



# The National Flying Club

## FOUGÈRES OLD BIRD RACE

# A flying start for Rochdale's A & S Hughes

For the inaugural race of the National Flying Club's 2025 old bird season, we were at Fougères on Saturday 31st May with a convoy of 5,272 birds sent by 539 members. Fougères, located in Brittany, is a charming town that is home to the Château de Fougères, the largest medieval fortress in Europe. The history of Fougères is very much based around its château, around which the town sprang up in the Early Middle Ages.

As I write these words, members from across the British Isles are gazing skyward with hearts full of hope for the sight of a bird, which will seal their place in history, as one of an elite band of fanciers to secure the coveted title of 1st Open National Flying Club of Great Britain! For many fanciers racing with the NFC is the epitome of sporting excellence, for in the words of our late and legendary President, G W Kirkland Esq, there is no bigger challenge than National racing to a dedicated pigeon man, when you are racing against the top men in all the country it is very hard to win, and this is the supreme challenge. Not only are you up against the best, you are also up against geographical position, and you must accept this.

The birds were liberated at 0945hrs in sun with broken cloud and a light north-west wind. Temp was 16°C. Wind in the Channel was west-south-west with high broken cloud. Throughout England the wind was due to pick up from west to south-south-west.

On behalf of the members I must congratulate Club Chairman, Tom Scott and the rest of the NFC team who provided the membership with clear and regular updates throughout the whole journey to the racepoint. Now let's look at the provisional top ten of the all-important National result.

A huge congratulations to the winner of **1st Section L, Mr Simon Hughes** of Rochdale, racing under the banner A & S Hughes who timed a 2y pigeon flying a distance of 368 miles, attaining the winning velocity of 1491. Here is what Simon had to tell me about his magical weekend, and how it feels to be a National winner. 'Well where do I begin, it still hasn't sunk in as I write this. I honestly thought the birds would have been a lot quicker as my club birds did

65mph earlier in the day and when it got to the 7 hour mark, I'd more or less given up.

We only sent six, so you can imagine my surprise when I saw two pigeons racing towards the lofts together, slightly out of the east, which was expected in the wind. Just as they made it to the lofts, a third pigeon came from nowhere across the front of them and took one of them away from the loft, but it soon flipped back around and clocked 18 seconds behind the first.

The first hen that hit the loft is a 2y blue P&D Stud van den Bulck bred by my good friend Bob Langrish from Chorley, it was one of a kit of 12 I bought from Bob in 2023. She has been my best bird at the lofts this season before this incredible victory, winning 2 x 1st and 2 x 2nd inland.

My second hen is a 4y blue cheq, this hen has won many top prizes, she was twice my first bird back to the lofts last year from the same racepoint, so I put her as my pooled bird in the Section. She is a granddaughter of probably the best producer I've ever had, Clean Slate, when he was paired to a hen I called The Bridesmaid, as she was 6 x 2nd before eventually winning. This is a family of pigeons I've put together myself and have won Sections, Combines, Amals and Federations for myself and many others, being Janssen-based.

I would like to thank everyone for their kind words across many platforms and the many phone calls and text messages, I'm absolutely blown away.'

## RESULTS Open

**2nd Open, Vaun Barker** from Rochdale, also scoring 2nd Section L with a 2y with a vel of 1486.

**3rd Open, Mariusz Kajawa** (MazzaLoft) of Mansfield, 1st Section I with a yearling on 1473.

**4th Open, Ray Lunt** of Irlam, 3rd Section L with a 2y on 1451.

**5th Open, R Barraclough & Sons** of Sheffield, 1st Section K with a yearling on 1450.

**6th Open, S W Turnock** of Stoke-on-Trent, 1st Section J with a 2y on 1449.

**7th Open, J Clarke & Daughter** of Selling, 1st Section P with a 3y on 1448.

**8th Open, Malik & Khan** of Tolworth, 1st Section E, timing a yearling pigeon on a

## National Flying Club

Bridesmaid II

GB 21 R 26381

2nd Open

Fougeres

31st May 2025  
539 members, sent 5,272 birds

A & S Hughes

Rochdale

1st & 2nd Open N.F.C, vel 1491 and 1480 ypm  
368 miles, 127 yards

Langrish Lady

GB 23 N 51229

1st Open



Photos and Montage Design by DAVE STONE 07299 047760

NFC Race 1 winners for A & S Hughes.



