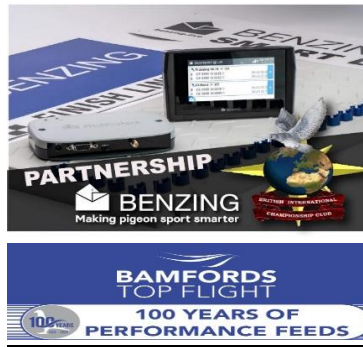


# British International Championship Club



## VE Day 80

## Alencon National Provisional Race Report

10<sup>th</sup> May 2025

### VE Day 80, marking at Southampton.

To commemorate VE Day 80, the marking team at Southampton were joined by the BBC Radio Solent Breakfast Show. Jill Rogers, the BICC President was interviewed live on Radio and a basket of birds were liberated to commemorate VE Day.

Two of the marking team, Bill Edwards and Elvin Booth, both from Gosport, liberated their birds. Bill was also interviewed by reporter Jono Holmes. They had a small Tea Party with cakes and biscuits for the members throughout the morning. The BICC would like to congratulate all involved on commemorating the involvement of racing pigeons in the war effort.



Alencon liberation



Tea Party celebrations



The Radio Solent interviewer



Bill Edwards and Elvin Booth

Alencon was the opening race of the 2025 season, and a good turnout of 4,252 birds were sent by 320 members. Each Section sent the following: South Centre, 139 members sent 1,818 birds, South East 57 members sent 838, South West 79 sent 1141, North Centre 20 sent 240, North East 16 sent 142 and in the North West 8 members sent 73 birds.

### The weather/race report

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

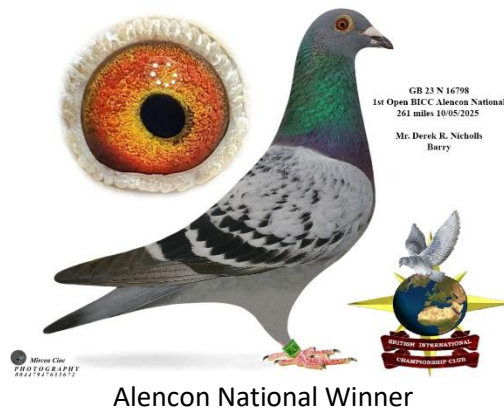
The BICC convoy were liberated from Alencon at 06:45 under clear blue skies. No wind was given at the race point, but they were forecast to increase from the east as the morning progressed. This proved to be the case as seen by the early velocities achieved. The convoyers reported the birds were out of sight almost immediately and that the liberation was one of the best they had witnessed. As the race point is located in the east of France it avoided the cloud and rain showers moving northwards along the west side of France. The flight path across France and the channel was one of almost cloudless blue skies which was the general picture all morning. This supported by the various incoming satellite images. By midmorning winds over the channel were identified as averaging between 12 to 15 mph from the north east. Wind direction over England varied somewhat from being S/E in the west of the country to N/E over the east side of the country. Visibility in the channel was excellent recorded at 11 miles plus.

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

**The Provisional Open winner, taking 1<sup>st</sup> South West Section was Derek Nicholls of Barry over 261 miles on 1768.980.** Derek's good 2-year-old hen has previously won, 12<sup>th</sup> Section Carentan as a young bird, 8<sup>th</sup> Section Sigogne and 5<sup>th</sup> Section Tarbes as a yearling, with the NFC. She is full of Jellema bloodlines with the sire bred by Dean Pallatt and the dam from the loft of Battenburg-Van de Merve. She was sent sitting her second round of eggs for 15 days and will now go onto the widowhood system to prepare for Tarbes again. Derek only races long distance pigeons and he was surprised at how quickly she came. He said, 'My aim is to win from Tarbes and Barcelona, so days like these are a real bonus. She came shooting up from the south and I thought to myself as she trapped, she would take some beating.' Derek's plan is to race his birds three times from Tarbes and then enter them into the Barcelona International. Thanks go to Jamie Sherwood for taking his birds to the new Wales marking station in Cwmtillery, the home of the late, great Padfield family, and the team at the Wales marking station.



Derek Nicholls' long distance racing lofts



### The Provisional South West Section Winners

**2<sup>nd</sup> South West Section, 2<sup>nd</sup> Open were Mr & Mrs Hodges of Templecombe over 210 miles on 1735.560.** Firstly, we'd like to congratulate the winner Mr Nicholls and all the sections winners. The pigeon we timed to be 2<sup>nd</sup> Open is a blue w/f cock bred from birds on loan to us from Christine and Bob Kirby of Honiton. The sire is from a son of Prodigy x Pied Princess the dam is from a daughter of Cease Fire x Unlucky Lady, who was bred by John Crehan. The cock bird has won several club and combine positions. Raced on the widowhood system and fed on Versele-Laga Superstar Plus and fed as much as they want twice a day. As always, the birds from the BICC came home in good condition so well done to the convoyer.

