



## **British International Championship Club**

### **Annual Presentation and Gala Dinner**

**Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup> 2020**

The British International Championship Club met at the Queens Hotel, Bournemouth, on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February, to congratulate the many Section, National and International winners who grace this magnificent club. A packed room was welcomed by Club President, Mark Gilbert, who in honour of the late John Tyerman, asked all present to stand and toast his memory. Mark told members that John was a brilliant President who did so much to build the BICC into the club it is today - a club of National and International recognition and status.

Mark then congratulated the winners of the 10 National races that were organised in the 2019 season. The National winners include some of the very best fanciers in the country. Some of whom have been at the top of their game for more than 30 years. In the pigeon world, these fanciers are household names and superstars of the sport. The 10 outstanding National race winners were:

Malik and Khan who won **Falaise**, Mr and Mrs Cowler who won **Alencon**, Bob Beasant & Son who were 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> **Cholet**, the **Poiters** winner, David & John Staddon and the **Le Mans (1)** winners, Mr & Mrs King. Then, Micky Watts who won **Le Mans (2)**, B & J Wilson winners of the **Guernsey YB** race, Micky Watts again, who won the **Guernsey Any Age** race, David and John Staddon, again, who also won **Forges YB** race and Mr & Mrs Sparks who won the **Fourges OB** race.

Mark then announced the winners of the 7 International races. At these races, BICC members compete against the top fanciers in Belgium, France and Holland. Mark commented, "It's like the World Cup of pigeon racing, with up to 25,000 birds being liberated." And sporting his familiar smile, he added, "lucky me" as he announced himself as the winner of the first international race from **Pau**.

The second race from **Agen** was won by Gladwin Jarvis and Family on a very hot day that made racing conditions very difficult. **St Vincent** followed and was another victory for Mark. Then Lee & Kevin Buddle took the honours from **Marseille**. Geoff and Clayton Preece won the **Narbonne International**, recording the only bird home on the day. They then won the next race from **Perpignan**; just 5 days later. All fantastic results achieved by BICC fanciers flying the flag for Britain.

However, Mark left the achievement of John Chipperfield to last. Last, of course, but not least. Members cheered as Mark congratulated John on winning the **Barcelona International** - considered by many to be the greatest race of the international programme. John had clocked his pigeon named, 'Herne Bay Sophie' after an epic 688 mile race competing against the very best in Britain. The other top fanciers who scored were Dave Goddard 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lee & Kevin Buddle 3<sup>rd</sup>, with Geoff & Clayton Preece 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Mark Gilbert split them taking 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> went to Ray Strawbridge. Ray won the trophy for recording the longest flying bird in race time – over 700 miles to his loft in Newport. An achievement Ray was proud to share with this late partner Mr John Williams.

Mark then turned to the administrative matters concerning the club. Introducing Mike Jackson as the new BICC Press Officer and thanking members of the committee for all their hard work throughout the year. Mark particularly thanked the Secretary, Carol Francis, Treasurer, Russell Bradford, Chief Convoyer, Trevor Cracknell and Facebook administrator, Anthony Beasant. Mark praised Carol for getting all the race results out in super quick time and for all her hard work in making the presentation such a success. Mark described Russell as someone he can, 'throw anything at' knowing that it will get done. He is so much more than, 'just' the treasurer. Trevor, as always ensures the birds are transported in a first class condition week in week out and Anthony Beasant ensures that the BICC is live on social media.

Then, before saying grace, Mark confirmed the exciting news that the Midlands National Flying Club and the Welsh South Road National Flying Club will join with the BICC for a joint race from Bordeaux. This race should achieve an impressive liberation.

Members and guests then enjoyed a superb six course meal, served professionally by the hotel staff. All who had the main course of Braised Beef au Poivre or the vegetarian option of Curried Cauliflower said they thoroughly enjoyed it.

Carol Francis then organised the main presentation in her usual efficient manner. Carol asked special guests and committee members, Trevor Cracknell, Diane Watson, Helen Jackson, Clare Bradford, Jill Rogers and John Wills to present the trophies. Carol was also ably assisted by Sue Watson. Special thanks are due to Sue for polishing the trophies and making sure they are in pristine condition. Indeed, they looked fantastic on the night.

The 2019 trophy winners were:

<b>Trophy</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Race Point</b>
Brian Long Cup 1 <sup>st</sup> Race	Malik & Khan	Tolworth	Falaise
Brian Long Cup 2 <sup>nd</sup> Race	M/M Cowper & Son	Cliffe Woods	Alencon
Brian Long Cup 3 <sup>rd</sup> Race	Bob Besant & Son	Worcester Park	Cholet
Mark Kidby Memorial Trophy	M/M Cowper & Son	Cliffe Woods	Alencon
Brian Long Cup 4 <sup>th</sup> Race	D & J Staddon	Shepton Mallet	Cholet 2(Poitiers)
Brian Long Cup 5 <sup>th</sup> Race	M/M King	Blandford Forum	Le Mans 1
B. Corbin Cup	D & J Staddon	Shepton Mallet	Longest National Race Cholet 2(Poitiers)
BICC Special	Micky Watts	Southminster	Le Mans 2
Violet Wills	B & J Willson	Dagenham	Guernsey YB
BICC Special	B & J Willson	Dagenham	Guernsey YB
BICC Special	Micky Watts	Southminster	Guernsey OB
Keith Davis Memorial Cup	Mark Gilbert	Windsor	GUERNSEY Y/B 1
BICC Special	D & J Staddon	Shepton Mallett	1 <sup>st</sup> Bird into Berks
BICC Special	M/M A Sparks	Gravesend	Fourgeres YB
F Brooks Cup	Mark Gilbert	Winkfield, Windsor	Fourgeres OB
B.I.C.C. Rose Bowl	Mark Gilbert	Winkfield, Windsor	PAU INT.
G Hunt & Son Cup	John Chipperfield	Herne Bay	2 bird average
			BARCELONA INT.

