

BRITISH BARCELONA CLUB – BORDEAUX NATIONAL

Saturday the 30th July saw 180 members of the British Barcelona club dispatch 935 birds to Bordeaux for their final old bird National race of the 2011 season. The turnout was disappointing and was actually the lowest recorded for the club from this particular race point - the previous lowest being 946 in the 2009 season. With the forecast of the winds being in the North East perhaps this deterred members from sending or maybe it was the poor returns in recent races. Whatever as things turned out the birds were liberated at 0600hrs into clear blue skies and no wind but with the forecast of a NE wind on route I expect most members like me expected a tough race. But this was not the case as 85 of the members recorded a bird on the day with many of those timing in multiple birds including three members in Section E who clocked birds flying distances of 538, 546 and 566 miles on the day the shortest flying of whom recorded a flying speed in excess of 40mph.

With a touch of East in the wind one may expect the winning bird to be timed in the West of the country but to be timed as far up as **Western-super-Mare** in Section C certainly surprised me as top flyer **Phil Newton** flying **459 miles** clocked his two year old hen "**Springfield Tornado**" at **17:08** to record a velocity of **1209** to win **1st Section C and 1st Open National BBC Bordeaux for 2011**. This hen has flown five channel this season the last being the CSCFC Tarbes race where she took a week to return. However Phil got her back down on eggs and she was sent sitting 14 days. She is full of winning bloodlines her Sire is a son of his good hen "**Springfield Harrier**" who won 1st Section, 1st Open CSCFC Bergerac and her Dam is a daughter of NFC Certificate of Merit winner "**Springfield Blackbird**" his best ever distance pigeon when paired to "**Springfield B52**" a winner of 1st Section 1st Open CSCFC Cholet. Phil believes in pairing the best to best irrespective of strain creating his own strain of Van Newtons which have won at the top level for many years. The birds are fed on Willsbridge widowhood mix supplemented with farm beans, peas and barley and a few peanuts. He would like to thank also those associated with the BBC for supplying this marvelous competition.



On their way - The Bordeaux Liberation



Phil Newton and Gary Summers

Just a tad north flying **462 miles** to **Nailsea** another successful fancier **Gary Summers** clocks his yearling chequer hen at **17:16** to record a velocity of **1203** to take **2nd Section C and 2nd Open**. This hen was raced on the widowhood system for the first few races then repaired and sent to this race on a 2 day old youngster. In preparation for Bordeaux she previously had two channel races the first from Carentan with the WESRC and the second the NFC Messac race. Her sire is a Wal Zontjens X Hartog the dam is a pure Hartog both bred by John Gerrard. She was 3rd Open from Carentan as a youngster in the Paulton open race. His birds are fed on Gem corn with Beyers Turbo added. He would like to thank all the volunteers and workers at the marking stations and the convoyer for doing a great job of looking after the birds which returned in excellent condition.

Meanwhile at Compton Bassett in Wiltshire I had stopped mowing the lawn and had settled down for what I thought was a long wait when at **17:11** out of the South West in dived my two year old Leo Van Rijn widowhood cock **"Vagabond"** who had flown the **457** miles in good time to record a velocity of **1197** fast enough to take **3rd Section C and 3rd Open**. This cock was well fancied having been the first bird to the loft on two previous occasions this season and had kisses in all the relevant places. This was his sixth channel race of the season having flown BBC Carentan, CSCFC Carentan, NFC Fougeres, NFC Cholet, BICC Agen and finally BBC Bordeaux which turned out a good race for me with three other arrivals on the day who were clocked at 18:07, 18:14 and 19:10. Just one more old bird race left for me with the BICC from Perpignan next week with my two entries raring to go.



**"Vagabond" – Leo Van Rijn Cock
3rd Open for Crowley and Green**



Willy Young – 4th Section C and 4th Open

On the other side of the country at **Chesham** in **Buckinghamshire** we have the Bordeaux specialists **Mick and Tracy Carrick** who have won the Bordeaux national for the last two seasons. Once again flying **470 miles** with the wind not in his favour his two year old cock **"Baby Bojangles"** is clocked at **17:37** to record a velocity of **1188** to win **1st Section D and 5th Open**.

This Gaby Vandabeele cross Wain Lee Punto is bred from two direct from George Litherland and has previous performances of 2nd Sec E NFC St Malo and 4th Sec E also well up in the open NFC St Malo results.

They entered 11 for Bordeaux timed 2 on the day and 6 the next day. Mick is photographed with granddaughter Olivia-May with dog looking on – I wonder what he's thinking?