All confirmed, Simon is the winner, holding the champagne, after John Wheatcroft verifies the pigeon.

velocity of 1446. Here is what the partnership, known as Ace Lofts, had to say about their latest performance. 'Firstly congratulations to Simon Hughes for taking the hot spot, a super achievement, and well done to all the Section winners, our first bird was bred by us, the sire was bred by Buck & Martijn de Kruif from their famous Pipa Pair, responsible for over 100 1st prizewinners and Tom van Gaver's Sabine 1, winner of 1st National Ace KBDB 2023. The dam is a direct G Koopman from Jasmin, 3 x top 8 of NPO races from the best lines of Zina, Klein Dirk, Royal Dream. The returns were good, 11/14 on the day.'

**9th Open, F Helliwell** of Rochdale, 4th Section L with a 4y on 1412.

**10th Open, Ben Walton** of Congleton, 5th Section L with a 2y on 1410.

Congratulations to all. Now we move on to the top three provisional in each Section.

## Section O

**J Varty, Son & Grandson**, Maryport on 933, 394th Open, who sent me the following on their winner. 'Our Section O winner is a cheq cock that has been consistent for us over the Channel. He was bred by a friend of ours, Jim Drummond of Clydebank. He has been flown on the round about system.'

**Dave Travis, Kendal** on 848, 408th Open. Dave explained 'My blue pied hen, which was 2nd Section O, was from my John Crowder Vandeveldes which I have ho used



Simon says thanks to Brandon Buckley, for the last three weeks he's got the pigeon bug back and has been a great help around the loft.



S Turnock.

for many years and have been terrific birds. Nearly all the team I entered were yearlings having their first Channel race and my first bird was sent sitting close to hatching and homed in good condition. My congratulations to A & S Hughes on his race winner, flying into Rochdale, and our Cumbria Section winner J Varty, Son & Grandson flying into Maryport, against that strong westerly wind, a well deserved result.

**L Blacklock & Sons**, Workington, on 821, 415th Open, with a 5y black hen which has been a very honest pigeon, her best performance has been 1st Club, 4th Federation Guernsey (359 miles). She is a Faroe x Severn pigeon.

## Section N

**Robert McKie**, Newcastle-upon-Tyne on 1296, 104th Open.

**Mr & Mrs R Hutchinson & Sons** of Darlington on 1136, 256th Open.

**Mr & Mrs Murphy**, Saltburn-by-the-Sea on 1133, 294th Open.

## Section L

**A & S Hughes**, Rochdale on 1491, 1st Open.  
**Vaun Barker**, Rochdale on 1486, 2nd Open.  
**Ray Lunt**, Irlam on 1451, 4th Open.

## Section K

**R Barraclough & Sons**, Sheffield on 1450, 5th Open.

**Garry Handley**, Brighouse on 1404, 12th Open. Taking part in his first ever National, Garry takes 2nd Section K with a blue widowhood cock who has always flown with consistency covering the 371 miles 415 yards in 7 hrs 45 mins. He is bred by Darren May from some of his top pigeons, responsible for winners all over the UK.

**Nigel Laycock**, Doncaster on 1387, 20th Open. Nigel said, 'The hen that came for me was a Wijnand hen.'

## Section W

**D Jones**, Wrexham on 1355, 45th Open.

**Lloyd & Bagnall**, Wrexham on 1336, 67th Open.

**J, I & C Millward**, Buckley on 1305, 94th Open. They wrote, 'We are very pleased with the performance of our cheq yearling hen yesterday, who finished provisionally 3rd Section, 94th Open NFC Fougères, clocking her just under 7½ hours. She came on her line with maximum effort and was one of two birds we entered. She is raced on the widowhood system and has been coming steadily on the inland races. Her sire was bought from Alun Jones of Red Star lofts on behalf of Rod Sparkes. He is bred through a mixture of van de Rhee, Leo Hermans,



J, I & C Millward's pigeon.

Heremans-Ceusters and Luc van Mechelen blood. Her dam was bred by ourselves, from a top hen off Rod Sparkes who has bred many winners including 1st Liverpool Amal over 3,000 pigeons. She is a direct daughter of Champion Showman and Champion Wonder Girl. Her sire was also bred by Rod Sparkes and is off his top racers Isabel and Reuben. Congratulations to the winners of the race, A & S Hughes of Rochdale.'

