

# Thames North & Eastern Counties Flying Club

As I am so far behind with the results this year, I am going to do a roundup of the remaining races as I still have nine main races and seven Super 6 results to complete for the 2019 season.

Starting with Race 17 on 28th July. Like all the Thames races this is an any age race and this week sees Micky Watts continue his great form with his mixture of Frans Zwols and Gabys hitting the ETS pads from all angles to take the first three in the Hullbridge Club and Thames Open, clocked in three seconds, being a mixture of his old hens and young birds. This just a week after his 1st, 2nd and 3rd Open BICC Le Mans. As you can see his birds were bang in form The Thames has a three bird clocking rule so in all races only the first three count. This was brought in when ETS started as to replicate the fact that most fanciers would only clock a maximum of three on a manual clock. Some agree and some disagree that this is a good idea but I think this is a good thing for any club/fed to adopt. Second member to clock taking 4th Hullbridge and Thames Open was the previous week's winner and the grandmasters themselves Mr & Mrs J. Buckfield, clocking a 2y hen. They were closely followed by Tony Buckfield who clocked three sharp young birds to finish 5th, 6th and 7th in both the Hullbridge Club and the Thames Open. Completing the top 10 this week both in Hullbridge and the Thames was John Cowlin who clocked two young birds and an old hen he had kept back for the old hens races.

Winning the other clubs in the Thames this week was Chris Whiteside who won the **Laindon Station** with a young cock, which was also 11th Open Thames. Mr Abrahams and Steve Smith were the 2nd and 3rd members to clock in Laindon this week both clocking old hens.

Doing a demolition job in **Estuary Club** was Tony Meader who clocked two young birds and an old hen in five seconds to take the first three places with his first one being 13th Open Thames.

Taking the red card in **Colchester Club** and 20th Open Thames we have the lovely partnership of Mr & Mrs L. Brace who clocked what is looking like a promising young cock as he was 3rd Club last week as well he is bred from a pair purchased from Albert Hendrex from Belgium. Coming in 2nd and 3rd spots this week with their super Red Daniel van Reets we have Keith & Linda Turner & Sons.

Taking the red card in **Tilbury**, we have B. & L. Robinson who clocked a yearling hen to finish 24th Open Thames, they were closely followed by D. Heywood & Son and D. Wilton & Son.

Taking the first three in **Basildon Zone** again this week and clocking their good 2y Frans Zwols hen first which has quite a few positions including 2nd Open BICC for them last year we have J. P. J. Gladwin.

Completing this week's round up with have that partnership yet again taking the red card in **Sundridge Park** P. Jackson & Son this time clocking a good 4y hen first with Bill Sparks and J. & J. Whitting being the next two members to clock.

Race 18 moved us into August and the Thames were at Bedhampton (50/1.254), with an east south east wind it was going to be a testing race but

with the first nine places gone in under 15 seconds, with four different members and in four locations of the Thames and nearly 20 miles different in flying distances between the shortest and longest of the four you can see it was a good and fair race.

Taking the red card in both **Tilbury** and the **Thames** is the newly formed partnership of McDermott & Jones. This race was just the start of a good run in the Nationals that was about to start for them, showing the loft was inform just at the right time. Winning this one was a young dark cock on 1420.192. Right on their heels was Lee Bastone who won Hullbridge Club with a young blue hen from his Frans Zwols x Gabby on 1419.897 and he was closely followed by Micky Watts who clocked his brilliant Frans Zwols hen S04 which has won many top positions including twice 2nd Open Thames and top BICC positions including 5th Open as a YB and 6th Open BICC as a yearling. Micky's pigeon was doing 1419.716 and this was followed by Lee Bastone's second pigeon another Frans Zwols cross on 1419.698. Next up we had Tony Meader taking 1st, 2nd and 3rd Estuary Club and 5th, 6th and 7th Open Thames all three clocked in two seconds with his first velocity being 1418.931 and clocking two on the same second for 8th and 9th Open Thames we had Micky Watts again with a YB and a yearling hen both from his Frans Zwols doing 1418. Completing the top 10 and 2nd Tilbury we had D. Heywood & Son with a young hen and still only 10 seconds behind the bird in 9th place and only a further one second behind for 3rd Tilbury and 11th Open Thames was D. Wilton & Son.

As you can see this was a very tight run race, which come down to a photo finish. Well done McDermott & Jones on this superb win.

Taking the red card in **Basildon Zone** was Paul Gilbert and he was followed by G. Bishop and J. P. J. Gladwin.

