



THE HOME OF LONG DISTANCE PIGEON RACING

**Palamos “Blue Riband” National
1st Open 1st Section H
Willie Healy from Jersey
With “The Bachelor”**

With the 130 gallant birds on board for our Blue Riband Race, Nigel and daughter Danielle on Monday 18th June began their journey to Palamos slowly making their way down through France and into Spain with plenty of rest and watering in between for themselves and the birds. When Friday dawned there were clear blue skies and a light southerly wind. After speaking with Roger, Nigel released the birds on their way at 8.15am. The flight back for the birds was not going to be easy with North West winds up as far as Perpignan and Toulouse turning to North Easterly and Easterly as they made their way North.

I am over the moon for our Palamos “Blue Riband” Winner who had the only bird on the second day, many congratulations to **Willie Healy from Jersey 1st Open 1st Section H**. This gutsy pigeon was out on his own being recorded at 2.55pm on the Saturday afternoon.

My name is Willie Healy I am 64 yrs old. I come from Kilsyth which is a mile from Croy in Scotland where M Nash & Sons won the Rennes in 1966 with Daphines Delight.

I raced pigeons in Kilsyth as a boy with a little bit of success. Pigeons are in my blood as my late mother's side of the family kept them being the Beattie's from Condorrat.

I came to Jersey in February 1975 and stayed ever since. I am a slater and tiler to trade and own my small business with 4 Employees. I started racing pigeons in Jersey in 2005 with my fair share of success.

My National champion from Palamos is a medium sized blue bar cock 5yrs old, he is like the song "I won't let you down".

As a yearling I had no fiancée for him so he was in a section on his own and happy as you know what, so I decided to call him “The Bachelor”. He was sent sitting on 4 day old eggs, he has had a few section prizes. Last year I sent him to Zaragoza and homed in 10 days and was still the tenth bird home out of 243 birds (a very hard race). Four weeks later I sent him to Bordeaux a distance of 306 miles, he was third section beaten by two loft mates and was 86th Open. So off he went to Palamos a distance of 567 miles. The birds were liberated 8.15am Friday 22nd June and I timed him in at 2.55pm on Saturday 23rd to be the only bird home on the second day to win the National. His other positions in the BBC have been 158th Open Messac 2015 and 88th Open Niort 2014.

His breeding on the Sire's side is Jones and Thomas from the Wirral, Liverpool. On the Dam's side is Geoff Kirkland and Joe Letwio from Alloa. The Bachelor's mother won the Fourgeres National for me in 2013. I am a pigeon racer and a pigeon lover TLC.

My pigeons loft is cleaned out morning and night, fresh water morning and night and fresh grit and minerals every day. I feed Versa laga Best all round and Jerry plus 3 parts to one. Twice a week add Gemthepax and strike two mixed in with food, my plastic feeders and drinkers are disinfected once a week. Living on an Island to keep my birds fit I flag them.

I must give credit to the convoyer, liberator and all those involved because after five days in the basket and flying over that distance, he was immaculate on homing.

I hope to all those involved in this race that their birds homed safely. Big big thanks to Clare Norman for what she does for the Channel Island Fanciers.

Good Luck to all Fanciers.



Willie Healy

This next name is always at the top of the tree in long distance racing and has been for many years. Our runners up **2nd Open 1st Section G Mr & Mrs Steve & Sally Rhodes from Aylesham.** May we say congratulations to our winners and all who managed to time, in a very tough weekend of flying.

We timed "Rocky" last year at Zaragoza 6th Open, this year at "Palamos". He arrived in top condition full of strength and vigour, so they were given a good start by our convoyers thanks to all concerned.

"Rocky" GB10N86657 is from a Kypers x Coppernolle cock gifted to us by a very good friend and flyer T Shievells of Ashford. His dam Roger Senicourt x Jim Biss son of Turban.

He was late bred in 2011 in 2013 he flew Tarbes NFC and came back covered in oil cleaned him up and little rest before sending to Perpignan BICC 600 miles. In 2014 he flew Tarbes 542 mls came back hawked stopped him to heal up and forget the attack. 2015, 14th Section Barcelona 25th Open 684 miles. 36th Section 55th Open Perpignan. 2016 flew Barcelona BICC. 2017 6th Open Zaragoza very tough fly.

2018 half a dozen trainers with Wingham Club then flew a very tough Poitiers BICC a couple of weeks ago coming home the next day, then in to Palamos 652 miles Provisional 1st Section G 2nd Open. Our birds are fed on Countywide grains, Bred and Wean x Super Widowhood mixed 50/50 plus sunflower hearts. stepsenol for cleaning nasal tubes airways. Carrs Ad Herb x Performax to condition. Our bird was sent sitting eggs and we shipped a 10 day old youngster under him which he

took to very well as did his hen because we timed her, a couple of hours later to be Provisional 30th Open 15th Section ES Pau BICC.



Steve and Sally Rhodes

3rd Open 1st Section B & 2nd Section B is Corey & Roger Owers from Crewkerne who not only won our last Blue Riband Race from Palamos in 2015 but came second as well with a mother and son duo.

