



B.I.C.C.



C.S.C.F.C



B.B.C.

Fougeres YB National Provisional Race Report

Saturday 6th September 2025

1st Open BICC

1st Open CSCFC

1st Open BBC

Nigel Templar of Bristol

Dave Fare of Bristol

Fougeres is in Brittany, in northwestern France, on the border with Normandy. It is twinned with Ashford in Kent and in old money, as it were, it is the Rennes race. Fougeres is 30 miles to the north-east of Rennes. The BICC, BBC and CSCFC held another very successful joint race. The race produced a total birdage of 1,517 birds. This was a joint YB and OB race and they were liberated at 7.45 am on 6th September.

In the YB race, 131 BICC members sent 1045 birds, in the BBC 60 members sent 459 and in the CSCFC 50 members sent 381 birds. This was also the BICC Breeder Buyer Race, and we are still waiting on the results of this.

This race produced two winners. Nigel Templar who won the BICC & CSCFC and Dave Fare, who took the spoils in the BBC.

But before reporting on the winners a very important thank you is in order. As we put to bed another season for the BBC, BICC and CSCFC, on behalf of all three Committees we would like to say a big thank you to our teams across the three organisations. From all the marking stations involved, who have worked tirelessly week in and week out, throughout the old bird and young bird season for us.

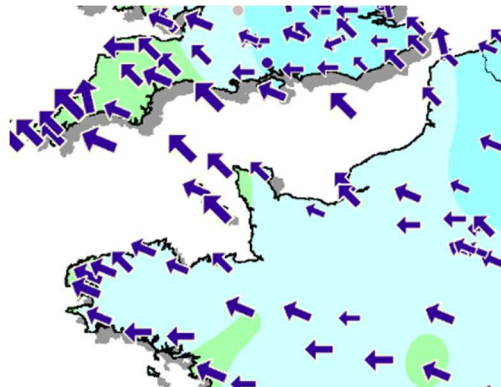
Also, thank you to David Parsons who travelled around the South to the marking stations and signed off our paperwork for France, to our Race and Weather Advisors who have had another tricky season dodging weather fronts. Namely, Mark Gilbert, Clive Merrills and Steve Appleby. Finally, our Convoyers, Nick Stevens, Pat Harris, Steve Travers and Chris Withers who have all had the welfare of our birds in their hearts, caring for them.

Clare Norman would like to thank Mike Jackson for all the work and effort he has put into the race reports this year, to make them interesting reading to our members and highlighting our winners' achievements. Also, for covering the combined race reports within the three clubs as well. And as such, Mike Jackson would like to thank Clare Norman for her support throughout the season.

The weather/race report

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

Considering the poor weather leading up to this race, the good conditions that developed for the weekend were very welcome. The convoy was liberated at 07:45 at Fougères under blue skies clearing the site quickly. Visiting the various web cams and using satellite images presented an overall picture of a good flight path. This included the Cherbourg Peninsula which could possibly have been used as a launch pad by the birds to cross the Channel. The channel was clear and visibility at sea level 11 miles plus. Winds generally came from the south east which was reflected by the high velocities recorded by the leading pigeons. Conditions over England were also good although high level cloud formations were seen over various regions. No rain was identified anywhere.



Weather map

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

BICC – 1st Open, 1st South West Section / CSCFC – 1st Open, 1st NW Section, Nigel Templar of Bristol. Nigel Templar took 1st Open BICC and 1st Open Classic Fougères YB, with a pigeon bred by John Gerard and his German partner, Manfred Lossin. His bird came with two others who were Combine birds, and when Nigel checked, he was shocked to see the National pigeon in with them. Nigel was delighted with the win and would like to thank the race organisers and all those who timed well on the day.

Nigel said, 'I thought they were all combine birds at first and it was only when I checked the clock that I realised that I had a National bird in with them. What a feeling to take the top spot in the BICC and CSCFC. I can't thank John and Manfred enough, for breeding this fantastic pigeon. Congratulations to all who timed and took good positions and once again thanks to the race organisers for putting on these joint races.'



Nigel Templar



John Gerard & Manfred Lossin

BBC – 1st Open 1st Section C / CSCFC – 3rd Open 3rd NW Section (YB's) & 4th Open 3rd NW Section / 3rd Section C (OB's) Dave Fare of Bristol. Firstly, can I say well done to all the winners and section winners of the triple nominated OB & YB race with the BBC, BICC and CSCFC. We were also duplicated into the West of England South Road Combine.

