

British International Championship Club

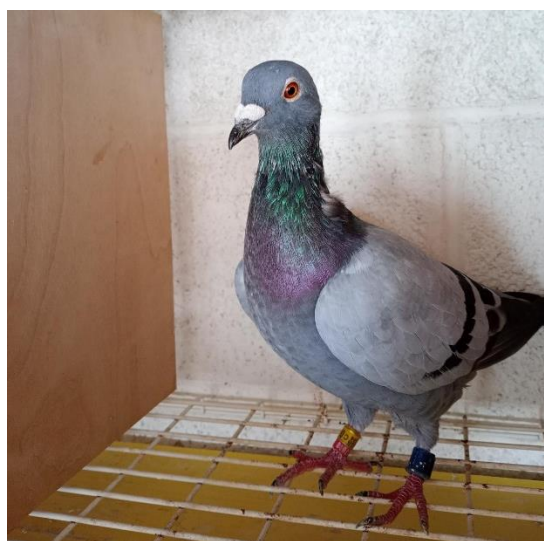


Breeder / Buyer winners 2024

In September 2024, the BICC held its first breeder/buyer race following a decision to plan this at the October 2023, committee meeting. It quickly caught the imagination of members and others right from the start. There were four breeder buyer sales arranged in April, and they were held in Bristol, Southampton, Bromley and Steventon. They were all well supported, and 269 rings were sold. This raised a magnificent £15,975, with the final prize fund for the race, being £16,100! The guaranteed prize for the winners was £2,000 each, with £250 for each section breeder and buyer winner. The race was held from Fougères on 14th September.

Unfortunately, the young bird season throughout the country, was not a very easy one with changeable weather. It was reported right across the UK that losses in training and racing were higher than many would have wanted. However, there were still 19 breeder buyer birds timed from the race with 58 birds sent.

The winning bird was raced by Clive & Jill Rogers & Neil Sales of Radstock and was purchased at the Southampton sale and the breeder was David Paine of St Neots. The pigeon has been named, Treetops 1st Glory and will hopefully race again in 2025. He is a pigeon bred from Gladwin Jarvis's Frans Zwols bloodlines. Clive, Jill and Neil would like to thank David for breeding this pigeon. It was a lovely day, they said, and one that Treetops Loft will remember for a long, long time.



The Breeder/Buyer winning bird



Breeder winner, David Paine with his grandson

David said, "It came as a nice surprise when Jill phoned me with the news, especially for me as a back garden loft. The pigeon I put in the sale was a 100% Frans Zwol form John Cowlin and John Gladwin's stock. The dam is a direct daughter from their 1st Open NFC winner, Burma Queen and the sire is a 2023 pigeon I got from the two Johns in another batch I bought from them. The £2,000 was certainly a nice pick up."

Now, let's hear what Jill had to say, "Neil who was penning the birds at Southampton liked the look and feel of this young bird and thought he would buy it at the auction if he could. This plucky cock bird was put in the later team of youngsters at Treetops Lofts. After their initial training tosses, Treetops 1st Glory only had two races with the West of England Combine. From Stoney Cross, just short of 43 miles, and three trainers from Holmsley, just over 47 miles. On the last two training tosses he suddenly showed promise as he was the first bird clocked both times.

On the Wednesday before basketing for this race the birds that were not going to race from Fougères were all taken on a trainer from Holmsley again. Because we left early on Thursday to take the birds to the Southampton marking, where we help for the day, the four birds that were going to Fougères were put into a different section than their usual one. This made it much easier to get them out of the loft early in the morning, rather than basket them up the night before. We sent 4 birds to Fougères, they were all breeder buyer birds. We were uncertain how these birds would perform as it was quite a jump in distance - over four times as far, and they didn't really have very much race experience. But they were very fit and were flying well on trainers and round the loft.

On the day of the race, I popped into Midsomer Norton to buy some bits and pieces and when I returned, I put the kettle on and asked whether Clive and Neil had decided when they thought the birds might start to arrive. They were still debating the possible time, and while I was still making the coffee, I heard a shout of 'here's one!' Surely enough, a bird appeared in view of the loft and was folding its wings. It trapped magnificently, going straight onto the landing board and in like a flash. I ran to the Benzing clock on the wall of the conservatory and shouted, 'it's number 51!'

All three of us were very happy with that time, although of course we did not know exactly how we were doing in the entire race. So, I looked on Benzing live and saw that Mark Gilbert had already clocked 14, but none of them were breeder buyer pigeons. It then became a waiting game for us. A second pigeon then arrived almost exactly an hour later. This was a breeder buyer bird bred by Booth & Roper of Tewkesbury.



Clive and Jill Rogers & Neil Sales

The first time that we thought the pigeon might have a real chance in the BICC Breeder Buyer did not come until the provisional result was published late afternoon. However, in between then, Clare Norman phoned on behalf of the Central Southern Classic Flying Club to ask us to confirm the time of our clocking and then congratulated us on winning the CSCFC race from Fougères. This was a joint race with the CSCFC, BBC and BICC. This was wonderful news for us because we have never won an Open race, coming close and winning a few sections but not the top prize. What a day, our first Open win and the Breeder Buyer top prize!"

Well, what a day indeed. Anyone who knows Jill and Clive will know how much work they put in to running the sport. The Treetops Lofts of Clive, Jill and Neil Sales are well deserved winners of the buyer prize of £2,000. And of course, not forgetting the breeder himself, David Paine. As David said, what an achievement for a back garden loft. Well-done David.

Breeder / Buyer 2025

If that whets your appetite to have a go in 2025, the good news is that the BICC will again run the Breeder Buyer. There will be 4 sales in March and April. They will be at Southampton, Drayton (Steventon), Sunbridge and Bristol. If anyone would like to organise another sale in a different area, please let the club know.

The Guaranteed Prize Money will be the same as 2024: 1st prize £2,000 breeder £2,000 buyer plus the 4 section prizes of £250 Breeder/ £250 Buyer. Having listened to members feedback throughout the year, all birds must be in the pen at the sales, paper pigeons will not be permitted. 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 All rings will be sent out at the beginning of December when they have been received from the RPRA.

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