



## Agen International Provisional Race Report 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024

The second International of the season, was held from Agen in southern France. Agen is approximately halfway between the two big cities of Bordeaux and Toulouse. Rugby Union is played in all three cities, but it is extremely popular in Agen. The local team, SU Agen, is enthusiastically supported and they currently play in the second division of the French league. That may account for why one of its' twin towns is Llanelli, in south Wales, which is equally, if not more enthusiastic, about its' rugby.

At this race, 548 birds from the UK joined the total liberation of 31,254 in total. Agen is a very popular race and regularly attracts a huge birdage. In Belgium, 13,831 birds were sent, 10,879 from The Netherlands, 927 from Germany and 5,069 from France. They were liberated at 7.05am BST.

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

**The Provisional Open and 1<sup>st</sup> South Centre Section winners were David and Daniel Watson over 524 miles on 1039.** The father and son partnership timed the only day bird into the UK at 21.53.26, to win the National.

First, we would like to thank everyone for their support and encouragement following our win. We are delighted with our 3-year-old blue cock on his performance, especially as it was his first race over 300 miles. We have now called him Waffle, due to him arriving just after I was going to close the trap, said Daniel, because it was starting to get dark outside. My mother called me down the garden, as the doorbell rung for the waffle we had ordered. As I looked up to her, I then saw the pigeon coming out of the north-east above the house. I couldn't believe my eyes at the time, until it clocked in and then I realised that this pigeon was one of those from Agen. When I looked at him, he seemed really well and not tired at all. At that moment, I started yelling for my father to come out, as he had already gone to bed to get up for the early morning shift.

We then called Carol to verify the pigeon and then within the next few minutes, we started to receive phone calls and messages from local fanciers congratulating us for timing on the night and on how well he had done.

We raced Waffle on the widowhood system, and we placed him and his hen in their box and added some straw to their bowl on Sunday at 7pm, the evening before basketing. They were left together over night and then basketed on the Monday morning. Waffle is a Johnny Dickinson Kruth pigeon,

with a few small crosses in him, including a Euro Diamond pigeon from Troy Birch and a Busschaert pigeon from Brian Goodwin.

Waffle is also bred from the line of one of our finest pigeons. His mother is a half-sister to our very special pigeon called, Peanut. Peanut's performances were 8<sup>th</sup> Section, 15<sup>th</sup> Open Agen 2018, 10<sup>th</sup> Section, 33<sup>rd</sup> Open St Vincent 2019, 4<sup>th</sup> Section, 7<sup>th</sup> Open Agen 2020, 5<sup>th</sup> Section, 18<sup>th</sup> Open Bordeaux 2022, 3<sup>rd</sup> Section, 3<sup>rd</sup> Open Tarbes 2022. We would like to thank all at the marking station and BICC for putting on the International race programme.



National winners David and Daniel Watson



David pictured holding Waffle and Daniel with his dam

### **The Provisional South Centre Section Winners**

**2<sup>nd</sup> South Centre Section, 4<sup>th</sup> Open was Daniel Coropciuc of Slough over 562 on 851.** The father of Daniel's pigeon is a George Bouges pigeon from Mihai Marin and her mother is from his Romanian long-distance family. She was sent sitting on 5-day old eggs, and she had previously flown Alencon, St Philberts and Nort-sur-Erdre.

**3<sup>rd</sup> South Centre Section, 6<sup>th</sup> Open was Mark Gilbert of Winkfield, Windsor over 527 miles on 821.** With northwest winds forecast for the journey through France, we thought it would slow them down a bit, but at the home end it was looking like they could pick up some west to southwest winds in the Channel. If the UK pigeons hit on a good line, we were hopeful that this would enable a few day birds to be clocked. This turned out to be the case for just one gallant bird clocked on the night for D Watson and Son. Well done to David and Daniel Watson on a fantastic win with their gallant pigeon. It's always great to see workers for the club do well and hopefully this encourages others to have a go.

Back at the lofts at 4am and we were hoping for the early ones to start dropping in. We sent a team made up of yearling distance pigeons and older middle-distance pigeons. So now it was into the second day, and we were starting to think it would be the yearlings that would arrive first and that turned out to be the case.

