



National Flying Club

Founded 1898

President: J K Edwards Esq.

Falaise 2024 (YB and OH)

PROVISIONAL WINNERS – Mark Gower & Mircea Cioc

For the final races of the 2024 season the members of the club entered 414 pigeons in the OH race from 93 lofts and in the YB's 194 members entered 1704 pigeons. The race was from the Normandy town of Falaise which has a population of 8245 and yet has it's own castle and is regarded as a medieval treasure and was built for the Dukes of Normandy, the Kings of England and the Kings of France, it has a unique architecture marked by keeps that dominate the fortified city. The checks at the port went smoothly with all the required paperwork in place and the journey to the racepoint was uneventful with the convoy arriving on site on the Friday afternoon, the pigeons were duly fed and watered and settled for the night. Saturday morning dawned with a bright partial blue sky and race control gave the go ahead to liberate at 7am.



Leading the convoy in the YB race and provisional 1st Open and 1st Sect B in the YB national were Mr & Mrs Mark Gower of Fordingbridge, they clocked a pencil blue hen racing natural but playing about with her loft mates, the week previous she flew Guernsey and was on the wing for about 6hrs and obviously put her right. The partnership usually exercise their yb's twice a day and give them a few training tosses each week but the week leading up to the national the birds got more rest than usual as their daughter got



married and time was at a premium. The sire of the winning hen is a Peter Kirkwood of Carlisle from his combine winning Frans Zwols down from Eagle Boy and Amor lines and the dam is a M&D Evans Vandenebee being a daughter of Iceman x Gift of time with Iceman being a son of the immortal Shadow, so is soaked in National winning bloodlines. In 2024 the partnership decided to buy 5 of the NFC Gold rings and the winner was given one of the gold rings so at time of breeding the partnership obviously thought a lot of the parents of the winner and the winning hen was duly picked out with a lot of foresight, very well done and great picking! This is the partnerships 7th National and Classic win so they are no strangers to the winner's enclosure so many congratulations and long may your successes continue.



Leading the OH race and winning 1st Sect B and 1st Open is none other than the clubs photographer Mircea Cioc of Shaftesbury who timed a 3 year old Blue Pied Hen. This is what Mircea had to say "First of all I would like to congratulate Mark Gower for winning the NFC with YBs. Mark and I are both members of the same club. We also have this year Tarbes Grand National winner, Mel King, in our club.



Three National Flying Club Winners members of the same club. The blue pied hen that won the NFC old hens been trained and raced with the yb's this year and sent to the NFC race paired up. As a yb she was reported and collected from a non fancier, lightly raced as a yearling and 2 year old. She is home bred from pigeons that originated from Chris Gibson, Young Anton line on both sides. This open win is a dream that came true after having a fantastic season with 2 first and 5 second section wins. I would like to finish by

thanking my wife for clocking my national winner and also for the support and understanding with my hobby. “Felicitări pentru reușită!” Mircea well deserved.

What is remarkable in this race as the winners are members of the same club Salisbury & District RPC so I would imagine that there was quite a party at the clubs HQ on the Saturday night. Many, many congratulations to you both once again.

John Burgham

Press Officer

The National Flying Club

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