



### ***BICC FALAISE YOUNG BIRD & ANY AGE RACE REPORT.***

***The final race of the 2016 BICC 15 race programme was scheduled to take place from Falaise on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September.***

***However, due to a rain bearing weather front crossing the British Isles and the English Channel on the scheduled race day, the convoy of 2,044 birds made up of 1,578 young birds and 476 old birds was eventually liberated at 7.45 am on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September into clear skies and no wind. Line of flight was forecast to be clear with just a hint of a light northerly breeze over the English Channel.***

***On the Sussex coast there was not a cloud in the sky with visibility of 20 miles or more across the channel and a dead calm sea akin to a mill pond with no wind, in short a beautiful morning with ideal conditions for the final race of the BICC race programme.***

***Steve Appleby's Weather report for the day of the race:-***

***Blue skies and broken cloud was the flight path from northern France to England. Fortunately the cloud cover over the race point soon broke up allowing race controller Mark Gilbert to give convoyers, Trevor and Stephen, the go ahead and liberate the BICC convoy from Falaise. Winds at the race point were light and variable but as the convoy approached the French coast line they encountered a northerly air flow. This was clearly evident as the web cam overlooking the beach out to sea at Caen showed the flags out stretched confirming the northerly influence in the wind. The data from the Greenwich light ship moored centre right channel also gave wind direction as north, north west at about 10 mph and visibility endless. Further to the west over the***

*channel the winds were south westerly. Conditions over the southern coast line of England were also very good where winds were a light southerly. When the B.I.C.C. convoy in northern France reached the channel the pigeons would have had to face the north in the wind and the vast expanse of open sea. Well done to all the birds reaching their home lofts.*

*Steve Appleby , weather advisor.*

*In view of the difficulty of the race that followed, here is a race report statement from the Race Advisory team.*

*Falaise Race Statement:*

*'The Race Advisory team are aware that in particular YB returns from the Falaise race were not good, despite excellent flying conditions in France, the English Channel and most parts of the UK. Many areas had wall to wall sunshine from dawn till dusk and it was pleasantly warm. Visibility in the channel was endless and the sea was like a millpond. Winds were very light and variable going from SW to SE which confirms the winning Welsh birds probably had some help from the light SE wind. However the preliminary result shows birds being timed in Wales and also across as far as Essex and Norfolk, with not a lot of difference in velocities for the early ones. Trevor confirms the birds cleared well from Falaise and when driving back to Caen it was a superb morning with blue skies and sunshine. However, an image captured on the web cam around 6am at Quistream (Caen) does show the flags and windsock flying in a northerly breeze off the sea. So did this turn the bulk of the birds when they reached there, say around 8-45am? You will be aware that other organizations have also had difficult young bird racing from mainland France in 2016. We are at a loss to give you an explanation on what should have been the most perfect flying day.'*

*Mark Gilbert, John Tyerman, Steve Appleby and Trevor Cracknell.  
Race Advisory Team.*

*I reproduce here a breakdown of the numbers of birds entered at the various marking stations as supplied to me by our secretary, Carol.*

<i>FALAISE OB</i>		<i>FALAISE YB</i>	
<i>MEMBERS</i>	<i>BIRDAGE</i>	<i>MEMBERS</i>	<i>BIRDAGE</i>
<i>NORWICH</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>NORWICH</i>	<i>72</i>

<b>STOWMARKET</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>STOWMARKET</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>EVESHAM</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>EVESHAM</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>HORNDEAN</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>HORNDEAN</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>ASH</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>ASH</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>BROMLEY</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>BROMLEY</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>LOWESTOFT</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>LOWESTOFT</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>IPSWICH</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>IPSWICH</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>DISS</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>DISS</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>RADSTOCK</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>RADSTOCK</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>GWENT</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>GWENT</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>BRIGHTON</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>BRIGHTON</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>S/OCKENDEN</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>S/OCKENDEN</b>	<b>386</b>
<b>CHESTFIELD</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>CHESTFIELD</b>	<b>144</b>
<b>NORTHAMPTON</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>NORTHAMPTON</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>STEVENTON</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>STEVENTON</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1578</b>

