

British International Championship Club



Guernsey (2) Young Bird National Provisional Race Report

9th September 2023

The British International Championship Club's final race of the 2023 young bird season was from Guernsey. Guernsey is situated approximately 70 miles south of the English coast. The race offers members the opportunity to fly from upwards of 90 miles in the south, to over 250 in the north.

For this young bird race, each section sent the following: South Centre, 61 members sent 681 birds, South East 45 sent 525 birds, South West 21 sent 263, North Centre 9 sent 88, North East 12 sent 105 and in the North West 10 members sent 51 birds. In total, 158 members sent 1,713 birds.

An Any Age race also took place at the same time as the young bird race, where 84 members sent 461 birds that were liberated at the same time. The total birdage, including the old birds, was 2,174 birds and they are liberated at 7.30am.

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

The weather/race report

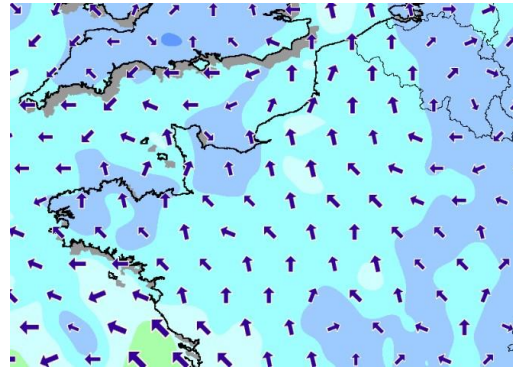
Steve Appleby, the BICC race and weather advisor, provided the following report:

The main concern for this final race from Guernsey was the development of mist or fog during Friday night. To our delight the convoyers on site reported that visibility at first light over the Island was good. Channel conditions were also identified to be very good. The main emphasis was on an early liberation to take advantage of the cool of the morning before temperatures rose. The Saturday was forecast to be one of the hottest days on record this summer reaching up to 33C in some areas of England. The photo captured early in the morning from St Malo was typical of weather conditions all along the northern French coastline. Generally, winds were very light over the Channel at about 5 mph mainly from the east. (see wind flow map) Over southern England winds were light and variable. Visibility of 11 miles and more which was supported by the various webcams visited and the Channel met buoys. The early times shown on the BICC leader board indicate a successful race for our members. We now look forward to next season's racing and hopefully some fair-weather conditions.

Steve Appleby race/weather advisor.



View of St Malo



Wind flow map

The Provisional Open winner, taking 1st South Centre Section were Mr & Mrs M Gower of Woodgreen on 1416 over 106 miles. Taking their second BICC National win of the season Mark said, 'Firstly may I congratulate all the section winners. My winner is a lovely well balanced dark hen bred from a son of Premier Stud's Man-O-Chester, he is sire and grand sire to many winners when paired to a daughter of Keon 6 from Mark Evans, formerly M & D Evans. This was her 3rd consecutive trip to Guernsey where she was my 6th pigeon from BBC Guernsey and 4th Open Central Southern Classic, beaten by 3 loft mates. She then came to the front and was first over the trap in the BICC. She was on the darkness and has held off her moult really well. She was recently left natural in the loft and over the last 3 weeks all the young birds have become really sexually active, showing and chasing everything! The birds did me proud again today mostly coming bang on line and I ended up with 18 from 20 on the day; and one early the next day. It's been a fairytale couple of weeks that I don't want to end. Thanks go to my wife Julie for all her help and encouragement, the conveying team, Nigel Rigiani for taking the birds to marking and the many congratulatory messages we have received.'



Mark Gower with club mates and friends



Julie Gower

The Provisional South Centre Section Winners

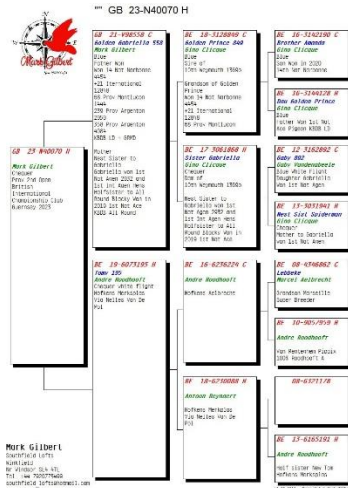
2nd South Centre Section, 2nd Open was Mark Gilbert of Winkfield on 1361 over 157 miles. Mark said, 'The middle distance young birds had their last race from Guernsey and made good work of it. This was the fourth time they have seen the Channel, so should set them up nicely for French racing next year. With easterly winds and a very hot day we were a little concerned that they may struggle a bit, but once they started coming that proved to be wrong. We had great returns, to take the provisional 2nd Open British International Championship Club. She is bred from an Andre Roodhoft x Gino Clicque pairing. Well done to Mr and Mrs M Gower for winning the race.'