On the race day my dad, Thomas, father-in-law, Brian Harvey, and ex-pigeon fancier Mike Williams, sat with me waiting for the birds to arrive. We had two other races on the go from Guernsey and Kingsdown with the Severn Valley and Heart of England. We had a good few away from Guernsey and they were dropping in periodically, so when the blue w/f hen swooped around, scared by a circling goshawk directly around the loft, we weren't sure what it was, until she landed and I said it's a Fougères bird! And much quicker than the previous Guernsey arrivals, we had another two, one minute later, one yearling and one youngster both flying erratically because of the goshawk.

Eventually dropping after another minute, the first youngster rung NWHU was bred by my father-in-law, Brian Harvey, and is a Van de Bulck from Ernie Goodyear and R Fenech, flown on natural but earlier darkened. The second bird, again bred by Brian, was a Van de Bulck Stefaan Lambrechts from Ernie Goodyear stock.

Thank you all that have congratulated us and well done to Nigel Templar and Stuart Wilcox of South Bristol for their achievement. That's it for me this season, good luck to all in the National and very good luck for next season 2026.



Dave & Thomas Fare

CSCFC – 2nd Open, 2nd NW Section / BICC - 2nd South West Section, 2nd Open, Stuart Wilcox of Bristol. Our 2nd Open winner is a 75% Joost De Smeyter with 25% Mark Gilbert blood and like all of these pigeons, he has a bit of a story. On Wednesday before basketing I noticed that a pair of young birds had hatched a youngster, not something I very often allow. However, I decided to send the pair and timed the cock at 11.10 and the hen at 11.22. The cock had 4 races from Exeter, Okehampton x 2 and Yelverton. His sire is Dark Cas 100% Joost De Smeyter being bred from a son of CAS, 1st International Pau 8,000 birds and a daughter of Celsius, 1st Int Narbonne 15,000 birds in a heavy head wind. The dam of the young cock is Champion Langstone Lioness, purchased from Kevin Zerafa, she is bred from a direct De Smeyter hen and a son of Southfield Melissa, 1st International Agen. Langstone Lioness won 2nd Sec, 8th CSCFC Elgin, 2nd Sec, 22nd BBC Elgin, 2nd Sec, 77th BBC Hexham, 6th Sec, 6th CSCFC Hexham, 7th Sec, 29th BICC Wakefield, 10th Sec, 19th BBC Tarbes, 12th Sec, 17th CSCFC Tarbes, 8th Sec, 41st BBC Wakefield, 15th Sec, 76th NFC Tarbes, 25th Sec, 34th CSCFC Wakefield, 15th Sec, 64th BBC Blaydon, 29th Sec, 153rd BICC Coutances, 67th Sec, 125th BICC Hexham, 34th Sec, 520th BICC Falaise.

Our 2nd pigeon, who will provisionally be 6th Open, was so keen last weekend that she managed to get out of the crate whilst at the club. She is $\frac{3}{4}$ De Smeyter and $\frac{1}{4}$ Arjan Beens. I will now let the pair rear the youngster as a reward for their hard work. The birds are trained 3 times a week by Steve Mosely and compete weekly in either the West of England Combine or the Bristol Fed. The birds are fed on Country Wide Diet mixed with Beyer Verkerk Sport, Beyer All-in-one is added on Saturday and Sunday to aid recover along with Condition Powder and oils. I would like to congratulate club mates Nigel Templar and Mike Hathaway for their success; it was a great day for the Sartan Flyers.

BBC – 2nd Open 1st Section E & BICC - 1st North West Section, 23rd Open, Nigel & Wendy Shaw of Crewe. The young hen we timed from Fougères over 331 miles, is out of a mealy cock bird in our stock pen. He was bred by Shan McDonough from his Bulks he had originally, and he has bred lots of winners for us. To breed this young hen, he was paired to a daughter of Skyfall a gift from my good mate Ben Oakley. Well done to all the winners.

BBC – 3rd Open 2nd Section E Dave & Kyle Harris of Newport. Our first bird timed, being held by Dave, is a cross between a number of new birds that we have introduced over the last few years. The sire is through Remco and Kittel lines; the grandmother is the mother to our section winner from last year's BBC Fougères YB National. She was purchased by Craig 'Chetty' Chetwood and us a few years ago, after we realised, we were bidding each other up. On the dam's side, the birds are from Ernie Rigby of Telford, through his good family of Syndicate pigeons, thank you Ernest!

