



Lamballe YB National Loft Reports

Marking at Salisbury went well, A nice day, both ETS and rubbers teams going like smoke, but ETS now outnumbering the old traditional ringing by a long way. More base stations will have to be brought in to cope I feel sure. 1511 YBs and 316 OH were soon snuggling down in the shavings and Convoyer Tony Kane and his helpers didn't look at all strained. They even smiled for the camera. Special thanks to our sponsor John Tranter who donated an ETS trap for the marking station raffle, which raised £216.



The race got off to a good start on Saturday morning in a southerly airstream, but something seemed to get into the birds for while the early leaders obviously made their usual charge across the channel, birds destined for the Channel Islands took off on a detour somewhere. And their returns were poor. Possibly the easy flying tempted them to go for a run with the main drag, and later reports spoke of "hundreds" of lost birds in Cornwall, I had one reported in Padstow myself.



Joe Raeburn, 1st & 2nd Sect 'C' & Open, rose to the challenge again, and logged two birds to take top honours, and to prove my point about our best, and fastest birds so often ending up as hawk bait, he also reported that he had two birds killed by peregrines, one reported found in Teignmouth and another KO'd in Wantage, both around lunch time. From a small team of nine birds entered, that is a 22% loss of champion stock in just one race. His race winner was bred from a VDA cock (from Formula 1 lofts) out of a Mel King Van de Abeele hen, while his 2nd Open winner was by a Van Bruane cock out of the same hen, which had been re-paired. This seems to be a new cultivation for most of his old family is based on Van Bruane x Cattrysse and Van Eijden bloodstock. Joe is self employed, and builds bases for Conservatories, in concert with a local firm that makes the Conservatories, a job he has enjoyed this last 16 years. He was born in Scotland, on the west coast of Ayrshire, and settled in England after completing his service in the RAF, then married an English girl and took up pigeon racing in 1987. His successes are already well known, among which are listed 1st Open NFC St Sebastian in 2001, a 1st Sect NFC Nantes in 2003 and a 1st Sect NFC Angers, plus many, many more wins in top competition.



1st Sect 'B' 3rd Open are Sue & Bob Bell of Bournemouth. Bob is 80-y-o and disabled, so most of the work falls to 62-y-o Sue who seems to be making a very good job of things. She did admit that clocking their Buschaert YB (one of a team purchased from Chris Howse of Devizes) was a piece of cake, ETS taking the strain for her. Another Scotsman here, Bob hails from Ayrshire too, and has been living among the Sassenachs peacefully for the last 60 years since he finished his National Service and decided England had its attractions. (See photo 'Cornish holiday')



1st Sect 'A', 4th Open are Berry & Matthews of New Milton, not far from Bob Bell. Rod Berry is a 62-y-o retired brickie who spent the large part of his life in Ashford, Middlesex, flying the NR. His father-in-law is the "Matthews" part of the team to keep the family flavour. Rod has been in New Milton (Christchurch) for only three years, but started off by winning 3rd & 5th Open CSCFC YB Guernsey and 1st Sect, 7th Open CSCFC Truro, 1st Sect, 5th BBC Lamballe that same day, and one of the prizes for that 3rd Open Guernsey win was a £100 Voucher for a Ponderosa YB. That YB (a Van den Abeele) bred the 4th Open winner when paired to one of Rod's F.Darlington X Bob Ashman Janssens that has already won 1st Fed Falaise. A 3rd NFC Alencon, 3rd Sect Messac and several other good wins are already logged from this new location, so we will be hearing a lot more of the B&M partnership, take my word for it. I recall this team winning up to 35 prizes each with a couple of good cocks some years ago, they're no slouches.



1st, 3rd, 4th & 6th Sect 'D' is the "Old Firm" of recent years, F.Lloyd and Eamonn Kelly of Abingdon. They also take 5th, 17th, 19th, and 41st Open places. The picture of Eamonn Kelley shows his 1st Sect 'D' held by himself, and the nest mate of it held by Mark Jarvis. Eamonn said "The pigeon is a blue pied cock bred in January. The sire is a half brother to Little Margaret bred by Pat King and was purchased when Pat finished racing 2 years ago. The dam is a daughter of Little Margaret when she was paired to Morning Glory. He was sent to Lambelle chasing his hen and had been to Guernsey the previous week. He returned in great condition and I think racing with the Solent Fed through the BB&O Federation was a great help. I have had 11 out of 12 returns from this race. I would like to congratulate Joe Raeburn on his great performance for 1st and 2nd Open and also congratulate my good friend Gordon Seeney who has been flying out of his skin this year with YBs, 2nd Open, 2nd Section BICC Falaise for starters". He added a big 'thank you' to Richard Green for all his hard work (aided and abetted in sterling fashion by his partner Anna), in this, his first year as Secretary of the BBC.

3rd Sect 'C' and 6th Open are M & C Lee of Alfrick, up near Worcester, whom I tried and tried and tried to reach on the phone, but no joy.

2nd Sect 'B' 7th Open is D.Vincent of Axminster, When I finally managed to run him to earth on his son's phone, he was working in Stratford! Derek is a club mate of mine (we both fly in the Crewkerne FC) but when I saw him on club night I didn't make the name connection and thought it just coincidence. (Big club area!) Derek's wife Pat who hails from Lyme Regis says he has all the details, but when we did speak he had little to say, except that the winning bird was bred from a Busschaert X a Van den Abeele hen of M & D Evans breeding bought at a sale.

1st Sect 'E', 8th Open is Graham Jones of Cannock, no stranger to BBC prize lists, he has accumulated quite a string of wins over recent years. He finished 1st Sect, 8th Open last year too. Graham, a 48-y-o roof tiler by trade, took up the sport some 20+ years ago, after the old traditional start of Tumblers etc, then about 15 years ago laid hands on the Houbens family which has done him proud. Then he obtained some of the old Cattrysse bred down from stock off his pal Colin Lloyd of Cannock, who will be remembered for winning 1st Open NFC Saintes a while ago. These two families are now being welded together to form a really workman like team. Visits to his 14 year old daughter (from his first marriage)

who lives in Weston Super Mare give ample opportunity for training tosses. Don't be surprised to hear more of this lad in the future.

2nd Sect 'D' and 9th Open is Mark Gilbert of whom there is little I can add that hasn't already been said, very well, by better writers than I.

3rd Sect 'B' and 10th Open for Mel & Sue King of Blandford, and the same thing applies. These two fancier teams are so well known that they are now household names and, in fact, if they were absent from a result like this I for one would wonder why! Quality pigeons in both cases and terrific fancier experience in getting the best out of it.



1st Sect 'G', 21st Open was Mike Armitage of Ash, who promised to send me reams of material by email. He did send a photo! First time I met Mike - some donkey's years ago - he kept me waiting 20 minutes before drawing me a pint in his pub. I see he hasn't lost the knack of keeping me waiting. (Gotcha!!) Well done my old friend.

1st Sect 'H' 89th Open is R.Legg & Son of Guernsey. No stranger to these columns, he won his Section by almost an hour so obviously the birds went walkabout somewhere. P. Davies of St Clement and R.K.Payne of Vale were the only other CI timers, so - not for the first time - living on the Channel Islands did not prove to be the passport to winning as so many members of another large classic club seem to think it is.

The Old Hen race report follows next week. (Bilco).