Taking the red card in Colchester was Jamie Burnby who is a clear winner with a NEHU-rung young cheq pied hen flown natural as all Jamie's birds are. Taking the next two positions was the Davis & Son partnership having their first young bird race of the season.

Doing the white wash in Thurrock was R. Denry by taking the first three places, first on the clock a loyal servant for Roy being a 4y hen.

This moved us into Race 19 and we were again at Bedhampton and once again 50/1.225. Through quite a few people who sent the week before had gone all into the first BICC race and quite a few who did not send the week before came back in or was starting their young birds off this week. With the birds away in a south west wind this was always going to be a quick race.

In my opinion this race produced one of the inland results of the season with birds on 2077.374 for the race winning both in the Hullbridge Club and in the Thames with three birds clocked in one second all three being young Frans Zwols cocks for Frank 'The Man' Aloisio. What for me makes this a very good result was Frank lives in the middle of the Thames radius and the pigeon in 4th place was over flying him by 131/2 miles, the pigeon in 5th place was 231/2 miles shorter than Frank yet these three pigeons were around a minute and a half clear. At this speed means that these pigeons were around two



Team Wilton.



Joe House.

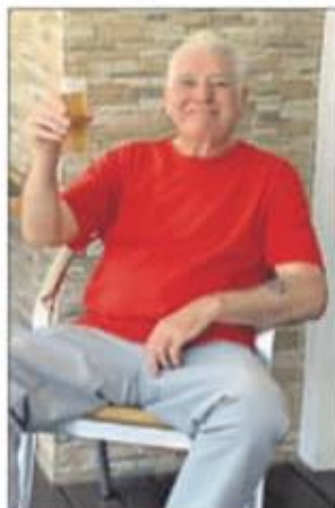


David Coward-Talbot.





Frank Aloisio.



John Buckfield.



John Cowlin.



Tony Buckfield.

miles in front. Some going I am sure you will agree keeping in mind that he lives bang in the middle of the Thames radius. Meaning these birds must have broken from the batch and raced each other to the loft.

Taking 1st Open **Colchester Club** and in 4th Open in the **Thames** we have Jamie Bumby making it back to back wins in Colchester for Jamie. This week's winner from his newly acquired Pit Bull family.

Taking the top spot in **Sundridge** we have the Bromley masters P. Jackson & Son who clocked a 3y hen.

Finishing in 4th **Hullbridge** and 6th Open **Thames** was Mr & Mrs Hume, who I know decided not to take a summer holiday this year and give their young birds a good go. So it was nice to see some pay back for their hard work.

Finishing in pole position in **Laindon Club** and 7th Open **Thames** we have Pat Newell with a young hen.

In 8th and 10th spots this week was Tony Buckfield with two young birds from his own family.

Taking the 2nd spot in **Laindon** and 9th Open **Thames** was Frank White with a young cock and one of his **Thames Gold Ring** pigeons.

Taking 2nd and 3rd positions in **Colchester Club** for the second week on the trot was Bill & Sam Davis the first being 100% Gert Heylen the second a Gert Heylen x De Meyer.

Completing the top 3 in **Laindon Club** and 24th Open **Thames** was Steve Smith with a young blue hen.

Taking the spoils again in **Estuary** was Tony Meader. Tony has not been flying very long but is putting up some very good performances not just inland but also in the Nationals. Keep up the good work Tony, that big win is only just around the corner, I am sure.

Taking the red card again in **Tilbury** this week was B. & L. Robinson with a young hen also carrying a **Thames Gold Ring**. I notice quite a few people have picked their **Gold Rings** well this year. D. Heywood & Son took 2nd and A. Jackson was the third member to clock in **Tilbury** both clocking young birds.

Taking the first three again in **Basilidon Zone** this week with their Frans Zwols was J. P. J. Gladwin.

We then moved on to Race 20 and again we were at **Bedhampton** after the removal of Poole as a lib site. This week we had 53/1,319 with a light south

west wind. The birds still managed to get a good speed on with the winning velocity being 1914.449 and adding to his very impressive season especially considering he did not start racing until June was Micky Watts by adding another **Thames** win along with his two **BICC** wins in 2019. This week's winner was a Frans Zwols cross young cock I believe bred by Lee Bastone.

Taking the first three in **Colchester Club** and 2nd and 3rd Open **Thames** we have Bill & Sam Davis. First one on the clock was a 100% Gert Heylen sire son of Oceans and the dam daughter of the Red Blister; 2nd on the clock was a 50% Gert Heylen 50% Rod Sparkes with the sire being a son of Gert's champion **The Mirage**, breeding winners up to Federation level. Dam was bred by Rod Sparkes in 2016, and has bred winners from the start. Coming in 2nd place in **Hullbridge Club** and 4th Open **Thames** we have Tony Buckfield, clocking one of his own family no doubt from one of his top proven breeders as this was carrying a **Thames Gold Ring**.

