

## British International Championship Club



## Annual Presentation and Gala Evening for 2023

The weekend of 17<sup>th</sup> February, saw the 2023 prize presentation of the British International Championship Club in Bournemouth. The club were very pleased to welcome the distinguished vet, David Parsons as guest of honour. David has done so much to support the BICC and pigeon sport by working to enable cross channel racing to take place. It was great to welcome David and his wife to the presentation.

The club also welcomed the club sponsor BENZING - Gantner Pigeon Systems GmbH represented by Jim Savage. They provided fantastic sponsorship on the clubs return to Channel racing in 2023 by offering six clocking systems to the winners of six races. And the BICC and BENZING are very pleased to announce that six more clocking systems will be raced for in 2024.



The presentation once again took place in the Marsham Court Hotel. This hotel opened in 1913, occupying one of two neighbouring houses on the East Cliff. A Mr and Mrs Marsh, who had a ham curing business, originally owned the building and supposedly put together the words Marsh and ham, to create the name. By 1923, demand for the hotel's 13 rooms had become so great that the neighbouring house was bought and linked to provide 41 rooms. Today the hotel boasts 95 rooms.

Mark Gilbert, the club chairman opened the presentation by welcoming the members and guests to the presentation. In his opening comments, he said that the 2023 season had been a real success and it was great to see so many at the presentation to celebrate with the winners. The National and International races had been well supported and there had been some top international results with the first and second RPRA long distance awards going to BICC members.



He continued by saying that none of this would be possible without the support of all the membership. There were also some special people that needed to be thanked and he said that the committee have worked together to produce the best result for the club, travelling miles to meet and at no cost to the club. Special thanks went to Bill Knox, who lent a lorry to transport the birds. When the engine blew, he paid for all the repairs, again at no cost to the club.

The I/C's and marking station helpers were thanked for working with the new procedures and making such a success of it. Doug Gatland was thanked for running Facebook and organising the auction that raised an amazing £23k. Mike Jackson, the press officer, was thanked for doing some great write-ups and keeping the membership regularly updated. Mysoft was thanked, for running an excellent website that enables members to be kept up to date with the latest developments, record arrivals, check for early times and read all the race reports as well as the Mysoft Toolkit software that holds all the membership details and calculates the race results. The convoyers, Trevor and Chris for keeping the birds in excellent condition and the club is pleased to have them on board for 2024.

Mark continued by saying how lucky the club is to have Jill Rogers, Clare Norman and Carol Francis on the committee. Jill Rogers, the club president, is always 100% committed to the club ensuring that everyone is doing their jobs, and she is currently selling the breeder/buyer rings. Clare Norman does such a great job as treasurer and completes the vital role of running the final marking station. She makes sure the final paperwork is complete before the crates are loaded to be transported onto the ferry. Carol Francis the club secretary continues to do such a great job, arranging meetings, collecting subs, selling rings, and of course completing the race results. Carol does this in such a timely manner and the BICC has more races than any of the other national clubs. All officers were loudly applauded for their work over the season.

Carol was contacted by the wife of the late Ray George, who passed away in September last year. Ray was a long-standing member and won the Alencon National in 2018. Ray's late wife wanted to wish all members every success and asked if Ray could be remembered because he is sadly missed. The club would like to remember Ray and send best wishes to his wife.

Onto the breeder/buyer, and Mark said that almost 190 rings have been sold and they are still available from Jill Rogers. Details of the sales have been published in the fancy press and are on the BICC website. There will be a £2,000 prize for the breeder and £2,000 for the buyer.

Mark thanked David Parsons, the well-respected vet, for all his work and support once again in 2023. He reminded everyone that David's work was vital in making Channel racing possible after the new regulations were introduced.

To the sponsors for 2023, Benzing and Bamfords, Mark once again praised their support. Benzing offered 6 clocking systems in 2023 and they are doing the same in 2024. Jim Savage, from Benzing,

was later invited to present their 2023 winners with the clocking systems. Bamfords as ever, provided the corn for racing, free of charge, and this was a great help to the club.

Before inviting Michael Potts to say Grace, Mark explained that the presentation would be different to previous ones. Doug Gatland and Richard Chambers would invite prize winners up and display photographs and videos of the winning fanciers on the two TV screens that were stationed at the front of the room.



Doug Gatland beginning the presentation

The members and guests were then served a five-course meal that was excellent. Mark thanked the hotel staff for a first-class service and handed over to Doug and Richard to call the Section and National winners up to receive their trophies. Doug and Richard did an excellent job calling up groups of section winners and then open winners in turn, as part of the new presentation style.

