

BRITISH BARCELONA CLUB – FOUGERES YB and OH NATIONAL

The last National race of the 2011 season for the British Barcelona Club saw 219 members sending 1,494 young birds to our Young Bird National accompanied by 173 old hens which had been entered by 48 members into our Old Hens National. Marking had taken place at Penkrigde, Stevenage and Salisbury on the previous Thursday and the consignment was liberated from Fougères at 0800hrs on Saturday 10th September on a bright sunny morning, a clear blue sky with no wind which was forecast to turn into a strong South South Westerly over the Channel. Having spoken to the race adviser Eric Ilsley and the convoyer Nigel Rigiani I know that they were both concerned over their decision to liberate as with the strong wind and conflicting forecasts it was a difficult decision to make but as it turned out with 66% of those sending verifying first birds then they should both be congratulated on a job well done.

With a smile on his face the winner of both our **Young Bird and Old Hen Fougères Nationals** was the inform loft of **Roger Lowe of Reading** who flying 217 miles clocked a red cock **“Fast as Lightning”** at 11:21 to record a velocity of 1897. This Lou Wouters x Janssen cock takes **1st Section D and 1st Open** and is bred down from Sheldon Leonards stock the dam being **“Ruby Red”** a winner of many prizes as a young bird including **2nd Section E** in the NFC beaten by a loft mate. She is a full sister to **“Black Jack”** the winner of **1st Open CSCFC Open Race**. **“Fast as Lightning”** had already won **21st Open CSCFC Carentan** and will also be well placed in last week’s NFC Fougères race. The birds are fed on Versele Laga Gerry Plus and Super Star Plus and are raced on the A-Z system. It was 25 minutes before Roger clocked his 2nd and 3rd young birds and he was surprised to hear that these had also won **2nd and 3rd Open**. He would specifically just like to say a big thank you to Mark Gilbert for not sending.



Roger Lowe of Reading
1st, 2nd and 3rd Open BBC YB Fougères
and 1st Open BBC OH Fougères

A few minutes later at 11:48 he clocked his first old hen a yearling who had been deliberately living with the young birds in preparation for this race and has been on the dark she is a granddaughter to his national flying club winner paired to Mark Gilberts International winner Southfield Supreme. She recorded a velocity of 1674 which was still quick enough to take **1st Section D and 1st Open OH BBC Fougères National**. What marvelous flying by a fancier who has obviously got his young bird team in top form as only two weeks previous he had won **1st, 2nd and 4th Open** in the CSCFC Carentan race.

Another fancier who has been making a name for himself in recent years has been the Salisbury fancier **Johnny “Eastwind” Attrill** who only last week topped Section B in the NFC Fougères race and I believe in our corresponding race last season took **1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Section A**. Well this year he does even better as flying 192 miles he had four birds drop together at 11:21 to take the first four positions in Section A and also **1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Section and 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Open BBC Fougères**. His first bird records a velocity of **1677** and was bred by Hans Georg Diebel of SG Diebel from Kreplin Germany the bird is Raynaert Figo lines x Schellens. He’s on ETS and his second bird timed on the same second records an identical velocity this bird has already previously won a race this year taking 5th Fed in the process: the Sire is a Dave Day bred bird Roland Janssen and is a winner himself at the top level as he had also won 1st Sect NFC Fougères earlier this year which makes it four section wins this season – national flying at its best. Unfortunately there’s no photograph of Johnny as modern technology defeated me – phone problems.

Winning **Section B and taking 8th Open** with a velocity of **1654** are **Fordingbridge** fanciers **Mr and Mrs Mark Gower** who's blue Vandenabeele hen races the 183 miles to be clocked at **11:14**.

She is bred from a good ex racing hen that herself won 3 x 1st Fed, 1st Sect CSCFC Cholet and 7th Open NFC Cholet, she is also a full sister to 1st CSCFC Guernsey and half sister to Mark's best racing hen who won 3 x 1st and 1 x 2nd Section wins in the NFC to her credit and also was 2nd & 5th open (half M & D Evans lines. The sire is a yearling M & D Evans Vandenabeele purchased from Graham Warman's clearance sale. The section winner had 3 x races from the East route and 1 x from the West before going to her last race which was the CSCFC Carentan where she was 2nd Section, she was rested last week and sent to this race unpaired and a little ragged in the moult.



