

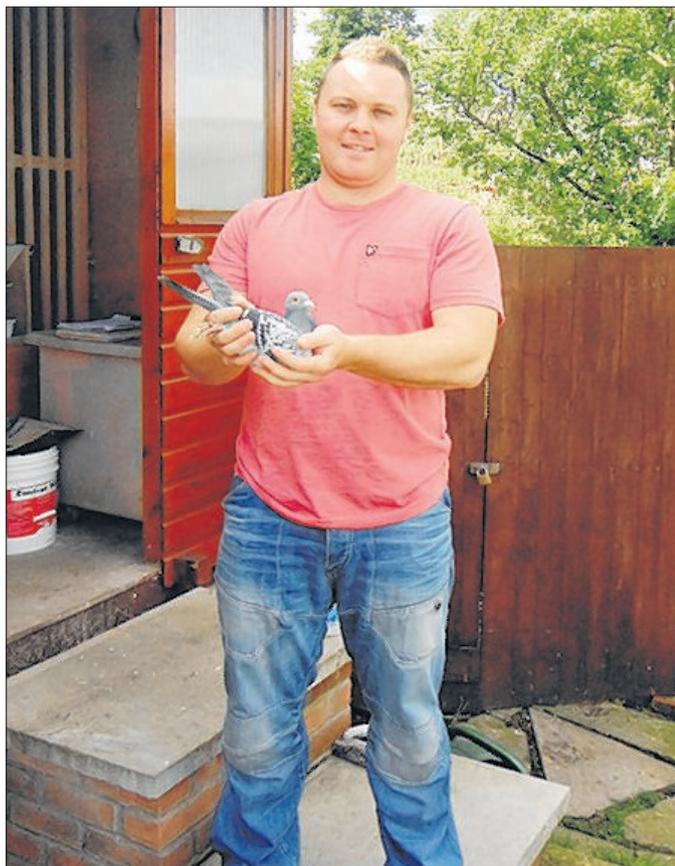
Welsh South Road National Flying Club Le Mans



The third of the Welsh South Road Nationals took place on 23rd June from Le Mans, approximately 300 miles to most members. With a moderate south-westerly wind many thought it was a race some of the entries would find difficult but race controller Mike Parker and convoyer Phil Fishlock decided a good race was on so, after an 0800hrs liberation, the pigeons cleared well. Those who thought they would find it hard going were once again proved wrong as many of the members had excellent returns with velocities well into the 1300s. The leaders, as expected, were once again in the East Section and the **probable winners are Strickland & Grandson, Pontnewydd**, who timed at 1415hrs, vel 1378.278, to win it on the second decimal. Once again I have given the first 22: Kevin Smith, Pontypool, 1378.210; M. Sparey, Abertillery, 1365; A. Reed, Blackwood, 1348; G. & M. Clayton, Nr Crumlin, 1355; G. Treharne, Nantyglo, 1330; W. A. Rees, Treharris, 1329; J. & A. Rake, Caldicot; J. Smale, Llanvihangel, 1320; D. & G. Bruton, Tredegar, 1319; D. Evans, Gelligaer, 1315; Spencer Jones, Abersychan, 1314; Owen & R. T. Evans & Son, Maerdy, 1307; Scammell & Pelpoe, Garndiffaith, 1289; J. J. Williams & Son, Varteg, 1387; D. Ford, Blaenavon, 1287; Morgan & Thorne, Abertillery, 1286; T. Grubb, Crumlin, 1286; K. G. Caldwell, Abertillery, 1282; John Gardner, Caldicot, 1275; A Webb, Llanhilleth, 1273; M. L. Thomas & Son, Newport, 1233; A. Woodman, Swansea, 1208. The winning pigeon for Strickland & Grandson is a 2y chequer cock bred down from the old Busschaert lines going back many years to their original family crossed with some van Reet, van Loon and

Braspenning bloodlines, and raced on roundabout. His previous performances include 40th National Falaise and 2nd Welsh South Road Fed Bedhampton against 3,600 pigeons. To say this loft is on form would be an understatement because the week previously they also topped the Welsh South Road Federation from Bedhampton and they also look good for 5th National with their second arrival. Daniel Strickland said that even though his beloved grandfather has passed away he still keeps his name in the partnership as a matter of respect.