All National race winners were presented with their trophies, followed by the Ace Trophy Award winners, Best Average trophy winners and the Benzing clock winners. The finale came, when Richard played a video of Southfield History landing at the loft and Mark Gilbert and Troy Birch jumping for joy at the sight of her. This was the first time that Mark had seen this and by the time he came to collect his trophy he was in tears. He thanked members for all their support saying that he could not have done this without some great fanciers motivating him and all club members making International racing possible. It was a truly amazing sight, to celebrate a truly amazing performance by Southfield History.



Mark Gilbert overcome by emotion, as he's called to receive his Barcelona winner's trophy from David Parsons and Jill Rogers



Mark receiving a standing ovation

The presentation concluded with an auction of 6 entries into the Who Dares, Who Win's one loft race, kindly sponsored by Gary Tomlinson. The club would like to thank Gary for this sponsorship, it went down really well with members.

**2023 SEASON NATIONAL WINNERS**

**GUERNSEY OB1 29<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023: 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> NC Mr & Mrs John Park of Bromham and Winner of the B Long Trophy 1<sup>st</sup> National Race. 1<sup>st</sup> CS - J F Haynes of Fifield, 1<sup>st</sup> ES - Jamie Williams of Eltham, 1<sup>st</sup> NE D & E Ball of Eyke, Woodbridge, 1<sup>st</sup> NW - J & B Oakley of Whitchurch, 1<sup>st</sup> WS - M & M Wiffen of Dorchester.**



Section winners, D& E Ball and John Haynes

**ALENCON 14<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023: 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> CS M Gilbert of Windsor and Winner of the B Long Trophy, 2<sup>nd</sup> National Race & Mark Kidby Memorial Trophy. 1<sup>st</sup> ES - Mr & Mrs Cooper & Son of Canterbury, 1<sup>st</sup> NC - D Gruzelier of Houghton Conquest, 1<sup>st</sup> NE - D Jones of Sibsey, 1<sup>st</sup> NW - Booth & Roper of Tewkesbury, 1<sup>st</sup> WS -D & J Staddon of Ditcheat.**



Section winners, Booth & Roper, D&J Staddon and Dominic Gruzelier



Open winner, Mark Gilbert

**ST PHILBERT 27<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023: 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> WS Lanahan & Gerard of Poole and Winner of the B Long Trophy, 3<sup>rd</sup> National Race. 1<sup>st</sup> CS - Mr & Mrs M Gower of Woodgreen, 1<sup>st</sup> ES - Damian Szpak of Deptford, 1<sup>st</sup> NC - D Gruzelier of Houghton Conquest, 1<sup>st</sup> NE - R Rix of Newmarket, 1<sup>st</sup> NW -M R Williams of Hereford.**



Section winners, Mr & Mrs M Gower, Damian



Open winners, Lanahan & Gerrard



Szpak, Dominic & Josh Gruzelier, Roly Rix and  
Martin Williams

**ST MAIXENT ECOLE 11<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023: 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> ES Kevin Foster of Longfield Hill and winner of the B Long Trophy, 4<sup>th</sup> National Race & the B Corbin Cup for the Longest National Race. 1<sup>st</sup> CS - S Buckle of Northwood, 1<sup>st</sup> NC - John Black of Hitchin, 1<sup>st</sup> NE - Jonathan Palmer of Ipswich, 1<sup>st</sup> NW - M R Williams of Hereford, 1<sup>st</sup> WS D & J Staddon of Ditcheat.**



Open winner, Kevin Foster



Section winners, Martin Williams, D&J Staddon  
and John Black

**GUERNSEY OB2 9<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023: 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> CS Mr & Mrs M Gower of Woodgreen and winner of the B Long Trophy, 5<sup>th</sup> National Race. 1<sup>st</sup> ES -Dean Childs of Wickford, 1<sup>st</sup> NC - S Bartholomew of Bromham, 1<sup>st</sup> NE - Richard Dunmore of Thetford, 1<sup>st</sup> NW - Mr & Mrs Peter Shaw of Wolverhampton, 1<sup>st</sup> WS - Mr & Mrs Hodges of Templecombe.**



Open winners, Mr & Mrs Gower



Section winners, Mr & Mrs Hodges

**GUERNSEY YOUNG BIRD 1 19<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2023: 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> ES M & D Allen of Hockley and winner of the BICC Special & the Violet Wills Cup. 1<sup>st</sup> CS - Wearn Bros 1 & Neilson of Ramsdean, 1<sup>st</sup> NC - David Paine of St Neots, 1<sup>st</sup> NE - D Fisher of Ipswich, 1<sup>st</sup> NW - Booth & Roper of Tewkesbury, 1<sup>st</sup> WS - Lanahan & Gerard Loft 2 of Poole. M Gilbert won the Keith Davis Memorial Cup for the 1<sup>st</sup> Bird into Berkshire.**



Open winner, M & D Allen



Section winners, Booth & Roper, Lanaghan & Gerrard, Dave Fisher & David Paine.

