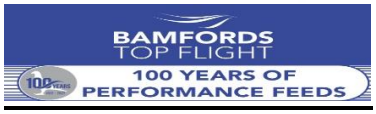
British International Championship Club





Agen International Provisional Race Report

29th June 2026

The second International of the season was held from Agen in southern France. Agen is approximately halfway between the two big cities of Bordeaux and Toulouse. Rugby Union is played in all three cities, but it is especially popular in Agen, where the local team, SU Agen, is enthusiastically supported. That may account for why one of its twin towns is Llanelli, in west Wales, which is equally, if not more, enthusiastic about its rugby.



Agen's twin town, Llanelli

For this race, 288 birds from the UK, sent by 60 members, joined a total liberation of 23,191. Agen is a very popular race and regularly attracts a huge birdage. In Belgium, 9,809 birds were sent, along with 8,017 from the Netherlands, 682 from Germany, 4,339 from France and 56 from Luxembourg. They were liberated at 7:50am BST on Monday 29th June after being held over due to the hot weather in France and the UK.

In the BICC, each section sent the following: South Centre, 26 members sent 133 birds; South East, 18 members sent 92 birds; South West, 10 members sent 46 birds; North East, three members sent 15 birds; and North West, one member sent two birds.

The BICC would like to thank Andrew Hitchcock for kindly sponsoring a photograph of the National winner. His generous support is very much appreciated.

This report is based on members' verifications, and the final result may differ.

1st Open, Clive & Jill Rogers and Neil Sales of Radstock



This outstanding performance was put in by Clive and Jill Rogers and Neil Sales from their Treetops loft at Radstock in the South West Section. For the second successive week they claimed 1st Open in a BICC International National race, this time timing GB24N52244, a chequer white flight hen. Jill, as many will know, is President of the BICC and one of her many duties is presenting the trophies at the annual presentation evening. If the Treetops loft carries on like this, the club may have to find someone else to hand out the silverware, as Jill could be in serious danger of presenting most of it to Clive, Neil and herself.

Jill reported that their pretty little hen flew out of her skin to arrive home just after nine o'clock on the second morning of this challenging race. The birds had been held over at Agen since the scheduled Friday liberation and were not released until Monday morning, which must have seemed like a lifetime for those waiting at home. The weather had been hot and humid, and everyone was understandably worried about the outcome of the race after the birds had spent so long in the basket. None were recorded in the UK on Monday, but the first bird into the UK was recorded at 9:05am on Tuesday morning at Treetops.

The pigeon, now named Treetops Morning Glory, was sired by a cock bird bred for stock by Clive and Jill. His sire was a son of Golden Barcelona, paired to a hen that is a grandchild of Jef and Queen of the Night. The dam of the winning hen is a double granddaughter of Orion, bringing together some of the finest winning distance bloodlines from international pigeon fanciers' heroes of recent years.

This hen raced the first four Channel races of the 2026 season: CSCFC Isigny-sur-Mer, BICC Alençon, BBC Fougères and, for her final race before being paired up, BICC Nort-sur-Erdre. She was sent to Agen sitting 16-day-old eggs. Despite spending a week in the basket, she arrived home in excellent condition — just a little tired, as anyone would expect — and soon picked up once she was back in her loft with a drink of water and some corn. Clive and Jill would like to thank the convoyers for looking after the birds so well despite the high temperatures.

They feel it has been a dream come true to win 1st Open BICC Agen, following last week's 1st Open BICC Pau, and would like to thank everyone for their kind comments and congratulations.



Jill & Clive

The Provisional South West Section Winners

2nd South West Section, 2nd Open, Nick Stevens of North Perrott. Congratulations to Neil, Clive and Jill for making it two in a row — brilliant! Tracey clocked our timer, which was a line-bred Muller/Padfield with six lines going back to Wim's Crazy Boy. I was surprised by how well this inbred, line-bred hen performed in such good company. She was fed Versele-Laga, with Quill Boost and Oxy Pure in the water, followed by buckets of life. She was 4th Section and 30th Open Agen last year.

