

British International Championship Club

Annual Presentation & Gala Dinner for 2020



Unlike the Euro's and Tokyo Olympics pigeon racing did take place in 2020 but, the planned presentation for February 2021 had to be delayed until Saturday 9th October due to the lockdown restrictions. So when members of the BICC gathered for the presentation, they did so in Torquay on a lovely Indian summer weekend at the Imperial Hotel.

After members took their seats in the ballroom, club president, Mark Gilbert, opened proceedings by welcoming everyone to the presentation. He commented on how strange the last 18 months had been and how good it felt for everyone to be able to socialise once again. A sentiment that seemed to be felt by everyone present. Mark continued by saying, "When the pandemic hit, I don't think anyone thought we would be racing in 2020. I would like to say a massive thank you to the RPRA and our guest of honour Ian Evans, who unfortunately can't make it tonight. He did an excellent job putting the protocols in place and making pigeon racing the first sport back after lockdown. He also gave great advice and was a massive help for us gaining Channel racing in 2020. I would also like to thank the committee for being so positive in their approach towards racing in 2020, the people who run the marking stations, the conveyors and the all the members. All this hard work resulted in a record send of over 8,000 pigeons to our first race."



Mark giving his opening speech



Mark, Carol and Lee Fribbins



The trophy table



Carol preparing to call up the trophy winners

As Mark said, Ian Evans wasn't able to make the presentation but Ian asked Mark to speak on his behalf. So Mark continued, "Firstly, please accept my apologies for not being with you tonight. I was looking forward to attending the presentation evening to celebrate the achievements of the BICC and its members. 2021 was a challenging season for us all. The ongoing pandemic, bird flu and Brexit all had an impact on pigeon racing in the UK. At the start of the 2020 pandemic, pigeon racing was the first competitive sport to get underway, beating multi-billion pound industries such as horse racing to the starting line. A great achievement that was, firstly facilitated by the RPRA but, then delivered at club and federation level by hard working officials and volunteers that we are all indebted too. This placed us in the best possible position to start racing as early as possible in 2021. However, the level of bird flu outbreaks in the UK and mainland Europe were at an unprecedented level. As a result, the UK General License for all bird gatherings was withdrawn, meaning no pigeon racing. Through the relationships built with DEFRA and improved compliance to the requirements of the General License, pigeon racing was the first to be given permission to gather under license conditions.

Achieving Channel racing in 2021, proved far more difficult. The new animal health regulations made it impossible for organisations to facilitate Channel racing. A potentially catastrophic situation! The RPRA immediately started lobbying the relevant authorities. In May we thought that a temporary reprieve was achieved when we were informed that the new animal health regulations were to be subject to a six month transitional period. Unfortunately, during the transitional period,

member states were able to impose their own national rules, and this is where the French decided to impose rules that proved as onerous as the new EU regulation, meaning no Channel racing. Other possibilities such as racing from Belgium were explored but for a number of reasons this was not possible, including the fact that currently only Caen and Cherbourg ports can deal with the entry of racing pigeons from the UK. No Dutch or Belgian ports are set up to allow entry of pigeons. In other words, the only way to enter mainland Europe was through two French ports.

Now some positive news! My latest announcement in early September detailed the amendments approved by the European Commission to provide exemptions from the Animal Health Regulations and therefore make Channel racing achievable in 2022. I am glad to say that these amendments are now part of the official EU Journal and therefore pigeons are exempt from the requirements that made Channel racing impossible. There may still be some changes to the historic processes and documentation required when entering mainland Europe. DEFRA are currently working with the Commission to establish these requirements; the RPRA will then work with DEFRA to put in place whatever is required and work with organisations and members to implement such requirements. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mark Gilbert and the BICC committee for their support over the last 18 months."

Those very encouraging words from Ian were greeted with rapturous applause from members. Mark continued by once again thanking Ian and the RPRA for all their hard work and said that the BICC would be putting a Channel programme together for 2022.