Mark Gower
1st Section B and 8th Open

We go further afield to **Wellingborough** in **Northamptonshire** where the next bird in the result covers the **278 miles** to the lofts of **B Hobbs and Son** and is clocked at **12:56** to record a velocity of **1653** not far behind the Fordingbridge bird.



Troy Hobbs
2nd Section D and 9th Open

In the photograph we have Troy Hobbs holding his blue Sapin cock which was bred from pigeons that have been loaned to him by his good friend and mentor Tim Rodwell from Gravesend. Troy has been experiencing a good young bird season where he has been following his mentor's young bird system to good effect putting up several good performances in his local club and federation.

Troy would like to pass on his thanks to Russell and Mel and also to all the boys at the Club

The first three pigeons in Section G covered the 227 miles to the **D Wilton and Son** lofts at **Chadwell St Mary, Essex** in good time where they were clocked at **12:05** to record a velocity of **1631** to win **1st, 2nd and 3rd Sec and 10th, 11th and 12th Open**.

Raced on the darkness the first bird was a blue chequer Brasspenning hen having its third channel race having already won 88th Open bicc Guernsey. Her Sire has won 4 firsts North Thames and Eastern Counties and 8 club wins. The second bird was a blue white flight cock also having its third channel race he is a Hofkens Janssen. The Dam bred by John Redfern of Goole who herself had won 4th Open BICC Falaise. The third bird was a cheq pied hen also having its third channel race. She contains the best of Mark Bullied of Harlow blood lines.



D Wilton and Son
1st, 2nd and 3rd Section G and 10th, 11th and 12th Open



Abdullah and Mohammed Mirza
3rd Section D and 13th Open

At **11:12** **Bob and Sue Bell of Bournemouth** clock their Janssen x Wildemeersch youngster to record a velocity of **1152** to win **2nd Section B and 19th Open**.

This young bird was purchased from D Jones of Wrexham and had previously won 2nd Club Littlehampton last week. Bob has been racing pigeons since 1939 only stopping when he did his National Service. He restarted again in 1953 when he moved to Bournemouth from Scotland and flies his small team in the competitive Dorset Fed where he holds his own. He is ably assisted by his good wife Sue who does all the training as Bob no longer drives – they pass their congratulations onto the winner.



Bob and Sue Bell
2nd Section B and 19th Open



Budgie Crathorne
1st Section E and 22nd Open

Across to **Luton** to the lofts of **Mohammed Tariq Mirza** who clocks his blue Soontjen hen at **12:33** which has flown 247 miles to record a velocity of **1595** fast enough to take **3rd Section D and 13th Open**. Her sire a Soontjens blue cock is also a winner having won 1st club, 6th Fed and 6th Combine. The bird was bred for him by his very good friend Jack Potter of Luton and Mohammed has asked me to pass on his thanks to Jack Potter and also to Mr and Mrs Pattenden for taking his birds to the marking station for him.

We go much further North to **Middleton Manchester** where **Mr and Mrs Crathorne's** Mealy cock covers the **362 miles** in good time when he is clocked at **14:58** to win **1st Section E and 22nd Open** with a velocity of **1524**.

This young cock is one of their warrior blood lines which is based on the long distance blood from many strains. The blood line which is the basis of this young cock's line is Van Der Espt (Nigel Llewellyn of Southampton), Hagens Bros, E Devos, R, F & T Klein. This young cock had been consistent in all the Club races upto the channel and has continued to show promise for the future.

Budgie also clocked one in the old hens race to take 4th Section, 12th Open this red yearling hen is also one of their warrior blood lines through Van Der Espt (Nigel Llewellyn of Southampton) and KILN CLASSIC GIRL " who was bred by Boggart, Holland and has won 2 x 1st Sections, L&SECC. 4th National Old Hens, 7 x 1st Clubs and Dam of many winners for Budgie and others. She was a top race hen with many other cards, at Combine and National level and was put to stock in 2007.

