B.I.C.C.

B.B.C

Pau International Provisional Race Report

Friday 19th June 2026

1st Open BICC & 1st Open BBC

Clive and Jill Rogers & Neil Sales

Pau is a race that needs little introduction. It is an iconic race point, and one that fanciers have aspired to win for generations. Located 62 miles from the Atlantic Ocean and 31 miles from Spain, Pau once again provided the setting for the first International of the season and another joint liberation between the BBC and CSCFC.

The BICC and BBC held a joint race in which members sent 475 birds. They were joined by 2,995 from France, 2,702 from Belgium, 3,472 from the Netherlands, 995 from Germany and 42 from Luxembourg, giving a total entry of 10,601 pigeons, down from 11,906 the previous year. The birds were liberated at 7.45am on Friday 19th June. Conditions were hot both in the UK and on the continent, and only one day bird was recorded: A fantastic bird for Clive & Jill Rogers and Neil Sales, who took the top spot in both the BICC and BBC, as well as 28th International.

The BICC would like to thank Andrew Hitchcock for sponsoring the photograph of the National winner. This report is based on members' verifications, and the final result may differ.

1st South West Section, 1st Open BICC & 1st Open 1st Section C, BBC, 28th International
Clive & Jill Rogers & Neil Sales of Radstock



The partnership timed Treetops Pau Princess GB24A35865. This little chequer hen, bred at Treetops Loft from a son of Southfield Darran when paired to a daughter of Southfield King Gold Lady (all 1st Open long-distance pigeons for Mark Gilbert), flew the race of a lifetime from Pau to take provisional 1st Open BICC, 1st Open BBC and 28th International. She was actually the only pigeon to time in from Pau in the UK on the day following a 7:45am liberation. 475 UK pigeons were in this International race from Pau, with a convoy total of 10,061 birds from the UK, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and Luxembourg. In the UK, she won the race by an amazing 387 yards per minute, as there wasn't another pigeon timed in until 11:44 am the next morning for Martin Williams of Hereford. Who also put up an excellent performance.

Miraculously, she must have raced quite a proportion of the miles on her own to get home to her nest, which she left on the Monday, the day of marking, when her eggs were due to hatch on the Friday liberation day. The Treetops pigeons, looked after by Clive Rogers, are fed on a mixture of VL Champion Plus with the addition of extra fats for energy (Beyers Jelle Jellema Power and VL Energy Plus). She was raced each week since the start of the channel racing programme and went to CSCFC Isigny Sur Mer, BICC Alencon, BBC Fougeres and BICC Nort Sur Erdre. After that race she was paired up for the International from Pau.

Clive & Jill would like to thank Nick Stevens who is the convoyer that takes the pigeons to Belgium for the International and who looks after the birds so well. He is a great asset to the BICC convoying team in so many ways and is always there to help out.



Jill, Clive & Neil

2nd Open, 1st North West Section BICC, Martin Williams of Hereford. After being encouraged to send to my first International last year by Richard Chambers and taking 8th Open from Pau, I decided to send again this year. It proved to be a good move, taking 1st Section, 2nd Open. My winning hen is a 3-year-old blue chequer. She has the right pedigree for these races with the Jellema and Batenburg lines. On one side she has Jef and 430, whilst on the other side she has a son of Jef x mother of my Tarbes winner and my Pau International winner from last year. She is dam to 4th Section, 36th Open from Sigogne NFC last year.

She is flown on the roundabout. I needed something special for this race, being one of the farthest flyers and with a west wind, and she proved she was. So, thank you for your encouragement, Richard; I now have the bug!

2nd & 3rd South West Section, 3rd & 4th Open, Geoff & Catherine Cooper of Peasedown St. John. We were very pleased with how our birds came on a very tough weekend. We ended up with 5/9 on the result and two more next morning that we didn't verify. Our first bird was a 2-year-old blue hen; her sire is a double grandson of Wollongong, and the other two grandparents are Lloyd and Armando.

