



MR & MRS QUANTRILL

OF LOWESTOFT

By Gareth Watkins

1st Open BICC Le Mans 3,044 birds



Dave & Sheila Quantrill 1st Open BICC Le Mans
The 2015 BICC Le Mans race was won way up on the north east coast of Norfolk at the Lowestoft lofts of Dave and Sheila Quantrill. The pigeon leading the field recording a velocity of 1360 ypm over the 315 mile course to its Lowestoft home to win 1st North East section and 1st Open. The winning pigeon was purchased at a Breeder Buyer sale at Diss and was bred by Andrew Daniels from his own channel family. As a young bird the BICC Le Mans winner collected £84 each for David, Sheila and breeder Andrew in a race from Salisbury.



1st Open BICC Le Mans 2015 for Mr & Mrs Quantrill.

David & Sheila are both heavily involved in the running of their local club, Lowestoft Ness Point SRFC, Sheila is the hard working Secretary/treasurer and David is on the marking team/ handyman. The following is a brief history of David and Sheila's involvement in the sport.

David first kept pigeons in 1971 and they were housed in a 6ft x 4 ft loft. At this time the birds were kept purely as pets and were not raced. David's racing career started in 1973 and since that time the loft has now expanded into a 4 metre x 1 ½ metre three sectioned structure. This houses just 24 racers and a mere 15 young birds as the Quantrills do not keep any stock birds.

MRS & MRS QUANTRILL, LOWESTOFT

The loft is cleaned daily in winter but during the summer months David prefers to use a deep litter on the loft floor. Old birds are mated in January and are allowed to select their own mates. Once their domestic duties are over the old birds receive four or five short training tosses out to 30 miles in the run up to the start of the old bird season. They are then raced on the natural system for the greater part of the season. However, the racers are separated for a short time just prior to the commencement of the channel race programme.

The Le Mans winner was thus raced on a form of semi widowhood and was shown his hen for two hours prior to basketing on the Wednesday evening. This simple form of motivation certainly did the trick. In preparation for his Le Mans triumph the cock had 5 channel races this year, the longest being BICC Poitiers where he was 6th club and was raced from Pithiviers 300 miles, the week prior to Le Mans.

Feeding and Conditioning

All birds are fed by hand on a mixture made up of farm beans and barley with some widowhood mixture added. This is fed at the rate of 1 ounce per pigeon per day with the amount each pigeon receives increasing slightly as the distance races approach.

The racers are not forced to fly around home but are left to do as they please when out at exercise.

Young birds are raced on the natural system and get twice weekly training during the young bird season.

The only supplement given is garlic in the drinking water from time to time- nothing else.

Dave and Sheila have been members of the BICC for 6 years now. Earlier successes with the BICC include 3rd open BICC Tours 2011 and they have won Ness Point's Channel Average several times in the past. Their local club Lowestoft Ness Point, can now boast 2 BICC National winners amongst its membership.

Congratulations Dave and Sheila on a well-deserved win. Hope to see you in Bournemouth in February.

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