

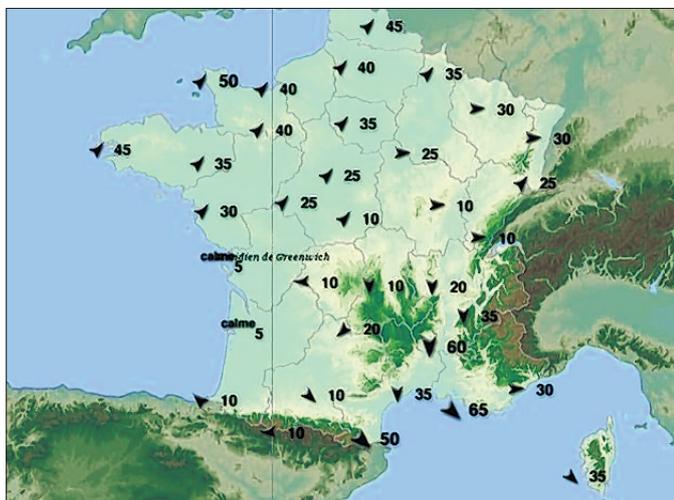
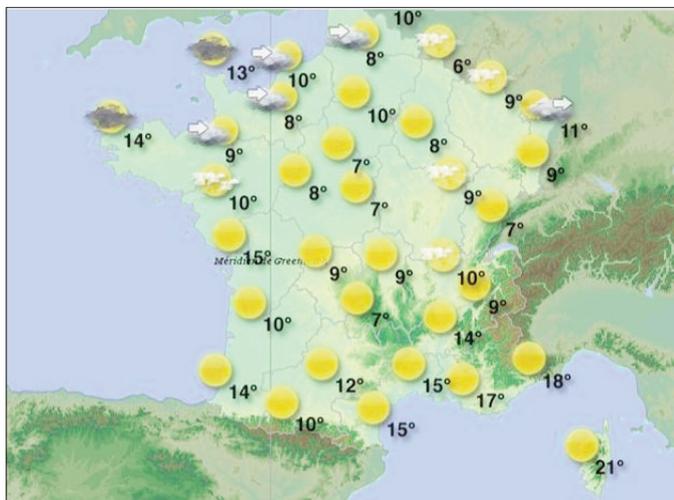


British International Championship Club *St Vincent*

The race point of St Vincent is in the south-west corner of France close to the Atlantic coast and situated between the cities of Dax and Bayonne. At just under 600 miles it is a good test of both pigeon and the fancier's ability to condition 16 ounces of flesh, feather and bone to race home for what could, in ideal conditions, prove to be a one day race. The 2012 St Vincent International attracted a field of 13,085 pigeons from lofts situated throughout Europe. Amongst these were 285 British pigeons entered by 65 battle hardened and enthusiastic UK fanciers. The convoy was eventually liberated at 0600hrs UK time and the map below shows the weather pattern over the course of the race.

Conditions in the English Channel on the first day were difficult to say the least, with strong winds and heavy rain showers throughout the day. Here in South Wales the weather was so bad I wouldn't have put next door's cat out in it! Nevertheless, these British International pigeons are made of stern stuff as a number of hardy individuals crossed the Channel and returned to their home lofts on day of toss with a steady stream of arrivals following on the second morning.

Taking **1st Open** was a 2y blue cock to the Basildon, Essex loft of **Dennis Abbott**. He is of Eric Cannon bloodlines via Keith Mott on his sire's side with Dennis's own family on the dam's side of his pedigree. Mated in late April he has not reared any youngsters this year and was sent to St Vincent driving his hen to nest. As with all the Abbott racers the



Open winner is exercised once per day and allowed to do as they please being fed in to their one meal of the day after exercise. The racers are always fed to appetite on a good widowhood mixture. Congratulations Dennis on a fine win in trying conditions and also wins the House of Aarden sponsored young bird.

