

CENTRAL SOUTHERN CLASSIC FLYING CLUB



REVISITED - Cottrell, Richmond and Son of Wimborne, Dorset

In February 2009 this loft report was first printed in the fancy press telling the story of the great friendship and partnership of two lovely people Tony Cottrell and Ollie Richmond (who I affectionately call “The Terrible Two”).

This story follows on from the 2009 season up to the present time 2015 with many more great longer distance performances.

The merging of two successful lofts.

Anthony “Tony” Cottrell.

I was born in Huntley, Aberdeenshire in 1952. My father had served with the RAF throughout the Second World War and after demob, he married a Scottish girl and took up farming on a small scale. I have an older brother Ian but he is not a pigeon fancier, although it was through him that I first got interested in pigeons. I have three children. My oldest son is a Captain in the Royal Marines, my daughter is the Deputy Head of years 9, 10 and 11 at one of the biggest Schools in Dorset and my younger son works with me and is a skilled Thatcher in his own right.

In 1956, my father rejoined the RAF and in 1957 the family found themselves posted to Singapore. A return to the U.K found us stationed at Weeton, Blackpool. It was at this time, that in the School holidays, playing in some farm buildings Ian caught a stray racing pigeon. We took it home and looked after it but soon another posting found us in Germany. One day I caught a stray Belgian pigeon in the packing case loft we had managed to get from the station, so the interest in pigeons was rekindled. Two years later saw us return again to England, so it was goodbye again to the pigeons.

At this time my father left the RAF. We were now living in a thatched cottage in Roshall, Wiltshire and no pigeons featured in my life at this time, but things were about to change. I had now left school and was at Art College in Salisbury. On returning home, mother told me to look in the shed and there stood a very bedraggled racing pigeon. She had guided it in to the shed from where it was found in the garden. This started the pigeon story off all over again. I reported this bird to the RPR and it belonged to a pensioner in Liverpool. As he was leaving the sport the bird was transferred to me. Soon a packing case on stilts was erected in the garden and the stray hen housed in it.

Not long after this at Art College, I was telling some of my friends about my pigeon when a girl told me that her father employed a man who kept racing pigeons. A meeting was arranged and soon I was introduced to Joe Klater, a Polish fancier who had settled in England. I obtained from Joe a red chequer cock, so now I had a pair!

Another house move had to be undertaken as my father had taken a job as a lecturer at Weymouth, however before we could move my little loft was broken in to and only the red cock survived. He moved with us to Weymouth and took up residence in an old potting shed. I went back to Joe again and this time I came away with a blue cock that Joe had brought from Poland. (One of several eggs brought back in a hollowed out loaf of bread!) This bird cost me £2.50 which I thought was a lot at that time as I only earned 75p an hour in a part time job. Finally, Joe gave me a Dutch hen with a broken wing saying “they will breed winners” and how right he was, as they were the base of my “Blue” family that performed so well for some years. However, I still didn’t have a hen for the red chequer cock. I made contact with the Secretary of the Crossways Flying Club and soon a hen came my way. Now I had two pairs in the potting shed. An extension was added and the Crossways Club was joined with my father joining me in a partnership racing as R & A Cottrell.

We started to race in 1970 with young birds. In the second race we were 1st from Plymouth and a week later 1st Truro. I was working in Southampton with the loft in Weymouth, only seeing the birds at midweek and weekends. We raced on until 1975.

At this time I had a total career change and moved from advertising to become an apprenticed Thatcher. I have now had my own business for over 30 years. I moved to Colehill, a mile or so North of Wimborne Minster in 1975 and with the help of some friends, built a loft. My first season here was on the North Road where I won 9 x 1st Club plus other positions. I joined all the "Open" Clubs and the South of England N R Flying Club. Whilst at "Crossways" we had won 1st Club 1st Weydor Championship Club, 5th Bournemouth N R Federation from Stonehaven 442 miles having the only Club bird on the day. Two weeks later, 2nd Club 7th Fed Thurso 551 miles. This started my interest in Long Distance racing.

