

BRITISH BARCELONA CLUB – POITIERS NATIONAL

The British Barcelona Club's third race of the season saw a marvellous entry for the Poitiers national with 250 members sending a record 1,589 birds which was very pleasing and quite surprising considering the difficult races of late. Race marking for this race was always going to be difficult especially at the Salisbury marking station where for reasons of holidays, getting time of work, clashing with BICC marking and sadly a family bereavement 12 of our normal helpers were unable to attend. Not such a great problem when rubbering the birds but with the advent of ETS it was a case of on the job training for the new team of willing volunteers on how to operate the various systems.

With marking due to commence at 1200hrs all concerned arrived early at 1030hrs only to find that a queue had already formed with Dave (the egg) Davies from Weymouth in attendance with the most of the Dorset send. As it turned out this was a blessing in disguise as the ever helpful Dave quickly set up a table on rubbers and offered to help for half an hour (bless him he was still there at 1300) many thanks Dave.

Not so quick getting the ETS tables into action as the new volunteers looked quite concerned when they saw what they had let themselves in for. Fortunately we were prepared as our club chairman and convoyer Nigel Rigiani an experienced ETS man was in attendance and ably assisted by Paul Pym (UNICON rep) and Joe Langbridge (BRICON stalwart) they got on with supervising the task in hand which was made even more difficult as the satellite timing signal was down for maintenance. However with this problem overcome the three ETS marking tables eventually commenced marking at 1130 well in advance of the advertised start time but as you can imagine not at the same pace as our normal experienced team which early on evidently led to longer queues than normal. However things progressed well from then on apart from when a TIPES system appeared which delayed one table whilst a bit of head scratching and frantic phone calls took place. Unfortunately if your basket was in this queue then you may have been delayed longer than those around you but at least you now know the reason why.

Well onto the race and the birds were eventually liberated at 0830hrs on a lovely sunny day into a light Southerly wind forecast to turn North on route. This liberation was much later than we hoped but the race adviser Eric Ilsley supported by his weather adviser Steve Appleby and convoyer Nigel Rigiani had done a thorough job and seen the band of rain situated around the Alencon and Le Mans region. With this band of rain due to clear mid morning they were mindful of the need to avoid the worse and yet still give most of our furthest flyers the opportunity of timing on the day. With hand on heart liberation was affected as early as possible and it was obvious to me the secretary that they were concerned as it's the first time they requested to be kept informed as the early birds were verified.

For the Poitiers National race It was the colony of **Maplesdon & Shipp Loft 1** from Portsmouth that showed the rest of us the way home when they timed two pigeons in two seconds both recording a velocity of 1213 to take **1st and 2nd Section A , 1st and 2nd Open** and their third bird timed 14 minutes later records a velocity of 1175 which was good enough to also take **3rd Section A** and **6th Open**.

Buddy was delighted with his win and would like to thank the convoyer on the condition of the birds on return. They were in remarkable condition as they always are with the B.B.C.

Secondly he would like to thank his very good friend, Mr John Gerrard, for supplying him with top pigeons of Kees Bosua Birds (Bosua Dynasty Holland).

And finally he would like to thank his daughter, Lily Mae, for helping him with the birds because she does all the young birds, which gives him time to concentrate on the old birds. As you can see she is his new apprentice!

He would also like to thank all his friends for ringing to congratulate him on his success.



Buddy Shipp with daughter Lily Mae



1st Section B and 3rd Open were the well known fanciers AG Cottrell, Richmond and Son of Wimborne who timed their three year old blue cock called "The Substitute" at 16:05 to record a velocity of 1201.

"The Substitute" is a top performer having previously won 1st Club, 1st Dorset Fed and 2nd Section 9th Open CSCFC Bergerac in 2009. This season he had already shown signs of coming into form when he was their first pigeon from the CSCFC Poitiers race two weeks previous.

He is also a bit of a Casanova as he was sent to this race sitting 3 days with a blue hen, but was also paired to a cheq red hen sitting 2 days.

He is bred from a Lowick Bros Cock (from one of their night flyers) x with a Vandabeele Hen (from Winston and Ebony, M & D Evans bred) Both these birds were bought by Tony at Blackpool.