Her dam is a daughter of Farmer George when he was paired to a daughter of New Laureaat. She was lightly raced as a young bird; as a yearling she flew through to St Philbert. This year she had four channel races, two weeks' rest and was then sent to Pau. She was sitting 8 days. Our second pigeon, 7 minutes later, was a 3-year-old chequer cock; his sire was a gift from Jelle Jellema, being a son of his top racer Joyce. His dam is a daughter of Farmer George x Wollongong, both 1st International. He had the same preparation as the hen this year, sent sitting 8 days. He flew Pau last year and was well up in the result. This cock also won the Greater Distance Single Bird Nomination Club.

A huge congratulations to Clive, Jill and Neil on clocking the only bird on the day of liberation.

4th West Section, 9th Open BICC, 5th Open BBC & 2nd Section C, Dave & John Staddon of Ditcheat. Firstly, congratulations to Clive, Jill & Neil on their magnificent pigeon. We timed our best marathon hen, Heatwave. She did not have a feather out of place and was in fantastic condition. She is a world-class distance hen. She flew St. Vincent as a yearling with the International and timed at 05:21 on the second morning but was disqualified because we had completed a full evaluation of the Benzing the night before, rather than a temporary one. She would have been 15th National. She was 6th Section, 83rd National NFC Sigogne National 2024. Last season, in 2025, she won 5th Section, 16th National BICC Pau; 2nd Section, 4th National BICC Dax; and 2nd Section, 27th National BICC Perpignan. She has now added 4th Section, 9th National BICC Pau. She is from our own family of marathon pigeons, which we now call our Hotline family. Her sire is Portrait Boy, winner of 1st Section, 2nd National and 66th International Agen against 22,000 birds, also in very hot temperatures like this race. Her dam is Diva,

a daughter of the famous BICC Champion Dave's Diva, winner of 4th National Perpignan, 631 miles; 4th National Agen, 534 miles; 6th National Agen; 8th National Narbonne, 595 miles; and a Merit Award winner, bred and raced by David Hales / D. Goodchild. So, she is bred in the purple for International racing. She is raced on Chaos Widowhood and fed on Bamfords Staddon Chaos Mix, with fats added for the long ones. Hopefully, she will now be prepared for both Dax and Perpignan. We timed 4 from 7, so we have no complaints.


Martin Williams


Geoff & Catherine's hen


Dave & John Staddon

2nd North West Section, 26th Open BICC, Booth & Roper of Tewkesbury. Trevor and John clocked a dark chequer hen at 14:43:57, flying 605 miles. This hen has always been an above-average performer for them, having taken 2nd Section, 119th Open from St. Philbert this year. She has raced in all the BICC races this year. She was bred by blending their own family with Brian Sheppard and Jan Aarden lines. These birds have made them very proud of their performances over the years. This race was their second International, having sent to it last year. It was an extremely good day all round for them, having sent to four other Nationals and done well in those races as well. This race was very much a tick in the box for them, and they are looking forward to sending to more Internationals in the future. Next stop: Barcelona.

They would like to congratulate their friends Clive and Jill Rogers and Neil Sales on winning the Open. An outstanding performance. Also, they would like to thank their good friend Martin Williams and his wife Jo for taking the birds to the Sunbury marking station, and to congratulate them on taking 2nd Open. Well deserved.

1st & 2nd Section A, BBC, Martin, Clare & Jack Norman (Mannor Lofts) of Southampton Firstly, I want to congratulate our friends Clive and Jill Rogers on an amazing performance with the only bird on the day in a very tough race. Also, a big mention to another of our friends, Andy Parsons, for achieving his lifelong dream of winning Tarbes NFC.

Our timer is mostly based on yet another of our friend's pigeons, Mark Gilbert. Also in the pedigree is a hen loaned to us by Darren Ede, which was a daughter of Iron Man. She is the mother of a Scottish National winner from last season, flying 586 miles, and also dam to Darren's Bitter Sweet, 2nd Open CSCFC Thurso, 536 miles. One of the grandsires was our old Venner cock, who has bred us a Section winner in the BBC and is grandsire to a BICC Section winner, plus other good results.

3rd & 4th Section A, BBC, Michael Whitcombe of Southampton Firstly, I'd like to congratulate Clive & Jill Rogers on an outstanding performance.