During my time here I have won countless times in the Club and Fed, also 2nd Section 2nd Open Nantes NFC 10,308 birds, 2nd Section NFC Pau, 13th and 17th Open Pau Classic, 1st and 2nd Open South of England N R Flying Club Thurso 541 miles with only 20 minutes between the two birds. I timed 3 hours before the next pigeon, which flew over 100 miles less. The 1st Open bird was a hen "Blue Vinney" (she was the Dam of Overlord". The 2nd bird was "Warrior" brother to "Chevron", flown Pau 5 times, twice on the day, 36th and 142nd Open also 50th Open Palamos.

"Overlord" blue cock in 1994 won 1st Section 1st Open 18th International BICC Pau with 7,224 birds competing. This was the first time a BICC pigeon had been timed from Pau on the day and was the only bird on the day in race time. The following morning I timed a blue chequer hen "Corrina" to win the 2 bird average.

By 1978, I was looking for a cross to improve my distance pigeons and studied the performances of Reg and Myrtle Venner of Street, Somerset. I had some excellent pigeons from these ACE fanciers and our friendship lasts even to the present day. Each year I visit them both on Reg's birthday. He is 93 years old now.

Also about this time I met Danny Challis and acquired some of his Busschaerts, including some from "Moneypacker", "Kitten" and "Shy Lass". I found these extremely good up to 400 miles. My first winner from France was with a Busschaert.

In 1993, my birds won for me O/B Averages, Y/B Averages, Combined Averages and Continental Averages in Club and Federation. Another Busschaert named "Stirling" won me 1st in Parkstone Open Race (South Road) and the following week 1st in Rossmore (North Road). He went on to win 1st Club 1st Dorset Fed, 1st Wessex Combine 2nd South Road Amalgamation from Rennes. I gave a full brother to Ollie and he won for him, 1st Club, Fed, Combine and Amalgamation also from Rennes.

Unfortunately, I had a house fire some years ago and consequently most of my racing records were lost. My Polish blues "Overlord" family, my Venners and the Challis pigeons have bred countless pigeons for me to win out to Palamos 661 miles.

Oliver "Ollie" Richmond.

I was born in the heart of the Dorset countryside in 1933, about 2 miles North of the little town of Wimborne Minster. Before racing starts this year I will be 76 years old. As a child I grew up in the Second World War, with the black out, no bonfire nights or Christmas illuminations as in those days it was illegal to even show one glimpse of light!

My passion in those days was rabbits and I had 11 of them plus many white mice. My father had been called up in to the Army in 1941 and served in the Middle East, Italy and Europe before being demobbed in 1946. During this year I decided to get a 12th rabbit and with this in mind I went to the weekly livestock market in Wimborne. However, for some reason I'm not quite sure of, I came home with two little blue chequer racing pigeons. I had nowhere to keep them so I obtained an orange box from the Greengrocers and hung it on our garden fence. The next day I let the birds out, for although I didn't realise it at the time I now know that they must have been at least 6 weeks old. The next week they were back in the market again and back they came with me. This time I kept them in for a week but when liberated it was the same result. However I had been bitten by the "pigeon bug" and with my father's help I built a loft entirely of corrugated tin sheets, except for a wooden floor. This measured 6ft x 4ft and about 5 1/2 feet high. This became home for some lovely pigeons (rollers and tumblers) but they still had to fly home from about 2 miles and they did – most of the time.

In 1949 at 16 years of age, I broke my right ankle playing football and never went back to School but started work as an apprentice Electrician. During my first few months I was told to go to the hardware shop for some screws. As luck would have it I went in to Billy Downton's shop in Kinson, Bournemouth. There in his back garden was a huge pigeon loft, or so it appeared to me. I asked if I could see his pigeons and arranged to visit him the following weekend. Over a period of several months he took me to the lofts of nearly every fancier in Bournemouth, about 3 loft visits each Sunday. I loved every minute of it and soon the fancy pigeons had to go and I became the proud owner of several real racing pigeons. I also joined what was known as "Billy Downton's" Club which was the Bournemouth and District Club. Little did I know that one day I would become the Club's Secretary and top prize winner!