Our first yearling cock arrived at 7.58am and completed the 528-mile journey with a velocity of 821 ypm to provisionally score 3<sup>rd</sup> Section, 6<sup>th</sup> National. He is a grandson of Golden Barcelona when paired to a daughter of Zeus x Silke on the father's side. The mother is a daughter of Roman when paired to a daughter of New Laureaat x Kleine Jade. Golden Barcelona is the father to Southfield Hugo, Southfield Gold Lady and the grandfather of Southfield Gold. So, full of the right breeding for a race like this.

Our second arrival came at 9.34am with a velocity of 757ypm to score 4<sup>th</sup> Section, 12<sup>th</sup> National. She is a granddaughter of Southfield King, 1<sup>st</sup> Grand National NFC Pau 2020, when paired to a daughter of New Laureaat x Kleine Jade, on the father's side. Her mother is a granddaughter of New Jade 1 x

Rena. 473 is a half-sister to 1<sup>st</sup> National Agen 2018.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> arrival was a yearling grandson of Southfield Darran & Golden Barcelona. Then the first middle distance pigeon arrived. She was out of Bro Golden Devil & Nest Sister Limo, from Gino Clicque. This pair are the grandparents of 1<sup>st</sup> National BICC Club Alencon 4763b 2023.

Next week we move on to Barcelona, but we are going with confidence lower than we would like. This year we are just not getting the birds into the super form we would like so we are hoping the birds surprise us with something unexpected.



Daniel Coropciuc's pigeon



Mark Gilbert's bird

### **The Provisional South East Section Winners**

**1<sup>st</sup> South East Section, 2<sup>nd</sup> Open was Damian Szpak of Deptford over 522 on 927.** The yearling hen I clocked in the early morning to win 2<sup>nd</sup> Open, is bred from a Batenburg cock, the same way bred as 1<sup>st</sup> Ace Pigeon Marathon in Europe 2023, a son of Britta Barcelona. The dam is a daughter of De Favorite Junior of Freialdenhofen. I sent two pigeons, and she was sitting 5 days on eggs before being sent to Agen and had raced the Nationals with BICC before this race. I'd like to thank everyone who congratulated me on this winning performance.

**2<sup>nd</sup> South East Section, 3<sup>rd</sup> Open was Ethan R Nightingale of Dover over 500 miles on 876.** My provisional 2<sup>nd</sup> Section, 3<sup>rd</sup> Open BICC Agen is a yearling cock raced on the widowhood chaos system. He has been clocked from three BICC Channel races this year, with him only being sent across the water three times before this race. Three weeks before this race, he was 73<sup>rd</sup> Section, 236<sup>th</sup> Open BBC Nort Sur-Erdre. With two inland races with Wingham Flying Club, he was basketed Monday for Agen, arriving at 5:51am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day. He is bred out of a chequer cock, a direct son of one of my sprint champions 28, when paired to a grand daughter of John Gladwin's Tip Top Tora, who won 1<sup>st</sup> National Agen. The dam is bred by L & K Buddle out of a granddaughter of Barry and Bolletje of Verweij de Haan, when paired to Marseille Farmer bred by G & C Cooper. Marseille Farmer is the sire to Lee & Kev's Max winner of last week's BBC Pau race and 1<sup>st</sup> Section, 2<sup>nd</sup> Open BICC Pau. A massive thanks to my uncle and granddad for all their help, support, and advice, along with all those who have helped me along the way. Congratulations to the winner on a brilliant performance.

**3<sup>rd</sup> South East Section, 5<sup>th</sup> Open was Dean Childs of Wickford over 532 miles on 822.** He has been a consistent and reliable racer for me, so I decided to send him on a bit further this year. Agen is 532 miles, and he has only previously been raced up to around 300 miles. He is predominantly of middle-distance bloodlines of Cramming and Langstaf's Saintes' National winner Rolex and Andreas Draper. He was raced on the roundabout system for the first part of the season and allowed to pair to his hen for Agen. He was sent sitting 10-day eggs. Lastly congratulations to the winners on a fantastic performance!



Damian Szpak's yearling hen



Ethan Nightingdale



Dean Child's pigeon

### The Provisional South West Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> South West Section, 16<sup>th</sup> Open was Stephen Slade of Calne over 540 miles on 730.** First of all, I'd like to congratulate D G Watson & Son on a great result on a hard race to clock one on the day! And to the rest of the section winners. The pigeon I clocked, after flying 540 miles, but more like 700, at 10.48am on the second day, is bred from my old family of John Halstead's Nylon Ashley lines and she has been a very consistent pigeon over the last couple of years. This was her first time flying this distance.