At **Gloucester** we have **Willy Young** who only joined the BBC three weeks ago and competing in his first race he clocks his two year old cheq hen at **18:01** to record a velocity of **1190** fast enough to take **4th Section C and 4th Open**.

This Scotsman still flies in partnership with his father in the Falkirk area but moved down to Gloucester six years ago where he joined the Charlton Kings Club as a non flying member. Two years ago he purchased a house with garden suitable for flying pigeons and purchased the loft and birds from local fancier Bob Orton who was packing up. The birds were sent to Scotland where his father bred some summer bred youngsters which were sent down for Willy to race last season and it is one of these that performed so well from Bordeaux – a great start Willy.



**Mick Carrick and Granddaughter Olivia-May
1st Section D and 5th Open**



Bill Stribling – 6th Open BBC Bordeaux

We return to Weston-Super-Mare to the lofts of **Bill Stribling** who clocks his two year old Van Newton cock at **17:20** to win **5th Section C** and **6th Open** on a velocity of **1187**.

This cock is flown natural and was sent to this race on a 1 day old youngster. In preparation for this race he had 4 channel races up to and including NFC Tarbes when he returned at 17.50 on the second day. The birds Sire is a gift bird from Phil Newton with Gary Summers blood lines and the Dam is his best breeding hen called “Newton's Wonder” which is obviously bred by Phil Newton and is also the Dam of Bills first bird from BBC Palamos this year which won 1st Section and 2nd Open the same bird had also previously won 1st section 8th Open BBC Messac last season.

Bill believes in quality not quantity and only sends a maximum of 6 birds to the big open races from which he continually times in some top winning birds especially from the distance remarkable flying from such a small team marvelous flying from a top man.

At **Radstock** flying **449 miles** we have the inform loft of **Ken and Janet Wilcox** who clock two quick ones the first at **17:07** to record a velocity of **1186** and the second a few minutes later to record a velocity of **1162** to take **7th and 11th Open**.

Bordeaux for them was the last of a total of 52 old bird races flown by their team of 30 widowhood cocks and 16 pair of roundabout / natural. Of the 62 they started the season with 48 remain - all birds are raced virtually every week from some race point as very little training is given perhaps 2 or 3 -15 miles tosses at the beginning of the season. The 2 birds timed to be provisionally 7th and 11th open were their first 2 birds from the CSCFC Bergerac race where they won 6th and 8th Open but this time in reverse order.



**Ken and Janet Wilcox
7th and 11th Open BBC Bordeaux**

Both are similarly bred from birds obtained from Geoff Kirkland over the past 30 years mainly from the Bauwen /Desmet/Van de Pol lines very few others have been introduced during the last 25 year other than from friend Dave Vowles of Street , Chris Gordon , and Tom Sherwood in 1996 . Feeding for all birds remains as simple as possible Super Diet with Carrs oil added in the morning and Versele Laga sport and Gems breeder mixed in equal parts with added peanuts and sunflower kernels, no medication is ever used other than routine vaccination , dropping are checked twice yearly and have been found negative for many years. They would like to congratulate that old fox Phil Newton on winning the race and not forgetting Tess of course. Also the committee of the British Barcelona Club on the wisdom of purchasing a new transporter with plastic crates and not the ghastly aluminum ones. They wish everyone good luck with their young birds racing something they never take seriously finding it far better to retain birds selected for future years.



Graham Baker – 1st Section E and 8th Open

Its **422 miles to Fordingbridge** where **Mark and Julie Gower** by their high standards have experienced a poor season so far. But they finished well with old birds when they clocked a two year old hen at **16:35** to record a velocity of **1169** to take **1st Section B and 9th Open.**

This Hagen Bros hen is flown on the round-a-bout system and has always been a consistent racer. She had 2 inland races and 3 channel races prior to Bordeaux. Her preparation was Cholet 270 miles with the Wessex combine where she was 3rd Fed then to Bergerac (434 miles) 2 weeks ago with the classic where she was his 3rd bird on the day flying 11.5 hours on the wing but came back full of fly. She was then just exercised around the loft and given one 40 mile toss the weekend before basketing. Mark would like to thank his wife Julie who lets the birds in & out while he's at work, racing would be a lot more difficult without her help. They would also like to congratulate Phil Newton on a great performance.



