

EUROPIGEONS HISTORY

“Eádhun”

GB09J31666

Eádhun has proved to be one of the most successful Barcelona pigeons seen in the UK and yet he was almost not entered for Barcelona at all. His first son, “FIRMAN” GB10K47202, came so well from his preparation races both as a yearling and two year old that it was seriously considered putting “Eadhun” straight to stock. “Firman” however failed at his first great test, Tarbes 577mi/979km, and “Eadhun” went to Barcelona. His breeding record since has been very limited as he has been raced on widowhood and the hen he has been paired to is very slow to lay, but perhaps things will change now that he has been retired.



From the start "Eádhun" was something of an individual. As a yearling he escaped from the basket on his way to marking for his first ever race and was only found in the trailer after marking was over, so instead he had a single up from the marking station. So the first race he took part in was from Messac 276mi/444km, when he was 7th to the loft. He went to Messac again a couple of weeks later when he was the first pigeon to the loft providing an early indication that he was a racer.

As a two year old "Eádhun" performed moderately in his preparation races, Carentan 170mi/273km, Alencon 218mi/350km, Messac 276mi/444km and Tours 291mi/468km but perhaps showed something of a family trait when it came to his first great test at Tarbes 577mi/979km. He went to Tarbes as No 1 on the sheet, based upon earlier performances, they were liberated on 24th June and while his three teammates made reasonable positions in the result "Eádhun" did not return until 5th July, looking fit and well.

So it came to the 2012 season, "Eádhun's" third year and time subject to preparation races for him to go to Barcelona. The preparation went quite well and a team of six pigeons were finally entered. "Eádhun" went as No 3 on the basis of previous performance with the No 1 spot occupied by GB08R45948 "DEORWINE" who had finished 4th Open in the British Barcelona Club Palamos (685mi/1102km) race the year before. The 2012 Barcelona race was quite fast, liberated at 1300hrs UK time on Friday the International winner at Nieurlet, France achieved a velocity of 1801.31 mpm. "Eádhun" was timed at 12:20:43 on the second day producing a velocity of 1099.79mpm for the 709mi 1717yds/1142.6km to win 1st National BBC from 337 pigeons, 1st UK National from 616 pigeons and 475th International from 25,320 pigeons. When the Club Member who was asked to verify "Eádhun" walked towards the loft he saw "CAEDMON" GB07V44141 arrive at 15:54:42 who would have been 2nd National BBC and 4th UK National had it not been for an error in the timing system which meant he took no position at all.

The full International result can be found [HERE](#).

A fuller report on the race can be found [HERE](#).



Meanwhile the No 1 entry "Deorwine" found his way to Normandy, was rescued by a local farmer on Sunday, retrieved by a local fancier and passed on to a fancier in Calais where he has rested and been breeding until to date. (Circa 2014)



GB08R45948 "DEORWINE" resting in a nest box near to Calais.

The various winners in this race are invited to [The Cureghem Centre Day](#), a rather splendid dinner and prize presentation, where the winners of a whole host of competitions both national and international are presented with prizes and trophies including "Eádhun" who won the trophy below.



In this one race "Eádhun" won a considerable number of trophies within the British Barcelona Club, set out in the photograph below but one perhaps deserves special mention, as it is quite unique, bearing the image of "Eádhun" and carved from Portland stone especially for this occasion. A more detailed account of this trophy and its origination can be found in [From Chesil to Chickerell](#).



2013

The 2013 season started quite well and in his first preparation race from Carentan "Eádhun" was second to the loft about 45 minutes behind "Caedmon". Just a few days later on 14th May he came in from a flight around the loft with a nasty cut to his leg. The cut was so bad that it seemed his chances of a return to Barcelona had gone. However he healed quite quickly and was soon flying out again but not early enough for the next preparation race Messac which he missed. Then came Niort 365 mi/587km which was so hard it nearly finished any chance of Barcelona for the entire team. Of the seven pigeons sent to this race only two returned in any decent time. "Caedmon" was first to the loft and 24th Open B.B.C. on a velocity of 548ypm and "Eádhun" was second some 8 hours later on a velocity of 391 ypm and 130th Open. An indication of how severe this race was can be taken from the fact that only 179 pigeons were recorded in the result from 1,214 sent. The other pigeons returned days later some in very poor condition indeed which reduced the Barcelona team to just those two.

When it came to the Barcelona entry "Caedmon" went as No1, based upon performance that year and "Eádhun" went with no great expectation because he had been injured, only had a limited preparation and endured a severe experience at Niort. As for the race itself the conditions were entirely different to 2012 and produced a very hard but fair race with the International winner achieving a velocity of 944.289 mpm at Roosdaal, Belgium. The UK winner was timed at 11-25-43 to produce a velocity of 878.144 mpm, an exceptional time in the circumstances while "Eádhun" was some three and a half hours behind at 16-0-8 on 750.555 mpm. Despite those three and a half hours "Eádhun" was still the second pigeon timed in the UK and so was 2nd National from 350 pigeons and 1,133rd International from 25,294 pigeons. Unfortunately this race proved too much for "Caedmon" who did not return.

The full International Result can be found [HERE](#).

A fuller report on the race can be found [HERE](#).

Those International positions in 2012/2013 made "Eádhun" the 76th best Barcelona pigeon in Europe over those two years and if you look at the [Top 100](#) you will see he sits amongst some very illustrious names.

2014

“Eádhun” was entered for Barcelona as his third and final attempt at this race. The method of racing was changed to Natural for this year and he, with the other pigeons in the loft came quite well through the preparation races. Barcelona itself turned out to be yet a different race again with good winds that carried the birds well into the Netherlands but with a band of bad weather that effectively blocked the channel to the UK pigeons. No pigeons were timed in the UK before the race had closed and those that did manage reasonable times in the circumstances came in over a several days. “Eádhun” was not amongst them, he did however finally return home looking reasonably fit and well after one week and was immediately retired. Now it remains to be seen whether the early promise he showed as a breeder matches that as a racer.

