

Rhiannon's Jet Stream Girl

Sometimes, pigeons metaphorically fly under the radar. The subject of this article is one of those. The BICC Any Age races come towards the end of a long season, it can be hard for some fanciers to keep going. Mental exhaustion from the previous 5/6 months starts to take its toll, Winter is just around the corner and fanciers may be thinking of a little rest, maybe even a holiday or two! Not Mr and Mrs Hill and Daughter!



“Jet Stream” is proof of how far we have come in pigeon racing over the last 10-15 years or so. The old methods certainly still have their place, but it is now possible to get old birds racing, and I mean really racing, from April until September. The below transcript is direct from Bob himself, about his Champion, **“Rhiannon's Jet Stream Girl”**.

“To start we would like to thank the BICC marking team at Radstock for their friendly and efficient approach to the job, it's always a pleasant experience. Also thanks to the team and other fanciers at the marking station for helping my wife by carrying the baskets to and from the car because she was on crutches following a knee operation. She didn't have to ask – thanks very much.

Our section winner is called Rhiannon's Jet Stream Girl, after our daughter Rhiannon. Jet Stream was named after winning First Section & First Open in the last BICC race of 2016 from Falaise, our first race with the BICC. This season with the BICC she has also won 2nd section from Alencon, when we were also 1st & 4th section, sending only three pigeons. She came well again from the first Poitiers race this year to take 7th section. We are very proud of Jet Stream's achievements and as we have raced her all season and she's come through it all we can now look forward to having no stress from racing and just looking after her during the Winter.



Jet Stream's sire was bred from a grand-son of Eisenhower x daughter of “Home Alone”, both of which we purchased from M&D Evans in 2009 when paired to a Van Reet hen bred down from pigeons we acquired from Lee Birrell of Bristol (now residing in Australia).

We race our pigeons on widowhood, cocks and hens, and after the last old bird race of the season, we let them pair up and go down on eggs. They are then on open loft. The hens that we plan to send to the Any Age races normally have no further private training but go with the Bristol Fed as trainers with the young birds to keep them ticking over. Jet Stream was sent to Guernsey on two 3 day old chicks.

We feed Superstar Plus and a high protein mix in the run up to a race, however we stopped the high protein mix for the last 5 feeds for this race and gradually added Verselaga Energy Plus. The last 2 feeds were 75% Energy Plus together with 25% Superstar Plus. Peanuts are also given.

To finish I would like to thank Gareth for doing an absolutely brilliant job as Press Officer and, when the time comes, he will be a hard act to follow.”

So there we go. “Jet Stream” scored in May from Alencon, in June from Poitiers, and was then re-energised by being paired up and sitting for September from Guernsey, what a pigeon. Her results this season are highlighted below.

Alencon 13th May, 240 miles – South West wind. 2nd Section, 385 birds and 492nd Open, 5,649 birds

Poitiers 27th May, 372 miles – South wind. 6th Section, 341 birds and 252nd Open, 3,667 birds

Guernsey Any Age National, 9th September, 139 miles – North West wind. 1st Section, 110th Open.

Pigeons like this don’t come around very often, and sometimes because pigeons can “get lost” in an Open result, they are not always highlighted. If you do have a pigeon that has performed very well at Section level in the BICC and has maybe slipped through the net in terms of getting the recognition it deserves then get in touch. As for “Jet Stream”, it’ll be great to see her going for the Hat-Trick come next September! And as for saying Gareth is a hard act to follow.....I’ll second that! But Chris Sutton and I will do our best!

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