

# Welsh South-East National FC Brussels

Here as promised, are full details and photographs of the principal winning birds in what was a hard race, only the very fittest birds gaining their lofts on the night. Having said that, although some prominent fanciers failed to time on the day, there were some who had excellent returns. The National winners timed four birds from their entry. C B & C Harris also timed four birds and these should all figure high in the result. The North Section winner timed eight on the night from 10 sent, one next morning early, and was wondering why he didn't get the other entry. There were many birds timed early on the second morning though. Why the race turned out so hard is unknown but it turned into a Classic national race. As always, most of the good fanciers timed on the day, and all I spoke to were well happy with the race.

The honour of **1st Centre Section 1st Open** went to the very good partnership of **Graham Thomas & son, Adam**. This is now the fourth National win for this partnership. Graham is not only a fine fancier but will be remembered as a past Secretary of the WSENFC. This is what he has to say: 'Firstly, thanks again for congratulating us on winning the Brussels National. We are over the moon. The National winner is a yearling blue cock who has previously won 13th National Maidstone, 14th Welsh Combine 5,521 birds as a youngster. In all he took four Fed positions in the first 35 last year. He was raced through to Folkestone on the roundabout system this year where we stopped him and he was paired specially for this race, and had been sitting eggs eight days prior to basketing. His bloodlines are 75% Van Doorn x 25% Dai Clappe of Cardiff. The Van Doorn pigeons contain the very best of Ad Schaerlaeckens. We would like to thank him for supplying us with such good pigeons as they have made a massive impact on our loft. He is also a grandson of our Liège National winner from 2004, but contains the same bloodlines as our 3 previous Welsh South-East National winners. He arrived in excellent condition and within two minutes of arrival had ousted the hen from the eggs. To date we have had seven home from 10 entries. We would like to thank everyone who has phoned to congratulate us and also like to pass on our congratulations to all the Section winners and everyone who clocked good birds on the day in what was a very testing race.'

**1st East Section** is another well-known partnership, namely **Morris & Lucas**. These fanciers have many National positions and at least two



1st Centre Section 1st Open WSEN Brussels, G Thomas & Son.

Open wins that I know of. The winning pigeon, blue hen WHU2011K05980, was flown on roundabout this year and was 36th Federation 1,703 birds the week prior to this race. She flew four races as a young bird and 35th Welsh National Flying Club, also this year 97th Open WNFC Lillers. The sire is a red cock who won 8 x 1st Clubs bred by W Jenkins & Newton, Marc and Lily Verheyde x Meuleman Janssen, bred 1st Fed winners. The dam, blue hen '270', is a prolific breeding hen being grandam of W Jenkins & Newton's Brussels and Huy National winners, also grandam of Derek Flowers' 2nd National winner. Breeding is Frank Tasker Haelterman x Len Hopton Janssen.

Across to the **Far West Section** now, and **1st Section** is once again **J Davies**. I have reported on numerous Section wins for this fancier. Jeff says, 'Just a bit about the little hen which has won 1st Section. She is Cooremans and races on roundabout. She has been a very good hen. I'll just give her results for this year: 1st Club and 1st Fed Hullavington; 8th Club 10th Fed Hullavington beaten by loftmates; 1st Club 3rd Fed Newbury. She did not go to Maidstone, then she was 5th Club 35th Fed 24th Section 607th Open Folkestone; 1st Club 2nd Fed 3rd Section 37th Open Lillers and now 1st Club 1st Fed 1st Section Brussels.'

Taking **1st West Section** are **Morris, Owen & Stoneman** who timed a fine hen. Details as follows: The breeding of this yearling hen is a Janssen cock from Adrian Duggins of Derby x M & J Evans Vandenebeele, via Dave & John Hawkings of Doncaster. She was flown celibate for the first part of the season and allowed to lay her eggs in preparation for this race, sitting 10 days she turned up trumps!

Now to my neck of the woods, to the **North Section** in fact. You will see from the result that on this route, unlike racing from France, the North Section do not fly further than the South Wales guys. In fact, the West and Far West Sections fly further. Of course the weather still has an effect on the birds and therefore the Open list as the wind, whilst on the nose of the South-Welsh birds, was also pushing the northern birds to the south. It takes well-bred birds, prepared to perfection and motivated by



Graham Thomas & Son.



Loft of 1st Open.