The second bird timed, being held by Kyle, is through JPS Lambrechts, SISI 188 lines and a Bricoux hen that was purchased from Mark Simpson. Both these lines were identified by, The Oracle and good friend Kevin 'Carrott' Doley from Shropshire. These lines are relatively new to our loft and are already performing at all levels, thank you Kevin.

Congratulations to Team Aurel, what a fantastic performance with the old birds, no one deserves it more, for all the work you do for others and thank you for taking our birds to the marking station. Without your help and support, our birds would not achieve these performances.



Stuart Wilcox



Mr & Mrs Shaw's hen



Dave & Kyle Harris

CSCFC/ BBC – 4th Open 1st SE Section/ 1st Section A Terry Sails of Southampton. I would like to say well done to all the winners. I am made up to be 1st Section 4th Open, as last week with the Central Southern Classic I was 1st Open, 1st Section from Guernsey.

The blue w/f flight 2025 hen, Warren Girl, has had a few races from the west and was coming well. She was my third bird last week from the Classic Guernsey. Her sire, a chequer pied 2023 was bred by top flyer Dean Childs. He is a grandson of Best Kittel when paired to Dean's good hen Chalice Old Girl, a winner of 5th Open BBC Bordeaux 2019 and 6th BICC Nat Alencon. The dam is a blue pied 2022-90. She has already bred me some top pigeons. She was bred by the top lofts of Cove Villa Lofts and is a granddaughter of Best Kittel. Her sire is a PIPA breeding, and her dam is a daughter of Stay Home Chester, when paired to Gold Rush. Two top class pigeons. I would like to say a big thank you for all the hard work the Classic and BBC workers put in, so we can all have good racing.

CSCFC– 5th Open 2nd SE Section/ BBC - 2nd Section A / BICC - 1st South Centre Section 5th Open, Mannor Lofts - Martin, Clare & Jack Norman of Southampton. Firstly, congratulations to all the race winners and section winners. The sire of our chequer cock bird is, Magic Mason, whose performances include 21st Open BICC Alencon an 13th Mont de Marsan, when there were only 13 birds on the day.

The dam is from our Venner cock when paired to a Mark Gilbert hen that was bred through Romee. The Venner cock has also bred 1st Section, 16th Open BBC Fougères YB 2019, winning the section by 14 minutes, 20th Open BICC Tarbes & 50th Open CSCFC Thurso.

We would like to say a big thank you to Rob Jones, Martin Attrill and Terry Sails for taking our young birds training this year. It has made for some fantastic results in our area.

CSCFC- 5th Open, 1st SE Section / BBC - 1st Section A (OB's) BICC - 2nd South Centre Section, 6th Open, Bartlett, Jones & Wells of Southampton. A detailed report of the partnerships very good racing weekend is contained in the old bird report.

BICC - 3rd South Centre Section, 9th Open / CSCFC– 10th Open 2nd NE Section/ BBC - 2nd Section D, Tom Pickford of Aylesbury. First of all, I would like to congratulate Nigel Templer for winning the race, what a fantastic performance! Secondly, I would like to congratulate all of the section winners on what was another tough day, brilliant performances by all. Thank you to all involved, without you these races would not be possible.

I timed GB25C04051, a chequer cock bird, that was bred for me by Simon Shearsby of Northampton. The sire is from a son of Kline Barca and the dam is a granddaughter of the 38 hen. Both of these pigeons have become top producers for Simon and others. This pigeon had 3 inland races before he was sent to Fougères, for his first Channel crossing. I must say he dealt with it very well and dropped on the loft in brilliant condition. My second pigeon, that shortly followed, was also bred by Simon, so I was really pleased to see them rising to the challenge.



Terry Salis



Martin, Clare & Jack Norman



Tom Pickford

BICC - 1st South East Section, 19th Open, Dave & Lee Bastone of Althorne. Following up on their good performance from Falaise, and going one better, Dave reported this. Firstly, I'd like to congratulate all the winners, this was no easy race for this side of the country. We had two pigeons come bang on line really trying. The first is from 221, lines of Stormont lofts x crossed Franszwols from Formula 1 Lofts. The second was from Renegade & Thomas lines of Peter Fox. They were both sitting eggs and this was their second Channel race going to Falaise 2 weeks before.