**Julie and Mark Gower
1st Section B and 9th Open**

We go East to **Winchester** to the lofts of **Peter Reeves** for the winner of **1st Section A and 10th Open** where he clocks a four year old Wildemeersch cock a grandson of Porter and Richardson's "Fire Cracker" at **16:41** to record a velocity of **1162**. This cock was sent to Bordeaux sitting a 10 day old youngster and just starting to drive his hen to nest. No stranger to the winners enclosure as he has previously won a couple of club races and also finished 8th Section 20th Open BBC Poitiers and 15th Section 46th Open BBC Bordeaux both last year. Peter does not have E-mail so unfortunately could not provide a photograph but we had a really interesting conversation discussing the source of these pigeons. As it turned out Peter attended the Porter and Richardson clearance sale at Rotherham in 2005 where he purchased a cracking hen "One One One One" a pigeon I know well as I attended the same sale and was also interested in purchasing this hen as she stood out as one of the best birds in the sale. As it was I purchased two cocks at the sale "Oscar" who was bred by the Leadbeaters of Rugeley and his son "Mr Plum" who was a son from "Oscar" paired to "One One One One", both were Fed winners and have bred the same for me and Peter's pigeon also contains the same blood.

If there's any performance that stands out in this race then it's got to be that put up by **Graham Baker** of **Shifnal** whose three year old chequer hen flying **538 miles** was timed at **19:27** to record a velocity of **1174** to win **1st Section E and 8th Open.**

The Sire and Dam of this pigeon came from eggs gifted to Graham from his good friends Geoff and Catherine Cooper.

On one side we have Emiel as the G.sire and Miss Kedir as the G.dam who were the Sire and Dam of Farmboy. On the other side the G.sire is Titch and the G.Dam Miss Boric. Top winning lines continually producing winning pigeons.

To **Reading** for the next pigeon in the result where we have **Roger Lowe** clocking a two year old cheq hen at **17:29** to win **2nd Section D and 12th Open** with a velocity of **1161** flying approximately 450 miles.

I spoke to Roger at the marking and commented on him just sending five hens as I normally associate him with racing cocks on widowhood. He told me at the time that these hens have been living with his young birds as they were specifically being prepared for the Old Hen National races which are flown in the young bird season. At the time I thought top fancier planning well ahead. He clocked three of these hens on the day

his first two birds clocked were a nest pair bred in 2009 by Neville Spracklen from his hen which was on loan to Neville not surprisingly they contain 100% the Mark Gilbert bloodlines. I will be watching Rogers's performances in the Old Hen Nationals with interest.



Roger Lowe – 2nd Section B and 12th Open

Other fanciers that had been experiencing a bad season until their recent 1st Open CSCFC Bergerac were the **Blandford** lofts of **Mel and Sue King**. Flying **416 miles** they followed up this classic win by timing a yearling hen called "Stourcrest Tolamee" to record a velocity of **1156** fast enough to win **2nd Section B and 13th Open**.

This hen was raced celibate/widowhood for the main part of the season and then paired and sent sitting for this final race. The sire is a winner of 1st Section National Flying Club Young Bird and is a mixture of all their top winning lines being Grandson of 1st Open British Barcelona Club Poitiers with 1st Open National Flying Club Nantes and 1st Open Central Southern Classic Flying Club Young Bird.



Mel and Sue King – 2nd Section B and 13th Open

Also in the pedigree is the dam of this year's 1st Open Central Southern Classic Bergerac winner. The dam is of Gaby Vandanelle x Limbourg lines and is dam of their 1st bird timed from Central Southern Classic Tarbes in 2009 and 2010 taking 23rd & 30th Open.

Eamon Kelly of Abingdon is a hard task master but a good judge of a bird in form last week he won £900 with a blue bar yearling hen in the NFC Saintes race finishing 7th Section and 142nd Open. As she returned in brilliant condition back she went to BBC Bordeaux where flying **465 miles** she was clocked at **17:52** to record a velocity of **1150** good enough to win **3rd Section D and 14th Open**.

She is a De-Klak/Jansen and was bred by a good friend Roger Lowe. The grandmother was 3rd open in the NFC young bird national in 2002 and the great grandfather won the NFC young bird national in 2007 for Roger.

