd Sec, 13th NFC Nat Fougères, 1st & 2nd Section, 3rd & 4th Nat St Maixent-Ecole with 5 birds likely to be in or around the top 20 open positions. We now look forward to the marathon races with the BICC.'

2nd South West Section, 6th Open were Lanahan & Gerard of Poole on 1043 over 312 miles. The St Philbert National winners followed up with another excellent section performance. Danny said, 'Well done to all the winners. Our yearling hen was bred out of our race team from a chequer Jan Aarden hen which was our first pigeon from Messac, NFC and 3rd Section, 122nd Open when paired to a chequer Jellema cock. She was sent on our widowhood chaos system.'

3rd South West Section, 10th Open was N Stevens of North Perrott on 1037 over 329 miles. Nick said, 'My first bird was a 2019 hen of Padfield family, Wim Muller lines. She was sent to NFC Messac and returned in such good condition I put her into St. Maxient. Her cock bird, pictured and also

2019, was my second bird. He is a House of Arden Padfield being a double grandson of The Iron Lady. They both flew the St. Vincent/Tarbes race of 2022, not well, but they got home. I must thank Dave and John Staddon. I got a lift to BICC Perpignan marking with them and I was getting my birds home but hours/days behind them. So, I asked lots of questions, listening, then implementing, mainly feeding and remortgaging the house! I am now feeding Versa Laga and I am now under one hour behind. Still room for improvement but thank you.'



D & J Staddon



Lanahan & Gerard



Nick Steven's bird

The Provisional North Centre Section Winners

1st North Centre Section, 35th Open, was John Black of Hitchen on 878 over 387 miles. John said, 'Hi Mike the bird I timed in first from St Maixent-Ecole was a two-year-old red chequer widowhood cock, having his second race of the season. The sire was bred and gifted to me by Guy Read from the Isle of Wight, and the lines include George, Little Gem, Wiinney and Morning Glory, so big thanks to Guy. The dam was bred and gifted to me by Jamie Clarke of Snelling, Kent. Her sire is Seb the father of Wingdown, when paired to my good national hen. So, a big thanks to Jamie as well. Red 27, what I now call him, was 8th Section last year in a very hard St Philbert race, provisionally 5th Section this year's St Philbert and now 1st Section St Maixent-Ecole. I would just like to say thanks to the BICC for the condition the birds were in on their return. I had 10 home from 12, and well done to all the section winners.'

2nd North Centre Section, 39th Open, was Dave George of Letchworth on 868 over 386 miles. George timed a 2020 dark chequer cock, who's great grandsire was New Laureat, 1st Int Barcelona on the cock's side, and whose grandsire was Black Shadow, 2nd Int Barcelona, on hen's side. Dave told me, 'She has been a consistent bird with decent results from two St Philbert's races, being in the top 100 Open. He was bred by the House of Aarden, as a kit of young birds I purchased, when I returned to racing after 30 years out of the game. I'm hoping they start to show at the distance now, as I have several 2 and 3-year-olds in the loft.'

3rd North Centre Section, 47th Open, was Brian Clarke of Hitchen on 793 over 387 miles. Brian timed a 4-year-old bird but wasn't able to provide any more information.



John Black



Dave George

The Provisional North East Section Winners

1st North East Section, 7th Open, was Jonathan Palmer of Ipswich on 1042 over 402 miles. Having put in an excellent performance to time his pigeon on the day, over 400 miles, Jonathan explained his system, 'My birds are flown on dry widowhood/chaos type system that seems to be working quite well. I hardly train the old birds once racing starts, so the only time they get together is on race days or if I decide to let them together before basketing, but that isn't very often. They are fed to appetite, with Gem Plus and added maples and fats. My first bird was bred by club mate David Fisher of Ipswich, and his last race prior to St Maixent-Ecole was the BICC's St Philbert from 335 miles, when he also homed on the day from a tough race. He is bred off a son of Isla's Rainy Day Boy and the dam is a daughter of Joe Raeburn's Westbound, when he was paired to a daughter of Paul Kendall's, Litton Glory. IRDB- 1st Int Pau, Litton Glory 1st NFC Tarbes, Westbound 3rd BICC Barcelona. My second bird, which I bred myself, put in her best performance to date. Her sire was bred by Mark Bulled, a direct son of his Old '60, but was purchased from Fred Cornwell of Southend. The dam being a direct daughter of Isla's Rainy Day Boy, when he was paired to a daughter of Mark Bulled's, Legacy.