Doing the old 1, 2 in **Estuary Club** and 5th and 6th Open **Thames** was Lee Tracey clocking two young cock birds. Taking top spot this week in **Laindon** was Roger Tate clocking a young blue hen.

Taking 3rd, 4th and 5th **Hullbridge** with three quick fire ybs was R. & P. Thomas along with 8th and 10th Open **Thames** clocking a mixture of his Cooremans, Brian Baxter and Frans Zwols bloodlines.

Winning **Tilbury** in style being 1st and 2nd **Club** and 9th and 12th Open in the **Thames** we have the in-form loft of McDermott & Jones, who clocked two young cocks the first of which was carrying a **Thames Gold Ring**.

Coming in 3rd in **Estuary Club** and 14th Open **Thames** we have the lofts of David Hales whose birds have been taken over by Dave's former partner/loft manager after the sad passing of David. Duncan Goodchild who has kept on the good work and has done very well at the longer races again this year. Well done Duncan, I am sure David would be proud of the season.

Another loft having a very good season in the **Thames** and once again taking the first three in **Sundridge Park** was P. Jackson & Son clocking three young birds in one second to also take 17th, 18th and 20th Open **Thames**.

Taking 3rd spot in **Tilbury** and 22nd Open **Thames** we have the ever-present lofts of D. Wilton & Son who clocked a young cock.

Winning 3rd in **Estuary Club** is Mr Gold ring themselves J. & J. Brady and



Bernie McDermott.



Martin Jones.



Micky &amp; Sally Watts.



no surprise first on the clock is an NFC Gold Ring pigeon just being prepared for its money race no doubt. The 2nd and 3rd members to clock in Laidon Club were Pat Newell and Chris Whiteside, both clocking young cocks. Completing this week's round up we have J. P. J. Gladwin winning Basildon Zone closely followed by George Bishop.

Race 21 on 24th August saw us flying from Purbeck with the 1,288 birds up and away at 0745hrs into an east wind. This was always going to be a working race with the east wind, and so it proved with the velocities in the mid 1300s.

Carrying on his winning ways by taking the first three both in **Sundridge Park** and in the Open was P. Jackson & Son clocking a yearling cock followed by two young birds.

Also taking the first three this time in Tilbury Club was B. & L. Robinson clocking three young hens to finish 4th, 10th and 11th Open Thames.

Taking 4th **Sundridge Park** and 5th and 6th Open Thames was V. Belcher & Son Loft 2, this is another loft which is always up in the National results and is a new member for 2019 of the Thames.

Winning **Estuary** this week is one of our hard working committee members Joe House. Joe does a lot to help the Thames, so it is good to see his young birds coming well.

Another of our new members for 2019 young bird season was taking the first two in Laidon Club and that is Butcher Bros clocking two young hens two seconds apart to also take 8th and 9th Open Thames.

Carrying on his good form by not only winning **Hullbridge Club** against the wind but taking the first three was Micky Watts clocking two Formula 1 Lofts-bred Frans Zwols and a Frans Zwols cross. All three clocked within a second to finish 12th, 14th and 15th Open Thames.

Taking 3rd position in Laidon and 13th Open Thames is the Thames hard-working President, David Coward-Talbot; 2nd and 3rd members to clock in Estuary Club were David Hales and J. & J. Brady.

Moving on to **Colchester Club** and taking 1st position was Rodney Royce with a blue Vandenabeele via Terry Bentham bloodlines. The sire of Rodney's winner has won 3 x 1sts for Rodney including 4th Open BICC ybs, which I believe was from Fougères. In 2nd place we have the ever-consistent Bill & Sam Davis with one of their darkness youngsters, this one 50% Gert Heylen and 50% de Meyer and a grandson of their best stock cock. He's a son of Gert Heylen's champion The Mirage, 2 x Sprint Champion of Belgium. In 3rd position we have Mr & Mrs Turner & Sons with a young hen from their Red Daniel van Reet family.

Moving on to Race 22 which saw 611/1,454 which were let go at Littlehampton at 0745hrs on 31st August into a light east wind.