This was my first-ever attempt to fly Pau, let alone Pau International, so I didn't really know what to expect. What I did know is that the six I sent wouldn't give up easily, as they all flew the whole North Road programme in 2025 up to 390 miles. The first arrival was a 2-year-old blue cock who had previously taken 1st Club, 18th Fed, 27th North Road Combine from Crieff, 390 miles, in 2025, being the only bird in the club on the day. The breeding of this cock is as follows: Gaby Vandenabeele (M & D

Evans). Sire: GB08N78219, who is a grandson from Jester @ Carrie lines (original Gaby Vandenabeele). Dam: a direct daughter, "Charlotte" GB07T21762; she is a daughter of the famous Legend: GB02Z83102 and Julie: NL01 1957575. My second bird clocked is very similar in breeding to the first.


Booth & Roper


Martin, Clare and Jack Norman's bird


Michael Whitcombe

In section D, BBC, Owen Abery of Reading Firstly, I'd like to congratulate Clive & Jill Rogers and Neil Sales on their win and their fantastic pigeon making it home on the day!

My bird is bred from two Mark Gilbert birds I bought from him at the end of 2023. The sire is a double grandson of Southfield Gold Lady (Hugo x Gold Lady and King x Gold Lady). The dam is a double granddaughter of New Laureaat. He raced mostly Weymouth as a young bird and yearling, reaching as far as Exeter, around 120 miles, never crossing the water until this year. This year he raced three short club races between 82 and 120 miles before going to Isigny Sur Mer with the CSCFC, followed by Alencon with the BICC, and then two Fougeres, totalling 1,087 miles if flown direct, which he never did! He then had a 3-week rest before Pau. He was fed on Verse Laga, and then I mixed it with energy, fats, and healthy oil from Cest Pharm 4 days before basketing. He was raced on the widowhood-type system and only saw the hens after the races. This is his first time at an International, and I hope I can manage him well enough that he's got a great chance again next year!

I'd like to thank the BICC marking team and everyone involved for their efforts in making this happen every year. Clare and Martin, for their continued hard work and devotion to the clubs, ensure that we as members continue to enjoy the races to their best potential. Lastly, to everyone who clocked this year, well done. I hope you are as happy as I am and have continued success throughout the rest of the year.

1st South East Section, 5th Open BICC & 2nd Open 1st Section G, Fagg & Nicholas of Sittingbourne. Our bird from Pau is a hen that was gifted to us by Kevin Foster from his Barcelona pair. Interestingly, her nest mate was our second bird from Messac. She arrived back in super condition. She was sent sitting 10-day-old eggs. When Kevin gave us the birds, he stated, "You will get these from Barcelona!" Perhaps next year!

2nd South East Section, 10th Open BICC, 6th Open & 2nd Section G, BBC, Lee & Kevin Buddle of Dover. Our provisional 2nd SE, 10th BICC, 2nd Sec G and 6th BBC Pau International winning bird is a 2023 hen flown on our Chaos Widowhood system. In preparation for BICC Pau International, 545 miles, she has flown BBC Fougeres, EECC Chale and almost every week each side of these races inland from west to east along the south coast. She has always been a reliable pigeon, having previously, in 2025, flown BICC Perpignan International, where she was our 3rd arrival to the loft. She also won 9th Open BBC St Philbert in 2025. Her breeding contains all the best birds of Mark Gilbert, like Southfield Darren, Kanibaal Barcelona, Rena, Sumerian Fighter and New Laureaat. We are now hoping to get her ready and send her back to BICC Perpignan in a few weeks' time.



Owen Abery



Colin Fagg



Lee & Kevin Buddle

7th Open BBC, 3rd South East Section & 11th Open BICC, John Chipperfield of Herne Bay. I would firstly like to congratulate the winners on a very hard race. I also think Nick does a fantastic job taking the birds to the Internationals for the BICC. My chequer cock bird was flown on widowhood. In preparation for the race, he had one race with the BBC from Fougeres, plus two inland trainers. The sire was bred by Mark Gilbert and is a Jellema pigeon. The dam is a granddaughter of New Laureaat, crossed with my good hen, Lady Teresa.

8th Open BBC, Fab Barresi of Peasedown.

9th Open BBC, 1st Section J, 14th Open BICC & 4th Section, Kenny Pratt of Thundersley. I was lucky enough to get a pigeon from Pau: a 7-year-old chequer hen flown separated. She looks to have taken 14th Open BICC, 4th Section, 9th Open BBC and 1st Section J. Congratulations to the winners on a very, very good pigeon.

