

British International Championship Club



Agen International Provisional Race Report 30th June 2023

The second International of the season, was held from Agen in southern France. Agen is approximately halfway between the two big cities of Bordeaux and Toulouse. Rugby Union is played in all three cities, but it is extremely popular in Agen. The local team, SU Agen, is enthusiastically supported and they currently play in the second division of the French league. That may account for why one of its' twin towns is Llanelli, in south Wales, which is equally, if not more enthusiastic, about its' rugby.

At this race, a total of 358 birds were sent by 80 members to join a total liberation of 29,688 in total. In Belgium, 12,530 birds were sent, 10,743 from The Netherlands, 795 from Germany and 5,269 from France. They were liberated at 7.15am BST. In the BICC, each section sent the following: South Centre, 33 members sent 121 birds, South East 26 sent 142, South West 10 sent 25, North Centre 10 sent 60 and in the North East 1 member sent 10 birds.

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

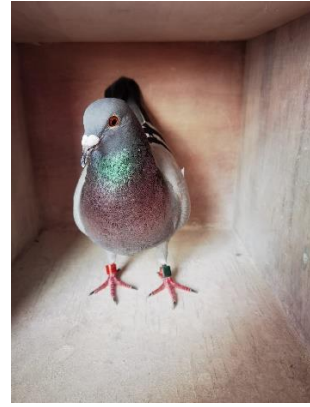
The Provisional Open winner, taking 1st South west Section was Tomasz Fedyk of Melsham on 766 over 537. After a tough first day of racing, Tomasz was the first member to time into the UK on day two at 9.50am. He was also the only member to time in the south west section. Having previously won the Section 4 times, this is Tomasz's first National win and he said it was just the best feeling, like being on top of the World. Winning the Section is great, but winning the Open is something different he said. A delighted Tomasz, of this newly crowned National winning loft, told me, 'First of all, I would like to congratulate everyone who clocked in their pigeons. My winner is named Bella Blue. As a young bird, she was one of my best pigeons. This year she achieved 86th Open from St Philbert and 215th Open from St Maixent. She is also the full sister to my 1st Section winner from Hexham. The sire of this hen is a blue cock of G & C Cooper's. The dam is my top breeder, a blue hen, who is the full sister to Julie, the Classic Champion of 2017, from Steve Slade. Finally, can I thank everyone who took care of the pigeons during this race and to all those who have congratulated me.'



Tomasz Fedyk, Open winner



Wing of Open winner



Bella Blue on her return to the loft



Bella Blue



The eye

The Provisional South Centre Section Winners

1st South Centre Section, 5th Open was V Dobrovshi of Kingbury on 653 over 534 miles. Val timed a yearling blue cock over this 500 plus mile race to top the section. As can be seen by the pedigree, there are Van Hee bloodlines on both sides of the breeding. Val was delighted with the position and wanted to congratulate all those who timed and to thank the BICC for competing in the International race.

2nd South Centre Section, 13th Open was Team Magda-Cernitu of Hemel Hempstead on 612 over 548 miles. Their winning pigeon was a yearling dark chequer raced on the natural system and sent to the race on 7-day-old youngster. On the father's side, the breeding is 100% Kipp und Sohne, with Le Petite Marseille and De Barcelona in the pedigree. Both International winners. The father is a full brother to, RO-18-1042196, who took 9th Tokmak from 9,957 birds over 912km. Marian said, 'The mother is a daughter of my very good racer, 525, who has scored from 150-1200 km, being 1st Faurei 5,541 birds from 267km, 25th Buftea 12,880 birds from 152km and 8th Izium National 1,900 birds from 1,180km. We are over the moon with the result, as 2023 is our first year competing in UK. Can we congratulate all on making the result on a very difficult race for the UK.'

3rd South Centre Section, 16th Open was Ionut Brumia of Harrow on 602 over 535 miles. Ionut said, 'The winner of 3rd Section, 16th Open in the Agen International is GB21V14639 a 2-year-old cock bred by my good friend Pete Blundred from Stoke On Trent. He was raced on the natural system and sent to Agen sitting on 10-day old eggs. In preparation for Agen, he was sent with the Harrow club for a few inland races and then with BICC for all the Nationals. Can I congratulate everyone on the result on a very challenging race for UK.'



Pedigree of V Dobrovski's bird



Ionut Brumia



The Team Magda-Cernitu family



Team Magda-Cernitu

The Provisional South East Section Winners

1st South East Section, 3rd Open was Traian T Ferentz of Romford on 702 over 532 miles. Traian's bird has previously won the section from Elgin and he timed his chequer cock GB20V80102, a Wanroy Van De Poel with Ronnie Elliott in the pedigree, to take an excellent section win from Agen. He was raced natural on the nest and had just been re-paired.

2nd South East Section, 4th Open was A Annis & Son of Wingham on 699 over 510 miles. The partnership timed a 4-year-old bird to take 2nd Section, 4th Open but were not able to provide any more information.