In 1st Section G and 4th open is the partnership of **Crammond & Langstaff** of Fontwell timing a 100% M&D Evans Vandabeele, sire is from Nationaal Fideel x Belle and the dam is from Winston x Ebony. Their 2yr old cock has been consistent throughout the season being to all the BBC races this season. The partnership race complete widowhood pairing the birds on the 10th of January and letting them rear two young birds, and sit a second round of eggs for six days before being put onto widowhood, they are not repaired at the end of the season. Since winning the section in the LSECC two weeks ago the feeding has slightly changed as they thought the quality of the marimans super winner was not quite as good as previous, they stayed with marimans and changed to 50% widowhood super power 50% petit France and so far so good. The partnership had 5 out of 12 birds on the day in a testing race and had a total of 9 the next morning. They would like to finish by congratulating and thanking the secretary on doing a fantastic job – really kind these boys.



In 2nd Section B and 5th Open was **Mr and Mrs Terry Anderson** of Poole who have been into pigeon racing all their lives and have been members of their current club for 50 years. In that time they have tried virtually all systems to be successful and win races but for the last two years have concentrated on the roundabout system. They timed their four year old Busschaert cock of R O Jones and B Parker bloodlines at 16:07 to record a velocity of 1178. This cock has won a few prizes in the past and was their first bird from Bergerac last year. This year he had competed in all three races with the BBC and had won 75th Open from Vire.



1st Section C and 7th Open

In 1st Section C and 7th Open was **Crowley and Green** of Compton Bassett who's team of pigeons are on top form in Classic and National racing of late. Having topped or been second section with their sprint team in the recent NFC races they continued their winning ways with the BBC.

This time with their distance team when they timed a two year old widowhood cock at 17:20 to record a velocity of 1169. This dark cock from their Harry Brakele distance family is one of the partner's fancied birds for the Tarbes International and will now be repaired on the Sunday to be sent sitting for this event.

He was one of a team of 7 widowhood cocks sent to this race with 5 cocks being timed on the day however the 11 widowhood hens sent did not perform as well with only three on the day and another seven the following day. However three of those timed also figure up well in the result taking provisional **17th, 34th and 38th Open**.

In 4th Section A and 8th Open was Mr and Mrs Brian Wall of Bedhampton who would like to congratulate Shipp & Mapleston on a truly fantastic performance. In a hard race to be 1st, 2nd, and 6th is just brilliant.

The bird timed at 15:58 to record 1164 was a widowhood yearling cock bred from their number 1 stock cock which had previously been their number one race bird winning 4th Open national amongst other performances when paired to their number 1 Kees Bosua hen. Fed on Gem Super widowhood with of course Gem Supplements. Brian says the condition of his birds was excellent on their return and sends his congratulations to all concerned.



Brian Wall of Bedhampton



David Hughes of Windsor

1st Section D and 10th Open was **D M J Hughes** of Windsor or David to his friends he timed his two year old red cheq Jan Theelen hen flown on widowhood at 17:08 to record a velocity of 1159.

This bird had been raced steady as a young bird and as a yearling gaining her experience inland. Now as an experienced two year old she had two preparatory races inland, Messac last week and now comes from Poitiers to top the section.

The parents of this bird were bred by Mr & Mrs Clare of Lincolnshire and had already proved their worth as a full brother to his hen had previously won 61st Open NFC Tarbes in 2009.



Dave Fox of Stroud

In 3rd Section C and 11th Open was **Steve Palin** of Cheltenham who timed his two year old blue white flight hen at 18:17 to record a velocity of 1156.

This Blue w/f Hen is 75% Luc Geerinckx and 25% his old Frank Aarts Family. This hen was his 1st arrival from the BBC Messac National 3 weeks ago winning 37th open 10th section. Showing this form she is well pooled in this race and has been one of his best racing hens this year.

He races 16 hens and 16 cocks on his own roundabout system that he has developed over the last 4 years with the hens mainly for the channel program and cocks inland. Everything is kept as simple as possible.

He obtained the Luc Geerinckx birds direct in 2003. The offspring from these directs are starting to show a lot of promise at stock and racing. The mother of the blue w/f hen was a very good racing hen herself winning 10 top prizes with Cheltenham Homing Society and the Severn Valley Fed.

