

YB Carentan 2023

I would like to start this race report with an apology to all those fanciers who appeared on the result from the Young Bird and old Hens race, you have had a bit of a wait for this report - but unfortunately it could not be helped. In early September we had an unexpected medical issue within the family that came out of the blue and took up a great deal of my time and headspace, we are now in a position as a family where it is being managed and we are at the point where we realise that life needs to go on as thinking and acting otherwise will not change the outcome - it will be what it will be. And sometimes it is sobering to remind yourself that there is more to life than pigeons despite what some people will have you think.

Anyway, let's get down to business. For this report I am using the final Top 10 in both races as it seems absurd to use the provisional result 2 months after the race.



Team Saunders - 1ST Open NFC Carentan

For the final race of the 2023 season the National Flying club members were at Carentan and the fantastic race and convoying team headed by Steve White had the young birds and old hens up and away. They faced a North East wind on the channel so had to drop their shoulders in to it and find an extra gear to get up to the front of the convoy and stay there. However, despite the naysayers who like to predict disasters from the comfort of their armchairs, the birds and fanciers proved up to the task and we had a couple of proper races on our hands with some real top drawer performances. As always in national races there are always the names you look for and this year is no different - but amongst all these lofts it is always good to see a few new names and this year we have a new kid on the block at the top of the result in the Young Bird national result. Taking top spot in Section F and 1st Open NFC. The winning fancier, Shaun Saunders, is a young fancier who has only been in the game a couple of years and winning the young bird national from across the channel on a velocity of 1262 ypm gives you some idea of his intentions in the next few years. This is what he had to say:

I Started pigeons up just over 2 years ago, although I have had an interest since I was 15 years old. I used to visit a good friend Peter Gilbert and go visit his lofts and he

would teach me about the birds. I used to visit him at weekends to watch his birds return at a weekend I was amazed by this, and that is when the bug bit me and it has always stayed in my mind growing up. 18 years later me and my partner moved to a new property with a big garden, well in my mind I pictured my own pigeon loft in this garden.

We had four boys at the time of moving into the property it had a summer house already built right at the bottom so 1 year later I converted that into a pigeon loft with three sections, then went on to build my own young bird loft which was 10x8 which house my young birds team this year.

My good friend Steve Perkins has helped me during the last year, firstly by talking me out of giving up the racing as I had a rough start with the pigeons. Secondly he sorted me out 15 pairs of birds to keep in my stock loft to breed my 2023 young bird team. I bred 40 young birds in April, I put them on the darkness system. First time doing it as we knew to compete in the club racing we needed to be on the darkness system.

I started training the pigeons in June, starting from 10 miles. As a couple of weeks went by I found myself getting up at 4am in the mornings and on the road by 4:30am taking the pigeons 65 miles I did this for about 6 weeks, as having 5 children the early mornings was great! All my pigeons have performed brilliant in the club races to the build up to the national race for me to then go on to winning the young birds national!

I had sent my whole young birds team the week before as it was a testing wind 147 miles NE wind, I had 8 birds on the drop the hen that went into winning the National was my first pigeon to drop winning the club and was 9th fed. in a wind not favourable to me at all. Then it was back to training 2 days after winning that race. In the week running up to the national, she has always been a quiet pigeon always went and say in a corner so I came up with an idea to put a normal cardboard box in all 4 corners with a nest bowl in.

She was in straight away wouldn't let anyone near it and from what I could see she wasn't paired to anything, she was too in love that box I just put in - this was her motivation. When training she would be the first in that loft protecting that box and stood in bowl. Winning the YB National could not have happened without the support of my partner and my boys. Tillie has done a lot with the pigeons from training them to feeding them when I couldn't do it. She had been a massive part of it and the boys always taking an interest and helping to clean the lofts.

The national winner is a belting little Blue Hen now called 'Norms Wisdom' after a very dear family friend who passed way a couple of years ago. Her father is VDB, both parents Kliene Duiverke bloodlines. The hen is similarly bred, with both parents being VDB father is half brother to Red Alert, mother is daughter of Kleine Duiverke both parents were bred by Steve Perkins.

As a family this sport had brought us all closer together as a family we have enjoyed watching them return in race days and all going to our local pigeon club for results. We wouldn't be without the birds now, and just want to say a massive thank you to Steve

Perkins for helping me get this achievement with all the help and advice, we can't believe what we have achieved in so little time, and of course to Pete Gilbert who is to blame for it all!



