

## The Kings Coronation Race - Fougeres

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, the first race of the 2023 NFC race programme got underway with the first race scheduled for Fougeres getting underway on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May. To mark the Coronation of Charles The Third as our new Sovereign The National Flying Club have designated the first national race under his Sovereignty as The Kings Coronation race. All marking stations worked hard ( as always) to ensure that birds were marked under the new guidance from APHA, tedious and time consuming - but sadly necessary for those of us who want to compete from across the channel. The birds arrived on site safely and in plenty of time to rest and refuel before undertaking the task ahead of them. As I have said before, the team who make each race happen work endlessly to make sure members get the best possible race and the ends result speaks for itself. Steve White and the convoying team, having done their homework, had the convoy up and away bright and early into a brisk East, North East wind that was forecast to drop off as the birds came off the channel and started working their way up through the country. Given the wind, the boys in The West Country and down into Sections D and Q were up and keen for it. However, speaking to fanciers along the coast there was less East than expected and this obviously impacted on the result - as the wind always does. Regardless, as always in National races the lead birds put smiles on faces and there were some exceptional team performances put up across the sections in proper racing conditions. It is fair to say that the convoy had to dig deep and drop a shoulder in to the wind, and the velocities across the result tell their own story - but I think fanciers got their monies worth with a proper bit of classic racing.

Now, my mum has a saying that 'some people are born lucky and some people are born good looking', but I am going to stick my neck out and say the man at the top of the result might just be both! The Bristol loft of Stu Wilcox has, after a few races where he had to settle for the role of Bridesmaid, finally seen his run of luck peak by claiming 1<sup>st</sup> Section G and 1<sup>st</sup> Open with a cracking 3 year old hen now called Turbo Lizzy. Just to show off, she was followed over the pad with another hen on her tail to clinch 2<sup>nd</sup> open and Section. Both of these classy ladies were raced on Stuarts widowhood hens system based on ideas he has begged, borrowed and stolen from a few top lofts. Stu is now ably assisted by his good friend and fellow fancier Jeff- and when asked who did what around the lofts the response was that they both do 75% of the chores. That is the attitude that wins you nationals. This is what the team had to say about finally realising a dream:

I first started pigeon racing as a 5 year old in Radstock with my father Trevor. In those days we competed against the likes of Fear Brothers, Brooks Brothers, Harding Brothers, Vic Priddy and Sid Miles, it was marvelous times. In 2007 I moved to Bristol to give me a shorter commute and more time to race the pigeons, around that time I also started auctioneering. Our main aim has always been National Racing with the NFC and BICC. We have been unlucky finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> on a few occasions so winning 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Open is truly a dream come true. In 2022 I was promoted at work into a Global Position which restricts my time so by chance a local fancier Jeff Wells was keen to fly pigeons and we decided to have a go together. It's been a great start for us both, winning the West of England SR Combine 3 weeks ago and now the National. A big thank you to Jeff who shares the daily management of the birds.

In 2011 I was extremely fortunate to meet Peter Fox and it was Peter who introduced me to Jan & Rik Hermans. Sadly Jan has passed away, the connections that I have been able to make

through Peter and subsequently Rik and De Duif have made such a difference. One such connection was Koen Minderhoud, sadly Koen passed away last year but the first person I called was his son Jackie and it was agreed to call the winner Turbo Lizzy after Koen's granddaughter. For years I had been very successful with Frans Zwols pigeons, Frans told me that he would consider Koen's pigeons the best to compliment his birds as Koen's were super in North East head winds! We timed Turbo Lizzy at 12.21, followed very shortly after by Turbo Natalia at 12.22. Both hens are raced on Widowhood, a system we learnt from Albert Derwa and both are 3 years old and have been very consistent racers. They are both bred from Turbo Magic, a 2016 cock bred by Koen Minderhoud, direct from Late Turbo 608 winner of 1st Ace Pigeon One Day Long Distance 2013 in Province 1 Zeeland. 2nd Prov Roye 7,452b 2nd Prov Gien 3,824b, 2nd NPO - Chateauroux 2,227b (Beaton by Geeloger), 4th NPO - Chateauroux 3,238b, 4th SS - Sens 1,412b, 7th Prov Souppes-s.-L. 6,036b, 8th NPO - Ruffec 2,084b. Late Turbo 608 is a full brother to Neuiwe Turbo 1st NAT Ace WHZB LD plus 1st Sens 1510b, 1st Niergnies 1795b and our own Miss Turbo dam of Champions Cornish Queen, Super, 69, Super 221 etc. The dam of Turbo Lizzy is a 2012 direct Koen Minderhoud, the dam of Turbo Natalia is a direct Dirk Van Dyck hen I purchased at the Blackpool Golden Duif Auction at the Savoy Hotel. It's sad that both Koen Minderhoud and Dirk Van Dyck passed away this last year, two of the true greats of the sport. What's staggering is that friend Erwin Houmes won 1st Afdeling 1 in Holland from 6000 birds and a similar distance on the same day with a gg-child of Turbo 608 in the same North East head wind!!