We move over to **Bath** for the winner of Section G and **Andy Heal** clocks "**Gordy**" at **12:08** to record a velocity of **1523** to win **1st Section G and 23rd Open**.

Andy is still in a state of shock as this is his 2nd Section win in two weeks as last week he was 1st Sec G NFC Fougères. He had won many top open and sections positions in the past and was 4th Open in this race last year but up until now he had never won a section. On celebrating the B B C section win at Paulton H S headquarters on Saturday night the members decided that an appropriate name for this bird would be "**GORDY**". This bird's sire is one of his best race cocks which has won numerous prizes at club and Fed level including first Bristol Fed last year from Messac. The mother is a stock hen from the base family with a few club cards to her name as a young bird, as he has always flown widowhood and no hens have been raced beyond their first year.



Andy Heal of Bath
1st Section G and 23rd Open

This year he has changed to race a dual widowhood system, its still work in progress however but he's had some success racing hens this year. He is not interested in fancy named pigeons with extensive pedigrees showing generations of unraced stock and is only interested in three things when acquiring new stock that is performance, performance and performance. The original base strain of his birds was the Van Reets however

over the years many sprint based strains have been added and he now call the pigeons The Cam Valley Thoroughbreds. He pairs best to best and tend to line breed rather than interbreed as he is looking for the highbred vigour associated with fresh Genes in the family, inbreeding tends to produce poor, foolish and sickly birds in need of constant medication, this is more than evident in the dog breeding world where some breeds have major health problems. Last year's racing results were brilliant, but this year must be his best.

He would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people involved in the running of the BBC and the clubs he belong to, for their hard work and dedication to the sport which has made all this possible, and to his mate Ray who is a great help. We have the **Nailsea** partnership of **Wyatt and Gray** clocking their Truman Dicken x Keith Nethercott Grizzle cock at **12:33** to record **1452** and take **2nd Section G and 38th Open** closely followed by **Portishead** fancier **Peter Atherton** who clocks his Janssen x Frans Van Meldert cock at **12:39** for **3rd Section G and 39th Open** with a velocity of **1442**.

Next we have **Mal "the wallet man" Hope** flying 308 miles into **Telford** who times at **14:02** to record a velocity of **1497** sufficient to take **2nd Section E and 28th Open**.

I have known Mal for several years now having first met him at a pigeon fair in Ostend when I tripped over his fat wallet which he had dropped. Some quick detective work revealed where he was staying and later that evening we met up for a beer and I returned his wallet.

Just behind Mal and clocking at **14:06** we have the other well known Telford fancier **Eric Jones** who takes **3rd Section E and 34th Open** with a velocity of **1469**. This a Delbar, bred by Graham Bailey of Telford, from stock pigeons that originate from Sebastian Suski of Southampton.



Mal Hope
2nd Section E and 28th Open



**Nick Smith with partner Christine
3rd Section B and 30th Open**

At **Salisbury Nick Smith** times his chequer pied hen at **12:03** to record a velocity of **1387** sufficiently fast to take **3rd Section B and 50th Open**.

This chequer pied hen was racing natural to the perch. Her dam was bought at Nigel Rigiani's sale and is of Mark Gilbert's blood line and is a granddaughter of Emiel. Her sire is a son of one of Nick's best cock birds, 'Bordeaux', who scored many times over the channel. Nick would like to say a big thank you to Andy Parsons for taking his birds to the marking stations. At times we all benefit from having other friends in the sport that often freely and willingly give up their time to facilitate getting our birds to various markings which is by far one of the most pleasing aspects of the sport we all enjoy.

Last but not least in our YB National we have the winner of **Section H** that is Jersey fancier **Kevin Johnstone** who wins with his young chequer cock who has previously flown St Malo eight times and Messac once this season in preparation.

This cock was only flying 72 miles and was timed at **13:13** for a velocity of **407**. He was the only bird timed in on the day had been on the wing for over 5 hours. Where had he been I suspect all the way to the South coast and then back to the Channel Islands single up in a head wind. No doubt he will turn out to be a good reliable old bird for you Kevin.

Mind you he is bred from top distance stock as the sire is through the Robert Venus lines. The dam is Brockamp Euro Diamond lines x John Halstead son of his national winner. This was the only bird timed in Jersey. No gimmicks just flying to his perch.