**3<sup>rd</sup> South West Section, 3<sup>rd</sup> Open was Bob Brown of Efford over 231 miles on 1704.406.** Bob's natural raced chequer hen was sitting eggs for 10 days when she put up this good performance. She was bred from Mike Underhill stock.



Prilly Hodges



Bob Brown

### The Provisional South Centre Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> South Centre Section, 11<sup>th</sup> Open were Fisher Bros of Ringwood over 186 miles on 1605.823.** We are over the moon with our result from Alencon, winning the Centre Section and being 11<sup>th</sup> Open. We got into pigeons from going to see our grandad, John Fisher's birds perform and the excitement he got from them every week. Our pigeon is from our dad's old Busschaert lines from our stock loft crossed with a Herman Custer.

**2<sup>nd</sup> South Centre Section, 16<sup>th</sup> Open** were **Ian & Scott Smith of Eastleigh over 306 miles on 1591.174.** This bird pleasantly surprised us by winning second centre section. It is a Gaston Van der Wouwer, bred by good, long-time friend Mr Mark Hancock. Unraced as a baby, lightly raced as a yearling and showing no form. But this season having already taken 3<sup>rd</sup> club and now this performance, the future is bright!

**3<sup>rd</sup> South Centre Section, 27<sup>th</sup> Open** were **J & T Fisher of Poole over 218 miles on 1546.041.** We are very proud of our performance in the BICC race, where we are provisionally 27<sup>th</sup> Open and 3<sup>rd</sup> Section. Our pigeon is a Gaby Vandenaabeele blue pied hen, who also did really well in the Classic race the week before, taking 29<sup>th</sup> Open, 17<sup>th</sup> Section. We race the natural system, and we have had great results in club and federation races. We got into pigeon racing many years ago, thanks to my late dad, John Fisher, who was a really good fancier.



Liam & James Fisher



Ian & Scott Smith



Janet & Trevor Fisher

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

**1<sup>st</sup> South East Section, 106<sup>th</sup> Open** was **T Sparks & P Dallas of Gravesend over 206 miles on 1321.268.** This pigeon, GB23A84626, has been very consistent and was our first pigeon home from Fougères last year. We would like to thank the convoyer for the great condition the pigeons came home in and say well done to all the winners.

**2<sup>nd</sup> South East Section, 127<sup>th</sup> Open** was **M Connolly of Canning Town over 212 miles on 1241.891.** I would like to start with congratulations to the BICC winner and all Section winners. My pigeon, taking 2<sup>nd</sup> ES Section, is a two-year-old blue chequer cock, racing on widowhood. He was never raced as a baby, but as a yearling went right through to Bordeaux.

**3<sup>rd</sup> South East Section, 132<sup>nd</sup> Open** was **Mark Bulled of Harlow over 229 miles on 1236.858.** My 3<sup>rd</sup> Section is a yearling widowhood hen. Her sire was kindly gifted to me by good friend Roger Phillips, of Guernsey. He is a son of Mark Williamson's, Lady B, 1<sup>st</sup> MNFC Bordeaux. The dam is from my old Red Bull family, who had previously taken 2<sup>nd</sup> BBC Bordeaux.



Tommy Sparks & Pauline  
Dallas



M Connolly's chequer cock  
bird



Mark Bulled

### **The Provisional North Centre Section Winners**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> North Centre Section, 38<sup>th</sup> Open was Kevin Johnson of Kings Bromley over 309 miles on 1512.133.**

Firstly, I would like to congratulate Derek Nicholls on winning the race, a brilliant win with a Tarbes proven Jellema pigeon. Well done mate!

Over the past few years, I've had a few birds from Derek to either race or additions to the stock loft, and the quality of Derek's performance pigeons is superb. Derek is also the breeder of my 1<sup>st</sup> NC Section winner from Alencon. Tessa, as I named her after her 2<sup>nd</sup> Section, 11<sup>th</sup> Open result from Guernsey with the MNFC, is a proven racer with additional club and fed wins to her name. Tessa is already showing to be potentially a good breeder with her young picking up prizes in Open races.

She is bred from Odessa and National Bolt, two of Derek's many proven breeders. She was sent sitting eggs that were 17 days on the race day. Tessa arrived in brilliant condition, and not too tired, after battling the east wind on the way up the country. She is a very easy pigeon to condition, and so far, this season has done what was expected of her. Alencon was her first target race of the year and now she moves onto Vire with the MNFC.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> North Centre Section, 58<sup>th</sup> Open was William Blunt of Biggleswade over 252 miles on 1447.445.**

I call this pigeon, 47 and she was bred in the stock loft. The sire being Frans Zwols, from John Gladwin and the dam being Gaston v d Wouwer from Premier Stud. She has been a good pigeon for me but seems to excel when crossing the water. She has achieved a few minor club and federation cards inland. This was her fourth crossing after previously having achieved 4<sup>th</sup> Section and 5<sup>th</sup> Section last season with the NFC. She was sent on the widowhood system and came really well.