Frans van den Heuval Cup	R J Goddard & Son	Reading	BARCELONA (2 bird average)
Mr & Mrs Bunney Cup	R J Goddard & Son	Reading	1 <sup>st</sup> CS BARCELONA
Bewes Trophy	John Chipperfield	Herne Bay	Best Ave. Pau & Barcelona
B.I.C.C. Cup	Mark Gilbert	Winkfield, Windsor	Agen & St. Vincent International
K. Bakes Cup	Mark Gilbert	Winkfield, Windsor	1 <sup>st</sup> CS pigeon St. Vincent International
P. Rigiani Memorial Cup	Mark Gilbert	Winkfield, Windsor	St. Vincent International(2 Bird Average)
F Roberts Trophy	L & K Buddle	Dover	Marseille International
B.I.C.C. Cup	L & K Buddle	Dover	Marseille International ( 2 Bird Average).
K. Couch Trophy	G M Preece & Son	Dover	Perpignan
F. A. Brammer Trophy	G M Preece & Son	Dover	Perpignan
A & T Deacon Trophy	D Hales	Hockley	2 bird Av. Perpignan
S G Biss Cup	Mark Gilbert	Winkfield, Windsor	Highest Points all International races
Brian Long Memorial Cup	Mark Gilbert	Winkfield, Windsor	Highest position All International Races
Channel Queen Trophy	Gladwin Jarvis & Family	Leigh on Sea	Highest Position Hen All International Races
Europa Trophy	Mark Gilbert	Winkfield,Windsor	Best Average All <u>International Race</u>
J & R Wills Cup	Mark Gilbert	Winkfield, Windsor	Best Average Pau & Perpignan
Wright Cup	Mark Gilbert	Winkfield, Windsor	Best Average Pau & St. Vincent

Mark Gilbert Trophy	Gladwin Jarvis And Family	Leigh on Sea	Agen Interntional
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F Roberts Trophy	L & K Buddle	Dover	Marseille International
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Europa Trophy	Mark Gilbert	Winkfield,Windsor	Best Average All International Race
J & R Wills Cup	Mark Gilbert	Winkfield, Windsor	Best Average Pau & Perpignan
Wright Cup	Mark Gilbert	Winkfield, Windsor	Best Average Pau & St. Vincent
Mark Gilbert Trophy	Gladwin Jarvis And Family	Leigh on Sea	Agen Interntional
BICC Cup	Mark Gilbert	Winkfield, Windsor	St. Vincent Int.
Jim Emerton Trophy	R Strawbridge & J Williams	Newport	Longest Flying bird in Race Time – Barcelona
Barry Hobbs Memorial Trophy	L A Smith	Wellingborough	Highest Velocity Forgeres YB into Northamptonshire
Jim Emerton Mensa Trophy	R J Goddard & Son	Reading	2Bird Average Barcelona
David Hales Memorial Trophy	J Underdown	Basdildon	1 <sup>st</sup> Essex Bird Barcelona

The Section winners in each race were also awarded a certificate and a trophy. It is a significant achievement to win a section in the BICC, which would be on the scale of a national in smaller clubs. Although not all Section winners could attend the presentation, they were all congratulated on the night. The list below contains some of the top fanciers in the country. The Section winners were:

**Faliase:** 1<sup>st</sup> **ES** - M Connelley, & Son of Caning Town, 1<sup>st</sup> **NC** - David Paine of St. Neots, 1<sup>st</sup> **NE** Jacqui & Terry Ivatt of Ipswich, 1<sup>st</sup> **NW** - Antony Evans of Middlewich and 1<sup>st</sup> **WS** - Clive & Jill Rogers & Neils Sales of Writhlington.

**Alencon:** 1<sup>st</sup> **CS** - Brye Bishop of Chingford, 1<sup>st</sup> **NC** - D Gruzelier of Houghton Quest, 1<sup>st</sup> **NE** - Steve Surrey of Wisbech, 1<sup>st</sup> **NW** John Rodway of Rushwick and 1<sup>st</sup> **WS** Geoff & Catherine Cooper of Peasedown, St John.

**Cholet:** 1<sup>st</sup> **ES** - Micea Liviu Dehelian of Dartford, 1<sup>st</sup> **NC** - Mr & Mrs Colin Thorpe of Desborough, 1<sup>st</sup> **NE** - D & E Ball Eyke of Woodbridge, 1<sup>st</sup> **NW** - John Rodway of Rushwick and 1<sup>st</sup> **WS** Geoff & Catherine Cooper Peasedown St John.