3rd South East Section, 6th Open were L & K Buddle on 651 over 500 miles. The ever-consistent National winning loft of L & K Buddle timed a 2-year-old hen racing in her first 500 mile International of her racing career. In preparation she had been raced inland with the Kent Cosmo Fed and had 2 channel races with the EECC from Fontenay 187 miles and Saran 220 miles. Lee said, 'This year we have changed our feeding, switching to Vanrobaeys corns and we have seen the difference in the pigeon's bodies since doing this. The breeding of the 3rd Section, 6th Open BICC Agen hen is 100% Mark Gilbert bloodlines. Her sire is a grandson of Mark's, Southfield Melissa, 1st International Agen 2011 and Starlight, 2nd International Tarbes, with Euro Diamond and Southfield Supreme in the pedigree, bred by Andrew Macmillan. The dam is a granddaughter of Mark's, Southfield Iron Man, 1st Nat BICC Perpignan 2018, 2nd Nat BICC Marseille 2018, 7th Nat BBC Palamos Spain 2018, 135th National Tarbes 2017 and Southfield Dark Star, 1st Nat BICC St Vincent in 2018 and 19th Open NFC Tarbes. On the dam's side, is a double granddaughter of Jelle Jellema's, Orion on the sire side, bred by Mark Sparey. We would like to congratulate Tomasz Fedyk on his win and all who timed from this difficult International race.



Traian T Ferentz



L&K Buddle



Wing of
L&K Buddle's bird

The Provisional North Centre Section Winners

1st North Centre Section, 2nd Open were Mrs & Mrs R Bradford of Irchester on 723 over 584 miles. Having timed one of the longest flying birds in the UK race, Russell said, 'In the 13 years I was treasurer of the club I was fortunate to be in contact with many of the best distance and cross-channel flyers in the UK, with the maestro Mark Gilbert counting amongst them. Mark very kindly gifted me six youngsters some two years ago, and I have tried to be patient and nurture this two-year-old chequer cock. He had his first channel crossing this year, at Guernsey, followed by BICC Alencon, and then taking 4th Section 'H' in the NFC at Messac. Then a big jump from just over 300 miles to Agen at 585 miles and the massive birdage which I anguished about. But he certainly showed his pedigree. His sire is a son of, Golden Barcelona and is a full brother to Gold Lady, and the mother is from Starlight Melissa. Starlight was 2nd International Tarbes and Melissa won the International, of all places, from Agen! Thank you Mark for introducing such quality into my loft, and I anticipate he might have to have another crack at Agen again next year. Can I also thank all the people who phoned or emailed me and say how good it was to hear from some who I've not spoken to for ages.'

2nd North Centre Section, 7th Open was Dave George of Letchworth on 650 over 563 miles. Dave continued his return to racing and building his long-distance team by timing a dark chequer, 2020 bred, cock. He said, 'He has been a very consistent pigeon at Nationals, over the 300-mile mark. Taking 8th Section, 75th Open St Philibert's in 2022, 5th Section, 46th Open St Philibert's, 2nd Section, 39th Open St Maixent and now 2nd Section, 7th Open Agen in 2023. He was bred by the House of Arden. I also timed his son at 6am on the Monday morning, having got 2 back from the 3 I sent, and was very happy to do this in a very difficult race. I would like to congratulate the winner, timing a very game pigeon early on the second day.'

3rd North Centre Section, 18th Open were Mr & Mrs G Davidson of Bedford on 585 over 574 miles. Graeme told me, 'She's a three-year-old natural hen bred down from some Louella Jan Aarden pigeons that I bought when I restarted in 2018. She's a very consistent pigeon, in that she's reliable, but had never been tested properly at 500 plus miles. She had already been to the BICC Guernsey and Alencon races this season but didn't do well. She then had two short club races to build up her fitness before going to Agen feeding a large youngster. I really wasn't sure about sending her to Agen in that nest condition, but she was looking good and seemed to be fit enough, not knowing of course what a difficult race it would be. So, I'm very pleased indeed with the way she performed in this race.'



Russell Bradford



Dave George



Mr & Mrs Davidson



Mr & Mrs Davidson's bird back on the nest

The Provisional North East Section Winners

1st North East Section, 11th Open was Kelvin Sharman of Syleham on 635 over 584 miles. The north-east's consistent long-distance fancier timed a three-year-old cock, bred by Doug Gatland of Surrey with Southfield Melissa, Tarbeman and Razor's Girl in the breeding. 'Well done to all that clocked pigeons in a very hard race.' said Kelvin.



Kelvin Sharman

Overall International Winner

The International winner from Agen was Mertens Walter of Mol, Belgium. The pigeon was clocked on Friday at 19:29 CEST after a race of 538 miles at a velocity of 1405.86ypm.



Mertens Walter

The Provisional Top Ten Open Positions:

1st Tomasz Fedyk of Melksham on 766.198, 2nd Mr & Mrs R Bradford of Irchester on 723.577, 3rd Traian F Ferentz of Romford on 702.251, 4th A Annis & Son of Wingham on 699.918, 5th V Dobrovolschi of Kingsbury on 653.968, 6th L & K Buddle of Dover on 651.284, 7th Dave George of Letchworth on 650.759, 8th Mr F J Cornwell Southend-on-Sea on 649.300, 9th P C Delea of Rainham on 639.018, 10th Knowles & Son of Wingham on 635.712.

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