1st Section B/Ch Cock GB16C38367 This bird never raced as a young bird, and only had 4 races as a yearling. Then straight into BBC Bordeaux – 1st pigeon timed for me, taking 124th Open, 14th Section timing 4 out of 4 in the result, 3 of them being yearlings.

This bird was always going to be prepared for this, being the son of the 2015 Palamos winner (GB12C17234). However, 5 weeks before the race things took a horrible turn when I went singling them up 50 miles away. He turned up 5 hours late and only with 1 tail feather left and ripped feathers from his back. I thought the dream was over. I checked the bird over and discovered all the tail feathers were torn out cleanly and not snapped. Gradually inch by inch, over the next 3 to 4 weeks they all grew back. I valued the bird so much that I was still hesitant, but eventually chanced my arm and I am now glad that I did.

2nd Section B/Ch Hen GB14C22341 Not raced as a young bird and only 3 races as a yearling, the furthest being Fougères Club. Normally I would like yearlings to do Bergerac or Bordeaux but because it was bloodlines I had to breed with, I protected her so I could breed as well. I waited until she was 2, where she had 2 races then, prepared for the CSCFC Pau Race and the Open Pau Race. She took 25th Open in the Pau Race, 7th Sec and 32nd Open Pau Open Race of 699 birds.

This Hen was bred from a Hen of Michael White and Son's from Bournemouth who I consider to be one of the most consistent distance flyers in the country, always there as long as I can remember in distance results. That is why I nursed this Hen then paired it to my Palamos winner's brother.



Roger, Gill and Corey Owers



Guy Mullen and Son Matthew



In 4th Open 2nd Section G is a father & son partnership who only joined the British Barcelona Club this season **Guy Mullen & Son Matthew from Horley.**

The pigeon that achieved 4th Open in the BBC Palamos race on 24th June 2018 is a 2012 blue hen, bred from stock obtained from Woodlands Farm Stud by the late Brian Buckland.

This hen was our single entry to the race and has been raced on a celibate system at the start of the season and sent sitting her first pair of eggs this year.

This hen has previously flown Agen, the Pau International and last year flew Barcelona.

Her preparation comprised of 3 channel races and 1 inland race in the Reigate Club, but it was always our intention that these were to prepare her for the BBC Palamos race.

Also, congratulations to all the flyers who clocked from this difficult race and particularly to the winner, Willie Healy of Jersey.

Great supporters of the BBC and every year can be seen strutting their stuff on the dance floor at the BBC presentation dinner are **Mr & Mrs Dave & June Newman from Aylesbury** who **Top Section D & 5th Open.**

GB14N55061 Blue Chequer Hen. This Pigeon was bought at a BB&O Breeder Buyer sale and was bred by John Prentice of Flackwell Heath, High Wycombe. She was a day bird from Bordeaux as a yearling. Had 3 Channel races in 2016, flew Tarbes NFC and Bordeaux BB&O in 2017.

This year she has been flown natural and sent to Exeter with our Club, CSCFC Messac then to Palamos sitting 12 day eggs. She is fed on Willisbridge Allround and Gerry Plus and regularly trained from Winchester, Salisbury and Calshot.

Our 2nd bird from Palamos clocked at 6.06 am on Monday morning was also bought at BB&O Breeder Buyer sale in 2015 and was bred by Sherman & Wells of Oxford.

Have been racing and breeding pigeons first in partnership with my Father as a 14 year old Schoolboy in Surrey flying in Hershan, Molesey and Kingston Clubs respectively, over 20 years also in the London Colli where in 1962 we had 44th Open from the International Barcelona Race.

For over 40 years I have been racing in partnership with my Wife at our present location.

(Misty our German Shepherd pup had to steal the limelight!!)

6th Open is Simon Knowles of F Knowles & Son from Canterbury with his single entry 6 year old blue hen who is flown on celibate. Her preparation for Palamos was Fontenay with the East of England Continental Club and 4 x Bedhampton with the Wingham Flying Club. She is fed on Bucktons Irish mix with added peanuts, sunflower hearts and some other small seeds. Previously she has flown Pau twice, Barcelona twice and Marseille once with the BICC.

A great weekend all round as Simon also timed 5 arrivals from Pau BICC provisionally 43rd, 68th, 96th, 98th & 109th Open.



Dave and June Newman with Misty the pup



Simon Knowles

2nd Section D 7th Open is Mark Gilbert from Winkfield with his 2 year old blue cock bird. The father is from Orion/Silvie of Jella Jellma, Silvie was 3rd International Barcelona. His mother is a hen I bought which was 15th International Barcelona. As a yearling he was around 100th Tarbes National and then was 15th BICC National Perpignan.



Mark Gilbert



Timmy Joy

Another single entry being timed was by **Mr & Mrs Timmy Joy from Chichester** who are **1st Section A 8th Open** with a 5 year old hen who has previously flown Pau twice and Zaragoza in 2017. She is from a strain of birds that Tim has had for 65 years from the late long distance legend William Steele of Uttoxeter. Preparation for this race was only exercising around the loft and a very tough Fougères with the Solent Federation.