**GUERNSEY OLD BIRD ANY AGE 1 19<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2023:** 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> CS Mr & Mrs D Waterhouse of Bedhampton and *winner of the BICC Special*. 1<sup>st</sup> ES - Mr & Mrs Cowper & Son of Cliffe Woods, 1<sup>st</sup> NC - P Lane & Son of Wootton, 1<sup>st</sup> NE - D & E Ball of Eyke, Woodbridge, 1<sup>st</sup> NW - Booth & Roper of Tewkesbury, 1<sup>st</sup> WS of Wojciech Blachut, Trowbridge.



Open winners, Mr & Mrs Waterhouse



Section winners, Booth & Roper and D & E Ball

**GUERNSEY YOUNG BIRD 2 9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023:** 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> CS Mr & Mrs M Gower of Woodgreen and *winner of the BICC Special*. 1<sup>st</sup> ES - Damian Szpak of Deptford, 1<sup>st</sup> NC - David Paine of St Neots, 1<sup>st</sup> NE - Edgaras Bartkus of Thetford, 1<sup>st</sup> NW - L Brewer of Worcester, 1<sup>st</sup> WS - Mr & Mrs Hodges of Templecombe.



Open winners, Mr & Mrs Gower



Section winners, Damian Szpak, Mr & Mrs Hodges, David Paine and Mr & Mrs Hodges

**GUERNSEY OLD BIRD ANY AGE 2 9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023: 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> CS M Gilbert of Windsor and winner of the BICC Special. 1<sup>st</sup> ES - D Coward – Talbot of Chelmsford, 1<sup>st</sup> NC - Freddie Bannister of Doddington, 1<sup>st</sup> NE -D Downing of Suffolk, 1<sup>st</sup> NW - Mr & Mrs W Lewis of Kempsey, 1<sup>st</sup> WS - Derek R Nicholls of Barry.**



Open winner, Mark Gilbert



Section winner, Dave Downing

### **ACE AWARDS**

**TEAM AUREL TROPHY (ACE PIGEON) Co-efficient OB National Northern (min 3 races). Winner - Martin Williams of Hereford.**

**ACE LOFTS TROPHY (ACE PIGEON) Co-efficient OB National Southern (min 3 races). Winner - John Haynes of Fifield.**

**ROGER STROWGER TROPHY ACE Young Bird in Northern Sections. Winner David Paine of St Neots.**

**THE JUNIOR MEMBERS CUP Best performance by any member under 16 years old. Winner Ethan R Nightingale of Dover.**

Trophies presented by Jim Savage of BENZING



Martin Williams



John Haynes





David Paine



Ethan Nightingale

### **2023 SEASON INTERNATIONAL WINNERS**

**PAU 24<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023: 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> CS M Gilbert of Windsor.** Also winning the F Brooks Trophy, the BICC Rose Bowl for the 2-bird average, the Channel Queen Trophy for the Highest Position Hen all International Races & the Brian Long Memorial Trophy for the Highest Position all International Races. 1<sup>st</sup> ES - J Chipperfield of Herne Bay, 1<sup>st</sup> NC - John Black of Hitchin, 1<sup>st</sup> NE - No Winner, 1<sup>st</sup> NW - No Winner, 1<sup>st</sup> WS - Mr & Mrs Gardner of Portskewett Village.



Section winners Mrs & Mrs Gardner and John Black, with David Parsons.



Open winner Tomasz Fedyk

**AGEN 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023: 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> WS Tomasz Fedyk of Melksham** and winner of the Mark Gilbert Trophy. 1<sup>st</sup> CS - V Dobrovolschi of Kingsbury, 1<sup>st</sup> ES - Traian F Ferentz of Romford, 1<sup>st</sup> NC - Mr & Mrs R Bradford of Irchester, 1<sup>st</sup> NE - Kelvin Sharman of Sylesham, 1<sup>st</sup> NW - No Winner.