*This report is based on the provisional result. The final result may well differ considerably.*



***Preece Brothers & Sons of Cwmtillery 1st Open BICC Falaise YB.  
The late Henry Preece centre back row***

*So to the Young Bird National result and here we see the Welsh contingent, lead by the outstanding multi National and double Queen's Cup winning partnership of Preece Brothers & Sons of Cwmtillery come out on top with a young bird recording 1393 ypm to lead the field of both young birds and old birds. Here, in brief is what John Preece had to tell me about their latest National winner:-*

*Today we timed a medium to small chequer hen flown on darkness system, now named "Gwasted Polly". She was sent smooching with an*



*old cock and was our pick of the young birds. "Polly" was our Llanhilleth b/b and is a full sister to our 2015 gold cup winner. Her sire is our no 1 stock cock "Gwasted Nikon" sire of numerous channel performers for us from 190 miles to 606 miles being a combination of all our old blood Lefebre/Dhaenen/Burgham*

*Bros and Morgan & Cook. The dam was a gift to our henry from Geoff and Catherine Cooper being a direct daughter of champion Wiggler. She has also bred numerous other good pigeons for us.*

*"Polly" has had three races in the build up to Falaise the longest last week at 110 miles. We had to wait a while for our other 2 entries but were pleased to have all home for the first time this year. I would like to thank my brother Leigh, for without his help I would not be able to look after the birds. Also my brother Colin who has nothing do with the birds but due to me not being able to walk far, has picked me up every morning so that I can see to the birds. Last but not least, the members of Cwmtillery R.P.C on another super weekend of racing – 1st 2nd & 3rd open BICC young bird national and 1st 2nd & 3rd WSRNFC as well. Well done boys.*

*In second West section and 2<sup>nd</sup> Open velocity 1258 ypm is one to the Six Bells [Abertillery] loft of husband and wife partners John and Pat Webber, who themselves have also won more than half a dozen Nationals here in Wales on North, South and South East routes. This is what John and Pat had to tell me:-*

*"Our pigeon this week is a smokey blue cock flown on the darkness system originating from Peter Norton's Van Reet family. He is a grandson of champion Giggys. He went missing in the beginning of the season for a week from one of our very stressful training tosses and needed time out to recover from his injuries. He had three races prior to Falaise and was always bouncing on return. After his last race from Bedhampton he decided he was going to pair with a hen that was already paired to a cock in the box*



*next to his, so he spent the week fighting for his new mate which created a natural jealousy system and gave him the extra pull he needed to break for home. We would like to add congratulations to our Cwmtillery club members who gained 1st and 3rd open in this race. Once again we would like to thank the convoyers for the pigeon's superb condition on his return and we would also like to say well done to the Welsh South Road Federation committee for their initiative in approaching the BICC to enable us to have a final overseas race at such short notice."*



*Williams, Brothers & Son of Tredegar, who are previous winners of the BICC, complete the top three in the Young bird Open result with a bird on 1250 ypm. The partners clocked a light Chequer Cock raced on the darkness and racing to the perch. He has shown no*

*interest in a hen and his last race before Falaise was 2 weeks previously from Epsom with the WNRF. His sire is partners' good racer 'LITTLE SPRUT' which has won many prizes including 8th Open National Saintes and 4th Open National Tarbes this year. Little Sprut was paired to a Brockamp hen bred for stock and she is from a Grandson of 'EURO DIAMOND' x direct daughter of 'HANNAH'. This proved to be a good money spinner for the lads as the cock also won the Rhymney Valley B/B .*

*Winning 1<sup>st</sup> NE section 4<sup>th</sup> Open on 1248 ypm is a bird racing to the far side of the country at the Bury St Edmunds loft of Shaughan T Nicholson. Shaughan's timer was actually bred for him by Ron Prewer of Bury St Edmunds. The father is a Janssen cock which has won 2 firsts this year. The mother is a hen that Shaughan bred for Ron Prewer last year and is a Gaby Vandenabeele. The young hen was sent sitting 10 day old eggs.*