In 1951 I had enough pigeons to race and in my first Young Bird race from Exmouth I won it by 32 YPM. In 1952 I was second top prize winner.

Then I met a young lady named Maureen and I'm afraid to say that pigeons took a back seat. We were married in late 1953 and the following year I was due to start my National Service. In fact I signed for 5 years in the RAF and took Maureen wherever I went. I became an Aircraft Electrician but when I joined 22 Squadron (a search and rescue helicopter unit) we all became a jack of all trades, including going on rescues and many times I was down on the winch! In the Summer of 1956 we went on 89 rescue missions and brought back 72 alive. In 1957, I served on Christmas Island for the Nuclear Bomb Tests and saw the largest bomb ever exploded by this Country.

In 1959, I was demobbed and bought a new bungalow just outside Wimborne for £1,850! By then we had 2 daughters, my son Martyn followed in 1961. I worked for De Havilland Aircraft – a dream job, but pigeons again appeared when I bought a second hand loft. This saw me join the Bournemouth HPS on the North Road where I was 1st Oxford and 5th Club 5th Fed Durham.

In 1963, my dear Maureen contracted Multiple Sclerosis and by 1966 was in a wheelchair. By now, I was Secretary of Wareham and Purbeck FC being top prize winner in 1967. It was becoming increasingly difficult to maintain a loft of racing pigeons and we moved to a nice home in West Moors, about 5 miles East of Wimborne that had been adapted for my wife who by now was bedridden. I moved my loft which was only 10ft x 6ft to my parents home in Wimborne and advertised in the Wimborne Journal for any fanciers interested to get together and form a Club in Wimborne. This happened and the Wimborne and District FC was formed. I was also Secretary.

In 1970, Maureen became very ill and the pigeon racing stopped for 5 years although I did put my loft in a field at West Moors, so I still had pigeons. In 1976 came a slight improvement and I moved my loft in to my very small back garden, it was only 25ft x 10ft. There I joined the Bournemouth and District again and once more found myself Secretary. By now Billy Downton had passed on, but we had some great fanciers in this Club, Jack Banfield 1st NFC Pau. Lionel Adams 1st NFC Pau. Major George Buckingham, Tubby Tate and many others.

In 1979, Maureen again became very ill and racing stopped again and another move came, this time to Verwood about 4 miles inland from West Moors. Again the loft came and my son was now in partnership with me but we had an entire clearance sale with Tony Cowan at Oxford.

However, 1983 saw us in yet another Club – Flight refuelling FC in Wimborne and then in 1984 we joined St Leonard's and St Ives in the Dorset Fed. Martyn had married and moved to Parkstone in 1985 and my dear wife died in 1992 aged 56.

We flew at Verwood until 2002.

In the autumn of 2002 asked Tony Cottrell if I could go in to partnership with him and he readily agreed. One of my lofts from Verwood is now our stock loft but the rest were burnt at Verwood. I resettled 30 pigeons to Tony's and only lost 1!

Ollie's pigeon history.

1967 - Wareham and Purbeck (Dorset Fed) Top prize winner.

1970 – Birds sold (except four). No racing until 1975.

1973 – Birds sent to Jim George in Arbroath (approx 400 miles) just to test them.

19 birds sent, 10 together after 10 hours, 17 on the day.

1974 – Birds trained anywhere by any means available. Young birds 1st toss Dagenham all home (25) on the day.

1975 – Wimborne and District (Dorset Fed). 1st Club Nantes, 1st Club Bergerac.

1976 – Bournemouth and District (Solent Fed). First race by the then new CSCFC, 25th Sect 87th Open CSCFC Saintes 1,351 birds. 32nd Sect 62nd Open CSCFC Pau.

1977 – 20th, 28th, Sect, 51st, 76th Open CSCFC Saintes. 41st Sect 85th Open CSCFC Pau (on day).

1978 – 3rd Solent Fed Guernsey 3,589 birds. 3rd Solent Fed Guernsey 3,004 birds. 8th, 33rd Sect 59th, 155th Open NFC Guernsey YB 9,701 birds. 1st Sect 9th Open NFC Pau (on day).

