

British International Championship Club



Guernsey National Provisional Race Report

9th July 2023

The BICC's last old bird National race was from Guernsey, where 237 members sent 2,441 birds. They were liberated at 11.15 am on Sunday 9th July.

Each Section sent the following: South Centre 115 members sent 1,110 birds, South East 55 sent 635 birds, South West 26 sent 200, North Centre 16 sent 170, North East 16 sent 132 and in the North West 9 members sent 132 birds.

The weather/race report

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

From a race and weather perspective the forecast for this BICC race from Guernsey indicated that the race would be fairly straight-forward, which proved to be the case. At first light a weather front carrying low cloud and rain positioned over Guernsey and the Channel obstructed the flight path to the south coast of England. This poor weather as forecast soon moved away north eastwards and by about 10:30 had cleared the Channel. Blue skies arrived over Guernsey switching on the green light for liberation and our convoyers cut the strings in preparation to release the convoy. At 11:15 the BICC pigeons were away clearing the Island immediately in one batch. The convoyers reported a fresh southeast wind over the Island, but the direction did change from about mid Channel to south south-westerly, which obviously produced a fast race. Visibility in the Channel was identified at 11 miles and more. The early times as expected confirm the high velocities recorded into many areas of the country.



View from Hague



Wind flow

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

The Provisional Open and 1st South Section winners were Mr & Mrs Gower of Woodgreen on 2024 over 106 miles. Mark said, 'My winning bird is a dark chequer cock flown on the roundabout system. This year he had 4 races from the west country, then Guernsey with the BBC and 3 weeks ago Nort-Sur-Erdre with the NFC, where he took 12 hours to come home. With 2 weeks rest, he was sent to an 81-mile race from Exeter, where he came with the winning bunch but was beaten by loft mates. A week later he was basketed for the BICC Guernsey race, but I noticed he had taken a fancy to a young hen that was spare, so I let them run together for a while on their own. And it turned out well!

I purchased some stock birds from P & D racing stud in 2019 & 2020 that have bred many winners for me, and the winning bird came from P & D, but originated from David Peeters as part of a small kit to try out. The dark cock has been a good pigeon, winning every year since I got him flying the west route. I thought he was slowing up this year, so I tried him over the channel. The north east wind took it out of him from the NFC race, but he came back up well and after the rest he was rearing to go, and the rest is history.

I live in the New Forest and the raptor problem is not good, like many other places, so I do not let my birds out from September to February, this gives me 10 weeks to get them fit, with a couple of tosses before the first race and no road training once racing starts. I am so pleased to have won this National, and I'd like to finish by congratulating all the section winners and especially my wife Julie. Julie helps me out so much with the pigeons when I am working.'



The National winning bird



Julie Gower, holding the winner

The Provisional South Centre Section Winners

2nd South Centre Section, 3rd Open were Kenny Family & Armstrong of Wantage on 1996 over 154 miles. 'Our blue bar hen that is provisionally 2nd Section, 3rd Open BICC, has been exceptional bird for us.' Said the partnership. 'She has previously been 1st Section, 3rd Open Guernsey NFC 4,367 birds, 2nd Section, 16th Open St Philbert NFC 4,069 birds. 1st Section, 2nd Open CSCFC 872 birds. She was bred by Brian Mawdsley from Southport and her breeding is AD Schealakens/Vandenabeele. All birds have been flown on the chaos system this year and Beyers corn has been fed. We have recently started using Cest Pharma Products, which we are really impressed with. We would like to finish by thanking everyone at the Steventon marking station for all their hard work.'

3rd South Centre Section, 4th Open were Mr & Mrs Webber of Abingdon on 1995 over 158 miles. Alan and Jill, from the Stevenson marking station, said, 'Our bird from Guernsey is a 3-year-old cock, flown on the chaos system, and bred by Roger Lowe out of his race team. Over the years we have done well with Roger's birds, although this year has been a bit lean. This cock has always been consistent, picking up minor club, fed, and national positions, this being by far his best performance. Well done to Mark Gower and all the section winners, and one day maybe we'll get a bird in front of fellow club members the Kennys.'



