

## British International Championship Club



## Annual Presentation and Gala Evening for 2024

The weekend of 1<sup>st</sup> March, saw the 2024 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 in 2024 and have extended that to the 2025 season. The winners of the six clocking systems were presented with their clocks by Jim. The club hopes this relationship continues to thrive.



The Benzing clock winners, presented by Jim Savage

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.

Club Chairman, Mark Gilbert, started the evening by welcoming everyone to the 2024 BICC presentation. He said, 'We had a great year of racing with many outstanding performances, which we are celebrating here tonight. Unfortunately, 2025 started with the terrible news that Carol Francis, our long serving secretary passed away. I would like to take this opportunity to honour and remember this remarkable woman.'



Mark Gilbert

Carol was born in Hanworth, West London and lived with her parents and two younger brothers, before moving to Bedford when she was two. One of her best friends was Brenda Newell, the daughter of the NFC Pau winner, J Newell and son. This is how Carol was introduced to pigeons! Carol told me that she was secretary of a number of local clubs before becoming secretary of the BICC. It was her 11 years as our secretary that truly showcased her extraordinary dedication. Even as ill health slowed her down, nothing was too much trouble.

Carol always went out of her way to help others, no matter the task. She had a unique way of telling you exactly what you needed to hear, often with a smile on her face. Carol didn't take any prisoners, and if you needed telling, you got told! Yet, her warmth and kindness were ever present, making even her most candid remarks feel like they came from a good place.

Carol had a liking for a glass of brandy, which she sometimes used as a little bribe to get things done. It was a small indulgence that brought her joy and perhaps a bit of motivation for those around her. Despite her many responsibilities, she was famously not a morning person and was often late. Yet, even in those moments her presence was always felt and appreciated. For those of us who were caught chatting away at the Sunbury marking station, we will never forget her telling us to, 'move your arse'. It was moments like these that truly captured her spirit.



The late Carol Francis

Carol's legacy is one of unwavering commitment and willingness to help others. She touched many lives and left a mark on all those who had the privilege of knowing her. While we may no longer have her with us, her memory and the impact she made will continue to live on in our hearts.

At our last BICC committee meeting, the committee decided to honour Carol's commitment by making her a life vice-president. The disappointing thing is, we never had the opportunity to let her know. Let's honour Carol by remembering the lessons she taught us, the kindness she showed us, and the dedication she demonstrated. Ladies and Gentlemen please stand and raise a glass to Carol.'

Mark then continued by saying, 'before we begin to eat, I would quickly like to thank the committee, the I/C's and all the helpers at the marking stations. Doug Gatland for his work on Facebook, Mike Jackson, who does a great job with his race reports and for keeping the BICC in the press. Mysoft, who run the website, that keeps members up to date with the latest developments, records arrivals, and is checked for early times. Convoyers, Trevor, Chris, Pat and Steve who do a great job. Jill and Clive Rogers, and what a great President she is by the way, for all the work they do at the final marking station by feeding and watering the pigeons. David Parsons, for all the work he does to ensure that the birds cross the Channel. Clare and Martin Norman, who run the last marking station arranging all the transport and Channel paperwork. Without their dedication and hard work, we would not fly pigeons across the Channel. And before I hand over to Robbie Hooper to say Grace, can I thank the hotel and staff for once again putting on a great presentation.

The BICC would like to thank Robbie Hooper for doing such a great job as MC for the evening. He did a truly excellent job. Before the presentation, Robbie asked everyone to stand as a mark of respect to Carol and said Grace. During the presentation, Robbie was assisted by Richard Chambers who presented photos of the winners on a large TV screen.



Robbie Hooper the MC for the night

The members and guests were then served a delicious meal of minestrone soup, roast leg of lamb and apple and blackberry crumble. It was enjoyed by all and was followed by tea and coffee.

The presentation was run like clockwork and culminated in a standing ovation for the Barcelona winner Andrei Bargaoanu being called to collect the biggest prize of the evening. Members then enjoyed an evening of celebration and disco dancing.

All of the details of the National and Section winners are included in this report with a photograph of each winning member.