3rd South Centre Section, 3rd Open were Kenny Family & Armstrong of Wantage on 1343 over 154 miles. The partnership told me, 'Our blue pied hen has been a very consistent bird for us. She was our first bird in the NFC Carentan race last week, being provisionally 2nd Section F, 3rd Open from 2,000 plus birds. This was her fourth time over the Channel this year. All our birds have been trained

regularly from the coast and are fed Beyers corn and we use Cest Pharma products. We would like to thank everyone at the Steventon marking station for all their hard work this season.'



Mark Gilbert's bird about to land



Pedigree of Mark Gilbert's bird



The youngest member, but my far the most enthusiastic, Eamonn Kenny

The Provisional South East Section Winners

1st South East Section, 9th Open was Damian Spzak of Deptford on 1296 over 173 miles. Damian said, 'Firstly I would like to thank everyone who congratulated me on this race and for the whole season. And I would like to thank everyone who raced in the Channel Nationals for making them a great competition. My winner is a young hen from the very inbred Queen 85, that I bred in September last year and the dam is a granddaughter of Dr Brokamp's, Armstrong, winner of 1st International Perpignan 17,854 birds.'

2nd South East Section, 10th Open was Lee Bastone of Burnham on Crouch on 1290 over 208 miles. Lee told me, 'I'd like to congratulate all the winners, this was a tuff race especially over this side. I had 3 pigeons come together and first over the pad was a little blue hen from Proper Rik lines of Peter Fox, second was a Gabby from Shadows Image lines, which picked up second Thames gold ring race, and third was another Gabby of Pre-Olympic lines. By Sunday morning I had 29 from 34 home.'

3rd South East Section, 15th Open was T Sparks & P Dallas of Gravesend on 1263 over 184 miles. The partnership said, 'Firstly we would like to congratulate the winners on a very hot difficult race. Our pigeon, GB23V77185, was bred by our good friends John and Andrew Popely. The pigeon is a Herman Cuester which is the same way bred as a successful pigeon in our old bird race team.'



Damian Spzak



Lee Bastone



T Sparks & P Dallas

The Provisional South West Section Winners

1st South West Section, 4th Open were Mr & Mrs Hodges of Templecombe on 1340 over 104 miles.

In picking up another section win, the husband and wife partnership reported, 'The pigeon we timed was from our good friend John Gerard. He has supplied us with countless winners over the years. The pigeon was bred in Germany by John's good friend Eckhard Bastek, who is a champion racer and breeder. Ron Jones and John and Danny are also winning with Eckhard pigeons. We would like to congratulate Mr & Mrs Gower and all the section winners.'

2nd South West Section, 5th Open was Paul Weems of Chippenham on 1324 over 135 miles.

Paul said, 'First of all, I'd like to congratulate Mark Gower on first Open, another great performance. Mark has got his young birds absolutely on fire at the moment. Another great achievement Mark, well done. My first bird to be 2nd section, provisional 5th Open is out of the son of, Two Twenty x Crystal of Syndicate lofts, via Gary Inkley. The dam is of Pink Eyes lines of Morris and Booker, which I purchased from Blair Fisher of Wales. My second pigeon, which was seven minutes after my first, is of my own family which are down from the late Ernie Smith when crossed into some new introductions from D & J Staddon, of the Miracle lines x Evie. These are proving to be great introductions to the young birds. They were flown on the darkness and fed Beyers and Versa Laga corn. This was a bit of a stiff race as I report, we have 23 of the 25 home.'

3rd South West Section, 6th Open was John Halstead of Kington Magna on 1315 over 103 miles.

John timed a chequer pied cock flown on widowhood. This was John's only young bird entry, and the young darkness system cock was having his fourth race from Guernsey over the last 4 consecutive weeks, where he has improved on each occasion. His sire is a grandson of the Jellema legend Zwart Goud and his dam, X11, is from two impeccably bred Mark Gilbert Jellema's purchased direct in 2018. A big thankyou to the BICC for providing such good racing and especially to Jill, Clive and staff at Treetops for their complete professionalism and dedication in running the Radstock marking station over the last few years.'



Prilly Hodges



Paul Weems



John Halstead

The Provisional North Centre Section Winners

1st North Centre Section, 21st Open was David Paine of St Neots on 1233 over 212 miles. In picking up another win, David told me that the hen he timed was bred from his old Houben family and the dam was a hen that his good friend Steve Hardy loaned him. She has had every race including the first Guernsey race this season.

2nd North Centre Section, 31st Open was Mohammad Ayaz of Birmingham on 1199 over 208 miles. Mohammad told me that his pigeon was bred from Ronnie Williamson's pigeons from Ireland. It was raced back to the perch.

