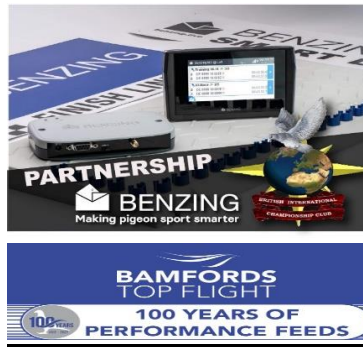


British International Championship Club



Barcelona International Provisional Race Report

July 7th 2023

"I had a perfect dream, the dream was me and you, I want the World to see, a miracle sensation, my guide and inspiration." The opening lines of the anthem of the Barcelona Olympics. For anyone who sends to Barcelona, getting a bird back is like a dream come true, but on Saturday 7th July at 21.51.27, something quite miraculous happened. For the first time, on the first day from the longest race into the UK, a pigeon landed at Southfields Lofts to take 1st BICC Open, 6th International, for Mark Gilbert.

On Friday 8th July, 16,561 pigeons were liberated at 6.00am to make the epic journey back. Having to break from the flock to their respective countries, covering a huge land mass and for the UK birds, the English Channel, after flying over 500 miles. For this International, each country sent the following: Belgium 6,533, France 3,909, Netherlands 4,819, Germany 995, Luxembourg 36 and the UK 296 birds.

In the BICC, each Section sent the following: in the South Centre 27 members sent 93 birds, South East 27 members sent 93, in the South West 10 sent 23, North Centre 6 sent 26, North West 4 sent 25. In total, 77 members sent the 296 birds.

This is an extended report to cover as many members as possible who timed from what many consider to be the greatest pigeon race in the World. All members timed gallant birds and some great performances were put in by some of the UK's best. But this report must start with the story of a little bit of history.

1st Open, 6th International & 1st South Centre Section was Mark Gilbert of Winfield on 1290 over 679 miles. Over to Mark, 'Well what can I say, it seems our amazing season has just got even better. I still don't think what unfolded on Saturday night has even sunk in. Anyone who knows me will tell you how much I want to win Barcelona in the UK and how I have always said with the right conditions, right preparation and more importantly the right pigeons we could get a day pigeon on the clock. Well, on Saturday we made history at Southfield, managing to clock the very first pigeon on the day from Barcelona. They were liberated at 6am and after flying 698 miles in 15 hours and 51 minutes we managed to win 1st National and 6th International from 16,561 birds. Southfield History, as she is now called was paired up earlier in the season and sent on a 5-day baby and she pulled out all the stops to get home to that baby. We decided to have a go at the Internationals on natural only this year, and it has really paid off as we were also 1st National, 6th International from Pau. Even though she is only 2 years old she does have previous form. Last year she flew the National

Flying club Pau race, and after flying 570 miles in just over 15 and ½ hours scored 10th Section, 33rd National. Incidentally in the same race her nest mate scored 4th Section, 19th Open. Not bad for a pair of yearlings!

Her father is, Son Naomi of Cor de Heijde, 6th Int. Barcelona and her mother won 17th Int. Barcelona for Twan Bongers, so the apple didn't fall far from those trees. I would just like to say thanks very much for all the messages, I really do really appreciate them. To thank everyone would take so long, I'd be here for days trying to answer them all, so once again thank you all on this great day for us.'



Southfield History



Wing of the winner



Mark Gilbert

"Southfield history" GB 21-907201 H

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Pedigree of Southfield History



Wing of the winner

2nd Open, 1st South East Section was Kevin Foster of Longfield Hill on 1053 over 685 miles. Kevin also timed all 3 of his entries, taking 2nd, 15th and 21st Nat Barcelona. He said, 'Firstly, congratulations to Mark Gilbert and the outstanding performance of timing on the day from Barcelona, and all those who have had pigeons back in the result. It would be fair to say that I am a newcomer to racing from the Barcelona International having only raced once before with a single entry. This year, with a smaller team, it took some working out to cover St Maixent, Agen, Tarbes, and Barcelona. However, I could not be happier with the birds' form following on from previous years where they also performed consistently. I sent 3 to Barcelona and if you had told me that at 5am, when I started looking again, I would clock all three by 5pm and beat over 16,600 birds with the first I would have laughed.

