



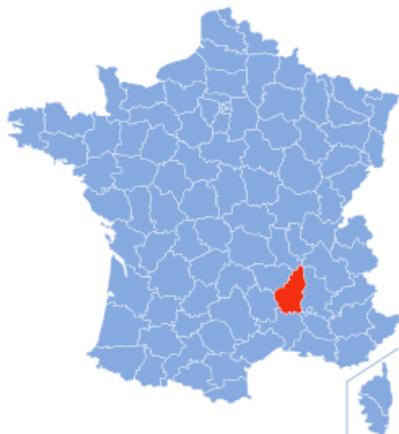
BICC MARSEILLE INTERNATIONAL RACE REPORT.

The 2016 Marseille International race organised by the BICC saw an entry of 97 pigeons, which is up by 20% on the 2015 entry, compete against a field of 9,631 pigeons entered by fanciers throughout continental Europe.

The breakdown of entries shows that the Netherlands had the largest entry with 3,320 pigeons followed by France with 2,630 pigeons away then Belgium with 2,219 entries, Germany 1,290, UK 97 entries and finally Luxembourg with 75 pigeons.

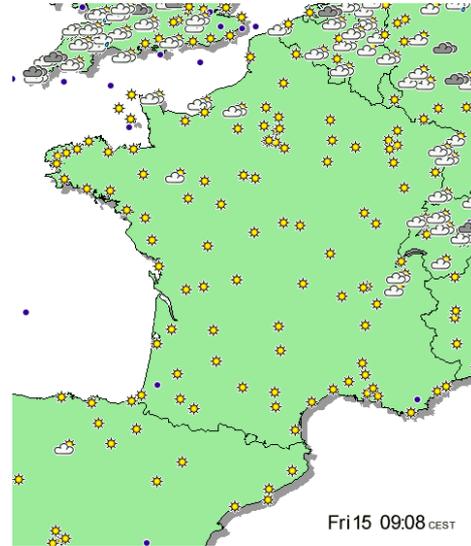
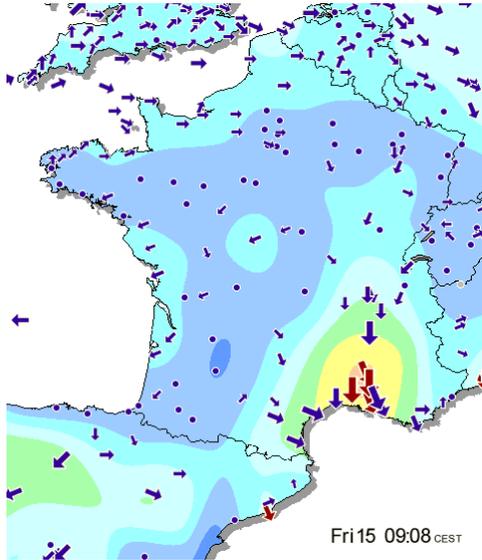
The convoy was liberated at 5.45 am BST on Friday 15th July into blue skies and a light northerly wind with excellent visibility.

However, if you were watching the Tour de France on television on Friday afternoon of the race day, you would have seen the cyclists battling against a near gale force northerly wind. These Tour de France time trials were taking place in the Ardeche region of France which is right on line of flight for the Marseille convoy.



With this in mind it was obvious that the International pigeons were going to have to battle all the way up through the Southern regions of

France and in particular the lower Rhone Valley where the wind was strongest.



Pigeons began to be clocked near Paris at around 17.13 on the day flying 675 kms and recording 981 mpm. However, the pigeon that I have to take my hat off to in admiration was clocked way out west on the coast of the Bay of Biscay near La Rochelle at 19.39 pm. This one must have broken away from the rest of the convoy almost immediately and made its way alone across the whole width of France, a truly amazing performance.

The BICC Marseille winner, given the conditions of an unrelenting North wind and high temperatures throughout the course of the race, deserves a medal the size of a dustbin lid. This is a five year old chequer cock racing the 687 miles all the way to its home loft in Norwich, Norfolk and entered by Alan and Tom Wright.



Raced on widowhood he was bred on the sire's side from a son of Kleine Molenaar and a daughter of Euro Diamond. On the dam's side we have a son of Blauwe Vanoppen and daughter of Pocasso these both come from Guy Baerts of Belgium.



The cock had preparatory races with the East of England Continental Club from Boves and Pithiviers ,plus the BICC Alencon race and some extensive training in between.

Hopefully I'll get some more material from Alan and Tom to complete an in depth loft report on this remarkable pigeon.

Congratulations on an outstanding performance.

In the R/U spot is a five year old racing to the Dover loft of Geoff and Clayton Preece.