BICC - 2nd South East Section, 24th Open, Damian Szpak of Deptford. Damian's young bird was full of long-distance lines from two children of Britta Laureat, 2nd Open BICC Agen 2024.

BICC - 3rd South East Section, 29th Open / BBC – 2nd Section G, Mr & Mrs Andrew Sparks of Gravesend. Our young bird, 25 C 00133, a chequer hen, is a daughter bred down from our Fougères combine winner when paired to one of Sparks & Dallas' winning hens. She has been our first pigeon three weeks running, scoring from Falaise, 3rd club Weymouth and 3rd Section Fougères this week. She was our pool pigeon and breeder / buyer bird. She was racing to the perch, and our birds came back in very good condition.



Dave & Lee Bastone



Damian Szpak



Andrew Sparks

CSCFC/ BBC – 7th Open 1st NE Section/ 1st Section D, John & Sally Mauger of Aylesbury. Three years ago, we purchased 30 young birds from Stu Davenport of Chirk, and since then we've carefully woven them into our own racing family. This season, our young bird Section winner proudly descends from those very bloodlines. If, at the start of the year, someone had told us we'd go on to achieve three consecutive North- East Section CSCFC wins, along with a Section D, BBC win, we'd have thought they were completely mad! To say we're surprised and delighted by this honour would be an understatement.

CSCFC/ BBC – 8th Open 1st SW Section/ 1st Section B, Danny Lanahan & John Gerard of Poole. Our youngster was a pigeon bred in the race loft from an Arden pigeon we brought 2 years ago from Tumley Lofts, when paired to a granddaughter of Zwarte Louders.

CSCFC/ BBC – 9th Open 2nd SW Section/ 2nd Section B George & Pete Owers, of Bere Regis. George is holding our Staf van Reet pigeon bred by Mark Caldwell and now called, Purbeck 39. We would like to congratulate all the section winners and thank Clive Harrison for taking our birds to the marking station. Also thank you to Dave and John Staddon for supplying the Chaos Mix corn.



John and Sally Mauger



Danny Lanahan & John Gerard



George Owers

BBC – 1st Section G (YB's & OB's) J & B Donovan & P J McHugh, of Warlingham. We had 3 come together from the BICC/BBC race from Fougères, two old hens and one young bird. The hens were being used as widowhood hens, being let out once a week until around the start of July. They've had multiple training tosses with John Donovan Snr on his training wagon plus 2 to 3 Surrey Federation races, as trainers, with the young birds.

Our first hen was bred by Dave Waterhouse of Portsmouth. Her sire is a son of Curtis Wall & Lunt's Eurovision and the dam, Countess, is a granddaughter of Eurovision as well. She won 1st Open Three Counties Combine, Carentan 4,929 birds. Our second hen was out of one of our best race cocks, being a winner of 2 x 1st federations. He's a Dirk van den Bulck purchased as a kit from Micky Collins. The dam is also a federation winner and is same way bred as 2 x 1st Federation winners and a 1st Combine. She's from our good channel hen that was 5th Open Cholet BICC in 2019.

This pair bred a blue cock bird this year, that was beaten in the fed twice by loft mates. This is the nest mate to the hen. The young bird was bred from a race cock that was purchased as a kit from Mick Bundy being a Dirk van den Bulck, he is a grandson of Donker Leo. The dam was bred by our good friend Jaimie Clarke, again being a Dirk van den Bulck. This young bird has had around 26 training tosses and 6 Surrey Fed races prior to this race but not really showing until this race.

BBC – 2nd Section C Fab Barresi of Peasedown St John. Fab timed GB25C00117 a blue hen. Prior to the BICC/CSCFC/BBC Fougères race the bird had been coming consistently with Jill and Clive Rogers training. She was sent sitting on 7-day old eggs. She was bred for the BICC breeder buyer race and has the lines of Geoff and Catherine Cooper, Jellema, Bosmans-Leekens and Dave Atkins in it. I would like to thank Jill and Clive Rogers for their training sessions, and I have had very good returns with them this season. Also, thanks to everyone involved in organising the races, marking and conveying. Without these people, we would have no racing. Congratulations to all the winners.



