

British International Championship Club

Dublin Marking Station Announced

In another development to promote national and international racing, the BICC can announce that a new marking station in Dublin will be opened for the 2021 season. For many years, fanciers in Northern Ireland and the Republic have wanted to improve their chances of competing in long distance racing from France and perhaps even further!

Well, from next season all fanciers on the island of Ireland will be able to take their birds to a new marking station in Dublin. The pigeons will be transported directly to France in their own trailer and then meet up with the BICC convoy, either en route or at the liberation site. All birds will then have an opportunity to race together in a huge liberation. Their blue ribbon race for 2021 will be Poitiers, which is about 565 miles to Dublin and well over 600 miles the further north you travel. This year's race is planned for 12th June and if last year's race is anything to go on, a huge liberation of 3,567 birds took place from Poitiers back in July. If that is repeated, the Irish birds could have plenty of company on their way home.

However, if by any chance the weather across the Irish Sea is deemed unsuitable for liberation but suitable for the remainder of the BICC birds to be released, the Irish birds will be held over and will compete in their own race when the weather is favourable. This will only be as a last resort but it should hopefully reassure members that the birds will be given the best chance of racing. There will still be a full press report from the BICC.

Michael Feeney has been instrumental in organising this and he will be the marking station I/C. Michael said, "The Irish Section is open to all comers who wish to take part in this race, and all anyone needs to do, is join up. We are in a fantastic position to have a marking station in Ireland to compete on an even keel with UK mainland fanciers. I would like to add my personal thanks to the committee of the BICC who have approved this station and I can see it going from strength to strength from here on out. There are 55 fanciers that I know of who will be joining up this year and I am sure more will be getting involved between now and racing time."

Michael has obtained a beautiful trophy that has 100 years of history and was first raced for in 1920 by the then Dublin City Flying Club which later became the Dublin Homing Club. The cup is now named the, 'James Kearns Perpetual Challenge Cup' and Michael obtained the cup through a fancier from James' grandchildren. This trophy will be presented to the Poitiers winner.



Finally to make things run smoothly, some important admin information. All members will need to pre-pay for their entries the day prior to marking via a BACS payment, as this negates the need to exchange Euros into Sterling where applicable. Confirmation of payment can then be sent back to the I/C on marking day and things should run smoothly.

For further information, Michael Feeney is happy to be contacted on 00353 877187535.

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