

BICC AGM REPORT.

The BICC held its AGM on Sunday 31st January at the club's H.Q. The Lion Brewery at Ash. Prior to the AGM the committee held a quick meeting to finalise the 2015 business. During this meeting Treasurer Russell Bradford highlighted the fact that it had cost the club £1200 to post out all of the correspondence to the members and suggested that we in future email these documents to the members. Any member who wishes to have a "hard" copy can apply to the secretary and the paperwork will be sent to those who wish it. It is therefore essential that when filling out their application / renewal of membership forms, members include their email address where applicable.

One other point, it costs the club a great deal of money and secretarial time to chase members who are late paying their subscriptions. In future, any late payments will entail an additional £10 administration fee. So you've been warned.

Carol informed the meeting that she had sold 184 tickets for the presentation evening and I know for a fact that at least one BICC race winner was unlucky in that he applied for tickets and was informed that the evening was already booked to capacity. I have pointed out on a number of occasions, that the increasingly popular presentation evening is always heavily subscribed and that those members wishing to attend should get their ticket orders in as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

The new Marking Stations for 2016 are all organised and Russell has obtained a very competitive quote for the Members handbook which was agreed by the committee.

Following our decision to move from Tours to Angers it was subsequently discovered that Angers is no longer an approved liberation site so it was decided to use the Cholet liberation site for 2016.

There then followed a short discussion on the possibility of having to purchase a transponder in order to comply with Belgian Transport laws when taking the BICC pigeons to meet up with the International convoys and it was decided that for the derisory sum of £100 the BICC purchase a transponder the cost of which will then be reimbursed should we no longer need it.

The subject of the FCI logo on registration rings was then raised and it was decided that because of the FCI ruling that from 2015, all pigeons ringed after 2015 MUST carry a ring which includes the FCI logo if they are to compete at International level[or in Olympiads], in future ALL PIGEONS THAT ARE ENTERED THROUGH THE BICC IN INTERNATIONAL RACES MUST CARRY THE APPROPRIATE RING – i.e WITH AN FCI LOGO.

I've mentioned this in previous reports but I hope all those International fliers will now take serious note of the above.

We have also gained sponsorship in 2016 from A. E. James & sons of Bristol who market Willsbridge Corn. This will now be fed to all race birds entered in BICC races in 2016.

The meeting then closed and after a short break it was on with the AGM business.

The 2015 AGM minutes had been circulated and accepted as a true record with nothing arising. The balance sheet was also accepted without question and it was then on to the resignations and applications plus defaulters. Carol said that we had 100 resignations but had already received more than 39 applications for membership. It was agreed that the list of defaulters be sent to the RPRA. Michael Feeney from Dublin had written to offer his services as Irish coordinator for the Irish section of the BICC and this was accepted with thanks. So yer man Michael will be the "go to" man in the Emerald Isle for all the Irish members.

All officers were re elected en bloc so, as a committee, we must be doing "sumffink right" as for the second year running we have had no NOM's submitted.

Three new members joined the committee and these were John Ghent, Alan Webber I/C Steventon Marking station and Jill Rogers I/C Radstock Marking station.

That ended the AGM in record time.

There then followed a quick committee meeting when Carol read out a letter requesting that the club consider adopting a Welsh section for 2017. This was left for further discussion at a later date.

Mike Armitage stated that he had approached the TV presenter Gloria Honeyford with regard attending a future BICC Presentation evening and if all goes well Gloria has indicated that she would love to join us in Bournemouth as long as her TV and Charity work permits.

Mark Gilbert raised the possibility of the club selling registration rings and after a long discussion it was decided that we purchase a significant number of rings with the BICC designated letter "B" for the 2017 season. These will be sold at £7 per 20 rings and only young birds carrying these designated rings will be allowed to compete in the YB Nationals of 2017. A dispensation was also agreed that young birds carrying other rings will also be allowed subject to a £1 per ring surcharge.

A discussion then took place regarding the Barcelona International race and it was agreed that Carol will liaise with Clare Norman, secretary of the BBC, in an effort to cooperate and reduce costs for the transportation of the British pigeons that will compete in the 2016 Barcelona International.

Meeting closed.

Club Treasurer, Russell Bradford recently sent me this missive regarding the capabilities of our new computer software. I let Russell explain exactly what the club can now offer to the membership:-

The BICC's New Concept in Race Results

The BICC sees a further advancement in 2016 with our race result software and technology. Many of the club's members belong to other Organisations, such as Federations; Two Bird or even Single Bird clubs etc. and it is not uncommon for BICC members to enjoy a "race within a race", as they participate in a second race with the other organisation who are using the BICC's race program.

Obtaining a race result for the underlying second race, often means waiting for the BICC to compile a provisional result; and after the statutory period - a Final Result, from which several weeks' later secretaries have to try and identify their own competing members.

Computer software is sufficiently sophisticated nowadays to allow multiple results to be formulated for the same race, dependant on who wishes to be included.

For a nominal fee of just £25.00 any organisation whose members are also racing with the BICC may ask for a separate race result to be compiled at the same time as the main result. This will be mailed directly to the secretary of the organisation at the same time as the BICC result.

For further details please contact either Carol Francis 01784 421594: mail ffrancis2@aol.com, or Russell Bradford 01933 410322: mail russellbradford@talktalk.net

Finally, whilst attending the AGM I was informed that committee member Jeff Lyden's daughter had given birth to a baby boy – not without complications for the brave mum I believe. I have attached her the photo of baby Archie. Congratulations to the Lyden family and I'm sure we all wish mother and baby well.

Gareth Watkins