Members and guests at the beginning of the evening

On a more sombre note, Mark paid tribute to the late Jan Deacon, one of the founder members of the BICC. Mark said, "Jan was the wife of Albie, our Chairman, and was secretary of our club for 10 years and was a massive part of the reason why the club has done so well. I would personally like to thank Jan for all the work that she did for the BICC." Mark then proposed a toast to Jan's memory.

Mark then moved on to thank those who have worked so hard to make the club a success. He said, "Firstly, I would like to thank all the ICs at the marking stations who came out in their PPE who ran the stations during the pandemic. Secondly, thanks to Mike Jackson, our new Press Officer. What a find Mike has been, he has done an excellent job keeping the BICC in the press and keeping our members informed, as well as his great race reports. To Alibe Deacon, our chairman, and the man in charge of our transport. He is often the last one at our marking station at midnight, organising the loading of crates. To Carol Francis, our secretary, who always does an amazing job, she is brilliant with all the members, and I don't know how she gets the results in the books so quickly. Russell Bradford, our treasurer, who does a lot more than just the treasurers' job. He organises the handbook, feeds all the information to our press officer, Mike, and to Doug who runs our social media, plus a lot more. And to Doug Gatland, who does an exceptional job on our Facebook page, keeping the members fully informed on what's going on. And last but not least, Trevor Cracknell and Troy Birch who were our convoyers for 2020, as normal they did an excellent job, meaning the birds came back in an unbelievable condition upon return." And with that, Mark said Grace and the members enjoyed a wonderful four course meal.

Following the meal, Carol began the trophy presentation. As usual Carol ran the presentation with her usual skill and efficiency and all members who were present to collect their trophies received a fantastic round of applause. Carol was supported to present the trophies by invited guest, Lee Fribbins editor of the Racing Pigeon, Mrs Catherine Cooper and Rachel Bacon.

Although all the trophies that were presented were very special, the two new trophies deserve an extra special mention. Mark had spoken about the sad passing of Jan Deacon and a new trophy was presented in her memory. The Jan Deacon Celebration Cup was presented, very fittingly, to Jan and Albie's great friends, Mr and Mrs Mick Bunny. Jan's daughter Carol and son Trevor presented Mick with the trophy for best average from Pau and St.Philbert. The second trophy that was presented for the first time, was the John Tyerman Memorial Trophy. John's trophy was presented by his son, Jonny Tyerman, to John Haynes for the best average in all National races.