3rd North Centre Section, 34th Open was Mike Radomilovic of Northampton on 1191 over 203 miles. Mike timed a natural flown blue pied hen having her first race of the year. Her sire is a Deschacht Denduyver cock and her dam is a daughter of a pigeon from Karl Murphy of Northern Ireland he purchased in the Who Dares Wins One Loft sale. Mike said, 'I crossed the cock I bought

with a Shaun McDonough hen which I acquired in a batch of 20 young birds that I purchased from Shaun in 2018. She was privately trained and had five trainers on the local trainer provided by Simon Shearsby of Corby for all the Northants South Road members. I have not raced in a club this year. I had 10 from 12 on the day and would like to say well done to all that clocked on what was a testing hot day to race young birds.'



David Paine with his grandson



Mohammad Ayaz



Mike Radomilovic's bird

The Provisional North East Section Winners

1st North East Section, 24th Open was Edgaros Bartkus of Thetford on 1220 over 247 miles. Edgaros said, 'I think I may take the first four positions in the section. My first, second and third birds are Terry Marshall pigeons. I got them from a friend in my club Brian. My fourth bird is old Lithuanian line from my stock birds in Lithuania. I did strike my off clock at 16.00 and I think this was a mistake because four more came back home but the clock was already off. It's my first year in the BICC club and this was my first young bird race. Thanks to the BICC committee and Basildon marking station.'

2nd North East Section, 99th Open, was David Fisher of Ipswich on 809 over 240 miles. Dave said, 'Well done to all the winners, a really tough fly into our section. My first bird is a dark pied hen from Mark Bullied lines, with both parents direct. The sire is a half-brother to Paddy and the dam a granddaughter of Legacy. These lines are the backbone of my loft and are very reliable. This little hen was flown on the darkness and has flown 1,037 miles in 6 races. I timed 2 on the day and 2 on Sunday from 11. My 2nd and 3rd birds being Jellema's, so pleased to see those coming through. Thanks to Fred Cornwell and all at the Basildon marking station which have made our journeys much shorter.'

3rd North East Section, 120th Open was J Gannon of Norwich on 524 over 271 miles. Jon's pigeon that is provisional 3rd section is of Leo Herman's x Willy Daniels bloodlines. It had 4 races before this one and the grandfather was the pigeon, he clocked in the any age race, to provisional take 4th section.



Edgaros Bartkus



David Fisher



Jon Gannon

The Provisional North West Section Winners

1st North West Section, 29th Open was Lionel Brewer of Worcester on 1203 over 183 miles. Lionel clocked a blue chequer hen to provisionally take 1st NW section, 29th Open. His second bird clocked will probably take 2nd section. This is the second year running that he has taken 1st NW Section in this young bird race from Guernsey. All three youngsters clocked first in this race went to Carentan the previous week, the first here also being his first bird in the NFC race, taking 11th section, 66th open. She is bred off his racing team, from his well established national family who have served him well over the years. He had 100% home on the day. He would like to thank Trevor and John, Booth and Roper, for taking his birds to Steventon and to congratulate the open winner and all section winners.

2nd North West Section, 44th Open, was Graham Jones of Cannock on 1158 over 222 miles. Graham said, 'I would like to congratulate the winners and also the convoyers. The pigeon I timed is a Lambrechts cross Bulk from Mick Lennon of Nuneaton.'

3rd North West Section, 48th Open were J & B Oakley of Whitchurch on 1146 over 241 miles. Ben said, 'Hi Mike our hen in 3rd section is also a gold ring and she's bred from a Hooymans X Gaby cock we bought at the speed sale in 2017. He has bred many top pigeons for us including our 626 who in turn is the mother to Guernsey Girl and Super 90. The mother is from Macaloney pigeons being a daughter of Supermac 73 and One and Only. She is also the mother of our, Ace Hen, who won two RPRA awards and the MNFC ace pigeon in the west section. This young hen was sent just racing to the perch as she didn't seem to have any real interest in the cocks. She was provisionally 2nd section, 7th open NFC last week. Thanks to the convoying team, as always, the birds returned in immaculate condition.'



Lionel Brewer with his wife
Joan



Graham Jones



J & B Oakey's bird

The Provisional Top Ten Open Positions:

1st Mr & Mrs M Gower of Woodgreen on 1416.826, 2nd M Gilbert of Winkfield on 1361.761, 3rd Kenny Family & Armstrong of Wantage on 1343.602, 4th Mr & Mrs Hodges of Templecombe on 1340.544, 5th Paul Weems of Chippenham on 1324.501, 6th John P. Halstead of Kington Magna 1315.112, 7th K Wise of Isleworth on 1313.752, 8th C & J Howse of Devizes on 1310.317, 9th Damian Sznak of Deptford on 1296.309, 10th Lee Bastone of Burnham on Couch on 1290.569.

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