

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 seven, Super 6 results to complete the write ups for the 2019 season. As a reminder the concept of the Super 6 races are each fancier can send a maximum of six birds a week and these are liberated after the bulk of the pigeons. The idea of this is to try and eliminate drag from the race result as much as possible, each bird costs an extra £1 per pigeon to enter into this race with all the money being paid out in prize money. It also gives a second race and another chance for a winner at Club and the Open level. 2019 was the Thames first season operating this type of racing and I am sure we will add some refinements for the 2020 season.

Anyway I was up to Race 16 so will start on Race 17 which see us at Littlehampton on the 28th July, the birds liberated into a west wind at 0700hrs. Not for the first time winning both the red card in **Hullbridge Club** and the Thames Open was Mr & Mrs J Buckfield clocking a 2y hen from his own family. Winning the red card in Estuary Club and 2nd Open Thames is another loft which has done very well in these Super 6 races. T McLaughlin who clocked a yearling hen which has raced very well for him this year winning 3 x 1st in Estuary and 1st, 2nd and 3rd Open in The Thames and winning a nice few pounds along the way. Coming in 2nd spot in Hullbridge Club and 3rd Open Thames was myself Gladwin & Jarvis clocking my very good Frans Zwols hen E49. She is a grandchild of the Prince of Rekkem and has already won many positions including 3rd Open BICC, Winning Colchester Club and 4th Open Thames we have Mr & Mrs Les Brace, this week clocking a 2y cock which has been their first pigeon a few occasions in the past. Taking 3rd spot



Thames members.

in Hullbridge and 5th Open Thames we have Frank 'The man' Aloisio who this week clocked his good 3y Frans Zwols cock. Completing the top six and taking 1st Laindon Club we have G. Watts who clocked what is looking a useful yearling hen which has been their first bird four times this year and already had 2nd Laindon Club to her name.

Moving onto Race 18 and this time we were racing from Bedhampton, the birds were away at 0820hrs for a good steady race with the birds doing roughly 48mph. Winning the red card in both Hullbridge and The Thames is the super loft of

Micky Watts. What a season he has had 2 x 1st National, 2 x 2nd National, 3rd National etc. His team of Gabys and Frans Zwols have flown brilliantly especially considering he did not start racing until June time. Interesting fact about this 2y hen, as a young bird she was Micky's first pigeon on Race 17, as a yearling she was his first bird on Race 18 and this week as a 2y she was his first bird on Race 18 again and the three race dates being 3rd, 4th and 5th August. There must be something she really likes about that weekend. Taking the red card in **Estuary** and 2nd Open Thames we have T. McLaughlin who continues his great form in these Super 6 races. This week with a yearling hen. Coming out on top in **Tilbury Club** and 3rd Open Thames with a yearling cock we have B & L Robinson. The results were definitely spread around this week with A. Royce winning Colchester Club and 4th Open Thames clocking a yearling hen which has some good previous form including winning 3rd in the Thames Gold Ring race in 2018 as a young bird. Just pipped into 2nd place Colchester Club, 5th Open Thames is Mr & Mrs L Brace who also clocked a yearling hen that flown well for them this season and as a young bird last year. Completing the top six in The Thames and also winning 2nd **Tilbury Club** was A. Jackson clocking a young bird.

The following week we were again at Bedhampton for what proved a much faster race with the lead birds doing just under 70mph. It was a very different race from the previous week but the same outcome with Micky Watts taking the win in both Hullbridge Club and the Thames Open, this time with a yearling Frans Zwols hen which has already had 20th Open BICC Le Mans this season. Just pipped into 2nd Club, 2nd Open Thames we have Mr & Mrs J Buckfield who clocked a young cock from their own family of big winners. Mum & Dad just knocking son Tony Buckfield down into 3rd Hullbridge and 3rd Open Thames with a young hen arriving first. Coming in 4th Hullbridge and 4th Thames was myself with a yearling Frans Zwols hen which was injured by a hawk in April and was left with the young birds to recover and then started training again with the young birds in July. Winning the red card again this week in **Estuary** is Mr Super 6 himself T. McLaughlin who clocked a



Thames member's wives.



Mr & Mrs Buckfield.

yearling hen this time. Completing this week's top six by winning **Colchester Club** is Mr & Mrs L Brace with the same yearling hen that they got in the last race.

As we moved into Race 20 and the weekend of the first BICC YB race we were once again at Bedhampton for another quick race in which the winners were doing over 60mph. Taking the red card this week in both **Estuary** and **The Thames** we have 'Mr Super 6' himself T. McLaughlan clocking his very good yearling hen which has had 1st, 2nd and 3rd Open in the Super 6 this year. Winning the red card in **Colchester Club** and 2nd Open **Thames** we have another in-form Super 6 loft, Mr & Mrs Les Brace with a young hen on this occasion. Winning the red card this week in **Laindon Club** and 3rd Open **Thames** was R. Tate who clocked a yearling hen.