3rd South West Section, 4th Open, Geoff Cooper & Catherine Cooper of Peasedown St John. We timed a two-year-old chequer cock, sent sitting four days. His preparation for this race included four Channel races, the last being Nort-sur-Erdre with the NFC, where he was our first pigeon. His sire is a son of Invictus, which had previously won 65th National Perpignan for Hugo Batenburg. His dam is a granddaughter of Farmer George/Wollongong crossed with Special One/Sylvie. A huge well done again to Clive, Jill and Neil on winning the race.



Nick Steven's hen



Geoff Cooper

The Provisional South Centre Section Winners

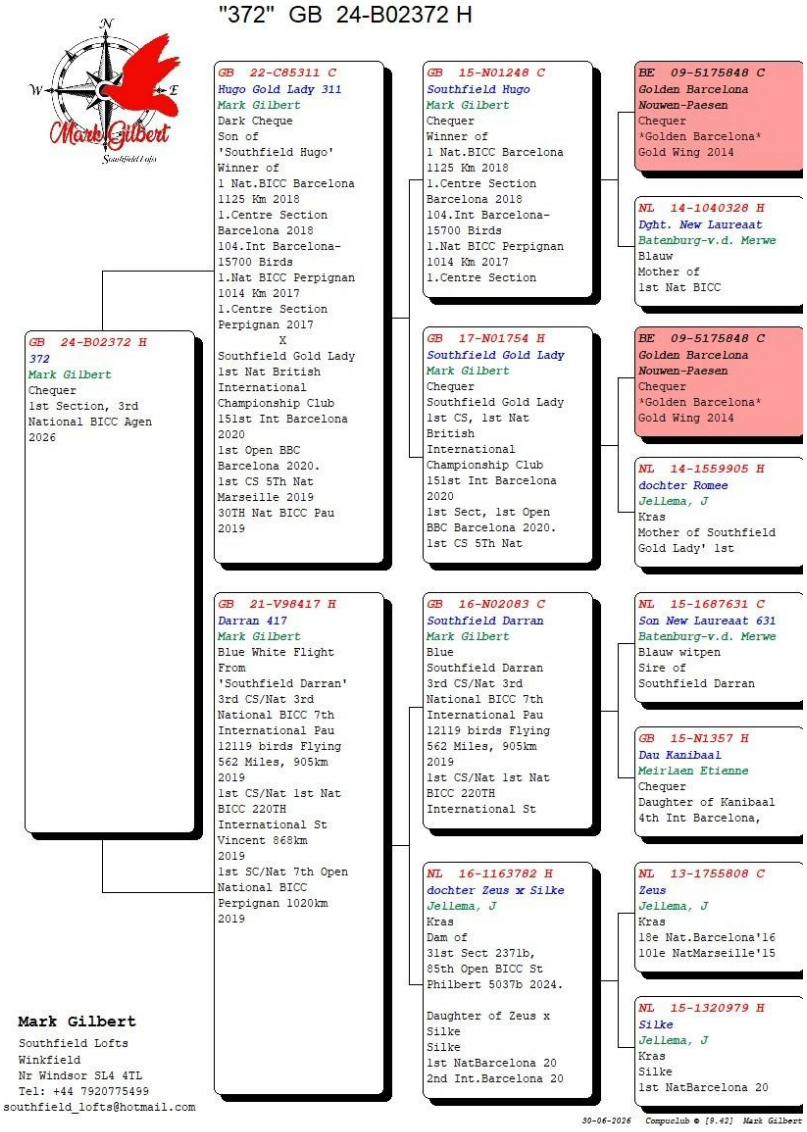
1st, 2nd & 3rd South Centre Section and 3rd, 5th & 6th Open, Mark Gilbert of Windsor. Mark Gilbert produced a superb team performance in a genuinely demanding race, once again underlining the strength of the Southfield Hugo and Southfield Darran bloodlines. Before providing the details of his birds, he once again offered his congratulations to Clive, Jill and Neil on another outstanding win.

