ROGER PHILLIPS OF GUERNSEY CHATS TO JIM EMERTON

1 You are well known for the excellent stud of quality birds that you house, how was this initiated?

I restarted in 2011 and decided that if I were to go back into the sport I would try and source some real top distance pigeons and was looking at the pigeons of Geoff Cooper Mark Gilbert and the Marshalls as Terry Marshall is an old friend of mine. I have added to these with swaps from many top fanciers who I am very fortunate to be able to swap with

2 As a gentleman fancier please relate your love of the humble racing pigeon to us.

I started at the age of 13 (now 54) and Dad (Alan) at the age of 8 (now in his early 80's), pigeons have been a big part of our life

3 Please tell us the story of Champion Producer TIMMY ,gsire of 1ST BICC BARCELONA in 2019

TIMMY is supremely bred being from a son of Etienne Meirlaen's Gouden Vleugel paired to a sister of Brockamps 1st International Marseille. Timmy was bred by **Mark Gilbert** and is full brother to his St Vincent national winner, half brother to the Pau winner plus 6th Nat Pau and other top pigeons of Mark's. He has, with his hen "Ruby" a sister to his Tarbes winner, founded international winner **Rene Leux**'s distance team almost single handedly and not a week seems to go by without Rene advising me of a top performer down from him. **John Chipperfield's** Barcelona winner Herne Bay Sophie was bred by **Robbie Harris** out of a cock I gifted to Robbie out of Timmy after he had had a fox attack killing many of his stock pigeons (Robbie's pair that bred her pictured below)



Parents Herne Bay Sophie

Herne Bay Sophie 1st BICC Barcelona not long after being timed

Parents of Timmy





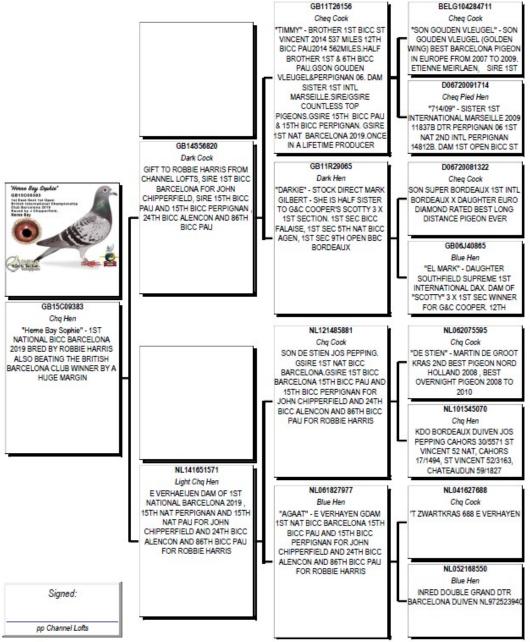
Pedigree of the Barcelona winner, grand daughter of Timmy

Channel Lofts

"The cream of distance bloodlines" Proprietor(s): Alan & Roger Phillips

Tara, Saumarez Lane, Castel, Guernsey GY5 7TJ Telephone: 01481 263160 Email: roger-phillips@live.co.uk Website:





4 Do you like to exchange quality stock with fellow good fanciers, and myself in England?

Yes that's what keeps me interested, building friendships and seeing how mine compete against the very best

5 What are some of your results and of your Dad?

One of my accolades is that I was the first channel islander to win a National/Classic race when I won BBC Nantes, dad's best position is 1st Section 8th Open BBC Bordeaux , I have timed several in from Palamos at 589 miles with the BBC being 21st 24th 30th 36th 48th Open etc. Since running a small select stud either bred by me or off my pigeons and with no great numbers sent out, highlights are detailed below, the major result last having bred the sire of 1st National BICC Barcelona 2019. I also bred an RPRA Award winner for **P&B Taylor** , this hen as a YB won the fed from Chale in the 1800's ypm and then won the section in the MNFC across the channel in the 1100's ypm at 320 miles as a YB. Her sire was bred from 2 Geoff Gooper directs and her dam was from John Crehan, a De Rauw Sablon

2018

1st fed 1st sec, 9th UNC, 9th NEHU Ypres

1st fed, 19th UNC Reims

1st sec BBC Bordeaux

1st sec NFC Tarbes

15th BICC Pau

15th BICC Perpignan

24th BICC Alencon (nestmate to Barcelona winner)

2nd Sec BICC Guernsey

2019

6th Sec 11th Open NFC Messac

2nd Sec 12th Open NFC Messac

2nd Sec 13th Open BBC Cholet

15th and 19th UBI Combine Falaise

12th Fed Reims as yearling 460 miles

86th BICC Pau (nestmate to Barcelona winner)

1st Sec NFC Tarbes (back to back Tarbes section wins for this hen)

1st National BICC Barcelona

7th Sec MNFC Nord Sur Edre (yearling 384 miles) 8th Sec MNFC Bordeaux (yearling 564 miles)

