

Sigognes Race report

The final old bird race on the national programme from Sigognes gave us our longest holdover of the year with the birds very much being victims of the vagaries of the weather. However, as is always the case, the convoy travel in comfort and style and are in the very experienced and capable hands of a conveying team who are at the top of their game – so there were no worries on that front. Finally, after an extended stay that might have left the convoyers with a French accent if it had gone on much longer, the birds were up and away on their journey home where victory awaited.

As the race unfolded it became clear that the birds were having to work harder than expected and this was evident in the slower than expected velocities and flying times of the lead birds. I was speaking to a top flyer and past national winner shortly after the first arrivals were verified and his words to me were ‘we finally have a proper classic race on our hands, the lead birds will be popping up all over the place’ – and how right he was. With the dust now settled it is fair to say that there was no rhyme nor reason to the pattern of lead birds – with eight of the section winners represented in the top 11 of the provisional result – but perhaps this reflects the fact that the conditions encountered allowed for some real quality performances. But, when you balance this with the fact that some sections saw no or very few arrivals in race time, then some members are left either scratching or banging their heads.

All races have a victor and given the type of race we had on our hands it should come as no surprise to see Wearn Brothers and Neilson at the top of the pile. The type of race that asks a more difficult question than expected of the birds tends to be the very type that this team excels in – we saw it from Tarbes a couple of years ago and again from this Sigognes race. The team are no strangers to success with the NFC and I think this is their fourth national victory, having won Messac twice with the NFC. On a day when everything was asked of the birds quality shows – both in the stock kept and the management of that stock – and the Wearn and Neilson team underlined this by not only winning the race on a velocity of 1144yph, but claiming the top 2 spots in Section B.



Eric holding Ramsdean Kylie

The little lady who dropped in to claim 1st Open and 1st Section B is a yearling now known as ‘Ramsdean Kylie’. She has been flown on their celibate system all season and in the run up to Sigognes the hens were all nodding and sweeping to each other so the partners scattered a few nest bowls and straw in to the celibate section and the hens responded by piling in to the bowls, with as many as 4 or 5 hens in a tumble in each bowl – all calling and content. This clearly worked and give Ramsdean Kylie some thing to focus on during the prolonged stay in the baskets. On the day of the race Jimmy had an ETA for a decent bird and this soon came and went and he reckoned that they were out of the race, and that it was a bit too trying for the team of celibate hens. When Kylie did drop in there was a sense of relief, but also some degree of disappointment as the partners thought the race was well and truly over as they don’t really check the website for arrivals, preferring to enjoy the race in their own back yard. Little did they know that they had just witnessed their fourth national winner dropping on to the loft.

The winner, as with the other entries was raced all season on celibate and was raced north last year as a young bird with Solent Federation. This season the team were sent north again with the federation to around the 160 mile mark and

lifted in to Fougères with the NFC for their first channel race. The partners had a very wobbly and disheartening start to the season as persistent BOP activity around the lofts meant that the birds could not safely exercise – it even got to the point where birds were being attacked as they landed on the loft and were even pursued in to the loft and killed. The only way around this was to train and then lock them up on their return, and even then the birds were constantly attacked despite being supervised as they trapped. This was the main reason the birds were sent north to start the season as they could not be allowed out to get fit around the lofts.

Once Ramsdean Kylie and the other celibate hens started channel racing they went to every NFC race except Tarbes. But that was not a weekend off for them – they were entered in the CSCFC from Fougères and Kylie claimed 6th open from there.

Ramsdean Kylie is bred from a direct Kees Droog cock who contains the bloodlines of New Laureate x Jellema, and the mother is a Wim Koorman x DeSmeyter via good friend Kevin Zerafa. She certainly contained the right stuff to get her to the front on a tight day. Jimmy believes that the channel racing has been difficult recently because there has been a dramatic decrease in the number of clubs and federations that still have a channel programme. The result of this is that birds have less opportunity to get channel experience and this has meant that more will balk at having to face the water when sent in national races – food for thought.