Mr & Mrs Bunney with Trevor and Carol



Mick Bunney receiving the Jan Deacon Celebration Cup from Carol and Trevor



John Haynes receiving the John Tyerman Memorial Trophy from John's son, Jonny



John Haynes with Jonny Tyerman, Carol and Rachel Bacon

The trophy winners in full were: Brian Long Cup 1st Race Mr & Mrs Rann & Son of Shalfleet for Falaise, 2nd Brian Long Cup 2nd Race Chapman & Eastoe of Great Yarmouth for St Philbert, 3rd B Long Cup 3rd Race Paul Basham of Burlenden for Poitiers, Mark Kidby Memorial Trophy Chapman & Eastoe of Great Yarmouth for St Philbert, B Long Cup 4th Race K & J Zerafa of Portsmouth for Bordeaux, B Long Cup 5th Race, Le Mans 1 Barry Corbin Cup K & J Zerafa of Portsmouth for Longest National Race for Bordeaux, Violet Wills Cup & BICC Special Tracy Andrew of Brighton, BICC Special for Coutances 1 YB Coutances 1 YB, Mr & Mrs May of West Ashling BICC Special Coutances 1 OB, Keith Davis Memorial Cup Mark Gilbert of Windsor for Coutances 1 & 1st Bird into Berkshire, BICC Special M Moody of Thornhill for Falaise YB, BICC Special T Buckfield of Hockley for Falaise OB, F Brooks Cup Mr & Mrs Bunney of Portsmouth for PAU INT, BICC Rose Bowl Mr & Mrs Bunney of Portsmouth for Pau Int. 2 bird average, G Hunt & Son Cup Mark Gilbert of Winkfield, Windsor for Barcelona int., Frans van den Heuval Cup Mark Gilbert of Winkfield, Windsor for Barcelona (2 bird average), Mr & Mrs Bunney Cup Mark Gilbert of Winkfield, Windsor for 1st CS Barcelona, Bewes Trophy Mark Gilbert of Winkfield, Windsor for Best Ave. Pau & Barcelona, BICC Cup Mark Gilbert of Winkfield, Windsor for Agen & St. Vincent International, K. Bakes Cup Mark Gilbert of Winkfield, Windsor for 1st CS pigeon St. Vincent International, P. Rigiani Memorial Cup R Pearmain & Son of Wickford St. For Vincent International (2 Bird Average), F Roberts Trophy L & K Buddle of Dover for Marseille International, BICC Cup G M Preece & Son Dover for Marseille International (2 Bird Average), K. Couch Trophy D Hales of Hockley for Rieux-Minervois, F. A. Brammer Trophy D Hales of Hockley Rieux-Minervois, A & T Deacon Trophy D & J Staddon of Ditcheat for 2 bird Av. Rieux-Minervois, S G Biss Cup G M Preece & Son of Dover for highest points all International races, Brian Long Memorial Cup D Hales of Hockley for highest position in all International races, Channel Queen Trophy D Hales of Hockley for highest position hen in all International races, Europa Trophy L & K Buddle of Dover for Best Average all International races, J & R Wills Cup D & J Staddon of Ditcheat for best average Pau & Perpignan, Wright Cup G M Preece & Son of Dover for best average Pau & St. Vincent, Mark Gilbert Trophy Kelvin Sharman of Syleham for Agen International, BICC Cup Team Wicker & Wright of Astley Bridge for St. Vincent Int., Jim Emerton Trophy Pieter Olberholster of Keysoe for longest flying bird in race time form Barcelona, Jim Emerton Dream Trophy Pieter Olberholster of Keysoe for longest flyer over 750 miles with highest velocity, Barry Hobbs Memorial Trophy Mircea Liviu Dehelean of Wellingborough for highest velocity longest YB into Northamptonshire, Jim Emerton

Mensa Trophy M Gilbert of Winkfield, Windsor for 2 bird average Barcelona, David Hales Memorial Trophy D Hales of Hockley 1st Essex Bird Barcelona, Jan Deacon Memorial Trophy Mr & Mrs Bunney of Portsmouth for Best Average Pau & St Philbert & John Tyerman Memorial Trophy J F Haynes of Fyfield for best average in all national races.



Dennis & Elaine Ball



Dominic Gruzelier



Dave Goddard



Alan Wicker & Steve
Wright



Darren & Josh May



Chapman & Eastoe,
Nicole and Glen



Dave & John Staddon



Rachel Bacon

National Winners of 1st Section winners of 2020

FALAISE 13th JUNE 2020. 1st OPEN, 1st CS, Mr & Mrs R Rann & Son of Shalfleet. Winner of the B Long Trophy 1st National Race. 1st ES, T Gunn of North Stifford, 1st NC, Marc Bull of Kingsley, 1st NE Peacock & Byrne of King's Lynn, 1st NW Mr & Mrs G Lloyd of Hereford, 1st WS J & D Staddon of Ditcheat.

ST PHILBERT 28th JUNE 2020. 1st OPEN, 1st NE, Chapman & Eastoe of Gt.Yarmouth. Winner of the B Long Trophy for the 2nd International Race and Mark Kidby Memorial Trophy. 1st CS, Paul Borit Wembley, 1st ES, Micky Watts of Southminster, 1st NC, Dom Gruzelier of Houghton Conquest, 1st NW Geoff Bebbington of Northwich, 1st D & J Staddon Ditcheat.