1979 – 1st, 34th Solent Fed Avranches 4,126 birds. 3rd Solent Fed Avranches 4,347 birds. 12th 29th Sect, 35th 127th open BBC Rennes YB 1,006 birds. 3rd Sect 10th Open Pau NFC. 5th 8th Sect 101st 140th Open NFC Guernsey YB 9,353 birds. Best Average all NFC Races in Solent Fed. Runner up YB Averages Solent Fed.

In the November we had an entire clearance sale.

1983 – Flight refuelling RPC (Bournemouth North Road Fed) 10 x 1st Club, 4 x 1st Fed .

1984 – 1st Sect 1st Open CSCFC Pau 525 miles only bird on the day. (5 birds in the top 100).

1985 – Wimborne and St Leonards Club (Dorset Fed). 1st 2nd Club and Fed Plymouth YB's 788 birds. 6th 9th 13th 14th 29th Sect, 59th 63rd 82nd 83rd 121st Open CSCFC Guernsey YB 1623 birds. 3rd 18th Sect, 4th 54th Open NFC Guernsey YB 8,512 birds.

1986 – 1st Club 2nd Fed Rennes (1) 790 birds. 1st Club 2nd Fed Bergerac 309 birds. 1st Club 2nd fed Plymouth YB 1,151 birds. 1st Club 4th Fed Guernsey YB 815 birds. 2nd Bergerac Southern South Road Amalgamation 1,552 birds. 1st Sect 5th Open CSCFC Nantes 1,980 birds. 12th Sect 26th Open CSCFC Pau. 15th Sect 53rd Open Rennes 2,878 birds. 2nd Wessex Combine Rennes 2,370 birds. 2nd Wessex Combine Bergerac 766 birds.

1987 – 1st Club 1st Fed 1st Wessex Combine. 9th Open S.S.R.A. Rennes 5,355 birds. 1st Club 1st Fed 7th Wessex Club Nantes 2,170 birds. 1st Club 1st Fed 1st Wessex Combine 1st S.S.R.A Bergerac (yearling) 1,876 birds. 1st Club 1st fed Guernsey YB 852 birds. 1st Sect 4th Open 5th Sect 14th Open CSCFC Rennes 3,574 birds. 2nd Sect 16th Open CSCFC Nantes 1,955 birds.

1988 – 1st Club Bergerac. 2nd Club 4th Fed Nantes. 4th Wessex Combine 2,466 birds. 4th S.S.R.A. 5,225 birds. 11th Sect 100th Open CSCFC Nantes 2,068 birds.

1989 – 1st Club 1st Fed Littlehampton 1,293 birds. 1st Club 3rd Fed Guernsey YB 1,252 birds. 26th Sect 46th Open CSCFC Nantes 2,274 birds. 11th 40th Sect, 34th 111th Open CSCFC Pau.

1990 – 1st Club 1st Fed 1st Wessex Combine Nantes 2,419 birds. 12th S.S.R.A. 5,211 birds. 4th Sect 8th Open NFC Nantes 11,000 birds. 10th Sect 40th Open CSCFC Nantes 2,144 birds.

1991 – 1994 I am missing info for these years.

1995 – 2002 Wimborne Racing Pigeon Club in the Solent Fed. Won many prizes including 1st Fed Rennes, 1st 2nd 3rd Fed Sartilly, 35th Fed Bergerac. 10 x 1st Club 2002. Winner old bird averages Solent Fed 2000 which incidentally is the W.A Downton Cup (Billy Downton) a founder member of the Solent Fed.

The story continues Cottrell, Richmond and Son.

The partnership was formed in October 2002, when I took 30 birds from Verwood to Tony's loft at Colehill, Wimborne. Within a short time 29 birds were settled to their new loft but each day on release they would head straight for Verwood and could be gone for a few hours. They did this for most of 2003.

