

NFC Tarbes International Single Nomination Competition

Competitors "Blog"

There's less than a month now to the Tarbes International on 10th July, which for the first time sees the NFC's Grand National race embedded within it. Fifty-one online NFC members each nominated a single pigeon way for the race way back in March, as a bit of sporting fun to see who could pick a decent pigeon out with no previous Grand National form behind it. It's now getting really interesting to see how the preparations have gone in the past month or so, and I have picked up selected comments that competitors have either posted on the NFC's discussion forum in the past month or so, or emailed to me. As you'll see there are tales of success and despair in roughly equal measure. Two pigeons have already topped their Sections in highly competitive National/Classic racing, whilst others have succumbed to rotten bad luck. Read and enjoy!

❖ 17 June

➤ Team RML

- Well TEAM RML's candidate is improving. From his last training race, the BBC Poitiers, he came early on Sunday morning and was actually the 5th bird home – clearly he is getting himself ready for the off

❖ 16 June

➤ Russell Bradford

- My nom pigeon for Tarbes "**Mr H**" went to the BICC Poitiers race which is 396 miles to my loft, and had an exceptional fly, winning the local championship club and taking provisional 4th Open National BICC. It was N/NW wind most of the way, so he had to put the work in to this ten hour journey, and now looks ready for another "Tarbes Experience" now just three weeks away. He may get a fifty mile single (or double) up in a fortnight's time and will have as much food, rest, and open loft as he wants in the meantime.



"Mr H"

❖ 14 June

➤ C & J van de Mortel

- We have to apologise to you and all the other entrants but we have decided to withdraw **Steady Eddie** from the nom and will not be sending to Tarbes. Our aim is to race the NFC programme and part of the MNFC. With a team of 11 birds it really isn't feasible to include Tarbes. This was only ever going to be a one off, however **Steady Eddie** has sired two good yearlings, our 1st two timers in the MNFC last weekend. Number one being on his 1st channel race of the season. Depending on how they continue to perform, he will either be put to stock or sent to NFC Saintes. We wish every one of you good luck in the race and will be following your posts and finally the race, which we are sure will continue to show the quality of British fanciers and their pigeons. Having visited many Belgian and Dutch lofts in the past we have always considered the British fancier to be at least equal to but often superior. Best of luck to you all

❖ 13 June

➤ L & K Buddle

- **Red Ted's** next race is NFC Poitiers in preparation for Tarbes

➤ Mark Brown

- **Clare's Boy** did Yelverton on Saturday 131mile in 3hr 41mins (41mins behind winners)

❖ 12 June

➤ Dean Jones

- Nom bird first back today from Poitiers 11 hours on the wing just right now get her down on eggs ready for the BIG ONE

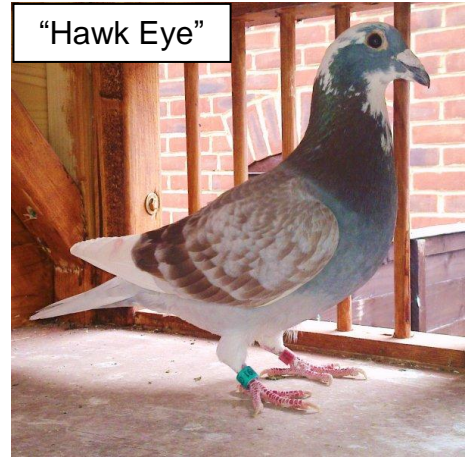
➤ Brian Holland

- Sad to say along with many others up in this neck of the woods my Tarbes nominated pigeon has failed to return from NFC Messac. I think this nomination is an excellent idea and hope to try again next year. May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a successful Tarbes race.



"Clare's Boy"