**2024 SEASON NATIONAL WINNERS**

**GUERNSEY OB1 29<sup>th</sup> APRIL: 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> NW**  
**Mr & Mrs N Shaw of Crewe** and winners of the B Long Trophy 1<sup>st</sup> National Race.  
1<sup>st</sup> CS - Cowley Bros of Cirencester, 1<sup>st</sup> ES  
Damian Szpak of Deptford, 1<sup>st</sup> NE Jeremy  
Nicholson of Ipswich, 1<sup>st</sup> NC -John Garvey of  
Walsall, 1<sup>st</sup> WS Owers Bros of Bere Regis.



Mr & Mrs Nigel Shaw



Andrew Cowley of Cowley Bros



Damian Szpak

**ALENCON 11<sup>th</sup> MAY: 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> WS** **Mr & Mrs Hodges of Templecombe** and winner of the B Long Trophy, 2<sup>nd</sup> National Race. 1<sup>st</sup> CS - Cottrell, Richmond & Rogers of Wimborne, 1<sup>st</sup> ES - Damian Szpak of Deptford, 1<sup>st</sup> NC - Purchase & Walker of Lichfield, 1<sup>st</sup> NE - D Downing of Suffolk, 1<sup>st</sup> NW - M R Williams of Hereford.



Mr & Mrs Hodges



Tony Cottrell of Cottrell Richmond and Rogers



Dave Downing

**ST PHILBERT 25<sup>th</sup> MAY: 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> WS L Luscombe of Liskeard** and winner of the Mark Kidby Memorial Trophy. 1<sup>st</sup> CS -Wearn Bros 1 & Neilson of Ramsdean, 1<sup>st</sup> ES - Mark Bullied of Harlow, 1<sup>st</sup> NC- Richard Chambers of Rugeley, 1<sup>st</sup> NE - D Downing of Suffolk, 1<sup>st</sup> NW - M & C Lee of Alfrick.



National winners, Lee Luscombe and his wife



Richard Chambers

**NORT SUR ERDRE 10<sup>th</sup> JUNE: 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> CS Brunger & Warner of Wisborough** 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> ES - Topp & Mann of Rayleigh, 1<sup>st</sup> NC - Dave George of Letchworth, 1<sup>st</sup> NE - D & E Ball of Eyke, Woodbridge, 1<sup>st</sup> NW P Hodson of Irlam, 1<sup>st</sup> WS - M J Sparey of Abertillery.



Richard Brunger and Ricky Warner



Dave George

**GUERNSEY OB2 6<sup>th</sup> JULY: 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> ES L & K Buddle of Dover** and winner of the B Long Trophy, 5<sup>th</sup> National Race. 1<sup>st</sup> CS - Newton & Brennan of Brighton, 1<sup>st</sup> NC - Dave George of Letchworth, 1<sup>st</sup> NE - Eddie & Clayton Oxborough of Norfolk, 1<sup>st</sup> NW - Silvester Bros & Clark of Stoke on Trent, 1<sup>st</sup> WS - C & J Howse of Devizes.



Lee & Kevin Buddle

**BORDEAUX 12<sup>th</sup> JULY: 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> CS John Adams of Watford.** 1<sup>st</sup> ES - Pinewalk Lofts of Bromley, 1<sup>st</sup> NC- L A Smith of Wellingborough, 1<sup>st</sup> NE - Dean Jones of Sibsey, 1<sup>st</sup> NW -Team Aurel of Ironbridge, 1<sup>st</sup> WS G G & C J Cooper of Peasedown, St John.



John Adams



Tom Firmager of Pinewalk Lofts



Dean Jones



Geoff and Catherine Cooper

**GUERNSEY YOUNG BIRD 24<sup>th</sup> AUGUST: 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> ES Lee Bastone of Burnham on Crouch** and winner of the Violet Wills Cup. M Gilbert wins the Keith Davis Memorial Cup for the 1<sup>st</sup> Bird into Berkshire. 1<sup>st</sup> CS - Malik & Khan of Tolworth, 1<sup>st</sup> NC - Mohammad Ayaz of Birmingham, 1<sup>st</sup> NE -Jeremy Nicholson of Ipswich, 1<sup>st</sup> NW Graham Jones of Cannock, 1<sup>st</sup> WS - Owers Bros of Bere Regis.

