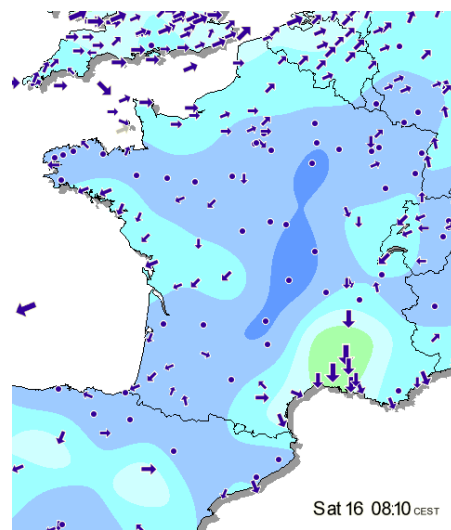
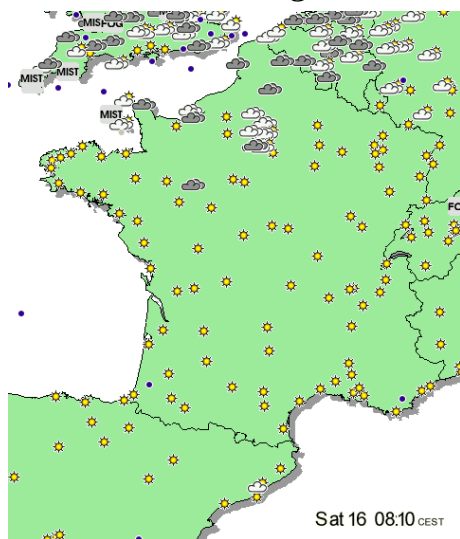




### ***BICC LE MANS RACE REPORT.***

***The 3,961 BICC Le Mans National pigeons were liberated at 06.45 hours on Saturday, 16th July, 2016. There was some light cloud cover and blue skies at the race point but the birds cleared well. This cloud cover will extend to the channel where visibility is good. Winds were shown as light west or south westerly and there were blue skies and sunshine along the south coast.***



***Here I reproduce Race advisor John Tyerman's race report.***

***The Club again had an excellent entry of just under 4000 birds for the Le Mans National. Both Convoyers Trevor and Steve had a busy time going round all the various marking stations so our thanks to them. Despite the large birdage, the convoyers arrived at Horndean around 8 pm on the Thursday evening and the Brighton and Horndean entries were loaded on to the two transporters, in time for the short journey to***

*Portsmouth docks where they were booked on the overnight ferry to Caen. Again thanks to the team at Horndean for the marking and loading assistance. After arrival in Caen, early on Friday morning the birds were driven to Le Mans, where they were later promptly fed and watered by Steve and Trevor.*

*Our Weather Advisor Steve Appleby had been in touch on the Thursday and was confident we would get a race on the Saturday. We were in contact with Steve several times and his forecast was relayed to our Chief Convoyer Trevor Cracknell. Early on Saturday morning Steve again phoned with a favourable weather forecast and this was relayed to our Convoyers at Le Mans. The birds were liberated at 6-45 am and cleared well.*

*John Tyerman and Mark Gilbert  
Race Advisors.*

#### *Weather Report.*

*At first light the clear blue skies over the Le Mans were invaded by cloud from the north east. Fortunately this cloud soon broke up presenting a liberation sky to our convoyers. A clear flight path of broken cloud and blue skies was identified all the way to the French coast line. The channel was clear although some areas were under cloud. With this information to hand the race controllers gave the convoyers the go ahead as and when they were happy with the conditions on site. Winds were light westerly over France but fresher over the channel veering from west to south west and visibility endless. An excellent flying day for the BICC members.*

*Steve Appleby*

*Topping the list in both East section and Open result is a yearling to the Selling partnership of J Clarke & daughter on 1420 ypm. The Le Mans winner is a roundabout cock that was having his third channel race of the year. He has been a steady pigeon all year always there or thereabouts in races. Bloodlines are from Ron Williamsons of Northern Ireland showing that the cock is a grand son of two King's Cup winners "Rab's Delight" 1st King's Cup 2014 and Champion Mowo 1st King's Cup for Ron Williamson, so he's*



*certainly bred for this sort of race. Jamie rates Ronnie's pigeons very highly and would like to thank Ron for providing him with top class stock. Thanks also to Jamie's mate Mark who helps out with the birds and his good mate Trevor Wise - well he was until this race, when Jamie's bird beat Trevor's by a decimal for 1<sup>st</sup> Open!!! Jamie tells me he has named the National winner "Mr White" in memory of Dave White, a club member and an exceptional pigeon fancier for many years, who passed away earlier this week*

