



The National Flying Club

NORT-SUR-ERDRE NATIONAL

Lukasz leads the way

After a fabulous race from Fougères for Simon Hughes of Rochdale, taking 1st and 2nd Open, fanciers from across the UK immediately began preparations for the second race on the NFC's 2025 old bird race programme, this time from Nort-sur-Erdre, a commune in the Loire-Atlantique department in western France and situated on the River Erdre, north of the former racepoint of Nantes. Marking took place on Thursday, 12th June and at the close of marking, our Chairman Tom Scott issued the following update via the NFC social media: *'Thanks to all the members and marking teams for getting all birds marked and away on time. The birds have all been collected and have been fed and watered today and transferred on to the one transporter, with the final checks having been completed at Portsmouth. The transporter is now heading to docks and the ferry is due to depart at 2300hrs.'*

450 members sent a convoy of 3,441 birds, liberated at 0700hrs in a light north-west wind on Sunday, 15th June after a one day holdover due to cloud coming into the Nantes area from off the Bay of Biscay and an unpredictable weather forecast for the north-west of England. Early reports on the day of liberation indicated that there was a good line of flight up to the Cherbourg peninsula. The English Channel was good with a light west wind, and in England the wind was due to turn south-west to south-south-west during the day. All across the United Kingdom expectant fanciers looked to the horizon for the sight of a bird hurtling homeward. Success at National level brings with it a sprinkle of stardust and a status of celebrity, the question was, who will it fall on? Now let us have a look at the provisional top ten in the all important National result.

With a winning velocity of 1462.406 securing **1st Open, 1st Section P** is the loft of **Lukasz Belko from Minster on Sea**, flying 293 miles timing a 2y pigeon. Originally from Poland where his father kept pigeons, but didn't race them, the seed was planted which would later germinate into this National success for his son. Lukasz moved to his present location in 2016, then in 2019 he was bitten by 'the pigeon bug' after he watched a YouTube video about racing pigeons. Proof once and for all that our great sport and modern technology can indeed work in harmony. With his interest piqued, he set about the task of converting his wife's greenhouse into a loft and started racing young birds in 2020. How incredible to think that just five

years later he would achieve the coveted honour of 1st Open National, something which many a fancier fails to attain in an entire lifetime in the sport and yet something Lukasz has accomplished in a relatively short time. In my opinion that is admirable as it shows that with the right attitude anything is possible. Lukasz Belko, I salute you! The National winning pigeon, '538' is a blue hen. She was on the roundabout system but her cock was lost racing the week before the National. She started to show interest in another hen and a cock. Her sire is from Darren May and Bosliven Lofts blood but was lost racing this year. He still has the dam, a daughter of 8th Ace Bird of Poland (All Round). The dam has bred several good birds. The



The Open winner for LuKasz Belko.



ACE Lofts 2nd Open, 1st Section E. ACE Lofts 2nd Open, 1st Section E.

pigeons are fed Aidi corn and they race most weekends. Lukasz said it was a nervous wait watching the leader board and still didn't believe he'd won!

Congratulations Lukasz you certainly are a National winner!

Taking **2nd Open, 1st Section E** is the well-known partnership of **Malik & Khan**, Ace Lofts from Tolworth with a yearling on of 1456. Here is what they had to say regarding their latest performance: 'We entered our third National Channel race and again the team didn't disappoint showing excellent form and continuing their 'unbeaten' run since the first race of the season, we have entered three National races and won the Section three

times. Our first pigeon is a hen that previously won 1st Section/Zone in the BBC National from Fougères (499b) and now recording 1st Section/Zone, 2nd Open NFC Nort-sur-Erdre (3,441b), that's two Section/Zone wins for this super hen. She is raced on the 'Ace System' where the hens are retained in the loft and there is a video on YouTube which explains this interesting system. Her sire is National Ace, a winner of 1st NFC National Coutances (4,161b), her dam is Ruby, 1st BICC National Alençon (4,751b). So basically she is bred from 2 x 1st National winners paired together. We would like to congratulate all Section winners and the main man himself, Lukasz Belko, for taking the top spot'.