Eamon knew he had a good chance this week as Mark Gilbert didn't send



Eamon Kelly – 3rd Section D and 14th Open

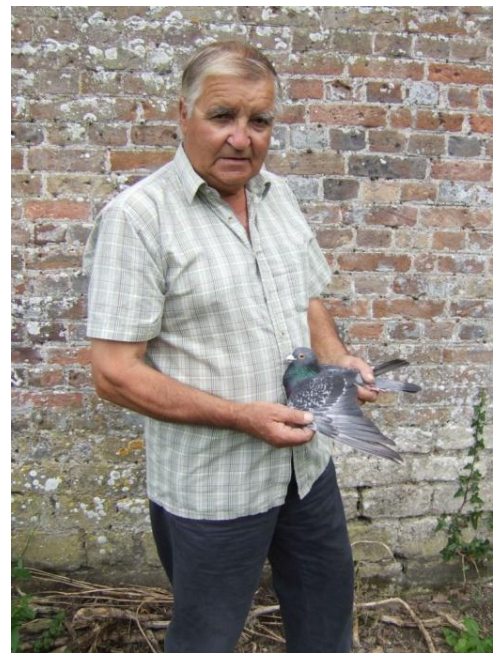
Flying **409** miles into **Dorchester Tony Swain** clocks his four year old dark cheq cock "Reliable" at **16:34** to record **1136** and win **3rd Section B and 18th Open**.

"Reliable" has now flown Tarbes (NFC), Saintes (NFC) and Bordeaux (BBC), all with distinction, in the space of a month. On July 1st he was 4th Section 401st Open from Tarbes with a velocity of 697yph and followed that on July 23 by being 2nd Section, 143rd Open in the provisional result from Saintes NFC with a velocity of 991. On each occasion he has also taken first place in the competitive Weydor Specialist Club whose members include a number of top National and Classic flyers. The Bordeaux race was his 8th time over the Channel this year and in all he has now flown Tarbes three times and has always been in the result.

His best result was in 2009 when he topped the NFC Section and recorded 87th Open with a velocity of 983. Last year he returned from the Central Southern Classic FC race from Tarbes carrying evidence of a hawk attack, but still managed 20th Section, 56th Open, 6th Weydor with a velocity of 592.

As a young bird Reliable flew Lamballe and Guernsey in good time, but he didn't seem to take to widowhood as a yearling and was not pushed after making a mistake from Messac. However since then he has settled to the conventional widowhood system, which Tony finds fits in best with his work looking after his flock of several hundred sheep, although for the Bordeaux race there was a slight change. After the NFC Saintes race on July 23 all the widowhood hens were left with their cocks so for four days he was driving to nest. Tony admitted to having some reservations about sending him again so soon after a ten hour fly (and wife Elaine was definitely against it !) - but when a cock in an adjacent nest box returned late from Saintes the day before Bordeaux marking to stir things up in Reliable's section he was really on his toes and the decision was taken to give him another outing.

Bordeaux marking to stir things up in Reliable's section he was really on his toes and the decision was taken to give him another outing.



Tony Swain holding "Reliable"



"Reliable" – 3rd Section B and 18th Open

"When he came back from Bordeaux they thought he was one of the young birds they had out from their training race with Portland HS because he floated around a couple of times before landing," said Tony. "He looked and handled as though he could have gone on for another five hours."

Reliable's breeding on his sire's side is Fear Bros, with whom Tony and his brother David, now reduced to a spectator-only role due to pigeons fanciers lung, were close friends. They exchanged birds with the Clandown-duo and when the Somerset brothers had security concerns after one of their best seasons, they sent several of their champions to the Dorchester lofts for over-wintering.

The dam of Reliable is a Kirkpatrick hen of Stan The Man lines bred from birds acquired from the Louella Stud.

Tony would like to thank everyone concerned for giving members such good racing and Dave Davies for transporting the birds to marking.

At the start of the article I mentioned that three fanciers had timed pigeons flying over 500 miles on the day the second bird was clocked at **20:37** flying **546** miles to the **Telford** lofts of **J & T Barnett and Daughter** where their mealy hen recorded a velocity of **1096** to take **2nd Section E and 27th Open**.

This mealy hen is bred for the job her Sire won 29th and 50th Open MNFC Bergerac and 44th Open BBC Messac. Her Dam is a daughter of 6th Open NFC San Sebastian (648 miles on the day) also 10th Open MNFC Bergerac. The G.Dam won 6th Open BBC Messac and the G.Sire 2nd Open BBC Ingleton – Just goes to show that winners breed winners.



J & T Barnett and Daughter
2nd Section E and 27th Open Bordeaux

The third bird clocked flying over 500 miles on the day was clocked in the dark to the lofts of **Mr & Mrs Alan Shore of Crewe** flying **566** miles who timed their pigeon at **21:31:08** to take **3rd Section B and 40th Open**. This bird will obviously show up on the result as being timed on day 2 as it was clocked in the hours of darkness.