This is undoubtedly a partnership that lives and breathes national racing, and Jimmy will tell you it has been his dream since a boy to win the Grand National with the NFC, fuelled by his visits to the NFC marking station with his dad's birds and close friendships with some of the top national flyers such as Ernie Deacon and Eric Cannon. With that ambition recently achieved the partners remain keen and competitive – it is that mindset that wins you 4 nationals, and in the past 10 years they have only been outside the top 12 from Tarbes/Pau on one occasion. In the week before the victory from Sigognes the loft was 2nd and 3rd from CSCFC Bordeaux, with hindsight a good omen for the upcoming NFC race. Despite doubts creeping in on the night, the team were obviously up for the job – they had 7 on the night and a further 23 by 10.30 the following morning – including 6 over the pads in 11 minutes from 7.00 am. All season the celibate hens team dropped in like a cavalry charge, when you got the first the rest were on their tail. Conditions at Sigognes dictated that the returns would be more spread out, but they still performed when asked. Well done Jimmy and Erik, another great result.



Dave and Emma Armstrong of Armstrong and Kenny

Taking top honours in Section F and claiming 2nd and 3rd Provisional open is the top team of Kenny and Armstrong. Paul and Esther Kenny and their family have flown a quality bird for many years, and when I say family I mean just that with all members getting involved with various aspects of the sport. In fact, I heard a rumour once that his mum was the main trainer and regularly drove to the South coast to give the birds a bit of a workout. The Kenny team have now been joined by Mr and Mrs David and Emma Armstrong and this has been a definite positive, as can be seen in the results. Our 1st section, 2nd open bird is a dark Cheq Cock. He has previously been 1st section 61st open, Messac NFC in 2020. He was bred by Chris and Jane Howes from Devizes. He is a son off their Lady J, which was 1st open Fourgeres BBC for them. This is what Esther had to say about their first two birds:

Our 2nd section 3rd open is a Blue Bar Cheq Cock. He is a bird we won in the BB and O bonus ball, which was held to raise funds for the Federation and we were lucky to win 2 birds from Mark Gilbert. He is from Mark's distance family. All

our birds have been flown on the chaos system this year and have been fed on Beyers corn. C'est Pharma products have also been used. Well done folks.



A and J Stone

Taking 4th spot and topping Section G for the third time this year this year is the team of A and J Stone flying right out on the Western edge of the section in to Portishead. And, to add to the magic it is the same hen again – a champion racer called 'Strike'. This is what they had to say: Once again we are writing about our good hen Strike who won 1st sec G and 5th open at Nort-sur-Erdre and has now won 1st sec g and provisional 4th open Sigogne. This is our 3rd section win on the trot. To say we are proud of her and the team is an understatement.

We only fly natural and Strike was sent sitting a pair of eggs, as we have more hens than cocks a little yearling hen had taken a shine to Strikes mate and Strike spent a lot of time before the race chasing her out of the section. This was obviously her motivation to get a move on and head straight home.

Needless to say she is bred right from Bristols finest which we explained in the last write up. Strike got her name as a yearling, she was so bad as a young bird she kept turning up the next morning, we had a saying 3 strikes and you're out - she passed that! On her 4th Jackie hid her in with the old birds, as there was something about her she liked. Next season's first old bird race Jack passed her to me and said here's Strike and she's been making me look like an idiot ever since, showing you never can tell, so don't think you do!

We would like to say well done to all the winners and everyone on a hard race. Well done on a top performance from a top hen.



1st Section J

Taking top honours in Section J, and claiming 5th open is a loft that has been bothering the top spot in a few of the NFC races this year and once again Jonathan Hamplett claims the bragging rights in Section J. The pigeon which is provisionally 1st Section J is a 2 year old widowhood cock. His sire is a son from the Belgian fancier Youri Deblanc's national winner from Libourne and the dam is from J.P.S lofts. Another widowhood cock was timed 6 minutes after the first one and will be in the shake up near the top alongside his loft mate. Jonathan stated that after 13 hours on the wing both pigeons were in excellent condition when they arrived which is a testament to how well the birds were looked after by the NFC Convoyer on such a long holdover.