Dam of G Thomas &amp; Son's loft.

roundabout, widowhood or their favourite nest condition, to reach England and break for home, no matter where the wind is taking them. Even so, to also break from the convoy and strike for home takes some achieving. The North Section winner is a well known fancier and one I have had the pleasure of calling for previous Section wins. I recall that from Pont-à-Mousson last year when the birds were few and far between this partnership sent their whole team and actually timed most of them, which at well over 500 miles is fantastic. From Brussels they again sent their whole team, 10 birds but once more very well prepared for the job. As I said before, when birds were few and far between in this area, they timed eight on the night and had one at 0500 next day. How about that for a team effort? You have to take your hat off for such performances. Well done, **Tony Murray**. Sorry to startle you with the news of your Section win when I called. I thought that you knew. It was good news anyway, was it not? Here are details on Tony's pigeons. 'The breed of the bird is my own family that I have cultivated since 1997, based on pigeons from Gilbert Hyen (Gronsville, Holland) and Marc Verschelde (Zulte, Belgium) with the odd bird added, but always from top pigeons. I usually keep four pairs of stock birds and approx 16 cocks to race and 24 young birds. This year, however, I have 35 young birds with most of them being bred from my top race birds. I have not raced young birds for a few years. I had eight from 10 home, seven on the day, one next day and two still missing. I have 10 of my 16 pigeons left but two have been hawked. Cheq cock WO7D13871. Not raced as young bird. Only two races as yearling bird due to hawk attack: 2009 1st Club 6th Section 353rd Nat Huy; 5th Club 8th Section 134th Nat Bonn, beaten by four loftmates.



Greg Lucas on left and Terry Morris on right holding the sire and dam of the winner.



1st East Section WSEN Brussels, Morris &amp; Lucas.

2010 3rd Club 14th Section 554th Nat Folkestone; 1st Club 4th Section 92nd Nat Pont-à-Mousson. 2011 8th Club 28th Section 853rd Nat Lillers; 1st Club 16th Section 33rd Nat Folkestone; 7th Club 8th Section 100th Nat Pont-à-Mousson, beaten by five loftmates. 2012 10th Section 483rd Nat Maidstone; 11th Section 124th Nat Lillers; 1st Section Brussels. Dark cheq cock WO6DO415D. 2006 3rd Club Tamworth; 2nd Club Kettering. 2007 2nd Club Tamworth; 4th Club Amsty; 3rd Club Kettering; 2nd Club St Albans; 2nd Club 12th Section 101st Open Maidstone. 2008 2nd Club St Albans; 2nd Club 5th Section 424th Nat Ramsgate; 2nd Club 12th Section 414th Nat Huy, beaten by loftmate. 2009 4th Club 13th Section 416th Nat Huy; 6th Club 10th Section 144th Nat Bonn, beaten by five loftmates. 2010 4th Club 9th Section 545th Nat Folkestone; 5th Club 14th Section 476th Nat Reims; 2nd Club 7th Section 131st Nat Pont-à-Mousson, beaten by loftmate. 2011 3rd Club 28th Section 141st Nat Folkestone; 4th Club 19th Section 789th Nat Lillers; 1st Club 1st Section 19th Nat Pont-à-Mousson. 2012 24th Section Maidstone; 3rd Section Brussels.

There we are then. Another fine but testing National race. We are looking forward now to Aachen basketing next week. Please note that, following a committee meeting on Wednesday evening, it was voted on and decided not to hold our Marberg National this year. This is due to the current weather which does not appear to be changing for the better any time soon, and the fact that 2012 has been a very difficult season with many losses. There are fanciers having lost very good, seasoned, winning birds from quite short races. Some have shut up shop for the Old Bird season, they have lost so many birds. So no Marburg race this year. It is regrettable but once again a decision has been made in the interests of the Welsh Fancy. However, we have Aachen and Bonn to look forward to.

One item of great interest for you all: The WSENFC has engaged the services of a professional photographer, Chris Sutton in order that all of our 1st Open winners can benefit from an excellent photo of their pigeon.



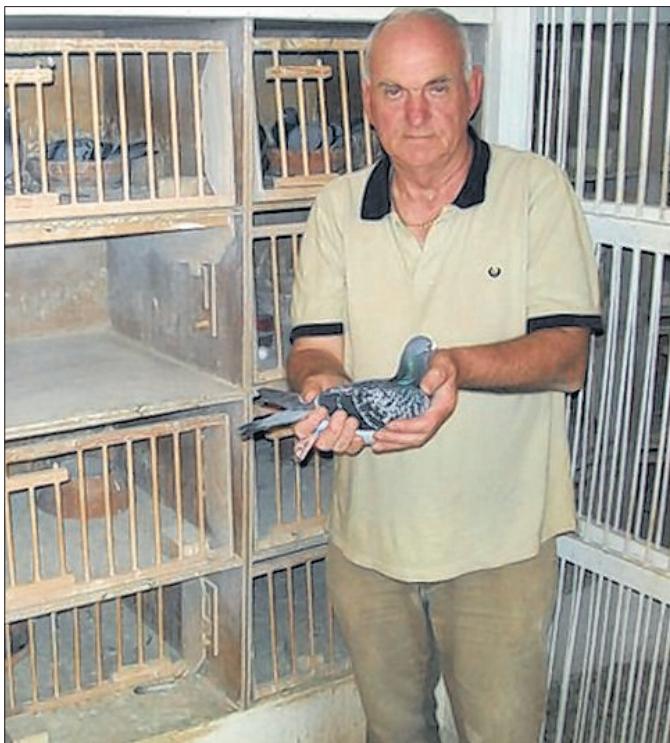
1st West Section WSEN Brussels, Morris, Owen &amp; Stoneman.



