

British International Championship Club



Siant Philbert National Provisional Race Report 27th May 2023

St Philbert is situated between Tours and Nantes and is a small village in the north-west of France. The Saint who gave the village its name is also responsible for naming the filbert nut, or hazel nut, as we now call it. The reason for this is that the filbert ripens around the same time as the Saint's feast day, which is on August 20th. The last time the BICC raced from St Philbert was on July 2nd, 2022, as part of the Master's race, coordinated by the RPRA as part of a joint liberation along with the NFC, BBC and CSCFC.

This was the BICC's third National race of the season, where 238 members sent 2,797 birds that were liberated at 6.45am on Saturday 27th May. Each Section sent the following: South Centre 109 members sent 1,400 birds, South East 52 sent 687, South West 39 sent 334, North Centre 15 sent 167, North East 15 sent 141, and in the North West 7 members sent 68 birds.

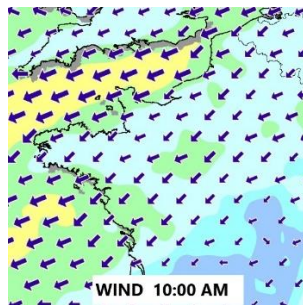
Steve Appleby, the BICC race and weather advisor, provided the following report:

The weather/race report

Weather conditions for this BICC race from St Philbert supported the forecast as a good flying day. Liberation was affected at 0645 under blue skies into a light E/N/E wind, with the convoy clearing the site in one batch. The main factor affecting the race, as is always the case was the wind direction. The continuing presence of a high-pressure system over southern England for the past few weeks was responsible for generating the easterly winds. These were at their strongest over the Channel reaching speeds of up to 20 mph. As a result, the easterly element in the wind, which is not pigeon friendly, affected overall returns. The wind conditions for this race from St Philbert are clearly borne out by the wind flow chart, which gives a fair picture of wind strength and direction at 10:00 am on Saturday morning. Channel conditions were good under mainly blue skies with clear visibility. The convoyers reported on their return journey through France that winds were fairly light from the E/N/E. On arriving at Caen flags were outstretched and looking out to sea and they observed white horses on the wave tops confirming the increase in wind strength over the sea. Well done to all pigeons reaching their lofts in a testing race.



View from the coast on the Cherbourg Peninsula.



Wind Map

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

The Provisional Open winner, taking 1st South West Centre Section were Lanahan & Gerard of Poole on 1330 over 250 miles. Danny said, 'Well done to all the winners it was another great race run by the BICC and with all birds arriving back in top condition. We currently have 9 from the 12 that we sent and are provisionally, 1st and 6th Open from 2,797 birds. It's been a tough start to the season for the birds this year, but they are now performing well. Our winner this week is a two-year-old hen bred from two pigeons out of the race loft. They were both bred for us by Gary & Prilly Hodges from stock they had on loan from John. The father of the winner is from our Zwarte Louderes pigeons, 1st National St Vincent 16,340 birds from 600 miles, when paired to a hen of Gary Inkley. The mother is from Lady 300 which is a top breeding hen and mother to Dracula 2018, 1st 6774b at 374 km, 1st 4588b from 377km, 1st 3520b from 377km, 1st 3476b from 383km, 1st 4630b from 383km, so from top racing blood all round. She was sent to St Philbert on a roundabout/chaos system and did us proud to take top spot at the BICC National. We are also delighted to win the BENZING - Gantner state-of-the-art clocking System. Once again, thanks to the BICC and good luck all for the rest of the season.'



John Gerard & Danny Lanahan



Danny with his beautiful children

RO16-2300
'Lady 300' ♀

Original Duca lutan
Mother to: Dracula (K 1), winner of:
1. Sheffield: 6.774 p (374 km)
1. Palanca: 4.588 p (377 km) 07.07.2019
1. Palanca: 3.520 p (377 km) 13.07.2019
1. Dubaarl: 3.476 p (383 km) 07.07.2018
1. Dubaarl: 463 p (383 km) 15.07.2018
4. Palanca: 1.341 p
24. Dubaarl: 1.243 p
27. Palanca: 1.212 p
170. Moana: 17.340 p (305 km)

Mother to:
31. National Ace Pigeon Youngsters 2017

Grandmother to:
5. National Ace Pigeon Cat. F 2018
1. Macarossi: 2.049 p (115 km)
1. Boldu: 947 p (127 km)
1. Moana: 826 p (305 km)
2. Volea Manu: 745 p (192 km)

欧洲信鸽站
European Pigeon
Tel: 0031-651266883 (Europe) 13146618133 (UK)
www.eurogob.com Email: EPW@eurogob.com

