



BICC ALENCON

The second race in the fifteen race BICC programme, took place after a one day holdover due to bad weather in France, on Sunday 15th May when 4,751 birds were liberated at 7.30 am at the French city of Alençon.

The city is situated in the Normandy region of North West France, around 100 miles due west of Paris and was founded in the 4th century when Christianity was introduced to the local inhabitants. In 1047, William Duke of Normandy, later known as William the Conqueror and King of England, laid siege to the town. Alençon was later ruled by the English during the Anglo-Norman wars of 1113 to 1203.



It became the seat of a dukedom in 1415, the title of the Duke of Alençon, being given to the younger brothers of the King of France until the French Revolution. Formerly known as the "City of Dukes", the French Revolution caused little disturbance here and the city is home to several preserved historic buildings from this period.

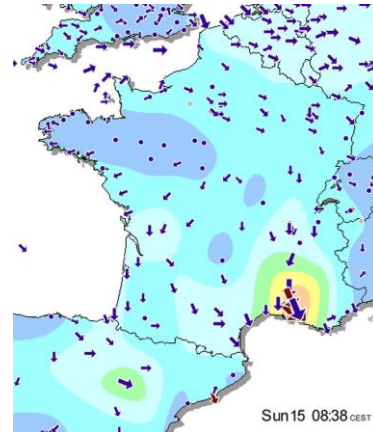
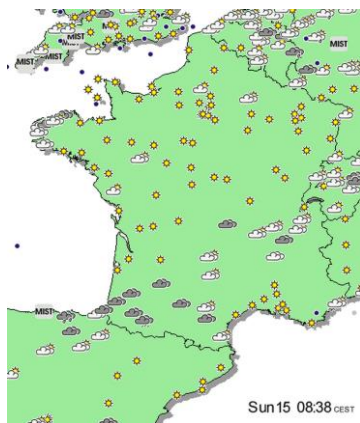
Alençon is renowned for its needle point lace industry called 'Point d'Alençon' which was started in the 17th century. Made from linen thread, it is amongst the finest lace in the world. The economic development of the 19th century led to an industrial boom generated by several mills and good transport links being built. In the first half of

the 20th century, the city developed a thriving printing industry. After the Second World War, the population increased sharply and new industries prospered, many of which are related to plastics.

That's a "potted history" of the town, here's the beginning of the report of the race.

Race Advisors' Report.

The following is John Tyerman's initial report informing members of the liberation.



The BICC National pigeons were liberated at 7-30 am on Sunday 15th May, 2016, into clear blue skies and sunshine. The wind was light and variable and the birds cleared well. Wind in the channel is light variable with a westerly influence, and visibility is excellent.

***John Tyerman
Marks Gilbert
(Racer Advisors)***

And here is John and Mark's more comprehensive report on the preparations for the liberation at Alencon.

With an entry of around 4,750 birds the Convoyers had a busy day collecting the race entries from the 17 marking stations. Both Transporters arrived at Horndean around 8pm on the Thursday evening and with around 1,000 birds to load, Paul O'Leary and his team were kept very busy and our thanks go to all those involved. Thanks to the team's efforts the Transporters left around 9pm for the short journey to the docks.

Following an uneventful crossing from Portsmouth to Caen, the Convoying team arrived at Alencon mid morning on Friday. Birds were later fed and watered and we spoke with Chief Convoyer Trevor Cracknell who reported all was well. Our weather Advisor Steve

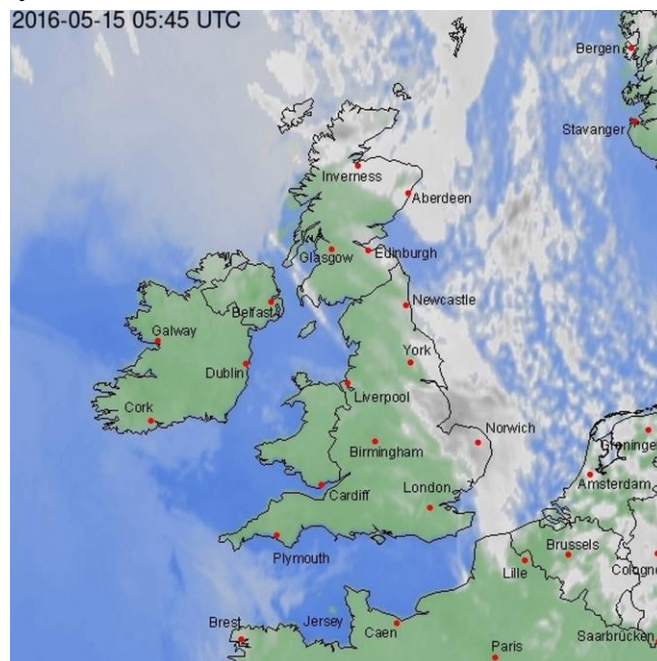
Appleby was contacted and he was concerned about a cold weather front moving from UK towards Alencon overnight on the Friday. Saturday dawned very dull and overcast at Alencon and with 100% dark cloud cover a hold over was called around midday. Early Sunday morning we again spoke to Steve who reported good weather and flying conditions for the race. Chief Convoyer Trevor confirmed blue skies and sunshine at Alencon and birds were liberated at 7-30 am clearing well. Winds were light and channel was clear.