*Yet another section winner comes in next at 5<sup>th</sup> Open and this one takes premier honours in the East section on 1229 ypm for Colchester fancier Anthony Royce. "Rodney" as he is known by everyone has this year decided to race south with young birds and is a member of the Thames*

*North East Counties marking for club races at Colchester. Rod races a*



*small team and the young birds have come well for him this year. He sent to a few inland club races but had his eye on the channel races especially Falaise with the BICC where he sent 5. Rod had been using Terry Bentham's local club trainer*

*to prepare the birds. The Falaise team missed the club race the week before, as Rod decided to send them with the club trainer instead and this clearly worked. The section winner is bred down from a Soontjen sire from Fenwick and Howard which has already bred 3x 1sts. The dam is from the aforementioned Terry Bentham a Vandenabeele that is responsible for 3x1st Feds and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Amalgamation .*

*We are back over in the West section for the winner of 6<sup>th</sup> Open and this one is to the Cheltenham fancier Aaron Haines with a velocity of 1211 ypm.*

*Aaron clocked a young dark chequer cock flown on the lightness system bred from his young Boris family which originate from Richard Green, when crossed in with a son of Louis from Matt Rakes. This cock was kindly loaned to Aaron by Tom Scott. Aaron would like to thank Gavin Dugan and his team for the marking station at Evesham!*



*Back over to the East of the country now where G & J Hunt of Norwich come in with a bird on 1185 ypm to take 2<sup>nd</sup> NE section and 7<sup>th</sup> Open. The partners clocked a small chequer hen. An obviously delighted Gary had this to tell me about the race:-*

*“We timed in at 14.01pm - fastest into Norfolk. I should have four young birds in the Top 10 section. The first young bird was bred by my dad from his Maurice Mattheeuws lines which he has won many races on the North road. This young hen was my first young bird from*

*Eastbourne a few weeks ago on a strong north east wind. Furthermore, she also went to Guernsey and had seven hours on the wing, so she's definitely showing promise for the future.*

*I have won the averages and points in the club last year with my young birds and decided to concentrate on the two young bird Nationals this year so I decided to change my feeding programme. I won the Guernsey young bird race within the club and also won the Guernsey old bird race too. Now that I have won the Falaise young bird club race, I have succeeded on what I set out to do.*

*I would like to thank Mick Bundy, Roger Wilson and my dad, John Hunt, for all the top young birds that they have bred me in the last couple of years.*

*I have only been racing in the strong Diss & District club the last three years as I moved from Norwich to Tibenham. I was 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Falaise in Diss club."*



*Russell Ayres of Aldershot tops the Centre section and takes 8<sup>th</sup> Open on 1172 ypm . Here's what Russell had to tell me about his timer:-*

*"I would like to thank the officials of the BICC for all their hard work again this season running this great organisation. Also to congratulate Preece Bros and sons on their victory. My section winner ( never thought I would write that!) is a mealy w/f hen Janssen X De Rauw Sablon. The sire "333" is a red cock from stock from R Keegan & Son "Red*

*Ceaser" and the great Hollywood "Derby Cock" lines. When I restarted in the sport Brian Keegan supplied me with the best of his Janssens & Hofkens, they are still winning for me ten years later. Many thanks Brian for the pigeons and tutoring. The dam is a gift pigeon from Steve and Jackie McPhail of Rodboro stud. She is the very best of their de Rauw Sablon lines which has already bred me prize winners. Steve also gifted me the Frans Zwols yearling hen that was my first bird in the any age race. "Aerial" named by my 9 year old son Aaron was prepared for the race with one club race from Blandford, a midweek Hamworthy and private training from the coast. She was one of several hens showing interest in an old cock bird. She is raced on Natural not Darkness. I must also thank my very forgiving and understanding wife Vicki who I know feels like a pigeon widow at times. Also thanks to*

*Steve "Weatherman" Appleby and Peter Sharman for their help over the last few years. It is very much appreciated".*

*Vic Belcher and Son Anthony, of Eltham have only just returned to the sport and in the 76 year old Vic's case, after a 30 year break!!*