Turbo Lizzy has won 1st Club 244b 29th WoESRC Yelverton, 7th Fed Sennon Cove 953b, 12th NW Section CSCFC Coutances, 25th Fed Yelverton 1342b and 34th Open BICC National Poitiers where she flew 9  $\frac{1}{4}$  hours. Turbo Natalia has won 2nd Club Exeter 210b, 7th Fed Wadebridge 682b, 16th Fed Yelverton 1101b, 41st Open NFC Guernsey, 116th Open NFC Sennon Cove etc.

The birds are fed on Verkerk Sport mixed with Koopman All-In-One which are very fatty mixes from Beyers, we are happy that these mixes give all of the nutrition the birds need however on the advice of Dick De Leeuw we added a small amount of energy corn on the last two feeds. The hens are also given Super Depurative and Super Energy from Country Wide. Im not one for heavy treatments, the birds get Parastop every November and are wormed and cankered before the season, after the first race they are given a respiratory treatment on the corn and that's normally it. In terms of Supplements, the birds get Beyer's Re-load on return and some mixed oils and Brewer's Yeast. As a prep for racing 3 times a week they get Zell Oxygen from Dr Wolf and Condition powder from Beyer's on the food. I always give my birds a special bath two days before basketing for a National with salts and de-scaler. The help we receive from Sam & Joe from Countrywide and Dick and Koen from Beyer's has been brilliant.

If things are not going to plan and the results are not as good as expected I reach out to many of the friends that we have in the Sport, Alfie Hawthorn, Peter Fox, Imran Malik, Gary Inkley, Paul Beaumont for advice but often a little patience often bring things right.

Finally I would like to thank Rob Brooks, Joe Thompson, Dave Wyatt, Family Khan & Cuffy for all the banter, Nigel Templar and Scot Whittle for ensuring I get up early every morning and the many hard workers that make these races happen, Paul & Christine Titcomb, Mr & Mrs Naum, Mr & Mrs Webber and Steve White (Pumpkin).

Well done gentlemen. As the race unfolded and the leader board came online it was clear that Section L made the most of the wind. Such is the quality of fancier in this section they will take advantage of any situation and their birds will shine. Only Mike Lovelock in Section J stopped

Section L taking the remaining spoils in the Top 10. Claiming 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> section L and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> open is the Warrington loft of R and B Smith. The brothers have been at the top of national and classis racing for many years and always tun out a top quality team ready for the job in hand. This partnership has over the last 50 plus years been 2nd open and now 3 times 3rd open with numerous 1st sections and top 10 open finishes with the NFC.



R and B Smith

The two birds that achieved 1st and 3rd section, are home-bred 3-year-old hens raced on widowhood.

In 1st section is a Blue Pied hen 3 year old hen, a winner of 1st 2nd and 4th club Mangotsfield 4th Weymouth, and 6th Lancs Yorks 4 bird St Philbert. She is bred from 2 retired racers, her sire being "06" -2nd Warrington 2 bird Portland then he was injured and put to stock where he is the sire of birds to win 2nd section, 3rd open Bamfords gold ring and 1st club 1st fed. He is a son of their champion racer breeder "Hughie" when paired to the "Malta Hen" who is Dam of "Miss Alva" 1st section 101st open MNFC Carentan her nest mate "Joe X" 1st club 1st Combine plus 3 x 2nd and 3 x 3rd club.

The Malta hen came from Joe Xuereb Malta, this being bred from his Janssen Brothers stock these he obtained from his good friend Ernesto Agostani from Italy who sourced these direct from the Janssens bros.