J and B Donovan and P J McHugh young bird



J and B Donovan and P J McHugh old hen



Fab Barresi

BICC - 1st North Centre Section, 36th Open, John Black of Hitchin. My first bird was Red Annie, named by Guy, being the daughter of Red Arnie. She won the section from Falaise two weeks ago, and she must be in with a good chance of winning ace young bird North sections with this performance too. This time she was pairing up to a young cock bird and she trapped like a dream. My returns were good, with 3 in 29 mins. The second bird being my breeder/ buyer. I had 4 from 7 on the day. Well done to all the section winners.

BICC - 2nd North Centre Section, 78th Open, Slawomir Chabrowski of Wellingborough. Slawomir timed a blue cock, raced on the darkness system and sent on 10-day old eggs. He was bred from his stock pigeons, from Robert Jarratt and Pere Chamberline. Prior to this race, he had only flown 130 miles and 144 miles, and this was a very hard race.

BICC - 2nd North East Section, 63rd Open, Joanne & Alan Hacon of Great Yarmouth. Alan timed a Busschaert x Vandenabeele hen that had been prepared well for this race. The week before, she flew Blandford from 202 miles.



John Black



Slawomir Chabrowski



Alan Hacon

BICC - 1st North East Section, 61st Open, Jeremy Nicholson of Ipswich. Firstly, I would like to thank the Colchester marking station team for all their hard work over the season, and all involved with the BICC. My hen '07', has been, with her nest mate, my most consistent young birds this season. She is bred from a very good pair of stock birds, the sire is a direct son of Awesome Sagan who is a direct son of Sagan, when paired to his full sister. He was then paired to a Jos Cools hen, Armistead Cools, a daughter of Jos Cools' Speedy. This cock is responsible for many prize winners. The dam to my hen is called, Lichte Gert and she is a direct Gert- De -Swaef. She is a dam to many prize winners. Gert only flies short distance sprint races, albeit his pigeons are proving to be more versatile both north and south road racing.



Jeremy Nicholson's hen

Benzing Nom Winners

Congratulations to the Falaise YB National Benzing Nom winners, John Donovan and Bradley Donovan. They pick up the latest clocking system from Benzing.

Fougeres OB National Provisional Race Report

Saturday 6th September 2025

1st Open BICC

Mike Hathway of Bristol

1st Open CSCFC

1st Open BBC

Mike Bullingham of Stroud

The old birds joined the 1,045 young birds, making a total birdage of 1,517 birds. In this race, 42 BICC members sent 191 birds, in the BBC, 31 members sent 165 and in the CSCFC, 19 members sent 97 birds.

This race produced two winners. Mike Bullingham who won the BBC & CSCFC and Mike Hathway, who topped the BICC.

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

CSCFC/ BBC – 1st Open, 1st NW section/ 1st Section C, Mike Bullingham of Stroud. My blue hen that won the Classic & BBC from Fougères, GB23 A 53508, is now named Austin's Dream after my partner and good friend of many years, Austin Davis, who comes and watches out with me every race. I would like to thank Morris Haytree from Studley for all the advice and help he gives me every week, but most of all Clare Norman for all her hard work. We are lucky to have her. Many thanks to all involved from the markers at Paulton and to the conveyors, who look after birds so well.

My hen is a Frans Zwols, bred by Formula 1 Lofts of John Cowlin & J & P Gladwin. She wasn't raced as a young bird but had plenty of training. She had 4 old bird races this year and was then entered in the Guernsey Classic where she took 3rd Section, 30th Open. She looked so well that I entered her into the Classic and BBC to Fougères. She was sent sitting 8 dummy eggs which seemed to make her very keen. Congratulations to all the section winners and to everyone who congratulated me.



Mike Bullingham

BICC -1st Open winner, taking 1st South West Section & CSCFC – 2nd Open 2nd NW Section, Mike Hathway of Bristol. Mike Hathway of Bristol clocked his Janssen yearling blue hen to take 1st South West Section, 1st Open BICC OB & 2nd Northwest Section, 2nd Open in the CSCFC. Mike raced this hen unpaired on his spare hen system. He has had an excellent year with the BICC and thanks all those who have organised the races and especially Clive & Jill Rogers for all the help they have given him. She had previously taken 18th Open BICC Bordeaux, and she has been trained every week with High Littleton FC on the east to west route. Mike had good returns, getting 6 out of 7 on the day. This back garden loft has certainly shown through this season, with some excellent results.