Eric Higginbottom
1st Section G – 16th Open



Derek Reid
2nd Section G – 32nd Open



Ian Crammond and Nigel Langstaff
3rd Section G – 46th Open

Eric Higginbottom from **Sandhurst** clocks a five year old at **17:28** to win **1st Section G and 16th Open** with a velocity of **1138** closely followed by **Weybridge** fancier **Derek Reid** who clocks his two year old Dark Pied cock at **18:04** to record **1086** fastest enough for **2nd Section and 32nd Open**. This cock was competing in only his third channel race of his life and is a son of “Hercules” who was 29th and 67th Open BBC Palamos and is bred down from Dereks Wim Muller pigeons and a granddaughter of Invincible Spirit from Louella. Not far behind on a velocity of **1039** to win **3rd Section G and 46th Open** are the **Fontwell** aces **Crammond and Langstaff** whose two year old cheq white flight Wim Muller cock is clocked at **17:23** after flying **411** miles. This was only his third race of the season he was clocked on the day two weeks ago in the LSECC Club from Bergerac and two weeks before that had his first race of the season from Fougères, this cock has just started to show some promise and hopefully will be one for the future at the distance, the partnership had a very good race clocking five out of their six entries in forty minutes.

Earlier in the day news came through to the partnership that they had taken 1st and 3rd Open in the French young bird derby winning £12000 in prize money so they were over the moon with their days racing this following their magnificent performance in the Saintes National.

As is normally the case the first bird timed in the Bordeaux National was to the Channel Isles when **Guernsey** fancier **Alan Phillips** clocked his four year old hen at **14:58** to record a velocity of **1077** to win **1st Section H and 37th Open**.

This hen was bred out of a son of Dale Newcombes "Kardale Style" by a daughter of Brian Ketts 1st Palamos winner bred with all the best bloodlines.

The preparation for the Bordeaux race was two St Malo races, Messac and then 3rd club from Tarbes flown all races natural the winning bird still holding a full wing.

R Legg & Son also of **Guernsey** clocked at **16:39** to win **2nd Section H and 73rd Open** with a 3 year old hen flown natural of Brian Denney bloodlines via Chris Padgham stock having its fifth race of the season having previously taken first club from Tarbes with the Central Southern Classic Flying Club.

Finally **Paul Mauger** of **Guernsey** clocked at **18:09** to take **3rd Section H and 80th Open** this pigeon was a cheq pied hen of Van Geel lines via Jeff Woodfield stock which had also been Paul's first bird from Palamos.



Alan Phillips – 1st Section H and 37th Open

Convoyer's Report for the BBC Bordeaux National.

Last Thursday saw the marking of our final old bird race for this season. Marking went well at all three stations, thanks to all the volunteers and I C's.

After all the birds were loaded Steve our new driver and myself set off for the docks arriving at 7pm, and after signing in all the birds were fed and watered for the night. We arrived at Ouistreham docks at 05:30 to heavy mist which lasted all the way to Nantes. This heavy misty was my concern for the next day - as the Bordeaux lib site is next to the Rivers Garonne and Dordogne, and the mist can last until lunch time at times.

On the way down we stopped twice to water the birds, at Nantes and the southern side of Niort, as the temperature was climbing into the high 20's. We arrived at Bordeaux by 5pm and the birds were fed and watered by 6pm, and the temperature was still 28 degrees even that late in the day.

We had an early night and woke at 04:45 to clear blue skies and no wind or mist at all, After speaking with Eric Ilsley, our race advisor, who had already been in contact with Steve Appleby, the all clear was given to go as soon as the sun had risen.

By 05:45 all strings were cut and ready to go, the sun rose by 05:50 and the birds were liberated at 06:00 into probably the best liberation conditions we had all year, and the temperature was already 21 degrees. With the lorry facing north the birds exited the transporter to the east and west and joined up heading north and were out of sight before I had finished checking the crates.

The journey back was clear with near perfect visibility with no wind at all, so the birds would have to fly it with no help with temperatures touching 30c at Nantes. By the time we reached Avranches there was a slight northerly breeze blowing with the temperature dropping down to 26 degrees.

We arrived at Ouistreham docks at five o'clock to find a brisk north wind blowing but clear visibility in the channel, so I knew that the birds would not be tumbling in and only the fittest would make it on the day.

It came as no surprise to me when I received a text from Richard Green telling me that there was only 85 first bird verifications received by close of play, but it was good to hear that all the sections had timed in. It ended up a good honest race to complete the old bird season.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the probable race winner Phil "Van" Newton, all the section winners and to all that timed in.

Nigel Rigiani