Clocking a yearling on a velocity of 1422 to take **3rd Open, 2nd Section P** is the partnership of **Fagg & Nicholas from Sittingbourne** who said, 'The yearling cock we timed was our first bird from Fougères and is bred from a full brother to Devyn, 1st NFC Fougères, when he was paired to a daughter of Devyn. He was sent on full widowhood and returned in excellent condition. We got 9/12 on the day all in super condition so well done to the NFC and the convoyers for getting it right. We would like to congratulate Lucasz for his fantastic win which couldn't have happened to a nicer lad and well done to all Section winners'.

Securing **4th Open, 2nd Section E** is the successful **Roger Lowe of Reading** who timed a 3y pigeon on 1421.3. Roger tells me, My first bird one of my best racers from across the Channel with over ten top performances to her credit, some of the best being 1st Section, (421b), 8th Open NFC Carentan (5,801b) and just two weeks ago 2nd Open CSCFC (2,203b), coming

with her full sister who went on to win the race. She is a roundabout hen bred from a direct Hooymans cock called Beauty Boy, a son of Beauty Harry, a half brother to New Harry; dam is Main Tiger 69, a daughter from my best ever racing cock Main Man, a winner of several NFC honours and his children have gone on to do the same, a superb breeder. Congratulations to the winner and all Section winners'.

Taking **5th Open, 3rd Section P** with a 3y on 1421 is the selling based loft of **J Clarke & Daughter**.

6th Open, 1st Section A on this occasion is awarded to the loft of **Richard Brunger & Warner**, Billingshurst who clocked a 4y pigeon on 1414. Here is what they had to say about their Section winner. 'This cheq roundabout cock, Brunger's Boy is from our direct Wim de Troy stock which has bred many winners up to this point, both parents being from Wim de Troy himself. This is this cock's second Section win in

the NFC from Nort- sur- Erdre, he was 14th Open, 3rd Section in the BICC last year when we won the BICC again from Nort-sur-Erdre'.

7th Open, 3rd Section E is a fancier who is known and respected across the pigeon racing world for his National and International winning performances. I am of course referring to **Mark Gilbert of Winkfield** who timed a yearling on 1404 Mark writes. ' This yearling cock raced really well as a young bird last year and had three Channel crossings from Guernsey, Falaise and Fougères which for a youngster is not easy. He was 19th Section, 24th Open BBC Guernsey, 9th Section, 53rd National NFC Falaise, 19th Section, 28th Open BBC, 21st Section, 41st Open BICC Fougères 2024. Hopefully there is more to come from this cock as he progresses in his career. The sire is a grandson of Gino Clicque's Prince Rudy, 1st National Limoges (6,272b) and fastest of 14,575b and is also a son of Gino's Kristina. The dam is a daughter of Jan

Hooymans' New Harry who won: 1st Prov. Niergnies (14,737b); 1st Prov. Pont (12,894b); 1st Melun (1,046b); 9th NPO Troyes (6,390b). New Harry is sire to Lieke which won Olympiad Bird Cat A 2020, 1st Bierges (3,259b), 1st Lessen (1,472b), 2nd NPO Sezanne 1(1,709b), 3rd Lessen (4,097b) and so on. New Harry is grandsire to 21 x 1st NPO and Prov or Ace. Congratulations to Lukasz Belko for winning the National and also congratulations to our friend Ace Lofts for winning the Section again'.

Securing **8th Open, 4th Section P** is the loft of **Sontag & Son** from Harlow with a 2y doing a velocity of 1399.

In **9th Open** is the successful partnership of **Gladwin, Jarvis & Family** from Leigh on Sea with a 2y on 1388. After the race John wrote, 'I would like to start by saying well done to all the winners and a very special congratulations to Lukasz Belko, who is a really nice guy and always a hard worker at NFC marking. I sent 18 to this





Mark Gower ,3rd Section B.



Neville Spracklen with his 2nd Section C.

race and I was flying 302 miles. Today was never going to be an easy race and the pigeons would have to work. My view was, I would not get one under six hours but definitely needed one under seven hours, with around 6 hours 30 minutes being the time I really suspected would be a good pigeon. Around 6 hours 15 minutes I was pacing and looking really hard, on 6 hours 22 minutes. Big 50, my 2y Frans Zwols cock, came like a rocket, hit the trap and was in. By the time I got to the loft and looked in, he was on his nest. His hen only laid on Wednesday night before basking and he was straight on the eggs, no drink or food. This was only the second time he has been across the Channel but he won a heap of club cards racing inland, so I have kept him sprint racing until two weeks ago when he went to the first NFC race. In fact looking on my Benzing app he has had 29 races in his career and he has been 12 times in the first three pigeons to my loft; sire is a son of A03 and '97322', a top breeding pair for Zwols pigeons; dam is '61635', a full sister of Queen of Coutances who won 1st Open BICC and 2nd Open NFC inside six days. Also Theresa Boy, 1st Open BBC National Fougères. '61635' was a decent racer, winning amongst other prizes, 26th, 36th and 113th Open NFC, 4th Section BBC. etc. My race team has been fed all season on Bamford's new