After seven days in the basket, Monday brought another stern international test for the UK birds from Agen, a distance of 528 miles to Mark's loft. With no pigeons recorded in the UK on the day because of the weather across Europe, it was pleasing to see nine of his team return the following day, with a further two arriving the next morning, making 12 returns from a team of 31.

Mark's first timer, GB24B02372, took 1st Section and 3rd National. The sire is a son of 'Southfield Hugo', one of the greatest marathon pigeons ever raced from the UK. Hugo won 1st National BICC Barcelona over 1125 km in 2018, 1st Centre Section Barcelona in 2018, 104th International Barcelona against 15,700 birds, 1st National BICC Perpignan over 1014 km in 2017, and 1st Centre Section Perpignan in 2017.

Mark's second timer, GB24B02741, finished 2nd Section and 5th National. The sire is 'Southfield Darran' when paired to a daughter of 'Romee', one of the greatest marathon hens of her generation. Romee's outstanding record includes 3rd National Bergerac in 2013 against 10,327 birds, 3rd National Orange in 2013 against 4,302 birds, 3rd NPO St Vincent in 2013 against 1,365 birds, 3rd NPO Brive in 2014 against 2,444 birds, 5th National Brive in 2014 against 7,241 birds, and 6th NPO Aurillac in 2012 against 3,072 birds.

Mark's third timer, GB23N40342, finished 3rd Section and 6th National. This hen is the nest sister to 'Southfield Prince', winner of 1st Section, 1st National BICC and 268th International Dax against 10,293 birds in 2025, over 537 miles, as well as 1st Open GDSBNFC Dax in 2025. Last year, GB23N40342 was on course to finish inside the top 20 of the Dax International before the clock was struck off early, making this Agen performance her second early arrival from an international race.



Pedigree of Mark's first bird

The Provisional South East Section Winners

1st South East Section, 7th Open, Ionel Flavius Calinic of Pitsea. Ionel said, "The father of my hen is a Louella pigeon with some Barcelona winners in the pedigree, and the mother is Murray and Mills, with Derby Arona pigeons in the pedigree. The hen was sent on a six-day-old baby. Thanks to Darius Dumitrascu, who helped me with the preparation before the race. Congratulations to all who timed."

2nd South East Section, 10th Open, Damian Szpak of Deptford. Damian reported that his first pigeon is often his first bird home, from 100-mile club races through to middle-distance nationals, and now from the hard Agen International. He said that he is a true all-rounder, bred from a blend of some of his best pigeons. The sire won 7th Open BICC St Maixent and is from the Figo hen crossed with Elektro UK. The dam is a daughter of his Queen 85. Damian would like to thank everyone who has sent him kind messages recently and sends his regards.



Ionel Flavius Calinic



Damian Szpak

3rd South East Section, 14th Open, Ethan R Nightingale of Dover.

The cock I clocked, provisionally 14th National and 3rd East Section from the Agen International, flying 500 miles, is bred through the lines of Frans Zwols from stock birds I obtained from my good friend John Gladwin. He is out of a son of the top breeder D'artanian, paired to a granddaughter of the King and Queen of Rekkem, purchased at a BICC sale a few years ago. This two-year-old cock is raced on chaos widowhood and had three Channel races in preparation for this event. Well done to Clive, Jill and Neil on another top performance, and to all those who clocked from such a difficult race.



Ethan Nightingale

The Provisional North East Section Winners

1st North East Section, 18th Open, A & T Wright of Poringland, near Norwich.

The ever-consistent long-distance loft of A & T Wright once again produced a fine performance, timing from Agen at a distance of 600 miles and 563 yards to take 1st North East Section and 18th Open BICC. Their pigeon is bred from Jelle Jellema crossed with Mark Bulled bloodlines.



A & T Wright

And that concludes the second International of the season. Agen proved to be a demanding test, with the holdover, heat and distance making every UK arrival especially well earned. Congratulations go to all members who timed, and thanks must also go to the officials, marking stations, convoying team and everyone involved in getting the race completed under difficult conditions. Barcelona is next, followed by two more great races: the Dax International and the joint BBC and CSCFC National from Bordeaux.

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