

Solent South Road Federation

PICAUVILLE 1

There was an enforced change to the published race point this week. Having been informed by the Reddings that Lessay was not available due to French Holidays (don't they have a lot of them?), the committee decided that the best alternative when trying to stick to the 'two week cycle at a similar distance' format was Picaucville. 252 members sent 3,433 Birds. Again the east in the wind was to play a telling role in this race. It seems that universally most fanciers got excellent returns (which we, of course expect), and those that were short on the day had them the next morning. It was uncanny the number that clocked one or maybe two birds and then had to wait a age before more arrived. From the conveyers report we are told that the birds formed into four batches, which may account for the variation in velocities.

Taking three of the top four positions this week is one of the south's top flyers, Mark Gower of **Test Valley FC**.



Both his first and third fed prize winners were bought as a kit of young birds without pedigrees after Mark pondered while looking at his 2006 young bird team and thought that there simply wasn't enough distance blood among them and decided to do something about it. The strain he chose to rectify his predicament was Jan Aarden, but he plainly states, 'That's all I know about them'.

Quite frankly, if he's just had those results with them, what more do you need to know? They are obviously top racing pigeons. It is more usual for Mark, if he wants to buy in a different strain, which he does most years, is to scour catalogues of entire clearance sales for proven performers, or find what he is looking for by word of mouth. Any strains bought in have a strict deadline of two years to prove their worth, but he is not determined by any type or size of bird they breed, only results. Mark starts each season with 80 race birds, 40 of each hens and cocks which he races on a widowhood system. His work and family obligations curtail the amount of time that he can spend on the birds. A normal daily routine would be himself flying the cocks for about ½ hr - 1 hr in the morning before work, but he has always to rely on his family to let out both the cocks and hens out in the evening, for about the same time. Once a day he feels is sufficient for the hens who on the whole are the more vigorous flyers around the loft. Mark lets the birds do their own thing early in the season a reckons that the cocks will usually fly for about 25 mins, and then have a clap around. Later, towards the more distance racing he will encourage a smarter work ethic from them. Early in the season he is pleased to accept the support of Gordon Emm of Salisbury who will train the birds a couple of times a week. Mark feels that the DEFRA regulations have only really effected his loft in the first part of the season when he might send the team to the shorter channel races every week to get them going, but would not normally send birds back weekly once the racing is on to a more middle distance program. Once the team are racing well, he normally tries to give any pigeons that haven't raced on a Saturday a really good breeze up on a Sunday. All the 100 young birds that Mark breeds each year after pairing up in January are put on a darkness system. This, Mark emphasises does not mean that they are over stressed. He his quite satisfied for them to have 3 or 4 races with some, not necessarily all, going across the channel for the National/Classic races. Mark made his very spacious loft himself. He 'did his time' as a crafts man in an industry affiliated to the building trade, and built the loft for his previous home in sections, and was

able to move and rebuilt it successfully 10 years ago when he moved to his present address. The loft is very dry, light and airy, with the racers in 16 'up and over' type widowhood box sections, and the young birds with box perches. The front trapping system is sputniks that are fixed to sliding patio doors. Mmmm.... About those doors.... Mark assures me that they were surplus stock that he decided to utilise. I personally think they look far too swish for that... definitely made to measure if you ask me! The introduction of ETS to his life has for him been a wish come true, as for many working men. He utilises to its full potential checking on the return of any birds that have been trained, and often races up to four races a week. Its has meant that Mark has had to take on the extra responsibility of ETS Clock setter as well as being one of the standard clock setters in the strong Salisbury Club in which he also flies, but he feels this is more than worth while. Although he races in NFC, BBC, BICC, and the CSCFC, he feels that the 'bread & butter of his racing is in his local club. No matter how many specialist races may be on a Saturday, the team he sends to the club, where he never misses, will always include 'a decent one, a banker'. Mark was adamant that he was prepared, in this report, to list all the many wins to his credit, (he is far too modest for that). Although when pushed, he did admit that his finest result will always be 1st Dax CSCFC. This marked his first success into the top sphere of our sport, and where he has consistently stayed ever since. Look out for GB06R40102 dark cheq cock in the NFC Pau results, 'cos that's where he is hopefully heading. The unfulfilled ambition of this flyer is to top any NFC race. I can't see him having to wait too long....