In **2nd Open** is a bird to the Wickford loft of **R. Pearmain & Son**. The partners enjoyed an exceptional race here as they clocked a further six birds to take 18th, 28th, 37th, 54th, 56th and 64th Open. The Pearmain team is raced on the natural system and hopper fed on a home made mixture and enjoy an open loft on most days, to come and go as they please. First in the clock is a 2y hen bred from a Nico Volkens cock when mated to the partners' Palamos hen bred down from birds obtained from Alan Parker of Clitheroe in Lancashire. All seven of the birds clocked at St Vincent were at the Pau International in late June. Richard and son Steve raced birds on the north road into the Dagenham area for many years and in fact won 1st Open London North Road Combine with yearlings. Congratulations on a terrific team performance.

The name of **F. Knowles & Son of Wingham in Kent** is synonymous with success in long distance International races having won the Europa Cup awarded for best average all International races three times in the past few seasons. In the St Vincent race Simon clocked six pigeons to finish at 3rd, 30th, 32nd, 52nd, 73rd and 74th Open. The first of these was a dark chequer Southwell hen gifted by good friends Derek & Margaret Adams of Canterbury. The six were conditioned for International racing by having two short Channel races with the EECC, topped up with four inland trainers from 100 miles with the local Wingham Club. All racers are mated in late April and are raced on the natural system being allowed an open loft to come and go as they please for most of the daylight hours. They are hopper fed on Bucktons Irish Mix supplemented with peanuts and sunflower hearts as the longer races approach. A full account of the Knowles loft can be found on the BICC web site in an article I wrote earlier in the year.

Taking **4th Open**, **Nigel Truelove**, who, along with his family of helpers, has enjoyed a good International programme this year as he clocked one of his three entries to finish 11th Open BICC in the recent Pau International race. The St Vincent race saw Nigel clock three birds to feature on the result at 4th, 47th and 50th Open. The first in the clock on the day was a 2y widower that had previously won 8th Fed, 21st Kent Combine Le Mans in 2011 as a yearling. He is also a half brother to Nigel's 2nd and 5th Open BICC Tarbes 2010, all three being a combination of Jan Aarden x Gyselbrecht bloodlines. The second in the clock from St Vincent is closely related to 2nd Open NFC Fougères for Nigel's brother and is of van Elsacker bloodlines. This one has already



Dark Hen, 3rd Open for Simon Knowles.



Simon Knowles (L) 3rd Open BICC St Vincent and Jeff Lyden of Lyden Brothers 5th Open St Vincent.

been placed at 63rd Open BICC Agen International earlier this season. Third bird in the clock is another widower of Jan Aarden x van der Wegen bloodlines.

Lyden Brothers of Sandwich in Kent come in at **5th Open**. This is another partnership who have been stalwarts of the BICC for many years and in those years have enjoyed a great deal of success in long distance international races. Here they clock a 3y hen flown on roundabout and containing the genes of one of the loft's top pigeons, The Barcelona Hen of predominantly Krauth bloodlines. These have stood the test of time, regularly producing top class long distance performers on the International stage. The 3y hen had one short Channel race from Pithiviers with the EECC and a couple of 100 milers from Bedhampton with the Wingham Club before going to St Vincent. Exercised once per day for 40 minutes or so with the other roundabout hens she was hopper fed on Bucktons Irish mix. The partners clocked two further pigeons on the second day to finish at 75th and 77th Open.

Next in at **6th East Section, 6th Open** is a double BICC International race winner, none other than **John Chipperfield of Herne Bay in Kent**. John won the Perpignan race in 2011 and this year's Pau International race. Here he clocked a 2y blue cock flown on widowhood and containing all the very best of Alan Darragh's multi-National winning family. In preparation for his tilt at the St Vincent International the cock had the following conditioning races: Lyndhurst 124 miles; EECC Canappeville and Pithiviers at 152 and 226 miles followed by the BICC Tours race at



John Chipperfield & son Joe with 1st Open BICC Pau International, 6th Open BICC St Vincent International winner.