In 2nd Section C and 9th Open flying 375 miles was **Dave Fox** of Stroud who clocked his three year old blue chequer Corbett Busschaert at 17:58 to record a velocity of 1163.

Both parents were bred by Louella Pigeon World and purchased direct from Louella in 2005. These birds have bred many winners for Dave.

This particular hen has always been a consistent pigeon, last year she flew inland races with West of England South Road Combine. Then channel races with the BBC as far as Poitiers. This year inland, as last year. Then Vire. Messac and Poitiers where she was timed in from all three races.

Dave's birds are flown natural with an open loft. They are fed a racing mix with 50% barley and are trained as far as Salisbury Plain until the channel races then not much training. Dave thanks the B.B.C. for giving us all top class racing.



Steve Palin of Cheltenham

1st Section E and 12th Open was L A Whittingham and Son of Wheaton Aston, Staffordshire who timed his four year old mealy cock at 19:40 to record a velocity of 1152 a superb performance by a pigeon flying 439 miles into a head wind.

Of Kellon x Marcellis blood this experienced pigeon is no slouch having previously won two seconds from Messac a 3rd from Fougères and also scored twice in the Midlands National. Hardly surprising really as its Sire is a double section winner having won from Nantes with the BBC and Saintes with the NFC and its Dam was bred by the Telford ace John Preece.



L A Whittingham of Wheaton Aston



Wyatt & Gray 13th Open



Mr & Mrs Betteridge 14th Open



Mark Gilbert 15th Open



Richard Mauger holding his 1st Section H winner

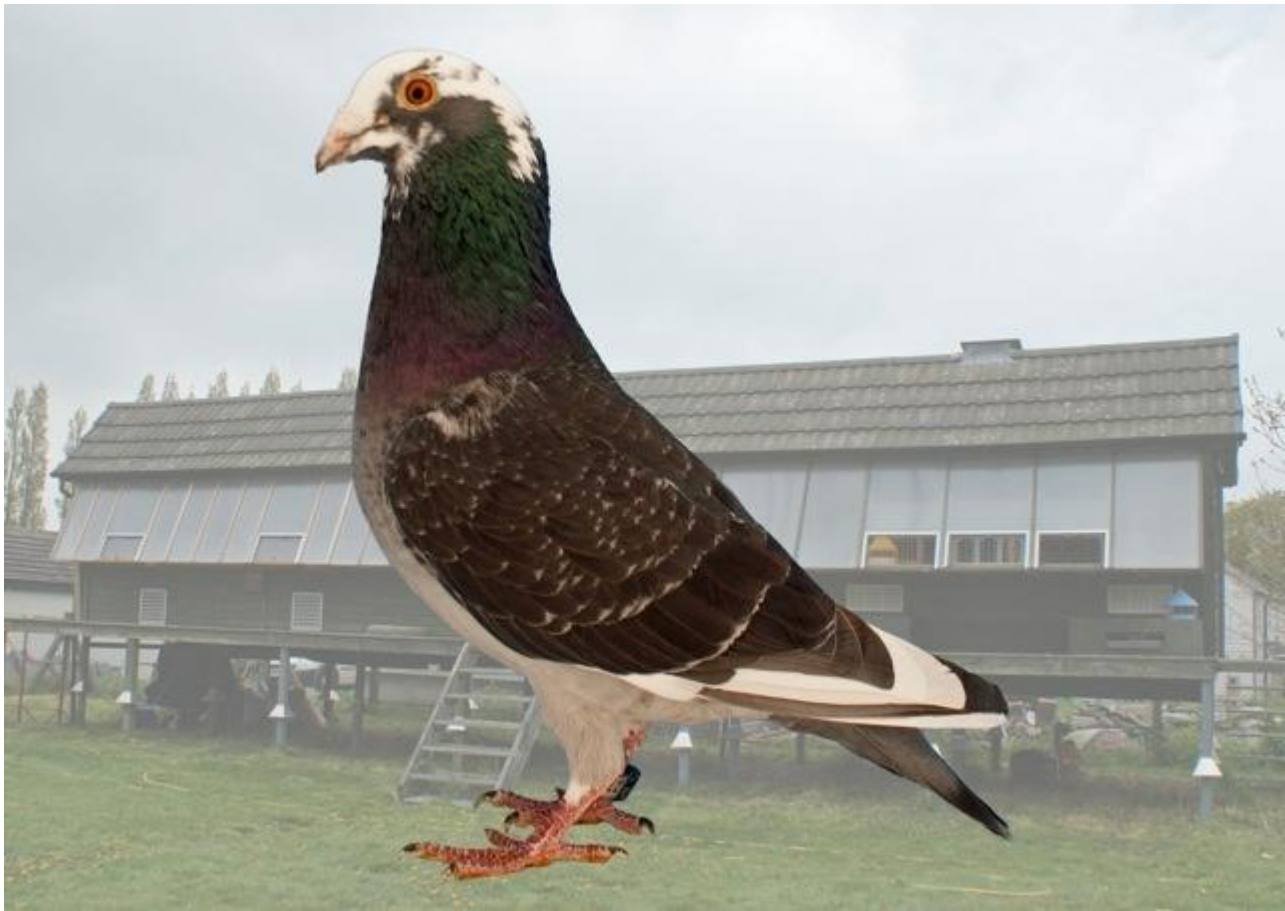
1st Section H and 18th Open was Guernsey Fancier Richard Mauger who timed a blue two year old cock a son of Richards 2nd open BBC Messac winner, he is a great grandson of misty lady the winner of BBC Bordeaux he had flown 2 St Malo and 3 Messac races this season and is always in the clock flown widowhood.