My first pigeon was a 3-year-old widower cock bred by the Belgian International racers Van Ouwerkerk Dekkers. He along with the second pigeon home, were part of a batch I bought in 2020. I wanted to race half of them, but they were a little too old to fly out so only 4 were raced. He went to Tarbes in 2022 and came the second morning at 8am and would have made the first 150 but I closed the clock off after day one. Amazingly, he had returned badly hawked and with a broken leg. He was shut in his nest box for a month and even now has not fully moulted properly on his rump feathers. I watched him closely this year and he looked great so off he went.

His sire is a very good breeder for Jac, father of 12th Nat Perpignan, 29th Int and others to score from St Vincent and Pau Nationals. In turn he was a direct son of De Sterke, 24th Nat Barcelona and brother to 5th Nat Barcelona and again out of their top pigeon, Mr. St Vincent, 1st Nat St Vincent. His dam is a daughter of Night Flyer, 21st Nat Barcelona clocked at 1.04 am. He is a game pigeon and looked like a soldier when he landed and I have no doubt he came over, on the night.

The second pigeon, for 15th National is another direct VOD, a 3-year-old hen, who was my fourth pigeon, 94th Nat Tarbes NFC last year. Another pigeon that never looks anything but 100% fit before

or after any race, as she did when she dropped in this race. Her sire is, Paulo, 4th Nat Pau 37th International and a brother to 18th National Perpignan, 47th Nat Agen, 53rd Nat Narbonne, among other top 100 national prizewinners. Her mother is a direct daughter of, Mr. St Vincent, 1st National St Vincent. This is the line of Poco Barcelona, 1st Nat Ace Pigeon PIPA and 5th Nat Barcelona in 2019. My third and final pigeon was a 4-year-old hen, 11th Nat St Philbert NFC last year among other prizes, being very consistent in all her racing life and flying her first time from Barcelona. Her sire is a son of De Cas a top Barcelona International racer when paired to a daughter of, New Laureate x Klein Jade. Her mother is the granddaughter of Starlight x Melissa when paired to the father of my 2016 Le Mans National winner.

Finally, can I say to all those still skeptical or overawed about the processes involved in National and International racing come along to Sunbury or Higham marking stations to experience 'the buzz'. If you aren't inspired, then you are in the wrong sport.' What a performance by Kevin and his pigeons, who on another day could have taken the top spot.



Wing of the winner



Kevin Foster



Back with his hen, 30 mins after the race

3rd Open, 2nd South East Section was Darius Dumitrascu of Basildon on 971 over 696 miles. Darius said, 'The pigeon it's 50% Kipp and Son from Germany and 50% Lehel Varga from Romania bred by Florin Bodale, a good friend of mine. I sent the cock bird on eggs about 8 days, and he also had a young baby from the next round on the box. The pigeon is the same blood line as 23rd and 25th Nat Pau 2023 and 3rd at Agen 2022.'



3rd Open bird



Darius Dumitrascu



Pedigree

4th Open, 2nd South Centre Section was Andrei Bargaoanu of Basingstoke on 765 over 690 miles. Andrei said, 'My hen is a pigeon bred from a pair of eggs picked up from Daniel Coropciuc when I went to visit him for the first time. The hen was also 17th Open, 3rd Section from St Philbert this year and last year and she has been my best pigeon over 2 years.'



Andrei Bargaoanu's best pigeon

5th Open Mark Gilbert.

6th Open, 3rd South East Section was David Hales of Hockley on 889 over 699 miles. Duncan Goodchild racing as and for the late David Hales said, 'Hi Mike our timer from Barcelona recovered very quickly which was very encouraging. She is a 5- year-old hen sent sitting a 3-day old young bird. Her breeding is 100% Van Ouwerkerk Dekkers from Brasschaat Belgium. Previously she was 3rd National Narbonne and has flown 3 other International races. Her preparation races were from Fontenay and Saran with the EECC.'