The loft is 34ft 6ins long with a 2ft 6ins corridor running along the front, from each end compartment. Our Natural section is 12ft deep x 8ft wide and holds 20 nest boxes. The young bird section is 9ft 6ins deep and 9ft wide and has 60 pippo boxes and 42 perches. The roundabout section has 24 nest boxes and measures 9ft 6ins deep x 9ft wide. The roundabout hens section has been reduced to 5ft 6ins square and has 24 vee perches.

Our second round young bird section, which is used for late bred in the winter is 12ft deep x 4ft wide and can hold up to 30 birds. We have 20 pairs of natural pigeons and 24 cocks and hens on roundabout, but having lost two cocks to sparrow hawks in the last two weeks we have no idea of how many pigeons we shall have come the racing season. We do have a hawk problem here, with peregrines resting only a mile or so away. Our stock loft is 16ft x 10ft with 27 nest boxes and an aviary.

We have flown widowhood and Natural until this year, when we are going to try the roundabout method and have arranged the loft to suit. 2008 saw us put our young birds on the darkness for the first time and as it proved to be a success we shall carry on with it this year. We breed about 80 young birds after going through a rigorous selection by hand and this continues until we start training, coupled with

our training programme which is quite severe we are usually left with between 50 – 60 young birds at the start of racing.

We train the birds, old and young, from anywhere and everywhere. Wherever we, or one of us go, so do the pigeons. If we can get friends to take them we do. We don't mind where it is and as long as it's not raining hard they go. Tony is the trainer when we really decide to train ourselves and he could be at Chichester one day and Exeter the next. We usually take them to race markings, wherever it is and they sometimes go up with other birds. They must work it out themselves. Sometimes they will come home late but as long as they get back its okay by us and then we try them again – but not too often!

The young birds are usually given an open loft when the old birds have finished their exercise and I feed them in when I visit the loft about 4pm. This is during the racing season and then the old birds go out for their second exercise session. In the Summer we are both about the loft between 6 and 7am. Our youngsters are allowed to pair up should they decide to do so and we have had success this way.

Our yearlings go out as far as Bergerac and Bordeaux and often fly over 12 hours. We have done well with some of them at this distance (420 miles). During the racing season we prefer to feed Verse Laga corn "best all round", "Immune" and "Gerry Plus" with sunflower kernels and peanuts added as the races get longer. They also have chicken pellets (no antibiotics), linseed and grit every day.

We have the droppings and throat swabs checked twice a year by the Vet and act accordingly, although it's some time now since we had to treat. We also give a treatment for Canker and Coccidiosis about every three weeks when racing, usually on a Sunday. Our older birds are our main entries for the big Open races, especially the Internationals and it's a great feeling to time one when we know they have had to come out of thousands of pigeons going all over Europe.

When the partnership was first formed we applied to join a Club in the Dorset Fed, but were not successful. Now we have tried again and hope to have a positive result this time. Therefore as all the races were from across the Channel our birds were very kindly taken over by the Wiltshire Continental Club. Thank you guys and we enjoy your company.

Our loft is situated in Tony's big garden about a mile or so North of the town of Wimborne Minster, 5 miles inland from Poole. The loft faces North East and as we are on top of a hill, it is quite exposed to the elements. We have sputnicks to allow the birds to fly out and return through the drop holes and we have the ETS clocking system. Once clear of the loft, our pigeons look over the Purbeck Hills and the Isle of Wight and it's a lovely part of the Country to live in.

My son Martyn is still in the partnership but he's a "sleeping" partner (more like unconscious) but he does help behind the scenes and will always help out if needed. He's not a "hands on" partner.

The pigeons we race at the moment are a combination of both Tony's old family and mine, which we both flew with for some years. Tony's are mainly down from his Polish Blues "Overlord", R & M Venner and Danny Challis Busschaerts. Mine are mainly Jan Aarden, Ko – Nipius (P & C Cooke) Janssen and several Ko – Nipius and Verheyes via my dear friend, the late Roger Jones. They are all blended in together now plus some nice birds gifted to us by friends and during the last 2 years Vandenebeles including some from Mel and Sue King.

