



John Clements

Euro

Pigeon

## FRAGMENTATION AND DECLINE

The more fragmentation, the more breakaways, the more defensive tactics to preserve first prizes the thinner the administrative capacity becomes. Being able to organise all things necessary to make racing run smoothly without a hitch is not only vital it is necessary to improve the chances of the UK ever improving its status in the racing pigeon world and to become a top country. Fragmentation is the surest way to rapid decline.

### **Winning the war**

We, right across the UK, are now getting perilously close to a kind of collapse when orders are not given and the phrase "every man for himself" reverberates across the battlefield. Of course winning battles depends on the ability to organise. Surviving the war depends on it.

### **The pigeon league table**

That is why the UK is slipping down the league table of top pigeon countries. We have been fragmenting our clubs and institutions into a dilute form of their former self. This fragmentation has a double effect. Those who prefer to race in a small regional organisation in order to get a better chance of a first prize do two things. They assume wrongly their winning pigeon is as good as a winning pigeon in a club

that is fully 'National' and two, because they are regional they do not get a full view of the best the country has to offer.

## **30,000 Pigeons**

On the same day the Midlands National held their Carentan race with 8000 pigeons the Belgians were holding their first National race from Bourges. Those who entered the Midlands National did not have the luxury of declaring that it was their organisation that was racing against the best in their country for there was another 22,000 pigeons from other organisations liberating at Carentan on the same day.

## **The Belgians can say they fly against the best from Belgium**

The Belgians on the other hand could say quite rightly say they were racing against the best in Belgium for no other Belgian organisation was at Bourges on that day and no other Belgian organisation raced from the same point over that distance on that day. The loft with the best team performance could quite easily claim their team was as good as their country could provide. This is as good a marketing claim it is possible to make.

## **Good publicity**

This kind of statement is a huge boost to Belgian fanciers when they want to promote Belgian pigeons in other countries. The Belgians are organised and united we are not. We are fragmented. They are not. Their KBDB, their equivalent of our RPRA, strives to keep Belgian united. Meanwhile we in the UK are encouraged to fragment so the ability to organise on a big scale is lost.

## **Compare the two**

The Belgians had 33,229 pigeons racing from Bourges in one liberation divided into Yearlings and Old pigeons. The UK had 30,000 pigeons racing from Carentan from thirteen separate organisations demanding thirteen liberations administered by thirteen secretaries and managed by thirteen convoyers on the orders of thirteen race controllers. Needless to say it is no wonder the Belgians come out on top and sell 100 times more pigeons outside their own country than we do.

## **The emotion of being truly the best**

British pigeon racing should once again emotionally connect to the best performances in the land. Good performances should not only be acknowledged they should be celebrated. At the moment we are embarrassed by truly great performances lest it adversely highlight the ordinary level of fragmented ones. Great

performances can never result from conditions of contrived and restricted radius designed to secure red cards.

## **Now is the time to lead**

The RPRA, the Up North Combine and other main leaders of pigeons in the UK has yet to learn these lessons. The RPRA, more the pity, is at the moment more connected to one-loft races and making money rather than creating historical significance with great performances. This direction has gradually widened over the last 40 years. It appears that the RPRA and various National clubs need to see themselves differently. They should not wait for a direct threat from outside before they move but operate purely for the good of the sport and the improvement of the UK as a pigeon country now. If they refuse to act they will come to regret their lack. Eventually it will result in a continuing steady decline of the sport in the short term and possible extinction in the long term.

## **List of organisations at Carentan on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May**

*Extracted from **The Racing Pigeon Post** [Website link](#) with French race point control.*

### **Permis de lâcher n°1 :**

- le 2013-05-25 à 07:00:00 ORGANISATEUR : B & I TRANSPORT ( ANGLETERRE )

### **Permis de lâcher n°2 :**

- le 2013-05-25 à 07:00:00 ORGANISATEUR : GERRARD TRANSPORT ( ANGLETERRE )

### **Permis de lâcher n°3 :**

- le 2013-05-25 à 07:00:00 ORGANISATEUR : GLOUCESTERSHIRE & DIST FED ( ANGLETERRE )

### **Permis de lâcher n°4 :**

- le 2013-05-25 à 07:00:00 ORGANISATEUR : MIDLANDS NATIONAL FC ( ANGLETERRE )

### **Permis de lâcher n°5 :**

- le 2013-05-25 à 07:00:00 ORGANISATEUR : N DERBYSHIRE FED ( ANGLETERRE )

### **Permis de lâcher n°6 :**

- le 2013-05-25 à 07:00:00 ORGANISATEUR : NORTH STAFFS FED ( ANGLETERRE )

### **Permis de lâcher n°7 :**

- le 2013-05-25 à 07:00:00 ORGANISATEUR : NORTH WEST CLASSIC CLUB ( ANGLETERRE )

**Permis de lâcher n°8 :**

- le 2013-05-25 à 07:00:00 ORGANISATEUR : PENNINE VALLEYS FED ( ANGLETERRE )

**Permis de lâcher n°9 :**

- le 2013-05-25 à 07:00:00 ORGANISATEUR : RACING PIGEON TRANSPORT SERVICES ( ANGLETERRE )

**Permis de lâcher n°10 :**

- le 2013-05-25 à 07:00:00 ORGANISATEUR : SEVERN VALLEY FED ( ANGLETERRE )

**Permis de lâcher n°11 :**

- le 2013-05-25 à 07:00:00 ORGANISATEUR : SHROPSHIRE FED ( ANGLETERRE )

**Permis de lâcher n°12 :**

- le 2013-05-25 à 07:00:00 ORGANISATEUR : WELSH N R FED ( ANGLETERRE )

**Permis de lâcher n°13 :**

- le 2013-05-25 à 07:00:00 ORGANISATEUR : WOLVERHAMPTON ( ANGLETERRE )

*(If you click [HERE](#) you can take a look at the Carentan liberation site and stroll up and down the road by clicking on the white arrowheads. If you left click on the picture and keep it depressed you can move the picture around to view it how you wish.)*

It is difficult to imagine thirteen organisations each wanting a separate liberation is any kind of advanced organisation - it is more likely to be chaos and a cover up of chaos where everyone keeps quiet. So those at the home end do not really know what is going on.

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