David Hales, good timer

7th Open, 4th South East Section was F Knowles & Son of Wingham on 866 over 673 miles. Simon told me, 'Our blue cock was prepared with 2 channel races with the East of England Continental Club. Last season he went to St. Vincent only to be reported in Sussex by a non-fancier, after he had been hawked. The gentlemen fed and looked after him for a week then released him to return home. He was 40th Open BBC Bordeaux in 2019. He is a grandson of L & K Buddle's 1st and 2nd BICC Pau, with BC & Amor on the dam's side and Krauth bloodlines on the sire's side.'



Wing of Simon's bird



Simon Knowles

8th Open, 5th South East Section was G M Preece & Son of Dover on 863 over 673 miles. The 2022 winning partnership put in another excellent performance this year and said, 'Our first arrival, GB17D10278 was a 2017 latebred, September hatched. He had a great year for us last year, scoring 9th National Barcelona and 13th National Perpignan 2022. The breeding is: grandfather, Jack Jones

and the mother was also a great performance pigeon for us, 100% Bernd Morsnowski, 15.911 taking 6 National prizes, 3 x Perpignan, 2 x Barcelona and 1 x Agen.

Our second arrival was making his first time from Barcelona and last year he was 21st National Agen and 34th Perpignan. His sire is Jack Jones, and his mother is a daughter of Oswald Schneiders 14.175. She was three times in the prizes from Barcelona in successive years 2017,18 and 19 flying over 1200km. Our 2016 hen came in as our third arrival to complete her 5th race from Barcelona, safe to say she knows her way through the Pyrenees. Her mother's side is inbred to Jack Jones and her father's side is inbred to Robert Ben's Super Ben. Our next five arrivals came within an hour of each other including a Jack Jones daughter, Jubilee Barcelona, the 2022 UK National Winner and a direct Rezentel Freres hen. All our arrivals pedigrees will be on our website at www.internationalseapigeons.com for those who want to study the breeding of our 2023 Barcelona team. To get eleven pigeons in the clock on day two surpassed our own expectations.

Mike, you asked us for some tips for preparing for these races. Well, everyone's pigeons are different but what works best for ours is racing on widowhood, flying off the loft for 1 hour in the morning and 1 hour in the evening and a good couple of 6–8-hour training flights. Combine this with a bloodline that has been performing into your area for the last decade and you've got a good chance. The Barcelona 2023 was a great race to be part of and thanks to the BICC team for all their hard work.'



G M Preece & Son

9th Open GM Preece & Son, 10th Open Mark Gilbert, 11th Open Mark Gilbert.

12th Open, 7th South East Section was Traian Ferentz of Romford on 801 over 699 miles. Trian timed GB18B09582 a red cock of Paul Delea, Ronnie Elliott and V.d.Wegan bloodlines via Louella in the pedigree. Raced natural sitting 10 days eggs, who previously won 22 Nat BICC Tarbes in 2022.



Traian Ferentz

13th Open GM Preece & Son

14th Open, 1st North Centre Section were Kevin & Lauren Grace of Knesworth on 746 over 734 miles. Kevin said, 'I would like to say well done to Mark on a fantastic pigeon and I'd like to say a big thank you to the BICC for the hard work they put in so we can race. The mealy pigeon that I got was on the natural system, feeding a youngster five days old. My pigeons have an open loft for the month before the Barcelona race and as much food as they want. I would like to say a big thanks to everybody who has phoned and text me, to congratulate me, it's very much appreciated.'



Kevin & Lauren Grace

15th Open, Kevin Foster, 16th, 18th, 19th & 20th Open, GM Preece & Son, 21st Open Kevin Foster.

22nd Open, 6th South Centre Section was Antoce Andrei of Harrow on 688 over 705 miles. Antoce said, 'The pigeon that I clocked from Barcelona is a chequer cock from 2018. On the father's side is Raul & Xavier Verstraete and, on the mother's, side is Jules Rijkaert. At the beginning of the season, he had been raced on the widowhood system for a couple of races inland with the Harrow Club. Once the BICC races started he participated the Alencon and St Philbert races. After the St Philbert arrival he has been paired up in such way that the Barcelona race found him on 10 days baby. During this time, he had been trained by me, with no other races. I would like to mention that this pigeon had raced in 2020 from Agen, taking 30th Open, 16th Section over 536 miles, and Narbone 29th Open, 7th section over 604 miles. I feel very grateful to have a Barcelona pigeon.'