*However, they are obviously quick learners as in the Falaise YB race they clocked a chequer cock on 1157 ypm to take 2<sup>nd</sup> East section 9<sup>th</sup> Open. This one is of Stoffel bloodlines and purchased in a club B/B bred by Dave Malpass. Not only did the cock win 9<sup>th</sup> Open BICC but he and the other Malpass bred B/B purchase won 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> in the B/B scheme.*

*Ray Strawbridge and John Williams finish off the top ten in the Open with a bird taking 5<sup>th</sup> West section on 1150 ypm. Finally, literally the last fancier to provide information for this report, is Ray Strawbridge, fellow Welshman and BICC*



*Committeeman. Here's what Ray eventually came up with after a number of requests for the info':-*

*"Sire is out of a pair of John Williams' birds. An Andy Gregson cock and a hen of Dennis Ford that has 5 National winners in her blood. This pair has bred many winners for John and Dennis including a 1st and 3rd National winners.*

*Dam is out of a son of 'Tom Thumb' my Barcelona section winner with the BICC when he was paired to the dam of Dennis Ford's Champion 'Seren Eleven' and my good hen 'Marie', a double GGDC winner from Perpignan and 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> section BICC."*

*Around the sections now and I have covered the West section in the top three Open positions.*

*In the East section we see Anthony Royce takes top honours with a young bird on 1229 ypm.*

*R/U in the East section on 1157 ypm taking 9<sup>th</sup> Open, is one to Belcher & Son with E Guinchard of Upminster in Essex taking 3<sup>rd</sup> section 14<sup>th</sup> Open on 1124 ypm. The Guinchard pigeon is a Koopman blue hen bred by Tim and Jan Rodwell and is closely related to a number of top racers including Fed winners. She is raced on the natural system and was*

*having her first stab at the Channel following three inland preparatory races.*

*Centre section winner is Russell Ayres timer on 1172 ypm which also finishes at 8<sup>th</sup> Open. Russell Torno clocked on 1138 ypm to take 2<sup>nd</sup> Centre section 11<sup>th</sup> Open.*

*Russell clocked a young Blue cock. He also wins 1st Club at Lambert FC and most likely 1st BB&O Federation in this Falaise race. Bloodlines are Janssen and he was raced on Darkness.*



*Terry Smart's timer comes in at 3<sup>rd</sup> Centre section 12<sup>th</sup> Open on 1128 ypm. Here's what Terry had to tell me about his recent return to the sport:- "A bit about myself, I have returned to pigeons after a 20 year lay off and this is my second season. My only claim to fame is that I was secretary of the London & South East Classic Club from its second year for about seven or eight years and helped increase the membership from 62 members to almost 700. The pigeon I timed from Falaise was purchased at Spelthorne South Road Flying Clubs Breeder Buyer Sale it is 100% Fountainhead Lofts Busschaert, Both parents bred by the late Eddie Wright. The Blue Chequer Cock was kindly donated by Paul Llewellyn & Grandson from Wiltshire, he has flown all club races and was flying to the perch. Thanks Paul for donating a good one! I only keep a very small team just for the fun of it, in fact my loft is the same size as a sheet of plywood 8ft x 4ft. Well done to all the prize winners in what I think was a very testing race."*

*The North East section saw Shaughan Nicholson take the red card on 1248 finishing at 1<sup>st</sup> NE section 4<sup>th</sup> Open.*

*G & J Hunt come in with one on 1185 ypm for 2<sup>nd</sup> NE section 7<sup>th</sup> Open.*

*Jeremy Nicholson which takes 3<sup>rd</sup> NE section 13<sup>th</sup> Open on 1128 ypm.*



*This is Jeremy's take on the race:- "Firstly I would like to congratulate the winner and section winners on what turned out to be a very testing race. My only bird on the day was a blue chequer hen, she is a Lindelauf out of a pair of stock birds from the late Mike Rodgers from Bromsgrove crossed with a De Klak cock also from*

*Mick paired to a Wal Zoontjens hen from Tony Calver of Ipswich. This hen also won the Aldeburgh breeder buyer last week so she was showing good form. I would just like to thank the convoyers and race controllers and committee and not forgetting Carol for a very enjoyable programme of races this year well done and I look forward to racing with you in 2017.”*

