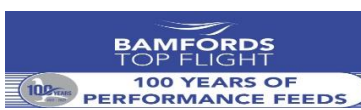


British International Championship Club



2024 Season Review – part two

In 2024, the BICC held 7 old bird National races, 5 International races and 2 young bird races. These races produced some fantastic performances and some great results. The BICC also joined forces with the British Barcelona Club and Central Classic Flying Club to hold some joint races. Many fanciers and officials have talked about clubs coming together for the good of the sport but there is a difference between talking and doing. The BICC, BBC and CSCFC not only talked the talk, but they walked the walk in 2024. This is the second part of a review of 2024, covering the Guernsey and Bordeaux old bird Nationals.

Guernsey National (OB2) Race – 6th July 2024

The BICC's 5th National race of the 2024 season was from Guernsey, where 236 members sent 2,363 birds. They were liberated at 9.30am. In the South Centre, 96 members sent 871 birds, South East, 68 sent 831, South West, 33 sent 266, North Centre, 17 sent 140, North East, 13 sent 122 and in the North West, 8 members sent 133 birds.

The 1st Open and 1st South East Section winners were Lee & Kevin Buddle of Dover over 203 miles on 2207. A partnership more usually seen on the international distance race results, took this race in convincing fashion. At the time Lee said, 'Our winner is a 2023 late bred cock we now call Hermes, who was sent on his first cross Channel National race of the season. Prior to this Guernsey race, he had 3 x Stoney Cross, 128 miles, and 1 x Blandford, 149 miles, with the local Wingham Club. He was sent to the race on our Chaos Widowhood system, being just lifted out of his nest box on race marking morning. A big thank you goes out to Mark Sparey of Abertillery for the loan of the sire of Hermes for a couple of months last year. He was bred by Mark Gilbert and is a brother to Southfield Gold, 1st National BICC, 6th International Pau 2023. The dam of Hermes is a daughter of our Triple Two, himself a winner of 1st Open BBC Barcelona 2019, 2nd ES, 3rd National BICC Barcelona.'



Hermes

Bordeaux National Race - 12th July 2024

The 6th race was another successful joint race with the BBC and CSCFC. The birds were liberated at 6.30 am on 14th July. Many members duplicated in all three clubs, but the race produced an individual winner for each club.

The BICC winner was John Adams of Watford, taking 1st Open, 1st SE Section & 2nd Open 1st Section D with the BBC. John said that he had been looking forward to the Bordeaux race all season because he thought it was the perfect distance for his birds. He said, 'I had singled out my blue hen, 701, after her performances on the north road last year. She won 2nd club, 2nd Thames Valley federation Perth 353 miles, and 2nd club, 2nd Thames Valley federation Thurso 496 miles. For the last few seasons, I have raced on the celibate system but decided to pair a few of the birds for this race.

Consequently, she was sent sitting a three-day old youngster and was very keen on arriving home. She went straight back to her box, covered the youngster and battered me, when I put food and water in her box. The winner, now named Northfield Expected, is a three-year old bred for the job. Her sire I purchased on PIPPA from Mark Gilbert, being a son of Supreme Junior, 1st National Pau BICC, 7th National NFC Ancenis, 6500 birds, 49th National NFC Tarbes 2500 birds. When paired to Southfield Producer, a daughter of Southfield Supreme. The dam I borrowed from my good friend, Brian 'Dickie' Boggins. Which he purchased from Crammond and Langstaff. A fantastic handling pigeon which is from Kanibaal Junior and Fortune Lady, of New Laureate lines.' John had a great race, taking 1st, 2nd and 6th Open.



John Adams

The BBC winner was Rod Berry (Berry & Matthews), of New Milton, who took 1st Open, and 1st Section A. Following the win, Rod said, 'Myself and my wife Angela have been racing now for 56 years, and although we have won up to 1st Combine level this is by far our greatest achievement, and a dream come true. Our BBC winner from Bordeaux is, Leader Boy a 2023 late bred chequer cock. The sire is from our old Janssen Van den Boche family, that originates from the loft of Ken Darlington. The dam is a Jan Hooman that was purchased from Louella stud. From our entry of 9 pigeons, we had 4 on the day with 2 more early next morning. We had another one later, making it 7/9. We fly our pigeons on the widowhood system, and we have done so since 1968, winning both north and south at all distances. Our pigeons arrived from Bordeaux in excellent condition, a credit to the convoyers and a special mention to the people working at the marking stations. Well done to all who clocked pigeons on the day.'



Rod and Angela Berry

The CSCFC winner was Ven Segesdy of Didcot, who took 1st Open 1st NE Section. Ven arrived in Britain with his family as a refugee escaping from the troubles in Hungary in 1956, settling originally in Bristol. Eventually he moved to Didcot, where he now races from. His winning hen is a 2-year-old who was lightly raced, this being her first overseas race this season. She was sent sitting overdue eggs and was very keen on the nest. Ven was confident that she would perform well, and duly pooled her in both the section and the open. She was purchased at the local breeder buyer sale, winning second place in that event. Her parents were bred by Van Ouwkerk Dekkers, containing some Jelle Jellema blood on the sire's side. The winning hen was bred by Alan & Jill Webber. Ven wished to pass on his thanks to all the helpers at the Steventon marking station for their hard work over the season. Ven volunteered to take in refugees after the conflict in Ukraine broke out, having personal experience of the problems it could bring. To that end he took in a mother and daughter, the mother called Alla. Alla looks after the birds when Ven is away, so it is only fitting that the winner is now named Alla. Ven's final thought was that he had waited a long time for this result, so hopefully it's all the sweeter for that.



Alla, the lady at the back with dark hair, her daughter Anastasia with Ven Segesdy and Alan Webber holding the winner

Breeder / Buyer 2025

The dates and venues for the 2025 Breeder/Buyer sales have now been confirmed. There will be 4 sales, and all birds must be in the pens. The sales will be held at:

- Sundridge: Sunday 30th March. Sundridge Park Working Man's Club. 134 Burnt Ash Lane, Bromley. BR1 5AF.
- Bristol: Sunday 6th April. Sartan Club, Queens Road, Bishopsworth, Bristol. BS13 8LF.
- Southampton: Sunday 13th April. Penning from 11am. Sale to start at 12.30pm. Sarisbury Social Club, 108 Bridge Road, Sarisbury Green, Southampton. SO31 7EP.
- Drayton: Sunday 20th April. Drayton Village Hall. OX14 4LF.

Rings are £10 each with a maximum of 3 rings per membership. You can buy your Breeder/ Buyer rings from Clare Norman. Tel: 02380 573919 or email clarenorman71@outlook.com. Guaranteed prize money of £2,000 Breeder / £2,000 Buyer for the first prize, and the 4 section prizes of £250 Breeder/ £250 Buyer.

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