Lady 300

ZWARTE LOURDES
CHAMPION RACER AND BREEDER
FROM JOHN GERARD UK
DARK COCK #L2056-1194457

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Owner: John Gerard (Mr Hartog)
123 gough crossway - Dorset BH17 7J
England UK
06403232416
email: john.gerard@john.co.uk

Zwarte Lourdes, Dark Cock

The Provisional South West Section Winners

2nd South West Section, 2nd Open were D & J Staddon of Ditcheat on 1285 over 281 miles. A partnership having another super race is the Ditcheat duo of Dave & John Staddon. They are looking at winning the provisional 2nd West Section, 2nd Open, 4th Section, 5th Open, 5th Section, 7th Open & 10th Section, 12th Open. Dave reported, "Thank you to the BICC for another successful cross-channel race. The markers and ICs make everything run like clockwork. Huge congratulations to Danny Lanahan and his partner John Gerrard with an outstanding winner and congratulations to all the other section winners and outstanding pigeons in the race. Another very tough race was the order of the day with strong ENE winds in the Channel. Our team of Chaos Widowhood pigeons performed at the top of their game. At the time of writing, we have 28/32. We look like having 4 four birds in the top 12 of the Open which we are delighted with. Our first bird is a yearling cock who hasn't taken a next box or a hen and sits each night in the aviary. He is long-distance bred and is part of a co-breeding plan we did with our good mate, Mark Williamson of Ashbourne, in Derbyshire. We paired Mark's crack racing hen Lady B who won the 1st Open Midland National Bordeaux, 560 miles on the day, with our new breeding star Mad Max II. Those with a sharp eye will have noticed that Lady B also appears in the winning four pigeons of Mark Gilbert's from the Alencon race, as Lady B was previously co-breeding at Southfield lofts. Mad Max II is bred by the Dutch long-distance ace fancier Frank Zwiers. He is the son of Frank's Mad Max, 1st International Ace Pigeon 2019/20 and 1st European Ace Pigeon 2020, timed in the dark from both Pau and Narbonne. Mad Max II's, dam is Aurora who won 5th Nat St Vincent 1518b, 6th ZLU Agen 4,776b, 18th International Agen 11,572b, 11th Nat St Vincent 2,710b. As this yearling cock is bred for much further distances, we are happy with this performance, and he will now be sent to NFC Messac before a crack at 600 miles later this season. Good luck to all BICC members for the rest of the National and International season.'

3rd South West Section, 3rd Open was Mr & Mrs King of Blandford Forum on 1265 over 255 miles. Mel and Sue said, 'Congratulations to the winners and section winners. Our first bird from St Philbert is again from our well-established Vandenabeele based family. Her dam is a full sister to our 1st Open NFC Coutances winner and her sire is a grandson of our 1st Open BICC Falaise winner, when he was paired to the dam of our 1st Open CSCFC Bergerac winner. Our hen was raced on our, celibate/widow-hens system. Our thanks go to all the marking station workers and officials that help make channel racing possible.'



Dave & John Staddon



Mel & Sue King

The Provisional South Centre Section Winners

1st South Centre Section, 4th Open was Mr & Mrs Gower of Wood Green on 1261 over 258 miles. The partnership timed a lovely small to medium sized Vandenabeele hen bred from two stock birds they purchased from Mark Evans. The sire is from Everyone's choice when paired to Keons Golden Girl. The dam is from Olympic rings when paired to Leading Lady, 1st Open BICC Guernsey. Mark said, 'She has been a consistent hen without scoring, her preparation for this race was 2 x inland races

and Guernsey 2 weeks ago. Congratulations to Dan and John on winning the race and all the section winners on a tough race.'

2nd South Centre Section, 5th Open were Berry & Mathews of Hants on 1245 over 244 miles. Rod told me, 'The pigeon we clocked is a 4-year-old Jelle -Mema bird, bred by House Of Arden, the only one left out of twelve we bought to race. She has scored over the Channel and inland. We sent 5 birds to the race and had 3 in good time; our second pigeon will also be in the top 20 of the Open. Our pigeons have been in good form this year, winning the fed 4 times out of 7, with multiple positions each time. We have been racing our pigeons on the widowhood system for 54 years now, winning short races and long ones through to Tarbes and Thurso.'

3rd South Centre Section, 17th Open was Andrei Bargoanu of Bassingstoke on 1172 over 272 miles. Andrei's bird has always been a very consistent hen. She was bred by Andrei from some eggs that he picked up from Daniel Coropciuc and he intends to send her to Barcelona next.