*John Tyerman
Mark Gilbert
(Race Advisors)*

Weatherman Steve Appleby's Weather Report.

Weather Report

The forecast for Sunday was spot on as the heavy leaden skies that plagued northern France on Saturday moved away over night south eastwards. At first light over Alencon the picture was now one of blue skies for Sunday's race.



In fact these conditions extended over the channel and England presenting an excellent flying day. Race controllers were updated and the B.I.C.C. convoy were away at 07:30. Wind direction light and variable over France and over the channel veered from direct westerly

to WSW. At 09:00 hours wind speed centre channel was recorded at 15 MPH with endless visibility.

Steve Appleby (weather advisor)

As with all my reports on the races of the BICC I have to emphasise that the following report is based purely on the provisional result provided. If some of the fanciers highlighted have clocked multiple timers then the final result might well differ considerably. Nevertheless, here we go with a run down of the runners and riders who were first past the post on the provisional result.

Taking 1st Centre section and 1st Open velocity 1514 ypm was one to the Tolworth partnership of Malik & Khan. Here's what the partners had to say about their latest success:-

“First of all we would like to thank the club and the convoyers for doing such a great job and looking after the birds. We really enjoy sending to BICC National races because they come home in excellent condition, so well done to the organisers.



We started the season off with 12 cocks and 11 hens

working on a total widowhood system. Our usual practice is to send all sexes to the race, but after having encountered a tough Combine race the week before from Falaise, we decided to leave the cocks at home and keep the hens going. So Alencon would have been the hens 3rd channel race of the season.

The first hen we got has been named "RUBY", she was previously 8th Fed from 1,469 birds beaten by loft mates and 10th fed 1,615birds, beaten by loft mates and now 1st open Alencon National. Her nest mate, "10048" was 2nd Open BICC last season in the young bird National. The sire of "RUBY" is "As Ace Euro" which is direct August

Janssen from the lines of the Olympiad when paired to "Ace Madam" a direct daughter of Madam Bourges of Dirk Van Dyke. We would like to thank every one for their kind words on the phone and messages. Here's wishing good luck to all".

James Cross of Carshalton comes in next with a widowhood chequer cock that had two Channel races as a yearling and this was his first Channel crossing of the 2016 season. Bloodlines are Kees Bosua through his sire and Marcellis through his dam from Mr R Roberts.

Next we have the International winning partnership of D Bullen & son of Croydon who come in with a bird on 1492 ypm to take 3rd Centre section and 3rd Open. This is what the partners had to say:-

"First of all we like to say a big well done to Malik and Kahn and Jimmy Cross plus the conveyer for the great condition our birds returned in .

Our first timer today in a yearling blue hen bred by our good friends Slight & Taylor of New Maldon from their Leo van Rijn birds crossed Trussler Bros family . She is half sister to 1st, 2nd, 4th fed plus 1st SMT Combine Nort sur Erdre 2014 winners . This is her first race of season and only the second of her life . She was paired late March and left to sit eggs before going on to our own take of the crazy widowhood system, being fed on Versele-Laga corn."



Placed provisionally at 4th Centre section 4th Open velocity 1485 ypm is a pigeon to D Waterhouse of Portsmouth and this is what Dave had to tell me about his timer:-

"Firstly we would like to congratulate the winner of the Alencon race. Our pigeon now named Lisa lady is bred down from Jason Ross and



Garry Moody National winners crossed with some Hardy Kruger blood.

She is raced on roundabout but lives with the babies that are on darkness, she is fed on Vanrobaeys junior exclusive and junior young bird.

We would like to thank the convoyer for the welfare of the birds."