POITIERS 11th JULY 2020. 1st OPEN, 1st CS Paul Basham of Buresdon. Winner of the B Long Trophy 3rd National Race. 1st ES, Mr Mrs Streafield of Snodland, 1st NC Dom Gruzelier of Houghton Conquest, 1st NE, D & E Ball Eyke of Woodbridge, 1st NW, Booth & Roper of Tewkesbury, 1st SW, D & J Staddon Ditcheat.

BORDEAUX 2nd AUGUST 2020. 1st OPEN, 1st CS, K & J Zerafa of Portsmouth. Winner of The B Long Trophy 4th National Race and Brian Corbin Cup. 1st ES, L J Stock, of Romford, 1st NC, Dom Gruzelier of Houghton Conquest, 1st NE D&E Ball of Eyke, Woodbridge 1st NW, Booth & Roper of Tewesbury, 1st WS D & J Staddon of Ditcheat.

Unfortunately, Kevin wasn't able to attend the presentation due to the sad passing of John, who I'm sure would have been delighted to have raised the Brian Long Trophy and Brian Corbin Trophy in person. The BICC would like to pass on their condolences to the Zerafa family and hope Kevin as a good season in 2022. In a recent loft profile, Kevin said that his dad was from Malta and moved to the UK in the 1960's, when he was in the merchant navy. He said, "We first started with pigeons back in 1993, with our first young bird rings in 1994. My dad saw that I was interested, as I was off out catching strays in the local parks and town centres. Seeing that it was keeping me out of trouble, he built me a loft in the garden. Back then I raced under my name K. Zerafa with pigeons begged and borrowed from everywhere, but dad was always there helping, especially financially, as my pocket money didn't quite foot the bill! He pretty soon got the pigeon bug and we have been racing under the name of K&J Zerafa for the past 20 or so years." RIP John.



John & Kevin Zerafa

COUTANCES YOUNG BIRDS, 15th AUGUST 2020. 1st OPEN, 1st CS Tracy Andrew of Brighton. Winner of the BICC Special & The Violet Wills Cup. Mark Gilbert wins Keith Davies Memorial Cup for the first bird into Berkshire. 1st ES, Mr & Mrs S Beven of Tilbury, 1st NC no winner, 1st NE Jeremy Nicholson of Ipswich, 1st NW no winner, 1st WS, Danny Lanahan of Poole.

COUTANCES OLD BIRD 15th AUGUST 2020. 1st OPEN, 1st CS, Mr & Mrs May & Son of West Ashling. Winner of the BICC Special. 1st ES, D Wilton & Son of Chadwell St Mary, 1st NC, Mr Mark Turner of Kettering, 1st NE Robert Saunders of Oulton Broad, 1st NW Mr Tom Howard of Upton Upon Severn, 1st WS Danny Lanahan of Poole.

FALAISE YOUNG BIRDS, 31st AUGUST 2020. 1st OPEN, 1st CS, M Moody of Thornhill, Winner of the BICC Special. 1st ES D Dumitrascu of Basildon, 1st NC, P C Wraight of Bluntisham, 1st NE Jeremy Nicholson of Norwich, 1st NW no winner, 1st WS Thomasz Fedyk of Melksham.

FALAISE OLD BIRD 31st AUGUST 2020. 1st OPEN, 1st ES, T Buckfield of Hockley, winner of the BICC Special. 1st CS Mr & Mrs Beasley & L Ogilsby of Reading, 1st NC Harry Jackson of Selby, 1st NE, Mr S Kaschner of Diss, 1st NW John Rodway of Rushwick, 1st WS, Danny Lanahan of Poole.

COUTANCES 2 YOUNG BIRDS, 12th SEPTEMBER 2020. 1st OPEN, 1st ES, John Cowlin of Hullbridge, 1st CS Damian Szpak of Deptford, 1st NC, John Black of Hitchin, 1st NE Mr & Mrs Strowger of Leiston, 1st NW no winner, 1st WS Danny Lanahan of Poole.

COUTANCES 2 OLD BIRD 12th SEPTEMBER 2020. 1st OPEN, 1st ES, Fagg & Nicholas of Hartlip, 1st CS Andrew Camis of Hanworth, 1st NC J & JK Connor loft 1 of St Ives, 1st NE Chapman & Eastoe of Gt Yarmouth, 1st NW no winner, 1st WS, Mike Hathway of Bristol.