Dam of 05160 is the winner of 1st Warrington 2 bird Tewksbury 8th section 143rd open MNFC Carentan plus 2nd clu 2 x 3rd and 4th club, her sire is off "51" 1st section 1st open MNFC Carentan. Her dam is off their champion breeder "Hilsons Cock" when paired to a half-sister to "51".

In 3rd section is Blue hen, another 3 year old and a winner of 11th section 187th open NFC 2nd Eccles 2 bird 2nd Lancs Yorks 4 bird Guernsey, 5th Eccles 2 bird St Philbert, 2nd section 148th open MNFC Weymouth.

The sire of 05175 stock only, bred by Curtis Wall and Lunt he is the sire of birds to win club fed 2 bird and national races he also bred the winner of Dewsbury breeder buyer his nest mate bred the dam of a bird to win equal 1st in Big Andys International One Loft Challenge 350 mile race for Kenny Kelley and Sam Malone from Texas winning over \$30,000. Dam of 05175 is again stock bred from a unique pairing of "Holme Star" 2x 1st and 8th section L, 8th 9th and 18th open, and "Mr Reliable" 6th section 139th open Saintes 7th section 156th open Messac 6th section 111th open Sigogne NFC. These girls were definitely bred right for racing at this level - well done gentlemen.

Following close behind, and continuing to fly the flag for Section L is the Liverpool loft of Campbell Brothers and Son. The partnership claim 4<sup>th</sup> Open and 2<sup>nd</sup> section L. Young Jamie is a newish recruit to the NFC Management Committee and is a welcome addition. I have also had the pleasure of meeting both him and his dad at a couple of National Flying club presentations in the company of the great Gerry Clements, who is not only a brilliant channel flyer himself - but he is also famous for having sat beside my dad at school. I have no doubt that the Campbell boys will have benefitted from advice from Gerry. The Campbell boys saw home a 2 year old widowhood cock who was Flying 363 miles up in to Liverpool. This quality cock is now known as 'Norman' after Norman Horemans - the fancier from Antwerp who bred the parents, and 'Norman' is from the first team bred from the new introductions - so the signs are promising. He was flown down to Bath (150 miles) in preparation for the national races. The team were clearly up for the challenge and thrived in that wind as they had a quick second bird to claim 6<sup>th</sup> Section L and being good enough to round off the top 10. This Blue Yearling cock is a bit tasty, with his Sire having won 1st section NFC Fougères and was a RPR Award winner from 2 x Direct Chris Hebberecht Belgium. The partnership spent wisely at this loft and had over 50 direct, with these being whittled down by the basket. The dam is their top producing hen, she was bred by their close friend Gerry Clements. She is known as "Hercules hen", and she has bred section L national bird of year, 1st RPR Award, 1st section Sennen Cove - 7th open, 3 x individual Amalgamation winners, Liverpool Amalgamation bird of year, and countless other positions she's now 10 years old and still breeding she's my favourite. "Hercules hen" is daughter of Gerry's yearling Midlands National open winner and a champion producer. Horses for course springs to mind. The partners have set out to breed top performance birds at national level and have most definitely achieved that. I asked Jamie about their plans for Tarbes, he tells me that they have brought in birds for competing from Tarbes in the future and reckons his current team are limited to Saintes - I am not too sure about that. Hopefully they will try a few of the current team from Tarbes.

Jamie said the birds arrived in good Condition and have recovered well after a testing day, and the team would like to thank the convoyors for looking after the birds and also the Marking Station teams for their great efforts to allow the race to stay on schedule after the transporter problems. Also, congratulations to the open winner and all section winners and good luck for the rest of the season.

Next up, claiming top spot in Section J and a very respectable 5<sup>th</sup> Open is the Shrewsbury loft of Mike Lovelock - no stranger to success himself, regularly winning big in the nationals with a small send - often only 1 or 2 birds.

We pop back over in to Section L again to the Congleton lofts of J R Sutton. Roger is another well established national flyer and has won multiple sections over the years. As with Stu and Jamie he is also a member of the National Flying Club Management Committee - but probably for a few more years.