Race 21 saw us at Purbeck for a much steadier race with the winners doing around 46mph into the east wind. Taking the spoils in both **Hullbridge** and **The Thames** was Tony Buckfield who clocked a young hen from his own family which has already had 8th Open **Thames** in the main race this season. Coming in 2nd spot in both **Hullbridge** and **The Thames** was Frank Aloisio who clocked a 2y Frans Zwols cock. Both **Hullbridge** and **The Thames** will be very sad to see you are not flying in 2020 mate. However all the best for the future from all **The Thames** members.

The **Thames** is moving on at a frightening rate and in a positive way, with many changes coming in 2020, including more Clubs and some very

exciting changes to the Super 6. Watch this space for a full update in the next few weeks. Don't forget Gold Rings can be brought now for **The Thames** north eastern counties Gold Ring race, which is flown on the BICC second young bird race. Rings are £10 each and a maximum of 10 per loft. Please call Rachel Bacon on 07718 882067 or look on **The Thames** website where these can be ordered and paid for. www.thamesnec.co.uk. We paid out £4,350 in 2019 and we hope and expect to pay out more in 2020. So get your rings even if you live in an unfavorable section in the BICC, as this race is a great bet as we also pay section prizes for all BICC sections. With all section winners getting the exact same prize money which is not dependent on how many rings are sold in each section. The **Thames** are also 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 and chip supper. Already confirmed on the panel are Mark Gilbert, D & J Staddon, David Coward-Talbot, Mark Bullied (further panellists maybe 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 new from this moot.

JOHN GLADWIN



Micky and Sally Watts.

Completing the top six by winning **Laindon Club** we have David Coward - Talbot who clocked a young hen.

Race 23 and this was the final race for the Super 6 in 2019 and saw **The Thames** back to Bedhampton and with a north wind the winning birds doing around 46mph. Completing his hat-trick by winning **Hullbridge Club** and **The Thames** again this week was Tony Buckfield who once again clocked a young hen from his own family of top winning pigeons. Coming in 2nd **Hullbridge** and **The Thames** yet again this week clocking his young grizzle hen was Paul Elliott, what a consistent young hen she is proving to be. Finishing in 3rd spot both in **Hullbridge** and **The Thames** we have the ace partnership of Mr & Mrs J Buckfield who clocked one of their young cocks from their own family of top-class pigeons. In 4th **Hullbridge** and **The Thames** and completing his last Super 6 race at least for a while as he is moving and will not be racing for a while at least. We have Frank 'the man' Aloisio clocking a 2y Frans Zwols cock. Both **Hullbridge** and **The Thames** will be very sad to see you are not flying in 2020 mate. However all the best for the future from all **The Thames** members.

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South African Million Dollar Final Race

Good luck to all competitors. The SAMDPR final takes place on Saturday 1st February from Colesberg 521km, 324 miles, when 36 different countries will be competing for the pot of gold with between 1,500 and 1,800 pigeons competing. There are over 300 cash prizes to be won, which total well over \$1.2 million (approx. £950,000). The first prize is a staggering \$300,000 (approx. £240,000); 2nd \$150,000 (approx. £120,000); 3rd \$100,000 (approx. £80,000); 4th \$75,000 (approx. £60,000); 5th \$50,000 (approx. £40,000); 6th \$25,000 (approx. £20,000); 7th \$20,000 (approx. £16,000); 8th \$15,000 (approx. £12,000); 9th \$12,500 (approx. £10,000); 10th \$10,000 (approx. £8,000). Plus there are another 290 other top cash prizes to be won in the final race. The knockout final winner will win \$25,000 (approx. £20,000). The overall Grand Ace Pigeon Award which includes all races including the final offers a 1st prize of \$25,000 (approx. £20,000); 2nd \$15,000 (approx. £12,000); 3rd \$10,000 (approx. £8,000). 2Bird Average \$2,000 (approx. £1,600); 3Bird Average US\$3,000 (approx. £2,400). UK challenge \$4,800 (approx. £3,840) to 1st entered pigeon clocked. Irish challenge \$760 (approx. £608) to 1st entered pigeon clocked. Also ten gold medals worth over \$1,000 (approx. £800) for the first 10 activated pigeons clocked in the final race. Plus superb trophies for the top 10 pigeons. There is also the Zandy Meyer Memorial Mercedes car nomination for \$1,000 (£800 per pigeon) entry fee, the winning pigeon will walk away with a new car or cash to the value of \$85,000 (approx. £68,000) This prize is guaranteed on having 100 entries, if there are not enough entries then cash will be paid out to the first of these nominated pigeons clocked in the final race. Also thousands of US dollars to be won in the global and country nominations.

Anybody can log onto www.samdpr.com and watch the race live on Livestream. Good luck to all competitor and syndicates and especially to all the UK and Irish fanciers who have pigeons in the race.

PAUL SMITH