**Kevin Johnstone
1st Section H BBC YB Fougeres**

We move onto the Old Hens National and as previously mentioned at the start of this write up the winner of **1st Section D and 1st Open** was **Roger Lowe of Reading** what marvelous flying by him to win two Nationals on the same day clocking his yearling hen at **11:48** to record a winning velocity of **1674**.

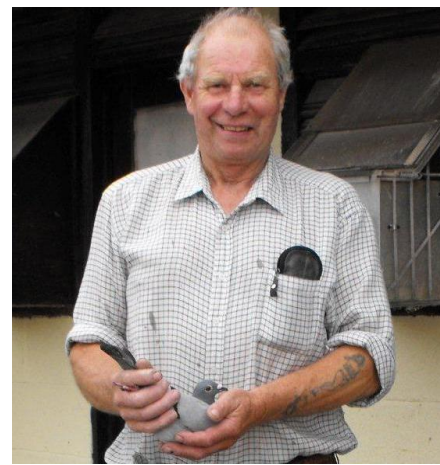
Close behind Roger we have father and son partnership **J & P Parker also of Reading** who clock another yearling just before Roger at **11:45** but giving several miles overfly this brave bird records a velocity of **1659** to take **2nd Section D and 2nd Open** which is an improvement on last year's performance when they were **2nd Section D and 8th Open**.



**Jack, Sophie and James Parker
2nd Section D and 2nd Open Old Hens**



Eric Higginbottom
1st Section G and 3rd Open Old Hens



Alan Shore
1st Section E and 4th Open Old Hens

Unfortunately with such a tight deadline to go to press it is often not possible to get much detail on some fanciers performances and this is the case with the winners of **3rd and 4th Open** the well known and successful fanciers **Eric Higginbottom of Sandhurst** who wins **Section G** on a velocity of **1595** and **Alan Shore of Crewe** who wins **Section E** with a velocity of **1589**. We do have the familiar faces of **J & T Barnett & Daughter** clocking a four year old dark cheq hen at **13:42** with a velocity of **1582** to win **2nd Section E and 5th Open**. This hen being from their own Marriot based family a full sister to 2nd and 6th Sec BBC Poitiers and 6th and 14th Sec NFC Saintes. She was sent feeding (on her own) a 4 day old youngster.



Tania and John Barnett
with grandchildren Joshua and Katie
2nd Section E and 5th Open Old Hens



Tony Leggatt
1st Section A and 7th Open Old Hens

Back to **Reading** again to the lofts of that lovely character **Basil Chupka** who times at **12:02** to take **3rd Section D and 6th Open** with a velocity of **1564**. It's always nice to see Basil at the Salisbury marking station as he's often seen going around the helpers handing out sweets which is appreciated.

We drop down to **Havant** to the lofts of **Tony Leggatt** who clocks a hen "Sweet Sandra" at **11:16** to record a velocity of **1561** to win **1st Section A and 7th Open**. This hen was bred by Sandra's husband Tony Cripps of Drayton. Tony has been putting together a top class stock of distance pigeon's, which Tony L has been trying out for him. The pigeon was bred out of a cock from Ernie Deacon & Roger Goble on one side and Eric Higginbottom & Roger Goble the other side, Roger Goble's Southwell hen is on both sides.

All of his yearlings go to Bergerac or Bordeaux, this hen was two days late from Bordeaux, hence going in The Old Hen races, to make good. He would like to congratulate Roger Lowe on winning both the Old Hens & Young Birds "A Loft on Fire" and would like to thank all the B.B.C team, for their hard work this season.

Over to **Evercreech in Somerset** to the lofts of **J & D Staddon** where father and son John & Dave clock at 11:54 to record 1529 and take top honours with **1st Section C and 8th Open**.