Miracle Maker - 4x 1st Section for D and J Staddon

Taking 6th open, but having to settle for Bridesmaid position – I hope John has the legs for the dress - in Section G is the loft of D and J Staddon. As you would expect from this partnership the first across the pad is a multiple performer at the very top level. This is what Dave had to say: Our first timer is our best racing cock known as Miracle Maker. He is bred from our elite breeder The Real Miracle x Comet. He has been a champion racer and breeder for us with 4 x 1st Section wins. 1 x 2nd Section, 2 x 3rd Open BICC Nat, 1st Open CSCFC, 7th Open NFC. His nest mate is a winner of 2 x 1st Section and 2nd Open NFC. He is normally raced on our Chaos Widowhood system but was paired up and sitting 3 days for this race as we wanted to pair up our Perpignan pigeons this year. He has previously been sent to Guernsey BICC, Guernsey CSCFC, Fougères NFC, Messac NFC and St Maixent-Ecole BICC, Fougères BBC, & Guernsey BICC. This year we are feeding Bamford Staddon Chaos Mix and Bamford Energy corn. Our second pigeon is a 2yo cock Bred from Senna, a Frans Zwols cock gifted to us by Formula 1 Lofts and Miss Comet a full sister to Miracle Maker. She herself won 1st WOESRC from Coutances before being put to stock.



1st Section K – R Barraclough and Sons

We go to the mighty Section K now for 7th open and to the consistent channel loft of R Barraclough and Sons – this is not the first time that I have had the pleasure of writing about these gentlemen. Their section winner is Peter Fox Figo lines on the sires side and Koos Van Koppen on the dam side, these have served them well across the channel at all levels through to national – no mean task flying up in to the NFC hotbed of Sheffield.



Ron and Kieran Pendleton

Staying at the top end of the club for 8th open and topping Section L is the Grand National winning loft of R Pendleton. Ron clocked a stormer of a bird up into Liverpool on a less than brilliant flying day, and it follows on from the loft claiming the top spot from the Blue Riband Grand National race last year. This is what apprentice Grandson Kieran told me: Our bird is a 2 year old hen. Bred from a cock we got from our good friends Steve and the late Sue Redfern from Derby through his Certificate of Merit pigeons and the dam is off our other friend Jimmy Bauress who we have also had other good pigeons from. This was her third channel race of the year having flown MNFC Carentan and NFC Nord Sur Erdre, both coming in good time. We were going to send her to Tarbes but thought give her another year until she is 3 so decided to set her up for Sigogne. The hen was sent on a 4 day old baby, she was so keen when I basketed her I said to my grandad and other people that I really thought she would do well so was delighted to see her drop in just before it went dark. Well done to everybody else who clocked on what turned out to be a tough race.



1st Section E – shortly after arrival

Taking top spot in Section E and a hard-fought 9th open is the Hitchin loft of Les Jones. I remember being told once by the brilliant distance maestro Marley Westropp that Les was going to be the guardian of his birds when he was no longer racing, and it is a delight to his bloodlines represented here in the section winner. This is what Les had to tell me: My section winner is a Dark Cheq yearling cock, the sire was a gift bird from Dave Delea and the Dam is my Marley Westropp x Ken Skews family. Ken kindly breeds me a few young birds every year to try which are a combination of Marley Westropp bloodlines and Ken's old Delmotte Jurion family. My Barcelona hen that flew Barcelona twice recording 19th open and is a great granddaughter of Marley's Rome Cock resides in Ken stock loft and two young birds arrive every year for me to test. I have tried several other long-distance strains but when the conditions are on the tough side and the velocity drops below 1200yph nothing has managed to beat my Marley Westropp and Ken Skews based family.

The Dark Cheq has flown every NFC race except Tarbes this year plus 2 other short channel races. He was sent to Sigogne driving his hen to nest. He is a very tame and quiet pigeon and certainly gave it his all he had from this race as the picture taken just after his arrival clearly shows. The next day he looked perfect, so thanks to the conveyor team for looking after him so well.

