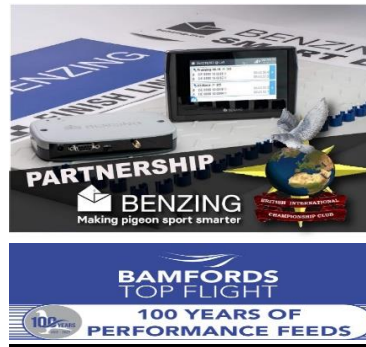


British International Championship Club



Pau International Provisional Race report

24th Jne 2023

Pau is one race that almost needs no introduction, it is an iconic race point that fanciers have tried to win for generations. Pau is located 62 miles from the Atlantic Ocean and 31 miles from Spain. On the first International of the season, 88 BICC members sent 381 birds, to compete against the best in Europe. They were joined by 4,060 from France, 3,068 from Belgium, 3,993 from the Netherlands, 1,086 from Germany and 25 from Luxembourg. A total of 12,631 pigeons were basketed. The birds were liberated at 6.20am on Saturday 24th June, after a one-day holdover, to kick off the International season.

The majority of the birds sent were from the southern sections, but that didn't stop the northern entries putting in some excellent performances. Each section sent the following: South Centre, 43 members sent 185 birds, South East, 31 sent 160, South West, 11 sent 26 and in the North Centre, 2 members sent 10 birds.

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

The Provisional Open Winner taking 1st South Centre Section was Mark Gilbert of Winkfield, Windsor on 1139 over 560 miles. Mark said, 'Well, what a start to the International season. Provisional 1st National BICC, 6th International Pau 12,631 birds. I love all racing but, this is when my passion for racing is at its highest. There is no other feeling than clocking a pigeon late at night when you're racing against the best competition in Europe. We tried something a little different this year and decided to pair up a few weeks ago and send to the long races on natural. We have always sent widowhood in the past, so there was a little bit of uncertainty that we had done the right thing, not to mention, the extra workload trying to keep the fitness on them. However, when he dropped at 20.45 on Saturday night, it just proved all the hard work was worth it. The cock was sitting 14-day eggs and he was soon back on his nest once he had a drink. 14 hours and 25 minutes on the wing in extreme heat through France, has shown this cock is made of metal. He is bred from a full brother of Southfield Hugo who scored 1st National BICC Perpignan 2017 and 1st National BICC Barcelona 2018 and is a half-brother to Southfield Gold Lady, 1st National BICC Barcelona, 1st National BBC Barcelona

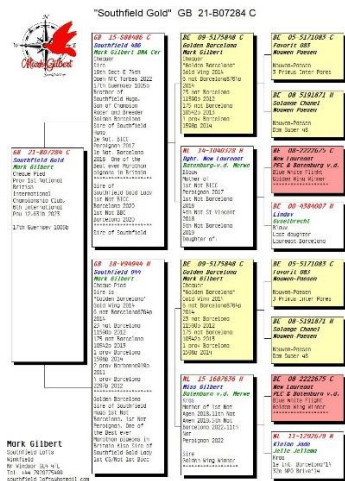
2020, 1st Sect, 5th National BICC Marseille 2019. He is also a double grandchild of Golden Barcelona, the 2014 Gold wing winner. So, you can see by his breeding he was made for days like this.'



Southfield Gold



Mark Gilbert



Pedigree



Wing of Southfield Gold

Provisional South Centre Section Winners

2nd Section, 2nd Open, was Paul Basham of Bursledon on 1066 over 569 miles. My first bird is a two-year-old dark chequer hen, raced on the north, before then being turned south to build up hours on the wing in preparation for Pau. Building up hours on the wing hasn't been too difficult in truth with the tough racing we've experienced this year! She started the season with one training toss at 20 miles and then raced north with the Solent Fed before being turned south, going to Guernsey (CSCFC), Alencon (BICC) and then St Philbert, which was her last preparation race, where she had 9 hours on the wing. We race the roundabout system and then pair in preparation for the Internationals. She was sent to Pau sitting chipping eggs, so she was certainly motivated. The sire of my first bird is bred by Jelle Jellema and is a son of Jill. Jill scored 2nd International Perpignan in 2017 amongst other prizes. The dam is the product of co-breeding between Mark Gilbert and Hugo Batenburg. Southfield Hugo, being a double National winner for Mark and daughter of Lloyd, 1st International Barcelona 2018, respectively. Congratulations to Mark for his excellent performance and thanks to everyone who phoned and messaged me, my phone didn't stop ringing for two days! I'm still on cloud 9 and you just can't beat that feeling of clocking on the day from 500 plus miles!

3rd Section, 5th Open, was Popovici & Luca of Harrow on 855 over 569 miles. The bloodlines of Luca's 3-year-old dark chequer cock were Jan Arden on the dam's side and Mirko Milovic on the

sires. Luca wanted to congratulate the other section winners and thank the BICC for staging the race. He is looking forward to the rest of the season.



Paul Basham



Paul's first day bird



Popovici & Luca' bird

Provisional South East Section Winners

1st, 2nd, and 3rd Section, 3rd, 4th and 7th Open was John Chipperfield of Herne Bay on 912, 863 and 853 over 558 miles. John said, 'Firstly, I would like to congratulate Mark Gilbert and Paul Basham on getting two gallant birds on the night. My first bird is a granddaughter of my Barcelona winner, Herne Bay Sophie, and great-granddaughter to the International winner New Laureaat. My second and third birds are sisters, the sire is the South World Cock known as the Bordeaux Cock from Jim Bures, Liverpool. The dam is a daughter of Lady Teresa and the granddaughter to New Laureaat, which were bred by Mark Gilbert. My birds are raced on the roundabout system and had one race with the BICC from Alencon. My first bird back was also my first from Alencon.'



