

British International Championship Club



Guernsey Provisional Race Report

29th April 2024

The BICC's opening race of the season was from Guernsey, where 165 members sent 1,895 birds that were liberated at 7.25am on Monday 29th April, after a two-day holdover. The birdage was down on this time last year, but the cold start to the season probably accounted for that. Nonetheless, when the birds were liberated, they made some great times, with the winning birds being recorded in the northern sections.

Each section sent the following: In the South Centre, 111 members sent 1,229 birds, South East 13 sent 150, South West 29 sent 394, North Centre 5 sent 57, North East 2 sent 5 and in the North West Section, 5 sent 60.

The BICC would like to say a massive thank you to the Guernsey lads especially Glen De Carteret and his mum for looking after the convoyers. It's not only the birds who have to be looked after on a 2-day holdover. Glen and his mum fed and watered Trevor and Chris the whole weekend they were on the Island. They even took them a stew on Saturday and a roast dinner on Sunday.

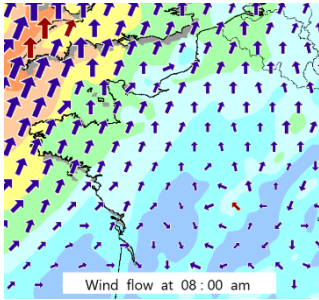


The transporter arriving at Guernsey

The weather/race report

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

True to the forecast Monday dawned clear and bright over the channel and Channel Isles. With clear blue skies overhead, and after being briefed by the control team, the convoyers prepared for liberation. Clearance from Guernsey airport was received which resulted in the BICC birds being released at 07:25 am. The convoyers reported the birds cleared the Island immediately. The flight path was one of sunshine and fair weather cloud. Visibility was very good, data showing 10 miles and more. Winds over Guernsey were fresh south to south west averaging 21 mph but changed to a more southerly direction from the English coastline to inland. See the wind flow chart. As expected, a fast race resulted with velocities exceeding 2,000yph.



Wind flow map



View from the west country



The Cherbourg Peninsula

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

The Provisional Open winners, taking 1st North West Centre Section were Mr & Mrs Nigel Shaw of Crewe on 2170 over 246 miles. Nigel told me, 'The bird we timed from the Guernsey BICC race was a two-year-old Ceuster x Red Alert celibate cock. He was bred by David Sara and these cocks only saw their hens before they went to basketing spending the night together. We had 20/21 return in good time, and they were in great condition on return after 5 days in the basket. Can we thank the conveyors and congratulate all the other section winners on what turned out to be a great opening race for us.'



The National winning hen



Nigel Shaw

2nd North West Section, 2nd Open, were J & B Oakley of Whitchurch on 2137 over 241 miles. The partnership said, 'Pictured is our hen who took 2nd Open. She's a two-year-old jealousy hen and she has had one training toss, one fed race at 109 miles, where she finished 23rd Fed, and then straight into the BICC. She's no stranger to National racing, she finished 22nd Open Messac with the NFC as a yearling last year. She is bred from our son of Macaloney's Dream pair when paired to a daughter of Supermac 73 and the One and Only, who has bred us many good National pigeons. Can we thank the BICC for the fantastic condition the birds returned in after the holdover and congratulate our good friends Nigel and Wendy Shaw on their National win.'

3rd North West Section, 3rd Open were Booth & Roper of Tewkesbury on 2091 over 173 miles. I bumped into Trevor and John at the Steventon marking station and they told me that they only decided to enter the race at the last minute and didn't hold out much hope of making the result sheet. It was unlikely, they said, that I would be contacting them for a race report. Well, it didn't turn out too badly for them after all and this is what John had to say following the race, 'Sorry Mike I was totally wrong with what I said to you at the time, that it won't be us giving you a report from Guernsey. How wrong we were and what a surprise! We timed a dark chequer Jan Aarden 5-year-old widowhood cock bird. This cock bird came back from a race last year hawked, with all its tail feathers missing and a big jab in its wing, so we left him alone until this year. In 2022 he was consistent in national competitions and was 2nd Sec, 87th Open Poitiers BICC, 5th Sec, 39th Open

CSCFC and 8th Sec, 36th Open BBC. He's a very big bird and he is related to our two Tarbes J section winners 2019 and 2023, Sportsview Amy and Sportsview Dream Girl; both in the loft today. We would like to congratulate Nigel and Wendy on winning the open, and pass on many thanks to the Steventon marking station.'



J & B Oakey's bird



Booth & Roper

The Provisional North Centre Section Winners

1st North Centre Section, 4th Open was John Garvey of Walsall on 2079 over 217 miles. John timed a 3-year-old bred by Carl Ford, who was donated to Rushall LHS and sold for club funds. This bird was 3rd NC Section from the same race point last year. John said, 'I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Nigel Shaw on winning the NW section and the open. Also, the convoyer and weather advisors for giving us a great race, 5 sent and 5 home, the first 2 In 10 minutes. After 4 full days in the basket the birds returned in absolutely fantastic condition.'

