

BRITISH BARCELONA CLUB – CARENTAN NATIONAL

The first National race of 2011 was organized by the British Barcelona Club to be liberated on Friday the 29th April when 293 members sent their birds to the lovely small rural town of Carentan which is located near the North-Eastern base of the French Cotentin Peninsular in Normandy North-Western France near the port city of Cherbourg-Octeville. The birds were transported to the race in the BBC's new transporter which had been designed and constructed in the close season.



GB11BBC – The New Transporter



The Port of Carentan

The club's original intention was to mark on the Friday and liberate on the Saturday but with the Royal Wedding taking place on the Friday and the day being declared a public holiday the marking stations were not available and it was therefore decided to mark on the Thursday and consequently liberate on the Friday. Once again for this season the three marking stations at Penkrigde, Walkern and Salisbury were in operation and the committee and helpers were kept extremely busy. The odd mistake was made for which we apologise and the queues at Salisbury were long especially for those on ETS which is often the case for the first race of the season as there were many assignment lists printed out and several birds had to be reassigned for various reasons all of which caused delays. The situation was not helped by the number of members who turned up early (before 1000) for a 1200 start as they had misread their handbook of course once you start with a long queue you can never recover. Mind you everyone took it in their stride and were very patient and understanding.

For the first race the committee wanted as many members as possible to see the new transporter therefore the marking station at Salisbury was set up on the Wednesday afternoon and the lorry and driver dropped panniers off at Walkern before proceeding onto Penkrigde to allow for an early start on the Thursday morning. The intention for future markings will be for the lorry to remain at Salisbury and the birds from Penkrigde and Walkern will be collected on the trailer. Marking at Penkrigde commenced at 0800 to 1000 and once the birds were marked the lorry was loaded and proceeded to Walkern who marked between 1200 and 1400 after which it

was on to Salisbury eventually arriving at 1745. For those who assisted at Salisbury and stayed on to load the lorry it made along day as they eventually got away at 1900 after arriving at Salisbury at 1030 earlier in the day.

The problem with liberation sites located on or near to the coast is that they are often subject to coastal mist which was the main reason for the holdover on the Friday and the subsequent liberation which was delayed until 1105hrs on the Saturday. Thankfully the mist cleared and the convoyer Nigel Rigiani ably assisted by the reserve convoyer Chris King were able to liberate the 2,651 birds into clear blue skies and a light North Easterly wind which was forecast to turn Easterly in the channel and to strengthen on route.

With strong East / North Easterly winds forecast a hard race was ahead and it was no surprise to see the West side of the country to the fore as the leading pigeon was timed in by **Barry Cryer of Taunton** at **14:02** to record a velocity of **1429** and take **1st Section C and 1st Open BBC Carentan**.

This yearling blue Pouw Janssen cock flown naturally was motivated by his desire to return to his two 20 day old youngsters who he was in sole charge as the hen he had been paired to had been killed by a hawk.

The nest brother to this cock was 1st club, 13th Open WESRC and was bred by Jimmy Stewart of Taunton. All Barrys birds are on 'open hole' and are flown naturally.



Race winner Barry Cryer (on the left) and breeder Jimmy Stewart



Martin Edwards – 2nd Open

Further West at **14:26** we have a two year old blue hen **“Somerset Girl”** diving in to the lofts of **Martin Edwards and Son at Weston-super-Mare** to record a velocity of **1381** fast enough to take **2nd Section C and 2nd Open**.

Martin started racing pigeons in Weston-super-Mare about 10 years ago but has always been interested in pigeon racing as his father raced them when he was a boy.

“Somerset Girl” had previously won from Lessay as a yearling and had been trained four times from the coast by his brother in law and then sent to this race whilst sitting on a 5 day old youngster. The parents of this pigeon were purchased for stock from Horseshoe Lofts, Manchester.

Down in the West country at **Exeter** are the lofts of **Richard Goodier and sons Billy and Joshua** who are both 12 years old and are a great help with loft duties as is granddad **Fred** who also plays a big part in their set up always on hand when ever needed. They clocked a two year old blue Jos Thone hen at **13:58** to record **1371** and take **1st Section B and 3rd Open**.

They race the roundabout system for most of the year and then pair up for the later races. The birds are treated for canker and paratyphoid before racing commences and then canker every 3 to 4 weeks during racing. Base feeds are Versele Laga widowhood mix, diet 2000 and maize with amounts fed adjusted to the conditions of the forthcoming races. The breed of birds raced is Soontjens from J.S Lofts and Denis Sapin, Vandenabeeles from Mike Lycett with Jos Thones from Ian Stafford. The section winner is a pure Thone hen with previous wins, raced on roundabout. She was allowed her cock over night with straw in her bowl for this race; she was basketed calling her cock to nest. They had eight out of eight on the day with two being in the top fifty of the open; all birds were in excellent condition. Thanks to Terry Dimond for the photograph.