Since 2003, this is a few of our performances in Open competition.

BBC – 1st Sect 9th Open (yearling) Bordeaux. 1st Sect 12th Open San Sebastian. 1st Sect 6th Open Ingleton. 21st Sect 76th Open Poitiers. 9th 15th 16th 22nd 31st Sect, 31st 62nd 63rd 76th 120th Open Bordeaux. 2nd 3rd 7th Sect, 10th 12th 19th Open Lamballe YB. 6th Sect 36th Open Poitiers.

CSCFC – 6th Sect 23rd Open Messac. 6th Sect 56th Open Guernsey YB. 28th 33rd Sect, 133rd 151st Open Fougères. 31st 33rd 110th 116th Open Dax. 8th 22nd Sect, 12th 35th Open Vains. 19th Sect 26th Open Messac. 5th Sect 98th Open Guernsey YB. 19th 20th Sect, 82nd 83rd Open Pau. 1st Sect 11th Open Guernsey (old hens). 1st Sect 9th Open Picauville Open Race. 5th 7th Sect, 31st 34th Open Pau (on day). 8th Sect 12th Open Guernsey (old hens). 6th 8th 15th Sect, 83rd 75th 106th Open Lessay YB. 17th Sect 67th Open Bergerac. 13th 22nd Sect, 117th 151st Open Tarbes.

NFC – 4th Sect 28th Open 133rd International Hens Dax. 11th 15th 18th Sect, 89th 143rd 151st Open Dax. 2nd 10th Sect, 34th 103rd Open Fougères (old hens). 5th Sect 54th Open Tarbes (on day). 7th Sect 80th Open Saintes.

BICC 2007-2008 – 5th 8th 9th Sect, 29th 46th 54th Open Alençon. 1st Sect 62nd Open Guernsey Old hens. 2nd Sect 28th Open Tarbes. 5th Sect 63rd Open Pau. 2nd Sect 37th Open Perpignan.

Dorset Fed – 1st Breeder/Buyer.

2009 – 2015 so far

2009 - 54th Open 5th Sect BBC Barcelona, 40th Open 9th Sect CSCFC Tarbes 583 birds, 9th Open 2nd Sect, 42nd Open 9th Sect, 73rd Open 24th Sect, 74th Open 25th Sect CSCFC Bergerac, 40th Open 2nd Sect, 91st Open 10th Sect, 134th Open 22nd Sect, 152nd Open 25th Sect BBC Bordeaux, 20th Open BICC Pau, 63rd & 64th Open BICC Perpignan.

2010 – 43rd & 60th BICC Pau, 9th & 235th NFC Tarbes, 32nd Open 13th Sect, 39th Open 18th Sect, 70th Open 26th Sect, 125th Open 50th Sect, 145th Open 54th Sect CSCFC Bergerac, 5th Open 1st Sect BBC Bordeaux.

2011 – 67th 16th Sect, 103rd Open 26th Sect, 136th Open 35th Sect CSCFC Tarbes, 103rd Open 22nd Sect, 130th Open 31st Sect, 131st Open 32nd Sect, 138th 34th Sect BBC Bordeaux.

2012 – 8th Open 1st Sect, 66th Open 17th Sect, 114th Open 32nd Sect, 239th Open 64th Sect CSCFC Bergerac, 132nd Open 38th Sect, 180th Open 49th Sect, 216th Open 55th Sect, 220th Open 57th Sect CSCFC Tarbes, 80th Open 8th Sect, 120th Open 15th Sect, 122nd Open 16th Sect, 124th open 17th Sect, 150th Open 25th Sect BBC Bordeaux, 17th Open 3rd Sect, 25th Open 6th Sect BBC Barcelona, 231st Open NFC Tarbes.

2013 – 5th Open 2nd Sect CSCFC Tarbes, 88th Open 7th Sect, 135th Open 20th Sect, 156th Open 26th Sect, 178th Open 29th Sect BBC Bordeaux, 153rd, 158th, 217th & 218th Open NFC Tarbes.

