

British International Championship Club



Perpignan (Elne) International Provisional Race Report

7th August 2023

The final International race of the season took place on 7th August, following a 3 one day holdover. A total of 16,020 birds were basketed from the six countries competing. With France sending 4,540, Netherlands 4,635, Luxembourg 41, Germany 857, Belgium 5,722 and 225 pigeons from the UK, sent by the BICC.

In the BICC, each Section sent the following: In the South Centre Section, 26 members sent 83 birds, South East 17 members sent 128, South West 4 sent 10, North Centre 1 sent 3 and in the North West, 1 member sent 1 bird. In total 49 members sent the 225 birds.

The liberation point was moved to Elne, which is a small town situated 2.5 miles from the Mediterranean sea and 7.5 miles from Perpignan. Perpignan is the biggest city in the area and is the last big city before the Spanish border. It is located at the foot of the Pyrenees and acts as a bridge between Barcelona and the south of France. There is a Perpignan-based rugby league club who play in the British Super League, called the Catalans Dragons. They are currently the Super League leaders. In the final International, each member hoped to be the super BICC leader, but a familiar name once again took top spot, in a really super season for him.

The Provisional Open and 1st South Centre Section winner was Mark Gilbert of Wickfield, Windsor on 901 over 634 miles. Mark also took 2nd Section on 793.7. Continuing his fantastic season, Mark said, 'Well what an end to the old bird season. The Perpignan birds were finally released on Monday morning at 6.15am after 7 nights in the basket due to bad weather holdovers. Nothing made it into the UK on the night so early birds were expected on Tuesday morning. Alas the British weather had something to say about it as it started raining in Windsor at about 7am and did not let up all day. This bad weather obviously made the race a tougher ask for the British pigeons and at 10.25am we clocked our game blue hen to provisionally take 1st Open BICC covering the 635 miles in just over twenty and a half hours. She looked very wet but otherwise in good condition considering the time in the basket and the long journey home finishing in the rain. I've called her, Three Eight Four and she is a grandchild of, Sumerian Fighter, the 1st International Barcelona winner in 2017. This hen has also taken 3rd Section, 7th Open National Flying Club Tarbes this season, so she certainly puts in the effort. This performance was very welcome at Southfield after the very odd St Vincent race we had and just goes to reinforce the good decision we made this year to change the old birds over to natural for the long ones.'

The 48 has possibly the best constitution in our loft, you can handle him any time of year and he will feel ready to race, good colour and clean underneath. His breeding is fairly tight, we would say line bred, but some might say inbred. He's Wiggins son x Wiggins half-sister. To be so tightly bred, handle so well and race as well as he does is a real credit to the good qualities in the bloodline.

Our second pigeon in the clock is a 3-year-old widowhood cock bred from two great performers in the race team. His breeding is 75% Bernd Morsnowski and 25% Jack Jones line. And the third arrival is a 6-year-old late bred whose performances keep getting better. He was our first bird from Barcelona and also one of our best performers last year. He is also bred from one of our good race hens, 15.911 and he is a grandson to Jack Jones. Our first three pigeons all came well from Barcelona and are all bred out of performance pigeons. We managed to get 13 in the clock from the tough Perpignan of 2023. With the weather completely against the UK on the final International of the year, it was a tough way to close the season. We must say a thank you to everyone at the BICC who make racing the Internationals, with the amazing global audience, possible for the UK fanciers.'



The 48's mother 168.

Pedigree of 48



Geoff & Clayton Preece



The 48, 2nd National Perpignan

2nd South East Section, 3rd Open was A Annis & Son of Wigham on 834 over 604 miles. Alan's 4-year-old hen that he timed was well fancied in The Greater Distance Single Bird Club and was an all pooler, she was bred from his certificate of merit winner from Tarbes with the NFC and a Southwell cock from Jimmy Shepherd, which was unfortunately killed by the fox. She was 4th Open from Agen and 1st Greater Distance Single Bird Club this year and was timed last year from Agen and Perpignan. She is now called Mustang Sally, winning a steak dinner from Jamie Clarke! I hope you enjoy it, Alan.

