

Thames North & Eastern Counties Flying Club

Race 16 was flown on 21st July from Littlehampton (37/658) with distances for the fanciers ranging from 48 to 100 miles. The birds were up and away at 0715hrs into a light south west wind for what proved yet another good race with the winners doing just over 50mph.

Taking the red card in both **Hullbridge** and the **Thames** we have arguably the best loft in Essex in my lifetime, namely Mr & Mrs J. Buckfield. In John's words they only play on the south road, though I suspect in recent times they are playing harder than in the past as can be seen with this year's results. However their main aim has always been the north road and they have produced some brilliant results over the years with 2019 being no exception with three Combine wins on the north road and more Club and Fed wins than I can count. Well done on another great season. This week's winner was a 2y blue hen from his own family based on the Soontjens and some very selective crosses over the years which have made a top family of all round pigeons.

Coming in 2nd in both clubs was John Cowlin with a yearling Frans Zwols hen which had not raced during the early part of the year and was having only her second outing.

Taking 3rd, 4th and 5th Hullbridge and in the Thames Open was Micky Watts who clocked three quick fire young birds, the first two were Frans Zwols bred by Formula 1 Lofts and are a nest pair; 3rd on the clock is a Frans Zwols cross. Just in case you are wondering why we have old and young birds in the same result, it is because the Thames has any age racing from the first to last race each season. Meaning any pigeon can win or take positions each week regardless of age.

Taking the 6th, 7th and 8th spots again both in Hullbridge and the Thames Open we have Tony Buckfield who also clocked three young birds in four seconds all from his own family of birds based around the old original Soontjens.

Also doing a demolition job in **Estuary Club** was A. Hammond & Son who clocked three old cocks in 40 seconds to finish 9th, 10th and 19th Open Thames.

David Coward-Talbot was back to winning ways and took the red card clocking a 2y blue pied cock in **Laindon** and he was followed by Pat Newell with a young hen and Alex Mackenzie with a 2y hen.

The winner in the **Colchester Club** was A. Royce. Rodney has had another good season in both Colchester and the Thames and this week clocked a yearling hen who has carded a few times this season. Next up was the first young bird in Colchester Club and this was timed by Keith & Linda Turner & Sons one from their Red Daniel van Reet family. Taking 3rd and 4th spot was Mr & Mrs Brace with a pair of nestmates bred from a pair from Albert Hendrex, this pair bred a winner in 2018 so look like a decent pair of breeders.

Doing a whitewash in **Thurrock** was R. Denny with 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

Taking the red card again in **Sundridge Park** we have the excellent partnership of P. Jackson & Son, who this week clocked a 2y hen. J. & J. Whitting took 2nd with Bill Sparks in 3rd.

Coming out on top this week by taking 1st, 2nd and 3rd in **Basildon Zone** with Frans Zwols young birds was J. P. J. Gladwin.

Super 6
Moving on to the Super 6 race which were liberated 15 minutes later at 0730hrs. These pigeons were a bit more gappy than the first race but the lead pigeon was only doing about half a minute slower than the first race winner. Winning the red card in both **Hullbridge** and the **Thames** was myself Gladwin & Jarvis clocking a good 2y Frans Zwols cock which I call A03 who is from Sky Runner and Tip Top 076.

Winning the red card in **Colchester** and 2nd Open Thames Mr & Mrs L. Brace who clocked a yearling cock.

Taking 2nd Hullbridge and 3rd Open Thames was Paul Elliott clocking a good loyal 3y cock which I know has done well for him both on the north and south road.

Taking the red card in **Laindon** and 4th Open Thames was Steve Smith who clocked a 2y hen.

Coming in 3rd Hullbridge, 5th Open we have last week's Super 6 winner and this week's first race winner Mr & Mrs J. Buckfield this time clocking a yearling hen. Completing the top 6 in the Thames by also winning 2nd Laindon Club we have R. Tate with a 3y hen.

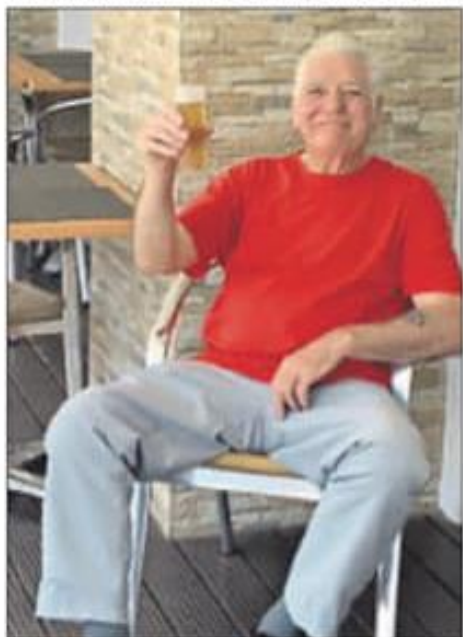
Now for some updates on future events which the Thames will hold in 2020. First up and available now are the Gold Rings, for our Young Bird Gold Ring Race which is flown on the BICC second young bird race. Rings are £10 each and a maximum of 10 per loft.

New for 2020 the Thames are hosting a moot on 29th February at The Grange Celtic Supporters Club, Grainger Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 5DD. Tickets are £10 each and include a fish and chip supper. Already confirmed on the panel are Mark Gilbert, D. & J. Staddon, David Coward-Talbot, Mark Bulled (further panellists may also be announced). I am sure you will agree this is a top line-up of all-round fanciers who win at sprint, middle and long distances with both old and young birds. So whatever racing you like I am sure you cannot fail to learn something from this moot. This will be followed by our Breeder/Buyer sales, dates and venues to be confirmed but looking at 8th, 21st and 29th March.

Of course we will also be running the Messac Open race again in September.

Please note the Thames has a new website - <https://www.thamesnec.co.uk>. I would highly recommend a look as subs and payments for gold rings etc can be done directly on it. It is also updated with all upcoming events etc plus comprehensive 2019 race results.

Any news or views to john.gladwin@hotmail.co.uk



John Buckfield.



John Cowlin.



John & Theresa Gladwin.