

## NORTHERN IRELAND PROVINCIAL AMALGAMATION OF RACING PIGEON SOCIETIES

Enquiry into the Liberation and race from St. Malo 2017

Organisations present at this meeting

Northern Ireland Provincial Amalgamation,

Ulster Federation

East Coast Federation Southern Ireland

Irish South Road Federation

Apologies from The East Down Combine

27<sup>th</sup> June 2017

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the enquiry.

Mr Jim Ramsey reported on the weather conditions at St. Malo and on route

Thursday: Met Erin reported that condition for Friday morning looked favourable, with cloud cover good visibility light south west wind, it would be humid and it would improve throughout the afternoon.

For Friday morning Met Erin reported that rain would cross Ireland into Wales and a strong South Westerly wind would move the rain on.

Mr Ramsey confirmed that he was in contact with all organisations on Friday morning before a release took place. ALL ORGANISATIONS WERE IN FAVOUR TO LIBERATE.

Mr Ramsey contacted Glen Moon in Jersey on the morning of release. He reported that the weather conditions in the Channel Islands was favourable.

Mr Ramsey confirmed he had received a shipping forecast around 4:00am and spoke to the conveyer at 5:01 am Friday morning. The conveyer reported good visibility and cloudy at St. Malo.

Mr Ramsey confirmed he contacted Mr Glen Moon at 5:15 am, he confirmed a red sky with a light west wind. Contact was then made to the conveyer around 5:17 and again around 5:54 and 6:10.

All organisations were contacted around 6:20 am, it was agreed a liberation would take place around 6:30am, The French Agent was on site and overseen the release and signed the permit.

Mr Ramsey contacted the conveyer at around 6:32 am and he confirmed the birds left in 90 seconds in a Northerly Direction into a light westerly wind.

I have posted on site the weather history for Saint Helier Jersey , St Peter Port Guernsey, and Poole in Dorset England, also photographs of the release site on Friday Morning.

I have just received the following report from the race controller Mr Jim Ramsey

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017

Contacted Paul & Bow (Richard). We spoke for about 8 minutes about the convoy of birds, their rest period, water & food also their current position

Everything looked positive, I spoke to Gary & Ken and in turn Fred, these calls were up to and around 3:00pm. Fred asked if I had spoken to Paul today I replied yes, and agreed that no further photos to be published on Facebook. I contacted Paul and asked him to continue taking photos but keep them until he returned home and we would publish them on the NIPA site. After this I spoke to Henry Byrne about lib site, the original site was unaccessible due to the large numbers of livestock grazing. I requested Henry to contact his convoy to alert them of this and to meet up with the Nipa Transporter. I also obtained a number for a fancier from Jersey, who I spoke to later and arranged for the next morning to contact him around 5:00am and also to speak to him later that evening.

I contacted all organisations that were being transported with the Nipa giving each one a brief breakdown on everything as it stood with regards to weather reports for the next morning. These had been received from Met Erin earlier that afternoon. They contained details from St. Malo right through to England and from Wales to the East Coast of Ireland and a general weather situation in Ireland, all was very positive Light west winds which would pick up in the afternoon very good visibility with cloud cover and in the Irish sea freshening south west winds pushing any rain northwards above Wales.

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017

I rose at 4:00am and proceeded to do weather checks on BBC Shipping and coastal reports. I made contact with Paul & Bow around 5:00am and we discussed how the weather was, French time 6:00am ,further calls were made at 5:17 6:10 6:26 6:32 6:45 7:08 8:17 10:35 & 11:55 am regarding the release and weather conditions after the liberation, everything was all good and no sightings Of pigeons returning to the area

At 5:13 our time I made contact with JERSEY and while he said all was fine, things would be better in another hour, in turn I let the conveyer know.

I spoke to the contact in Jersey at 5:54 am and said everything looks grand .I also informed him it was my intentions to release at 6:30 our time 7:30am French time. He said good luck, I spoke to him again at 7:27 and he informed me that west wind had picked up a bit, it was as good a visibility that he would get .He informed me that he could see quite clearly a marker which was 13 miles away towards St. Malo.

I asked him if he would report back if he seen any pigeons going over the Island, he replied the bird`s no longer come over the Island unless there are extreme Easterly winds, the birds fly up the Cherbourg Peninsula and cross the channel to arrive around Poole, from 6:03 TO 6:21 am i spoke to Gary, Ken Fred and all the organisations with us , everyone was OK with all the report`s and I informed the Conveyer it was fine to release at 6:30am . After the release all organisations were contacted and informed of the release at 6:30am and how the bird`s cleared the race point.

I also went through live webcams in Poole, Weymouth, and Portland on several occasions during the morning, I had been speaking to Gary on several occasions putting all our information together and

all his contact's and checks were coming back very positive and was very similar to the report's I was getting

Jim Ramsey Race controller of the Nipa

The following report was received from the Conveyer and Transport Manager.

On Friday morning at 5:01 am, We received our first contact with the Race Controller, he asked for an update on the weather conditions, our finding where that the morning was bright with very light west winds, there was cloud cover but patches of light blue sky could be seen in the direction of the flight path and I had excellent visibility. The steeple on the church at St. Pere was clearly visible a distance of over 2 Kilometres due North. To the South of us the cloud was much darker.

As the liberation time approached the day became brighter and the race controller could see no reason why a liberation could not go ahead at 6:30am.

After liberation all Nipa birds cleared within 90 seconds due north and none returned to the site before we left at approx. 9:30am to catch the 10:30am ferry to Portsmouth. On our sailing from St Malo to Portsmouth the channel was clear and the visibility perfect

Signed Richard (Bow) Quinn

Paul Howard

I will finish this report by trying to answer some of the questions being asked of me

Why was the Nipa Conveyer not with the birds? Paddy was due to go and all the arrangements were made, however I am told that an emergency had arisen and he could not go. Richard Quinn or as many of you call him Bow Is our longest serving employee, many times he has convoyed our birds and was conveyer of another organisation for a number of years. He was the obvious choice to assist. I personally have every confidence in his ability to look after your pigeon's and this was not his first time in France.

Maybe you are not aware before we can release pigeons in France a member of the French Union must be present to sign everything off. Claude has been our Agent at St. Malo for many years and is a pigeon Fancier.

Was our bird's properly watered and fed on route? Yes they were and I have to have an Animal Transport Certificate for the journey completely completed stating times of Rest, Watering and Feeding. Any club can request a copy.

What happened to our pigeons? I simply do not know, where are they? I have not any answers, there is plenty of speculation but no one has approached any of the organisations to confirm anything

Are they being reported in any numbers? The answer is no they are not.

Some member`s believe they went along the French Coast into Belgium and Holland I have no evidence to back this up. Some believe that the summer solstice could have had an effect or maybe radio waves in France have had an effect I do not have the answers.

The wind on the Irish sea I believe did not turn to South West and probably stayed mainly Westerly, and the rain in parts of Wales did not move on as was predicted, so far there are not many reports in Wales of pigeons so did they take another route I do not know.

All organisations have agreed to meet and draw up agreed measures what must be put in place before a French Race can go ahead, when agreement is made you will all be notified.

The Irish South Road Federation would like it to be made known their video showing their liberation at St. Malo does not reflect the actual conditions at release.

On Behalf of all of the organisations at St Malo we apologise for the way the race turned out and offer our congratulations to all the fanciers who recorded an arrival.

Regards

Nipa, Ulster federation, East Down Combine, East Coast Federation, Irish South Road Federation