- ❖ 11 June
 - Walter Castledine
 - Hi all sent **Hawk Eye** to Le Mans today with the combine 240m looks like being a North wind for the weekend hope all the other nom birds have a good old fly.
- ❖ 10 June
 - Dean Jones
 - I have sent my nom bird to Poitiers with the BICC today for her last prep race before Tarbes she was looking & handling well lets hope we have a nice steady race.
- ❖ 6 June
 - Mark Brown
 - Our Blue Pied Cock **Clare's Boy**, did the Messac (Wessex Combine) in bang on 7hrs arriving at 1430hrs and clapping around, he is looking well, next outing will be Niort in 2 weeks then off to the International all being well
 - T Roebuck & Son
 - My nom bird **Georgie Girl** was my 4th bird back and looking good her next race Tarbes
 - Stewart Reed
 - My nom was my 2nd bird back flying 8hrs he handles and looks well so 3 weeks time he will get a 50 mile single up then into Tarbes
 - Steve Holmes
 - **Jim** had 10hrs and looks and handles fine Tarbes next, peregrines allowing!
 - Mr & Mrs F Birch & Sons
 - Our nom had 12 hours next race Tarbes International
- ❖ 5 June
 - C & J van de Mortel
 - Nom bird **Steady Eddie** was our 3rd bird back from NFC Messac, he is doing 1259yph and looking fit.
- ❖ 4 June
 - D & D McFadden
 - Sent mine with the BICC to Saran, dropped 2 from 14 and one of those two was my nom pigeon. That's racing I suppose!!
 - Lee Patterson
 - My nom going for her 2nd race, again with the Solent Federation to Messac. Just re-paired on Tuesday after being on roundabout. Not really expecting much at this stage but just a bit more time on the wing
- ❖ 3 June
 - C & J van de Mortel
 - Our nom **Steady Eddie** is in the basket for NFC Messac today, nearly didn't make it though, our entry form although posted last Thursday only arrived this morning, as did other fanciers, we had to wait till the end of marking to see if there was any baskets left due to non arrivals, thankfully there were a few places and we all got in. We were concerned about our four yearlings, two on their first channel race we didn't want to send them more than 340 miles their first time over. So be warned about your entries and send them in earlier, it seems the post is no longer reliable, it wasn't funny for the markers either.
 - Stewart Reed
 - Just sent my nom with the NFC first race of the season hope to get a good fly 8 hrs would be nice
 - Russell Bradford
 - I was in two minds whether to send my NFC Nom pigeon to Saran with the BICC, the NFC at Messac or next week to Poitiers with the BICC. I've opted for Poitiers having thankfully avoided breaking his spirit at Saran where I sent 8 and got 2. He has had a 65 mile single up today and home safe and sound and now pairing him up in the next few days. Sorry to hear your Nom bird has gone down at Saran Paul. Be interesting to know who still has their nominated bird in the loft and ready for Tarbes in just over a month.
 - Mr & Mrs F Birch & Sons
 - Sorry to hear mark about your hen and your's Paul, hope they return safe and sound. Bad weekend for the sport of racing pigeons. Should never have gone up. It would have been better for them to bring them home than to let them go. Too many good pigeons missing and this will have a knock-on effect for all other races. PS our nom has gone with the NFC today
 - Paul O'Leary
 - Mark ... I'm rooting for your good Hen and hope she returns safely. My NOM pigeon got caught up in the BICC Saran smash last weekend ... he's still away as I write this.



- ❖ 2 June
 - Mark Bulled
 - My hen **Sergeant Cecil**, previous winner of 1st Open LSECC Tarbes, is still missing from this weekend's smash from Tours, along with I'm sure many others. If she does ever return she will certainly never be raced again!
- ❖ 30 May
 - L & K Buddle
 - Our Nom pigeon **Red Ted** has been coming through his training races very well. He has had two from Canappeville plus Pithiviers today with the East Of England Continental Club. A weekend off for him next week!
- ❖ 27 May
 - Alan Baker
 - Hi Paul I have a disappointing story to tell. I have a new loft and new location (only a couple of hundred yds from the old one) which my birds moved in to the week before Xmas. The past two seasons I have kept my birds in from September to April because of the hawk problems. I have 4 decent widowhood cocks for the distance that I wanted to break so I decided to let them out in February. One of them has scored at 300 & 380 mile and won at 176 mile and in 2009 flew Barcelona for me, out of race time but I was still delighted to get him at my first attempt at Barcelona. That day in Feb when I went to call them in, there were only 3 there. In the field in front of the loft I could see a bird, when I went to it, it was minus its head, it was the Barcelona bird. Not a great start, my attempts at breaking were stopped and I reverted back to keeping them in until April. I nominated a yearling widowhood cock the only yearling I think(?). Well you've guessed I lost him around the new loft the first time out, I assume Percy had done it again (though I don't know for definite). The upshot of course was the fear of letting them out, which has knocked back my season, so much that last Saturday was my first race a 62 miler (I was 2nd so they're in ok nick , I think). But it means trying to get my birds wound up fairly quickly to try and get them into Messac. So a real disappointment to be not competing in this single bird nom but congratulations on a great competition and on being a great supporter of this great club, one which I have great pride in being a member of. I shall be watching this competition with great interest, some fantastic birds and fantastic flyers entered but it would be lovely to see an 'unknown' win it! Good luck to all
- ❖ 24 May
 - T Roebuck & Son
 - My nom bird went to the NFC St Malo race my 2nd bird back flying 339 miles took her 9 hours next race Messac.
 - Lee Patterson
 - My nom was 16th home out of 18 in her first race taking approx 8½ hours from Messac, 210 miles. A tough opener!
 - Bill Harris
 - **Devil Woman** took 8 hours for the 226 miles on Saturday. Not brilliant I know, but it was her first race of the year and she looks fine. Had a little yearling hen return from the National hawked. Don't know how she made it home.
- ❖ 23 May
 - Dean Jones
 - Nom bird 3rd bird back from St Malo 1180ypm a little off the pace but needs another 400mls next race NFC Messac or BICC Poitiers.
 - Walter Castledine
 - Got my nom pigeon yesterday from St Malo doing 750ypm into a head wind all the way home looking OK when he landed though a little off the pace. His next trip will be with the BBC from Poitiers 325miles in 3 weeks time. Will have to give him a name by the time Tarbes comes round
 - Team RML
 - Well the best that can be said is that TEAM RML's nomination is improving, slightly. He went to the BBC Vire and was very slow arriving 18th from 28. It was a headwind all the way, so he did get some work, but it was poor. Now from the BBC Messac, which was again a headwind and quite a hard race from this area, he managed 13th from 20 so he was still quite slow. In the meantime his nest brother came 7th and 2nd. Have we got it wrong?