Antoce Andrei



Antoce's bird

23rd Open Mark Gilbert.

24th Open, 8th South Centre Section were Mr & Mrs Bunny of Portsmouth on 684 over 661 miles. Mick said, 'The bird was celibate up till one week before Barcelona and then sent paired, which was not my intention, but circumstances demanded it. The blue hen is from my original Dordin family which I started with, way back in 1980. Last year she was 7th Open, 2nd Section in the BICC from Barcelona.'



Mick Bunney

25th Open 9th South Centre Section was John Haynes of Fifield, on 665 over 700 miles. This was the first time for a while that John had entered Barcelona and he timed 3 of the 6 he sent. The first he timed was a blue hen whose dam was the full sister to his 3rd Open Pau bird and the sire was a

grandson to Kannibal Barcelona x Golden Barcelona. Most of John's distance birds are from Mark Gilbert's loft and he said of Mark performance, 'That was something else, well-done mate.'



John Haynes

26th Open, GM Preece & Son.

27th Open, 17th South East Section were L&K Buddle of Dover on 685 over 663 miles. Lee said, 'Our 17th ES, 27th Open BICC Barcelona is a 5-year-old hen flown on our Widowhood Chaos System. In preparation for Barcelona, she had the following races this year: 3 x inland to 130 miles, BICC Alencon 194 miles, BICC St Philbert 267 miles, BICC St Maixent 332 miles. She has been fed Vanrobaeys corns this year and fats added in the last week before race marking. She has previously flown: BICC Lerwick 2021 631 miles & BICC Barcelona 2022, 676 miles. She is a half-sister to our 2019 BBC Barcelona winner Triple Two. Her sire is Mike a winner of 3rd Open BICC Marseille 2014, 4th Open BICC Marseille 2011, 9th Open BICC Marseille 2013, 13th Open BICC Pau 2015, 13th Open BICC Agen 2014, 24th Open BICC Perpignan 2012, 37th Open BICC Pau 2013, 60th Open BICC Pau 2013, 64th Open BICC Pau 2012. BICC Certificate of Merit Award. Her Dam is a daughter of Pipi, a winner of 4th BICC Barcelona 2011, 9th BICC Barcelona 2014, 10th BICC Barcelona 2013 and verified injured from Barcelona 2012, 4 x Barcelona Int 673 miles. Our second pigeon to be timed winning 27th ES, 41st Open is a 5-year-old hen, daughter of our 'Elsa' 1st Nat BICC Narbonne 2014, 557 miles when paired to a son of Tom & Lynx, 1st Nat BICC Marseille 2017. Congratulations to Mark Gilbert and his team on his historic amazing achievement from Barcelona International.'



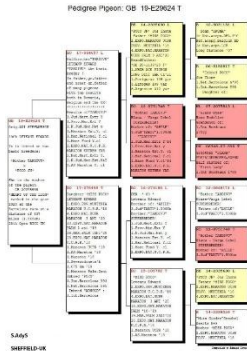
Lee & Kevin Buddle

28th Open, 2nd North Centre Section was Simion Stefanescu of Sheffield, on 653 over 837 miles.

Simion timed the longest flying bird in this year's race, an incredible 837 miles and it timed just after 8am on day 3. He also timed his second bird, late morning on day 4. He is the current and likely winner of the Jim Emerton Trophy for the longest flying bird in race time and highest velocity over 750 miles. As can be seen by Simion's pedigrees, his birds are full of long-distance bloodlines.



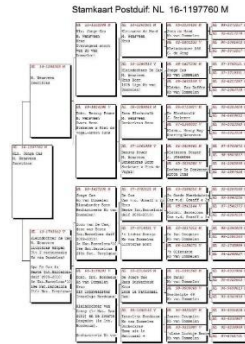
Simion Stefanescu



Pedigree of parents



Simion Stefanescu's bird



Pedigree of parents

29th Open Mark Gilbert, 30th Open GM Preece & Son.

