



BICC POITIERS NATIONAL

The fourth race in the BICC old bird programme was to have taken place from the French city of Poitiers on Saturday 11th June. Weather forecasts for the weekend did not look promising and the weather in the Poitiers region looked to be even worse, so the decision was reluctantly made to try for a race from a shorter race point.

The weather forecasters predicted the possibility of a liberation from the Le Mans area and so it was decided to go to Le Mans as an alternative in the hope that we could get a race, even if it was not from the distance hoped for by most participants. However, due to continued bad weather in France, the English Channel and throughout many parts of mainland Britain over the weekend, which was forecast to continue well into the following week, the convoy of more than 2,000 birds had to be returned to the UK, as the prospects of a liberation were nil or something less.

I can inform members who entered their pigeons that ALL pool money will be returned as will £1 of every pigeon's entrance fee as a gesture of good will to our members at this difficult time. This refunding of monies will be undertaken over the coming weeks and as soon as practicable.

The 2016 summer weather is having a devastating effect on all organisations, whether they be racing north into Scotland, or south and south east into France and Belgium. I know that this can be frustrating for all those concerned, but the pigeons' welfare is paramount. They are there to "fight another day".

On behalf of BICC members I would like to say a big thank you to John Tyerman, Mark Gilbert, Steve Appleby, Albi Deacon, Carol Francis, Russell Bradford along with our excellent convoying team led by Chief

convoyer Trevor Cracknell, for their tireless effort over the weekend and for showing extreme patience and supreme ability in very trying circumstances. I'm sure the vast majority of members will be grateful to have been able to call upon your wealth of experience and sound common sense in the "heat of battle".

Next race - the first of the Internationals from Pau. Hopefully they will be up and home by the time you read this. Good luck to all who send – and keep the faith!! Quitters never win and winners never quit.

Gareth Watkins