3rd South East Section, 6th Open were L & K Buddle of Dover on 786 over 594 miles. Lee told me, 'Our 3rd Section, 6th Open BICC Perpignan is a 4-year-old cock that had been flown on our Widowhood Chaos System all season long. But he had been paired for Perpignan and sent on a 5-day old baby. In preparation for Perpignan, he had the following races this year: 3 x inland to 130 miles, BICC Alencon 194 miles, BICC St Philbert 267 miles and the BICC Pau International 545 miles. He had been fed Vanrobaeys corns this year and fats added in the last week before race marking. He is of Brockamp bloodlines with the sire coming from Tim Webster and the dam from Nigel Langstaff. Our second pigeon in the clock taking 8th Section, 13th Open was a 3-year-old hen that is actually paired to the first cock and obviously sent on the same 5-day old baby. She had the exact same preparation races and won 33rd Section, 70th Open BICC Pau a few weeks prior to BICC Perpignan. She is a daughter of our good racing cock, Ronald, who is a winner of: 1st Open BICC Marseille 573m 2019, 1st Sec, 4th BBC Barcelona 2020 686m, 2nd Sec, 7th BICC Barcelona 2020 686m, 6th BICC Marseille 573m 2018, 13th BICC Perpignan 593m 2017, 29th BICC Pau 544m 2018, 35th BICC St Vincent 531m 2017, 39th BICC Perpignan 593m 2016, 50th BICC Mont De Marsan 530m 2017, 75th BICC Pau 544m 2019, BICC Merit Award Winner.'



Alan Annis



Lee & Kevin Buddle



L & K Buddle's first pair back in the nest box

The Provisional South West Section Winners

1st South West Section, 5th Open were D & J Staddon of Ditcheat on 788 over 644 miles. They also took 2nd on 732, 3rd on 372 and 5th on 343. This season's most successful west section partnership told me this, 'Mike, we had a fine end to the old and International season with the Perpignan race at 644 miles. We sent 6 pigeons and are thrilled with this result. The Section winner is our brilliant race cock BRB. He is a 5-year-old red cock normally raced on Chaos widowhood but was sent to Perpignan sitting 8-day eggs. He is bred from a son of G & C Coopers Farm Boy when paired to a daughter of Mark Gilbert's Southfield Pau 1st BICC Pau. This means he is 100% of the old Dewerd lines. In 2022 he won 3rd Section G, 51st Open NFC Tarbes Grand National 560 miles, 8 days later he was basketed for the BICC Perpignan International, 627 miles, where he won 1st West Section 16th Open, winning the section by 3 clear days! In 2023, he was our single entry for the BICC Pau International, 547 miles, where he again won 3rd Section & 26th Open, before being prepared for the St Vincent International, where he won 1st West Section and 4th Open, flying 520 miles in just under 12 hours on the day. He was then left with his hen and sent sitting to Perpignan where he wins 1st Section, 5th Open. And, in any of these above races did he have any help from the wind? No, they have all been with westerly influences, which makes his consistency even greater in our eyes. He must consistently fly long distances on his own out here to the very west of the International convoy. We feel he has now done enough and will be retired to our breeding loft where we hope he will breed more pigeons capable of flying 3 x races from 520-644 miles in one season. Our second pigeon is also a very good pigeon called Gemini. He is the previous winner of 1st Section G, 4th Open NFC Tarbes National in 2022 and 7th Section G 158th Open Tarbes NFC in 2023 and now 2nd Section, 11th Open Perpignan 2023. He is a 4-year-old cock and was sent sitting eggs at 16 days. He is bred from Winter's Gem a son of Pearler and Image of B & P Winter when he was paired to Blue Gem a daughter of Bill & Beryl Lewis' Freelands Gem a 2 x NFC Certificate of Merit winner. This makes him a full brother to our great cock Fahrenheit, who won 1st Section, 2nd Open Perpignan/Rieux Minervois. Finally, congratulations to Mark Gilbert on another fine National win and all the Section winners and everybody who timed in.'



D & J Staddon, with from left to right Dave Young with 5th Section, Alan Thompson with 3rd Section, John Staddon with 2nd Section, & Dave Staddon with BRB 2 x 1st Section Perpignan 2022 & 2023

The Provisional Top Ten Open Positions:

1st M Gilbert of Winkfield on 901.559, 2nd G M Preece & Son of Dover on 882.830, 3rd A Annis & Son of Wingham on 834.939, 4th M Gilbert on 793.765, 5th D & J Staddon of Ditcheat on 788.942, 6th L & K Buddle of Dover on 786.789, 7th G M Preece & Son on 782.081, 8th G M Preece & Son on 778.178, 9th D Cristian of Harrow on 739.307, 10th G M Preece & Son on 736.285.

And that concludes the International races, but with two young bird and any age races from Guernsey to come, it's still all to play for. Until then, good luck, good flying and may the line of flight be with you.

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