*The Runners Up in both East section and Open on 1419 ypm is another*



*father and daughter partnership, that of Trevor Wise and daughter Chloe of Rochester in Kent who have named their pigeon "Suzie" after a fellow club mate and good friend Sue Bond, who tragically died recently. The pigeon itself is a Soontjen bred from a pigeon that was 2nd Combine from Exeter containing Bill Carr bloodlines. The hen was previously raced on*

*roundabout, but was paired and sent sitting 12 days with the Le Mans race in mind.*

*Alex Mc Kenzie of Colchester, assisted by his brother Tony, is a former winner of the BICC and in this Le Mans race he came oh so close once again with a bird on 1408 ypm.*

*Alex and Tony had this to say about their race:-*

*"Firstly, we would like to congratulate J Clarke & Daughter on winning the race. Our pigeon has been consistent this year, as he has been our first pigeon across the channel the three times he has raced. Last year he was 28<sup>th</sup> Open Le Mans. His breeding is Kellens Van Den Bosche Busschaert and Van Loon.*

*Our feeding is Versel Laga, Gerry plus and Super Widowhood. It's been a very hard season this year across the channel, so we gave them 3 weeks off and gave them one 50 mile training toss last weekend. We sent 21 this weekend and had all home by 17:30.*

*Thanks to the convoyer and his assistants for getting us a good race."*



*The Centre section winner which finishes at 4<sup>th</sup> Open was clocked at the Hayes, Middlesex loft of Mr & Mrs Ken Hine with a pigeon on 1382.3 ypm. The Hine loft is now managed by the late Ken Hine's grandson ably assisted by Jeff Byles and it was Jeff who phoned me with details of their pigeon. This is a yearling blue cock flown on round about which has had five inland races followed by four channel races including BICC Alencon before going to Le Mans. His sire is an Ernie Goodier Ceusters and the dam is the Hine's winner of 4<sup>th</sup> Open BICC Guernsey young bird and is also of Ceusters bloodlines.*

*Next up at second Centre section 5<sup>th</sup> Open narrowly beaten by the Hine pigeon is one to Dunstable fanciers Mr & Mrs Peter Wells and this one is just a decimal point away from topping the section on 1382.0 ypm. In fact the Wells had two widowhood cocks drop together on the same velocity. The first across the ETS pad is a two year old which has a sheaf of top race prizes to his credit. He is a De Prut bred by Simon Scofield of Leeds. Second bird is a yearling Janssen cock.*

*Paul Liman of Barkingside in Essex comes in at 4<sup>th</sup> East section 6<sup>th</sup> Open vel 1376 ypm with a 2 year old round about hen of Koopman x Grondelaers x Soontjen bloodlines.*

*This hen was 67<sup>th</sup> Open BICC Falaise as a young bird and this year has had just one 100 mile trainer North from Newark and the two Alencon races with the BICC before going to Le Mans.*



*M & J Adcock & son of New Addington timed a yearling hen on 1375.8 ypm for 3<sup>rd</sup> Centre section 7<sup>th</sup> Open. This Vandenabeele hen was bred by Woodside Lofts and has been very consistent this year, winning 6<sup>th</sup> Surrey Fed from over 1,000 birds when beaten by 4 loft mates and 18<sup>th</sup> Fed 1,500 birds beaten by 6 loft mates. She was also Mark's first bird to the loft in both BICC Falaise and Alencon races. In the early part of the year she was raced as a widowhood hen but was re mated and sent to Le Mans sitting 12 day eggs.*

*At 5<sup>th</sup> East section and 8<sup>th</sup> Open on 1375.1 ypm is a bird to Dave Sanders and Lee Fuller. It's been very much a one man operation this year as Dave was telling me that Lee has been snowed under with work commitments. Here's Dave Sanders' take on the race:-*

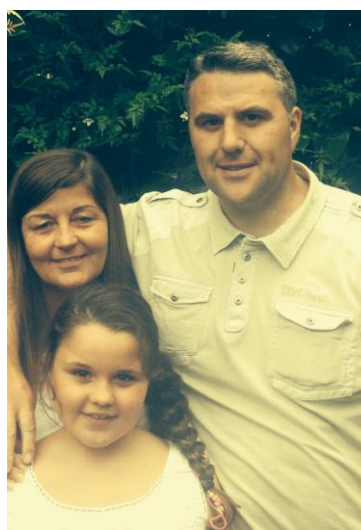
***“This hen, like the rest of our loft, had been turned from racing north road to try the south road especially the channel.***