*North Central section winner is M Wright & Son on 990 ypm.*

*Martin also takes 4<sup>th</sup> section on the provisional OH result. In the young bird race he clocked a young chequer hen of Vandenabeele x Long Distance bloodlines raced on the natural system. The hen hadn't had any previous race experience but had been extensively trained to 40 miles from all points of the compass in preparation for the 240 mile trip from Falaise. This was the only day bird in the NC section.*



*Taking 2<sup>nd</sup> NC section is one to Clive Brown on 507 ypm clocked on the second morning. Clive's timer is a chequer w/f Jan Aarden hen whose sire is a direct son of De Cas from the House of Aarden. She has had four inland races in the build up to Falaise and was racing to the perch. Clive would like to congratulate all the winners in the Open and sections and wish Carol our secretary a speedy recovery.*

*Vincent Mudd also clocked on the second morning – after a considerable delay as he wasn't aware that it was a two day race!! The bird was spotted by a neighbour at 7.45 am but Vincent didn't clock him until after 9 am when he had been informed that it was a two day race. The bird is a young Busschaert cock raced on the darkness and his ½ brother took 5<sup>th</sup> section in the OB race the same day.*

*On now to the winners in the Old Bird race and coming out top of the pile here is one to the Downend, Bristol partnership of Mr & Mrs R J Hill & Daughter. The Hills' pigeon recorded 1343 ypm for 1<sup>st</sup> West section 1<sup>st</sup> Open. This is what they had to say about their race experience:-*

*“The Falaise race turned out to be a lot more difficult than we anticipated, as the birds were quite tired and obviously had to work hard to reach home. However we are more than satisfied to have won the first National we have ever competed in. Our winner, a blue pied hen, is a first cross bred from a great grandson of M&D Evans' Eisenhower and a hen bred from a pair of Van Reets we acquired from Lee Birrell of Kingswood in Bristol who now resides in Australia.*”



***Mr & Mrs Hill 1st Open BICC OB Falaise race***

*To prepare our hens for the later races in August and September, we pair them up at the end of the old bird season (we race widowhood hens and cocks) and during this period they are given an open loft. We do not train them, but each week they go with the Bristol Fed young birds as trainers, normally about 60 miles to us. The winning hen was sitting one day overdue eggs when sent to Falaise. Our pigeons are fed Versele-Laga Super Star Plus with fresh water twice daily. We would like to thank Gill and Clive Rogers for their hospitality during marking in Radstock.”*

*Topping the Centre section and coming in at 2<sup>nd</sup> Open on 1341 ypm is one to A Hand & Son of Hampton. She is yearling hen that had 2 races as a young bird and this was her second race this year.*

*Her sire was bred by Mark Gilbert and is Deweerdt on one side crossed with a son of Smaragd 11 that was purchased on Elimar for just £80. The dam is Jan Loots via Mr & Mrs Kirkbride. The hen has had 4 x 50 mile tosses and 3 x 40 mile tosses in the last 10 days before the race.*





*At third Open we see another section winning partnership, that of Booth & Roper of Tewkesbury clock on 1303 ypm for 1<sup>st</sup> North West section.*

*John & Trevor sent 3 birds to the race and had two yearling hens arrive together who were on the clock 5 seconds apart. These two take 1st section, 3rd open on the provisional result. Both hens are bred on the Jan Aarden and Brian Sheppard lines. The*

*partners would like to thank all at the Evesham marking station and Carol Francis for doing an excellent job.*



*Yet another “ever present” comes in next at 2<sup>nd</sup> NW section 4<sup>th</sup> Open and this is John Rodway with a bird doing 1289 ypm. John clocked a blue chequer cock bred in 2010. John tells me that it has been an average type of bird, having won a couple of minor prizes. However it has mostly been unreliable as it often comes hours behind, or has nights out even when*

*racing inland. He was sent feeding a big youngster and arrived off line from the north east. John’s returns on the day were 4 out of 7. The Rodway feeding system is cereal based with rolled barley, kibbled maize, layers pellets, rolled oats, plus when rearing youngsters small amounts of economy mixtures. He would like to send his thanks to the convoyer and marking team at Evesham.*