From one fine figure of a man to another. Les Kidd of **Wootton & Bashley WMFC** was delighted that his little blue cheq hen stormed in to take 1st Club, 2nd Fed. Les is one of the infamous 'London Boys', now based in and around New Milton having moved there on their retirement, a move which Les did 8½ yrs ago, but is so enjoying the quality of life here that he wishes he did it 20 yrs before, (well....that and the opportunity fanciers have down here to fly up to 40 races across the channel each year). His med size hen is from his own family that he has dedicated over 40yrs in establishing. Les recognised that she had enormous potential after she won 12th Open Truro CSCFC and 47th Open Senen Cove as a young bird. Last year she was 2nd Club Messac, and was the first pigeon home to Les's loft in the BBC Poitiers Yearling Race. This was her first race of the season. Her pedigree reflects



the dedication to distance racing that Les possesses. Grandfather to this hen on the sire side is his lovely stock cock 'Sadlers Wills'. bred by Johny Wills of Camberly. This bird won 30th Palamos BBC, as well as other positions from Pau. He is the sire of two hens that Les cherished. 'My Favourite', was 10th Open Pau CSCFC when flying into a north/east wind all the way. Another daughter 'Favourite Sister' was 21st Open San Sebastian BBC. On the dam's side, the grandfather was Les's Barcelona cock, which was 8th Open BBC Barcelona. Les had to pick him from the floor outside the loft so exhausted was the pigeon after flying into a gale of a north/east wind all the way. Sire of the Barcelona cock was Les's Pau cock which he still recalls as being one of his all time unluckiest race. This bird



flew home from Pau to be 4th Open from Pau, but Les knows in his heart that what actually happened was that this brave bird should have been 1st, but his errant owner not having the trap open causing him to loose 10 mins....shame on you. Les has never been a fancier that has been afraid to really test his birds. The sire of his Pau cock flew Lerwick on the day, 604 miles, and was then turned south to be 1st Bergerac. It is no surprise then to tell you that he is proud to have been the creator of the London & South East Classic FC motto 'We go where glory waits'. This family is mainly made up of AE Shephard from Ian Banstead, John Wills, Peter Titmus pigeons from Kenny Hines, and Fear Bros from Clandown.



If Les has a mind to introduce a different line into the family, likes to only bring a medium sized hen, (never too big) from a long distance family with a good performance record. His best performances he feels are introduce a different line into the family, likes to only bring a medium sized hen, (never too big) from a long distance family with a good performance record. His best performances he feels are

5 on the day from Pau, 5th, 10th and 65th Open when the most birds ever were sent 6066 Birds, to have been 3rd, 4th, 11th, and 12th YB BBC Lamballe when only having sent four birds. He also was 14th & 15th Open BBB Palamos with his much adored 'Lady in Red', and won a Combine from Bordeaux when there were five feds in it.

Les, in an ideal year, starts each season with racing 18 prs, but like many this year is slightly over that target with 24 prs, more pigeons than he has ever kept. His preparation for the distance pigeons is one 'pipe opener', one middle distance (preferably giving the birds about eight hours on the wing), and then on to the 500 milers+. He breeds about 30 youngsters each year and in an ideal season would like them to cross the channel at least twice. He hopper feed beans.

Les has been a clock setter for 30 yrs (trained by Jacky Newell, a 1st NFC Pau winner), and is the chief clock setter for Wootton and Bashley. While he admits to having many reservations about the introduction of ets timing, having seen it first hand in action at the club he is now wanting to set his loft up to facilitate this type of timing for this year's young bird season.

Of course it has been said many times before, that behind every good man is a good woman. Cynthia Kidd (always referred to by Les as 'My Cynth, she's a diamond!') thoroughly spoils Les. Yes, and I mean thoroughly. Not only could Les strike his master timer against the time she dishes up his meals, but after the much written about Friday night snooker sessions at Wootton & Bashley Les returns home to a sandwich and A flask! She doesn't even make him put the kettle on to make his night cap! Cynthia.... I've got to have a word with you.....

2nd Club Wootton & Bashley WMFC, 6th Fed was won by Mrs & Mrs Mike Whiddett with their blue hen, GB07V03283 named 'Mad Maxine', a Karl Boex cross on 1551 ypm. This bird was omitted from basketing by Mike, who, having realised his mistake, then dispatched wife Sharon back home to collect her a bit quick. Sharon, if you want a job doing properly, you know what to do! 3rd Club, 11th fed, was Rod Berry & Alec Matthews with their GB07X41375 on 1451 ypm, a blue cheq cock of Jos Thone breeding.