**BARCELONA 7<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023: 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> CS M Gilbert of Windsor** and winner of the G Hunt & Son Cup, Frans van den Heuval Cup for 2 bird Average, and the Jim Emerton Mensa Trophy for the 2 Bird Average. Mark also won the Mr & Mrs Bunney Cup for the first bird in the CS. 1<sup>st</sup> ES - Kevin Foster of Longfield Hill, 1<sup>st</sup> NC - Kevin & Lauren Grace of Kneesworth, 1<sup>st</sup> NE - No Winner, 1<sup>st</sup> NW - No Winner, 1<sup>st</sup> WS - D & J Staddon of Ditcheat.



The Southfields Loft Team, Mark, Nigel Langstaff & Darren McFadden



Kevin Foster, Kevin & Lauren Grace and D & J Staddon of Ditcheat.

**Simion Adrian Stefanescu** also won the Jim Emerton Trophy for the longest flying bird in race time and the Jim Emerton Dream Trophy for the longest flyer over 750 miles with highest velocity.

**ST VINCENT 16<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023: 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> CS Paul Basham of Southampton** and winner of the BICC Cup, the P Rigiani Memorial Cup for the 2 bird Average and the K Bakes Cup for the 1<sup>st</sup> bird into the CS. 1<sup>st</sup> ES - G M Preece & Son of Dover, 1<sup>st</sup> NC - No Winner, 1<sup>st</sup> NE - No Winner, 1<sup>st</sup> NW - No Winner, 1<sup>st</sup> WS - D & J Staddon of Ditcheat.



Section winners D & J Staddon



Open winner Paul Basham

**PERPIGNAN 7<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2023: 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> CS M Gilbert of Windsor** and winner of the K Couch Trophy and the F A Brammer Trophy and the A & T Deacon Trophy for the 2 bird Average. 1<sup>st</sup> ES - G M Preece & Son of Dover, 1<sup>st</sup> NC - No Winner, 1<sup>st</sup> NE - No Winner, 1<sup>st</sup> NW - No Winner, 1<sup>st</sup> WS - D & J Staddon of Ditcheat.



Open winner Mark Gilbert with David Parsons



Section winners D & J Staddon

### **TWO BIRD AVERAGE WINNERS**

**PAU:** M Gilbert Vel: 972.32, J Chipperfield Vel: 887.322, P Basham Vel: 789.976

**AGEN:** L & K Buddle Vel: 629.492, F Knowles & Son Vel: 614.647, P C Delea Vel: 605.015

**BARCELONA:** M Gilbert Vel: 1102.547, K Foster Vel: 872.532, G M Preece & Son Vel: 839.184

**ST VINCENT:** P Basham Vel: 1322.877, G M Preece & Son Vel: 1278.858, D & J Staddon Vel: 1264.107

**PERPIGNAN:** M Gilbert Vel: 844.224, G M Preece & Son Vel: 829.429, D & J Staddon Vel: 759.542

### **BEST AVERAGE TROPHY WINNERS**

**EUROPA** (Best Ave. All Int. races): L& K Buddle

**J& R Wills Cup** (Best Ave. Pau & Perpignan): Mark Gilbert

**Bewes Trophy** (Best Ave. Pau & Barcelona): Mark Gilbert

**Wright Cup** (Best Ave Pau & St Vincent): Paul Basham

**David Hales Memorial Cup** (1<sup>st</sup> Bird into Essex from Barcelona): D Dumitrascu

**Jan Deacon Celebration Trophy** (Best Ave Pau & St Philbert): Mark Gilbert

**John Tyerman Memorial Trophy** (Best Average All National races): D & J Staddon

**Jim Emerton Belief Trophy** (Ace pigeon in the International races minimum of 2 races co-efficient): A Annis & Son



L & K Buddle, EUROPA Trophy winners



D Dumitrascu winner of the David Hales Memorial Cup



Jan Deacon Celebration Trophy winner Mark Gilbert



D & J Staddon with David Parsons, collecting the John Tyerman Memorial Trophy



Wright Cup winner Paul Basham

And that concluded an excellent evening and members left with everything to play for in 2024. If you want to race against the best in Britain and Europe, then the BICC is the club to join. New members are welcome, where 'Only the finest' is on offer for National and International racing. Look out for the 2024 BICC auction, where some top-class bloodlines will be on offer.

So, here's to a successful racing season in 2024. To all members, good luck, good flying and may the line of flight be with you. Let's hope 2024 brings something special!

Mike Jackson  
BICC Press Officer  
Email:mike.jackson026@hotmail.com  
Tel:07964448291