Next up we have a fantastic pigeon that took full advantage of the wind to get home to Nantyglo in South Wales to the loft of G Treharne and Son. Stu welcomed home the Section W winner and also clinched a class 8<sup>th</sup> Open. This is what Stu had to say about the winning hen. 'I would first like to congratulate Stuart Wilcox on a great performance on a real hard day. His pigeon is a 3 year old hen, her breeding is 100% Eijerkamp bred from a direct son of euro when paired to a direct daughter of Kaira so a Heremans Ceuster cross Van Loon . She is flown on roundabout and was let into her pan before going to the race. She flew Coutances as a young bird and went

to Guernsey three times last year and has been consistent without doing anything exceptional. It was a real tough race, but the birds arrived in first class condition and recovered quickly.'



Mr and Mrs Gower 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Section B

Keeping up the Section L Cavalry is the Birkenhead loft of Bateman Brothers. I have spoken to Eddie a few times in the past following solid national performances and I know he likes to race a hen. On this occasion he claims 5<sup>th</sup> Section L and 9<sup>th</sup> Open. Eddie saw home a 2 year old hen raced on his successful roundabout hen that has seen him secure many top positions. It comes as no surprise that his base Lefebre Dhanens cock The General is involved in the breeding of this latest star performer, with the hen being a double grand daughter.

### Around the Sections

#### Section A

Top of the heap this week was the loft of D Fry, followed by Brian Wall and M Skidmore.

#### Section B

Bragging rights from Fougères are claimed by the Fordingbridge loft of Mr and Mrs Gower - one of those names you look for in any national or Classic race. Mark clocked a 2 year old cock bird who is steeped in the absolute cream of distance bloodlines. His sire is a son of Nick Adshead's champion Millie who was a NFC merit award winner from Tarbes 730 miles, and I seem to recall was up with the Section leaders out of Saintes as a yearling. The dam is a daughter of champion Kasie, 1st BICC Barcelona 757 miles when paired to champion Blue Badge 2nd open BICC Barcelona, 2nd open St Vincent, 10th open Agen. He was trained north with the Southampton North Road Fed for 2 years and then switched south 2 weeks ago and sent to Guernsey. Mark tells me that the cock is a candidate for Pau this year - fingers crossed. The team also had a second bird close up to be 3<sup>rd</sup> Section, their birds love a working day. The Gowers would like to

say well done to Stu and Jeff for the fantastic result, and to all section winners for getting to the front on a proper grafting day.

2<sup>nd</sup> Section is the loft of Wearn Brothers 1 and Neilson.

### Section C

Top of the heap with a real team performance is the loft of Stuart Laws. I heard on the grapevine that he wasn't happy with how the birds were performing at club level so emptied the loft for Fougères - and the end result was a tumble of early birds to the loft that claimed the first 5 in the Section and a raft of other birds to follow up. Stuart has experienced the highs and lows of national racing, having been at the very top of the result, but also missing out on a national win as he was a little late verifying as he was out working. Hopefully the rule change voted in this year will help to reduce the likelihood of this happening to other members again. Regardless of what has happened in the past there was no slip up from Fougères and the loft reaped the rewards with a result right out of the top drawer. Well done that man.

Staying in Section C we have a loft that is starting to make waves at National and Classic level having been long established as solid racers at domestic level - Team Williams. Steve and Chris moved down from the Sunny West Midlands to undertake missionary work and open an Elocution School. They would like to firstly congratulate Stuart Wilcox on achieving his ambition on winning 1st open NFC. Stuarts Auctions are always a highlight of the Blackpool Show for them and his passion for the sport is clear for all to see and this is reflected in his racing performances. Steve and Chris clocked a blue yearling hen to bag them 10th section C, and she is bred from stock obtained from Mr & Mrs Darren May and son. This is only the partnership's second race of the 2023 season as they now concentrate solely on National and Classic racing, having been bitten by the bug a couple of years ago. The partnership would like to congratulate all the section winners on what was a testing day's racing.

### Section D

In Section D we have the loft of Richard Goodier taking double top with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Section. This is what he had to say about his latest Section victory:

I am over the moon with 1st section D in a very hard race for all involved, my 1st section was a mealy Lambrecht cock raced on the roundabout system. He was bred by Simon Cordery & Colin Roast out of their Border loft Lambrecht pair. This pair have bred some super performers for them. We exchange a pair each year having a little side bet on the best performance from a particular race. All birds are fed on Versal Laga corns to suit the upcoming race, droppings are sent every 2 weeks and are treated if need be. Other than that only natural products are used. All birds are raced with the Devon South road Fed who are only a small but highly competitive organisation. Thanks to all the IC and all the helpers at the Plymouth marking station for their hardwork and refreshments.

