

**A & T WRIGHT 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN BICC MARSEILLE 2016.**



*The following article is based on an interview with the winners of the 2016 BICC Marseille International race. This race, like all the other International races this season, proved to be a very difficult affair and the Wright pigeon was obviously made of the “right stuff”, no pun intended, as it not only won the race but was to prove to be the longest flying bird in race time.*



*Allan & Tom Wright 1st Open BICC Marseille International*

*The following are the brief responses to my questions.*

*When did you start in the sport?  
1969*

*Who was your first major influence?*

*A H Bennett of Church Stretton , Shropshire. {A truly great long distance fancier and King’s Cup winner from Pau at 680 miles. GW}*

*What was your first loft like?*

*Just a 12 ft loft, with gifted pigeons and raced on the natural system.*

*How long have you been at your present location?*

*About 12 years.*

*What is your present loft set up?*

*We have four lofts for our race team, all lofts are 8ft wide.*

*Loft 1 is a 16ft widowhood loft with 2 sections.*

*Loft 2 is a 24 ft widowhood loft with 3 sections.*

*Loft 3 is 16ft widowhood loft with 2 sections.*

*Loft 4 is 16ft with 2 sections for young birds.*

*Each of the widowhood sections has 12 nest boxes and usually house just 8 birds in each section.*

*Do you clean lofts regularly or do you employ a form of deep litter?*

*We clean the nest boxes every 2 days and the loft, floor every couple of weeks.*



*How many pigeons do your lofts house?*

*We race a team of 60/70 widowhood cocks plus a team of 24 pairs of stock and rear around 100 young birds each year.*

*When do you mate your birds?*

*Stock and racers are mated around about 3rd week in February as we like to float eggs off the best racing cocks.*



*What is your pre season exercise /training regime for the racers?*

*We allow the birds to fly out without forcing until they are flying well and then training starts at 20-30 miles. We don't force the birds to fly when at exercise they are allowed to do as they please.*

*How often do you exercise the race team?*

*They go out in the morning at 6am for an hour and again in the evenings for 1 hour.*

*Do you train the racers mid week?*

*This depends on how and when they come from the races. If we think it necessary we train from 30 miles with just 2 good tosses.*

*Do you race your young birds?*

*No racing as young birds but train, train them as much as possible.*

*How and what do you feed your team?*

*Racers are fed small amounts at a time so they eat all grains. Young birds are fed the same way and the stock birds are hopper fed. We use 3 different brands and mix these together with some seed added for the long distance racers.*



*What bloodlines do you house?*

*Any good distance blood that we then like to Cross breed for racing purposes.*

*We read and listen to good fanciers, then pick out the relevant points that could improve our birds.*

*Which type of racing do you prefer?*

*Before the last 3 seasons we were mainly concentrating on sprint racing, we topped the Federation on points a few times and runners up a few times, and took several prominent positions in the North Road Championship Club.*

*How do you think the sport can be improved to encourage new members?*

*We always give new fanciers a couple of pigeons and help as much as we can.*

*Do you have a specific system of medication for your birds?*

*We treat pigeons only when necessary and give Vitamins and minerals and various products.*

*What does your ideal pigeon look /handle like?*

*Small to medium with good balance, but if they win they all seem to handle better.*

*If you could only use one specific what would it be?*

*Garlic.*

*There you go then, short, sharp and to the point!*

*Congratulations Alan and Tom on a truly outstanding achievement.*

*Gareth Watkins*