Staddon Chaos mix and all my pigeons are fed Bamford's food 365 days a year. Big 50, like most of my old birds was paired up about 10 days before the race with the aim of getting them down on eggs for the long races. I had 14/18 home came on the night and 17/18 by 7am next morning. The pigeons have come back in super condition. Well done team NFC. I would also like to say a big well done to Tom Scott, the updates have been great and it seems the NFC is going in the right direction'

Taking **10th Open, 2nd Section A** is the well known and respected partnership **Mr & Mrs May & Son of Chichester** who timed a 2y pigeon on 1387.

A huge congratulations to the winner and all fanciers in the provisional top ten of the result.

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

Section A

1st Section, 6th Open is **Richard Brunger & Warner** of Billingshurst on a Section topping velocity of 1414. In 2nd for 10th Open is **Mr & Mrs May & Son of Chichester** on 1387. In 3rd place is the

Dorking loft of **David Turner** timing a 2y pigeon on 1310.111 securing 25th Open into the bargain

Section B

The winners were the loft of **Wearn Bros 1 & Neilson of Ramsdean** who were also 11th Open after timing a 3y pigeon on 1374. Taking 2nd Section, 14th Open after clocking a yearling on 1352, the partnership of **Mr & Mrs R Rann & Son** from Newport. Rod writes, 'I would like to congratulate the winner of the race, and all Section winners. And thank you for the NFC convoyers for looking after the birds what was a good race for me sending 32 with 31 home. My bird was a yearling cock raced on the roundabout system. He had three north road races to get the fit before going across the Channel. This being his third time across. He is bred for a cock bought in Blackpool from W B de Kruijf and the hen from Mark Evans from his Koen 7 hen'.

In 3rd for 22nd Open is the partnership **Mr & Mrs M S Gower**, Nr Fordingbridge, thanks to a 2y pigeon on 1314. Mark wrote, '23N08441 is a medium-size blue hen raced on roundabout, her sire was a racing cock recently retired to the stock

shed but not before winning 2 x 1st Section B NFC Guernsey. He was bred from Les Green stock while the dam was from Paul Macaloney stock. '441' has been a good consistent racing hen winning several minor prizes in Classic and National racing last year but this year she has begun well being 4th Section B, 157th Open NFC Fougères two weeks ago, following up with this week's provisional 3rd Section, 22nd Open. Living in the New Forest I do get a lot of attention from the raptors especially at the start of the season but the last four weeks have been good and the birds have certainly enjoyed the freedom and have been exercising well. Congratulations to Lukasz Belko and all Section winners and also to the NFC as the transparency of information coming from them this season is very refreshing, and this year's racing has been much better than previous years. I had seven of my ten sent on the day and two more early the next morning'.

Section C

The Shaftesbury lofts of **Mircea Cioc** make it two Section wins on the bounce with the NFC thus far in 2025 and on this occasion Mircea is also 41st Open with a



2nd Section H .



Section J winner for Peter Shaw of Wolverhampton.



2nd Section D.

2y pigeon attaining the Section winning velocity of 1278. Here is what Mircea told me about his latest Section win. 'I had two pigeons very close to take 1st and 2nd Section. My Section winner is Aron, a 2y cock. Last year he won 2nd Section, 9th Open Messac with British Barcelona Club, beaten by his nest brother to win the Section. This race was his second Channel race this year. He is bred from two pigeons bred by Cosmin Talas from Oxford. His sire is a son of Sparky and Sparta. Sparky is Cosmin, double Section winner with the NFC in two weeks. Sparta is a daughter of National Ace pigeon, Joy Boy. Dam of my Section winner is a daughter of Arn and Rona, both very good breeders for Cosmin. Arn is a son of a National Ace Pigeon Long Distance and Rona is a daughter of Hugo Vlaeminck's famous pigeon Ronaldo. My second pigeon which will be 2nd Section is actually my Section winner from a previous race with NFC from Fougères, 1st and 2nd Section in two weeks. His parents are bred by Cosmin Talas from Oxford. Roll on to the next race!'