Congratulations to all the other section winners and to Stuart Wilcox on a cracking 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Open.

Taking 3<sup>rd</sup> Section is the Exeter loft of Neil Emery. He welcomed home a blue yearling cock who has had 4 races with Devon SR Fed in the weeks building up to this NFC race. He was bred by Neil from birds gifted to him from an Oxfordshire fancier giving up the sport. The birds in the Emery loft are raced on the natural system and are trained to 17 miles roughly about 5 times before racing starts then no more once racing starts due to the ongoing high risk of peregrine attacks. The birds are currently being fed on Countywide breeding mix with added barley. Well done gentlemen.



## Section E

Top of the heap again we have the all conquering Winkfield loft of Mark Gilbert. Mark is an absolute master of the game at all distances and disciplines. Mark has 3 quick ones to claim the top 3 spots in the section, and quite a few more peppered across the result. The first 2 across the pad are both 2 year old hens flown on widowhood. As you would expect they represent the very best of their respective bloodlines, with first hen being a Stefan Lambrechts x Kittle - with her being a grand daughter of the legend himself. The second hen is a cross of Crammond & Langstaff x Gaston Van De Wouer. Clearly a team bred for the job and prepared for the job being asked of them.

### 4<sup>TH</sup> Section E for Rob Rome.

4<sup>th</sup> Section E sees the Fleet loft Of Rob Rome keeping up his record in classic and national racing. Rob has been quietly building a team based on his Fabia lines crossed in with new introductions from the best in Belgium to consolidate the already successful lines. Rob confirmed he was back in the game after he moved locations from Cheltenham by winning the Bicc St Philbert race in what was the first French race following the post Brexit changes and demands needed to compete in cross channel races. The first on the result for Rob this year is a 2 year old cock who came back 2 weeks late from the St Philbert race that Rob won last year all smashed up. Rob put him to one side to recover and he didn't actually come out of the loft again until Rob started exercising the race team in late February. He was taken slowly and this was only his second race this year, having been 3<sup>rd</sup> club and 16<sup>th</sup> Fed from Yelverton a couple of weeks previously. His parents are home bred from 4 direct Wilfred Vandermaele birds that Rob sourced direct a couple of seasons ago. They are down from the very best in Wilfreds loft with the grandparents being 'Caccius King', 'Beauty Shadow', 'Blue Tommy' and 'Daughter Mister Lenni'. These Vandermaele birds are top all rounders and Can be found in numeros top Belgian lofts such as Gino Clique, Kurt Platteuw and Joel Verschoot. These birds are now starting to pull together a decent set of results for Rob.



D and J Staddon

## Section F

Taking top spot in the competitive Section F is the partnership of J and P Parker. To show the skill and quality on show here within the hands of James and his dad Peter, they took the first 3 in the section and another couple just outside the top 10 of the section. These gentlemen have at their disposal the absolute best of several winning families that they sourced from the

continent and The UK, and the representatives they have are very close to the tree or the performers themselves. Well done gentlemen, a class act on a tough day. The partnership had a team of quality hens prepared on the tried and tested Widowhood hen system that has served them well over recent years at national level. The section winner was bred for them by Jimmy Wearn and the next couple were JPS Lambrechts. The hens are kept fit and keen by sending them each weekend, and the plan is that the Lambrechts will go to the next National race and the distance based ends will compete in all 5 National races. James said that as it was the first channel race and with the Easterly wind they were not sure what to expect on the day - but the girls have clearly delivered beyond their expectations. A great day at the office, and even Pete has to be happy with that. Good luck with the rest of the season gentlemen.