*Micky Watts of Southminster takes 1<sup>st</sup> East section 5<sup>th</sup> Open with a bird on 1244 ypm, following on from his Open winning performance in the recent Guernsey OH’s race. I don’t have any information on Micky’s pigeon but I would think it would contain his multi National winning M & D Evans Vandenabeele bloodlines???*

*Chris Templar of Bristol recorded a bird doing 1234 ypm to take 2<sup>nd</sup> West section 6<sup>th</sup> Open. This is what Chris had to say about the race:-  
“First of all I would like to congratulate Rob Hill on winning the Old*

*Bird race with the BICC. The 7 hens I sent were hens which came back from the National the day before. They arrived in such good condition so I left them with the cocks all day and night. The morning of basketting I had a good look at them and felt that I had 7 of the 9 I got from the National race on the day. The first hen is bred from a grandson of the excellent cock from Alun Maull and the dam is one I purchased from the Gerrit Lahuis clearance sale on G P S Auctions.”*

*The winner in the North Central section also taking 7<sup>th</sup> Open on 1232 ypm is one to Gary Carter. Gary clocked a yearling hen bred by John Rodway and bought by Gary in an Evesham club sale. In fact John gifted Gary four young birds at the time. The hen was trained only as a youngster in 2015 and this year has had a couple of inland races and was then sent to Falaise feeding a 14 day old youngster. Gary has asked me to thank all at the Evesham Marking Station especially Gavin Duggan and Robert Boff for all their hard work. Also thanks to the convoyers.*



*Paddy Kelly of Harlow takes 2<sup>nd</sup> East section 8<sup>th</sup> Open with a yearling hen sent sitting 10 days. She was also 28<sup>th</sup> Open BICC Guernsey 3 weeks back. She was bred by Paddy’s friend Dave Paine from St Neots.*

*Graham Seaman tops the North East section and takes 9<sup>th</sup> Open on 1207.3 ypm. Graham clocked a 3 year old mealy hen flying on natural and sitting a one day old baby. She has always been very consistent over the water especially on the harder races. The sire won 1st club, 1st Norfolk & Suffolk, 1st open Norfolk & Suffolk and 1st Anglian Classic FC. The dam was bred through the late Len Lager Jansen lines.*



*Mike Turner of Alconbury comes in at 2<sup>nd</sup> NC section to finish off the top ten of the Open result with a bird on 1207.1 ypm. Mike had this to tell me about his pigeon:- “My 2nd section pigeon is a yearling Jan Aarden hen. She had been very lightly raced this year, having just three races prior to going to Falaise with the BICC as this*

*was the race I had targeted her for. She was sent sitting 16 day old eggs and the night before basketing she was given a small youngster - this youngster being the first squab she has ever had. She was bred by my good friend and neighbour Clive Brown, her sire being one of his Jan Aarden based stock birds and her dam being one of my own Jan Aarden based stock hens. I sent 6 old hens and had 4 return on the day and another one since. All 6 hens were sent on chipping eggs or small youngsters. I like to feed all my birds fairly heavy twice per day but due to my job I am unable to have a set routine and I have to rely on my wife Pam to help me with the feeding and training. She is a great help to me and without her support I would not have the time to race pigeons. As we all know by now this proved to be a tough race for both the old birds and youngsters and I hope many of the missing birds have made it home.*

*I race in the very strong Huntingdon South Road Pigeon Racing Club which can boast of having a good number of National Winners, Section Winners, Combine and Federation winners in its ranks. The friendship, camaraderie and willingness to help each other is truly amazing.”*

*In the old bird race we see all six section winners take top ten positions in the Open which shows one thing quite clearly – the wind direction had little effect on the old birds.*



*Around the sections and in the West section we have the Hills at 1<sup>st</sup> section 1<sup>st</sup> Open vel 1343 ypm with Chris Templar of Bristol (left) in at 2<sup>nd</sup> section 6<sup>th</sup> Open followed by one to Chris Davies of Banwen (right), high up in the Welsh Mountains near Neath, taking 3<sup>rd</sup> section 19<sup>th</sup> Open vel 1123 ypm.*