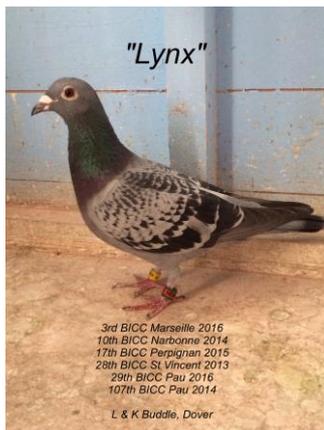


This is a Chequer white flight Widowhood cock of Stoffel Marseille Star line x Bill Woodall's Dragons Boy lines. In 2012 he won 1st yearling Perpignan following in his father's footsteps who was also 1st yearling Perpignan in 2010. Last year his International racing was put on hold due to a pre season injury. However, the partners managed to get him fit for Bergarac where he scored 22nd South Road Combine. Marseille 2016 is his 6th International performance scoring at National level in all.

Geoff and Clayton's second on the clock which on the provisional result is placed at 13th Open is a six year old Blue Widowhood Cock of Stoffel 270/Hermes lines. This cock has been a super pigeon for the Preeces always scoring high in the National results year in year out. In 2011 he was also 1st yearling Perpignan and since then has notched up 6 top 20 National prizes flying over 500 miles. He returned from Marseille with a small wound on his keel and will now be allowed to nest with his hen and rear a late bred. Marseille 2016 is his 9th International Performance scoring at National level in all.

Geoff has asked me to say a big thank you to the BICC for their continued support of this International Europa Cup race. Also, well done to A&T Wright whose pigeon was flying 687miles and leaving approximately 8,500 of the best continental pigeons behind him - a great performance.

Taking second East section third Open vel 662 ypm is a real battler to the Dover partnership of Multi Merit Award winners Lee and Kevin Buddle.



Their timer is a 5yr old hen on her 6th 500+ mile International race called "Lynx". She flew BICC Pau 4 weeks previous to Marseille winning 29th Open and was rested with just loft exercise twice a day in between races. The team are fed on Verselle-Laga Superstar Plus & Best All rounder with added Sunflower & Hemp seed for the last few days prior to race marking. She was raced on 100% widowhood as are

all Buddle long distance cocks and hens. Her sire is a direct G & C Cooper bird being a Double Grandson of their champion racer & breeder "Farm Boy". Her dam was bred by Mike Mitchell of Dover and is a daughter of his super "Dutch Hen". "Lynx" Previous race results are:-

10th BICC Narbonne 2014

17th BICC Perpignan 2015

28th BICC St Vincent 2013

29th BICC Pau 2016

107th BICC Pau 2014

Well done lads.

At third East section 4th Open with another one at 4th East section and 7th Open is the excellent long distance fancier Simon Knowles of



Wingham in Kent. Simon still competes as F Knowles & son as a mark of respect to his late father and this is what he had to tell me about his two Marseille birds:-

“The winner of 4th Open is 3 year old blue hen which had flown Marseille in 2015 and is of M. Parish bloodlines. She was prepared with one Pithiviers with East of England Continental Club and several Bedhamptons at around 100 miles, with the Wingham Flying Club.

At 7th Open is a chequer cock and this was his 6th time to Marseille. He is of Cyril Wells’ marathon bloodlines with this

being his best performance so far. Previous positions for him are:-

2011 just out of race time [with only 9 timed in race time]

2012 21st Open

2013 19th Open

2014 18th Open

2015 11th Open

Preparation was the same as the blue hen, with Pivithiers and Bedhampton 100 mile trainers.

They were paired up on the weekend before Marseille, previously being raced celibate. All birds are fed on Versele Laga Best All Rounder with added peanuts and sunflower hearts.”

Paul Delea [pronounced Delay] has an outstanding record in BICC long distance International races and is a past Barcelona race winner with the BICC. In this Marseille race Paul clocked a dark chequer hen sent sitting eggs, which contains all the very best of his long established family which he has been nurturing for more than 40



years. These are based on the old Kenyons and Stranraer Simon Kirkpatricks. The family seem to thrive on testing races and the hen's preparation this year has been private training to the South Coast at 70 miles and two short Channel races of 180 and 220 miles. As with all Paul's pigeons she was unraced as a young bird, just privately trained to 70 miles and had two channel races as a yearling.

Paul also clocked a good bird from the Barcelona International to finish at 12th Open BICC and this chequer pied hen goes back to the loft's top performers in International races out to Barcelona at 700 miles.



Topping the Centre section and taking 6th Open on 613 ypm is one to Marius Sepcuic. Here's Marius's story of his time in the sport:-

"From the beginning I can say that racing pigeons is my hobby since a very young boy. I think I've inherited this from my father who was a famous pigeon fancier in the 1980s but unfortunately he passed away when I was only 6.