31st Open, 11th South Centre Section was Doug Gatland of Hookwood, on 622 over 675 miles. Doug told me, 'I timed my Barcelona single entry at 8:02pm on the second day arriving in torrential rain. He is a 4- year-old light blue chequer cock now named Cornish Dream and has been prepared for Barcelona since birth. A real effort considering the restrictions placed upon us through covid and the impact of the new EU regulations. Cornish Dream was bred by Duncan Harvey of St Buryan, Cornwall and was a co breeding effort with the late Trevor Jenkyn from Penzance, I moved to a new house in January 2019 and in March Duncan and Trevor provided me with a team of young birds, with Trevor saying to me "wouldn't it be great to get one to Barcelona!" Cornish Dream is a previous winner of 14th Section, 38th BICC National Tarbes. In preparation for Barcelona, he had flown the BICC Alencon, St Philbert and St Maxient-Ecole races. Both the sire and dam were Louella Dutch distance pigeons purchased by Trevor, the sire being a grandson of Times 6 and Icon with the dam a granddaughter of Red Rum, La Rosa Benita and Barcelona 241. Finally, congratulations to all who timed from Barcelona and many thanks to the hard work and efforts of the BICC team who have worked so hard over these last two seasons to ensure we have a thriving cross channel and international race programme. 'And of course, Doug is part of that BICC team.



Cornish Dream

32nd Open GM Preece & Son, 33rd Open David Hales, 34th Open, 21st South East Section P C Delea of Rainham on 568 over 695 miles, 35th GM Preece & Son, 36th Open, 23rd South East Section was J. Chipperfield of Herne Bay on 526 over 679 miles, 37th Open F. Knowles & Son.

38th Open, was Manor Lofts of Southampton, on 520 over 671 miles. Martin and Clare's lone entry was a 4-year-old hen, which was bred half from their good friend Andy Parsons and half from Mick De Carteret of Guernsey. She flew Barcelona last year but was just out of race time and previously as a two-year-old she was 14th Open CSCFC Elgin.



Manor Lofts' birds

39th Open J. Chipperfield, 40th Open F. Knowles & Son, 41st Open L & K Buddle, 42nd Open GM Preece & Son, 43rd Open J F Haynes, 44th Open L & K Buddle.

45th Open, Mark Bulled of Harlow on 500 over 711 miles. Mark said, 'Firstly congratulations to Team Gilbert on their amazing achievement, surely one of the best into the UK. And well done to all others who timed on the second day. I timed a 5-year-old warrior, my sole entry. He is often slow but always reliable. He flew Bordeaux 474 miles as a yearling, scored 125th Pau NFC as a 2-year-old. Flew north twice to Lerwick, 584 miles, and now finally Barcelona 711 miles south. Even picking up a 1st Sect NRCC Perth on the way. He is from a son of Legacy paired to a daughter of Tom from my good friends Lee and Kevin Buddle. I think that may be his lot now!'



Mark Bulled



Mark's old warrior

46th Open, Mr & Mrs S Rhodes of Aylesham on 493 over 670 miles. They timed a 5-year-old cock bred from their Zaragoza pigeon and wanted to congratulate Mark Gilbert on an outstanding performance.

47th Open, David E Farr of Bognor Regis on 484 over 654 miles. David said, 'Firstly I must congratulate Mark and Nigel on their win and only bird on the day and 6th International Barcelona. Something we thought was impossible, to get a bird on the day is absolutely amazing! My first 2 birds on the 3rd day were bred round a cock from Bert Shepherd's 2nd Open Pau NFC, the only bird on the day, and were my first 2 birds from St Vincent/Tarbes last year My third bird in the morning on the fourth day, was off my old family. The mother flew Barcelona twice. So, 3 out of 3, so a great Barcelona for me. I didn't set the world alight but very pleased indeed.'