***She had been part of our very successful north road team last year. Lee, because of work commitments was unable to have any time for racing this year but focused on breeding. I trained all of our race team well on the south route and then entered them into the early inland races specifically for experience. I then sent most weeks with the East of England Continental club which is an excellent club, taking very good care of the birds whilst also providing excellent racing. This particular hen has come well from these races and was sent as a part of a team of 11 hens which we sent to the Alencon 2 race with the BICC as it is shown on the BICC website. She was 5<sup>th</sup> section, 41<sup>st</sup> Open from around 4,000 birds entered. She was rested and then has been sent to the East of England again where she continued to come well. I rested the team for a week and then sent her to the Le Mans race along with 7 others. We had them all back on the day. I race our hens on our own system particularly designed for the hens and they perform well on it, 9/10 times outperforming our cock birds. She was bred from birds purchased from Bernard Carter of the Midlands from his family of Theo Yskout pigeons.”***

***Neil Jones of Sandwich in Kent is usually there or thereabouts in BICC races and in this Le Mans race he clocked one of his team, a two year old, on 1375.0 ypm for 6<sup>th</sup> East section and 9<sup>th</sup> Open. Unfortunately, despite several attempts to contact Neil on the mobile phone number provided I’m afraid that I drew a blank.***

***Finishing off the top ten of the Open result on 1373.6 is one to the top class Essex loft of Gladwin, Jarvis & Family and this is what John Gladwin had to say about his pigeon:- “Firstly I would like to say well done to J Clarke and Daughter on a very good win. My first pigeon is a yearling Frans Zwol hen she raced on the north rd as a Y/B scoring in the Combine from the longest y/b race. This year she has worked hard with this being her 5th channel race of the season. If I am honest I think the best form in my loft has gone this year so I***



*decided not to send any cocks and just put 7 hens into the race. For what turned out to be one of the best races we have had all season with all 7 home in good time. My first hen as I said is a Formula 1 lofts bred Frans Zwol she has the same sire as our North Road Combine winner from Thurso 512 miles (last year) being bred from 065 who is a direct son of D'artagnan who is also G.sire of Max our BICC winner from Alencon 2015 and 3rd section NFC this year. He is also the sire of our South Road Combine winner from Falaise this year when 202 members sent 2,095 birds. He is also G.G Sire of 1st Amal against 5,500+ birds from 180 miles. The dam of our first bird is a super breeding daughter of Tip Top Junior she has bred 16x1sts and many other top positions including 1st section and 1st open NFC gold ring in 2012."*

*The North East section winner on 1346 ypm was racing to the Norwich lofts of Alan and Tony Wright. The Wrights enjoyed an excellent days racing with the BICC as they also had a super pigeon to win the BICC Marseille race. The Le Mans section winner is a two year old blue cock bred from a direct Gaston Wouwer and Gerard & Piet Lindelauf stock pair. I assume he was raced on widowhood?*

*Second North East section was won by Mr & Mrs Roger Strowger's pigeon on 1339 ypm. Roger's timer is a yearling blue hen sent sitting 12 day eggs. Her sire was bred by J Wickham of Ipswich and purchased in a B/B sale and is of Vandenabeele bloodlines. Dam is a Herman Ceusters hen bred by Flowers & Clark. Roger has asked me to congratulate Alan and Tony Wright on their double success and to thank Bobby Bruce and Mo Churchyard for all their help.*

*Third North East section is a yearling to R Fenech & Son on 1322 ypm. Bob had this to tell me about his move to Norfolk and his racing since the move: "We moved to Norfolk in 2013 and raced young birds and we are still trying to get a small Channel team of hens. The pigeon we got yesterday was a Cooreman yearling, she is a grand daughter of "Oswald" when paired to a daughter of "Blauw Bolt". These are the lines that we were getting on the North Road up to 500 miles from Thurso on the day. The hen topped the East Anglian Fed as a youngster last year when she also flew Guernsey in the BICC on the day. She has had six races this year, five on the land and this is her second time across the Channel this*



*year. She is raced on widowhood and we are using a reversed widowhood system for the hens. Hopefully within the next couple of years we can build up our numbers to be more competitive across the Channel.*

*Inland we have had a great season with our widowhood cocks. We have had 10 x 1<sup>st</sup> Open Fed wins up to date and the hens often went with the cocks for preparation races for the Channel. The hens were coming extremely well on the system we were using.”*



*North Central section winner is a yearling on 1353 ypm to the Alconbury fancier Clive Brown. The section winner is a Jan Aarden hen which had 3 races to 150 miles as a young bird and a further three races to 160 miles this year before being jumped into Le Mans at 300 miles whilst feeding an 11 day old squab. Her sire is a Louella Leo Pronk cock, a son of Super Duif 058, owned by Clive’s good friend Mike Turner whilst the dam was*

*bred by S Turner of Chesterfield from Raymond Moleveld stock. This is Clive’s first full season back in the sport following a 3 year break and he has asked me to thank all who have phoned him especially his mates from his old stomping ground in the East End of London.*

*Congratulations too, to the Open winner and all the section winners and a special thank you to his club secretary and to Russell and Clare who run the Northampton marking station.*