Mark Gower



Rod Berry



Andrei Bargoanu

The Provisional South East Section Winners

1st South East Section, 51st Open was Damian Szpak of Deptford on 1074 over 278 miles. Following on from a good section position in Alencon, Damian told me, 'I clocked a 2-year-old hen to win the section with a 9-minute lead over my second pigeon which will be 2nd Section. Probably 5 of my pigeons will be in the first 8 of the section on this very hard race, especially to the east of the country. My winning pigeon is a half-sister to Queen 85, from the same dam, and the sire is a half-brother to, Armora, 4th Open BICC. My other pigeons are also bred around this bloodline. Last year, the winning hen won 38th, 48th & 57th Open BICC as a yearling, and was beat to the trap to win 1st Thames and other good positions. I gave her sister to my friend Peter Komaniecki and she's taken 8 x 1st to his loft as a young bird and yearling. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to Mark Gilbert and Carol at the marking station.'

2nd South East Section, 67th Open were J & J Whitting of Lee on 1054 over 280 miles. John explained, 'This is the second time our 4-year-old cock, who is Cattrysse based, has been in the top ten of the ES Section. He was previously 8th Section Guernsey 2,086 birds and on the second St Philbert last year, he was 55th BICC 5,475 birds and 30th NFC 3,355 birds. This is our second channel race of the year, we started at Guernsey after one club race, but we missed Alencon and went into St Philbert, which was always going to be a hard, but fair race, with the wind. We would like to congratulate our club mate Damian Szpak on being 1st Section along with Tom Firminger for taking 3rd Section and all the winners.'

3rd South East Section, 69th Open were Pine Walk Lofts of Bromley on 1051 over 277 miles. Pine Walk Lofts were founded seven years ago by Jim Elston, Steve Dunne former editor of the RP, and Tom Firmager. They had moderate success over four years, then Steve and Jim sadly passed away

and Tom soon found the work load too much and was going to pack it in. Then Tom Williams of Orpington, a well-known distance flyer asked Tom if he would like some help. Tom Firminger explained, 'To say Tom Williams was a breath of fresh air to me was an understatement. Tom W is 84 years and I'm 80. We get on fine and the results at Pine Walk Lofts have steadily improved over the last three years since we have been partners. Our 3rd Section winner was a Joss Thone grizzle cock, who thrives on hard work. His dam was a gift from Chris Baxter of Goole, Yorkshire, and his sire was gifted by George Brockie of Eltham. We would like to thank our friends Tommy Sparkes and Pauline for their advice and gifts of some class pigeons and say congratulations to all the winners on a very hard race, and of course to the marking team at Higham marking station.'



Damian Szpak



J & J Whitting



Tom F & Tom T

The Provisional North Centre Section Winners

1st North Centre Section, 11th Open was Dominic Gruzelier of Houghton Conquest on 1192 over 323 miles. Dominic told me, 'The section winner is a home bred yearling grizzle hen raced on widowhood. She has already won 4th club, 13th fed Purbeck and 4th section, 55th Open BICC Alencon behind loft mates. Her father is from a double grandson of Best Kittle to Best Kittle, 1st Ace winner, Ace YB in Antwerp. The mother is a grand-daughter and inbred to Gaby Vanenabeele, Bliksem, I brought though PIPA from Pieter Oberholster. She has already bred club winners and 2nd fed, 8th UBI Combine Guernsey with different clocks. I'll probably take the first 3 in the section and had 13 from 15 on the day.'

2nd North Centre Section, 31st Open was Freddie Banister of Doddington on 1128 over 352 miles. Freddie said, 'This little grizzle hen was provisional 30th Open, 2nd NC section flying from St Philbert over 352 miles, on a very hard day with the BICC. She has been a good hen in the past with a few club and fed positions, racing on the sliding door system. She was bred by a good friend Jepson Bennett. The sire is an inbred grandson of Pit Bull and the dam is a granddaughter of Nigel Laycox's Northern Bound. I will give her a little rest now and prepare her for the next one.'

3rd North Centre Section, 35th Open was Dave George of Letchworth on 1109 over 319 miles. Dave timed a 2-year-old, home bred, widowhood cock of Padfield x Jansen bloodlines. A consistent pigeon that flew St Philbert last year and was well up in section, and a prize winner and pool winner in the club.



Dominic Gruzelier



Freddie Bannister



Dave George

The Provisional North East Section Winners

1st North East Section, 86th Open was Roly Rix of Newmarket on 1018 over 337 miles. Roly timed the same pigeon that took 3rd Section from Alencon two weeks earlier. He is one of his most consistent birds but has only started to take prizes over the last 2 years. Named, Joe 90, he also won 1st Section from Guernsey in 2022. The bird's breeding is from Ray Farrington's NRCC birds with Van Hee crosses. There are distance lines in this bird, and he always proves himself on a hard racing day. Roly would like to congratulate Kevin and Jonathan for taking the other section positions and to the Open winner.