**FOUGERES YOUNG BIRD 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER: 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> CS D Bullen & Son of Croydon. 1<sup>st</sup> ES -**  
J Clarke & Dtr of Selling, 1<sup>st</sup> NC - Freddie  
Bannister of Doddington, 1<sup>st</sup> NE - D Downing of  
Suffolk, 1<sup>st</sup> NW- Graham Jones of Cannock, 1<sup>st</sup>  
WS - Clive & Jill Rogers & Neil Sales of  
Writhlington.



Section winners, Clive & Jill Rogers

**FOUGERES OLD BIRD 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER: 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> CS K Wise of Isleworth and winner of**  
the BICC Special. 1<sup>st</sup> ES - J Cowlin of Hullbridge,  
1<sup>st</sup> NC -D Lyden & Son of Yardley Gobion, 1<sup>st</sup> NE  
- D Downing of Suffolk, 1<sup>st</sup> NW - Mr & Mrs N  
Shaw of Crewe, 1<sup>st</sup> WS - Mircea Cioc of  
Shaftesbury.



Section winner, Mircea Cioc

## 2024 SEASON INTERNATIONAL WINNERS

**PAU 24<sup>th</sup> JUNE: 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> NE Jonathan Palmer of Ipswich** and winner of the F Brooks Trophy, 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> CS - J F Haynes of Fifield, 1<sup>st</sup> ES - L & K Buddle of Dover and winners of the BICC Rose Bowl Trophy, 1<sup>st</sup> NC - Dave George of Letchworth, 1<sup>st</sup> WS - G G & C J Cooper of Peasedown, St John.



Pau winner Jonathan Palmer



John Haynes

**AGEN 28<sup>th</sup> June: 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> CS D G Watson & Son of Ashford Common** and winner of the Mark Gilbert Trophy. 1<sup>st</sup> ES - Damian Szpak of Deptford, 1<sup>st</sup> NC - John Black of Hitchin, 1<sup>st</sup> NE - A & T Wright of Norwich, 1<sup>st</sup> NW - Alan Wicker of Astley Bridge, 1<sup>st</sup> WS -- S Slade of Calne.



Dave and Daniel Watson and family

**DAX 14<sup>th</sup> JULY: 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> ES Catalin Olaru of Romford** and winner of the BICC Cup, the P Rigiani Memorial Cup for the 2 bird Average. 1<sup>st</sup> CS - M Gilbert of Windsor, 1<sup>st</sup> WS - D & J Staddon of Ditcheat. Mark Gilbert won the K Bakes Cup for the 1<sup>st</sup> bird into the CS.



**PERPIGNAN 5<sup>th</sup> AUGUST: 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> WS -No Winner.



Mark Gilbert

**BARCELONA 5<sup>th</sup> JULY: 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN, 1<sup>st</sup> CS Andrei Bargaoanu of Basingstoke** and winner of the G Hunt & Son Cup and the Mr & Mrs Bunney Cup for the first bird in the CS. 1<sup>st</sup> ES -J Clarke & Dtr of Selling, 1<sup>st</sup> NC - John Black of Hitchin, 1<sup>st</sup> NE - Dean Jones of Sibsey, 1<sup>st</sup> NW Chambers Family of Cannock, 1<sup>st</sup> WS - Mr & Mrs J Westacott of Nr Newton Abbot. Dean Jones wins 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. M Gilbert won the Frans van den Heuval Cup for 2 bird Average and the Jim Emerton Mensa Trophy for the 2 Bird Average.



Andrei Bargaoanu the Barcelona winner



Andrei and his wife collecting the Benzing clocking system.