**2<sup>nd</sup> South West Section, 17<sup>th</sup> Open was Nick Stevens of North Perrott over 513 miles on 730.** Congratulations to D G Watson & Son on the only bird on the day, and to Steve Slade on topping the section. Our bird wears an old ring, she is a 2019 late bred given to me by Dave Whitfield of Dorchester from his direct Padfield family. She is very small and quiet around the loft, and she's flown Tarbes/St Vincent the last 2 years. Her past results are 62<sup>nd</sup> Open BICC St Philberts in 2022, 34<sup>th</sup> Open St Philberts and 54<sup>th</sup> Open St Maxient BICC in 2023. She was mostly fed on the Versa Laga system with Quill Boost in the water 24/7.

**3<sup>rd</sup> South West Section, 22<sup>nd</sup> Open was Mark Sparey of Abertillery over 574 miles on 709.** Here are a few details about the hen I clocked from Agen. Her sire is 100% old Jellema lines and her dam is from my pied cock Rhiwparc Relentless x a sister to Mark Gilbert's Marseille Cock. She is a sister to the dam of my yearling cock that topped the BICC West Section from Nort-sur-Erdre. She has had a very good season, being 4<sup>th</sup> club, 14<sup>th</sup> fed Brighton, 3<sup>rd</sup> club, 5<sup>th</sup> fed, 5<sup>th</sup> WSRN, 13<sup>th</sup> Open BICC Alencon, 1<sup>st</sup> club, 6<sup>th</sup> fed, 7<sup>th</sup> WSRN Eastbourne and now 3<sup>rd</sup> Section, 22<sup>nd</sup> Open Agen. I also timed my second pigeon at 19.43pm to take 8<sup>th</sup> Section, 64<sup>th</sup> Open. My third and final arrived home after I had cleared my clock, but it meant I had 3 from 3 from the race. I'd Just like to add my thanks to Mike Jackson for taking my pigeons to the marking station, this was much appreciated.



Stephen Slade



Nick Steven's hen



Mark Sparey's bird

### The Provisional North Centre Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> North Centre Section, 26<sup>th</sup> Open was John Black of Hitchin over 564 miles on 706.** John was the only member in the north centre to time a bird. The bird he timed was a 2022 late-bred chequer white flight, roundabout cock bred by club mate Les Jones from Hitchin. He was bred down from his Marley Westrop stock, and this was his third Channel race this year and he was well please to see him home. John said that that had finished him until next year and sends congratulations to all section winners.



John Black

### The Provisional North East Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> North East Section, 11<sup>th</sup> Open were A & T Wright of Norwich over 563 miles on 776.** Allan and Tom had previously been with the BICC and went back north with the NRCC, where this cock took positions from Lerwick and Thurso. This year they returned to the south road with BICC, and this cock has been across the Channel twice. It is off a Buelens Lieven X De Meulemeester.

**2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> North East Section, 32<sup>nd</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup> & 46<sup>th</sup> Open, was Kelvin Sharman of Syleham over 584 miles on 690, 621 & 618.**



Alan & Tom Wright

### The Provisional North West Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> North West Section, 10<sup>th</sup> Open was Alan Wicker of Astley Bridge over 688 miles on 778.** Alan was the only member to time in the north west section and was the longest flyer in the race. Alan is rebuilding his long-distance team with a view to racing from Barcelona soon. The pigeon Alan timed is a cousin to his great St Vincent National winner, Never A Doubt.



Alan Wicker

**The Provisional Top Ten Open Positions:**

1<sup>st</sup> D G Watson & Son of Ashford Common on 1039.730, 2<sup>nd</sup> Damian Szpak of Deptford on 3 927.114, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ethan R Nightingale of Dover on 876.783, 4<sup>th</sup> Daniel Coropciuc of Slough on 851.223, 5<sup>th</sup> Dean Childs of Wickford on 822.669, 6<sup>th</sup> M Gilbert of Winkfield, Windsor on 821.166, 7<sup>th</sup> Mr & Mrs J Cheverst of Gravesend on 809.448, 8<sup>th</sup> L & K Buddle of Dover on 794.704, 9<sup>th</sup> Marius Armanu of Bromley on 787.403, 10<sup>th</sup> Alan Wicker of Astley Bridge on 778.47.

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