Kenny Family & Armstrong's bird



Jill Webber

The Provisional South East Section Winners

1st South East Section, 36th Open was Dean Childs of Wickford on 1846 over 198 miles. Dean said, 'My section winner was the result of joint breeding with my good friend Mark Gilbert. He was bred from a son of Lincia and a daughter of Best Kittle 2. I have only recently introduced the Best Kittle family into my loft and already their class and speed are very apparent! I am really looking forward to seeing what they can do in the coming seasons at National level. The section winner has been a very good performer for me and has been my first bird home on about 5 different occasions. For this Guernsey National, he was sent feeding a 6-day old baby after being flown on widowhood all year. Congratulations to the overall winner and other section winners.'

2nd South East Section, 37th Open was D Wilton & Son of Chadwell St on 1845 over 187 miles. The partnership timed a yearling hen raced on the widowhood system. They said, 'She's bred from a son of our good Heremans Ceusters stock, Dolden Rossi, when he was paired to our good Pitbull/Leo Heremans hen, White Lightning. The dam of the hen, is a hen bred by Mic Collins of Birmingham, from his Grijse Kittel and a daughter of his Nieuwe Pitbull. This hen has been very consistent for us this season.'

3rd South East Section, 45th Open was Damian Szpak of Deptford on 1828 over 173 miles. Damian said, 'I clocked a son of Queen 85 my best pigeon. She is breeding winners from 80 miles to Tarbes and is the grand-dam of the provisional 8th Open NFC Tarbes 2023. My second bird was from a son x granddaughter of Queen 85, and many more top results in the past; with and against the wind! I have been unlucky with him, as he had a fight this year, when another cock decided to go in his box, and he missed few races while he recovered.'



Dean Childs



D Wilton & Son



Damian Szpak's bird

The Provisional South West Section Winners

1st South West Section, 9th Open were Mr & Mrs Hodges of Templecombe on 1967 over 198 miles. 'First of all, we would like to congratulate the winners Mr & Mrs Grower and all the section winners.'

The pigeon we timed is a chequer cock bred from pigeons from our good friend, Mired Chwedoruk, who has now gone back home to Poland. Speaking to him on the phone, he has had at least 15 winners reported to him this year from people who have had his pigeons in the UK. The pigeon we timed is raced on our chaos system and we have gone back to feeding the Carlsberg system, which come from Paul Gregg, for inland, via our good friend Mark Darrington.'

2nd South West Section, 10 Open was John Halstead of Kington Magna on 1963 over 103 miles. John timed a 5-year-old dark widowhood cock named Nyland Linford. He is a previous scorer with two club firsts, 1st & 2nd Federation and 3rd Open BBC Wadebridge 1,280 birds. He does excel in the faster races with his Dorset Fed win from Carentan, being a velocity in the 1700's. His sire, an M&D Evans, Gaby Vandenebeele has also won 1st fed and his dam, bred in Germany by Helmut Klaas & son, is of the Hardy Kruger bloodlines.

3rd South West Section, 23rd Open were D & J Staddon of Ditcheat on 1887 over 112 miles. The partnership said, 'Hi Mike, congratulations to Mark & Julie Gower on their 1st Open winner. Very consistent flyers at the highest level of national racing for many years and very nice people with it. Congratulations to all the section winners especially the west section which was won by our club mates Gary & Prilly Hodges. Well done Team Hodges and John Halstead in 2nd Section. Our 3rd Section winner is a 2year-old cock bred from our No 1 breeder, The Real Miracle who is now the sire of 7 x 1st section winners and 3 x 1st combine winners, making this cock a half-brother to our famous Miracle Bros; 7 x 1st section 2nd & 3rd national. The mother is a Frans Zwols hen from Formula 1 Lofts who unfortunately passed away as a yearling. This cock has scored highly previously, winning 1st Section, 6th Open CSCFC Poitiers and 3rd Section, 15th Open CSCFC Guernsey. He has been our first or second pigeon home in each of the previous 3 weeks across the water. He is fed on Bamford's Staddon Chaos Mix and Bamford's Energy. He is raced on our Chaos Widowhood system. He has now been over the water every week for four weeks and is thriving on his workload. He will now have a week off and go to the Sigogne NFC race.'