## Section J

**S W Turnock**, Stoke-on-Trent on 1449, 6th Open. Stephen races a small team of 16 cocks and 16 hens on the roundabout system, his Section winner is a Lambrecht-based pigeon coming through Steve Foster's Mighty White. The pigeon comes from Stephen's good friend Bill Leese of the Midlands. Prior to winning the Section he has also scored 1st North West Classic Club from Guernsey, also 1st Club and 6th Fed. Stephen enjoyed a good weekend's racing as he also took the first eight places in his club from Yelverton, 2nd North West Classic. All in all a great day's racing. Well done.

**Dave & Kyle Harris**, Newport on 1399, 15th Open. Our 2nd Section bird is a 3y flown on widowhood, he is bred from two birds purchased from the Who Dares Wins One Loft auction in 2019, the sire was bred by Millies Lofts and the dam was believed to be a cock when purchased but turned out to be a hen hence being paired together, he has been a consistent pigeon for three years but has really stepped up this year, taking 2nd and 3rd Club, 3rd and 13th Shropshire Fed, Frome and 1st Club, 14th Shropshire Fed Blandford. Two weeks before this race he should have been 5th Open and topped Section E from Fougères in the BBC, but I didn't complete the verification process



Dave & Kyle Harris, 2nd Section J

correctly and let the bird down! Kyle (right) is holding our second timed bird that was just behind our first, he is also a 3y widowhood cock, he was gifted to us as a young bird by Tex Talbot, and has been a fantastic pigeon with numerous club and National positions, he topped the Section from Messac last year in the BBC.

**C D & G Sterland**, Bromsgrove on 1390, 16th Open.

## Section I

**Mariusz Kujawa** (Mazza Loft), Mansfield on 1473, 3rd Open. Mariusz says, 'It's my second year flying in the National Flying Club. Last year I was so happy when I won 1st Section I from Nort-sur-Erdre and my goal was to do it again in 2025 in any race. This year is one of my best seasons in my racing career. I have won the club twice so far, 1st Federation, 2nd Federation and a few more in the top 20 Fed. I am racing my bird on the roundabout system. I feed Aidi, Vanrobaeys and Beyer's com. Due to lack of space, my hens stay in the aviaries all day and night. Before basketing I always show the hens to my widowhood cocks for about 15 minutes. This weekend in the club race I sent 21 birds. I had brilliant returns. I clocked 18 pigeons in 7 minutes and had all back within 15 minutes. Took 4th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 12th in the club. The week before I was 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Club. For the National Flying Club race I decided to send my six very consistent pigeons, one 3y cock and five hens. I was on the phone with my good friend Ash Burdett when he said to me 'Mariusz, you need one now to win', and I couldn't believe it when the yearling hen just dropped on the landing board. She was in immaculate condition. The sire of her is a grandson of Little Rossi (half-brother

Shanulleke, WA de Bruijn) bred from my friend Visser Meijboom. The dam of her is out of two direct Vermeerbergen-Wilms pigeons (Grizzly Ace Wonder line) bred by Krzysztof Zymlinski. I got 3/6 on the day and one more the next morning. All the birds returned in good condition. Thanks to the conveying team and race controller Rich Turner, and to all the winners, well done.'

**Mohammed Ayaz**, Birmingham on 1361, 41st Open. The bird was raced on celibate and she was bred by Future Lofts, her sire is a Leo Herman and dam is half Leo Herman and half Jan Hooymans.

**S Hardy**, Matlock on 1324, 80th Open.

## Section H

**R & P Montila**, Sandy on 1377, 29th Open.

**C Crick & Son**, Stotfold on 1370, 35th Open with a yearling chequer hen that has raced consistently well this season. 'Bred from a Nigel Templar cock and Garry Inkley hen which had both raced well for us in the past.'

**David Paine**, St Neots on 1340, 63rd Open. David's pigeon was a 2y Frans Zwols hen purchased as a kit of young birds from John Cowlin in 2023. This hen has been fairly consistent to the loft and is being raced natural this year.