Dean Jones



Chambers Family



John Black

### ACE AWARDS

**TEAM AUREL TROPHY (ACE PIGEON) Co-efficient OB National Northern (min 3 races) Summers Bros & Dtr – Braunstone.**

**ACE LOFTS TROPHY (ACE PIGEON) Co-efficient OB National Southern (min 3 races). Winners Owers Bros of Bere Regis.**

**ROGER STROWGER TROPHY ACE ACE Young Bird in Northern Sections. Winner John Black – Hitchin.**

**OVERALL ACE YB South. Co-efficient YB Same Pigeon (min 2 races). Winner J Cowlin – Hullbridge.**

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



Ethan Nightingale winner of the Junior Cup

### **BENZING CLOCK WINNERS**



Mr & Mrs Hodges



Lee Luscombe



Brunger & Warner



Tom Firmiger collecting for D Bullen & Son

**TWO BIRD AVERAGE WINNERS**

PAU	AGEN	BARCELONA
<b>L &amp; K Buddle Vel: 794.122</b>	<b>M Gilbert Vel: 787.790</b>	<b>M Gilbert Vel: 859.247</b>
J Chipperfield Vel: 764.149	Daniel Coropciuc Vel: 752.448	G M Preece & Son Vel: 784.679
Jonathan Palmer Vel: 763.244	Marius Armanu Vel: 42.050	Andrei Bargaoanu Vel: 578.551

DAX	PERPIGNAN
<b>Catalin Olaru Vel: 826.407</b>	<b>D Hales Vel: 670.045</b>
G M Preece & Son Vel: 811.252	G M Preece & Son Vel: 576.577
M Gilbert Vel: 750.800	M Gilbert Vel: 544.672

**AVERAGE TROPHY WINNERS**

<p><b><u>S G BISS POINTS CUP</u></b> (All International races) <b>M Gilbert – Windsor = 199 points</b> G M Preece &amp; Son – Dover = 173 points L &amp; K Buddle - Dover = 92 points</p>	<p><b><u>EUROPA TROPHY</u></b> (Best Ave. All Int. races) <b>M Gilbert – Windsor Vel: 822.604</b> L &amp; K Buddle – Dover Vel: 798.516 G M Preece &amp; Son - Dover Vel: 728.469</p>	<p><b><u>BICC CUP</u></b> (Best Average Agen &amp; Dax) <b>M Gilbert - Windsor Vel: 785.595</b> L &amp; K Buddle – Dover Vel: 754.959 G M Preece &amp; Son – Dover Vel: 737.950</p>
<p><b><u>J &amp; R WILLS CUP</u></b> (Best Ave. Pau &amp; Perpignan) <b>L &amp; K Buddle - Dover Vel: 841.993</b> M Gilbert – Windsor Vel: 835.318 J Chipperfield – Herne Bay Vel: 785.731</p>	<p><b><u>BEWES TROPHY</u></b> (Best Ave. Pau &amp; Barcelona) <b>M Gilbert – Windsor Vel: 822.630</b> L &amp; K Buddle – Dover Vel: 813.543 M Connolly – Canning Town Vel: 734.641</p>	<p><b><u>WRIGHT CUP</u></b> (Best Ave Pau &amp; St Vincent) <b>L &amp; K Buddle - Dover Vel: 772.487</b> M Gilbert – Windsor Vel: 765.726 D Hales – Hockley Vel: 691.908</p>
<p><b><u>DAVID HALES MEMORIAL CUP</u></b> (1<sup>st</sup> Bird into Essex from Barcelona) <b>Dean Childs – Wickford</b></p>	<p><b><u>JAN DEACON CELEBRATION CUP</u></b> (Best Ave Pau &amp; St Philbert) <b>J F Haynes – Fifield</b></p>	<p><b><u>JOHN TYERMAN MEMORIAL TROPHY</u></b> (Best Average All National Races) <b>S Buckle - Northwood</b></p>

<p><b><u>BARRY HOBBS MEMORIAL TROPHY</u></b>  (Highest velocity Guernsey 2 YB into  Northamptonshire)  <b>Not Won</b></p>	<p><b><u>JIM EMERTON BELIEF TROPHY</u></b>  (Ace pigeon in the International races minimum of  two races – Co Efficient)  <b>G M Preece &amp; Son - Dover</b></p>
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The champion pigeons at the dinner

Members left with everything to play for in 2025. 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. So, here's to a successful racing season in 2025.

To all members, good luck, good flying and may the line of flight be with you. Let's hope 2025 brings something special!

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