2nd North East Section, 93rd Open, was Kelvin Sharman of Syleham on 1006 over 347 miles. Kelvin said, 'My first pigeon home is from the lines of Mark Gilbert's Southfield Supreme x Mark Bullied's Legacy. By Sunday evening I had 24 home from the 30 I sent. The Alencon race, two weeks ago, was this pigeon's first time over the Channel, being my second bird home that day. Can I thank the marking team at Northampton for marking the birds.'

3rd North East Section, 103rd Open was Jonathan Palmer of Ipswich on 967 over 334 miles. 'My first bird was bred at my previous loft location and settled to my new loft last spring', said Jonathan, he continued, 'His sire and dam were bought off Tucker Fox of Clacton when he packed up in 2020. They are breeding me some decent birds. The sire being a direct son of the Duck who scored 6th BICC Mont de Marsan & 83rd BICC Pau 2018, when paired to direct daughter of Isla's Rainy Day Boy. The dam is a direct daughter of the 2010, 1st Open NFC Poitiers winner. My second bird is one of my most consistent older hens. Her sire was bred by David Fisher of Ipswich, off Joe Raeburn's Barcelona blood, Isla's Rainy Day Boy and Legacy lines. The dam was purchased as a young bird off Tucker Fox, and she is a granddaughter of Mark Bullied's Legacy, 1st NFC Tarbes 2012 and Dean Child's Chalice Sidney, 1st BICC St Vincent in 2017. The birds are currently raced on a dry widowhood/chaos type system with the intention of pairing them later in the season for the first time this year.'



Roly Rix



Kelvin Sharman



Jonathan Palmer

The Provisional North West Section Winners

1st North West Section, 10th Open was Martin Williams of Tarrington on 1198 over 340 miles.

Martin said, 'Firstly I would like to congratulate Lanahan & Gerard on their race win. My first bird is a 2-year-old Jellema cock on his 2nd channel race. Flown on the roundabout system, his breeding is inbred Romee. This is the same line as my Tarbes winner, through my good friend Jan Morsink of Holland. Seeing that it was going to be a tough race, I sent a good team of Jellema birds. They came through with flying colours, having 13 out of 18 on the day. Five minutes after my first bird, my second arrived. He is out of my old line, a 2-year-old cock, who was my 2nd Section bird from Alencon with the BICC two weeks ago.'

2nd North West Section, 14th Open, were Booth & Roper of Tewkesbury on 1178 over 333 miles.

Trevor and John timed a 3-year-old widowhood blue chequer pied, Jan Aarden, cock to provisionally take 2nd Section, 14th Open. This bird took 1st Section from Alencon 2 weeks earlier. This was also a very tough race for him. He is a son of Sportsview Diamond who took many good positions in channel races including 7th Section, 84th Open Sigogne NFC, 8th Section, 8th Open Saintes MCCFC, 4th Section, 7th Open Norte sur Erdre MNFC and more. They would like to congratulate Danny Lanahan and John Gerrard on winning this race. Twelve months earlier Trevor and John had 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Section and 5th Open from this same race, also winning them the Benzing system. The following day John (Mr Hartog) arrived at their lofts and can be seen in the photo holding one of the section birds. Such a coincidence that 12 months later he and Danny are winning this race. Trevor and John would also like to congratulate their good friend Martin Williams on winning the section and all other section winners.

3rd North West Section, 78th Open was Lionel Brewer of Worcester on 1031 over 343 miles.

Lionel timed a 5-year-old blue chequer pied hen to take provisionally 3rd NW section. This is the first year that he is trying some widowhood hens in national competition. This hen is bred from his most successful lines that have produced many top performers over the years, winning MNFC and MCC races, as well as good positions in NFC competitions. Now having joined the BICC long may it continue. The next race for his hens will be St Maxient-Ecole. His thanks go to Trevor and John (Booth and Roper) for taking his birds to Steventon for marking. He would like to congratulate Lanahan and Gerard on their success in winning the Open, and to Martin Williams on winning the Section.



Martin Willaims



Booth & Roper with John Gerard



Loinel Brewer

The Provisional Top Ten Open Positions:

1st Lanahan & Gerard of Poole on 1330, 2nd D & J Staddon of Ditchat on 1285, 3rd Mr & Mrs M King of Blandford Forum on 1265, 4th Mr & Mrs M Gower of Woodgreen on 1261, 5th Berry & Matthews of Hants on 1245, 6th Wojciech Blachut of Trowbridge on 1238, 7th Brooks Bros & Wilcox of High Littleton on 1234, 8th G G Cooper & C.J Cooper of Peasedown St John on 1216, 9th Clive & Jill Rogers & Neil Writhlington on 1213, 10th M R Williams of Tarrington on 1198.

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