1st & 2nd South Centre Section, 7th & 8th Open BICC, 3rd, 4th & 10th Open 1st, 2nd & 3rd Section D, BBC, Mark Gilbert of Windsor. By Friday evening we were all settled in at the lofts, hoping for day birds. With the conditions and the line of flight, we genuinely felt there was every chance a few might make it back into the UK before dark. As it turned out, just one gallant pigeon managed to complete the journey on the day — and it dropped in to our good friends Clive & Jill Rogers and Neil Sales. A truly outstanding performance and a very well-deserved win. We were absolutely made up for them.

At first light on Saturday, we were back at the lofts again, expecting a few to start working through early. But the low cloud cover and coastal mist had other ideas, and the morning turned into another long wait. It wasn't until mid-morning that the line finally opened, and the birds began to come through. By the end of the day, our own team had worked in well and recorded a strong set of results across both organisations.

We sent 27 and had 13 back on Saturday with another one waiting for us first thing Sunday morning. Not our greatest race, but under the circumstances we're happy enough that they still scored well — and they'll gain valuable experience from this one.

Our first bird was GB24B02689. Sire: A son of 'Southfield Darran', one of the finest marathon cocks raced from the UK in recent years. Southfield Darran won: His performances included 1st Section, 1st National BICC St Vincent, 868 km, in 2019; 1st Section, 7th National BICC Perpignan, 1,020 km, in 2019; and 3rd Section, 3rd National BICC, 7th International Pau, against 12,119 birds over 905 km, also in 2019. He also earned a BICC Certificate of Merit in a six-week period — a rare achievement. The sire is paired from Southfield Darran when mated to a daughter of 'Rena', the hen that scored 6th International Pau 2016. Dam: A double granddaughter of 'Special One', the legendary winner of 1st International Barcelona against 19,083 birds (2015). This line continues to produce top National and International performers across the classic marathon races.

3rd South Centre Section, 12th Open BICC, Paul Basham of Bursledon. The breeding of my first bird is a half-brother to my 'Lioness' and nephew to 'Burseldene Brian', 1st Open BICC Perpignan and 1st Open BICC Poitiers respectively. We sent 12 and currently have 8 of our team home. Interestingly, the breeding of my second pigeon (clocked at 12:38 on Saturday) is a half-brother, and his daughter won the Section at Messac at the weekend.


Mark Gilbert's first bird


John Chipperfield's cock bird


Kenny' Pratt's 7-year-old hen

1st North Centre Section, 6th Open BICC, Simon Shearsby of Corby. I timed the Garnham Cock, and I'd like to give a full overview of this bird because birds like him don't come around very often. The bird was purchased at a charity auction in the winter of 2021 and was donated by Brian and Angie Garnham from Boston, top flyers and a lovely couple. Brian contacted me the following year to arrange collection of the two birds. On my arrival, Brian took me into the stock loft, where there were a number of young birds in the nest. "Take your pick," Brian said. My jaw must have hit the floor. Had I wasted my journey, as the young birds were a good week away from weaning? I told Brian my concern, and I was ushered to a small section next door. There were six or eight young birds on the floor. "Take your pick." I just pointed to two, put them in the basket, and I was away. That year they received four training tosses of 10, 15, 20 and 30 miles, then they were left to mature.

Onto 2023: my yearlings were only trained to the coast, approximately 100 miles, with no club racing. They were then jumped into 352 miles; two weeks later, 356 miles; and, to finish off two weeks later, 467 miles. I then put those that had survived away for the year.
In 2024, my birds were trained again, but because I had a big operation on my hand, I decided to give them a club race the week before my operation, as I wouldn't be able to drive. The Garnham Cock dropped with two other loft mates to win the club, and he was first over the pad. A couple of weeks later, my friend Mircea took my birds with his to Southampton, as I was unable to drive. Thanks, Mircea. The birds were sent to Nort-sur-Erdre, and again first home was the Garnham Cock, winning the club from 352 miles. A few weeks later they were sent to Bordeaux, 530 miles, and again, boom — first home was the Garnham Cock, winning 5th Section BICC. My second bird was the other bird I got from Brian on the same visit; she was 8th Section but unfortunately went missing around home the following March.