John Chipperfield

Provisional South West Section Winners

1st Section, 8th Open were Mr & Mrs Gardner of Portskewett on 818 over 580 miles. A delighted Terry Gardner timed the section winner and the first bird into Wales a 9.08am on Sunday morning. The father of his pigeon is a direct son of Incredible, the 10 times National and International winner that was housed at stock at Louella Pigeon World. Terry told me, 'I had wanted a direct son or daughter off Incredible for years, but they weren't cheap! I had spoken to Michael Massarella a few times about the possibility, and after a while, he contacted me when an 11-year-old breeding cock came up for sale. I bought him, and my wife Carol bought a hen from a full brother to Imperial and In The Genes and a half sister to Imperial, to pair with him. They have proved to be a great pairing and we were delighted to see this dark chequer cock land to take first Section, having crossed the Channel from five races this season. Can I thank all those who called to congratulate me and can I congratulate the other section winners, on a tough day in the west. And of course, to Mark Gilbert, on adding another impressive win to his own incredible list of achievements.'

2nd Section, Open were Brooks Bros & Wilcox of High Littleton on 802 over 560 miles. Stuart said, 'Our 2nd Section, 10th Open Pau was a 3-year-old, home bred cock that had not had the best of luck previously, being hawked a couple of times! He was sent on widowhood and contains the best of our old family, being bred from a son of 3rd Open CSCFC Pau on the day x a daughter of Mendip Hope; 1st Section, 16th Open BICC Pau. These lines have been cultivated over many years by Trosky & Uncle Harry and go back to Fear Brothers, Venners and Vic Priddy!' Both Rob and Stuart would like to thank Clive & Jill Rogers for all their hard work in running the Radstock marking station.

3rd Section, 27th Open were D&J Staddon, of Ditcheat on 736 over 547 miles. Dave and John had this to say, 'Hi Mike, we are over the moon to time our single entry at Pau to win 3rd Section and 27th National, as well as 3rd Open Pau GDSBNFC. Congratulations to Mark Gilbert and Paul Basham on their fantastic day birds and Mr & Mrs Gardner on winning our section. Our pigeon is called BRB and is a 5-year-old red cock. He has raced four inland races, plus a Guernsey, Alencon & St Philbert. He is raced on Chaos Widowhood and fed on Bamford Staddon Chaos Mixture. He has previously won 3rd Section, 51st Open NFC Tarbes 2022, 3rd Section, 8th Open CSCFC Tarbes, 3rd Section, 9th Open BBC Tarbes and 1st Section 16th National BICC Perpignan 2022. He is bred from our old Deweerdt bloodlines, his sire from Farm Boy bred by G & C Cooper and the mother Shapway Ruby from Southfield Pau 1st National BICC Pau for Mark Gilbert. He is possibly the only Deweerdt-based pigeon still in our loft, but he is a good one. We hope to prepare him now for St Vincent International.'



Mr & Mrs Gardner's bird with his mate



Brooks Bros & Wilcox



Dave & John Staddon

Provisional North Centre Section Winners

1st and 2nd Section, 21 and 45th Open was John Black of Hitchin on 748 & 664 over 599 miles. John said, 'Hi Mike my first bird was a two-year-old red chequer roundabout cock, having his third channel race this year. His sire is a mealy cock, bred by Guy Read from the Isle of Wight and his dam is a granddaughter of Seb, father of Wingdown, bred by Jamie Clarke of Kent on the one side and Lady Theresa, 1st Perpignan and 2nd Pau, bred by Johnny Chipperfield of Herne Bay on the other side. My 2nd Section winner is a two-year-old roundabout, J & K Jellema, chequer hen having her second race of the season, in preparation for Perpignan. My returns were not bad, having three from five. As always, thanks to the BICC team for looking after the birds, they returned in excellent condition, and well done to all the Section winner.'

3rd Section, 50th Open was Mircea Liviu Dehelean of Wellingborough on 639 over 619 miles. Mircea recorded the longest flying pigeon of the race and he said, 'Our 3rd section winner is a 2-year-old cock raced on 10-day old eggs. He flew St Philbert in 2022 as a yearling and this year he went there again before the Pau International. He is bred from my best breeding hen, Ms Messi, who carries the bloodlines of Messi of Verweij de Haan and Jellema. The father is a gift from my best friend, Dan Nitoiu, who is 50% Jan Polder and 50% Imbrecht Germain. Our winner is a half-brother to our 5th BICC Narbonne International 2019, and many other winners in Romania. Can I say a special thank you to Mr Russel Bradford, for all his support and help!' Mircea is pictured with his daughter Isabel who shows a keen interest in the pigeons and his wife Anca is fully involved with the daily training and feeding, especially in the afternoons when Mircea is working.



John Black with his 1st Section bird



John with his 2nd Section bird



Mircea Liviu Dehelean with his daughter Isabel

The Provisional Top Ten Open Positions

1st M Gilbert of Winkfield on 1139.197, 2nd Mr Paul Basham of Bursledon 1066.232, 3rd J. Chipperfield of Herne Bay on 912.386, 4th J. Chipperfield of Herne Bay on 863.426, 5th Popovici & Luca of Harrow on 855.651, 6th M Gilbert of Winkfield on 848.113, 7th J. Chipperfield of Herne Bay, on 843.455, 8th Mr & Mrs Gardner of Portskewett on 818.429, 9th D Hales of Hockley on 814.803, 10th Brooks Bros & Wilcox of High Littleton on 802.417.

Overall International Winner

The overall International winner was Ad Fortuin Ad of Strijen, Netherlands. He clocked on Sunday at 5.04 CEST, 6.04 BST, after a race of 660 miles achieving a velocity of 1162.39yph.



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