I started the first race this season with a team of 7 cocks and 9 hens and have flown every NFC race to date. And with the exception of this race of which I am still waiting for 2 out of my 5 entries I have only dropped one yearling cock, which I believe is better than most fanciers have fared.



The shy and retiring Roger Lowe.

It was a very nice feeling to leapfrog Roger Lowe to top section E whose name I always look for on the result as he is so consistent and a top flyer. Last time I topped section E I won the national but this time a few others had better pigeons. Well done to all those who beat me, and everyone who is on the result in a true, testing race.

Which brings me neatly to the man himself, Roger Lowe who rounds off the top 10 and claims 2nd Section E behind Les Jones. Roger sent 20 birds, having 6 on the day and 10 the next day it - turned out harder than expected but still very good returns.

The first bird is a 2 year old roundabout cock, with both parents bred by Gordon brothers from Ireland. The sire is Double Best kittle, a top stock cock breeder of many winners. The dam is Golden Princess - a granddaughter to Golden Prince .

His second bird is a daughter of The Main Man, winner of 2nd and 3rd open NFC Saintes - so it's in the blood. Roger would like to say well done to Jimmy and Erik on winning the race and also well done to Paul Kenny and family for coming second.



D and J Novis

Around the sections

Section A

Taking top honours in the Coastal Section A is a loft that has been on the result previously this year – the Dorking loft of Dave Turner.

Second section is the Brighton loft of D and J Novis. The partnership clocked a Ponderosa Janssen x Stefan Lambrecht Blue pied cock racing natural, flying back home back to a ten day old youngster. He's been very consistent this season

racing 5 channel races and picking up 7th section Nord sur Erdre as well. He also won the South Coast Fed from Purbeck in the second land race of the season. Well done gentlemen.



Brunger and warner

Third section is another loft that has been at the top end in NFC results previously this year – Brunger and Warner. Their timer from Sigogne was a Maurice Matthews blue roundabout hen, finishing 3rd section her father previously won Bordeaux and finished 2nd from Perth when sent north road on his first ever north road race so she's certainly bred for the job. Well done gentlemen, you seem to have enjoyed your NFC racing this year.

Section B

Top 2 were claimed by the race winners, Wearn Brothers and Neilson.

Third section was claimed by another name that is always in the mix up from national races – Dave Waterhouse.



Lanahan and Gerard

Section C

Top spot is claimed by the Wareham loft of G Owers.

Second section is the ever present loft of Lanahan and Gerard, who I think have been in the top few from every national race this year – a great display of consistency and skill. Well done again gentlemen.

Third spot was claimed by the living legend that is Mike Staddon. Well done Mike.



Section D winners – Cordery and Roast

Section D

Topping the fiercely competitive section D is the loft of Cordery and Roast flying in to Exeter. This is what Simon told me about the section winner: The section topper is a beautiful chequer hen has bred from a pair of pigeons gifted to us by Richard Goodier, which are Vandenabeele cross Jos Thorne. This pigeon has been a very consistent racer for us with numerous national cards. It was named 'Alan's Maid' after Colin's father, Alan Roast, as it was his birthday on the Saturday the race should have taken place. We would also like to congratulate everyone who timed.

Taking the next two spots in Section D is the loft of Reilly, Parr and Son – who have ripped Section D apart this year with their performances. The harder the race, and the further they get down the line the more these birds seem to thrive. This is what Richard had to say about their 2 timers: Our first bird is a tidy Blue Hen containing the bloodlines of Luc Van Coppenolle, Van de Velden and a pigeon called Dark Destroyer -1st NFC for Maurice Elliot. This blood line has bred multiple top club birds. This hen was previously 153rd open and 8th Section from Norde sur Erdre this season. Our second arrival is a red cock, his sire was a gift bird from Geoff Cooper and dam was a gift bird from Mark Gilbert, who has already bred 1st Saintes and other good birds. This cock was 221st open, 10th section Norde Sur Erdre.