Jacquie & Terry Ivatt



Catherine & Geoff Cooper



Mr & Mrs Dyer



Melvyn Horn



Mr & Mrs Quantrill



Jeff Lydon of Lydon Bros



Gladwin Jarvis & Family



Mr & Mrs Basham

International winners and 1st Section Winners 2020

PAU INTERNATIONAL, 18TH JULY 2020. 1st OPEN, 1st CS Mr & Mrs Bunney of Portsmouth. Winner of the F. Brooks Trophy and the B.I.C.C. Rose Bowl for the 2 bird Average. 1st ES J Chipperfield Herne Bay, 1st NC no winner, 1st NE no winner. 1st NW Mr & Mrs G Lloyd of Hereford, 1st WS Brooks Bros & Wilcox of High Littleton.

AGEN INTERNATIONAL, 24th July 2020. 1st OPEN, 1st NE, Kelvin Sharman of Syleham. Winner of the Mark Gilbert Trophy. D Hales wins Brian Long Memorial Trophy for highest position all International races. 1st CS Mark Gilbert of Winkfield Windsor, 1st ES Mick Parish of Great Burstead, 1st NC, John Black of Hitchin, , 1st NW no winner, 1st WS R Strawbridge & J Williams of Newport.

BARCELONA INTERNATIONAL, 31st July 2020. 1st OPEN, 1st CS Mark Gilbert of Winkfield, Windsor. Winner of the G. Hunt & Son Cup, Frans van den Heuval Cup for 2 bird Average. Mr & Mrs Bunney Cup for the first bird in the CS, and the Jim Emerton Mensa Trophy for the 2 Bird Average. G Duggan wins the Jim Emerton Trophy for the longest flying bird in race time and Jim Emerton Dream Trophy for the longest flyer over 750 miles with highest velocity. 1st ES, D Hales of Hockley, 1st NC G Duggan of Chipping Campden, 1st NE, no winner, 1st NW no winner, 1st WS Stuart Wilcox of Bristol.

ST VINCENT INTERNATIONAL, 31st JULY 2020. 1st OPEN, 1st NW, Team Wicker & Wright of Astley Bridge. Winner of the BICC Cup. R Pearmain & Son win the P Rigiani Memorial Cup for the 2 bird Average, Mark Gilbert wins the K Bakes Cup for the 1st bird into the CS, D Hales wins the Channel Queen Trophy for Highest Position hen in all International races. 1st CS Mark Gilbert of Winkfield, Windsor, 1st ES, R Pearmain & Son, Wickford, NC no winner, NE no winner, 1st WS D & J Staddon of Ditcheat.

MARSEILLE INTERNATIONAL 24TH JULY 2020. 1st OPEN, 1st ES, L & K Buddle of Dover, Winner of the F Roberts Trophy. G M Preece & Son win the BICC Cup for the 2 bird Average. 1st CS no winner, NC no winner, NE A & T Wright of Norwich, NW no winner, WS no winner.

NARBONNE INTERNATIONAL 15th AUGUST 2020. 1st OPEN, 1st CS Mark Gilbert of Winkfield, Windsor, 1st ES Gladwin Jarvis & Family of Leign on Sea, 1st NC P C Wraight of Bluntisham, NE no winner, NW no winner, 1st WS D & J Staddon of Ditcheat.

RIEUX-MINERVOIS INTERNATIONAL 7th AUGUST 2020. 1st OPEN, 1st ES D Hales of Hockley, Winner of the F.A. Brammer Trophy, K. Crouch Trophy D & J Staddon wins the A & T Deacon Trophy for the 2 Bird Average. 1st CS Mark Gilbert of Winkfield, Windsor, NC no winner, NE no winner, NW no winner, 1st WS D & J Staddon of Ditcheat.