Roger Lowe

Taking 2nd Open and topping the mighty section E is one of the old hands of the game and a past national winner - Roger Lowe. This is what he had to say:

A very frustrating day sending 20 pied and grizzles y/bs, I had 11 on the day and 2 next day in a north east win. It wasn't that bad apart from my first bird taking over 2min to trap which probably cost me the race, but well done to Shaun Saunders and family the winners it's in the clock that counts

The hen is now named Orbital Queen Bee and is bred from Birthday Boy - a son of king and a double grandson of New Kittle bred by Marcel Sangers when paired with Orbital Lady a daughter of a full sister to Best Kittle 2 bred by Derek Walsh I'm now retiring hen to the stock loft before I lose her. All the best all the section winners let's hope for a better wind next time.



The Kenny and Armstrong Team

Continuing the cavalry charge into section F is the loft of Kenny and Armstrong. This loft has really come to the fore this year at national level and this is another near miss at winning that elusive top spot. The team had the birds up on their toes with 3 on each

others tails for 3rd, 4th and 5th open. Exceptional flying with young birds from the channel in a North East wind.



Graham Jones

Top of the heap in Section J and 6th Open is the Cannock loft of G Jones. Graham would like to say "congratulations to the winners on a testing day and thanks to the Convoyer for his excellent care of the birds .His young hen now called Gracie ,after his daughter ,returned in excellent condition and her nestmate followed her home a short while later and should finish in the top 10 of the section It was clearly a day that suited them. The young birds have been in excellent form right through the Young Bird programme in Grahams local Broomhill Albion Club and to win 1st Section in The NFC is the icing on cake on a very successful season for the loft.

Taking the double top in Section W and a brilliant 7th and 8th Open is the ultra successful loft of Derek Jones -his young birds had it all to do to get to the front and stay there right up in to Wrexham. Well done Derek.

Rounding off the top 10 in the Young bird national is the ever present loft of Mark Gilbert. He clearly had the whole team up and on their toes as he also won the OH national from the same liberation. His first arrivals were good enough to sweep up the next 6 positions in the open and section E.



P Fyfield 2nd Section A

Around the sections

Section A



D and J Novis

Topping Section A is the Brighton loft of D and J Novis - a game little bird with that wind on their head the whole way home. Runner up in the section is the Bordon loft of P Fyfield.



Edwards and Harris

Section B

The Gosport loft of Edwards and Harris claim the bragging rights for this race This is what Bill and Pat had to say about their latest Section winner: . Firstly, congratulations to the race winner and all the section winners. For ourselves, topping the section was the highlight of a brilliant weekends racing. Our small team were spread thinly across a few competitions and did us proud on all fronts. From Carentan our B Ch young Cock came absolutely on line, off the water from due South. He was the first bird to be verified and in fact was top of the leader board for quite some time before being over taken by birds flying further up country, he also wins the Premier 100 club for his efforts and carries a National Gold Ring. He is a darkness youngster and was just starting to look at an old hen. He is a son of our Saintes National winner "Oakdene Surprise" and he joins a long list of top prize winners that have come through the National winner. On the same day we were Provisionally 3rd Section YB Central Southern Classic from Guernsey, 3rd Premier 100 club, Guernsey, 4th Section, AA race , Central Southern Classic Guernsey, 1st Gosport Club, with the Solent Fed, from Upper Heyford on the North and even won the Premier Club Gold Ring race with a later youngster from Guernsey. To top off a brilliant week end, Pompey won 3 1 against Peterborough at Fratton Park. The only down side was that I couldn't be there to watch it.



Darren Ede

Second Section in both the YB and OH national races is the loft of Darren Ede and family - back with a bang. This is what he had to say about his return to winning ways: After 15 months without a NFC or Classic race I was delighted to be up & flying again against the best this country has to offer, I was very happy to Win 2nd Section B in Both the Young Birds & the any age race, my congratulations to Bill & Pat for winning 1st Section young birds & my congratulations to Phil Priddle my old Sholing club member on 1st section old birds, my 2nd section B, 17th Open young birds was one of 30 young birds bred by Mark Walker from his Direct Leideman Bros stock, all the stars in the pedigree, the likes of Silver Dream, Ace 820 & Goed Grisj, Thankyou to Mark for supplying me with this quality family & the trust in me being his south coast satellite loft, this is only the beginning of the top NFC results for this family that's my promise



M and S King

Section C

Top of the pile again is the consistent national loft of Mel and Sue King. This is what they sent me: Congratulations to the winners and all section winners. Our provisional

1st Section C winner is a young cock bred from our well-established Vandenabeele based family, he has previously flown the BICC YB Guernsey prior to Carentan with the NFC His sire previously bred the 2nd Section 22nd Open NFC Guernsey 2021 and she has gone on to win 1st Section 17th Open St Philbert, 3rd Section 52nd St Philbert, 2nd Section 16th Open Poitiers, 6th Section 11th Open St Philbert, 4th Section 23rd Open St Philbert, 6th Section 20th Open Poitiers, 13th Section 44th Open Poitiers. Thanks to the Portsmouth marking team who coped very well in very wet conditions.