*Chris clocked a gift bird from Dave Albert of Llanelli. She is bred from a Jan Aarden sire when mated to a Southwell hen. She has been separated from her mate for a while and was re mated in preparation for Falaise. Chris would like to congratulate the winners and thank the officials of the BICC for all their hard work on behalf of the members.*

*Centre section winners and R/U in the Open result are A Hand & son on 1341 ypm.*

*Wearn Brothers & Neilsen come in at 2<sup>nd</sup> Centre section 11<sup>th</sup> Open on 1194 ypm with a 7 year old hen which is a multiple prizewinner for the*

*partners including a 1<sup>st</sup> sect NFC in the OH 's National. She is of the old Fred Bloor Stichelbaut family that the partners have cultivated for many years and flew Tarbes earlier in the season. Since Tarbes she has been celibate and was given 3 x 60 mile trainers and then packed off to Falaise with every confidence.*

*Jitendra Patel's timer takes 3<sup>rd</sup> Centre section 13<sup>th</sup> Open vel 1171 ypm. This one is a yearling hen flown celibate. The sire was bred by Gosling & Jarvis and the dam by Lyden Bros of Kent. In fact the dam flew the hard Barcelona race this year.*

*North West section winners Booth & Roper take 3<sup>rd</sup> Open vel 1303 ypm with ever present John Rodway in at 2<sup>nd</sup> NW section 4<sup>th</sup> Open vel 1289 ypm.*

*North Central section winner is Gary Carter on 1232 ypm and this one finishes at 7<sup>th</sup> Open in the old bird result. Mike Turner comes in with one on 1207 ypm for 2<sup>nd</sup> NC section 10<sup>th</sup> Open. C Crick & son of Stotfold, fresh from their double section winning performance in the Guernsey YB & AA race of a few weeks back, take 3<sup>rd</sup> NC section 20<sup>th</sup> Open vel 1121 ypm with a 2 year old hen sent sitting eggs after being used on widowhood earlier in the season.*

*The red rosette in the North East section goes to Graham Seaman's timer recording 1207 ypm followed by one to Paul Austin & son at 2<sup>nd</sup> NE section 15<sup>th</sup> Open vel 1164 ypm. The Austins clocked a two year old Mealy Pied cock of mainly Staf Van Reet bloodlines raced celibate. This result will give 86 year old Paul Austin senior a great lift.*

*The Ipswich partnership of A Wright & Daughter comes in at 3<sup>rd</sup> section 16<sup>th</sup> Open on 1149 ypm. The Wrights clocked a yearling Van Loon hen, racing back to her cock bird.*



*Finally we have the top three in the East section and it's a case of "its that man again" Micky Watts of Southminster who clocked on 1244 ypm to top the East section and finish at 5<sup>th</sup> Open to follow on from his 1<sup>st</sup> Open Old Birds in the recent Guernsey race. P J Kelly's timer takes 2<sup>nd</sup> East section 8<sup>th</sup> Open on 1214 ypm with Terry Wheeler and son Clay of Eltham coming in at 3<sup>rd</sup> East section 12<sup>th</sup> Open on 1175 ypm with a 3 year old Van Loon x Jan Aarden hen sent sitting 14 days. The hen had flown Poitiers and Le Mans earlier in the old bird season and was at Guernsey with the BICC two weeks earlier.*

*This seems to have been a pretty tough race to end a pretty tough season of racing for most, if not all UK organisations. What is more surprising with this race is the fact that apart from a northerly wind in the English Channel, the weather was absolutely perfect for racing with unlimited visibility, broken cloud and for some of the race, a helping south to south westerly wind.*

*It's my firm belief that the pattern of races we have had throughout the UK in 2016 has been caused by something amiss in the atmosphere.*

*Good pigeons, sent in good condition by good fanciers and liberated by good convoyers in good weather conditions are consistently failing to return. Let's hope that the 2017 season will prove to be better.*

*Well that's the final race report over with for 2016.*

*My thanks go to Steve and Colin and the rest of the team at the BHW and Steve Ricketts at the RP for their patience and help over the past five years that I have been Press Officer for, in my opinion, the UK's finest National club. Your help has been much appreciated.*

*Gareth Watkins*