## Section G

**C & J Howse**, Devizes on 1329, 74th Open.

C & J Howse write, 'We are pleased to be 1st Section in the first NFC race of the season! We timed a 2y hen on her second Channel race of the season! She was a consistent yearling where she flew most of the NFC races last season. All birds are raced weekly on the chaos system, they are fed on Versele-Laga and Staddon Chaos Mix corn. Her sire is a Willem de Bruijn crossed with Friendship and Propere Rik. Her dam is from Jalta who won the Classic when he was paired to a daughter of Mark Bulled's Legacy. We had a good race, we currently have 45/49. We had four birds closely behind our first which will be high up in the Section! Well done to all the conveying team for giving us a good race. Finally well done to the winner and all other prizewinners.'

**Stuart Wilcox**, Bristol on 1226, 202nd Open. Firstly can I congratulate my best friend Simon Hughes, two years ago Simon was my guest at the NFC dinner when we picked up the trophy for winning the National, it must have made an impression on him as him went and matched it! I could not be happier for him, his dad and wife Tony. Our provisional 2nd Section G is a blue cock called The Section Cock. He won 1st Section G, 9th Open NFC Fougères in 2024, plus a few good prizes in



Section I winner, Mariusz Kujawa.



2nd Section H, C Crick & Son



Stuart Wilcox, 2nd Section G



Section G winner for C & J Howse

the club and Fed. This year he was 3rd Club 13th Fed Okehampton and 1st Club, 3rd Fed Yelverton, both times being our single entry. As a young bird he had a single race and as a yearling he flew to Truro, all with the Bristol Fed. He is a direct son of the main breeding couple, Amigo and Miss Turbo, we have built the loft around these, they are parents of 50 x 1st including 7 x 1st Combine and Federation winners, 1st National Section winners plus 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, 13th Open National etc and Multiple RPRA Award winners. Amigo, is bred by Rik Hermans, a son of Friendship, 1st National Chateauroux 44, 145 birds and Propere 42, his brothers include: Hero of Syndicate Lofts, grandsire of 1st Open MNFC and F-100, formerly of May Pigeons and grandsire to over 100 x 1st, Miss Turbo, bred by Koen Minderhoud from his famous Turbo Koppel, she is a full sister to Late Turbo 608, 1st NPO Limoges, Frans Turbo, 1st NPO 7494b and Nieuwe Turbo, 1st National Ace (over three seasons) The birds are fed on Countrywide, mixed with TOVO, Koopmans All in One and Verkerk Sport from Beyers. Zell Oxygen, Condition Powder and Probac 1000 is added to the corn.

**J Raeburn**, Melksham on 1223, 205th Open.

## Section F

**Cosmin Talas**, Oxford on 1404, 11th Open. Cosmin writes, 'First of all I would like to congratulate Simon for winning the race and also all Section winners. My Section winner is a late bred 2021 cock, bred by my very good friend Jason Ross from two pigeons bred by me. He is a full brother to 3rd Section, 14th Open National NFC. The dam won 58th Open NFC National Tarbes and is a daughter of one of my very good pigeons

Dark Gem. He was entered in 12 National races and won 10 cards, also 2nd Section, 6th Open National Ace Pigeon. The sire of my Section winner is a son of my very good breeder Ann, son of 2nd National Ace Pigeon Long Distance. I would like to thank Jill Webber and her team for the great work they are doing at Steverton marking station. On the day of marking it was Jill's birthday. I hope she managed to enjoy her birthday a little bit after a stressful day.'

**S Thorpe**, Swindon on 1402, 14th Open. Here is Steve with the details of his pigeon. 'Congratulations to all the winners from Fougères. My provisional 2nd Section, 14th Open was bred from pigeons that I purchased from R & B Smith, these birds are coming very well for me.'

**Mr S Stokes**, Wantage on 1292, 106th Open. Mr Stokes writes, 'The breed of my pigeon is Aarden/Dani Evans and was sitting eggs 10 days and was his first time across the Channel. The dam was 1st Section Bordeaux Central Southern Classic FC two years ago, and the sire is Dani Evans from Tumley Lofts'

## Section E

**Malik & Khan**, Tolworth on 1446, 8th Open.

**Ken Wise**, Isleworth on 1403, 13th Open.

**M & J Williams**, Catford on 1388, 18th Open with a 2y cheq pied hen raced on the widowhood, having her first ever race over the Channel. She was 3rd Club a couple of weeks previous, beaten by two loft mates. Her breeding is C & C Lambrechts from G & J Dutton and Steve Foster, crossed with a good stock hen from Saggars and Fishwick of Liverpool. Mark and Jake sent eight pigeons and had six return.