Ray Strawbridge



Mick Howard



Mr & Mrs Rann



Robert Saunders

Two bird average winners 2020

PAU Mr & Mrs Bunney Portsmouth Vel. 861.090 Mark Gilbert, Winkfield Vel. 808.994 L & K Buddle, Dover Vel. 783.844.

BARCELONA: Mark Gilbert Winkfield Vel 586.872 R J Goddard & Son Reading Vel 496.301 D Hales, Hockley Vel 391.90

AGEN: Mark Gilbert Winkfield Vel. 1165.521, A & T Wright Norwich Vel 891.464, M Parish Gt. Burstard Vel 863.208.

ST VINCENT: R Pearmain & Son Wickford Vel. 847.336, D & J Staddon of Ditchheat Vel. 815.895, G M Preece & Son of Dover Vel. 784.568.

NARBONNE: D Hales of Hockley, Vel. 670.045, G M Preece & Son of Dover Vel. 576.577, Mark Gilbert, Winkfield Windsor Vel. 544.672.

RIEUX – MINERVOIS: D & J Staddon of Ditchheat, Vel 769.438, D Hales of Hockley, Vel. 750.902, Mark Gilbert, Winkfield Vel 707.006.

MARSEILLE: G M Preece & Son of Dover, Vel. 547.535, L & K Buddle of Dover Vel. 437.262, J Nicholson & Son Rochester Vel. 326.484.



John Cowlin



Paul & Maria Kelly



David Paine



Roger Strowger

S. G. BISS POINTS CUP (All International races) G M Preece & Son of Dover - 112 points, L & K Buddle of Dover - 77 points, F Knowles & Son of Wingham on 72 points.

BICC CUP (Best Average Agen & St. Vincent) Mark Gilbert for Windsor Vel. 942.225, G M Preece & Son of Dover Vel. 761.240, F Knowles & Son of Wingham Vel. 692.048.

EUROPA TROPHY (Best Ave. All Int. races) L & K Buddle Dover Vel 599.380, F Knowles & Son Wingham Vel. 490.507, J Nicholson & Son Rochester Vel. 485.693.

J & R WILLS Cup: (Best Ave. Pau & Rieux-Minervois) D & J Staddon of Ditchheat, Vel. 957.431, Mark Gilbert of Winkfield Vel. 767.423, G M Preece & Son of Dover, Vel 758.706.

BEWES TROPHY: (Best Ave. Pau & Barcelona) Mark Gilbert of Winkfield Vel. 786.909, R J Goddard & Son of Reading Vel. 634.704, L & K Buddle of Dover Vel. 582.903.

WRIGHT CUP: (Best Ave. Pau & St Vincent) G M Preece & Son of Dover Vel. 832.858, Mark Gilbert of Winkfield, Vel. 810.309, D & J Staddon of Ditchheat Vel.808.855.

BARRY HOBBS MEMORIAL TROPHY (Highest Velocity Guernsey) YB In to Northampton Mircea Liviu Dehelean of Wellingborough.

DAVID HALES MEMORIAL CUP. (1ST Bird from Barcelona into Essex) D Hales of Hockley.

JAN DEACON CELEBRATION CUP. (Best Average Pau & St Philbert) Mr&Mrs Bunney of Portsmouth.

JOHN TYERMAN MEMORIAL TROPHY. (Best Average All National Races. J F Haynes – Fyfield.



Duncan Goodchild being presented with the David Hales Memorial Trophy by Sue Hales with Hannah & Rhys



Mark Gilbert, the Barcelona winner

And that concluded a very good weekend and an excellent presentation evening where members danced into the early hours of the morning. There were loads of photographs taken on the night and if anyone would like a copy of a photo please contact me and I can email you. With the excellent news about Channel racing, National and International racing on the continent will hopefully resume for the 2022 season. Before then of course the 2021 presentation has to take place so if you fancy attending that, look out in the fancy press, website and Facebook for all the details. Until then, here's to a successful racing season in 2022, and to all the members' good luck, good flying and may the line of flight be with you. Let's hope 2022 brings something special!