Lanahan and Gerard

Second section is the loft of Lanahan and Gerard, and this rounds off a very successful, consistent season for them.

It's always good to see a worker for the sport in the mix on race days and it was great to see ex Committee man Mick Wiffen on the sheet for section C with a decent bird on a difficult day. The first bird back for the M and M Wiffen team is a blue hen. She was early bred and on the darkness system. She was sent to Hullavington, the first Dorset Fed race. It was a hard race for her because she came home on the Wednesday. Her second race was from Stow on the Wold. She came home in the rain and was their second bird that day, just behind their race winner. She went to the national pooled as , she was their main fancy as a young cock was calling her to nest. She is bred from a Tony Swain cock and a Scott Storrie hen, two of Micks great friends sadly no longer with us.



M and M Wiffen

Section D

Keeping up the run of incredible form that is now second nature to the loft with a magnificent 1st and 2nd section is the loft of Richard Goodier. This is what he had to say: I was over the moon with 1st to 4th , 6th , 10th & 11th section young birds which turned out a tough race in our neck of the woods.



Richard Goodier -at the top again

1st Section was a Blue Van Den Bulck x Olympic Rico Cock raced naturally , he was with a handful of later bred birds , from new pairings. 2nd Section was a Blue Vandenaabeele x V D Bulck Hen , Sire was 83rd Open Nfc Messac , his brother was 5th Open Bicc Guernsey , 35th Open Nfc Messac , Dam is a multiple fed winner from "Goede Roede" lines. 3rd Section was a gift bird from my good friend Sheldon Horn , Barnstaple , he is a Gson "Golden Leo" , "Mr Specialised" & "Golden Lady 930"

4th Section was a Lambrecht x Bulck cock raced naturally , this is from joint breeding with club member Simon Cordery. 6th & 10th Section are both Best Kittel lines from Les Green x A & L Painter. 12th Section is a full brother to 1st Section

Mostly the young birds are raced on the Darkness system , with the exception this year of a few later bred naturals. They are fed on Versal Laga corns to suit the up and coming race, with C'est Pharma and Shroeder Tollisan products to keep them healthy . Droppings are tested every 2 weeks by the Pigeon Testing Centre, if anything is flagged , they are treated accordingly.

Thanks to the hard workers at Kingsteignton marking station.

Another hard working section pigeon was recorded to the lofts of Cordery and Roast. This bird was bred from a very consistent pair of national pigeons for the partnership and has also won the national A ring in Section D.



D and J Staddon

Section G

Taking top spot is a new name on the result to me, the Trowbridge loft of W Balchut. Runner up is the multi national winning loft of D and J Staddon.

Section H

Topping the sprawling Section H is Bedford loft of P Lane and son. Again, another very good bird in to that neck of the woods in that wind.

Runner up spot goes to the Royston loft of Andy Hay. I would firstly like to congratulate all winners and all those who timed in from this tricky race - not easy for a youngster to tackle the Channel in a north-easterly wind. I would also like to thank Dennis Rusted of the Baldock club for taking my pigeons to the marking station at Saffron Walden. I was delighted to see this little hen arrive. I sent 3 pigeons to the race; all had been to all the club races, down to Yeovil (137m to me). The hen is a blue chequer, raced to the perch and she has shown little sign of interest in the cock birds; instead, she seems to just have a love of the loft and home. Her breeding is a bit of a mixture to be honest - her dam is blue hen named after my eldest niece 'Tilly', who selected her as a baby; the sire is a dark chequer van den Bulck cock. The grandparents contain the blood of the van Reet pigeons which flew very successfully in the early 2000s for J Hay & Sons. I would also like to say a huge thank you to the NFC team for taking care of the pigeons, as this hen arrived in immaculate condition, and even had a good loft fly the following Sunday morning with the rest of the team! Well done to all and many thanks.

Section I

Taking double top in my section is the Fenny Bentley loft of T R Lowndes. I was unable to contact them in time to be included in the report, but please get in touch as this result needs a bit of publicity.