2nd North Centre Section, 7th Open was K Johnson of Kingsbromley on 2067 over 226 miles. Kevin said, 'Congratulations to Nigel Shaw on winning the race and to all section winners. Also, many thanks to the conveying team, after a 2-day holdover, the birds arrived home in immaculate condition. My 2nd North Centre Section, 7th Open winner is Nicolette a Hereman Ceuster x Van Den Bulck chequer hen raced on widowhood. A very consistent hen with an ever-growing collection of prize cards. She already showed some form this year by winning 11th Federation from Cheltenham last weekend. Last year, along with club and fed prizes, she won 1st Section 12th Open MNFC from Carentan. She's being prepared for the NFC Carentan in a few weeks. Like with most people's birds today she came out of the north and was battling hard with what was now a head wind. So, hoping for a less windy day next time. Nicolette was bred in June 2021 by Derek Nicholls; she was selected by Derek for me to race. One of a small kit of pigeons that has performed exceptionally well, thank you Derek. Her sire is, The Triple Eight Cock, a top breeding son of the fantastic breeding and racing couple, Dark Destroyer and Little Lady. Nicolette's dam is Little Kittelena, a granddaughter of both Olympiade and Kittel.'

3rd North Centre Section, 13th Open were Summers Bros & Daughter of Braunston on 1987 over 222 miles. Scott said, 'First of all well done to the winner. It's our first race with you and the birds, after the 4 days, are still in excellent order for us. We had three together I think, and I missed them, as we had no clock on. As I walked up to my loft they were in boxes, what a big mistake! Two of the three are distance birds with the first being a grandson of Isja Rainy Day Boy, the second of the Proof lines of Archibald and the third from an unknown breeder buyer of Bowskill in Gascoigne. Many thanks and we are looking forward to the rest of the season.'



John Garvey's section winner



Kevin Johnson



Summers Bros & . Scott and his dad John.

The Provisional North East Section Winners

1st North East Section, 117th Open, was Jeremy Nicholson of Ipswich on 1494 over 237 miles. This is what Jeremy told me, 'My first bird was a blue pied Louis Cooreman and he has served me very well over the years. He is bred from Luck Lad, a top stock cock bred by Rob Fenech x a daughter from my number one pair of Cooremans. Her sire being Uba, bred by Owen Jones x Bolt's Girl, a daughter of Steve Fenech's Bolt. This pair have bred over 20 winners for me and others. Second to the loft, and likely to be 3rd section, was a 2021 blue cock. He is a Cooreman x Van den Bulck. His sire a Cooreman, bred by Owen Jones. This cock is also the grand sire to 3rd BICC St Philberts 2020. His dam is a daughter of my number one VDB stock pair, Alert Red, a sire to over 30 prize winners and a full brother to Red Alert of Bob Fenech. His dam being, Exceptional Miss, a dam to over 30 prize winners. This pair are also the grandparents to the 3rd BICC St Philberts' winner in 2020.'

2nd North East Section, 142nd Open, was Dave Fisher of Ipswich on 1276 over 140 miles. Dave said, 'My pigeon is a two-year-old mealy cock raced on roundabout, the sire is a son of Isla's Rainy Day Boy and the dam was bred by Joe Raeburn from a grandson of Isla's Rainy Day Boy, who had flown Tarbes 3 times. These lines are doing well for me and others. Congratulations to the winners, with the forecast we knew it would be difficult on our side.'



Jeremy Nicholson's blue pied



Dave Fisher's cock bird

The Provisional South Centre Section Winners

1st South Centre Section, 6th Open were Cowley Bros on 2072 over 154 miles. The partnership told me, 'Firstly, we'd like to congratulate Nigel Shaw on winning the open, some pace that was! Well, done to all on the sheet on what was a very fast day after such a long time in the crate. Thanks very much to the convoyers for such a brilliant job looking after our birds, they returned looking

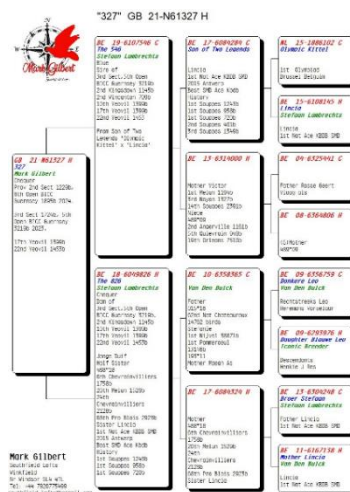
impeccable. We are very pleased with our performance; it is a wonderful feeling to win the central section and with all 4 of our birds being clocked within 12 minutes is a great bonus. Our first pigeon is a 4-year-old blue white flight hen bred from our Ronnie Williamson Busschaert lines. She only had the one race in preparation from Yeovil with the Severn Valley Federation and she was our first pigeon and she was sent sitting 7 days. Our birds are trained 4-5 days a week from 28 miles and flown on the Natural system. We feed Beyers corn and are using Cest Pharma supplements this year.'