Taking 2nd Section, also for the second time this season is the Dorchester husband and wife partnership of **Neville & Diana Spracklen** along with scoring 115th Open thanks to a 2y pigeon on 1196. They wrote, 'Many congratulations to all the winners. Our first timer from this race is a 2y roundabout hen bred from our David & John Staddon stock birds. She is a small hen and was in lovely condition on return and had plenty left in the tank. We sent 29 and had 21 on the day and two on the next morning. We are looking forward to seeing how good she will get'. Taking 3rd Section and 120th Open is the 2024 NFC King George V Cup winning loft of Mel and his late wife Sue King flying under the banner of **MA & SC King** of Blandford Forum, Mel timed a 2y pigeon attaining the velocity 1191.

Section D

Winning the Section and 138th Open is the Plymouth loft of **Mr & Mrs J McClements** with a 2y bird on 1168. They sent me the following: 'Delighted to win 1st Section D against the odds in a west-south-west wind. Our dark cock had three short club races, then went to Alençon with the BICC, followed by Brighton two weeks later with the Three Counties RPC. Most of our racing up to that point had a lot of east in the wind, so when it changed around to north-west. The week before Nort-sur-Erdre we took our candidates up the coast some 60 plus miles and singled them up. '62' was a later bred youngster in 2023 and only flew inland in 2024. He was raced on roundabout. It seems you need a pigeon with a bit of distance breeding in it to get them into Devon against the wind even on the shorter Channel races and this bird has that in abundance, his sire was from a son off our co-breeding pair along with our good friend Terry Lee of the Lee & Dyer partnership, the hen being from Mark Gilbert, off Southfield Sebastian paired to a daughter off Hugo, the cock from Jill & Clive Rogers & Neil Sales, again Hugo/Golden Barcelona lines. The dam of '62' was bought at the Charity Auction in Blackpool, donated by J & T Ivatt and full of distance blood in its pedigree, including Wingdown, Little Gem, New Laureaat and Noble Dream with Jellema's Saffier x Zwart

Gould. We would like to congratulate Lucasz Belko and all the Section winners and thank you to all at Bristol Marking Station who have done us proud, taking the Devon & Cornwall birds very well'. In 2nd for 176th Open is **Richard Goodier of Marsh Green** with a 2y pigeon on 1116. In 3rd for 183rd Open with a 3y is the Honiton loft of **Ben Patch**. Ben said 'Out of the three birds I sent, I was able to get two back home, the first was a hen having its first race over the Channel with the NFC and she has produced the best result I have ever had from a Channel race. She is a homebred bird from the race team, a Janssen x Staf van Reet. I want to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to all my pigeon mates who have supported me, encouraged me to keep going, and provided invaluable advice. Their guidance has been paramount to this success and I am incredibly grateful for all their help. I'm looking forward to more races with the NFC in the future and would like to wish all the Section winners and Open winner well done and top flying. Thank you to all the hard working staff and volunteers working for/with the NFC this year. Here's to many more successes and I wish everyone good luck for the rest of your season'.

Section E

Winning the Section E, 2nd Open is **Malik & Khan, Ace Lofts** from Tolworth with a yearling on 1456. In 2nd, Roger Lowe, also 4th Open on 1421; In 3rd for 7th Open, **Mark Gilbert** of Winkfield on 1404.509

Section F

Winning the Section, 18th Open is **S Stokes** of Wantage with a 2y on 1327. In 2nd, 31st Open is **Ven Segesdy of Didcot** with a 2y on 1300 with 3rd for 44th Open to **S Thorpe** of Swindon with a 3y on 1274.