We would like to send our thanks to all the people who worked hard at Kingsteignton marking station what an amazing place to mark the birds.

Well done to Simon and Colin who timed a great bird to win section D

Section E

Taking 3rd Section E is Mark Gilbert, once again up with the winners.

Section F

Taking third Section F is the evergreen Pete Gilbert. Pete is a dyed in the wool channel man who has a pedigree and CV that would put many to shame. He has been around pigeons an absolute lifetime and it shows in the results.



C and J Howse

Section G

Third section G was won by C and J Howse, another super consistent loft that is up with the lead pack in any national or classic race.

Section H

Top of the pile again in another trying race are the duo of R and P Montilla from Sandy in Bedfordshire. The brothers have been a force to be reckoned with for many years and this year is no exception, they clearly have the team on form as can be seen by their results over the NFC programme this year. Well done gentlemen.



John Black with his apprentice.

Taking the runner up spot is the ever present John Black. From Sigognes the first bird in the clock is a yearling Chequer Pied J&K Jellema Roundabout hen having her fourth race of the season. Her sire is a grandson of New Laureaat X Cindy, dam is a granddaughter of New Laureaat X Kleine Jade. This pair have produced some good birds for the Black loft this year, and the future looks promising. John would like to congratulate all the Section winners in what turned out to be a very hard race.



K Johnson – 1st Section I

Section I

Taking bragging rights in my own section is the loft of K Johnston. This is what Kevin had to say: Firstly, I would like to congratulate Wearn Brothers and Neilson on winning the race, in what turned out to be a tough one in a northwest wind preceded by 5 days in the basket. Also, congratulations to all section winners and thanks to the convoyer for looking after the birds.

My 1st Section winning bird is a dark pied 4-year-old hen named 'Angel'. She's flown both North and South Road and has been a relatively consistent performer. She gets her name from her temperament, she's just a wonderful pigeon to care for and train. Her breeding is Jan Aarden based, her parents being grandchildren of Incredible and True Grit the Barcelona performers owned by Louella stud.

Angel was raced widowhood for most of the season, was repaired with the intention of going to the Pau National but with the build-up races being subject to constant northeast winds I decided to change her target race to the MNFC

Roulet-Saint-Estephe race instead. So back on widowhood and sent with the MNFC last weekend only to spend 3 days in the basket at Weymouth. On return she was fresh and in excellent condition so was re-basketed 4 days later for Sigogne and put in a good performance. Her prep was to have 2 races 130/150 miles then BICC Alencon 310 miles, MNFC Fougères 306 miles, Honiton 140m, then supposedly Roulet at 500 miles but Weymouth 150 miles took place followed by Sigognes at 490 miles.

Second section was Eddie Keyte.



Bowskill and Gascoigne with the magnificent 'Squinting Cat'

Third Section is the partnership of Bowskill and Gascoigne. Their first timer goes by the peculiar name of 'Squinting cat' - I asked Chris to explain how she got her name and a little bit about her, this is what he had to say: Squinting Cat is a four year old hen who has a consistent record in channel racing. Like a lot of people who race pigeons on the channel we feel she has had her career cut short due to Covid and no racing when she was at her best. She has had 2nd fed from Falaise in 2020 and also 2nd section, 3rd open Northern Classic, also 2nd North Central Section Fougères Midland National 2023 and now 3rd section I National flying Club Sigogne. She is bred down off our old Vandebecle x Van loon lines. The name squinting cat was a local pub which was sadly knocked down. We always thought it would be a great name for a pigeon.



