

BICC PRE SEASON NEWS REPORT .

The latest meeting of the committee took place at the H.Q. The Lion Brewery at Ash on Saturday 28th March. I was unfortunately unable to attend due to transport problems. However, I would like to thank Russell Bradford, John Tyerman and Carol Francis for providing me with the information contained in this short news bulletin so that members can be kept informed as to the progress the club is making.

Club President, John Tyerman, gave a short report on the progress of the construction of the new trailer and manufacture of the aluminium crates being undertaken by Jeff Greenaway. John said that this was going well and on schedule. The crates had been made and numbered. John had also spoken to Stever Radcliffe regarding the haulage for the crates from Northern Ireland to Stowmarket. Arrangements had been made for the trailer, which should be ready by early April, to be shipped separately from Belfast docks to Birkenhead to be collected by Trevor Cracknell. A 20ft container is being purchased and this will be used to store the club's aluminium crates. John was thanked for all the hard work he has put in with regard to the liaison with Jeff Greenaway in the construction of the trailer and crates.

Carol advised the meeting that we now had 1470 members but was expecting an influx as a result of the recent advert in the Fancy Press. She also pointed out that 288 members still hadn't paid their fees, so, if you are one of these I would suggest that you get your cheque in the post PDQ. Russell Bradford has assured me that all members who have paid their 2015 subscriptions should have received their handbooks by the time this report appears in the press.

Russell gave a brief outline of the finance situation which is still very strong. The handbooks were given to members of the committee and a vote of thanks was given to Russell for all his hard work in their compilation.

Both Carol and Russell gave an update on the new software which should be up and running in the next week or so. This new software would allow Russell access to race information directly without having to trouble Carol during the hectic race weekends.

Marking Stations were discussed and Chairman Albi Deacon asked Tom Firmager if he would be on standby for the Alencon race should he be needed. There are now 19 marking stations.

John Tyerman mentioned the generous offer of sponsorship from Ecogen R8 thanks to Jamie Crouch. This amounts to £500 with £250 each to the winners of Tours Old Bird and the first Guernsey YB race.

Carol then gave an update of the prize presentation, and explained that although there had been a few complaints regarding some of the rooms due entirely to the actions of a group of noisy youngsters totally unrelated to the BICC, the presentation will, once again, be hosted at the Queens Hotel in Bournemouth for 2016. The Hotel management have agreed that the prices will remain the same as this year. The date of the presentation will be 6th February 2016. Carol was also given a vote of thanks for all her hard work in ensuring the 2015 presentation was, yet again, a resounding success.

Epsom Moot and Auction weekend was then discussed and Russell mentioned that the club had made a handsome profit from the highly successful and much appreciated 2015 venture. It was suggested that we arrange a similar event this year with tickets at £15 which also includes the price of a meal. Russell Bradford, Tom Firmager, John Wills and Mark Gilbert were asked to organize the event. Tony Cowan will again be asked to carry out the pigeon auction.

Albi reminded the committee that he would be standing down as custodian of the trophies after this year and that Sue Watson (the lady who helps Carol on race days) had offered to take over the position in Albi's place. New trophies was also discussed and Albi told the meeting that we needed to replace two trophies. It was also suggested that should someone want to 'donate' a new trophy this should be approved by the committee first as we do have a lot of trophies and obviously the cost of engraving is increasing.

Russell then went on to give a detailed account of the Insurance quote he had received from NPA Uxbridge. He also recommended that a wheel clamp be purchased for the new trailer.

Moving on to the subject of the race advisory team for the 2015 season, John Tyerman explained to those present that he had some health issues and that Albi and Mark Gilbert had agreed to help with the race controller's position should the need arise.

Finally, the 2015 YB Gold ring event will be flown from Guernsey and nominated ring numbers must be sent to the secretary by 30th June, 2015. The price per ring will be £5 with payment of 3 prizes.

The next committee meetings would be Oct 18th 2015, Dec. 6th 2015 – AGM 31st Jan 2016, March 6th 2016. Members of the committee will still be advised nearer the time with the agendas for these meetings.

That seems to be all the news for the present. It only remains for me to wish all members a happy, and hopefully successful, season's racing in 2015. I have included with this report some photographs of the 2014 International race winning pigeons. Good luck to all.
Gareth Watkins



1st BICCNarbonne 2014 for Lee & Kevin Buddle



Geoff & Clayton Preece 's 1st Open BICC Perpignan 2014 [only bird on day in the UK]

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105_1st Open BICC Pau 2014 for Mark Gilbert

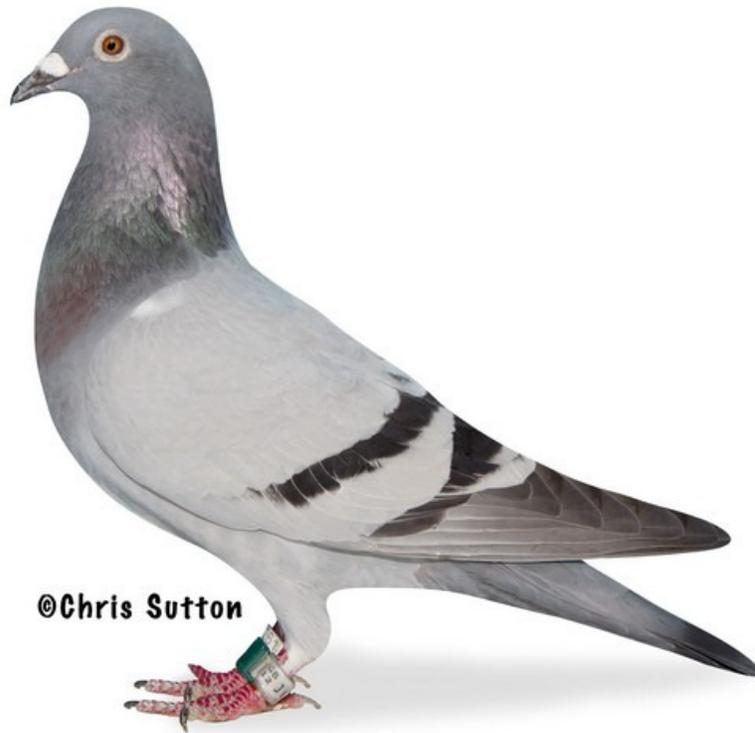


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1st Open BICCAgen 2014 for Mark Gilbert



Donegal Girl 1st Open BICC Marseille 2014 for Dickie & Steve Pearmain



Mark Gilbert's 1st Open BICC St-Vincent 2014



Peter's Dream 1st Open BICC Barcelona 2014 for Peter & Heath Archibald