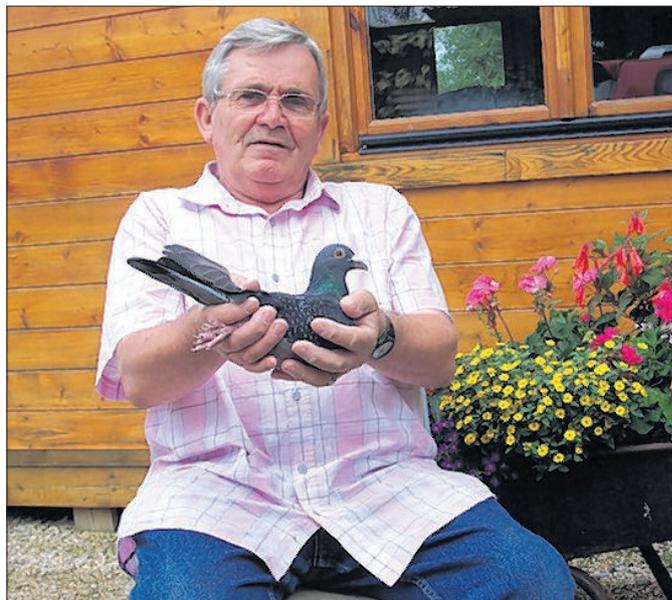
Nigel Truelove, 4th Open.

295 miles and then Agen/Bordeaux International (496 miles) on 30th June where he finished at 111th Open BICC.

In **7th Section, 7th Open** is the ever present **Terry Johnson of Whitstable in Kent**. Terry has enjoyed an exceptional season's International racing in 2012 with 9th Open BICC Pau International, 12th Open Barcelona International and now 7th Open St Vincent International. Here he clocked a 3y celibate cock which is a full brother to the two sisters that were 9th Open BICC Pau and 12th Open BICC Barcelona earlier this year, all three being bred from a son of Frank Perry's Llanover Lady (1st & 4th Open Palamos) when mated to a daughter of Terry's Spartan 1st Open BICC Barcelona.

Seventy five year old Cornishman **Ron Dove** fresh from his success of 7th & 19th Open BICC in the recent Barcelona race comes in yet again for **8th Sect, 8th Open**. Ron's timer is a 3y hen sent sitting due to hatch. Her sire was bred by the late Norman Major of Hull from his 700 mile family whilst her dam is a full sister to Ron's Barcelona hens that appeared on the Barcelona result a couple of weeks back. In preparation for St Vincent the hen had four races with the EECC and in two of these she took more than 12 hours to return, obviously putting her in fine fettle for this race. Ron's racers are fed a home made mixture made up from various GEM mixes and are allowed an open loft whenever Ron is around.

Mike & Cynthia Mitchell of Dover have an enviable record in recent years competing with the BICC, having won something like four long distance races on the International stage. In the St Vincent International their first of seven in the clock takes **9th Section, 9th Open**. The other timers finish at 26th, 30th, 33rd, 35th and 41st Section, 34th, 38th, 41st,



Terry Johnson, 7th Open BICC St Vincent, 9th Open Pau and 12th Open BICC Barcelona 2012.



Ron Dove with his 7th Open BICC Barcelona, 8th Open BICC St Vincent International.

44th, 52nd and 55th Open. Mike was telling me that all seven were at the Pau International earlier in the season and the first in the clock at St Vincent, incidentally found on the loft, was the last bird from Pau taking 111th Open. All seven birds are raced on Mike's celibacy system and all had been across the Channel five times with the EECC in preparation for the BICC International race programme. An in-depth loft report on the Mitchell loft can be found on the BICC web site.

Given the weather conditions in the UK on the day consisting of strong west-south-westerly wind and heavy rain, the next pigeon on the result at **1st West Section, 10th Open**, clocked way out west at the **Peasedown St John** loft of **Geoff & Catherine Cooper**, deserves a medal the size of a dustbin lid! It would be fair to assume that this one broke for home fairly early in the race and in all probability raced single up for the greater part of the journey. The Coopers have enjoyed a terrific season in BICC races with 3 x 1sts and a 2nd in the West Section and here Geoff & Catherine clocked their blue widowhood cock at 18.09 to win 1st West Section. Appropriately, they have called the pigeon Misty to reflect the conditions on the day. Misty is an excellent racer for the Coopers, this year he has won 1st Minstead CHS, 5th Combine Minstead 44 miles, 1st CHS Saintes, 5th Combine Saintes 394 miles and is raced on the widowhood system. Misty's sire is Keogan who has won many top National prizes including 20th NFC Tarbes. Keogan is a son of Jayneson, another top National racer which was out of Court Out, 1st Classic Pau for Guy Reed when paired to Jayne, a top racer for Geoff & Catherine. Jayne in turn is the grandam of Paul Kendal's champion racer Morning Glory, 2 x 2nd Open NFC Pau. Misty's dam is a daughter of Blue Legend, a son of Legend, 1st International Dax for Brian Sheppard when paired to a daughter of Farm Boy, a top International and National prize winner for the Coopers and sire of Farmer George, 1st International Bordeaux. The Coopers clocked a second bird on the second morning to take 2nd Section as well and this 3y widowhood cock is now named Stroller. His



