

The Welsh South-East *National Flying Club* **LILLERS NATIONAL**

FLOWN 9th JUNE 2012

Here we are National members at our first race this year from France. In Northern France to be exact for Lillers is in Nord pas-de-Calais. A bit of history now so you are aware of where your birds were flying from. Lillers is a small farming town and the river Clarence runs through the centre. There have been many battles fought in and around the town. Most notable was the battle of Agincourt where Robert Waverin, Lord of Lillers, was killed. The town has been taken and retaken by the Spanish over the years but now is firmly in French hands. There is a thriving shoe industry in the town. In recent years the tennis player Henri LaConte was born here in 1963. At one stage he was ranked 5th in the world and was runner up in the French Open singles, and together with a partner won the French Doubles Open.

Now on to our race now and as you all know the birds were liberated at 0915hrs Saturday morning. The Controllers and Convoyers had consulted with our weather advisor and owing to the wind being force 4 in the Channel. It was decided to hold off the liberation until the wind speed dropped. The birds were liberated into a fresh South West wind and cleared straight away. A steady race was forecast due to the wind and the South Wales birds in particular would have a head wind into their home area. This was the first time for a while that there was no east in the wind which probably confused the birds for a while. Only joking, our birds are so well prepared for these National races they know exactly where they are and the direction home. The race turned into an old fashioned steady race in which all birds had to work hard into the wind to reach their lofts. Nearly all I spoke to were really happy with their returns. In south and west Wales the members were reporting almost 100% returns with the odd one or two adrift. These turned in on Sunday. In North Wales the returns were not quite as good but you must remember that these birds fly a lot further than South Wales. All were full of praise for the birds great condition on their return so a big well done to our convoyers and controllers for yet another very good race.



1st North Section, 1st Open WSENFCLillers, E. O. Jones.

The honour of **1st North Section and 1st Open** went to the very well known **Elwyn Jones, E O Jones or Penrho** as he is known, from Mostyn who timed a 2y blue hen sent sitting 10-day-eggs. She is a lovely apple-bodied medium hen who was still in great condition when I handled her the day after the race. It was evident too that she was still very keen for her eggs, as when I released her into the loft she flew straight past Chris Sutton the professional photographer in the section and on to her eggs. When we left the loft she was glaring at us. So certainly motivation in buckets there. Penrho Girl, as she is now known, named by Elwyn's wife, is bred from a great-grandson of Robert Venus famous Supercrack Cruiser, a winner of 5 x 1st National. The dam of the Open winner is a direct M & D Evans Gaby Vandenabeele and is a granddaughter of Jester and Carrie. Certainly great bloodlines here.

As a YB the Open winner flew all stages to Maidstone with WSENFCL and the week before the National was 10th in the well-supported Llandudno Gold Ring race from Kings Lynn. She was a darkness yb as are all of Elwyn's ybs. As a yearling she flew all stages to both Maidstone and Folkestone Nationals on natural and was then stopped for the season. Always a steady reliable bird she gained quite a few club and Fed positions.

Elwyn, who by the way is 74 years young, raced her this year including Folkestone National a week before this race. She only missed Maidstone as Elwyn was not well enough to race that week. Pooled in her Section she should win a lot of corn money for her owner.

1st Centre Section and possibly **2nd & 3rd Section** too is the cracking partnership of **C B & C Harris**. This father-and-son partnership has won many Opens and Sections over the years and were 1st Welsh Combine Lillers last season. All of the birds timed are related. I received the following from them. 'Here are the photographs of our winning birds Geoff. Bit confusing I know but pigeon 3 is W11R 07326 which is prov



E. O. Jones holding Open winner.



Loft of E. O. Jones.

1st Section. Pigeon 2 is W11R 07319 which is Prov 2nd Section (she was also 2nd Section in Lillers YB National 2011 behind a loftmate) and pigeon 3 is W10R11120 who is Prov 3rd Section. I know you spoke to my Dad this morning but if you require any more info let me know. I hope the pics are ok, please let me know if you want me to alter them in any way. See you soon, Carwyn.

There we are then. Breeding details are a bit sketchy but I do know that the partners race a formidable team of Janssens. I gave full breeding details of their birds several times last season for those of you who like reading of such things.