1st Far West Section WSEN Brussels, J Davies and grandchildren.

Chris is based in Leicester but travels to the home of each Open winner to photograph the bird, the owners, and the lofts etc. This really takes our National forward to another great level. In addition, Chris is sponsoring the WSENFC with a fully framed photograph of each Open winner to be presented at our Dinner and Presentation. I think that all will agree that this is a great gesture, and we all express our grateful thanks to him for this. From now, each and every one of our 1st Open winners will be contacted and an appointment made to photograph the winner etc. No one will miss out. Only one winner has not yet had the photograph taken and Chris will visit these winners next week when he is visiting whoever wins 1st Open Aachen. Can't argue with that service, can you?

Our hardworking Secretary has asked that I publish the following to assist National members. First. Please make sure that *all* pigeons entered in the WSENFC races are transferred to the member racing them; in addition, non-WHPU rings must also be registered with the WHPU. I did point this out some weeks ago, but this week, we had no



A Murray holding 3rd North Section Brussels 2012 and 1st North Section Pont-à-Mousson 2011.

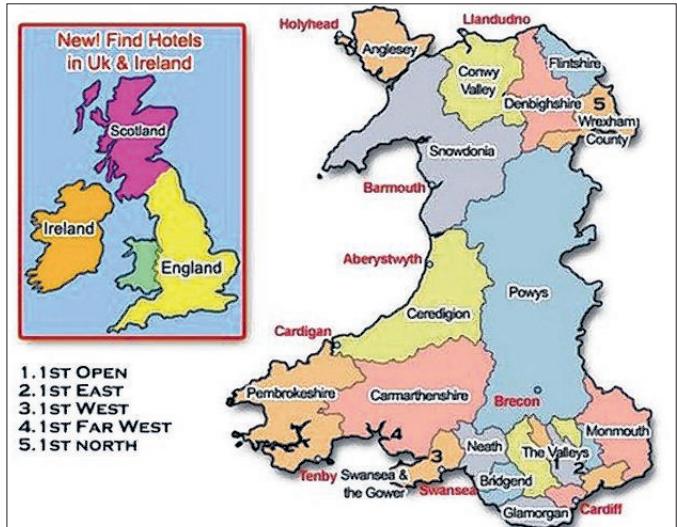


1st North Section WSEN Brussels, A Murray &amp; Son.

option but to disqualify a pigeon from the Open result due to someone not carrying out the above. One more thing, and this is for each marking station too. When marking using ETS, please ensure that the ring number showing on the screen is the actual number of the bird. Once again, we had no option but to disqualify a bird as it was entered on a wrong ring number. I think that the ring letter was actually E but the ETS ring was assigned as a K or whatever. This, of course, meant that the bird's ring on the ETS sheet was not the property of the fancier. This should have showed up at club level well before any National, but no one noticed. You may not be aware but each and every Open and Section winner, and the first 10 in each Section ring numbers are checked through the Union office as actually belonging to the fancier racing it. Please save yourself the heartache of being disqualified or even suspended for racing a ring not belonging to you. That's it for now. Hopefully no one will now fall foul of rules.

Good luck to everyone racing Aachen. Look out for a call from me to each Section and Open winner. I will be asking for a photo of the winner, a photograph of the fanciers outside the loft holding their winner and full details of the bird eg strain, how raced, previous performances etc. All this I ask to be emailed to me in order that I can give full publicity to the fanciers and their winning birds. For those of you who do not have a PC, someone in the family will help. Failing that, a member of your club or your local scribe would help. If I don't get photos or details then you will miss out and it would be a shame as you have just put up a great performance. For everyone's information, my email is geoffblackhall@virginmedia.com so make a note of it and keep it to hand for when I ring. Thanks a lot.

GEOFF BLACKHALL  
Welsh South East National FC Press Officer



Map of Wales showing Open and Section winners.