

LONDON & SOUTH-EAST CLASSIC CLUB



TARBES CLASSIC

(22nd June 2012)

The member of the L&SECC sent birds to Tarbes for the third Classic race of the 2012 season and the convoyer, Rube Johnson, liberated at 0655hrs in a no wind situation, but picked up some keen west-south-west winds en route. These positions are only provisional and based on the members first bird telephone verifications.

1st Open, 1st SW Section: George & Carol Humphreys of New Addington. Well done to George and Carol on their wonderful performance from Tarbes! They sent four birds, clocked three on the day to provisionally win 1st and 4th Open and got their fourth bird next day. George tells me the fourth bird came with his Tours club pigeon on the Saturday, which recorded 2nd Club. The partner's Tarbes winner was a 2y blue white flight hen sent sitting ten day old eggs. She had regular training tosses off the south coast and George tells me, he has had some bad health in recent months, and his good friend, Alan Mark, has given his birds a few tosses off Hayling Island. This game little hen was unraced as a young bird and was second bird from the L&SECC 2012 Tours race, too record 81st Open. The Tarbes Classic winner's sire and dam were purchased from a Mr Windsor, which are at stock. George and Carol race the natural system and pairs up in February, with Channel racing in mind. He told me he loves racing from France and this Tarbes win has given him and Carol a great thrill. He is a small team man and the set up consists of two small lofts, with the racing loft being 15ft x 6ft, with ETS clocking. He has no set family of pigeons, but brings in birds from premier fanciers from time to time. George says, he just likes good pigeons, what ever the strain! He first had pigeons in 1973, but had to pack up when his first wife passed away and restarted when he married Carol in 1992. They were on holiday in the Canaries and Carol found an old pigeon paper in the apartment they were staying at and this re-kindled George's interest in the sport. On their return George built a small loft in their garden at their home in New Addington.

2nd Open, 2nd SW Section: James Cross of Carshalton. Jimmy Cross was 2nd Open with a Staf van Reet dark chequer cock, van Reet and he previously scored in the BICC race from Tours this year. He is a full brother to Jimmy's yearling that was 30th Open with LSECC from Bergerac last year. Jimmy has a nice set up at his home in Carshalton and he is a previous win in the L&SECC from Tours.

3rd Open, 3rd SW Section: Alan Mark of South Croydon. Alan & Pauline Mark were 3rd Open with a 5y Louis Cooreman hen sent sitting over due 18 days. Alan tells me she has been a consistent hen having flown Bergerac and was bred by Tommy Sparkes of Gravesend. Alan Mark is up there at the top of the result sheet again after a bad health year in 2011 and it's great to see him back in good form. He is one of the sports gentleman and one of the best pigeon racers I've met in my time in the sport. Well done mate!

4th Open, 1st NW Section: Jim King & Son of Slough. Jim King's North East Section winner was a natural 4y de Klak/Staf van Reet blue cock sent sitting eight day old eggs. Jim says this pigeon is a very consistent cock winning at all distances up to Tarbes including inland races. Well done to Jim, as he was one of our longer flying members recording pigeons on the day!

8th Open, 1st NE Section: Mark Bulled of Harlow. Mark is a very nice lad from Harlow, who has been setting them alight with his pigeons in recent seasons and of course he is the son of one of our greatest London NR Combine champions, the late, great Cecil Bulled. He has won some outstanding prizes, including 1st and 8th Open L&SECC Tarbes (588 miles) in 2009 and lifting nearly £1,000 on what turned out to be one of the hardest races in recent years. Mark's 2012 North East Section winner was a 3y dark pied hen sent sitting her first nest of the year. She was 16th Open L&SECC from Tours as a yearling and was also 29th Open Tarbes as a 2y in 2011. Her sire from Darren McFadden's Tarbes L&SECC winner and the dam from Mark's old north road family.

10th Open, 1st SE Section: Bernard Gasson of Chatham. Bernard Gasson won the South East Section with a 2y blue hen sent sitting four days over due eggs. She is a Jan Aarden/Muller Janssen and has been a very consistent pigeon.