## Section P

**J Clarke & Daughter**, Selling on 1448, 7th Open. This is what Jamie had to say about their Section winner. 'It was bred from Ronnie Williamson of Bondhill, Northern Ireland. These have been outstanding pigeons for me on the National races over the years and a big thanks to Ronnie for all his help too. The pigeon has had six races inland with the Wingham RPC, who mark at Malibu Grains Corn Suppliers in Kent. The 2y cock is raced on the roundabout system and has been steady this year. I'd just like to thank everybody who has congratulated me on this result.'

**J J Brady**, South Berfleet on 1288, 112th Open with a 2y grizzle cock which was gifted from Mr Brady's best friend Tony Meader. The grandsire was purchased from Lee Bastone and the dam is from my Bordeaux Section winner crossed with a Thoné/Tasker pigeon. Last year as a yearling he was 9th Section Fougères, 12th Section Nort-sur-Erdre, also 8th Section Messac BBC. He will be Mr Brady's Ace Pigeon this year.'

**Mark Bulled**, Harlow on 1275, 126th Open. Here is what Mark had to say, 'Congratulations to Simon Hughes on 1st National and Jamie Clark, 1st Section P. Two fantastic performances. I timed a 2y widow cock on his first Channel race. He is predominantly of Alfie Hawthorn bloodlines and is a multiple prizewinner inland.'

## Section Q

**Terry Luscombe**, Looe on 1003, 372nd Open. Terry told me, 'My first bird was purchased at the South West Lier Market (Plymouth) last year, the bird was donated by Mick Tuck of Godalming, a yearling cock which has been sitting for about eight days. The second bird was the hen paired to the first bird, which was also sitting eight days. This hen was bred from a pair of stock birds I purchased from Simon Shearsby, these stock birds are producing quality Channel birds after breeding me 19th Open NFC and 42nd Open BICC so far. The third bird is a 3y hen sitting 10 days which was a gift pigeon from Brian Batchelor of Godalming (which also has Mick Tuck lines in her)'. Terry would like to thank the NFC for a good race after recording all 10 birds home and also to Chairman Tom Scott for the updates on the NFC.

**Dave Johnson**, St Austell on 859, 405th Open with a blue bar hen on its first time across the water with the NFC, being raced on roundabout. Her bloodlines can be traced back to the old Logan line and E Cannon.

**L Luscombe**, Liskeard on 855, 407th Open.

## Section D

**Tyron Lloyd-Jones**, Cranbrook on 1077, 336th Open. He told me 'My Section D winning hen was a gifted young bird from Richard Goodier. She is the dam of my Brighton Open winning bird with the Three Counties Classic from two weeks ago. It was her first time across the Channel flown on the roundabout system.'

**Richard Goodier**, Marsh Green on 1073.6, 340th Open.

**Simon Cordery**, Sidmouth on 1073.5, 341st Open.

## Section C

**Mircea Cioc**, Shaftesbury on 1198, 234th Open, who told me, 'My Section C winner is a 2y cock. He is a full brother with 6th Section Sigogne NFC and half-brother (same sire) to last year's 1st Section

Sigogne NFC winner, which actually is my second pigeon which I clocked in from Fougères. The sire of my Section winner is a pigeon bred and raced by Cosmin Talas from Oxford. In his first year of breeding he bred me 6th Section Sigogne NFC 2023, then 1st Section Sigogne NFC 2024, and now 1st Section Fougères NFC. He also bred a very good pigeon that raced well in club races. The dam of my Section winner is also bred by Cosmin Talas and is half-sister to Remy and Dark Gem, both very good pigeons for Cosmin. Remy won 1st and 2nd Section, 15th and 19th Open Saintes National NFC. Dark Gem won a lot of prizes for Cosmin including 6th National Ace Pigeon. Dark Gem is the grandsire to Cosmin's Section winner in the same race. Two Section winners in the same race from the same blood. I would like to thank my mother for helping me with the pigeons while I was working away.'