Prilly Hodges



John Halstead



Dave & John Staddon

The Provisional North Centre Section Winners

1st North Centre Section, 7th Open was S Bartholomew of Bromham on 1986 over 203 miles. Steve said, 'Firstly congratulations to the winners Mr & Mrs Gower. My grizzle hen, bred in 2018, has won many positions in clHub, fed, NFC, MNFC and now in my first race since rejoining the BICC, a few weeks back. The sire of the grizzle topped the Bristol Fed in 2015 from Poole, when by good friend, and ex-fancier, Malcom Pick of Llanharan got members of Pencoed pigeon club in south Wales to breed me 10 youngsters in 2007. Both her grand sire's were bred by Lee Payne, and the grand-dam by Graham Oldam of Brynna, from Shadow Lines. She was raced on the widowhood system and her nest sister took 3rd SE Section Carentan MNFC this year.'

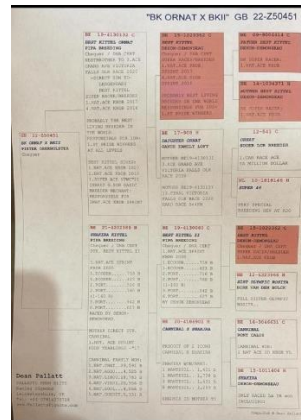
2nd North Centre Section, 17th Open was Freddie Bannister of Doddington on 1919 over 235 miles. Freddie said, 'This dark chequer hen is an inbred granddaughter of Best Kittel and Best Kittel 2, both won 1st Nat Ace KBDB in Belgium. She is a daughter of Best Kittel Ornat x Sharia Kittel. The hen has

always been very consistent, in the first batch at club and fed level and only been beaten by her loft mates. This was her first time over the water from Guernsey at 235 miles, I have very high hopes for the young hen as she's only a yearling.'

3rd North Centre Section, 25th Open were Mr & Mrs Park of Bromham on 1883 over 203 miles. The partnership timed a 2-year-old to take 3rd section.



Steve Bartholomew



Pedigree for Freddie Bannister's bird

The Provisional North East Section Winners

1st North East Section, 75th Open was Richard Dunmore of Thetford on 1779 over 249 miles. 'The bird I timed from Guernsey is a two-year-old chequer pied hen.' Said Richard. 'This is her third race over the water this year and she has proved herself by being my first bird on all three races. On 20th May she raced from Fougères, 300 miles, which was a hard race, and she was timed on the day over 11 hours 22 minutes on the wing. On 17th June she raced from Nort-sur-Erdre, 364 miles, another hard race, where she was timed on the day over 13 hours 25 minutes on the wing. This hen was gifted to me by my good friend Shaun Ewing from Downham Market. The sire to this hen is a direct Joel Verschoot. This pigeon has some great blood lines in its' pedigree with pigeons such as, Flavie, Black Jack and Mariatje. Shaun purchased the sire from Kevin Woolsten's bereavement sale. The dam to this hen is a direct Joel Verschoot. This pigeon also has some great blood lines in its' pedigree with pigeons such as, Black Jack and The Rain Man. Shaun purchased this hen at Rodney Cochrane's retirement sale. This year, I've raced this hen this year on a jealousy system. I'd like to say thank you to Shaun and I'll be dropping a pair of rings around for a pair of late-breds at the weekend, ha-ha! '

2nd North East Section, 85th Open was Roly Rix of Newmarket on 1749 over 229 miles. Roly timed a blue yearling hen raced on roundabout, bred from a Vandenebeele cock and Janssen hen. This hen is home bred and has been coming well all season, but she came up trumps for him from this Guernsey. Roly would like to congratulate the open winner and section winners on what proved to be a super quick race.