Taking his place in the winner's enclosure this week with 1st, 2nd and 3rd Laidon Club and 1st, 10th and 11th Open Thames was Frankie White. First on the clock was a young cock carrying a Thames Gold Ring having his last outing no doubt before the following week's money race. Bet Frank was hoping he had not peaked a week too early. Frank's next two were also both young cocks. Taking the red card along with 2nd and 7th **Hullbridge Club** and 2nd, 3rd and 8th Open Thames was John Cowlin with two Formula 1 Lofts-bred Frans Zwols YBs and a Frans Zwols yearling hen he had kept back for the Old Bird Nationals. Coming in 3rd in Hullbridge and 4th Open Thames was Mr & Mrs J. Buckfield with a young mealy cock from his own family.

Taking 4th Hullbridge Club along with 5th, 6th and 9th Open Thames was Micky Watts clocking a young hen first followed by two old hens. Showing that old birds can still compete even at the end of August if treated correctly. 7th Open Thames went to Tony Buckfield with a young cock from his own family. Taking the red card in **Colchester** we have Jamie Burnby who after a lifetime of racing north joined us and turned south a couple of years ago when he has consistently turned in winning performances, this week being no exception.



Davis &amp; Son.

Each year Jamie buys in youngsters from various sources and his winner this week is one he purchased from a Mr Armstrong of County Durham of Frans Zwols breeding. In 2nd and 3rd positions we have the consistent winning partnership of Bill & Sam Davis, below is the info given by Sam. '1st pigeon's sire was bred by Bob Fenech and the dam is Rigolie bloodlines, the 2nd pigeon's sire is a grandson of de Meyer's De Zot and the dam is 100% Gert Heylen.'

Once again occupying the winner's spot in **Tilbury** was McDermott & Jones who also took 2nd place, clocking two young hens. Mr & Mrs S. Wakerley finished in 3rd spot timing a young cock. Winning the red card in **Estuary** was A. Hammond & Son, clocking a yearling hen first with Tony Meader and Lee Tracey being the next two members to clock.

Once again P. Jackson had a good race in **Sundridge Park** taking the first three positions and clocking a yearling hen first this week. Finishing off this week's report with Paul Gilbert who did a demolition job on the first three in **Basildon Zone**.

Race 23 see us back at Bedhampton and with this being the final race both for the NFC and BICC of the year, birdage in the Thames was a bit down with 44/803. The birds were up and away at 1030hrs into a north wind. Again this was a working race with the birds doing under 50mph. One loft that was still showing top form as they have all year on both the north road and south road was Mr & Mrs J. Buckfield showing everyone a clean pair of heels by taking 1st, 2nd and 3rd in **Hullbridge Club** and the Thames Open clocking all three in five seconds, all three from his own family of tried-and-tested big winners over many years. Also doing the 1,2,3 in **Tilbury Club** was another of the top lofts that manage to excel both on the south and north roads this being D. Wilton & Son, these three also took 4th, 5th and 8th Open Thames. Another loft which has been in good form recently and unfortunately will be having a break from racing after this season is Frank 'The Man' Aloisio, Frank finished 4th Hullbridge and 6th, 7th and 9th Open Thames with his first two being Frans Zwols and the 3rd one being a Breeder/Buyer pigeon.

Taking the red card in **Estuary Club** was Tony Meader, who clocked a young cock to also win 10th Open Thames. T. McLaughlin took 2nd place in Estuary with a young hen with Lee Tracey finishing in 3rd spot.

Once again P. Jackson had a cracking race in **Sundridge Park** clocking three in five seconds to take the first three in the Club.

Laidon Club was won by G. Watts with a young cock that also took 25th Open Thames and just pipped last week's winner F. White who had to make do with 2nd Laidon with R. Tate being the third member to clock this week. The super-consistent lofts of Bill & Sam Davis took pole position this week in **Colchester Club**, their winner is from their No. 1 stock pair, sire now our best breeding cock is a direct son of Gert Heylen's Champion The Mirage, 2 x Sprint Champion of Belgium and the dam is now our best breeding hen bred by Rod Sparkes in 2016, a daughter of his famous breeding pair Robin and Vera. Robin was bred by Luc van Mechelen and Vera by Victor de Belster. She is now dam of two winners and many more to score in the Club. Taking the 2nd and 3rd spots were Mr & Mrs Les Brace. Their first bird was bred from a pair of Hardy Krugers. Their second was bred by Albert Hendrex from his best stock birds. Finishing this week's round up we have Paul Gilbert doing the whitewash in **Basildon Zone** by taking the first three.