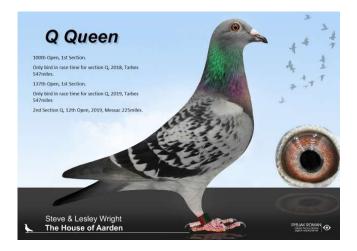
3rd Sec BBC Bordeaux only bird home on the day into Guernsey

My good friend Rene Leux in france timed 2 off mine on the day From Narbonne Intl with only about 20 pigeons being timed on the day to the west of Normandy

Several club winners and top fed positions



The RPRA Award winner I bred 1st Section MNFC plus also 1st Fed Chale



I bred the Dam of Q Queen , twice 1^{st} Section NFC Tarbes (only bird home in the section both times) plus 2^{nd} Section 12^{th} NFC Messac

6 What is your take on inbreeding?

I like to inbreed, then outcross

7 How do we prepare a bird for breeding and for racing?

I don't race anymore but when I did I was fanatical, for breeding they only get feed , grit and minerals and I vaccinate for PMV, that's it no fads , just good pigeons. I also canker them a month before pairing

8 Describe your history with Mark Gilbert and Dale Newcombe?

I don't know Mark that well, but my brother had been horse racing with Mark and I got 10 off him in 2011 and by 2015 I had whittled them down to 2. Dale was a true gent and we had regular conversations and we exchanged birds. I bred Dale 9th sec 20th open SNFC kings cup, a yearling 564 miles on the day and 2 weeks later she did 505 miles on the day, I don't have any of that blood now though. Whilst mine did well for him, his didn't cope with our waters, even to the extent that he sent me his gold award winner Kardale Style and a pigeon he called the Jamieson cock who was off a dual gold award winner Fortune Lady, but those 2 also didn't produce anything here and when he got ill I sent them back up to him for his final sale. Kardale styled fetched £1100 at the age of 11 years old, he was still filling every egg. Dale was a great man and fancier and to their Macmerry address, Dale and his Dad Eddie won the kings cup 4 times. Dale's pigeons did brilliant for him so perhaps it was us!!, I also think that pigeons are sometimes suited to the area they have come from. I can't speak highly enough of the man and I miss our regular chats

9 What are the external and internal qualities of a marathon pigeon?

I don't have any fads, if they fly well then they are the right shape and size, it's all down to results

10 How do you perceive the BICC and The Barcelona International?

A great club, the BICC, and hopefully they will allow Channel island fanciers to compete in the races where we qualify for distance wise in the future. Barcelona is a one off, for me the key to Barcelona is not the end of the race, but the start, the winning pigeons for me are out of those that navigate their way well through the Pyrenees. We have raced in the BBC for many years and have had wonderful support from Martin and Clare Norman who I would like to publicly thank

11 Who is the greatest fancier on Earth and why?

For me Terry Marshall, brilliant at all distances out to 600 mile, he could fly fantails!! Terry gifted me 2 pigeons direct out of his Brian Long Euro Diamond Pigeons, they have been magic outcrossed with other top lines. I have a brilliant team of Euro Diamond pigeons all bred around Euro Diamond and his father George. Plus I have a few from **John and Pat Webber** out of their direct Carteus pigeons, particularly the Ronse Cock, amazing stock cock and sire of 2 Bergerac national Winners and Gsire of other top winners

12 Is integrity important to the fancier?

Very important we've all seen scandals in the past where pedigrees just don't seem to "add up", you have got to trust who you are bringing in pigeons from

13 How can we improve the sport for all?

I try and keep out of the politics but kids these days are not interested, so we've got to try and capture people looking for a hobby that are perhaps nearing retirement or have had to give up their sports as they got older

14 What are the traits of a great fancier??

Will to win, dedication, knowledge, you have to have the blood, if haven't got the blood you are wasting your time at the distance

15 Have you sensed the expansion of the great BICC?

See 10 above

16 Is racing tough into Guernsey?

Unless you have experienced it you would not believe how hard it is. We are minimum 40 miles from the Cherbourg peninsula and 60 miles water to the south. From the shorter races if we are racing with the BBC our birds will end up in England , turning say a Messac race of 120 miles into a 400 mile plus fly. Our youngsters will often go straight into France from Jersey and then go up the Cherbourg peninsula which takes them further away from Guernsey so they often end up having to do 80 odd miles to get back, only the best and bravest will do it, trust me!!

17 Have you travelled the world like myself?

We had children in our 30's so did a lot of travelling from the age of 18 to 32 but now im just happy to jump in the car and get the ferry to France, I raced for a year with Rene Leux and Rene has a lot of my pigeons

18 How does a man become an icon ,legend or myth?

I think it all boils down to the way you go about achieving your success. I like back yard lofts that really punch above their weight, Mark Bulled is a prime example of this and a good friend

19 Have you stock in Ireland?

I do Jim but its early days, two fanciers have come back for more though so signs must be promising

20 How do you wish your legacy to be perceived as a gentleman fancier?

I like to think I have put real top distance lines within the reach of just about anyone, if we are not careful we will become like horse racing where only the rich can compete