A marvellous result for **Don Harvey from Dover 9th & 10th Open** timing a pair of nest brothers 11 minutes apart from this distance.

First of all I would like to say a big thank you to Clare our secretary who does a wonderful job and Nigel Rigiani our convoyer.

My two cocks were in wonderful condition when I timed them eleven minutes apart. They are a nest pair of cocks. The pencil cock was 72nd Open Bordeaux BBC in 2014, 73rd Open Tarbes NFC and 2nd GDSBNFC 2015. My second bird from Tarbes in 2016. Last year he was one yard out of race time from Barcelona and now 9th Open from Palamos plus other positions.

His nest brother the pencil pied scored from Bordeaux BBC in 2014, 72nd Open St Vincent BICC, came back with leg hanging off from a hawk attack 2015, 63rd Open Pau BICC 2016 7th in the Kent 500 mile Club. My first bird from Tarbes NFC 2016, 6th Kent 500 mile Club and now 10th Open from Palamos plus other positions.

I have had pigeons now for fifty six years, dad started in 1962 when I was just 4 years old. This year I have fed Bamfords corn three racing mixes mixed together plus some Hormoform. The cocks are raced on the widowhood system with a few natural hens. I send all my birds with the East England Continental Club to gain the experience they need later in life.



Don Harvey 9th Open



Don Harvey 10th Open

2nd Section A is a fancier who has been a member of the British Barcelona Club since the beginning and also competed in the first two long distances races from Barcelona in 1965 and 1966 **Les Kidd from New Milton.**

Les timed a three year old dark chequer cock named “Here Comes Johnny” who certainly has the breeding. His previous performance was 33rd Open CSCFC Pau 2017. He is a direct son of Les’ 5th Open Barcelona Hen who is a Great Granddaughter of Mr & Mrs Ken Hine’s “Charville Gemma” 1st Open BBC Palamos 1993. On the sire’s side “Here Comes Johnny” is bred from Les’ 8th Open BICC Barcelona and San Sebastian Cock.



Here comes Johnny



Les Kidd

1st Section C is the partnership of Dave Wyatt and Mervyn Gray from Nailsea. They timed a 4 year old blue hen whose dam has been a consistent pigeon for them. She has been in the top 20 of the Bristol Fed 3 years running from Saintes and is from Dave's old family crossed with Matt Rakes pigeons. The grand parents bloodlines are Raymond Moleveld Jan Aardens bought from Stuart Wilcox.

Dave would like to say well done to everyone who has birds home from this very hard race.



Wyatt & Gray's hen

Convoyers Report

Monday 18th June

Arrived at the docks at 6:30 pm and the birds were fed and watered before loading onto the ferry for Quistreham (Caen)

Tuesday 19th June

The birds were watered at the docks for one hour before setting off. Stopped at Bain de Bretagne (Messac) for forty five minutes and then onto Niort for another stop before our final stop of the day at Aire de Saint Ledger where the birds were fed and watered and we spent the night.

Wednesday 20th June

First stop the other side of Bordeaux half way to Toulouse, second stop between Toulouse and Narbonne and then onto Perpignan where we spent the night leaving a one hundred mile hop to Palamos. Both days saw no cloud what so ever and little wind to speak of.

Thursday 21st June

Arrived at Palamos at 11am, clear blue skies and a light Southerly wind.

The birds were fed and re-watered and left to rest.

Something did catch my eye on this trip was that each time we stopped and I open the back of the lorry at least 70% of the birds would be nestled in the shaving and completely relaxed and little if any squabbling in the cock crates, the hens are always much more relaxed on a long journey.

Friday 22nd June

Dawn broke to high cloud in the east and overhead which did concern me some what after the clear skies all week but it was due to break up in the next couple of hours, the wind was still a light Southerly but turning North Westerly at Perpignan and freshening mid morning.

The call was made to Roger our weather/race adviser telling me that all was good but for the strengthening NW winds to the North of the Pyrenees at Perpignan but decreasing and turning NE at Toulouse and right up through France which did concern me some what.

But with the skies clearing all the time the decision was made to lib when the sky was clear and at 08:15 the doors were dropped and the birds cleared the site in one batch and were out of site by the time I had checked the baskets but heading NNW to the V in the mountains.

The journey back saw crystal clear skies up to and right through the Pyrenees but the wind began to strengthen considerably once we cleared the mountains, but once we turned left at Narbonne heading back to Toulouse the winds dropped of as fast as they had lifted but still N Westerly so on their nose. We stopped for the night just short of Limoges 440 miles covered.

Saturday 23rd June

We arose to a strong N Easterly warm wind blowing and clear skies which began to decrease as we headed North.

At Alencon the cloud started to build but high and white with a moderate NE wind.

We arrived at the docks at 6:30 pm to cloudy skies and a North wind blowing off the channel but the crossing was smooth.

At the time of writing one brave and very gallant pigeon had made it into Jersey on the second day, a very exceptional bird indeed, well done Willie.