

BICC AUTUMN 2019 NEWS UPDATE.

The BICC seems to be going from strength to strength with new members joining on an almost daily basis. This is not surprising given the fact that for one membership fee, fanciers have the choice of 17 races, including sprint, middle distance, long distance and extreme long distance on the International racing scene.

At the early October committee meeting there was a pretty hefty agenda for the committee to discuss, but as usual, Chairman Albi Deacon oversaw matters in his usual fair and strong manner.

First up on the agenda was a complaint from John Underdown .

However, John was not in attendance to air his views so we moved on to the next agenda item which involved a complaint from octogenarian and King's Cup winning fancier George Burgess of Wraysbury. The complaint centred around a mix up in the basketting of the old birds for the Fougères AA race where some of the BICC old birds were wrongly placed in the NFC crates, as the two clubs were basketting pigeons at the same marking station on the same day but for different races.

CCTV footage had highlighted the error and George was satisfied with the explanation given. Rest assured the same mistake will not be repeated.

The newly formed Finance sub committee had convened earlier in the day and their recommendations were as follows.

The membership as of early October stands at 1,604 which is a 60% increase on 2012 figures. Race entry numbers for 2019 show an increase over the season of 2,500 pigeons compared with the 2018 season.

In future race results will only be published in the BHW weekly as members have access to these results which are placed on the BICC website as soon as possible after the race is flown.

Mark Gilbert stated that he was in the process of drawing up an auction list for a sale of pigeons, the monies from which will be used to purchase a Memorial Trophy for our greatly missed President John Tyerman who passed away earlier in the year.

The general committee then discussed the completion of race sheets and it was proposed and seconded that in the Any Age races the old and young bird entries should be written on separate race sheets.

After a long discussion it was also passed that as from 2020 the membership fee will increase from £25 to £30 with a late payment penalty of £10.

A long discussion then took place regarding the formation of a new section in an effort to even up the numbers in the existing Centre section, this was put to one side for the time being.

The 2020 race programme was then discussed and it was decided that we race from the following race points in 2020 beginning on 2nd May:- Falaise, Falaise, Messac, Poitiers, Pau, Agen, Barcelona, Le Mans, St Vincent, Bordeaux, Marseille, Narbonne and Perpignan with old birds and Guernsey and Falaise with YBS and OBS. However, Messac may have to be replaced by Tours as the availability of the Messac site is uncertain at present.

It was also decided that we have an Open race for the Agen International, with the intention and hope, that we can encourage non members of the BICC to dip their toes into International competition. There will be an additional International marking station set up at Northampton for this purpose with the hope that Northern fanciers will take up the challenge. Our secretary, Carol will also now have a marking station at Spelthorne for all National and International races. The final point raised was in recognition of the death of our greatly missed President the late John Tyerman that we appoint Mark Gilbert as pro-tem President to be confirmed at the forthcoming AGM.

At the next committee meeting held recently a number of items were on the agenda and these were all dealt with swiftly by the assembled committee members.

The financial statement was discussed and all were happy with the state of affairs and our treasurer Russell, who is indeed a real treasure, was commended on his handling of the club's finances. It was pointed out that the Messac race point may not be available for 2020 and it was agreed that we revert to Tours should this be confirmed.

Mark Gilbert confirmed that talks with the MNFC regarding a joint race from Bordeaux in mid July had been very positive and so in all probability we will race from the west coast of France in mid July with the MNFC and possibly other organisations.

Mark also raised the possibility of Friday liberations in the shorter National races if the weather is forecast to be unfavourable on the appointed day. Mark pointed out that in these National races the birds are often sighted at the race points by mid morning on a Friday opening up the opportunity of a lunchtime/ early afternoon liberation should the need arise. This was agreed to by the committee.

Albi informed the meeting regarding the position of assistant convoyer and the committee unanimously endorsed his actions. Chief convoyer Trevor Cracknell, another club treasure, is actively sourcing a replacement.

A discussion then took place with regard to the feasibility of modifying our present trailer and after some time it was decided that we leave things as they are for the 2020 season.

Next up was the need to replace our much valued marking station team of Rita and Eddy Goode at South Ockenden. An advert will be placed in the fancy press asking for prospective IC's to apply.

The position of Press Officer was then discussed and after a lengthy discussion it was decided to advertise the post and also to thank our present press officer Chris, for his efforts on behalf of the club over the past two seasons.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 12.25 pm. Next up, the AGM to be held at the club H.Q., The Lion Brewery at Ash on Sunday January 5th 2020.