

## Thames North and Eastern Counties FC: Review of the 2020 Season

As we know it was a funny old season, was we going to get racing or not being a big question at the start of the season and if so when would we start, how would marking work, would we be able to race from France. Would we be able to get our Lorry MOT done and how would we finish off our Breeder Buyer sales, which had started but were cut short after the first lockdown in March. And if we did would we even be able to have the Breeder/Buyer or Gold ring races. All of these questions and many more needed answering as best as we could we plans for each scenario worked out, so we were ready whatever happened.

After lots of hard work by the committee, Racheal and Luke Mitchel who is not a member or a pigeon fancier but Luke has sorted out our lorry and kept it maintained and MOT etc for the last 3 years all at no charge to the Thames, even this year he had to take 3 days off work to get the lorry sorted and ready for use. I am sure the members would all like to say many thanks for everything Luke has and does for us.



Despite all the uncertainty once again the Thames offered some great inland racing and some great performances were put up, both by fanciers and pigeons. Below I have broken down some of the best performances by fanciers in 2020. The Thames do not put together results for the channel events so these results are just for the inland races. I will also take this opportunity to highlight some of the great performances put up by Thames members in the Nationals & UBI combine in 2020.

Below is filtered by most wins and then positions in top 10 by each fancier in the Thames during the 2020 season: As we can see from the 15 races there was 10 different winners, 7 people won 1 race each and 2 fanciers won 2 races each, way out in front with 4 wins was John Cowlin. Both Paul Gilbert and Lee Tracey coming in next with 2 firsts each. I was very pleased to see 2 of our new members for 2020 both winning a first in their maiden season in the Thames, big well done Topp & Mann and S. Zielinski.

As you can see it is not easy to win the Thames and it is a great achievement when you do win one.



Name	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th-10th	Total
J.Cowlin	4		1	1	1		4	11
Paul Gilbert	2	2	1				1	6
Lee Tracey	2			1	1			4
D.Wilton & Son	1			2	2	2	6	13
Gladwin & Jarvis	1	1	2			1	2	7
Davis & Son	1	1					4	6
Mr & Mrs J Buckfield	1						4	5
Mr & Mrs D Reis	1		1	1	1		1	5
Topp & Mann	1	1						2
S. Zielinski	1						1	2

Another way to look at the seasons results is who won the most positions in the top 10

of the open. During the reduced season that was 2020, the Thames put on a total of 15 inland races.

Below you can see the top 20 members, with D. Wilton & Son along with Micky Watts coming out joint top with 13 top 10 positions each, John Cowlin in 3<sup>rd</sup> spot adding 7 other cards to his 4 firsts. Tony Buckfield coming in 4<sup>th</sup> spot and was a bit unlucky with 3 x 2<sup>nds</sup> and 2x3rd and 9 cards in total to not get a win. Completing the top 5 was myself Gladwin & Jarvis winning 7 top 10 positions.



It is always great to see the prizes go around the membership. The Thames is closing in on 200 members and in total 40 different members scored in the top 10 over the 15 races, which I think shows just how strong of an organisation the Thames is.

Name	1st	2nd	3rd	4 <sup>th</sup>	5th	6th	7th-10th	Total
D.Wilton & Son	1			2	2	2	6	13
M.Watts			3	4	2	1	3	13
J.Cowlin	4		1	1	1		4	11
T Buckfield		3	2			1	3	9
Gladwin & Jarvis	1	1	2			1	2	7
Paul Gilbert	2	2	1				1	6
Davis & Son	1	1					4	6
R&P Thomas			1	1	2	1	1	6
P. Jackson & Son		3	1				2	6
Mr & Mrs J Buckfield	1						4	5
Mr & Mrs D Reis	1		1	1	1		1	5
Mr & Mrs R Hume		1					4	5
Micky Tokley						1	4	5
B. Wija		1	1		1		2	5
Lee Tracey	2			1	1			4
M&J Williams				2	1		1	4
Lee Bastone						1	3	4
Butcher Brothers		1	1	1		1		4
Russell Jaques						1	2	3
C&R Rand						1	2	3

### Thames members National/UBI combine results:



When we look at the wider results achieved by Thames members in the Nationals and UBI combine, once again it illustrates how strong the Thames members are in these races as well as the Inland races. (Please let me apologise up front if I miss anyone off from my list, if I do it is in error and not in any way intentional) I will look at top 6 open places won by Thames members in these races. Starting with the BICC races.

St Philbert see the first super performance by Thames members, with Micky Watts coming in 1<sup>st</sup> section and 2<sup>nd</sup> open, David Hales/Duncan Goodchild in 5<sup>th</sup> and Tony Coker in 6<sup>th</sup> places in the open rounded of a good day for the Thames members.

Agen see Mr Parish time a very good pigeon to win the section and 4<sup>th</sup> open BICC

Barcelona see yet another great performance from David Hales/Duncan Goodchild with 1<sup>st</sup> section & 2<sup>nd</sup> open BICC.

St Vincent see yet another section winner and this time 2<sup>nd</sup> open for R. Pearmain & Son, with a yearling, yes a yearling flying 557 miles in a tough race.