**Neville & Diana Spracklen**, Dorchester on 1182, 251st Open. Neville writes, 'Di and I would like to congratulate the race winner and all the Section winners on what was down here a very tough race. Our 2nd Section C winner is a 2y widowhood cock which was having his first trip over the water. His breeding is from a pair purchased from Dave & John Staddon. We don't name our pigeons as a rule, but this chap we call Glider as he just glides around the loft when returning home from a race, a sprint fancier's nightmare. Hopefully he will behave with a bit more distance under his wing.'

**Steven & Chris Williams**, Weymouth on 1168, 257th Open. 'Firstly we would like to congratulate Simon on his win and thank the NFC officials, especially the convoyers and Chairman for all the excellent updates. Our pigeon is a Stefaan Lambrechts 2y hen raced on the natural system and comes via our direct Gibb & Byrne stock.'

## Section B

**Elvin Booth**, Gosport on 1377, 26th Open. Here is what Elvin had to say regarding his Section winner. 'My 3y blue hen which took 1st Section B was bred by my Premier 100 clubmate, Dave Waterhouse. She is a granddaughter of his 2014 NFC Saintes 1st Open winner. I bought two young birds from Dave in an auction to raise funds for Wiltshire Fed Transporter Fund, but one of the pair that Dave was going to give me was injured in the loft, so he replaced them with a pair out of the daughter of his National winner. I lost the other one as a yearling racing from Hexham. I race all my birds on the natural system and this hen was having her fifth race of the season and was sent sitting seven days on two pot eggs. The eggs she was sitting were broken by her cock and another cock, which was trying to take over the nest box, fighting. This was her first race from the French mainland but not her first Channel race, having been to Guernsey twice last year. I have nominated her for the NFC Tarbes Challenge, run by Paul O'Leary, whether she goes or not now, I'm not sure. Congratulations to all the other winners and many thanks to all those who have sent their congratulations to me.'

**T Sails & Sons**, Southampton on 1376, 30th Open. This is what this partnership had to say. 'I would like to say well done to A & S Hughes for winning the National. A little about our blue hen, she was 14th Sect, 213th Open in the Classic a few weeks ago at Vire, her sire was bred by top flyer Jason Bowen of Waterboville, being a son of Jason, 1st Sect, 1st Open National Guernsey 5,400 birds, her dam was bred by top flyer Rob Jones of Southampton, a daughter of his 1st



Cosmin Talas, 1st Section F.



David Paine



J J Brady, 2nd Section P.



3rd Section E, Mark & Jake Williams from Catford.

# "Starling"

Dr. John & Son  
MARRSLEY

1st Section C for Mircea Cioc.



1st Section C for Mircea Cioc.



My Little Girl, second into Cornwall for Dave Johnson.



Fred Hall.



Neville & Diana Spracklen, 2nd Section C.



Elvin Booth.



Steve & Chris Williams, 3rd Section C.



Section D winner, Twyron Lloyd-Jones.

Sect BBC Nat, 1st Sect, 1st Open Classic Nat out of his Di Caprio and Kittel family.  
**Wearn Bros 1 & Neilson**, Ramsdean on 1312, 86th Open.

## Section A

**Fred Hall**, Worthing on 1241, 177th Open. Fred told me that 'he is a yearling blue widowhood cock, only trained as a young bird having two land races this year with the Premier 100 Club and then into the National FC for his first Channel race. He was bred in the race team from a double grandson of the Good Pair of Syrdicate Lofts lines co-owned by myself and good friend Steve Radcliffe of Skelmersdale. His dam was a granddaughter of Starlight through Mark

Gilbert lines and a granddaughter of my Foxgrove Carteus, 1st BICC Agen, 63rd International.'

**D Matthews & Culverhouse**, Bordon on 1235, 189th Open.

**Ted Cable**, Bognor Regis on 1233, 191st Open. Ted has sent me the following details 'My hen was a Catrysse sent sitting four days. I thought I had lost her a month ago, she went missing until 18th May. On her return she was thin, within seven days she had made up and was sitting in her bowl. She returned from the race looking very well, trapped straight away and went straight on her eggs.'