2nd Section J and B Oakley

Section J

Having to make do with the Bridesmaids spot from YB Carentan is the consistent loft of J and B Oakley. Ben had this to say: our hen in 2nd section is also a gold ring she's bred from a Hooymans X Gaby cock we bought at the speed sale in 2017 he's bred many top pigeons for us including our 626 who in turn is the mother to Guernsey girl and super 90. The mother is from Macaloney pigeons being a daughter of Supermac 73 and one and only. She is also the mother of our "ace hen" who won two RPRA awards and the MNFC ace pigeon in the west section. This young hen was sent just racing to the perch as she didn't seem to have any real interest in the cocks. Thanks to the conveying team as always the birds returned in immaculate condition. Well done gentlemen.

Section K

Another double top section result - this time to the lofts of Rawson, son and Towers. This is not the first time I have written about this team this season - they fly a tasty channel bird. Please get in touch with more details gentlemen. A great result.



R and B Smith

Section L

Again, some great performances put up by the member in this far flung section - they seem to thrive on these type of races. Taking the top spot is the Widnes loft of G Unsworth and sons followed by the consistent partnership of Campbell Brother and Son who race up in to Liverpool. This partnership have been worrying the results at national level on a few occasions this year and I know from speaking to Jamie after 1 of their previous top turns this year that this is where they see the future of the loft lying. Good luck gentlemen, this year has been a good start.

Up with the lead birds again is the loft of R and B Smith, claiming 3rd Section L with a Cheq hen flying 291 miles, this young hen was raced on the darkness system racing to the perch. Her sire was bred by Carl and Anne Marie Hickman from their extensive stock of Curtis Wall and Lunt birds, he was paired to a granddaughter of "Hughie" and "Hilsons Cock" who are both responsible for numerous winners from 70 to 550 miles.



John Cowlin section P winner

Section P

This race saw another phenomenal result up in to Section P with the loft of John Cowlin having his own race against the wind and drag. He had a cavalry charge to the loft and the birds put up a proper team performance to claim the top 4 in the section. John would like to say a big well done to all the winners and to the NFC for providing a YB race from France.

John had 3 young birds come together and a fourth 3 minutes later, to take the first 4 in the section and around 20 minutes in front of any other birds in the section. first on the clock is a son of Pied Amor, when he was paired to a daughter of the Dream Pair. (Prince of Rekkem & Dreamy) Pied Amor is looking like a new top breeder being sire of 2nd section & 2nd Open NFC in 2022. Plus many other positions both inland and in the nationals. John had 31/45 on the night and 39/45 back by Sunday afternoon. Well done NFC on what was a tough weekend of racing for many organisations.

In amongst mix at the top end of the result is the loft of Tony Meader. Tony tells me that Carentan was a real test for the birds in his section as the wind was an increasing ENE at the home end.

His first timer is a small Dark hen, that is the same way bred as his section winner from Sigogne, needed a 996ypm velocity to get home. This proved a tough end of season race for her as she has flown all young bird races plus Guernsey 2 weeks before Carentan. This family of birds - Franz Zwols x vandenbeelee on her sires side and SVR on the dams side- seem to come well for Tony in the difficult races.



Jake Waldock 1st Section Q

Section Q

Section Q has suffered like many others from serious young bird losses this year. However, for the Carentan race our entry was particularly low with only 2 fanciers entering one with young birds and one with old birds.

Our other section winner was NFC Stalwart Jake Waldock who put 6 of his finest young birds into this race. Not many people would risk so many of their young birds to a race from France to Cornwall but Jake put his trust in his birds and was proved right

to do so. Like Chris he picked up 1st Section Q but in Jake's case he also managed to clock 2nd,3rd,4th and 5th Section out of 6 youngsters entered. A cracking result in any race, so much so that we feel they all deserve a mention.

1st Section 97th "Open" Provisional - 936 ypm Light Blue Chequer Hen , 100% Mark Evans.2nd Section BCQ Pd Hen - Jimmy Sheppard Southwell.3rd Section BBW/F Cock - Padfield X Mark Evans.4th Section RCQ Cock - Jimmy Sheppard Southwell5th Section BCQ Hen - Vandenabeele

All birds flown Natural to the Perch 5 birds in the clock from 6 sent. Well done Jake, that little team didn't have much company and certainly didn't have a drag to assist. Thank you once more to Chris Boyce for collating the information on all the Section Q races

Section W

Taking 3rd and 4th Section to finish off a cracking season which saw them secure the Ace Pigeon award is the Nantyglo lofts of G Treharne and Son. Stu once more had a team prepared for the job being asked of them and they did not let him down.

Right, that is the Young Bird Carentan done. The report for the OH race will follow shortly - they are both separate races and so they deserve separate reports.

As always I am at weebu@hotmail.com

Drew Callan

NFC PO