C and J Howse

### Section G

Taking third section, and it's no shame to be beaten by the loft that claimed double top in the open, is the top West Country loft of D and J Staddon. Provisional 3rd Section G and 13th Open are Dave & John Staddon of Ditchat. They had this to tell me. "Firstly congratulations to Stuart Wilcox on a fantastic race winning 1st & 2nd Sec G and 1st & 2nd Open. A lifetime ambition achieved and very much well deserved. We would also like to congratulate all other section winners. We would also like to thank the marking team at Bristol for a job well done. This proved to be a very tough race for all competitors and for some reason much tougher than the conditions indicated. At the time of writing, we have 15/19 but it took a very long time for some of them to get home. All birds were in very good condition on arrival. We timed a yearling Chaos Widowhood cock who has previously won 2nd WOESRC Brighton as a YB in 2022. He is the son of our champion racer Miracle Maker. He is one half of a nest pair of brothers known locally as The Miracle Bros. They have now won 5 x 1st Section (4 x BICC & 1 x CSCFC sections plus 1st Open CSCFC and 2nd & 3rd BICC Nationals between them). Miracle Maker alone has won a host of positions including 1st West Section 20th National 2,222 birds Bordeaux, 33rd National Falaise, 3x 1st club and 1st Section 1st Open CSCFC St Philbert and 1st West Section 3rd Open BICC St Philbert National winning a new Benzing ETS system. His nest brother is called Meteor Miracle has won 1st West Section with 510 birds 2nd BICC National Guernsey with 5,783 birds, 1st West Section BICC St Philbert in 2020 against 1,200 birds. Another little story about



Miracle Maker is that in 2022 he was our single entry in our club to the WOESRC Eastbourne race where he won 1st club with 170 birds and 25th WOESRC with 1,247 birds. What a pair of nestmates they are. They are bred from our champion breeder The Real Miracle a direct son of our elite breeding couple the Miracle Pair when The Real Miracle was paired to Comet 1st, 3rd & 7th WOESRC up to 5,500 birds and also the mother of 1st National, Glory 1st NFC Coutances for us. Their team will now be prepared for the Messac NFC.



John Black - 1<sup>st</sup> Section H

Fourth Section was claimed by the ever present loft of C and J Howse. They would like to congratulate Stuart Wilcox on winning the National and about flippin' time!

The partnership is very pleased to be 4<sup>th</sup> section Fougères given their position - being the most easterly loft in the section!

They are now flying the birds on the chaos system, the hen we timed was on her sixth race of the season, she has already won an earlier club race and was 101<sup>st</sup> open CSCFC Guernsey a fortnight ago, and was second section G last year from St Philbert. Her sire is a grandson of Drum and her dam is a granddaughter of Dutch master!

### Section H

Taking top honours once more is the consistently successful loft of John Black. I think I am right in saying that John is 100% focused on national racing, with no club racing being undertaken. This is what John had to say - 'the bird I timed in from Fougères is a 5 year old Blue Pied hen having her first race of the season. She is September bred and trained through the winter raced 2019 winning 3rd Section Fougères, 23rd Section Messac and 24th Section Cholet. In 2020 she had no racing as she was hawked in an early training flight, and in 2021 she did not come off the bench again as there was no channel racing. In 2022 she was 3rd Section, 90th open Tarbes/ Pau, and hopefully I can set her up for Pau this year. Well done to all the Section winners.

Taking second spot is the loft of HM The King, based at Sandringham for over a 100 years. It is good to see King Charles getting amongst the leaders in his first race as our new Sovereign.



Booth and Roper

### Section I

Top of the heap, and taking 3<sup>rd</sup> spot as well is the very under rated west Midlands loft of Astbury and Horton.

Taking the Bridesmaid position is the loft of Richard Chambers who flies in to Armitage in Staffordshire. Richard clocked a 2 year on Blue Cock whose sire was bred down from House of Arden birds, and is a descendent of Padfield Paul & Dave x Wim Muller, and on the Dam side it is a hen that was lent to Richard from C T Leadbeater & Sons from their Little Gem lines. This cock last year was sent to both St Philbert races in the BICC & NFC and this year in preparation had only 2 races from 94 miles and 138 miles. Richard said "It was great to see this cock do so well as this was a set up race for races later in the season. I intend to send him to Messac and also St Philbert later in the year". Well done mate.