In **2nd Open is Kevin Smith, Pontypool**, who said his winner is a 2y blue hen whose breeding comes down from the old Jan Aarden bloodlines and she is raced on roundabout. Kevin said that unfortunately he could not compete in the last Welsh SRNFC race from Falaise



Daniel Strickland holding the Le Mans Open winner.



Light chequer cock, winner of the Welsh SRNFC Le Mans race.



Kevin Smith of Pontypool holding his 2nd Open winner from Le Mans.



Blue cock, 3rd Open Le Mans.

because he was having solar panels fitted to his house.

Another top name, taking **probable 3rd Open**, is **Mark Sparey, Abertillery**, whose winner is a blue cock whose last race was from Tours with the BICC when he took over 11 hours. Well, he certainly made up for things here. He is raced on widowhood and his dam was bred for Mark by that superb fancier, Mark Gilbert, being of Vandabeele bloodlines, her sire being a son of James Bond from Syndicate Lofts, of the old Dirk and Jerry lines. The sire of this winner was bred by Williams Bros & Son of Tredegar and comes down from John Burgham's Top Ten pigeon, this having been in the top 10 three times for John from Thurso with the Welsh GNFC and old Welsh Combine.

Once again **Alan Reed is 4th Open**, amongst the top winners at Blackwood. So are G. & M. Clayton, near Crumlin, in the swim again, this time having already taken 7th Open two weeks previously from Falaise, the bloodlines being Jos Thoné.

Alan Woodland, Swansea, tops the West Section. His winner is a 2y chequer pied hen raced natural, bred from pigeons from Dave Impet, being Bruggemans that Alan crossed with a double grandson of



Mark Sparey of Abertillery holding 3rd Open Le Mans.



Alan Woodman of Swansea holding 1st West Section Welsh South Road National Le Mans.

Invincible Spirit from Louella. Alan jumped this hen from a training toss in Cardiff to Folkestone and then into this race from Le Mans. Taking **2nd West Section are Fishlock & Roberts** and **G. R. & D. Price take 3rd.**

With excellent returns all looks well for the next race from Tours in two weeks' time. Once again our thanks to Secretary Charlie Silver for getting these early times at such short notice.

DIXEY

News from Gravesend Rugby Club

The above Club was racing from Le Mans on May 26th, when just 6 members sent 36 birds, which was a knock on from the very bad Salisbury race flown the other week. In 1st place was Frank May with a 2y widowhood cheq cock bred by the late C. Howes from Stichelbaut breeding. Frank seems to like Le Mans as he won the Combine from there last year. In 2nd and 3rd were the ever-present Mr & Mrs B. Sparks & Son on 769 and 761 with 2y hens; 4th went to R. Young with a 2y blue cock. Reg is doing well with a small team.

We now come to Blandford on 2nd June when 10 members sent 103 birds. Steve Newnham timed the winner, a yearling that has scored before and is bred by clubmate Mark Packer on 1183. In 2nd was Jim Trim with a yearling widowhood blue Vandabeele cock from his LPW stock, this bird also has scored before. In at 3rd Mr & Mrs B. Sparks & Son with a yearling Roland Janssen which seems to be flying very well for them. In 4th Mark Packer with a 4y widowhood cock, no details, but Mark is another good, small team player. Very well done to all. Tommy Sparks has almost finished his new loft after his move and has a nice team of young birds flying out and is looking forward to getting back racing again and the members have said that they will try not to be too hard on him.

Till next time, keep enjoying your pigeons.

JIM TRIM