1st East Section is to the Caerphilly loft of **Crook & Smith**. They timed a cracking blue hen, bred by Crook & Smith. Bred down from pigeons from Mark Casley of Pencoed. The breeding is M & D Evans. Cliff and Wayne would like to thank Mark for the outstanding pigeons they have had in the past. Yes, well done to them as this pigeon gained Prov 2nd Open so 1st Open into North Wales and 2nd Open into South Wales.



2nd Centre Section WSENFCLillers, C. B. & C. Harris.



3rd Centre Section WSENFCLillers, C. B. & C. Harris.



1st Centre Section WSENFCLillers, C. B. & C. Harris.

One of these is an absolute stormer on the day and I will be very interested to learn which one from you the members.

Thanks to Wayne January for the text and photos and emailing them so promptly.

1st West Section went to **D Jenkins & Son** who timed an excellent pigeon into Swansea. The bird is a black cock named Delhi Boy. An excellent racing machine. The bird has taken the following positions: 4th Club Maidstone; 1st Club, 2nd Federation Folkestone;

5th Club, 18th Fed Folkestone; 1st Club Newbury; 1st Club Lillers; 1st West Section South-East Welsh National Lillers. Breeding of the pigeon



1st West Section WSENFCLillers, D. Jenkins & Son.



D. Jenkins & Son with granddaughter holding 1st Section.



1st Far West Section Lillers, S. Davies.



1st East Section Lillers, Crook & Smith.

is the grandson of my Huy National Winner 2007. Last year returned from Reims injured from hawk attack. Half a wing was taken away and he had a hole in his head. Thank you for your support . '

1st Far West Section once again goes to **Steve Davies** who has gained many 1st Sections in the past. I have reported already this season of him winning 1st Section and here he is again. 'Hi Geoff, here are a few brief details of cheq WHU08S06010. His sire is a double grandson of Kannibal of Dirk Van Dyke fame bred by F Edwards & Sons (Penywaun). His dam is a sister to F Edwards & Son Ashford National and Combine and car winner. He has scored many times at Club level, a very consistent pigeon, always flown on widowhood with breakdown and build up, on a weekly schedule. He didn't race Folkestone due to him going to the Channel this week where he duly obliged. Geoff. '

That's the Open and Section winners for this week. Before I go I want to make special mention of a bird owned and raced by Miller Bros into South West Wales. As you see it put up a very good performance recently in our WSENF. The reason we are highlighting the bird is that the breeder of the bird as a young chap who hasn't been in pigeons very long. The partners want to give him his deserved recognition in breeding such fine pigeons. The blue cock is already a 1st prizewinner and very consistent race bird. The strain of the bird is Dale Newcombe x Syndicate lofts. It was a gift bird from our good friend Phil Bond of Torquay. The parents of the blue cock have already bred 1st R. P. R. A one loft race 2011, 1st Hotspot Three Sun City Million Dollar One-Loft Race winning a brand new car also 6th Europa Classic One Loft Final Race 2010. We would like to thank Phil & Arnold Davies for all the their help and advice also congratulations to W. Lewis & Son on their National win from Maidstone. Thanks for all your help Geoff. Mike Miller (Miller Brothers).

That's it for this time. We are all looking forward to the next race now. Hopefully we will have a spell of settled weather and have good numbers in the race. I do know that wherever you live and race this season will no doubt go down in history as one of the worst on record, certainly in recent years. The problem is that it is not only inexperienced pigeons that are missing but also 2, 3 and even 4y winning pigeons. Another big problem is that very few are being reported. On behalf of fanciers everywhere I ask that please report strays that enter your lofts. If we make every effort to get these birds home it will be of enormous help.

I know that not all fanciers want their missing birds back. I collected a



Miller Bros blue cock.

stray from Oswestry from a non fancier. I cared for it, took it to Halkyn and ensured that it was delivered to South Wales and handed to the fancier and up to now, some 6 days later, I am still waiting for a thank you. This is the exception though so I ask that all of us make every effort to get these birds home. Look forward now to reporting on our next race. Good luck and early timers to all.

GEOFF BLACKHALL
WSENF Press Officer



Crook & Smith holding 1st East Section.