- C & J van de Mortel
 - **Steady Eddie** arrived home yesterday at 6.30 doing 854ypm 7th bird home well behind 1st doing 1246
- Mr & Mrs F Birch & Sons
 - Got our nom at 10:30 this morning he is OK just needed a good drink.
- ❖ 22 May
 - C & J van de Mortel
 - Our nom **Steady Eddie** is in the NFC St Malo today, I see no lib yet maybe mist on the channel?
- ❖ 21 May
 - Lee Patterson
 - My nom having her first race this weekend from Messac with the Solent Fed. She is on roundabout for the first time and at 5 years old she's really not settled to it. Still there's plenty of time yet!
- ❖ 20 May
 - D Cousins
 - My Nom bird has gone to St Malo today, its his first race of the season. Getting him fit for this race has been a nightmare. A training flight from Portsmouth took him 2 days and just haven't been able to get him as fit as the rest since. Good luck to all for Saturday.
 - Mr & Ms F Birch & Sons
 - Sent our nom to the national today with 27 others looks like it will be on there nose on Saturday. Do them good. 214 miles to us from St Malo. Good luck to every one that has sent.
- ❖ 18 May
 - Bill Harris
 - Just to keep you informed that my NFC Single bird entry **Devil Woman** is having her first race of the 2010 season this coming weekend with the NFC from St Malo. Good luck to all the single bird entries that have also entered.
- ❖ 16 May
 - Brian Holland
 - My nom bird had his 3rd outing of the year from 192 miles in a North West wind and came after 6 hours. He will be going to St Malo with the NFC.
 - Mark Bulled
 - My nom bird had her first channel race with the London Classic yesterday. Was a bit behind but homed after 6 hours looking well. Next race for her will be Tours in 2 weeks time, when hopefully preparation will begin!
 - Lord & Day & Jordan
 - Lost our nom bird off the loft just before racing started, I am gutted as she was a previous section winner, I have a feeling that it was the hawk but could have been the wires!
 - Paul O'Leary
 - My blue cock will be re-introduced to the training basket this week ... so fingers-crossed he doesn't have any more mishaps!
- ❖ 15 May
 - Dean Jones
 - Nom bird second bird home today 5th Club Portsmouth 115mls next race NFC St Malo ... she's getting fitter!
 - G & C Cooper
 - We sent our nom bird **Ridge** to Messac with the CSCFC today where he won 1st NW section. He will be going to the NFC next week, all being well.



Now onto a few reminders to all competitors on the Clocking and Verification procedures required for the Tarbes International:-

1. Rubbers
 - a. ALL pigeons should be double-rubbered, regardless of clocking method
2. ETS users
 - a. 'International' rules require that your pigeon will also have to have one rubber timed into a 'traditional' clock within five minutes of the ETS recorded time
 - b. Before doing this make a note of the OUTSIDE rubber code as you will need this as part of your telephone verification
 - c. If the rubber is correctly clocked within five minutes of your ETS time then your ETS time will count as your arrival time
 - d. If the rubber is clocked outside the five minutes allowed then your Rubber clocked time will count as your arrival time
 - e. Failure to clock a rubber at all will, effectively, disqualify your pigeon as the clocking requirements have been violated
 - f. Telephone Verification
 - i. Call the usual telephone number within 30 minutes
 - ii. Apart from the usual information you give for National races you will also be required to give the OUTSIDE rubber code of the rubber that you clocked
3. Non-ETS Users
 - a. You must clock BOTH rubbers, within five minutes of each other
 - b. Do not hesitate in clocking the first rubber as this will establish your arrival time
 - c. Make a note of the OUTSIDE rubber code of the second rubber that you clock as you will need this as part of your telephone verification
 - d. Failure to clock the second rubber within five minutes of the first rubber will, effectively, disqualify your pigeon
 - e. Telephone Verification
 - i. Call the usual telephone number within 30 minutes
 - ii. Apart from the usual information you give for National races you will also be required to give the OUTSIDE rubber code of the second rubber clocked

Good luck to everyone in the Tarbes International.