3rd North East Section, 99th Open were Joanne & Alan Hacon of Great Yarmouth on 1711 over 281 miles. Joanne and Alan timed a 3-year-old chequer w/f cock that had been flown on roundabout for most of the season. He was paired and sent sitting eggs for his race. The sire and dam are Busschaert's, who have flown well. The sire taking 7th Section St Philbert and the dam winning from Nevers.



Richard Dunmore



Roly Rix

The Provisional North West Section Winners

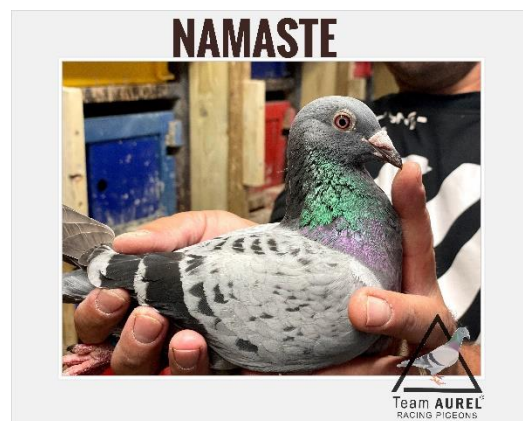
1st North West Section, 2nd Open were Mrs and Mrs Peter Shaw of Wolverhampton on 2018 over 209 miles. The partnership timed a 2-year-old to take first section.

2nd North West Section, 5th Open were J & B Oakley of Whitchurch on 1992 over 241 miles. The partnership told me, 'Our yearling cock is bred from a son of Macaloney's Caesar x One and Only, when paired to the best daughter of our foundation hen, Skyfall. He won earlier on in the season but then took two weeks from a bad race with MNFC, so he had a few weeks out, but soon got himself back in condition. When basketing for this race he was placed with his hen back in the section where he started the season and this obviously motivated him. He came like a bullet with his loft mate, who is also bred through our foundation hen's Skyfall and Yaz's Girl. Thanks to the BICC for a great race with good returns.'

3rd North West Section, 26th Open was Team Aurel of Ironbridge on 1882 over 216 miles. Aurel said, 'In the photo, you will see our beautiful hen, GB-2021-P-31891, Namaste. The sire is Laurus, 1st place record category 10.000km over 2 years, 2nd Marathon FCI 2015. Now housed with my good friend Jeremy. The dam is, Vasile Copy 577, a full sister to Champion Vasile, 1st National Ace Marathon. One of the lowest coefficients 2.38. The mother of, Nela, 1st Sec BBC Bordeaux 540miles. Congratulations to Mr Mark Gower on winning the race. In my section, big well done to Mr Gypsy King for 1st Section, 2nd National and to John and Ben Oakley for 2nd Section.'



J & B Oakley's yearling



Team Aurel

The Provisional Top Ten Open Positions:

1st Mr & Mrs M Gower of Woodgreen on 2024.951, 2nd Mr & Mrs Peter Shaw of Wolverhampton on 2018.649, 3rd Kenny Family & Armston of Wantage on 1996.208, 4th Mr & Mrs A Webber of Abingdon on 1995.275, 5th J & B Oakley of Whitchurch on 1992.328, 6th Cottrell & Richmond & R

Wimborne on 1989.084, 7th S Bartholomew of Bromham on 1986.632, 8th R Lowe of Caversham, on 1976.319, 9th Mr & Mrs Hodges of Templecombe on 1967.259, 10th John P. Halstead of Kington Magna on 1963.087.

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