Mike Hathway

BBC – 2nd Open 1st Section E / BICC - 1st North West Section, 2nd Open, Team Aurel of Iron Bridge.

What an amazing day of racing for us, provisionally timing the first 5 pigeons over 300 miles, the first 5 pigeons in the Section NW in BICC and currently sitting 2nd Open BICC! We knew we had a chance, as the wind was in our favour and the pigeons never disappointed. They came home with the certainty of the sunset of the Severn Valley and to have 85% of the pigeon's home from 303 miles in 3 hours, brought home that feeling of elation and exhilarating joy, the adrenaline was pumping through my veins.

The first pigeon to arrive taking 2nd National is, Mr Sorin, a pigeon bred by us. The sire is a generous gift from my friend Sorin Florea from the line of Etterbak of Debusschere Roger when paired to a daughter of Super breeder George Euro Diamond. Thank you Sorin, you are a gentleman in the sport! On the dam's side is the golden pair of old English Southwell's bloodlines from Steward Reed, pigeons that I fell in love with when I heard their story.

Our second pigeon to arrive is, Miss Gordon, original K Sheffield, she has already won this season, taking 1st Section E Fougères. Our third pigeon, Aurora Pipi, brings together two incredible pigeons that have left a mark on our loft. The sire is an inbred Son of Champion Vasile, 1st National Ace Pigeon, when paired to a daughter of the famous Pipi, 4 times Barcelona of Lee and Kevin Buddle.

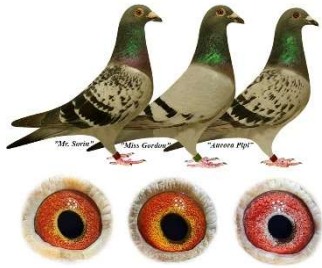
We would like to congratulate Mr Hathway the 1st Open winner in the BICC. Also, a huge thank you to the organisers of the joint race, this is the future of our sport!

Wow, what a day to be alive! I can still taste the joy, that elation is still with me! You know that feeling when you can now say, I truly have lived, for today, for now! What a dream come true! The pigeons came home, one after one after one, just like love after love, if you know what I mean?

BICC - 2nd South West Section, 23rd Open / CSCFC/ BBC – 3rd Open 1st SW Section/ 2nd Section C Gary & Prilly Hodges, of Templecombe. The pigeon we timed to be 2nd Section is the same hen that was 2nd from Falaise also beaten by Mike Hathway, so well done again Mike. This hen has many open

positions, with the best being 1st Open from Guernsey last year with BBC & CSCFC. Once again, congratulations to Mike and all the section winners.

3rd South West Section, 4th Open, John P Halstead of North Dorset. John timed a 3- year-old Jellema hen containing Zwart Goud and Golden Barcelona bloodlines. She was on her 12th Channel crossing and has previously appeared in the top 300 in Open and Classics and 6 times in Nationals. Raced 'natural' her prime nest condition is feeding a 4 or 5-day old baby and this often raises her game.



Team Aurel's 3 birds



Prilly Hodges



John Halstead

CSCFC/ BBC – 5th Open 1st SE Section/ 1st Section A (OB's) 6th Open 3rd SE Section/ 3rd Section A (YB's) / BBC - 1st South Centre Section, 6th Open, Bartlett, Jones & Wells of Southampton. First of all, a very well done to all the winners on a testing race, and a special well done to Terry Sails, once again having the first young bird in our area. He's having a fantastic young bird season.

Now about myself. Due to having my stock birds stolen in the winter and an impending move, I decided not to race the 2025 season. But due to planning restrictions the move is on hold, and so I decided to race young birds. With only having my vet visit the Tuesday night before the race, to complete my CPH paperwork.

At the start of the season, I purchased a Geraldty trailer with the intention of training a select few to give our young birds the experience of good training coming to one area. A special thank you to Martin Attrill for doing all the driving for myself, Terry Sails, Martin Norman and Billy Norman, as it has paid off greatly, dominating Federation and Classic racing. Namely, Terry Sails winning 1st Open in the Classic last week from Guernsey and also winning 2 x 1st Sections from the Fougères race, and Mannor Lofts winning 1st Section BICC with myself being runner up to them and along with my 1st Section Old Birds win in the BICC, BBC and CSCFC. So, all in all, 6 section winners in one day between the three of us, with Martin Attrill also fairing high in the prize list.