They commented.....Firstly we'd like to congratulate Roger Lowe on an outstanding days work with both young birds and old hens, fantastic flying by one of the country's leading flyers. We are delighted to win the Section in the BBC in the first race we have entered with the club in some considerable time. We moved our racing lofts about 20 miles in October 2009 and it takes a little time to re-establish your self, especially with broken pigeons. On top of this, with a small team we find it hard to compete in all the nationals that are now available. This section win follows on from our Guernsey BICC Old Hens National where we were 1st, 3rd 6th, 7th 8th west section two weeks ago. As one of the shortest flyers in Section C we did not expect to win the section in a SSW wind, but pigeons never cease to amaze.

Our section winner is a blue 2009 hen broken from our old address. She has been a widowhood hen this year until hitting the road to compete in the BICC Guernsey, NFC Fougères and finally BBC Fougères where she topped the section also beating the leading young bird in the section which is unusual. She is bred from Shapway Larry, 48th RPRA One Loft Young bird race and 9th Open RPRA Yearling One Loft Tours race when only 11 birds were timed on the day. He is a full brother to Shapway Lady Caroline , 1st Section 2nd Open BICC Pau, 21st Open CSCFC Bergerac etc.

The dam of the section winner is our champion Jos

Thone breeding hen **Blue Amelia**, this hen is responsible for 1st Sec 17th Open NFC Cholet 6798b, 3rd Section 9th Open NFC Fougères 9494b, 4th Section 73rd Open NFC Saintes 5315b, 1st WOESRC Exeter 4100b, 2nd WOESRC, Bedhampton, 3633b, 2nd WOESRC Eastborne 1748b, 2nd WoESRC Yelverton 4,208b and now 1st Section 8th Open Fougères BBC Old Hens National..... quite a breeder.

This now takes us to 8 x 1st section in NFC,BICC & BBC nationals since 2005. The winning hen was racing to a 16 day old baby and just starting to look at her cock.

We had a good weekend as we also sent one young hen to the WoESRC Carenton race and won 1st Glastonbury Flying Club by four and half hours !!!

We had 9 out of 10 entries return



John and Dave Staddon
1st Section C 8th Open Old Hens



1st Section C 8th Open Old Hens



The racing loft of J & D Staddon

We go down to **Poole in Dorset** for the winner of Section B where **Pete Holloway** clocks his two year old Jan Aarden hen at **11:47** for a velocity of **1313** to win **1st Section B and 20th Open**.

This hen has been raced in the Upton working men's club and the Dorset Federation and she was sent to Fougères sitting on chipping eggs.

Pete has been a member of the BBC since 1967 when he joined along with his good friend the late Tony Hustler.

Taking **2nd Section B and 21st Open** was **Tony Swain of Dorchester** on a velocity of **1234** with **Sue White of Sidmouth** taking **3rd Section B and 25th Open** on a velocity of **1175** which shows how spread out the birds were in this section.



Pete Holloway
1st Section B and 20th Open



Paul Davies
1st Section H and 23rd Open

Further South we go to the **Channel Islands** for the winner of Section H where **Paul Davies from St Clement Jersey** wins **1st Section H and 23rd Open** and for good measure clocks another to take **2nd Section**.

The first bird timed in at 09.44 is a two year old dark chequer Jan Aarden x Janssen sent sitting 17 day eggs. Sire was 1st section 5th Open BBC from Bordeaux in 2004, The dam is a full sister to Glen Moons 2009 Poitiers national winner, Who Paul bred for Glen.

The second bird timed in at 10.08 is a six year old blue hen also sent sitting 17 days eggs, She is a daughter of Pauls 30X winner No Fear, This hen has now won two 1st sections and three 2nd sections beaten by loftmates with the BBC, she won the section from Carentan this year, and old hens section last year. This section win makes Paul's tenth with the BBC in 8 years.

Paul is soon to take over as loft manager for a new racing stud in Jersey and I'm sure that you will all join me in wishing him all the best for the future.

Our thanks go out to all those committee and club members who have helped in various ways at the marking station and especially to the IC's of the Penkrigde and Stevenage marking stations who have performed magnificently all season. Finally I think we all appreciate the efforts of the racing team and extend our thanks to – Steve Appleby the weather advisor – Eric Ilesley the race controller – Darren Hatcher and Steve Adamson the drivers and finally Nigel Rigiani the convoyer all of whom have worked extremely hard, sometimes in difficult circumstances to give us magnificent racing in 2010.