Tony and Matt Williams

Section J

Having to settle for the Bridesmaids role with a provisional 2nd section is the partnership of Mr and Mrs T Williams, and what a story we have behind this bird. Matt is the son and an active member of the partnership, and this is what he had to say about their bird: We would like to say a big thanks to the team that looked after the birds while held over. Our hen dropped in great condition, looking fresh as a daisy. She is a bit of a character. Who always takes her time from training, to say the least. But is consistent in her races. This race as conquered a longstanding goal of mine. I race with my dad who as had pigeons since 1970. He as been fortunate to have won races from Saintes & this sort of distance a few times over the years. But for myself, it's been a bit different. I have experienced good results from the 400 mile plus

racers. But always arriving the next morning. This set a goal for me a few years ago to see a day bird from over 470 miles. I decided I needed to buy from a 500 mile plus family and breed round that. I brought a white youngster at a NFC auction, off Darren McFadden. It was a son of his "Snow Prince" 1st sec, 4th open NFC Tarbes, whose brother had all also scored from Tarbes. In 2019 an half sister to the young bird I brought, won Tarbes for Darren. So I knew I had the right family. When he had his clearance sale, i brought some more. All children of Darren's best birds. I also added a son of John Chipperfield's Barcelona winning hen into the mix. Our hen is 75% Darren McFadden & 25% John Chipperfield, containing the best of both these lofts birds. We bred from these and was ready to go. Then Covid hit and that delayed our chances of trying them out. This year is our first attempt with these pigeons and it's happened. I've finally seen one drop on the day. And to do that with dad, was what made it so special.

Section K

Taking Second section is the loft of Kevin Heeley

Third section was claimed by the top loft of Ron a Nigel Dennett, past winners of the NFC when they won it on a 2000ypm day a few years ago. Still going toe to toe with the very best at the very top. Well done gentlemen.



Peter Hargreaves

Section L

Runner up spot in the mighty Section L is the loft of Peter Hargreaves. The lofts first arrival was good enough to claim 2nd

Section L, 47th Open with a 2 year old Jan Arden

Cheq white flight Cock bred by Carl Cousins of Aberdare. The cock has been timed in

4 NFC races this year covering 1785 miles, and sent sitting 7 days for this race. He also won the Lancashire and Yorkshire 4 Bird Championship Club, winning over £500 in Prize and Pool money.

Claiming 3rd section is the Oldham loft of J Wood and son.



The stunning 1st Section N winner.

Section N

The far flung Section N birds had it all to do with the conditions conspiring against them. However, as always they dug deep and ground through the gears to get home. Top of the heap is the loft of John Rumney – one of a handful of long distance lofts who plough their own furrow to allow them to compete with confidence at the 500 mile+ events. This is

what John had to say: Having only rejoined the NFC this year it's pleasing to have put together a couple of decent performances. My 4 year old winning hen from Sigogne is a very consistent hen having been 1st bird to the loft each of the 5 times she has flown the channel. As a two year old she was sent to Guernsey (372 miles) where she won 1st NEGDC, last year she was timed from BICC Guernsey and also the joint race from St Philbert (520 miles, timed on the day) where she was the 5th bird into the North-East and 275th Open BBC.

This season she was paired up at the end of March and flown natural all season, trained up to Reading approx. 240 miles before being sent to her first race, NFC Nort-sur-Erdre (513 miles, again timed on the day) flying 15 hrs 16 min. on the wing to be 8th Section 'N' and 423rd Open. No training was given in the 5 weeks before being entered into NFC Sigogne (633miles) her target race. She went sitting a 5 day old baby, her first of the year and she responded by winning 1st Section 'N', 91st Open.

My thanks go to good friend and top scribe Mr Gareth Watkins for gifting me this talented bird, now named "Gareth's Choice" and also allowing her close relatives to join my stock loft.

Congratulations to Richie Hutchinson from Darlington, great to see a guy who works so hard for the sport having well-deserved success and to all other fanciers who timed, in a difficult race. Special mention to friends M. Anderson & Sons who timed in 3 birds, this loft has set the standards in Section 'N' for quite some time, great flying lads.

Taking a well deserved and hard fought second section is the partnership of Mr and Mrs Hutchinson and Sons. Their first pigeon is a Blue Pied off a L & K Buddle (AMOY/BC Lines) crossed with Jellman hen from N, Adshead of Selby. She was their second pigeon from Nord Sur Edre claiming 17th section N. She was sent sitting 14 day eggs on basketing for Sigogne .