Richard Chambers - fitting in training around his modelling career

### Section J

Taking the runner up spot behind the Mike Lovelock loft is the loft of D and K Harris, who I was unable to get in contact with in time to be included in the report. They were followed up by the

ever present loft of Booth and Roper. Trevor and John timed a 3 year old late bred blue chequer hen to take 3rd section, 29th open in what was a hard race. This was the hens first channel race ever. She is bred from a son of Tony Cowans cock bird from a father and daughter pairing of Sheps Delight, 3 times Barcelona 1st section winner, and the hens dam is a grand daughter of Sportsview Amy, 2nd section,

4th open Vire, 10th section, 82nd open Bordeaux, 1st section, 14th open Poitiers, 1st section, 5th open Tarbes NFC, 6th section, 40th open Pau NFC and the winner of the WM region Rose Bowl. They had 10 birds on the day out of 16 sent, all birds returning in good condition and bouncing the next day.

The partnership would like to congratulate Stuart on winning the race and all the section winners. They would like to congratulate the team at Alveley marking station for the great team work to get the job done with the minimum of fuss.



G Jones and g/children

### Section K

Taking bragging rites this week from the first channel race is the loft of Graham Jones. This is what he had to say about the bird. 'Firstly well done to Stuart Wilcox on 2 good birds. Flying 361miles into Barnsley was my 2021 cock that as flown every in land race winning Lyndhurst the week before the national. His breeding is Vandenebee from a cock from Dave Hawkins at Doncaster from his best stock hen one 'So wonderful' (Solitaire x Band of Gold), and his dam is a Sablon from Mark Evans. He was sent on the standard widowhood system but not shown hen like on inland races. The story behind the corn I use Sykes corn shop in Barnsley - one day in January I walked round the corn store with John the owner and noticed some bags of corn ( racing mixes) with flyers names on them. I asked John for a price for all 9 bags and put it in corn mixer and blend them together - I have no idea what's in it, but it worked as the birds are in top form. On the corn I put Zell oxygen twice a week and Primalac in the water twice a week .Good luck to all sending to Messac'.

2<sup>nd</sup> section K -Rawson and Towers.

Runner up in the section is the always present loft of Rawson and Towers. They saw home a handsome Red cheq yearling cock. This young fella had all the races on the programme a ayounng bird last year, and this year he has been to all the inland races before going to Fougères. He was

bred by their good friend Bill Foulstone, with the sire being down from the Euro Diamond lines via Mark Gilbert, with the dam being bred from Bills good Federation hen. She in turn was paired to a Grandson of 'Red Barcelona', and was gifted to then by their good friend Dave Green.



A classy little hen for R Barraclough.

Third spot is taken by RichAard Barraclough with a cracking 3 year old hen. On the sires side is the Syndicate Lofts Mario x Astrid lines, with the dam being P Ankersmit De Klak lines.

#### **Section N**

Scoring double top in in to this part of the club boundary is the loft of M Anderson and Son. This is most certainly not the corner of the Country that you would wish to be in when the birds are faced with a North East wind - but this didn't deter the birds. Unfortunately, I was unable to get any info from the partnership in time for inclusion in this race report, but I will persevere as this was an exceptional performance on a hard working day.



Dave Travers.

#### **Section O**

Taking top honours in to this far-flung section is the loft of Dave Travis, and he recorded 2nd Section as well. The birds had it all to do on the day from Fougères and those who got to the



front with the lead group in the convoy had to dig deep to get home. This is what he had to say about the birds and the performance:

'My first arrival was my good blue pied hen which was second section last year from the NFC Guernsey race. She always flies well when I send her on a small youngster, with this one being her first hatching this year. She was bred by Roy and Christine Nicholson who retired from the sport after being very successful and now just keep a few for their own enjoyment and breed a few each year for me to race. My pied hen is bred down from John Crowders Vandeveldes which I purchased from John in 1995 and won at all distances for me. The second arrival is a Nigel Corwood Southwell Dark Cheq hen sent sitting small youngsters her first hatching just like the pied hen this being her first channel race and sent as a warm up to go further with the NFC this season. I am looking forward to the Messac race in which we have more Cumbrian fanciers entered and I wish them the best of luck'.



6

A Cousins.