**CHRIS WILLIAMS**

# Lincolnshire Geordie

Our next race was from Whitley Bay, 150 miles to town (10/197). Top fancier Hubert Walker had three together on 1388, then D. Parker & Son also had three together for 4th, 5th and 6th. Most of the other fanciers were ten minutes or so behind, these lads are in a different class.

On to the next racepoint Alnwick, 177 miles (11/179). This time the places were reversed, D. Parker & Son had three together on 1863, H. Walker was 4th, 5th and 6th. Good returns in a helping wind. On the same day three of us sent 30 birds to Dunbar, 228 miles, with the NRCC. I sent four hens and ended up 1st and 5th, H. Walker was 2nd, 3rd and 4th with J. Ablitt 6th. My first bird was 5th Section B. The way my birds have been coming, this hen must have got out of the basket early.

Flying from Dunbar on 25th May (10/118), D. Parker & Son had two hens together to win the Club and Fed, H. Walker took 3rd, 4th and 5th with D. Parker & Son 6th. These two fanciers are getting multiple drops and I believe Hubert had eight together from 215 miles, fantastic flying.

We are up to date now. We had two races at Darlington (9/132), H. Walker had a large drop again all within six seconds to once again come 1st, 2nd and 3rd; L. Gilbert was 4th with his Geordie pigeon (NEHU ring) followed by D. Parker & Son in 5th and 6th.

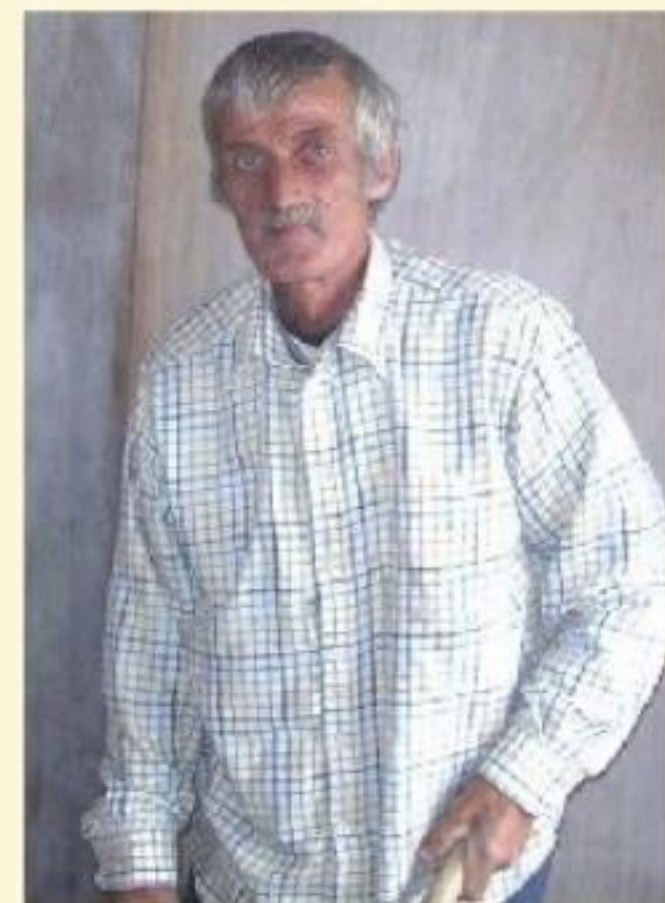
We also raced on Monday with the NRCC flying from Perth, 256 miles (6/52). Congratulations to H. Walker who finished 1st and 2nd on 1546, D. Parker & Son had the next two on 1545, a very close race with J. Ablitt 5th and P. Norris 6th. I was well behind again and got three from four.

I had one reported from Saturday, one mile away from where it was liberated. The fancier who reported it said they raced from Reading on Saturday and had a poor race with birds reported in Wales, the Isle of Man and on the South Coast. I had two cocks which were chased into neighbouring windows, I got both back, but sadly both were too damaged to survive.

On our local church, a pair of peregrines have hatched three youngsters and are taking at least two birds a day from local fanciers. My birds have been attacked three times, but some are getting attacked every day and it does not matter what time we let them out.

**G. CREIGHTON**

Top fancier Hubert Walker had three together on 1388, then D. Parker & Son also had three together, these lads are in a different class.



Jim Ablitt.



Peter Norris.