The partnerships second bird claiming provisional 3rd section N is a belting cheq pied cock who dropped on the board 10 minutes after the hen. He is also off a L & K Buddle (AMOY /BC Lines) crossed with a hen off Dave Dockray' Durham Combine winner from Bourges 540miles. Like the hen that beat him, the cock was also sitting 14 days. He is a consistent, reliable pigeon for us, having won 1st Section N last year from St Philbert Du Peuple.

Section P

Top spot goes to the loft of Tony Meader. The bird that took top section honours for Tony is a 4 year old cock, he is an ultra- consistent bird and has won many cards and been across the channel 12 times in his racing career. He is bred from Lee Bastone pigeons and Tony says he has been a delight to race. He was being prepared with for Pau but was just not right at basketing, so Tony sent him to Sigogne, and you can see from the photo the efforts he put in to get home. Tony believes he has now earned his retirement and is off to the stock loft for a bit of the good life.



Section P topper 5 minutes after arriving home.

Taking second spot, following on from his excellent Tarbes bird is the loft of Damian Szipak. Damian saw home a yearling cock who has been consistent this year, having won 22nd ES BICC St Philbert and also could be in top 70 Open from BICC St Maxient. His sister has been 3rd ES, 17th Open BICC Alencon this year and his dam won 14th and 17th Open BICC - she is of his good Figo hen, and the sire is son of Armora 4th Open BICC Falaise. It was not easy race but Damian had 5/6 pigeons home.



Damian Szpak

Taking third spot, and still giddy from their Tarbes victory is the Kent loft of Fagg and Nicholls. Colin and Linda saw home a half brother to their winner, and he was having his first channel race of the year, as were the other 2 they clocked. They would like to thank the conveying team as the birds came home in excellent condition. They would also like to congratulate all those who clocked and Colin commented on there being some cracking performances being achieved across the country from the race.



Top national performer for Andy Cousins

Staying in Section P, I would like to highlight a cracking bird that has been raced by the inform loft of Andy Cousins this year at national level. This cock has flown a lot of miles in National and International competition, and I would just like to highlight his achievements. The 3 year old cock is a grandson of European bull, 1st Barcelona international. He has won the following positions racing at the very top against the very best, and remember the NFC programmes last 3 races were far from straightforward!

Coutance 279th Open, 91st section P, 6,599 birds. Guernsey (2) 495th open 11th Section P 4,625 birds. From NFC Messac he would have been 6th section P, but Andy had the clock read off early and missed his arrival .Pau international BICC 58th open 28th ES 589 miles, with less than 200 home by the second day. NFC Sigogne 88th open, 11th section (provisional) 423 miles 2,493 birds. Not a bad string of results, and as you can see from the photo he si a beautiful stamp of a pigeon.

Section Q

Sadly, the members in Section Q did not record an arrival in race time, although I have heard of some making it home from their ordeal since the close of the race.



One of the crack race team of G Treharne and Son

Section W

Well, what can we say, its that man again claiming the top 3 positions in Section W. Stuart is having an absolutely top class season even by his standards. He has been leading the charge from the NFC races this year into Section W and it seems that there is no stopping him. In this very trying race the Treharne partnership once more show the quality of the bloodlines they carry and the skills they possess to get these top drawer results consistently. In this race the birds thrived on the conditions and the loft had 7 in the provisional top 10 of Section W This is what Stu has to say about his latest Section victory: Both birds are cock birds bred from the same pair of stock birds one being a two year old and the second being a yearling. The father is a son of 'Alans lad' our Saintes national winner when he was paired to a daughter of Nadira , he is sire and grandsire of some top birds , the dam is a daughter of our son of Kain when he was paired to our 1st national Carentan winner who herself is a granddaughter of the son of kain and Alans lad . With the weather being so wet and cold up here in the valleys I decided to pair the birds up and they were sent sitting eggs for around 3/4 days .The second bird arrived with no cover flights so was lucky this time but the birds arrived in good condition considering the length of holdover and the hard race it became we have 11 out of 16 home up to now .Well done Stuart on a real top drawer performance.



John Hayward with his Tarbes timer.

Drew Callan

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