**3<sup>rd</sup> North Centre Section, 91<sup>st</sup> Open was Dominic Gruzelier of Houghton Conquest over 252 miles on 1357.388.** Dominic's 3<sup>rd</sup> Section bird is a home bred widowhood hen. She has been very consistent, winning a top Fed position this year and last year. She is a cross between his old lines and his best Kittle Grizzle lines.



Kevin Johnson



William Blunt



Dominic Gruzelier

### The Provisional North East Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> North East Section, 154<sup>th</sup> Open was Dave Downing of Newmarket over 263 miles on 1167.041.** Dave Downing again tops the NE Section in what was a very tough fly for his side of the country into a strong east wind. His timer is a 2-year-old Hardy Kruger cock flown on traditional widowhood and this was his first Channel crossing. This year the cock has had three inland races, and although not winning, has been very consistent and went to Alencon as one of Dave's fancied entries. Dave also recorded a second entry ten minutes later which is provisionally 3<sup>rd</sup> Section. This was an old-stager, a 6-year-old Hardy Kruger widowhood cock which has been across the Channel multiple times and was also 3<sup>rd</sup> Section Nort Sur Erdre last year in another tough race.

**2<sup>nd</sup> North East Section, 162<sup>nd</sup> Open, was Jeremy Nicholson of Ipswich over 251 miles on 1155.170.** Firstly, thanks to all the boys and girls from the Colchester marking station and well done to the winner and section winners. I sent 3 birds, after looking at the forecast all week, with the prediction of moderate north-east winds in the Channel and all the way home. So, I reduced my team down to these 3 experienced birds. First to clock was 39, my blue hen, she was my first bird home last week from Homsley in her first race. Albeit she did not enter the loft until some 12 minutes after she arrived due to visiting her previous address 100 yards away! She had never done that before. Her sire is a direct son of Awesome Sagan x Armistead Cools. Her dam is a full sister to Jos Cools' Speedy. All 3 sent, returned. 2 in the clock and one on the loft next morning. Thank you to all the conveyors and race controllers.

**3<sup>rd</sup> North East Section, 228<sup>th</sup> Open was Kelvin Sharman of Syleham.** Kelvin timed GB22N43333 over 275 miles on 1011.671.



Dave Downing



Jeremy Nicholson's blue hen

### The Provisional North West Section Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> North West Section, 44<sup>th</sup> Open was Martin Williams of Hereford over 275 miles on 1490.389.** Firstly, congratulations to Derek Nicholls and the other Section winners. My Section winner is a six-year-old blue hen, off my old family. She was flown on the roundabout system. She is a previous winner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Section, 23<sup>rd</sup> Open Alencon 2024, with the BICC, 3<sup>rd</sup> Section, 17<sup>th</sup> Open from Messac 2024 with the BBC and 7<sup>th</sup> Section, 23<sup>rd</sup> Open Messac with the NFC in 2023. She has taken the place of her mother, who was my best bird for many years. Her mother won several 1<sup>st</sup> Section and Open positions, taking Ace Pigeon in the NFC.

**2<sup>nd</sup> North West Section, 64<sup>th</sup> Open, were Booth & Roper of Tewkesbury over 266 miles on 1418.341.** Trevor and John clocked a 4-year-old widowhood cock bred on the lines of Invincible Spirit. They have, over the years, produced some good birds from this line. This bird has been very consistent, he was 6<sup>th</sup> Section, 97<sup>th</sup> Open in the BICC Bordeaux race last year. They clocked 8 of the 9 birds sent to the

Alencon race. The partnership would like to thank the marking team at Steventon, and all involved in making this a good race.

**3<sup>rd</sup> North West Section, 65<sup>th</sup> Open was Mickey Lee of Alfrick over 280 miles on 1418.055.** Mickey sent GB20 X 30947, a blue cock sitting 8 days after rearing two young birds. He had three club races before Alencon and was flying well around home. He is a Jan Huyberts cross. Thanks go to the marking team at Steventon and congratulations to all winners.



Martin Willaims



Booth & Roper



Mickey Lee

#### **The Provisional Top Ten Open Positions:**

1<sup>st</sup> Derek R Nicholls of Barry on 1768.980, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr & Mrs Hodges of Templecombe on 1735.560, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bob Brown of Efford, 4<sup>th</sup> Mr & Mrs S D Weir of Plymouth on 1681.850, 5<sup>th</sup> M Hathway of Hartcliffe on 1679.924, 6<sup>th</sup> Terry Lee & Terry Dyer of Plymouth on 1678.779, 7<sup>th</sup> C & J Howse of Devizes on 1673.729, 8<sup>th</sup> Clift & Harding of Tirley on 1657.089, 9<sup>th</sup> Jamie Sherwood of Port Talbot on 1640.370, 10<sup>th</sup> G Bone of Chard on 1616.711.

#### **Next Race**

The next race is from Nort-sur-Edre on 24<sup>th</sup> May with basketing on the Thursday before, as usual. That's the first one over and good luck to all for the next one.

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