2nd Section H and 28th Open was Nigel Legg (R.Legg & son) with a 3 year old blue roundabout cock gifted from good friend and fancier Gary (Tommo) Tomlinson a Gevaert having its third race of the season followed by two more 3 year old widowhood Jan Arden cocks ten minutes later.

3rd Section H and 100th Open was Keith Young taking with one of his Jan Arden of Peter Eijcamp strain , Keith is now picking up after a slow start to the season.



Nigel Legg holding his 2nd Section H winner



2nd Section E and 27th Open for J Richard and Son of Whitchurch flying 457 miles Velocity 1129



3rd Section B and 19th Open was B & D Young of Bournemouth. Brian holds his bird which was hawked last year. This year he recovered well and has shown good form. The parents were purchased from Brian Shepherd of Trowbridge.



2nd Section G and 37th Open was the Chichester fancier **Roger Parker** who timed his three year old red chequer Southwell cock raced natural sitting 12 days at 16:21 to record a velocity of 1117. Good returns for this loft flying 300 miles he had 7 pigeons home on the day out of 10 entered

Well that the third race over and we are effectively half way through the season congratulations to all the winners so far and also to our race adviser, convoyer and driver who showed what a good team they are as they got it spot on this weekend.

Convoyers Report

Thursday saw the 1581 birds all marked in good time even though we were short of one of our main ETS marking teams due to the sad loss of Martin and Billy Norman's father two days previously, our condolences go out to them at this sad time.

The Transporter arrived at Salisbury at 16:45 where the birds were all fed and watered and rested till the journey to Poole docks. Friday morning dawned in Cherbourg to thick fog which lasted all the way to Alencon then from there on broken cloud all the way to the lib site.

Stopped just short of Le Mans for a one hour break to water the birds, arrived at Poitiers around 14:30 and birds fed and watered by 16:00. Received a call from our race controller stating that he had been in touch with Steve Appleby our weather adviser telling me that there would be a band of rain from west to the east just north of us in the morning so we would have to wait and see how things develop later.

Saturday dawned to clear blue skies and very little wind to speak of, after speaking to Eric at 05:15 he stated that Steve felt that the band of rain to the north of us was moving to the east and a lib would be possible around 09:00 hrs. As the morning progressed one of the French transporters liberated at 08:00 and cleared very well and having talked to the BICC Convoyer it was decided that we would lib at 08:30 as we had some of the longest flyers on board.

The birds all cleared in less than a minute to the north, the journey back saw blue skies until we reached Tours where it became cloudy and overcast and the roads were wet until we got to the other side of Le Mans with clear blue skies and a light northerly until we reached Caen.

Contrary to previous reports both the BICC and the BBC were very happy with the site for the birds, no wires and plenty of room for half a dozen transporters to liberate, Toilets were acceptable and in a cleaner state than most motorway services in this country. The only downfall was no showers and it's a bit of a trek if you need the shops.