*In the R/U spot in this section is one to Dudley Holmes on 1315 ypm.*

*Here’s what Dudley had to say: “I am pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to the Le Mans result. The bird is a blue yearling cock, flown on widowhood, which has shown a lot of promise all season.*



*He was the first bird to the loft every week leading up to the TNFC Fougères, which was his first channel race.*

*He didn’t make it on the day and on his return he was well out of sorts. He was rested for a couple of weeks and then re-introduced into the club programme,*

*Each week he started to improve and was with the first batch of 7 pigeons to arrive from Newbury (100 miles) the week before the Le Mans race.*

*His father is out of my top line of Soontjens and his mother is a Janssen, being a full sister to the cock which won this race in 2012.*

*Last year the members of our club decided that we would look for weekly racing, in preparation for Nationals, on a better flight line than we were achieving with the existing Federation.*

*Two Federations were approached, both of which declined our membership. So along with two other clubs we formed a new Federation. This has now proved to be successful and hopefully will help the members achieve better National results.*

*Finally, congratulations to the winners and Mr Brown the NC section winner. Also thank you to the Boston boys for taking the birds to the marking station.”*

*B & P Loom of Wyboston come in at third NC section with a bird on 1311 ypm. No further details.*

*Topping the west section was a yearling to the loft of Graham Clift doing 1278 ypm. This is what Graham told me about his timer:-*

*“Just a few lines on the pigeon I timed today from Le Mans.*

*The strong west wind developed into a testing fly for the west section birds.*

*I was pleased with my yearlings as they were not raced as young birds this being their second channel race.*

*They performed well two weeks ago from Fougères with the BBC taking several good section positions.*

*My first pigeon is bred from pigeons obtained from Mark Gilbert & Geoff & Catherine Cooper the sire being from a son of "Southfield Supreme" when paired to a daughter of "Farmer George" the dam from a son of "Southfield Supreme" and daughter of "George".*

*My first four pigeons were yearlings my second and third pigeons within 15 minutes of the first.”*



*In second place in the West section on 1265 ypm is one to the Wiltshire partnership of Mr&Mrs D Chambers. They clocked a barless mealy hen of Jim Biss x Louella Flying Ebony lines sent sitting ten day eggs. This*



*hen is already a winner of 2 x 1sts this season so is certainly one to look for in future seasons.*

*Third west section is the excellent Bristol partnership of R E Taylor & sons with a bird on 1230 ypm.*

*This yearling cock was sent trying to call a hen to a perch. Unraced as a young bird, this season the cock has had 3 channel races with the Bristol Fed as far as Messac and was bred from a pair of gift birds from top local fancier Colston Long.*



*North West section winners are the “Tewkesbury*



*terrors” Booth & Roper who always appear at or near the top of the NW section results. Here’s what Trevor had to tell me about their latest section winning performance:-*

*“Firstly we would like to congratulate J. Clarke & Daughter on winning the Open and Graham Clift on winning the WS section and all section winners. The first pigeon is a blue chequer Widowhood cock bred on Brian Sheppard family lines crossed with our very reliable Albert Babbington Van den Bosche strain. This cock has been very consistent over the last 2 years taking club prizes and recently 28th section, 134th Open NFC Ancenis . This is the third section winner for our partnership in BICC races this year. Also huge thanks to the marking team at Evesham for their help and support, an excellent team, and well done Gavin on mastering multi tasking!!! Yours in Sport, Trevor & John”*

*T & J Davies come in at 2<sup>nd</sup> NW section on 1265 ypm.*

*This is what Jeremy Davies had to say:- “We sent to Le Mans mainly to test out recent blood lines that has been purchased over the last two years for marathon racing in the future , we sent mostly*



*yearlings that were not raced as young birds but we did send five two year olds. First on the clock is a promising hen for the future she is bred off direct Louella stock being a direct daughter off De Barcelona 241 which was 1st Dutch National Barcelona 7,016b he was paired on a*

*daughter of True Grit and La Rosa Bonita , the sire of our first timer and our 2nd but that being onto a direct Chris Gordon hen is a cock producing very good pigeons for us is a direct Mark Gilbert pigeon being a Grand son of Euro Diamond with the lines of Ted and Champion Magnus in the pedigree. We would like to congratulate the section winners Booth & Roper plus all the other section winners and the Open winners. We also like to thank the marking team at Evesham and to the conveyers as the birds returned in great condition”.*

*M & C Lee take 3<sup>rd</sup> NW section with their first in the clock doing 1081 ypm.*

*Well that endeth the lesson on a pretty hectic weekend for the BICC. It seems to have been a good race for most but I know from speaking to a Gwent Greater Distance club member, that the birds seemed to struggle into Wales for some unknown reason.*

*Last old bird race is from Perpignan on the weekend of 29<sup>th</sup> July. Good luck to all who enter pigeons and let's pray for a little East in the wind!!!*

*Gareth Watkins*