Living in UK since 2000, in 2007 I met Mr Ken Hine who I'll always remember with high regard with whom I collaborated for a few

years and from whom I learnt a lot.

I started racing pigeons in UK from 2013 and I can proudly say that my two year old hen which amazed even me comes from half blood pigeons from Mr Ken Hine and half from pigeons from the Netherlands, from Verweij-Castricum (grandfather Messi).

I'm very happy with this blood line because of the results I've got this year, 2016 :

Marseille 6 Open, 1st Section 6th Open; Pau 76th Open, 29th Section. Also, in 2016 the hen's uncle another two year old was 41st Open, 16th Section from Pau.

I'm a young pigeon fancier with high respect for all pigeon fanciers. Good luck to all"

The ever present of BICC International races, Bill Knox of Tyler's Hill near Canterbury in Kent comes in with two birds for 8th and 12th Open on the provisional result. The first of these is a four year old taking 6th East section 8th Open. The hen has now flown the channel 10 times and was 7th open Marseille and 107th Open Agen in 2015. She also flew St Vincent International in 2014 and she is the granddaughter of the Dam of Bill's 2016 Barcelona timer. As Bill commented "not many birds keep going till 21:00 hours on the second day".



Bill's second in the clock is a 5 year old and takes 8th Section 12th Open has flown the channel 15 times and was also 51st open Agen earlier this season. This one has previously flown Agen twice and St Vincent International. His Sire flew the channel 16 times including PAU and Tarbes twice. His Dam crossed the Channel 17 times including Bergerac twice; PAU twice and has been 14th Open Marseille and 2nd sect 2nd Open Barcelona. That's two birds who were certainly bred for the job in hand .

In at 7th East section 9th Open is a true long distance Champion raced by David Hales of Hockley in Essex. David ably assisted by Duncan Goodchild timed the great long distance racer "Comfort Zone" a winner of 1st Open BICC Marseille in 2015 and 20th Open BICC Pau International in 2016.

Here's Duncan's take on the race:- "Dave timed Comfort Zone our 1st bird at Pau for 20th Open BICC

575 miles and last years 1st Open BICC Marseille winner a 4 year old red widowhood cock of Parker cross Hagen breeding.

Our second bird which may well be 14th Open BICC is a 2 year old red widowhood cock having his first experience of International racing. He is a grandson of 2 Barcelona cocks 88 and our 4 x Barcelona cock Jake so encouraging signs probably".





Dickie and Steve Pearmain come in once again with a bird on 463 ypm to take 8th East section 10th Open . This is what Steve Pearmain had to tell me about their latest International performance.

“We only sent the one so were well chuffed to time her. She is a 3 year old blue hen and she has had 4

international races now and on the clock in all of them Agen, Perpignan , Pau, and now Marseille. She is a half sister to our Merit Award winner Marseille Maur, Her dam being a daughter of Dave Goddard’s Spanish Diploma winner Rebbecka and her sire being a direct Nico Volkens.

The BICC International races are always tough, so timing in is always the aim.”



Three times Barcelona winner with the BICC and NFC King’s Cup winner from Pau, none other than Dave Delea of Rianham in Essex, brother to Paul Delea, mentioned earlier in this report, gets one of his old tried and tested family of long distance pathfinders on 456 ypm to finish at 9th East section 11th Open. This three year old black cock was only trained to the coast as a youngster and then brought on quietly as a yearling. In 2015, as a two year old, he finished at 6th section 13th Open BICC Agen International and then went on to fly the Tarbes NFC race later in July. This year he has had the BICC Alencon race, came back in the basket from the aborted Poitiers race and was then sent to the Pau International to finish at 14th section 26th Open BICC. Yet another top class long distance racer to add to the Delea dynasty. I hope you’re now fully recovered from your fall Dave. Take care mate.

Then we have another long distance legend and previous BICC Barcelona winner, John Lane of Whitstable with a bird on 412 ypm for 15th Open. John’s three year old dark chequer cock was having his first race of the year from Marseille!!! I should point out however that the cock had flown



Marseille in 2015 returning just out of race time and had been privately trained both in land and across the channel along with John's good friend Terry Johnson. This private training takes place throughout the year, summer and winter, in all but the worst weather conditions. His breeding is impeccable as he is bred from a son of Terry Johnson's Barcelona winner "Spartan" when mated to an A P Overwater hen. The cock was sent sitting eggs and feeding two large youngsters. These are the only pigeons home to my knowledge, as I write this report at lunch time on Monday 18th July. If any further pigeons arrive I will do my best to cover them in my next report on the Perpignan International race.

Congratulations to the winners A & T Wright and to all the gallant birds home in what has proved to be the continuing saga of testing International races this year."

Gareth Watkins