Cowley Bros

2nd South Centre Section, 8th Open was Mark Gilbert of Windsor on 2025 over 157 miles. 'Well, that's a nice steady start to this year's National campaign over the channel' said Mark. He continued, 'After holding all weekend the strings were finally cut on the British International Championship Club baskets at 7.25am this morning in Guernsey. With really strong southerly winds we knew that fast times were expected, and we just hoped we could get something on a decent line to keep us in the shake up. We timed a Stefaan Lambrechts widowhood hen at 09.41 flying a velocity of 2025 ypm and she was clear of our next pigeon by 11 minutes. She came back out of the north unfortunately, so we didn't get the greatest video by the time we noticed her dropping in. This sprint hen had 4 training tosses and this was her first race of the season. Incidentally she was our first pigeon from the first BICC Guernsey last year and won 3rd Section, 5th Open from 3219b being 7 minutes clear of our next pigeon on that occasion. We had 48 from 56 by 15.15pm so a good setup for the next channel race on the calendar. Of course, congratulation to Nigel Shaw for winning the race and all the other northern flyers for having a good race.'

3rd South Centre Section, 9th Open was Shaun Saunders of Didcot on 2022 over 155 miles. Shaun's section hen was a Leo Hermans based pigeon that he bred himself.



Pedigree of Mark Gilbert's bird



Shaun Saunders' pigeon

The Provisional South East Section Winners

1st South East Section, 64th Open was Damian Szpak of Deptford on 1715 over 173 miles. Damian told me that his pigeon was a 3-year-old cock half-bred to his 10th Open Grand National Tarbes bird from last year. Bred from a daughter of, Queen 85 with the sire being his son of Armstrong Girl. She bred last year's 1st South East Section BICC young bird winner.

2nd South East Section, 66th Open was JM Cook of Bexleyheath on 1712 over 179 miles. Jimmy timed a 3-year-old chequer hen Vandenbeale out of Arthur Shand's stock. She was raced on round about.

3rd South East Section, 73rd Open was Tony Meader of Benfleet on 1664 over 196 miles. Tony also timed a Vandenbeeke cock flown on roundabout. His 5-year-old cock has been consistent and always wins a few cards. Last year he flew Pau. Tony sends his congratulations to Damian and Jim.



Damian Szpak



Jimmy Cook



Tony Meader's bird back in its box

The Provisional South West Section Winners

1st South West Section, 5th Open were Owers Bros from nr Wareham on 2078 over 87 miles. Owers Bros timed a De Klak x Mark Gilbert bird gifted to them by their good friend Neville Spracklen, as a young bird. They said, 'We would like to thank to Neville and J & D Staddon for their CHAOS mix and Clive Harrison for transporting us to the marking station. And of course, congratulations to the race winner.'

2nd South West Section, 10th Open was Mike Hathway of Hartcliffe, Bristol on 2003 over 131 miles Mike sent two unpaired yearling hens. These hens were specially prepared for this race, being kept with this year's young birds. They were trained in any weather and both hens had already scored this season. Bred from Mike's own blended family they will hopefully be paired up for the longer races.

3rd South West Section, 17th Open was John Halstead of Kington Magna in North Dorset on 1974 over 103 miles. Flying yearling cocks that were well trained as youngsters but not raced, this was only their second time in a race crate, John had 3 return separately, all from a northerly direction in 2 ½ minutes. The leader was a blue Kees Bosua cock from a Fed winning son of his current number one Bosua pair mated with a daughter of Rolex, also Bosua, the Saintes National winner for Crammond & Langstaff which was purchased from Nigel and Mark Gilbert in the Autumn of 2022. Her brother had bred Mark 3rd Open and a fistful of dollars in the Thailand one loft race in 2022. John said that the returning birds were in excellent condition after their time in the basket so a big thank you to the team looking after them.



Mike Hathway



John Halstead

The Provisional Top Ten Open Positions:

1st Mr & Mrs N. Shaw of Crewe on 2170.335, 2nd J & B Oakley of Whitchurch on 2137.790, 3rd Booth & Roper of Tewkesbury on 2091.175, 4th John Garvey of Walsall on 2079.006, 5th Owers Bros from Nr Wareham on 2078.855, 6th Cowley Bros of Cirencester on 2072.269, 7th K Johnson of Kings Bromley on 2067.630, 8th M Gilbert of Winkfield on 2025.459, 9th Shaun Saunders of Didcot on 2022.487, 10th M Hathway of Hartcliffe on 2003.610.

Next Race

The next National race is from Alencon on Saturday 11th May. This will be the first race requiring Channel racing documents and we ask that members bring their information to marking stations to help the marking station officials check them. The paperwork is important, and we don't want to have to turn members away, but we have no choice if paperwork is not complete.

The paperwork members must bring to the marking station is:

1. A copy of your CPH Certificate with your CPH registration number on it.
2. Your completed Racing Pigeon Establishment Operator's Declaration Form, signed and dated for 2024.
3. Your Vet's Attestation to prove that you have had your annual vet visit.
4. Your vaccination form with every pigeon recorded on it which is housed on your premises.

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