My Section winner is a yearling Smeulders Janssen hen, bred from my good friend Eckard Bastek from Germany. Birds bred by him have won multiple Feds and Section Winners for me, Mr & Mrs Hodges and Jimmy Wearn. She was sent flying to the perch and was kept with the young birds all season and trained daily. All my birds are fed on my own mix of Beyers corn and Aidi. At the end of the week, the birds get pro-biotic, pre-biotic and vitamins in their water.

The photo included in this write up is my grandson Jack who was the first person to see the pigeon come, as he was stood directly under the trap. All in all, I had a very good day, taking the first 6 in our club race, taking all the pools, 1st 2nd, Premier 100 Club and both my young bird pool pigeons should be fairly high up in the result.

BBC– 8th Open, 2nd Section A / CSCFC - 9th Open 2nd SE Section / BICC - 2nd South Centre Section, 9th Open, Matthews and Culverhouse of Bordon. I would just like to say well done to all the prize winners, also my pigeon partner, Mark, for his help. My first bird is a 4- year-old hen bred down from

my old Catrysse based family x Freialdenhofen. Sent feeding a six-day-old youngster, she also flew the Tarbes NFC this year. Also, thanks to Clare and the rest of the crew for all hard work they do.

BICC - 3rd South East Section, 25th Open, Mr & Mrs Connolley of Marden. Firstly, congratulations to everyone who timed in on Saturday. Our hen was sent feeding 2 big babies. This year she has been 12th Sect Bordeaux BICC, and 53rd Section Nort sur Edre. We had 5 from 6 on the day and one the next morning.



Jack Jones



Dave Matthews and Mark
Culverhouse



William Connolly

BICC - 1st South East Section, 17th Open, Damian Szpak of Deptford. My section winning pigeon is Armora 41, who won 6th Open BICC St Philbert earlier this year. She is from Armora 71, 4th Open BICC Falaise 2019 and the sire is a son of Queen 85.

BICC - 2nd South East Section, 22nd Open, Mr & Mrs A Sparks of Gravesend. The bird we timed in the OB race was a yearling blue hen, 24 A80047, bred by Sparks & Dallas. She has been a very consistent hen this year winning from Stoney Cross and taking 7 other cards at club level. She has also flown the Channel 4 times being 3rd Section Falaise and now 2nd Section Fougères. She was sent sitting a 14-day old youngster.

BBC/ CSCFC – 7th Open 1st Section B/ 8th Open 2nd SW Section Danny Lanahan & John Gerard. The old bird we timed was bred by our CSCFC winner from Coutances, Dark Flo, when paired to a hen which was given to us by Calvin Legg, a bird that won the section for us 3 times in her racing career.

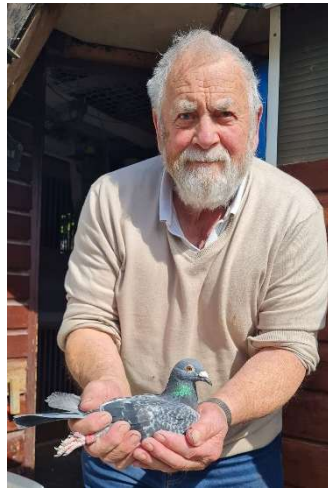
CSCFC – 7th Open 1st NE Section Venky Rao of Didcot. This is my second race over the Channel. Super thrilled with the 7th Open and 1st Section win. The birds have done very well. My Lucky 931(GB23N21931) a chequer hen, bred by Steve Hughes from Swindon. This hen has been consistent in club races and has done well in the last 2 seasons. The sire is a son of Silk Producer, a top Gabby Vandenabeele responsible for many good pigeons. The dam is a granddaughter of 26, who is responsible for generations of winners

CSCFC – 10th Open 2nd NE Section Tony & Toni Lucas of Swindon. Tony enjoys sending his old hens with the old bird/ young bird races and has always supported the Classic. Unfortunately, he didn't have any records of this yearling chequer hen but, well done anyway Tony. For the last couple of seasons, Tony has been supported by his daughter, Toni, who is a great help to her dad.