The Fontwell, West Sussex partnership of Ian Crammond and Nigel Langstaff come in next at 5th Centre section 5th Open velocity 1477 ypm.

Ian and Nigel timed a 2 year old widowhood cock from their very successful Bosua x Van Osch family. This super cock was 3rd Open NFC Saintes is 2015 and was the partnership's first bird in the opening BICC race of 2016 season from Falaise, he is also a full brother to Green & Hilson's super racer "Crammond's Frankel".



Next we have Mr & Mrs Aldridge of Brighton who clocked on 1463 ypm to take 6th Centre section 6th Open. They clocked a yearling Janssen widowhood cock bred by O'Sullivan Brothers of Brighton which was having his first tilt at the channel. Barry was telling me that he had 6 from 7 on the day and the birds returned in brilliant condition.

Kevin Bakes of Portsmouth was over the moon when he clocked his 2 year old widowhood cock on 1462 ypm to finish at 7th Centre section 7th Open. Kevin tells me that this was only his team's second race of the season, the first being with the Solent Fed at Carentan a week or so ago. Kev's timer is a DeKlak that's bred in the purple as his dam is a full sister to Roger Lowe's great hen My Little Diamond. The cock has illustrious brothers as well, as two of his brothers have topped the Fed on the North road.



Mark Gilbert comes into the top ten once again with his first in the clock doing 1458 ypm and is good enough for 8th section 8th Open. Mark clocked a Drappa Cock, which is a grandson to Pokerface and Champ. He has asked me to congratulate the convoying team and his co – race advisor John Tyerman for producing an excellent race and Malik

& Khan, the race winners on yet another excellent performance racing a very small team of pigeons.

At 9th section 9th Open velocity 1456.9 ypm is one to the Oakley Green loft of Stuart Sheffield. Stuart's timer is a Van der Baulk hen raced on round about and bred by Mick Collins of Birmingham. She has had every race so far this season [5] and has won 1st club [beating Mark Gilbert!!] Messac, 3rd BB&OFed in 2015 as a yearling. Stuart would like to congratulate Malik & Khan and all the other prize winners on some outstanding performances in a very fair race.

Finishing off the top ten in the Open result is none other than Roger Lowe of Reading whose first bird records 1456.2 ypm to finish at 10th section 10th Open. Roger clocked a five year old widowhood cock of pure De Raw Sablon bloodlines. Both parents were bred by Freddy and Jacque Vandenheede. The cock is a winner of many prizes best being 3rd ace Pigeon National Flying Club 2015 6th Fed 2,036birds.

38th sect 1,260b, 408th OpenNFC Fougères 7,064b.

4th sect 8th open BBC Fougères 1,707birds.

12th sect 734 birds, 20th Open NFC Saintes 3,617birds.

31st sect 686birds; 48th Open NFC Saintes 3,740birds.

61st sect 607birds; 163rd open NFC Tarbes 2,587birds.

22nd sect 694birds; 74th open NFC Tarbes 2,769birds.

51st sect 866birds; 103rd Open NFC Ancenis plus many more.

The cock was having its third race of the season as it had only just come out of an aviary where it had been since the end of last season. In fact, it had only been flying out for four days when it went straight into a race with out a training toss.

Roger would like to congratulate Malik and Khan on a great performance as well as the rest of the winners.



Over in the West section the father and son partnership of John and David Staddon enjoyed a good race in fact they had two hens together timed 3 seconds apart on 1399 ypm, so will likely achieve a one - two here and they have another two or three possibles for top ten section positions. Their latest section topper is a widowhood hen called

Shapway Kate (named after John & Jackie's Granddaughter) raced on their Chaos Widowhood System.

She is bred from pigeons obtained from their great mate Mark Gilbert from his Brockamp lines and she is inbred to Champion Mistral of Brockamp. She has been a steady performer up until now but did score well up in the old hens races last season from the BICC and NFC after having already flown Tarbes NFC that same season. Second timer is Shapway Evie (Named after Kate's little sister) and is a full sister to champion racer Shapway G Force 1st Sect G 3rd Open NFC Saintes & 4th Sect G 42nd Open NFC Tarbes.



She is from a Mark Gilbert hen from the famous 333 daughter of Southfield Supreme and the Perpignan 06 when paired to one of the partners' best breeding cocks Shapway Larry. He is sire of 2nd, 3rd & 9th National. John and Dave would like to thank Mark for always supplying them with his best.