The Thames decided to add two extra races at the end of the season to allow people to get some later birds going or ones which may have had knocks etc to get a couple of races under their belts. So we moved onto Race 24 and this was a short one from Littlehampton. With some members already locking up for the year and some off on holiday, already the birdage was down with 31/570. However a good race was had by all and the birds fell in, as can be seen in the results with many multiple birds on the drops. Taking the first three



Jackson &amp; Son.



in both Hullbridge Club and the Thames Open was John Cowlin clocking three Formula 1 Lofts-bred Frans Zwols in five seconds. Also taking the first three this time in Tilbury Club was D. Wilton & Son with their three clocked in two seconds to also finish up 4th, 5th and 6th Open Thames. Winning the red card in **Estuary** and another of our long-serving Thames committee members was T. McLaughlan who clocked a young hen. Finishing in 4th place in Hullbridge and 8th and 9th Open Thames was Mr & Mrs Buckfield clocking two in four seconds. 10th Open went to Gladwin & Jarvis with what was proving to be a useful young Frans Zwols cock. Carrying on their winning ways in **Colchester** was Davis & Son, this week taking the first three places in the Club. First pigeon is a great-granddaughter of their No. 1 stock cock, 75% Gert Heylen, 25% Rod Sparkes which has already scored this year; 2nd pigeon is a grandson of their No. 1 stock cock, Gert Heylen x de Meyer cross which has also scored earlier this season; 3rd pigeon a daughter of our No. 1 stock pair, 50% Gert Heylen, 50% Rod Sparkes. Her nestmate had already won this year and another full sister had scored.

In Laindon Club A. Mackenzie was back to winning ways and he was closely followed by Butcher Bros and G. Watts. This is starting to sound like a broken record but once again P. Jackson & Son were at it again in Sundridge Park taking the first three positions with their first bird also being 24th Open Thames.

As we moved on to the final race of the 2019 season this time it was from Bedhampton and finishing the season in a very fitting manner as this must be one of the lofts of the 2019 season if you look at both north road and south road results, I would think their season is pretty much unprecedented in Essex, 3 Combine wins, an Amal win and many Club and Fed wins. In my view they are one of the greatest lofts in Essex in the last 50 years, I present to you Mr & Mrs J. Buckfield who finished off with 1st, 2nd and 8th Hullbridge Club and 1st, 2nd and 9th Open Thames. Clocking two hens and a cock, the first two pigeons were just under two minutes in front of the next bird in the Thames.

Taking 3rd Hullbridge and 3rd, 6th and 7th Thames was John Cowlin with three Formula 1 Lofts Frans Zwols. Splitting John's birds were my own Gladwin & Jarvis who finished 4th and 5th in both Hullbridge and the Thames Open with two Frans Zwols.

Next up and taking the first three in **Estuary Club** and 8th Open Thames was T. McLaughlan.

**Laindon Club** had David Coward-Talbott finishing the season on a winning note by taking the first three.

And finally to finish the last result for the main race in 2019 we have a loft that has had a superb end of the season form in **Colchester Club** and once again takes the first three, 1st bird 100% de Meyer, the sire and dam are half siblings; 2nd bird is a great-granddaughter of their No. 1 stock cock, 75% Gert Heylen. She has won and scored on two separate occasions this year; 3rd bird is a daughter of their best racing cock in the widowhood shed, he's had 3 x 1st and as many 2nds. She has also scored a few times. I would like to finish the racing report on the main races and say a very big thank you to everyone who has supported the Thames this year both the members and the non-members. Hopefully many of you can support the events below during 2020 as we continue to make the Thames one of the very best organisations in the country. I would also like to say a massive thank you to the people who give me info on their winning pigeons each week and especially Derek Reis who always sends me info on the Colchester winners. Please do not moan if your club does not get the same write up as other clubs as the only reason is because I do not have the information to report on. Maybe each club could ask someone to jot down a few lines each week on the first three birds and send me the info each week. That way all clubs will get the same coverage.

Just to give you all some updates on the upcoming events that the Thames will be holding in 2020. First up and available now are the Gold Rings, for our Young Bird Gold Ring race which is flown from the BICC second young bird race. Rings are £10 each and a maximum of 10 per loft. Next up and new for 2020, the Thames is running 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 & chip supper. Already confirmed on the panel are Mark Gilbert, D. & J. Staddon, David Coward-Talbott, Mark Bulled (further panellists may be announced). I am sure you will agree this is a top line up of all-round fanciers which have all and do win at sprint, middle and long distances, and with 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.

Also 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 the website, it is also updated with all upcoming events etc and 2019 race results.

Any news or views to [john.gladwin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:john.gladwin@hotmail.co.uk)