**Richard Goodier and sons Billy and Joshua
1st Section B 3rd Open**



Phil Newton – 4th Open

Back to Weston-super-Mare and **Phil Newton** times his yearling cheq cock at **14:30** to record **1367** to win **3rd Section C and 4th Open**. So much for widowhood as this cock is also raced on the natural system and was sent sitting 12 days eggs. He is a van Reet x Janssen, the sire was a gift bird from his good freind paul Kilkoynne of Weston-super-Mare and is bred from his good hen which has won 5 x 1sts for him. The dam is a Van Reet bred by Phil with Pallatt blood lines. This was the first time over the channel for this bird, and as always a big thank you from Phil to his wife Tess for all her hard work throughout the year.

We return to **Taunton** and to the father and son lofts of **Pete & Dan Clarke** who time a two year old Gaby Vandebeele hen at **14:18** to record **1366** to win **4th Section C and 5th Open**.

This chequer hen contains the winning Tc and National Fideele bloodlines and is no stranger to winning at the top level as she was previously 2nd Section D, NFC as a young bird and is also a club winner with numerous prize cards. Don and Pete would like to congratulate the winner Barry on a great result.



Dan and Pete Clarke – 5th Open

Unfortunately no access to the internet for that old stalwart **Hughie Eades** of **Street** hence no photograph and few details but that does not prevent this experienced and well known fancier as he times a three year old at **14:08** to record **1353** sufficiently fast to win **5th Section c and 6th Open**.

That top class fancier **John Halstead** of **Kington Magna** times a Blue white flighted yearling cock at **13:38** to record **1351** having only his 4th ever race he takes **2nd Section B and 7th Open**.

Raced once at 90 miles as a young bird he has been prominent in two 80 mile races this season on the 16th and 23rd of April being 4th Club in the first of these. Raced on Widowhood this yearling cock has impeccable National winning bloodlines, being from a half brother (the same sire) as 'Untouchable', John's 2009 BBC Barcelona winner paired to a half sister (the same dam) as Untouchable. This family of Janssen Van Den Bosche / Grondelaar bloodlines have been winning at the highest level of competition since 1994 when in that year this cocks uncle 'Tenee' won his first of 13 firsts and went on to take 5th prize in the Versele Laga World Championships sprint category. A family which can show speed and endurance.



John Halstead – 2nd Section B 7th Open



John Ludlam – 6th Section C and 8th Open

We move on into **Wales** for the next one with **John Ludlam of Nelson** timing a blue yearling widowhood cock at **15:05** to record **1351** and take

6th Section C and 8th Open.

This cock contains some top distance bloodlines the Sire was bred by Paul Woolliss being a G/Son of Palona 1st Sec 7th Open Palomos 815 miles and Lona 1st Sec 46 Open, Palomos 815 miles and the Dam was also bred by Paul Woolliss a G/Dtr of Ambition 1st Sec K, 37th Open Pau 703 miles. John does not show his hens before going to the race and the widowhood cocks are fed on Beyers widowhood mix.

In **Bath** we have **Andy Heal** timing in a yearling widowhood hen at **14:22** to win **7th Section C and 9th Open** with a velocity of **1326**. He had particular delight in timing this hen as it is his first season flying dual widowhood he had a storming season last year winning 15 firsts and 12 seconds and many other prizes at club and national level. Flying widowhood for more seasons than he likes to remember he has always been uneasy about selecting his hens on young bird form and breeding but by changing the racing methods to dual widowhood he has effectively doubled his race team which allows him to compete in more races, and selecting his hens on racing results thus strengthening the team for the future.

This hen has fully justified the switch to dual widowhood as she is no stranger to the prize list as she was fifth open last year with the B.B.C. in the Fougères Young Bird National, she now has a Fifth and a Ninth Open National to her name. He calls his team the Cam Valley Thoroughbreds as they are a mix of mainly sprint based pigeons, the team originate from the Mardon Van-Reet strain which he obtained in 1999 from his good friends John Bellerby and Alf Parkinson of Spalding, and a small stud in Tenby run by Mickey Thomas. Over the years the blend of these pigeons has done him proud winning many notable prizes particularly as young birds, they were top class club pigeons however they tended to let him down on the bigger stage when the going got a bit tougher. He started bringing in different strains of pigeons to cross into the Van-Reets looking for the highbred vigour and toughness associated with crossbred stock and allowing the basket to be the selector, this hen is the results of this breeding policy. This season will be a massive learning curve for him as a however results like this really does fuel enthusiasm to build a team of formidable racing pigeons.



**Andy Heal and daughter of Bath
7th Section C and 9th Open**



**Roger, Corey and Gill Owers
3rd Section B 10th Open**

With Sections B and C creaming the result the first pigeon timed in **Section A** was to the lofts of **Salisbury** fancier **Johnny Attrill** who had a field day clocking five pigeons the first was timed at **13:52** to take **1st Section A and 23rd Open** with a velocity of **1302**. With four more birds timed at 13:58:25, 13:58:29, 13:58:33 and 13:59:48 he will end up taking the **first five positions in Section A** and all will be in the top 100 of the Open.

His first bird was a Kees Bosua the 2nd a Van Osch x Bosua both direct from Ian Crammond & Nigel Langstaff and the 3rd bird from Dave Day which was his pool bird and to top the day off he was also 1st club Bedhampton sprint race with a Andy Parsons long distance bird on the same day.