Bordeaux see 2 very good pigeons into our part of the country with Mr L J Stock & R & P Thomas winning 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> section and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> open BICC. Two very good pigeons in my opinion.

Rieux-Minervois see another top draw performance from the loft of David Hales/Duncan Goodchild by winning 1<sup>st</sup> section and 1<sup>st</sup> open BICC flying 582 miles.

Narbonne see another very good race for the Thames members and in particular for the loft of David Hales/Duncan Goodchild with a great team race. Coming in 1<sup>st</sup> section 2<sup>nd</sup> open was myself Gladwin & Jarvis, followed by David Hales/Duncan Goodchild 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> section and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> open.

Coutances first young bird race see Mr & Mrs S Beven winning 1<sup>st</sup> section and 2<sup>nd</sup> open.

In the old bird race let go with these at the same time D Wilton & Son won 1<sup>st</sup> section 3<sup>rd</sup> open.

Falaise see another good set of races with D Dumitrascu winning the section and 3<sup>rd</sup> open and closely followed by Lee Bastone who won 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> section, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> open.

In the old bird race also let go with the young birds see another great performance with Tony Buckfield winning 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> section and open, John Cowlin came in 3<sup>rd</sup> spot in both the section and open. With Micky Watts taking 4<sup>th</sup> section and 5<sup>th</sup> open.

As we moved to the last BICC races of the season Coutances 2 all eyes were on the Thames members, as the members pigeons were flying so well and all I can say is the members exceeded all expectations with the first 18 positions in the open being won by Thames members. What a performance, I am sure you will agree. Taking the first 3 places we have John Cowlin, David Coward-Talbot took the next 2, with myself Gladwin & Jarvis coming in 6<sup>th</sup> spot.



In the old bird race also let go with the young birds was another great display from the Thames members with John Cowlin winning 2<sup>nd</sup> section and open, Tony Meader winning 3<sup>rd</sup> section & 4<sup>th</sup> open, John cowlin again in 4<sup>th</sup> section 5<sup>th</sup> open and Jim Cook taking 5<sup>th</sup> section 6<sup>th</sup> open.

Next I looked at the NFC results for 2020. Again some brilliant performances were put up by the Thames members.



In the first race for the NFC in 2020 from Fougères see Micky Watts winning 2<sup>nd</sup> section and 2<sup>nd</sup> open with a cracking hen, V Belcher & Son won 3<sup>rd</sup> section and 6<sup>th</sup> open.

NFC young bird coutances see a record breaking performance by one member and I suspect by a single organisation (The Thames) John Cowlin broke the record by taking the first 8 positions in both the section and open. With Thames members taking the first 14 positions in the open of the NFC. It was a truly remarkable performance both by John Cowlin and the Thames members.

In the old hens race let go with the young bird see another great performance with Micky Watts winning 1<sup>st</sup> section and 1<sup>st</sup> open, Micky was also took 5<sup>th</sup> section and 6<sup>th</sup> open.

In the BBC national not many people from the Thames are members and not many people

sent in 2020 but there was still a very good performances put up by Thames Members Gosling & Jarvis who won 1st section, 4<sup>th</sup> open Pau

Finally, I reviewed the UBI combine results for 2020.

First up was Falaise which see D. Coward – Talbot put up a very good performance by winning 4<sup>th</sup> combine.

The next race was Le Mans and again the Thames members put up a great performance, winning 1<sup>st</sup> combine was myself Gladwin & Jarvis, Tony Buckfield was 3<sup>rd</sup> combine and D. Wilton & son came in 4<sup>th</sup> spot.





I should also mention the Golden duif for 2020, which once again showed how well the Thames members flew this year, with not just the winner but also the runner up being Thames members. For anyone not familiar with this competition it is open to all the U.K and ROI and is run in conjunction with the Golden Duif in Belgium that also run the competitions for Holland, Germany etc. The idea is to find the best all round lofts in each country each year. As such you must have results in all categories from old bird sprint, middle and Long also young bird sprint and middle. Not easy to get good results in each category. You may have seen my write up's in the past for the presentation nights in Belgium which are one of the biggest events in Belgium each year with fanciers from all over the world flying in for the event be it China, Japan Taiwan and all over Europe. It gives you a sense of what a great achievement to qualify let alone make the top 3. D.Wilton & son had another top season knocking around in all races and finished runner up in this super competition. The winner was Theresa and I (Gladwin & Jarvis) I must say it is a major honour to be classed as the best all round loft of the U.K & ROI in 2020.



I hope this round up shows what great fanciers are in the Thames and I hope also shows the fact the Thames racing not only offers great inland/sprint racing but also offers the best opportunity to get your birds ready for the national races, be that young birds, middle distance or even right out to long distance races. The Thames members are winning at all of these disciplines on a regular basis.

Finally, please except my apologies if i have not put your picture in this week, as a lot of Members i just do not have pictures for.

The Thames Breeder/Buyer and Gold ring races are both still going ahead in 2021, Gold rings are available and can be ordered on the Thames website. The Breeder/Buyer is similar rules as normal with just one big change the auctions will be online this season. Each auction will be online for 1 week during March. Details need to be sent to Racheal Bacon well in advance of each sale. Again full info is on the Thames website. [www.thamesnec.co.uk](http://www.thamesnec.co.uk)