**Cholet (Poitiers):** 1<sup>st</sup> **CS** - Mr & Mrs Bunney of Portsmouth, 1<sup>st</sup> **ES** - Tom Williams of Orpinton, 1<sup>st</sup> **NC** - D Gruzelier of Houghton Quest, 1<sup>st</sup> **NE** - Kelvin Sharman of Syleham and 1<sup>st</sup> **NW** - Mr & Mrs G Lloyd of Hereford.

**Le Mans (1):** 1<sup>st</sup> **CS** - Ian & Scott Smith of Eastleigh, 1<sup>st</sup> **ES** - Mr & Mrs A Sparks of Gravesend, 1<sup>st</sup> **NC** - Les Berry & Son of Great Glen, 1<sup>st</sup> **NE** - Simmons & Sparks of Elmsett of Ipswich, 1<sup>st</sup> **NW** - M & C Lee of Worcester and 1<sup>st</sup> **WS** - Mr & Mrs King of Blandford Forum.

**Le Mans (2):** 1<sup>st</sup> **CS** - M & J Adcock & Son of Croydon, 1<sup>st</sup> **NC** - Coleman & Lawson of Barrow Upon Humber, 1<sup>st</sup> **NE** - Basil Burgess of Kessingland, 1<sup>st</sup> **NW** - N Matthews & N Harris of Bridgnorth and 1<sup>st</sup> **WS** - Wyatt & Gray of Nailsea.

**Guernsey young birds:** 1<sup>st</sup> **CS** - K Wise of Isleworth, 1<sup>st</sup> **NC** - L A Smith of Wellingborough, 1<sup>st</sup> **NE** - Jeremy Nicholson of Ipswich, 1<sup>st</sup> **NW** - Russell Keen of Kidderminster and 1<sup>st</sup> **WS** - D & J Staddon of Shepton Mallett.

**Guernsey any age:** 1<sup>st</sup> **CS** - Mr & Mrs Worsfold of Bisley, 1<sup>st</sup> **NC** - S Bartholomew of Bromham, 1<sup>st</sup> **NE** - R Fenech & Son of Attleborough, 1<sup>st</sup> **NW** - John Rodway of Rushway and 1<sup>st</sup> **WS** - R Hannan of Frome.

**Fourgeres young birds:** 1<sup>st</sup> **CS** - Mr & Mrs Cooper of Liss, 1<sup>st</sup> **ES** - Belcher & Son Loft 1 of Eltham, 1<sup>st</sup> **NC** - D Gruzelier of Houghton Quest, 1<sup>st</sup> **NE** - Mr & Mrs Strowger of Leiston and 1<sup>st</sup> **NW** - Talent & Westbury of Corwen.

**Fourgeres any age:** 1<sup>st</sup> **CS** - Terry Haley of Watford, 1<sup>st</sup> **NC** - J & JK Connor loft 1 of St Ives, 1<sup>st</sup> **NE** - Chapman & Easton of Gt. Yarmouth, 1<sup>st</sup> **NW** - John Rodway of Rushwick and 1<sup>st</sup> **WS** - John Halstead of Kington Magna.

**Pau International:** 1<sup>st</sup> **ES** - J Nicholson & Son of Rochester and 1<sup>st</sup> **WS** GG & CJ Cooper of Peasedown, St John.

**Agen International: 1<sup>st</sup> CS** - J F Haynes of Fifield, **1<sup>st</sup> NC** - P S Wraight of Bluntisham, **1<sup>st</sup> NE** - A & T Wright of Norwich and **1<sup>st</sup> WS** David Young of Radstock.

**Barcelona International: 1<sup>st</sup> CS** - R Goddard & Son of Reading and **1<sup>st</sup> WS** - R Strawbridge & Williams of Newport.

**St Vincent International: 1<sup>st</sup> ES** - G M Preece & Son of Dover and **1<sup>st</sup> WS** - Clive & Jill Rogers & Neil Sales, Writhlington.

**Marseille International: 1<sup>st</sup> CS** - Mark Gilbert of Winkfield, Windsor.

**Narbonne International: 1<sup>st</sup> CS** - Mark Gilbert of Winkfield, Windsor and **1<sup>st</sup> NC** - Mike Turner, Alconbury.

**Perpignan International: 1<sup>st</sup> CS** - Mark Gilbert of Winkfield, Windsor and **1<sup>st</sup> WS** - Clive & Jill Rogers & Neil Sales of Writhlington.

With the presentation over, members and guests spent the rest of the evening talking, socialising and dancing at the disco. Thanks must go to the DJ who played numerous requests that kept people dancing into the early hours.

The BICC is looking forward to the coming season, with another 17 races planned. Unfortunately all the 'B' rings have been sold and the RPRA don't have any more. However, if you're not a member, why not join and fly the flag for British pigeon racing? You never know, you could be picking up national and international honours in 2020. All details can be found on the BICC website.



Mike Jackson – Press Officer