Romsey SRFC, where 9 members sent 64 birds, saw a very popular win for Mr & Mrs Cyril Leaver with GB04J38065, a Grizzle Cock which also took 5th Federation, on 1551 ypm. A slight puzzle surrounds the breeding of this bird as he feels it certainly doesn't fit in with his Janssen based family. Cyril can only think it is down from his son Dudley's Belgian distance family. This is this pigeons first card. Nice one! 2nd Club, 8th Fed is Brian Basham with a Blue Cheq Willy yearling GB07N71875. This pigeon is a son of Brian's 'Irish Lad' a pigeon that was reported lost in Ireland a time ago, and it was a real exercise in logistics to have him returned. The story has a happy ending though as Brian feels that all the effort has been proven to be worth while as since his return he has bred several winners for him. Winning this position is this pigeons first card. Isn't it great to be able to comment on a very enthusiastic young fancier. Watch out for this name folks, you will be hearing a lot about him in the future. Russ Sutton, took 3rd position, 62nd Fed with GB06R01350, a blue cock on 1289 ypm. 15 yr old Russell only sent two birds and clocked them both from this inconsistent race. This pigeon is from his Dad's fed winning Janssen family. Well Done Russ!

Eastleigh D.I.S.R.P. saw 1st Club, 13th fed and 2nd Club, 14th Fed both won by Stuart Sollit with his GB06E64966 cheq cock and GB06E64979, a blue cheq hen respectively. The winning pigeon is Champion Major bloodline bred by club secretary Sean Mc Manus. These pigeons are flown on a widowhood system. 3rd club, 17th fed was S Waldock with GB05E59384, a dark cheq hen on 1407 ypm. This is a Champion Major/Buschart pigeon, bred again by S McManus, and flown naturally.

Camrose PC where 10 members sent 109 birds, saw Billy Gilbert take his second win on the trot. His 2 yr old Cheq Pied Hen GB06J10957 flown naturally was clocked on 1404 ypm also winning 20th Fed. The sire of this pigeon was supplied by Graham Chupka and the dam was bred by Alan Yates of Overton. 2nd Prize, 49th Fed, was won by Tony Finn on 1317 ypm. He must have been delighted with his blue pied yearling cock GB07C10392, flown naturally, scoring from its first ever race. Club Press Officer Peter Campbell, second last week, was 3rd Club, 60th Fed with a Blue Cheq 3 year old cock GB05A00399 from the best stock pairing of his successful 'Silver Toy' strain, flown on roundabout. This bird has previously won minor club & fed positions.

The Channel saw 11 members send 159 birds. Top spot and 23rd Fed was secured by D & J Jones with their blue bar cock GB06C99428 from their own family, flying 1395 ypm. This cock is from a well proven family with his sister having been 10th Open from NFC Cholet. M Sidmore took second position, 59th Fed with a cheq pied Buschart hen GB05C62245 on 1295 ypm sent on roundabout. The nest

mate to this hen was 34th Open in the CSCFC Cholet race. 3rd Prize, 72nd Fed was earned by the dark Van E hen GB04J40203 of M/M C Harvey with 1268 ypm. She has been a very consistent hen for this loft, having flown NFC Tarbes. She was sent to this race being driven to the nest.

East Cowes FC where 11 members sent 187 birds saw Mr R Harbour in top spot, 24th Fed with his blue Cattrysse hen GB05N17439 on 1393 ypm, flown roundabout. Confirming my earlier comment, there was then a lengthy gap in velocity to Mr E Wiltshire with his blue cheq pied cock G07E67434 which is flown naturally on 1310 ypm who took second place, 52nd Fed. Even if you don't win the top its still nice get two cards from the result. Mr Wiltshire also took third place, 58th Fed with GB07E67417, a Blue Bar Janssen x Van Loon.

Parade FC saw a excellent turn out for this race with 15 members sending 263 birds. It was a good race to win for Harry Butcher and his blue hen GB07N80107 with a velocity of 1335 ypm, also winning 43rd fed. This hen was bred by Bill Warren, is flown naturally and was sent sitting 10 day old eggs. Harry won the £5 club noms. Dave Mitchell took 2nd club, 48th Fed with GB06N64295, a blue cheq cock flown naturally on 1320 ypm. S & K Brimecombe saw their BELG07 - 6003758 blue cheq hen, a Van - Van - Roy from the Natural Breeding Station, take 3rd club, 56th fed. Bird is flown naturally and was sent to race be driving to the nest. Their 4th club, 67th fed was Harry Butcher on a velocity of 1276 ypm with a GB07N80108, a mealy hen. From their own Hermans based family, this hen was also sent being driven to the nest.

Racecourse HS saw L Pitney, Cronin & Freshney triumph with their yearling blue cheq cock, GB07R26105 on 1332 ypm, also winning 44th Fed. He is a Buschart from stock originating from John Whitley. This came as no surprise to them as this bird raced well last year as a youngster and has already been 2nd club from the first race of this year, Kingsdown. J Clements took both 2nd & 3rd positions, both with naturally flown pigeons. 2nd Club, 73rd Fed, was a blue check cock GB07N48443, a Van Loon cross on 1267 ypm, and 3rd was the pencil Van Loon Cock GB05N77232 on 1113 ypm. This, again, is a pigeon who has won cards in the past both as a yearling and as an old bird last year.