David Farr wing 1



David Farr wing 2

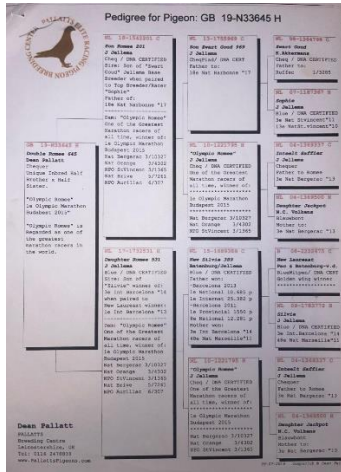
48th Open Mark Gilbert, 49th Open Mr & Mrs S Fear of Hayes on 467 over 699 miles, 50th Open Mr & Mrs M Bunney, 51st Open Simion Stefanescu, 52nd Open Mark Gilbert, 53rd Open L & K Buddle, 54th Open David E Farr.

55th Open & 1st South West Section were D & J Staddon of Ditcheat on 406 over 699 miles. They had this to report. "Hi Mike, firstly massive congratulations to our great friends Mark Gilbert, Nigel Langstaff and Troy Birch, Team Southfield Lofts, on their truly historic win from Barcelona. What a truly fantastic achievement to time a day bird from this iconic Spanish race point. Well done to all the other sections winners and everybody who timed a pigeon with special mention for the runner-up Kevin Foster who timed 3/3 on the second day, another great piece of flying from a gentleman of the sport. We are delighted to win the West Section from Barcelona for the second year in a row and this time with two clear days between our winner and the 2nd section pigeon. Our section winner a 2019 blue cock and is now named Deano and was bred by Dean Pallatt and Dean Junior from their elite breeding centre. He is 100% Jelle Jellema's bloodline, his sire is a grandson of Romee, Zwarte Goud and Snelle Jelle. The dam is a granddaughter of Dirke the father of Kleine Jade, 1st International Barcelona and also features Rika, Marcus, Golden Future and Frankenstein in her pedigree. Dean sent us some youngsters to race in 2019 and 2020 and this cock is from the first draft. This cock is a nestmate of our 2022 Barcelona Section winner called Pallat's Pride. There can't be too many nest brothers to have both won the section from Barcelona. Deano had won 2nd section Barcelona in 2022 but did it much quicker this time, but still not as quickly as we would have liked as we were hoping for a second day pigeon. He still won the section so we remain pleased and hope he can improve with more experience. He has come out of the race in very good order so will be considered for the Elne International race. In preparation for Barcelona, he had four inland races, then Alencon, St Philbert and St Maixent-Ecole with the BICC. He is raced on our Chaos Widowhood system.'



D & J Staddon

56th Toto Buzi of Harefield on 405 over 706 miles. The father of Toto's pigeon, GB21B11445, is from a son of Hugo, bred by Mark Gilbert and Batenburg Van de Mere. The hen is double inbred from Olympic Romee from J Jellema.



Toto Buzi pedigree 1



Toto Buzi Pedigree 2

57th Kevin & Lauren Grace, 58th G M Preece & Son, 59th Open, Florin Petrica Bodale of Harrow, on 361 over 704 miles.

60th Mr & Mrs T. Varley of Whitstable on 360 over 702 miles. Tom timed his good blue cock on day 4 at 7.57 and was amazed to see him. He had flown Pau 2 weeks earlier and took 34th Open. Tom named him John Boy because he was bred by his late friend John Lane of Bromley. Tom took to Facebook to announce his arrival and his retirement from the sport. What a fitting end to his racing career, well done Tom.



Tom's good blue cock

61st Open David E Farr, 62nd Open Kevin & Lauren Grace, 63rd Open G M Preece & Son

64th Lyden Bros. of Sandwich, on 299 over 672 miles. The brothers timed a 4-year-old hen, who was successful in 2022, winning 7th EECC Nevers and 39th Open BICC Tarbes. John said, 'This year she had two preparation channel races with the EECC but unfortunately, we lost her mate in a race in June, and she has been just racing to a perch since. Not what we had planned at the outset! Her breeding is Chris Gordon bloodlines on the sire's side and our old family bloodlines on the dam's side. Both parents were themselves prize winners on middle distance channel races. Can I congratulate the winners and thank the BICC for putting on this international.'



Lyden Bros

65th Open Wyatt & Gray, 66th Open J Nicholson & Son.

And that concludes another epic race from Barcelona, probably the greatest pigeon race in the UK and Europe. Certainly, an epic race in 2023, when Southfield History...made history!

Mike Jackson

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