John Wills, 1st Centre Sect.



Mike & Cynthia Mitchell, 9th Open.

sire is Ridge, a top prize winner and a son of Magnus 02 when he was paired to a daughter of Daybreak, a Merit Award winner. His dam is a daughter of a brother to JW, 1st National Falaise and the sire of George, 1st Grand National Tarbes. He had the same preparation as their Section winner going to Saintes three weeks before the St Vincent International.

The name of Preddy has been seen at or near the top of race results in the West Country for as long as I can remember and in the St Vincent race it is there yet again as **Terry Preddy** clocked to take **3rd West Section** with a 2y chequer cock called Becaito Boy, an amalgamation of his grandchildren's names. His sire was a chequer cock bred from the best of Terry's uncle Vic Preddy's birds and his dam was bred by Mark Gilbert and is a full sister to Southfield Darkie, a top racer for Mark. In preparation for this race the pigeon was sent to Bedhampton with the West of England South Road Combine in the early part of the season, returning home with his secondary flights missing. He was left alone until the BICC race from Falaise and was first bird back to the loft. He then went to Alençon, then Cholet where he was again first home to the loft. His next race was to Messac with the NFC making a mistake and taking 8¾ hours to return. In the four weeks leading up to the St Vincent race he had no training, only exercise around the loft. All the birds were paired up on the 14th February and when sitting 10-14 days the eggs were removed and the pigeons went on to widowhood. The racing team of widowers never rear young birds before the start of the season and when racing are allowed an hour's free exercise twice daily being fed in after



Geoff & Catherine Cooper, 1st and 2nd Section, 10th Open.



Misty, 1st West Section, 10th Open BICC for G & C Cooper.



Jan Deacon with the dark cock, 3rd Centre Section.

each exercise period with an ounce (28 grams) of widowhood mix. This was the cock's fifth trip across the Channel this season. Terry was up at the crack of dawn on basketting day in order to put the hens in with his race cocks and these were left with the cocks until ready to go to the marking station late morning. Terry would like to thank his wife Lyn for all her support, as pigeon racing would not be possible without her help.

Another partnership that needs no introduction is that of **Lee & dad Kevin Buddle of Dover**. The 2012 season has been yet another successful one for these two extremely likeable characters and in the St Vincent race they follow up their 2nd Open BICC Pau International with **10th Sect, 11th Open**. The first in the clock is a 2y chequer hen bred from two of the loft's great hens namely Buddy, the dam of the loft and Game, a terrific long distance racer for Lee & Kevin. Mated in February and raced on roundabout she had a few short cross-Channel races with the EECC before going to the Pau International where she was Lee & Kevin's second in the clock taking 45th Open BICC. Lee & Kevin clocked a further three birds on the second day to finish at 71st, 76th and 78th Open.

John Wills of Frimley in Surrey has been a cornerstone of the BICC for more than 30 years and in that time has held many offices including the post of secretary. As most will also be aware John has also been an exceptionally successful fancier over many years and has to his credit six BICC Open wins in races over 500 miles plus numerous top ten finishes including 2nd Open Barcelona. The St Vincent International saw John clock a really big hearted pigeon for **1st Centre Section, 12th Open** and what is even more remarkable is the fact that this was John's sole entry. He is a 3y cock that was raced on roundabout earlier in the season and then re-

mated for the Pau International where he took 41st Open sitting 16 day eggs. On returning from Pau he immediately took to his eggs and sat these eggs for the following three weeks before John slipped him a baby just before basketting for St Vincent. The cock is no stranger to success as he was 1st Club, 12th Combine in the longest Club race in 2011. His



The Welsh branch of the Mark Gilbert Appreciation Society on a recent visit to Southfield.