Gospport FC had 9 members sending 145 birds. Clear winner, 47th fed was Mick Vince with a 3 yr old blue cheq Willy Thaas roundabout hen on 1321 ypm. She is a previous winner and was a gift from Maurice McCartney from Carnforth, Lancashire. 2nd & 3rd went to the hard working club secretary Peter Alan Woods on 1246 and 1236 ypm with two natural hens both flying to chipping eggs and both previous prize winners. The 2nd prize winner was a dark cheq two yr old bred by late club member Chuck O'Hagan, with the 3rd, being one of his own family. 4th spot goes to John Ayling on 1232 with a yearling grandson of his Pau NFC winner, flown naturally.

Just a quicky result from **Fawley**. Mr & Mrs Steve Cox were the only to send. They clocked their dark pied Del Bar x Janssen hen GB07F35704 on 1287 ypm, 63rd Fed and their white Logan hen GB07F35898 on 1174 ypm.

WARNING : Following are clubs that are not normally at the bottom of the fed result. I'm only too sure that they can't believe how the season has gone so far! When that wind turns to South west aren't they just going to relish getting back up the top where I'm sure they feel they belong.

Milton HS, always a force to be reckoned with 20 members sending 245 birds struggled this week. Winning top prize were Kevin & John Zerafa with their 2 yr old blue cock from their own family on 1253 ypm, 80th Fed. What a super result for the pair, as this bird wins £202 in Noms, Pools and the Snowball. Second place was won by VERY hard working Club Secretary and Solent Fed Committee member Mick Johnson on 1224. 'Pompey Mick' races this 5 year old gay pied Rolan Janssen cross hen on a widowhood system. Mick & Sue Betteridge took 3rd position with their unpaired 2 yr old blue bar cock, a Berger x Alphonse Bowen, in 1222 ypm.

Bognor & Chichester SRFC had good support for this race with 15 members sending 240 pigeons. 1st Prize was won by R Horton with GB06B84417, a blue cheq hen on 1166 ypm. She is a Frank Tasker Halterman via Tony Richards when he packed up in 1995. A lovely consistent hen who is always in the first three back to the loft. 2nd & 3rd were taken by Crammond & Langstaff with two Vandenabeele cock birds, both originally from M & D Evans. GB07N87325 showed good form yet again. This is his 2nd x 2nd prize in three weeks.

Portchester RPC had 5 members sending 53 birds to this race. Mr & Mrs I Mitchell took 1st & 2nd Club positions with two light cheq cocks GB04N24467 & GB04N24460, flown naturally, on 1163 & 1129 respectively. Third position was won by F Smith with his naturally flown blue bar cock GB06P36978 on 1093 ypm.

Conveyors Report. All birds loaded at Portsmouth and Southampton by 2115 hrs. We were transporting the Romsey Open Race pigeons who wanted a separate liberation. They were loaded on the bottom two rows at the back of the lorry with the rows above them empty. This way the roller doors only had to be raised sufficiently for them to be released which would not disturb the fed birds. As chief conveyor on this lorry, and the final decision being mine, I had no doubt that this was the best and least stressful way to liberate the two races. Arrived at Portsmouth dock at 2250 hrs. Boarded ferry 2350 hrs. On top deck out in the open with plenty of air for the birds with the sides of the transporter open. Arrived on site 0820 hrs. All birds watered and then rested for nearly three hours. Tony called to say all was good for a liberation and to go when I was ready. I released the Romsey Open at 1030 hrs into sunshine and a light south east wind. The Dorset fed went next at 1045 hrs, and I liberated the fed birds at 1115 hrs in broken sunshine, high cloud and a light south to south east wind. The birds broke into four batches to the north and we had about 60 hanging around. I was not sure if they were ours.

Don't forget that these reports can be seen approximately 8 days after the race on our excellent web site. Keith Thomas of Emsworth does a truly excellent job as web master. If you would like to put a reminder for any news item such as a club function/ breeder buyer race etc either let him or myself know and we will endeavour to support you in any way that we can. Just type in Solent South Road Federation or even Solent Fed in your search engine on the internet and the site will be at the top of the search. Give it a go!

What can I say? **14 clubs** have showed their support for me by sending in their press reports. To those I say 'well done' and 'keep up the good work'To those who haven'tPlease appoint a club press officer to send in your news.

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