2014 – 30th Open 4th Sect CSCFC Pau, 106th Open 17th Sect BBC Bordeaux, 16th Open NFC Tarbes.

2015 up to June – 36th Open 5th Sect, 60th Open 10th Sect, 63rd Open 11th Sect, 64th Open 12th Sect, 84th Open 16th Sect, 107th Open 22nd Sect CSCFC Pau, 4th Open 3rd Sect BBC Palamos.

Previous Reports on some of their performances.

BBC Bordeaux 2010 5th Open 1st Section B. Tony and Ollie timed their Dark Pied Cock GB 09N85962 the Sire GB06A01202 is from a Willy Clerebaut (cock) Nigel Rigiani X Blue W/F (hen) Daughter of O/L 1st BICC 18th International Pau (on the day). The Dam GB06N77560 Dark Hen – was 2nd Section 20th Open Pau and is from Two Lowick Bros birds from their Night Flyers, down from their 1st VNC Dax and 3rd National Bordeaux 4,748 birds crossed with a pure Jan Aarden hen from Piet Lazerooms.

Known as "Prod" which is short for Prodigal, as in "Prodigal Son" He was lost in training as a baby and found in the loft in February this year. After a couple of days Tony took him to work (about 12 miles) he appeared after about 4 hours. He was trained wherever Tony was working for a couple of weeks and then was missing from the loft for three days, when Tony said to Ollie as he arrived at the loft "The Prodigal Son has turned up again" since then he hasn't made any mistakes. He was due to go to Saintes N.F.C, but the day before marking he wouldn't come into the loft with the others, but proceeded to fly the sky for over three hours. They decided that he was either a nutter or perhaps telling them something. On the NFC marking day they let the birds out very early and when they left for Frome at 11-30 "Prod" was still flying, so they had to find another to take his place. Prior to the BBC Bordeaux marking, he was singled up from 15 miles, but still flew round the loft for over an hour, so on the marking day he was shut in the loft and taken to Salisbury as their top pool pigeon. He didn't let them down.

BBC Barcelona 2012 17th & 26th Open 3rd & 6th Section B. Their First bird was a Blue Chequer WF Hen "BELLE". Her sire is bred from a direct pair of Albie Deacon Southwells who had been clocked from Pau on the day. Her dam is from a grandson of Overlord – 1st BICC Pau 18th International Pau only bird timed in the UK on the day when paired to the Old S Ring Hen, flown the channel 25 times, twice 1st Bergerac and timed in the NFC Pau to be 102nd Open at 7yrs of age, full granddaughter of 1st open CSCFC only bird that was timed on the day in the UK. Second bird is Red Chequer Cock "RUSTY". His sire is a mealy cock, grandson of OVERLORD and their timer from BICC Pau 2 years ago. Dam red chequer hen, from a red hen that won Bergerac twice, from a son of Overlord x blue chequer hen from R V Jones of Resolven, South Wales – 1st Welsh Combine. Rusty was also timed from Pau & Perpignan BICC over 500 miles in the same season, and has now flown the 500 milers successfully 6 times. I think Tony has secretly told Rusty that his stock loft time is here.

CSCFC Bergerac 2012 1st SW Section 8th Open. The dark chequer cock we timed “Bastille” was sent feeding a big young bird and driving to his second egg. Sire – Dark Cock GB10N19579. The Sire of 19579 is a chequer white flight cock mainly Jan Aarden, 35th Open CSCFC Pau on the day. The Dam of 19579 is 100% Late Reg Venner (all distance family) from Street, Somerset. Dam – Dark Pied Hen GB10N19565. The Sire of 19565 “Barrington” bred by Mr Barrington of Wellington for whom he flew Lessay three times as a young bird, Jan Aarden bred from two NFC Section winners. The Dam of 19565 was bred by Arthur “Bootsie” Orchard of Wareham and purchased at this entire clearance sale. 100% Reg Venner. “Bastille” has flown in 2012 the following races: Littlehampton (10th Dorset Fed), Eastbourne, Maidstone, Carentan, Messac (Dorset Fed), Messac (NFC), Fougères, Saintes (2nd Club, 9th Dorset Fed) and Bergerac (CSCFC). It was also confirmed that “Bastille” was not only 1st Section 8th Open CSCFC Bergerac but also 1st Club 1st Dorset Fed and 1st Dorset 2 Bird Championship Club.