The Staddons entered a team of 24 well motivated hens for this race and the system certainly paid off as they timed 19 of the 24 entries in about an hour and had all 24 hens home on the day.

As always the birds returned in first class condition from the BICC, so much credit to Trevor and his team as well John Tyerman & Mark Gilbert for producing a good race. John and Dave would like to offer their congratulations to race winners Malik & Khan as the boys are very hard workers for the sport and their win is very well deserved.



In second West section is the evergreen partnership of Geoff and Catherine Cooper who were sat in beautiful sunshine in their garden waiting for the Alencon birds. They were pleased to see a widowhood hen drop onto the trap to record 1396 ypm. This is the same hen that was 2nd section 6th open in the Falaise National with the BICC two weeks ago.

So far this year she has had three inland races, the furthest 69 miles then three consecutive channel races. All being well she will be going to Cholet National with the BICC then into Pau International.

Her breeding is impeccable, her sire is George who won 1st Tarbes Grand National at the fastest velocity ever for the race and he is the sire

and g/sire of many good pigeons including Farmer George 1st International Bordeaux.

The dam of this hen is Carla Page who won 16th International Pau. Geoff and Cath clocked 16 birds in 21 minutes and had them all home. They would like to congratulate Imran, Atti and Fez (Malik and Khan) for winning the race and also a big well done to John and Dave Staddon.

Third west section is one to the Blandford Forum lofts of Mr & Mrs King on 1394 ypm. Mel and Sue's pigeon is a widowhood cock of Eric Limbourg and Vandenaabeele breeding . The sire is the nest brother to their 1st Open C.S.C.F.C Bergerac winner, a grandson of "Eros" , Mel and Sue's 1st Open N.F.C Nantes Winner, with Eric Limbourg Black Opium lines added in. The dam is full sister to "Eros" and is the dam of several good birds including winners of 1st and sect N.F.C Tarbes.

Over in the East section the winner is a yearling roundabout cock racing to the loft of Paul Costas.



This one is a Koopman bred from stock obtained from Tony Sutton. He has had three inland races this year plus the BICC Falaise race where he turned in on the Sunday afternoon obviously none the worse for wear. Rested for a week he came up trumps at Alencon with a section winning performance plus 12th Open .

Kevin Foster is a regular on BICC results and he's in here once again taking 2nd East section and provisionally 20th Open. Kevin's timer is 4yo blue widower cock very consistent having been twice in top 100 Open in the BICC races from Poitiers and Tours in 2015. He is also a full brother to the hen that was 6th National Le Mans last year. Sire is a double grand son of Kanibaal and the dam is a daughter of Wriggler from Geoff Cooper .

Third in the East section result is the partnership of Tony and Pat Mahoney of Basildon with a bird on 1432 ypm. The brothers sent me this info' on their first in the clock:-

"Our timer from Alencon, is a full brother to our 4th Alencon winner last year being and is a Planet Bros x Williamson x Soontjen.

He has had 2 club wins this year and also 14th Inter Counties Fed (2,806) birds, and he was also 110th open BICC Tours (4,315) birds

flying 290 miles last year as a yearling in his first Channel crossing, He then went on to take 233rd Open Le Mans(3,509) birds in his next channel event, Alencon was his third time across the Channel, We had a great race having 3 of our 14 entries in 3 minutes and all home in good time, Many congratulation to all the winners on what we thought was a very good race.”

Taking the red rosette in the North East section velocity1392 ypm was one to R.J.Govier of Great Abington. Robbie clocked a 4 year old Blue Vandenabeele of Kleinen lines. The section winner has been a consistent racer always being first or second pigeon to the loft from overseas racing. He was Rob’s second pigeon from BICC Falaise, finishing at 43rd section. However, he has been overshadowed by his brother who has been 4th, 7th, 11 section from BICC races. The cock was sent feeding a large baby and his hen had just laid her second egg. The Govier race team amounts to just 25 old birds and these are raced on the natural system.



Runner Up in the NE section is one to Jeremy Nicholson of Ipswich. This is what Jeremy had to say about the race:-



“Firstly I would like to congratulate all the section winners today and Malik & Khan for being the overall winner.

My bird is a 2 year old Cooreman X hen that I purchased as a youngster from my good friend Bob Fenech. She has been a very consistent hen and scored as a youngster and a yearling,

her breeding is the very best Louis Coorman lines X Eddy De Martelere.