If I remember correctly Johnny put up a similar performance in last year's YB National which once again was in an East Wind. From now on he will be known as "East Wind" Attrill.

The first bird clocked in **Crewkerne** a Dark Pied Hen called "**Corey's Girl**" was timed at **13:53** and records a velocity of **1341** for the owners **R K & G Owers** better known as Dappy & Gill pictured with their grandson Corey, spot the connection: Corey's Girl.

There seems to be a glitch in the computer programme here as this birds velocity is higher than that down for Andy Heal so expect an amendment to appear in the final result. The Dam of Corey's Girl comes from their distance family of pigeons which consists of the late Tony Hustlers Palomos family of pigeons x Eric Cannon which in the past have flown very well at the distance. The Sire, a direct Jimmy Shepherd Southwell which is a cross they are trying. The best results with the Southwells for them at the moment besides their own blood without doubt are that of Jan & Albie Deacon whom they consider to be some of the best fanciers and genuine people around.



**Johnny "East Wind" Attrill
with his lovely daughter**



Barry and Eric Jones of Telford

Not far behind to win **1st Section E and 48th Open** was **Eric Jones of Telford** who clocked two game pigeons the first at **16:39** to record a velocity of **1257** and the other not far behind. Both of these pigeons are pure Cattrysse and their parents were bred by Colin Lloyd of Cannock a name which will stick in my memory for ever as he pipped me for **1st NFC Saintes** back in 1999 it seems like yesterday but it was 12 years ago. In **2nd Section E and 54th Open** was **A Coombes & Son of Ellesmere Port** who clocked his valiant 6 year old pigeon at **17:43** to record a velocity of **1248**.

John Richard & Son of Whitchurch clocked their good Vandenabeele widowhood cock at **17:14** to record a velocity of **1219** for **3rd Section E and 71st Open**. This cock is a winner of 5 x 1st, including 3 x 1st over the channel. His first race this year was from 104 miles the 2nd race from 66 miles where he finished 11th fed and then 5 days later he was sent to Carentan well fancied and pooled all the way - he never let them down. John would like to dedicate this performance to his good friend Mr Ted Parker whom he passed away on 30th of March this year, this bird was one of his favored he will sadly be missed.

Section D was dominated once again by our Patron **Mark Gilbert of Windsor** who clocked four hens on roundabout at **14:45** to take **1st Section D and 94th Open**. The four came together and are all on the clock within 5 seconds to take the first four places in the section. The first on the clock is a yearling chq hen, the mother was bought from Premier stud being a GDtr of Golden Lady, the father is a son of Marks International Winner, when he was paired to the Verkerk hen. A brother to the father was 3rd NFC Saintes 2010.

The second bird was 100 percent Koopman. The father being a son of Tips and the mother being from Dutchmaster/Gerrie of Syndicate Lofts.

The third birds Father was from Drum/Gerrie Syndicate lofts and the Mother a daughter of his International winner, when he was paired to a daughter of Golden Gaby. The fourth birds Father was a son of Gabys Loverboy and the mother was a direct Van Elsaker hen.



Mark Gilbert of Windsor
1st Section D, 94th Open



2nd Section G for Lou Severe

Onto Section G and details are scarce here but the winner was **J A Akmenkalns** of **Barnham** who timed at **14:09** to record a velocity of **1428** and take **1st Section G** followed in second place by **Lou Severe** of **Chichester** who clocked his 4 year old blue cock bird a Janssen x M Matthews at **14:09** to record a velocity of **1022**. Finally its **Weybridge** fancier **Derek Reid** taking **3rd Section G** when he timed at **15:17** for a velocity of **1017**.

With no entries from **Section F** the final section to report on is **Section H** and once again we have **Paul Davies** from **St Clements Jersey** winning **1st Section H** with a 6 year old blue hen, bred of his 30 x 1st winner blue cock 'No Fear. This 6 year old hen was first section H 33rd Open Fougères old hens last year and second section H Vire national. Also taken Channel Islands combine from Jarnac beaten by loft mate for first combine no other than her sire 'No Fear'. This section win makes her a double section winner like her sire.



Paul Davies – 1st Section H

Well that's the first national race of the season over with the next one due to take place from Messac in a fortnight. Thank you to all those members who helped in any shape or form at the marking stations any additional help would be appreciated especially at Salisbury where with the increase of fanciers using ETS we could do with setting up an additional Unikon ETS marking table so if you are familiar with the system then please volunteer with your name to the secretary to help out. May I also congratulate and thank the new secretary for knuckling down and putting so much time and effort into producing his first provisional result having done it myself I know what he must have gone through it's an extremely steep learning curve especially when you have been out of the sport for such a long time.

Finally congratulations to Mr & Mrs Mick Carrick who won the Basket Sponsorship and to Dave Fox who won the marking station raffle and who is now the proud owner of young bird GB11N07334 which has been entered in this year's Somerset One Loft Race. There are still four more young birds entered in the Somerset One Loft these can be won at the Messac, Poitiers, Palamos and Bordeaux marking station raffles so do not forget to buy your tickets – Good Luck.