

British International Championship Club



2024 Season Review – part one

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 first part of a review of 2024, starting with the first 4 old bird Nationals.

Guernsey National Race - 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 2023, 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.

The Open winners, taking 1st North West Centre Section were Mr & Mrs Nigel Shaw of Crewe on 2170 over 246 miles. At the time, Nigel said, '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 convoyers on what turned out to be a great opening race for us.'



Nigel Shaw with his Guernsey winner

Alencon National Race - 11th May 2024

The second race was a BENZING - Gantner Pigeon Systems GmbH sponsored race. Alencon played host to 6,178 birds. If the numbers were down on the opening race from Guernsey, members made up for it at Alencon, with all sections contributing to a great birdage with 377 members sending. The birds were liberated on Saturday 11th May at 7.15am into a light north easterly wind. The chief convoyer, Trevor, reported that after many years in the job, this was one of the best liberations he had witnessed.

The Open winner, taking 1st South West Section and winning a BENZING - Gantner Pigeon Systems GmbH system were Mr & Mrs Hodges of Templecombe over 210 miles on 1577. After a very successful race, the delighted winning partnership told me, 'The pigeon we timed was a small to medium blue cock bred by Lossin and Gerard who fly together in Germany. The pigeon is of Roeper x Joseph lines. Joseph a winner of 7 x 1st combines with big bridages. He is a super breeder, and most of our winning pigeons come from John, from these lines. Flown on total widowhood and fed on Vanrobaeys food, we had 16 out of 18 on the day. We would like to thank all those who phoned, text or left messages congratulating us. We are over the moon to win the Benzing clocking system.' Gary added, 'I would also like to thank Prilly for all her help and input and say a big thank you to the convoyers because the birds arrived in immaculate condition as always, they are a credit to the BICC.'



Alencon winners, Prilly & Gary Hodges with John Gerard

St Philbert National – 25th May 2024

The third National race of the season was from St Philbert, where 366 members sent 5,031 birds. This was well up on the 2023 race where 238 members sent 2,797. The birds were liberated at 7.00 am on Saturday 25th May. This was another BENZING - Gantner Pigeon Systems GmbH system sponsored race.

The Open winner, taking 1st South West Section and winning a BENZING - Gantner Pigeon Systems GmbH system was Lee Luscombe of Liskeard over 291 miles on 1631. Lee was on Cloud 9 after winning the race, and when he realised that he had won a new Benzing system he was well pleased! He said he was thinking of getting one, and this was the icing on the cake. Lee moved to his current location in 2021, and it has been a slow process trying to break his team and then trying to rebuild a team capable of competing in the Channel racing. The winner is one of the broken pigeons, originally raced at Roche. Now named Weemere Deirdre, after Lee's wife Stacy, because she never moans about the time spent down the loft doing the birds. Weemere Deirdre was bred by the House of Aarden by Steve and Lesley Wright. She is part of a 'cross for racing' experiment that Steve and Lee are trying. The sire, a son of Champion Padfield's Blue Badge, 2nd BICC Barcelona, when paired to Champion Padfield's Iron Lady, 4 times in the clock from Barcelona, was paired to a Stuart Wilcox bred daughter of Champion Nosey, the winner of 5 x 1st Club, including 2nd Section, 2nd Open CSCFC Messac from 2,749 birds, 1st Section, 3rd Open NFC Messac from 6,500 birds.



Lee Luscombe holding his St Philbert winner

Nort-sur-Erdre National - 8th June 2024

The BICC, BBC and CSCFC came together for a joint race from Nort-sur-Erdre and it produced a birdage of some 5,300 birds. As said, the BICC, BBC and CSCFC not only talked the talk, but they walked the walk in 2024. This was the first of four joint races of the season.

This race produced two overall winners, Brunger & Warner who won the BICC and BBC and Peter Rixon who won the CSCFC.

The BICC and BBC Open winners, winning a BENZING - Gantner Pigeon Systems GmbH system were Brunger & Warner of Wisborough over 252 miles on 1375. Delighted with their double National win, the partnership said, 'We would like to say a big thank you to the BICC marking and

convoying team, the birds returned in absolutely immaculate condition, a true credit to all involved. We are also made up with the Benzing clocking system as we were thinking of buying one a few weeks ago. This will be a great asset for us going forward.

We sent 10 hopefuls for the BICC Nort-sur-Erdre then nominating over to the BBC and the 100 Club. While waiting for the birds we predicted a steady race with the northerly winds in France turning westly in the Channel. At 11.53am Number 40, a blue roundabout hen, appeared like a dot in the sky, spot on her racing line from France and finished in one fast dive into the loft and straight into her partner still looking completely fresh. She is a 2-year-old roundabout hen from a family of Maurice Matthews pigeons that were first acquired from one of Richard's lifelong friends, Roger Dawbarn some 25 years ago. He kindly gifted them from his directs that he had spent a considerable amount of money on. These pigeons have put up some very good performances over the years winning many club, fed, combine and now National level winning 1st Open BICC and 1st BBC.'

The CSCFC winner, taking 1st NE Section was Peter Rixon of Reading. After the race, Peter said, 'After an awful race in the NFC race the previous week, I was in two minds whether to send or not but obviously delighted that I did and to win was a real bonus also to beat the local ace and club mate Luke Oglesby was extremely pleasing. My winning bird was a yearling cock raced on the natural system sitting four-day old eggs, the sire is son of Brexit Barcelona of Crammond and Langstaff, winner of 1st Open Barcelona in the BBC when he was paired to daughter of New Laureate. The dam is Jan Aarden Louella, of Unbreakable lines. Herself a winner of 1st Section Messac in the Classic.'

The BICC, BBC and CSCFC will be holding a series of joint races again in 2024, and if you want to be part of this great initiative, membership is now open.



Brunger & Warner, BICC & BBC winners



Peter Rixon, CSCFC winner

And that concludes the first part of the BICC race review of 2024. Look out for the next part coming soon. If you want to race against the best in Britain and Europe, then the BICC is the club to join. New members are welcome, where 'Only the finest' is on offer for National and International racing.

2025 Race Programme

The BICC will organise 8 National races and 5 International races in 2025, with 4 races being joint with the BBC and CSCFC. 10th May – Alencon £4.25 per bird, 24th May – Nort Sur Erdre £4.75 per bird, 7th June – St Philbert £4.50 per bird (joint with BBC & CSCFC), 20th June – Pau International £9.50 per bird (joint with the BBC & CSCFC), 27th June – Agen International £10.50 per bird, 4th July

– Barcelona International £10.50 per bird, 11th July – Bordeaux £7.00 per bird (joint with the BBC & CSCFC), 11th July – Dax International £10.50 per bird, 1st August – Perpignan International £10.50 per bird, 23rd August – Falaise YB & OB £4.25 per bird, 6th September – Fougères YB & OB £4.00 per bird (joint with the BBC & CSCFC).

Breeder / Buyer 2025

The BICC are also organising a breeder/buyer in 2025 with the guaranteed prize money of £2,000 Breeder / £2,000 Buyer for the first prize, and the 4 section prizes of £250 Breeder/ £250 Buyer. 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.

Mike Jackson
BICC Press Officer
Email:mike.jackson026@hotmail.com
Tel:07964448291