Fast forward to 2025: I decided I was sending the Garnham Cock to Barcelona, 768 miles. He had one prep race of 356 miles, then I just kept him ticking over. He never let me down, winning 6th Section, 48th Open BICC Barcelona, 768 miles.

Moving on to this year, my early plan was Barcelona for him again, so there was no club racing. He was trained, then sent 282 miles, where he was my second bird at 5:40am, as fresh as he left the loft. Two weeks later, at 352 miles, again, boom — first bird, provisional 9th Section, but I forgot to send my paperwork to the secretary after the race. I was speaking with Alan Parker, one of the best

pigeon fanciers to grace the UK, and he suggested sending him 500/600 miles. So I changed my mind and set him up for this race.

It's very rare that I allow myself to get too confident with the birds, as they have a wonderful habit of bringing you back down to earth with a bang, but this time I was different. Everyone I spoke to, I told them, "I'm getting him. He will be here." When I got the news they were up, my mind was on him from that minute. All day I sat in the garden, full of confidence. When I heard of a bird into the UK — well done, Clive and Jill, a super bird — my confidence was getting too hard to cope with, but there was nothing on the night. I couldn't sleep a wink; this bird was in my head.

Up at 4am, I sat in the garden all morning. The wife was out several times with refreshments. "Anything?" "Nope, but he's coming, babe," I said. "I can feel him." At 1:09, I got up to go in to say something to the wife, put my foot in the door, and ping — the phone notification from Benzing said he was here. Well, the next 30 to 40 minutes are a blur. My neighbours must have thought I was crazy, screaming, "I've got him, I've got him!" Those who have experienced it will know the feeling. I hadn't even registered the bird, and my phone was going crazy. To each and every one who took the time to call, text, etc., it's very much appreciated.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a couple of people. First has to be my dad, Frank McBride. He is not my real dad, but we have been like father and son since the day we met in 1992. I wouldn't be the man or fancier I've become without him by my side. I love you, Frank.
Next has to be David Reynolds of Dandilofts, Germany. Thanks for the birds and the advice. This result might not have been possible without your endless chats and advice.
Next has to be the BICC team that make these opportunities possible: everyone behind the scenes, and the markers, convoyers, race controllers, etc. Thank you.

And last, Brian and Angie Garnham: thanks, from the bottom of my heart. The joy this pigeon has given me over the last three years is unbelievable. Many, many thanks.



Simon Shearsby

2nd & 3rd North Centre Section, 19th & 34th Open BICC, Mircea Liviu Dehelean of Wellingborough. My winners of 2nd and 3rd NC BICC Pau International, and 19th and 34th National, were raced as a pair, sitting on 14-day eggs on basketing day. They are half-brothers on their father's side, both having the same sire, COV12R, a cock carrying the Jan Polder bloodline. He was received as a gift in 2012 from Dan Nitoiu and has proved to be a super breeder, also being the father of 5th National BICC Narbonne 2019 and great-grandfather of 4th National BICC Barcelona 2025, as well as other super marathon pigeons in the Romanian loft. The mother of the first arrival is "Ms Messi", my best breeding hen, who is also the mother of 5th National BICC Narbonne 2019, 3rd NC BICC Pau 2023 and 7th NC BICC Pau 2024, and the grandmother of 3rd NC Bordeaux National 2024 and 1st NC/4th NC BICC Barcelona 2025. The mother of the 3rd place winner is an original female from the Romanian marathon champions Magirescu & Ojog, who is already the mother of 1st NC BICC North-sur-Erdre 2025 and 3rd NC BICC Bordeaux National 2025.

1st North East Section, 50th Open BICC, Kelvin Sharman of Syleham. The pigeon clocked to take 1st NE Section was the same bird who took 1st Section, 14th Open from Pau last year. He was from a group of birds swapped with Alan and the late Tommy Wright from Norwich. This pigeon also took 1st Section earlier in the year from the BICC Nort-Sur-Erdre race. Well done to all who clocked birds from another very hard race.



Mircea Liviu Dehelean



Kelvin Sharman

And that concludes the first International of the season. The next race is from Agen, and that will be followed by the Blue Ribband race from Barcelona. Who will make history this year? We will soon find out!

Mike Jackson
BICC Press Officer
Email:mike.jackson026@hotmail.com
Tel:07964448291