

## BICC END OF TERM REPORT.

The 2015 season has been an excellent one for members of the club. Membership is up 47% to in excess of 1,500 members compared with the same time three seasons past, and despite major outlays in upgrading the transport fleet we are still in a very sound financial position.

More importantly though, we have enjoyed an excellent racing season with record birdage and record amounts paid out to the successful fanciers. It would also appear that the committee has got the section boundaries spot on as I think I am correct in writing that BICC Open winners have been found in each and every section so everyone has a chance of winning given the correct conditions.

We also have two more International race winners amongst our ranks!!! The first of these came in the Agen International where Bob and Anthony Besant's dark chequer cock raced home to finish in front of the 10,510 bird field to take top honours.

The second International race success came in the St Vincent Old Bird race when Geoff and Catherine Cooper timed two quick ones to finish at 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Open Hens International and 3<sup>rd</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Open International over all.

The St Vincent International proved to be tremendously productive for BICC members as not only did the Coopers record a neat one - two in the hens' International, but other members such as John Smale came out smiling, finishing at 4<sup>th</sup> Open International, closely followed by one to Gordon and June Mears at 11<sup>th</sup> Open International and club President John Tyerman's timer at 20<sup>th</sup> Open International all these positions recorded against an International field of 10,737 birds.

So much for the International race successes, what of the other BICC National and International race winners? The season started with a really fast race from Falaise where M & B Flook's chequer pied hen certainly knocked over some trees to record a winning velocity of 1896 ypm to lead the 4,182 bird field by 150 ypm.

The second National race of the season took place from Alencon when 4,634 birds took to the air and the eventual winner proved to be a blue cock recording 1412 ypm and racing to the Leigh on Sea, Essex lofts of Gladwin, Jarvis & Family.

Next up was the Tours National and here we saw the Essex ace, Micky Watts, time one of his fast flying Vandenabeeles to finish at 1<sup>st</sup> Open vel 1421 ypm against an entry of 4,315 birds.

The Poitiers race was the fourth race in the old bird programme and 2,701 birds were liberated on 13<sup>th</sup> June to race the 350 + miles to their home lofts. Pau International race winners Wicky and son Kirk Bullen clocked a chequer cock to take top honours on 1430 ypm.

Then we came to the first of the International races and here we saw John Underdown of Basildon clock to take 1<sup>st</sup> Open BICC vel 793 ypm.

The Agen International saw Bob and Anthony Besant's dark chequer cock come out on top of the BICC and International entry with a velocity of 1460 ypm. In this race Dagenham's finest, Jackie Harris, finished at 2<sup>nd</sup> Open BICC and 23<sup>rd</sup> Open International. Mark Gilbert also clocked three sharp ones to finish at 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Open BICC and 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> & 36<sup>th</sup> Open International.

Next we moved on to the "big one" – Barcelona International where long distance ace Dave Delea clocked a dark chequer hen of his old reliable distance family to take 1<sup>st</sup> Open BICC and finish at 95<sup>th</sup> Open International against 19,000 birds with a velocity of 857 ypm.

The Padfield Family enjoyed a super race here with three birds on the result at 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Open flying an accredited 757 miles into the strong west wind.

The St Vincent International, mentioned earlier in this report proved to be another International triumph as outlined earlier with Geoff and Catherine Cooper, John Smale, Gordon and June Mears and John Tyerman all clocking birds to finish well up in the International race result.

Marseille International proved to be yet another success story for that great Essex long distance ace David Hales [ably assisted by Duncan Goodchild]. In this race David and Duncan clocked three birds on the result at 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Open vel 821,609 & 437 ypm.

Le Mans was the final National race in the old bird calendar and here we saw David and Sheila Quantrill clock the BICC Open winner, at their Lowestoft loft recording 1360 ypm to come out top of the 3,044 bird entry.

The old bird season came to a close with the Perpignan International and here Robbie Harris of Ramsgate clocked his top class racing hen to finish at 1<sup>st</sup> Open BICC vel 926 ypm.

Next we moved on to the Young bird and Any Age races from Guernsey and these two races attracted entries of 2,647 and 2,228 birds respectively.

John Rodway and Jeremy Davies came out top of the pile at 1<sup>st</sup> Open BICC in the Guernsey 1 Young Bird and Old Bird races respectively.

In the Guernsey 2 Old Bird race Micky Watts did a "demolition job" on the opposition taking 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Open with old hens vels 1916 & 1889[2] ypm. Multi National winners David and Gary Heywood of Laidon took top honours in the young bird event with their first in the clock doing 1953 ypm. In depth loft reports on most of the BICC winners can be found on the BICC web site.

Finally some news from Treasurer Russell Bradford:-

"All Prize and Pool money for all 15 races has now been paid out and either a BACS payment or a cheque should have been received on 8th, October. Just over £48,000 as a sum total with over 250 cheques and 60 bank-to-bank transactions and I must admit to being sick of the sight of cheques at the moment. With the membership standing at 1,543 that effectively means approximately one in five of the membership will receive money (obviously some more than others) and interestingly members in all parts of the Country: - Wales; Cornwall; Yorkshire; Tyne & Wear; Lincolnshire and virtually all the southern and home counties – so clearly the prize and pool pot is well spread around.

The new software that has been purposefully designed and tailored for the BICC this year by Mysoft with a comprehensive race and administration package has proved a massive step forward. We are working on a further development to this package for next season, which will hopefully improve the technology and communication with our marking stations, but more about that as we progress after Christmas.

The BICC will have a stand at the forthcoming Epsom Fair, and we welcome members to come and discuss any aspect of the club with us, and of course lighten their pockets by paying their 2016 subscriptions.

Gareth, I see the heading of your report "End of Term" and all I can remember from my end-of-term school reports was the usually caustic comment about needs to try harder. Half a Century later it is not a bad mantra to work with, going into next year, and with the BICC membership up some 47% on three years ago, it would be great to see if we can't increase the existing 1,543 members by another hundred or so in 2016."

Why not aim for 2,000 Russell?????

That's your lot then. Why not come along to the Epsom Show and have a chat with us on the BICC stall there. I hope we can convince even more fanciers to join us in our quest for success on the International stage. What's more, with the BICC you have the opportunity of competing in sprint, middle distance, Long distance and extreme distance races at National and International level, all under the umbrella of one organisation. One final point, I'm sure all members will join me in wishing Chairman Albi Deacon a swift recovery to full fitness following his recent operation. All the best Albi.

Gareth Watkins



1st 2nd hens International St Vincent for G & C Cooper

*"Noble Dream"*

**GB13N85881**

**1st Open International Agen 10510b**

**1st Sec C 1st Open British International**

**Championship Club Agen 2015**

**Raced by Bob Besant & Son, Worcester Park**



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1st Open BICC 1st Open Agen International for Bob and Anthony Besant Besant