KEITH MOTT (L&SECC PRESS OFFICER)

President's Comment. What a brilliant Tarbes race! Across the board what terrible racing season we have had so far this year, with strong easterly winds, rain, rain and more rain which have taken their toll! Generally the first half of the current season has been so bad, we have seen some organizations bring birds back from race points to liberate short, change race dates and even cancel races. A consequence of this bad start to the season is the massive drops in birdage, in some cases, thousands of birds. It's been the worst start to any racing season I can remember! We pride our selves at the L&SECC that we have a wonderful work force and our Saturday team have made the best of the adverse conditions, and produced some good racing for our members this season. Having said that, the Classic's 'main event' from Tarbes last weekend must be described as brilliant, with the winner making 1300ypr and some members clocking two and three birds on the day of liberation. Congratulation to the George & Carol Humphreys on their L&SECC Tarbes win! An article on their great performance is to follow in a couple of weeks. Well done and thanks to all our marking station workers for their good work so far this season! Looking at the CSCFC Tarbes result my ol' mates, Martin,



Mr & Mrs Humphreys.



James Cross.



Alan Mark.

Clare and son Jack, got a day pigeon and are well up in the open result. Well done them! Member please note that the new L&SECC Internet Website is now live on www.lsecc.com Next race is the Bergerac Classic on 13th July.

The SMT Combine will be convoyed and liberated with the London & South East Classic Club at Bergerac on Friday 13th July. The Combine is now marking for this the longest old bird race on Monday 9th July and pigeons must be marked ten birds to a crate. The reason for the importance of ten birds a crate is the birds will be transferred in to different 30 bird panniers and are not handled, but re-crated via a tunnel system. This system is much less stressful for the birds, but can not be counted in to the new panniers. Normal only twenty birds are convoyed in these 30 bird panniers, so ensure the inmates comfort.

KEITH MOTT (www.keithmott.com)

Weather Report. The main concern for this blue ribbon race was the heavy cloud that had spilled down from the Pyrenees mountain range over the Tarbes area during Thursday afternoon. At first light Friday morning this heavy cloud formation was still evident over the race point which delayed liberation. Fortunately this cloud did break up allowing liberation to be effected at 0655hrs. With no wind at the race point the convoy of pigeons on reaching the Saintes region picked up a light south-westerly. As the birds raced further north they gained more speed due to the assistance given by the increase in wind velocity from a west south west direction. The fresher winds averaging 28mph over the Channel were sustained all day. Overall the flight path through France and across the Channel was clear, although one or two heavy showers did develop over central France and southern England during the day. A good race for the LSECC and CSCFC both recoding gallant 500 mile day birds.

STEVE APPLEBY



Mark Bulled.

Convoyer's Race Report Tarbes (22/06/2012). On the Tarbes marking day we picked up pigeons at Tilbury, Maidstone and Leatherhead arriving at Horsham at 1345hrs for the final pick up. All the birds were watered at the marking stations. We set off for Southampton to pick up the CSCFC birds at 1440hrs and arrived at the marking station at 1600hrs. The whole convoy were lightly fed and watered at Portsmouth docks and we sailed for Caen at 2245hrs. Docking in France at 0630hrs, we were soon on the road and arrived at motorway services south of Bordeaux for our night stop at 1700hrs and the birds were fed at 1800hrs. Next morning we were on the road early and arrived at the Tarbes Geant Casino Supermarket liberation site at 1000hrs, to the welcoming site of blue sky and sun shine, in fact the weather conditions for our whole run through France was brilliant. I rang Steve Appleby at 1900hrs and he gave me a line of flight weather report for the Friday and said it looked good for a liberation.

I awoke at 0430hrs on the Friday morning to a 100% over cast sky at Tarbes and after getting a good flight line weather report at 0500hrs from Steve Appleby back in Guildford, I decided the race was on when the cloud had cleared. The weather cleared by 0615hrs and I cut the strings and liberated the convoy at 0655hrs in no wind. The birds cleared instantly and headed in a northerly direction. The weather conditions on our drive back to Caen docks were perfect for 550 mile racing and the wind picked up to be strong south-west en route. Thanks to Ian Mead and Steve Appleby for their very hard work on this the longest old bird Classic race! A great job!

RUBE JOHNSON (L&SECC CONVOYER)

COMPILED BY KEITH MOTT (L&SECC PRESIDENT)



L&SECC Leatherhead Marking Team.



L&SECC Horsham Marking Team.