CSCFC Bergerac 2013 6th Open 4th SW Section. Timing their 4 year old dark chequer white flight cock “Cyrano” GB 09 N 85997

The sire, a red chequer cock given to us by our good friend Andy Parsons. He told us it was breeding birds that were flying very well for him, and that was enough for us!

This cock was paired to a dark Lowick Bros hen. They are very good long distance fanciers and live in Northern Holland. From the extreme distance races they go to their lofts at midnight, put on all the lights surrounding the loft and wait. They have timed winners between 1am and 3am many times.

Tony bought a pair at Blackpool and they have bred some really good pigeons for us.

“Cyrano” went to Tarbes NFC in 2012 but didn’t return for ten days and then had flights missing in his wing and no tail. This year we nursed him along but each race we felt he wasn’t quite ready. He didn’t go to any race but had an 85 mile training toss the Saturday before the Bergerac marking. He handled really well and we put him in the basket.

Our first timer on Saturday morning at 05.32 hours was out first bird in from NFC Tarbes two weeks prior.

CSCFC Tarbes 2013 5th Open 2nd South West Section. GB11N43261 Blue chequer Vandenaabeele cock from some of the best of the strain. The Sire GB09R13868 has always been stock and the Grandsire GB03N22484 was bred by Mel and Sue king of Charlton Marshall, known as “Thetis” 12th Section 76th Open BBC Bordeaux, 1st Section 21st Open 1st Gold Ring BBC YB Lamballe, many other prizes and breeder of winners. (Mel & Sue’s top cock).

The Grand Dam of 43261 is a light blue chequer hen GB03Z87782 bred by M & D Evans from “Winston” and “Ebony” and was purchased by us at Blackpool and loaned to Mel and Sue King to breed from in 2009. The Dam of 43261 a blue chequer hen GB08C98995 was bred by Mel and Sue from “Eros” x “Sheba” another top breeding pair of the King’s. “Eros” was 1st Open Nantes NFC amongst many other top positions and “Sheba” (stock) is sister to a host of winners and a Daughter of 1st Section 1st Open BBC Bordeaux.

GB11N43261 is known as “Supermoon”. This season he has flown from Ramsgate and Fougères with the Rossmore Flying Club in the Dorset Fed and the Messac Classic race where he was clocked 8th out of 25 birds.

BBC Palamos 2015 4th Open 3rd Section B. We timed a 7 year old blue chequer hen “Solstice Surprise”. She was bred by Nigel Rigiani from his birds crossed with some we gave him. She has flown in many races including Bordeaux, Pau, Bergerac etc. A very consistent pigeon for us. The sire GB 06 N 60918 from “Mr Alicante” son of “Comanchi” Spanish Diploma winner & Golden Salver award winner (Willy Clerebaut/Ken Hine) Flown Palamos 4 times for Nigel Rigiani. When paired to “Lady Jane” 6 times Palamos and Barcelona.

The dam is from a son of our “Northern Lights” GB 00 X 54597 2nd Club Cholet, Nantes NFC, 3rd Cholet, 4th Bergerac then Bordeaux with the BBC. Turned North to win 1st Section 1st Open BICC, 18th Open 7,224b Pau International. Being the only bird on the day 525 miles.



The racing Loft.



The Stock Loft.



Holding Roger 1st Section 12th Open San Sebastian BBC



Martyn, Ollie and Tinker the guard dog.



Pretty Boy 2nd Section 28th Open BICC Tarbes



With Supermoon CSCFC Tarbes 2013



Tony and Ollie with "Prod" 5th Open 1st Section B Bordeaux 2010



6th Open CSCFC Bergerac 2013



“The Terrible Two” 1st South West Section CSCFC Bergerac 2012



Tony, Ollie and Martyn 4th Open 3rd Section B BBC Palamos 2015