Racing loft of A & T Deacon.



Terry Preddy, 3rd West Section.



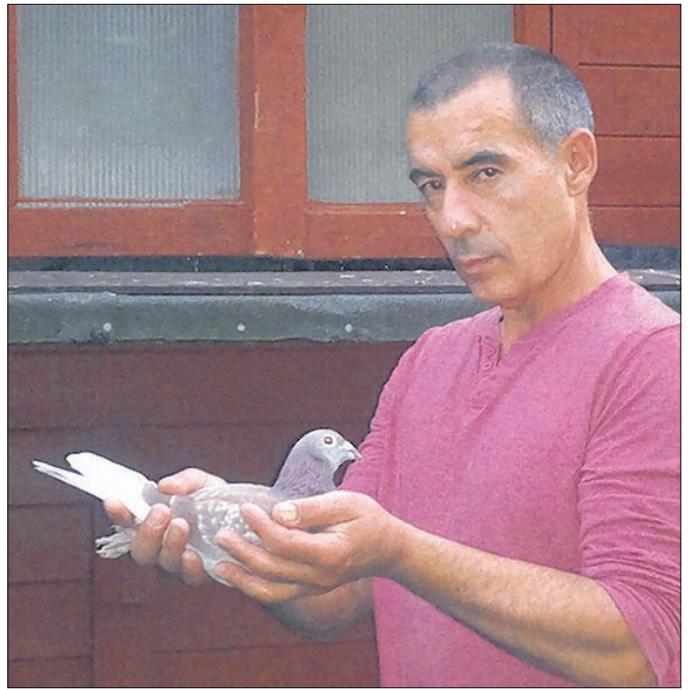
Mrs S Mayes and her loft manager Richard with Barcelona Boy, 1st North Section BICC Barcelona.

breeding shows all the very best of the Leadbeater's ultra-successful long distance family as his grandsire won 1st Bergerac only bird on the day at 560 miles.

I don't think I can recall a National result that has not included the name of **Mark Gilbert** at or near the top and the BICC St Vincent International race is no exception as Mark yet again clocked a good 'un to win **2nd Centre Section, 20th Open** with a 2y hen raced on roundabout bred from a Deweerdt sire containing Ted & Magnus bloodlines. Her dam is a direct daughter of Southfield Supreme, Mark's Dax International winner from more than 17,000 pigeons. Further timers at Southfield take 5th and 6th Section, 31st and 33rd Open. A comprehensive loft report on Mark can be found on the BICC web site.

Yet another top class long distance partnership comes in next at **3rd Centre Section, 25th Open** – none other than **A & T Deacon of Waterlooville**. In fact Albi clocked three of his old reliable Southwells for 3rd, 7th and 8th Section. This is what Albi Deacon, BICC Chairman has to say. 'We clocked our arrival late on the night, one of our old Southwell Family, a little dark 3y cock. He arrived looking very tired and dishevelled, probably came in at Dover and worked his way along the coast. He was not raced last year after suffering a hawk attack in early season training. This year he went to Pau and arrived late next morning. We clocked another two little dark cocks early next morning and we have got another two since out of our seven entries. We have had a very disappointing season suffering a very bad race early on where we lost several of our best pigeons. We will be glad to see the back of old bird racing this year. Hope the young birds enjoy better weather. Congratulations to the winners.'

The winner of **1st North Section** was clocked at 7.26am on the second morning at the Norwich loft of **Mick Bundy** and this battler takes 24th Open. Mick clocked a 4y red cock of *Nachtegaele* bloodlines which



Mick Bundy, 1st North Sect.

is a previous winner of 4 x 1sts in sprint racing. The Section winner has had a total of 11 races this year with Canappeville at 245 miles being his last race two weeks earlier in preparation for St Vincent. The Bundy team is raced on widowhood and was mated in late January, reared a pair of young birds before going on to widowhood. Each cock is fed individually in their box and the food is usually measured out for sprint racing. However with the St Vincent race at 636 miles, the candidates were fed a stronger mix with more protein and fats added in the final days before basketting.