Section G

Taking 1st Section and 59th Open is the top West Country father and son partnership of **John & Dave Staddon**, for my money one of the premier and consistent lofts in the UK at present. They timed a yearling pigeon on a Section winning 1257. Here is what Dave told me about their latest Section win. 'Chris. we are delighted to win Section G from Nort-sur-Erdre. A feat we thought impossible with the strong west-south-west wind on Sunday. We certainly were not in a favourable position in the Section or the Open. Congratulations to all the Section winners and in particular Lukasz Belko, the race winner. We timed a yearling cock now named Geronimo and he was raced on our Chaos System and fed on Bamfords Staddon's Chaos Mix. This is our third Section win of 2025 in Open National competition along with a 1st Open from the BBC Fougères National so we are once again enjoying a good season. The cock is bred from our top racing cock, Meteor Miracle, 2 x 1st Section National, 2nd Open NFC (2,028b), 6th 7th, 9th and 13th Combine. He has bred 2nd Combine from 857 and 996 birds, both times BBLM and



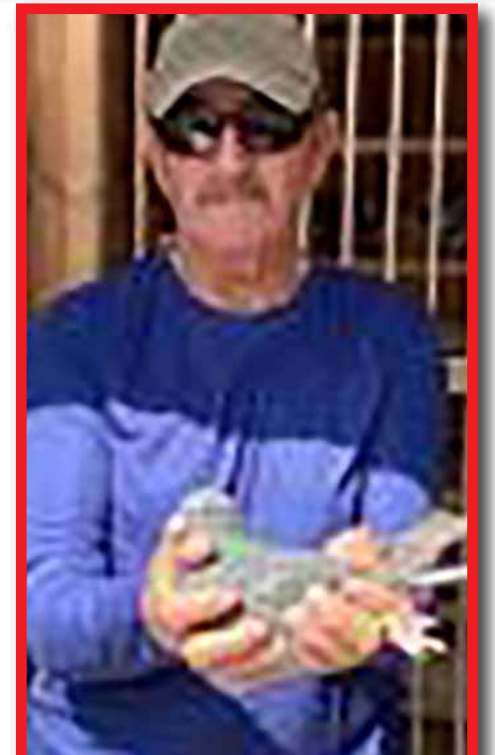
Shaun McDonough of Walsall.

2nd Section. BBLM, 6th Open CSCFC. He is the nest brother to Miracle Maker, 4 x 1st Section National, 3rd BICC, 3rd BICC, 6th NFC, 20th BICC, 1st Open CSCFC, 2nd, 3rd, 2 x 7th Combine and 1st Section, 5th Open CSCFC Vire 2025. These nest brothers are bred down from our champion breeder, The Real Miracle, breeder of 6 x 1st Section in National racing and 5 x 1st Combine. The dam of the Section winner is Miss Best Kittel, a double granddaughter of Best Kittel bred by Dean Childs who has proven to be a very useful breeder for us, as she already bred 2nd Section, 6th Open CSCFC Vire and now 1st Section NFC Nort-sur-Erdre in 2025. Our second pigeon was the nest brother to the Section winner. We timed 28/30 on the day which we were very pleased with. As a footnote Geronimo flew CSCFC Vire and then the BICC Alençon where he made a mistake. This led to him being reported in Hereford by a non-fancier with hawk damage to his wing. Our mate Martin Williams' wife Jo collected him for us and they sent him back on the WOESRC transporter the following week for my collection. With some TLC we managed to get him back in good enough nick to be sent to Nort-sur-Erdre and he went onto win the Section. So it looks like we owe Martin and Jo a drink when we next meet up. Thank you both'.

2nd is the partnership of **C & J Howse** from **Devizes** who timed a 3y on 1254 for 62nd Open. In 3rd, securing 63rd Open with a 5y on 1252 is **Joseph Thompson** of Bristol

Section H

With a Section winning velocity of 1353, the partnership of **R & P Montila** from Sandy also secured 13th Open with a 3y pigeon. In 2nd, **C Crick & Son** with a 2y on 1350 for 15th Open. This is what they told me, 'Our first pigeon is a 2y blue hen paired and racing back to eggs. She has



Mr & Mrs McClements.

raced consistently well winning at Club level as both a young bird and yearling, bred from a Nigel Templar cock and a Garry Inkley hen that had both raced well for us in previous years'. In 3rd, securing 27th Open is Doddington fancier **Freddie Bannister** with a 3y on 1307.

Section I

Taking 1st Section, 65th Open is **Shaun McDonough** of Walsall who timed a 3y on 1247. Speaking of his Section winner Shaun says "the pigeon I timed in to win Section I was having his first ever race from France. He is a direct Belgian cock



Mr & Mrs Murphy, 1st Section N.

bred by Pipa breeding, a grandson of Best Kittle and a multi first prize winner including twice being first Wolverhampton Federation and also 2nd Fed beaten by a second by his loft mate which he arrived with, he now has a 1st Section NFC to add to his many other prizes.