I would like to thank the everyone at the Basildon marking station, David for breeding me the bird and the both clubs I'm a member of; for all their help. That's the Ipswich and District Flying Club and Colchester Invitation Pigeon Club. And lastly, I would like to congratulate the winner Kevin Foster and everyone who timed, on what turned out to a testing race.'

2nd North East Section, 99th Open, was Deller & Pettitt of Cambridge on 513 over 401 miles. The partnership timed a Brixcou/Jansen cross bred from Noel Callaghan of Cambridge, from stock. He had been lightly raced and had 2 channel races, prior to St Maixent. They'd like to congratulate all the section winners on a very hard race.

3rd North East Section, 100th Open, were Mr & Mrs M A Payne & T Foster of nr Fakenham, on 512 over 447 miles. The partnership of Mrs M A Payne & T Foster is made up of Mike and Sandra Payne, who live near Fakenham, Norfolk, from where they race and their friend Trevor Foster, who has the stock birds. Trevor very recently moved to Great Yarmouth. They told me that they timed 2-year-old cock, who returned with a chest injury. His 4 grandparents are their 1st Sect MNFC Bordeaux hen, a Hagen hen, who has flown Tarbes, a son of David Hales, Daves Diva and a Paul Woolliss' cock through, Palona, Lona and Ambition. So, a well-bred bird my anyone's standards.



Jonathan Palmer's section
winner



Deller & Pettitt



Mr & Mrs M A Payne & T
Foster

The Provisional North West Section Winners

1st North West Section, 4th Open, was M R Williams of Hereford on 1057 over 403 miles. Martin followed up the section win from St Philbert with another and said, 'Firstly a big congratulations to Kevin Foster. With a latish liberation and thunder storms around, a hard race was on the cards. As time moved on, with rain, thunder and then getting dark very quickly, I started to think I wouldn't get a bird. Then, at 21:11, like a jet he went straight in! It was that blue Jellema cock again. He was my first bird from a hard St Philbert race, winning 1st Section, 20th Open. What a trier this pigeon is. It

was such a wonderful sight on a hard day. His breeding is inbred Romee, through the Jan Morsink lines. Thank you to Trevor Booth and John Roper for striking my clock so late in the day.'

2nd North West Section, 41st Open, were Booth & Roper of Tewkesbury on 816 over 396 miles. Booth and Roper timed a blue chequer cock to take provisionally 2nd NW section and 41st Open. The bird was clocked on the second day flying just short of 400 miles. This pigeon previously took 2nd NW Section, 18th Open BICC Guernsey this year. He is bred from the lines of Cooper/Mark Gilbert. Last year he was hit by hawks several times. They decided enough was enough and he didn't race again that year, looking after him to race again this year and has proved to be very consistent. They would like to congratulate the open winner, Kevin Foster and their good friend Martin Williams for taking 1st NW section.

3rd North West Section, 96th Open, was L Brewer of Worcester on 527 over 406 miles. Lionel timed a 2-year-old to take another good section position.



Martin Williams



Booth & Roper



Lionel Brewer

The Provisional Top Ten Open Positions:

1st Kevin Foster of Longfield Hill on 1146.473, 2nd Dean Childs of Wickford on 1127.048, 3rd D & J Staddon of Ditchat on 1090.217, 4th M R Williams of Hereford on 1057.536, 5th S Buckle of Northwood on 1052.015, 6th Lanahan & Gerard of Poole on 1043.064, 7th Jonathan Palmer of Ipswich on 1042.177, 8th Damian Szpak of Deptford on 1039.881, 9th I Ripan of Stanmore on 1038.975, 10th N Stevens of North Perrott on 1037.963.

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