### Section P

Another loft showing form and class on the day by taking first 2 in the section is the loft of A Cousins. The birds flying in to this side of the country had to shoulder an unwelcome North East wind for the entirety of the journey with nowhere to hide. Andrew had the birds up on their toes as they scored 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Section for good measure on a less than easy day. His first bird is most definitely bred for the job asked of him on the day, being a grandson of 'Champion Freddy' 2<sup>nd</sup> BICC, 4<sup>th</sup> international St Vincent 571 miles 10,737 birds on the day as a yearling 14 hrs 27 minutes, plus 15<sup>th</sup> section Tours. Freddy was paired to a daughter of the 'Etterbach Cock', probably one of the best cocks to fly multiple times out of Barcelona. Dam of the cock is a grand daughter of Padfields 'Blue Badge cock' x Jelle baby X grand daughter of Young Laureate x Jelle baby. His full brother has been a great cock to scoring in the TNEC And BICC and both parents bred by his friend John Smale of Abergavenny. The bird taking section spot is a Frans Zwols bred by his good friend from Scotland John Pryde. The birds that tumbled in behind for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Section are all bred for the distance and all birds were flown on roundabout. This race was a warm up for Agen in a few weeks, and given their performance in a testing race Andy should be happy that they are ready for the challenge.





T Luscombe - 1<sup>st</sup> Section Q

### Section Q

As I said at the start of the report that hopes were high for a strong performance into the West of the Club radius given the Easterly element of the wind. As it turns out the Easterly element dropped off and with it was the hope for assistance into that part of the world and Section Q in particular. As the race unfolded the Section had it all to do as arrivals trickled in, having really struggled to get home on the day. I would like to thank fellow Committee member Chris Boyce for providing the race report on the section. The first proper Channel race for the last couple of years and when we heard that the birds were being released at 0700hrs into a light NE wind, hopes were high in Cornwall for good times and good returns. Well apart from Terry Luscombe's excellent pigeon things certainly did not go to the planned script for the rest of us. Who knows what happened but overall returns averaged out at under 25% of birds sent. On a more positive note the 1<sup>st</sup> bird home with a velocity of 1164 ypm was flown by Terry Luscombe of Looe. This DCQ cock was a 5 year old Jelle Jelleman bird given to Terry by his friend Geoff Williams. Terry broke the bird in and raced him to hatching eggs.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> bird home was flown by the Luscombe/Wright partnership flying to Lee's lofts near Liskeard. The bird had a velocity of 861 ypm. This blue hen was a 4 year old Franz Zwols pigeon flying as a widowhood hen.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> bird on the day recording a velocity of 546 ypm was flown by Jake Waldock of St Austell. Jakes bird was a pencil blue white flight Southwell, bred by Jamie Sheppard, the bird was raced unpaired.

Our 4<sup>th</sup> recorded bird arrived on the Sunday and was flown by John Thomas of Lanivet near Bodmin with a velocity of 393 ypm. John's bird was a Frank Casper grizzle hen raced on the natural system. As you can see, the birds sent by the section members really had it all to do.



Luscombe and Wright

### Section W

To follow on from his section topper. Stuart Treharne also clocked the 2<sup>nd</sup> section winner. The 2<sup>nd</sup> section winner is a blue hen flown on roundabout she is a three year old hen and is Eijerkamp van loon crossed Carteus, being a granddaughter of 'Alans lad' their Saintes national and gold cup national bird of the year winner, when paired to Lady Kain their Messac national winner, and a granddaughter of their son of 'Abel' when he was paired to a daughter of lady Elenora. She was let in to her nest bowl before going to the race and has been a consistent racer for the loft, winning 15<sup>th</sup> open fed from Coutances as a young bird, 4<sup>th</sup> section NFC Guernsey, 42<sup>nd</sup> open BICC Guernsey 5,440 birds, 67<sup>th</sup> open BICC Guernsey 2,745 birds, amongst other club and fed prizes. Another little lady who wanted home quickly.



John Thomas.

Right folks, that your lot for this week. Again, can I ask that anyone who is provisionally top 10 in the open or top 3 in their section gets in touch at [weebu@hotmail.com](mailto:weebu@hotmail.com) by the Thursday following the race. If I have been unable to get information on your bird to be included in this report please forward me the info at the email above and I will include it in the next report. Finally, can members please refer to the part of the handbook that explains how/when /to whom you do your race entries and verifications, and where to send the race printouts to. Some people are getting it wrong - which is understandable as we all get a bit rusty and forgetful. Until next time, take care and enjoy your pigeons.

D Callan

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