In 2nd, for 75th Open, Head Officer of The British Homing World, **Richard Chambers** of Rugeley with a 2y on 1235. When speaking about his pigeon's performance Richard said, 'The cheq cock is a pigeon bred at our Chambers Family race loft. His sire is called The Quiet Man, 1st Section, 9th Open BICC Agen, he also won West Midlands Region RPPA Award for 450 miles and over. He was paired to a pigeon called No Surprise which won the 0-800 mile West Midlands RPPA Award flying five Channel races in six weeks, including 2nd Section and top 25 in the Open BICC Agen. All four grandparents are also multiple Tarbes performance pigeons for the Chambers Family in the NFC. The plan is now for this cock to head to the Tarbes Grand National Race in a few weeks. I would like to thank the NFC and conveyors as I sent eight and had all eight home before 6.30pm on the night, all in great condition. I would also like to congratulate the race winner and all the Section winners on their performances on what proved up this side of the country to be a very testing day for the pigeons.'

In 3rd, for 84th Open on 1226 is **Mohammed Ayaz of Birmingham** with a 2y hen raced on the celibate system Mohammed tells me it's from Future Lofts and is a Leo Herman x Jan Hooyman.

Section J

With a Section topping velocity of 1296 and 34th Open clocking a 2y cock is Wolverhampton fancier **Peter Shaw** who said 'I am delighted to have won the very competitive Section J. The name of the pigeon is Stan The Man and I dedicate this victory to my friend Bill Lewis who passed away a few days ago. The bloodline of the

pigeon is a Mandelartz pigeon which was 6th Section last time out. His sire had 1st and 3rd Section J and his dam has won the Heart of England Combine from 2,200 pigeons. He is flown widowhood on the dry system and these pigeons have done great for me over the years. New excitement this year being on Benzing Live which has made me feel part of a new community'.

In 2nd, for 40th Open is **Dariusz Mruk from Cannock** with a 2y on 1280. Securing 3rd, 49th Open is the partnership of **R Stokes & Son** from Cleobury Mortimer with a yearling on 1265.

Section K

Scoring 1st Section, 21st Open is Chesterfield fancier **Kevin Heeley** who describes his section win as 'a dream come true' after timing a 2y pigeon on a Section winning 1316. Kevin writes : 'Hi Chris, I don't think we have met yet I race into Section K and also I am the I/C for Sheffield with my very good friend Mick McGrevy. Having been 2nd Section six times, it looks like I may have got it right this time and would like to thank all, and there has been many, who have sent their congratulations, I don't think it has sunk in yet. Getting back to the race, I entered five hens and timed three on the day, the other two turned up the day after, all in good condition. All five hens were at Falaise the week before and in fact one of the hens which was my second bird was on her fourth crossing in as many weeks. The first bird had been my second timer the previous race from Falaise, she was sent noticing a cock as she has been in with my young birds all season and allowed to run with a couple of cocks the night before, three hens to only two cocks, first home gets the reward. She has won before on land which doesn't happen very often at my loft. I have over 60 NFC top 20 positions in Section K and I now have a 1st. I don't keep records but the breeding is William Curtis and Mr & Mrs Dave Allen, one for speed and the other for grit. Taking In 2nd for 35th Open is the

Sheffield partnership of **R Barraclough & Sons** with a yearling on 1294., with 3rd for 54th Open going to one of the most highly respected and dedicated fanciers that the UK has ever produced, **Nigel Laycock of Doncaster** who clocked a 2y on 1262.

Section L

Taking 1st Section, 79th Open on 1231 with a 2y pigeon is **Anthony Cooke** of Congleton. Anthony passed on the following: GB23N52511 bred by Mr. Brian Lee of Congleton, sire: 21N39114 dark cheq, grandson of Zlatan, dam: 19B18978 CHQ, daughter of Jennifer Eccles 15N77964. As a yearling 1st Packmoor Open Carentan; 2017 - 1st NWCC Carentan, 1st Sec L, 43rd Open NFC Messac plus 1st Eccles 2 Bird. 2018, 2nd Sec L (beaten by loftmate) NFC Messac plus 1st Eccles 2 Bird. G/son of Zlatan 21N39114. Zlatan; 2 x 1st Sec L NFC Tarbes/Pau; 2nd Sec L NFC Fougères; 2nd North Staffs Yearling Carentan Classic.