Barber & Wilkinson of Great Yarmouth clocked a 4y for **2nd North Section** and unfortunately, despite numerous attempts, I was unable to contact either partner.

My thanks once again for all the help given in compiling this report by those who have supplied photographs for publication at very short notice. I have also added a photograph of Mrs S Mayes pictured with loft manager Richard, who clocked the first bird recorded in the North Section from the recent Barcelona International at 746 miles, but unfortunately just out of race time.

Finally, on behalf of the members of the BICC, our thanks once again go to Steve & Lesley Wright at The House of Aarden for their extremely generous sponsorship.

GARETH WATKINS

JOLLY GOOD NEWS

On 30th June the NEPC was at Buckingham when 29 sent 333 birds, liberated at 1000hrs into a south-west wind at Keadby Station. First past the post is the 'Flying Brickie' (retired), Mr Frank Fryer taking 1st with an '11 cock on 1905, well done. Frank, I thought I heard you singing 'Just Another Brick in the Wall'. In 2nd it's the 'Spaniel Man' Simon Parkinson with an '11 cock on 1898, 5th an '11 hen on 1892, 7th and 11th on 1889, 9th a '10 cock on 1887, well done Simon. In 3rd the 'Westgate Wizards', Col & Dol Slater with an '11 cock on 1897. In 4th a man rarely out of the result these days (the man from Jeffry Lane), our Ern, Ernie Sykes with an '11 cock on 1897, well done Ern. In 6th B. Antcliff with a '10 cock on 1892, well done, and in 10th it's the N. Links Flying High Project of Epworth under the watchful eye of young Mick Tune with an '11 cock on 1887, well done to all on the project. The Isle result is the same as the Station.

Now on to the big boys club. Where's the old

carpet off to this week? It's 'flat pack land', hey I got a speeding ticket last time, it's Wick with speed traps the nos. Anyway we land at the lofts of 'The League of Gentlemen', in a class of their own taking the first 11, 1st a '10 cock on 1933.6, 2nd an '11 cock on 1933.4, 3rd 1932.8, 4th a '10 cock on 1932.5, 5th a '10 cock on 1932.5, 6th 1930, 7th an '11 cock on 1930, 8th a '10 cock on 1919.9, 9th a '10 cock on 1919.6 and 10th a '10 cock on 1919.0. Well done Jackson, Andrews & Kirby, top drawer flying in anybody's book. I hope they missed that speed camera.

On 15th July the NEPC was at Buckingham when 22 sent 349 birds, liberated at 0915hrs in a west-north-west wind. At Keadby Station the man in form is 'Spaniel Man' Simon Parkinson taking the first five and 10th. First was an '09 cock on 1432, 2nd a '10 cock on 1431.9, 3rd an '11 hen on 1431.9, 4th an '11 hen on 1431.5, 5th an '11 hen on 1429 and 10th with a '10 cock on 1426; 6th and

7th the 'Westgate Wizards' Col & Dol Slater with a '10 cock on 1428.9; 7th an '09 cock on 1428.7. In 8th 'I'll name that tune in one', it's Gordon Tune with an '11 cock on 1427. In 9th B. Antcliff with a '10 cock on 1426. Well done all. The Isle of Axholme is as the Station.

Over to the big guns now. Where's the old crown flying to this week? Well it's the lofts of Michael Betts from Scawsby who takes nine of the first ten, 1st an '11 cock on 1445.2, 2nd an '11 cock on 1445.2, 3rd a '10 cock on 1445.0, 4th an '09 cock on 1444.4, 5th an '09 cock on 1444.4, 6th a '10 cock on 1444.1, 7th an '09 cock on 1441, 8th an '11 hen on 1440 and 10th an '09 cock on 1436. Well done. In 9th and stopping the dry rub it's Mr R. Newton & H. Down of Balby with an '11 hen on 1437. Well done. The next bit of info should be the first young bird race so good luck to the lot of you. That's thi lot this week, si thi.

DINGO DEC