In preparation for the race she was sent to all the inland races and was due to go to Falaise but I lost her cock at Eastbourne, so she was repaired and put back on my chaos system. I would like to thank Tony Calver and both Bob and Steven Fenech for their continued support and advice.”

Third NE section vel 1362 ypm is one to Nicolae Babes of Ely in Cambridgeshire. Nicolae clocked a four year old cock that has been paired simultaneously to two hens and reared a nest of youngsters with both hens- a high energy driven Lothario if ever there was one. The cock has been a very consistent racer for Nicolae and has won numerous prizes. He was hawked during the 2015 season and had only limited racing.

The North Central section winner was clocked by B & P Loom of Wyboston doing 1373 ypm.

Unfortunately, after several attempts to contact the partners I was unsuccessful so do not have any information on their section winning pigeon.



In second section is one to the Gobion partnership of D Lyden & son on 1345 ypm. This is a yearling roundabout hen bred by the partners containing the bloodlines of Ronnie Williamson's Busschaerts. This was her first time over the channel after three warm up races inland.

Taking third in the NC section is one to the Milton Keynes loft of John Hatherley on 1339 ypm. John clocked a two year old Blue cock of Soontjen x Denis Sapin bloodlines which was a late bred in 2014. He was raced to Fourgeres 2015 and has been raced on widowhood winning two races so far this year prior to Alencon.

The North West section was won by a pigeon racing to the Tewkesbury lofts of Booth & Roper recording a velocity of 1352 ypm. Trevor and



John clocked a dark chequer widowhood cock, taking 1st section, is bred from their very good French hen. This bird has been very consistent over the years winning at club level and taking 36th open in the BICC Guernsey race last year. He was their second pigeon from Falaise this year taking 5th sect. 160th open. The partnership had a very good race with all birds home in good condition, also winning both their club

races on Saturday.

Second NW section is the husband and wife partnership of M & C Lee of Worcester whose pigeon recorded 1319 ypm. The Lee timer is a dark chequer widowhood cock. Alencon was the first race across channel for this pigeon. He is a Vandenabeele cross. Fed on maple peas in the

hopper with widow hood mix & gerry plus fed by hand. The partners also use Jeremy's Tonics in the drinking water 4 days a week. They would like to congratulate the winners Malik & Khan and also Trevor & John on winning the section.

Finishing off the top three in the NE section is one to the Moreton in the Marsh lofts of Gwyn and Joy Lloyd on 1301 ypm. Gwyn had this to tell me about their race:-

“Joy and I sent four yearling hens to Alencon and had three back by clocks read 7pm. Our first hen was sitting 12 days at basketing and it was her second race of the season. On her return she sat straight on her eggs without a drink or food. All birds once again in very good condition so all credit to the convoyers and many thanks to all concerned with marking of birds etc.”

Although the following Cornish fanciers won't appear on the result, which isn't surprising given their geographical position way out on a limb in the far West of the British Isles and the predominantly westerly wind their pigeons have to contend with, I thought I would include here a brief report from Perry Liddle who kindly sent me details of some of the Cornish timers at the St Austell marking station:-

“Here are a few notes on the birds timed in the St Austell Clock Station.

1st Dave Johnson – clocked a 2yo pencil blue w/f hen being raced on Roundabout, at 15:25:35 for 955.746ypm, she is Vandenabeele from Keith Perkins stock.

2nd Keith Frost – clocked a 4yo blue check cock racing home to chipping eggs at 17:45:25 for 730.817ypm. This cock is known as “Joe 90” and he is a Hereman Ceusters x Vandenabeele. He was Keith's timer from Alencon 2015 and was second in the St Austell Club from Kingsdown the previous week.

3rd C.A.Hubbard (Tony) – clocked a 2yo dark check hen racing home to 10 day eggs at 18:18:00 for 693.034ypm, she is a Busschaert bred down from John Palmer lines.”

Well it seems to have been an absolute cracker of a race with most fanciers that I've spoken to when compiling this report having close on 100% returns in pretty quick time. Another common theme expressed by all I've spoken to is the outstanding condition their pigeons displayed on their return. As one fancier said “You wouldn't think that they'd been out of the loft”. Praise indeed for our convoyers and the

state of the art transportation, also a big well done to the race advisory team on yet another excellent race.

Finally, could I ask Marking Station Officials if they would take a few photos of their helpers at the stations and e mail them to me. I can then give some publicity to the people who actually do the work and keep the club functioning, in addition to highlighting the successful fanciers in each race.

Gareth Watkins