In 2nd for 82nd Open on 1228 with a 3y is **R Geary & Son** of Macclesfield. Securing 3rd Section, 83rd Open is the partnership of **S Jackson & D Jones** from Denton. Speaking of their performance in this race Sam told me, 'the 3y slatey hen has raced to a loft in my back garden 2022-2024 where I raced with my grandad Billy Holland. Only this year, after starting a new partnership with my good friend Dave Jones, was she broken onto an allotment about two miles away. As a yearling she took three months to return from Guernsey, was rested over winter then as a 2y she was raced up to Sigogne. This year she has been raced on roundabout all season, visiting her old loft every time she's let out to loft fly. For this race she was let into the cock's section on Tuesday evening and was left with her cock until basketing Thursday morning. Her dam is bred from a Taylor Bros cock of John Wolfenden paired to a good hen of Bruno Pollastretti. She was a very consistent racing hen for me, racing up to Tarbes 2024 before retiring to stock. She's also proving to be a great addition to the stock loft as I've now scored with pigeons from every single round of youngsters she's bred with different cocks. Her sire is bred down from pigeons I had from George Appleton. He was also a reliable racing cock, scoring 3rd Yeovil (198b), 4th Yeovil (165b), 5th Cheltenham (133b), 5th Fougères (51b), 7th Cheltenham (417b) plus other positions.

Section N

The partnership of **Mr & Mrs Jeff & Ann Murphy** from Saltburn-by-the-Sea had the only bird recorded into Section N. This brave 2y flew 493 miles and survived a hawk attack en route and was duly rewarded with 316th Open on 634. Dear readers if this winged warrior isn't proof of the incredible tenacity and courage of our pigeons I don't

know what is? The pigeon was a late bred in 2023, not trained or raced as a youngster. It had four races up to 194 miles as a yearling. Then this year, as a 2y had six training races up to 269 miles. He was sent to Nort-sur-Erdre and is bred from our old de Baere family from the late Billy Bowden & Son Harry of Chopwell when crossed with a Steve & Lesley Wright, House of Aarden bird.

Section P

The Section was won by the Open winner, **Lukasz Belko of Minster on Sea** on 1462. Taking 2nd Section, 3rd Open **Fagg & Nicholas** on 1422 with . 3rd Section, 5th Open to **J Clarke & Daughter** of Selling on 1421.

Section Q

Winning the Section, 221st Open is the Liskeard loft of **L. Luscombe** with a 2yr old pigeon on 1042. In 2nd, 244th Open is St. Austell's **Dave Johnson** with a 2y on 1009. Dave writes, 'my pigeon, GB023A04078 is the same way bred as my pigeon which took 2nd in Section Q recently from Fougères. The sire was a gift from Steve Howard in Guildford, GB19A02426, bred from Eric Cannon lines; the dam from my own old Logan Lines, GB16S12180'.

A J Waldock of St. Austell takes 3rd Section, 276th Open with a yearling pigeon on 932. He writes : 'This yearling hen was having her first Channel race. For her preparation she had five inland training races with the Cornish Combine; sire is a Mike Young Spangle and she has the following in her breeding; The Banker, nine times Pau and eight times in the clock from BICC Perpignan; Channel Queen, 1st and 3rd Pau plus 1st, 2nd and 3rd Perpignan BICC; Spangle Heatwave, 9th, 1st, and 1st Marseilles, only bird on the day in the UK, all for Mike Young. Dam is a Jack Randel x Jimmy Shepard Southwell; sire, a son of Lady Jane, five times 5 x Palamos, once Barcelona BBC in the clock for Jack Randel; dam bred down from Champion Owen, 4th Barcelona BICC; Posh Spice, 4th Marseilles BICC; Noble Lad, 1st Pau, 5th Dax BICC; True Grit, 4th Barcelona BICC for Jimmy Shepard.

Section W

In 1st, for 101st Open with a 2y on 1208 is the Wrexham loft of **D Jones**. Pontypool fancier **Andrew Loveday** takes 2nd Section, 156th Open with a yearling on 1141. The Tredegar-based partnership of **Williams Bros, Son & Burgham** are 3rd for 160th Open timing a yearling on 1136.

CHRIS WILLIAMS

A note from the Press Officer

Congratulations to all winners. Could I respectfully ask that all information regarding race reports be sent to me via email within three days of the close of the race, due to printing deadlines and limited space in the BHW.