BBC – 1st Section H, Paul Davies of Jersey. The pigeon I timed was a 2024 late-bred, sent sitting 13-day-old eggs. It only had 3 training tosses from Alderney at 37 miles and then in to Fougères. This was my first race this year. Can I thank Clare Norman for all the work she does and also thank John Gerard and partner for taking the Channel Island birds to marking station.



Venky Rao



Tony Lucas



Paul Davies

BBC – 1st Section D, Ron Fullbrook of Toddington. Ron timed a blue, home bred, cock bird cross. He was sent looking at his hen again. He has taken a few positions in the club and fed, and he is looking forward to trying him next year.

BBC – Next in Section H Willy Healy of Jersey. Willy timed a 6-year-old cock bird, who last year from this race was 3rd Section, 36th Open.

BICC - 1st North East Section, 22nd Open, Chapman & Eastoe of Great Yarmouth. Our chequer hen was sent feeding a 10-day old youngster. She was bred from our mealy hen that has won the Section three times. The sire was bought from B & P at their winter clearance sale. Thanks to Clayton and Keith for taking our birds to the marking station and well done to all who clocked on yet another testing day.



Ron Fullbrook's cock bird



Willy Healy



Glen Eastoe

BICC - 2nd North East Section, 27th Open, Dave Downing of Newmarket. Dave had two birds arrive together out of his four entries to record provisionally 2nd and 3rd NE Section. First across the pad was a two-year old Van der Bulck hen bred by good friend Andy Woods of Norwich. Having won inland, this was her first trip across the Channel. His second timer was a yearling Hardy Kruger hen, which two weeks ago from the BICC Falaise race, won 3rd Section. Both hens flew the inland old bird programme on roundabout and were re-paired in preparation for these races at the end of the old bird season. They were sent racing to a 5-day old youngster.

BICC - 3rd North East Section, 30th Open, J Gannon of Norwich. Jonathan Gannon timed a yearling hen that has previously flown the Channel twice but was also hawked twice earlier in the season. So, she was only lightly raced and sent on a 5-day-old young one. She is of Herman Custers x Willy Daniels bloodlines.

BICC - 2nd North West Section, 7th Open CSCFC/ BBC – 6th Open, Trevor Booth & John Roper of Tewkesbury. We timed a 2-year-old blue chequer hen who went over in the strong south east wind, as she came out of the north. Her parents are from a purchase at Clive and Jill Rogers marking station at Radstock. It was in Covid days, and we had to wait at our cars until we were called. Our good friend John Gerard was there and in the back of his car he had a crate with Jellema youngsters from Karel Pierik in Holland. One of them stood out in the basket and the purchase, along with another one, couldn't be resisted. So, it goes to show a bargain can be found at the roadside - thanks to John. We think the distance was a bit on the short side, but she has been so consistent all year for us, and it will be Tarbes next year - with a bit of luck. We would like to congratulate the Open winner and all Section winners, also a big thank you to all at the Paulton marking station who made us very welcome on our first visit.



Dave Downing's Section winner



Jonathan Gannon's hen



Booth & Roper with John Gerard

And that concludes the final race report of the 2025 season. My final thanks go to the many members who sent me their reports and photos, so that these reports can be compiled. And, to the staff at the BHW who do such a good job publishing them. Until next time, good luck, good flying and may the line of flight be with you.

A tribute to Dave Goddard.

On the weekend of these races, we heard of the sad passing of one of the all-time great long-distance fanciers, Dave Goddard who raced as RJ Goddard & Son of Reading. I was lucky enough to have met Dave at a BICC presentation and reported on his fantastic performance from Barcelona in 2000. He timed two hens to take 3rd & 4th Open; he named them Lilly and Little Darcy.

Being new to pigeon reporting, I called Dave for some information, and he said, 'what do you want to know?' In my naivety I said tell me about your birds and how you prepare them and feed them etc. In the nicest possible way, Dave said, Mike I've been in the game for a few years now and without showing off, most people know what I do, but I'll be glad to send you some information. In the report he sent, he said, 'I wait all year for this one race and when I saw Lilly drop, it made it all worthwhile. The feeling was incredible and before they could pick me up off the floor, Little Darcy was on the loft. These memories will live with me forever, among one or two of the best performances I have achieved over 30 years.' And over those 30 years, Dave achieved so much.

Can I, on behalf of the BICC, pass on the club's condolences to Dave's family. I'm sure he will be missed by many, and his achievements will be remembered and talked about by many, many more for a very long time. RIP Dave.

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