



BICC NEWS REPORT.

Well the report on the committee meeting that followed on from the recent AGM and which recently appeared in the press has certainly stirred up some strong reactions!! Much of this concerned the possibility that in the young bird Nationals the club would consider placing a £1 surcharge on the entry of those young birds carrying rings other than those purchased from the BICC. The membership has made its feelings known and the committee have heeded their complaints and so I can inform members that this will not now go ahead but will be discussed at length at the next committee meeting.

Judging by the reaction it would seem that more people read my reports than I ever thought possible!

More good news is that the entry fee for the Pau International has been reduced to £8 from £13 to fall in line with the other Internationals. The European organisers have also removed the entry restrictions which have been in place for many years, so fanciers can now send an unlimited entry to compete in this prestigious race.

I have been asked to mention the fact that the BICC web site has been modified and now has a number of new sections such as maps showing the location of marking stations, new History etc.

At the recent presentation evening two more pigeons were awarded Certificate of Merit Awards. The Merit Award is achieved by a pigeon that appears three times in the first fifteen of the Open prizes of the BICC in International races, so as you can imagine they “don’t grow on trees”. The proud owners of the two award winning pigeons this year were the ever consistent Jack Harris and daughter from Dagenham and the outstanding father and son partnership of Kevin and Lee Buddle of Dover.



The 2015 BICC Merit Award winners Lee & Kevin Buddle and Jack Harris

I include below some of the details of these two outstanding pigeons' performances in International races.



Here are some details of how Jackie Harris conditioned his Merit Award winner which has a fair bit of the old Southwell strain in his bloodlines plus some top class distance pigeons originating from the BBC Stud. See pedigree below for more details.



The Award winner "Jacko" is usually paired up towards the end of February, rears a pair of young birds before being separated then

raced celibate. He has about 5 training tosses at 15 to 30 miles due east of Dagenham to Shoeburyness. He is then entered in a couple of 100 miles tosses with the local club from Poole in Dorset to the west of Dagenham. This is followed by a couple of channel races of about 250 to 300 miles, followed by a 500 mile race from AGEN with the International. This was his preparation for the Perpignan races in 2013 when he finished at 9th Open BICC and in 2014 when he was 15th Open BICC. However, in 2015 he did not go to Agen. He had the same preparation as the two previous years but went to Poitiers instead of Agen and his Perpignan position was 8th Open so the change in routine didn't do him any harm. At the end of racing he was allowed to rear a pair of youngsters .The hen he to which he is paired, "Margo" was part of the team that won the two bird average at Perpignan this year. I should also point out that the only time he sees his hen is when he comes home from the race. Jackie tells me that Jacko and Margo have now been retired to stock - a tidy pair of breeders there Jack.

Next we move on to the Buddles' Merit Award winner a mealy hen named Saffron.



Saffron's wins in channel races include :-

1st Open EECC Boves 101m 2015.

3rd Open BICC Narbonne International at 557miles in 2014.

7th Open BICC Pau International 544 miles in 2014.

10th Open BICC Pau International 544 miles in 2015.

11th Open BICC Perpignan International 593 miles in 2015.

24th Open BICC Agen International 484m in 2013.

26th Open BICC Perpignan International 579m in 2013.

She is fed the same as all of the Buddles' of the race team, on Versele-Laga Superstar Plus with a little Versele-Laga best all rounder added to give it a bit more 'strength'. The racers also get a daily pinch of hemp and sunflower hearts after their main feed. "Saffron's" breeding is as follows:-

***SIRE is a grandson of both of Jim Peters' BICC Barcelona winners "Lacoste" & "The Barcelona".*

***DAM is a daughter of Lee and Kevin's "BC" who won 2nd Open BICC Pau International in 2009, beaten by his loft mate "Amoy". BC was mated to "Eve" who was a super racing hen for Mike Mitchell. "Eve" won many prizes for Mike in long distance International races including 1st Open BICC Perpignan International 2009.*

As with all of Kevin and Lee's racers, Saffron is raced on a modified round about system after rearing the first round of babies.

So there you have it the breeding and preparation of the two BICC Merit Award winners in 2015. Blood will tell is certainly true here.

Gareth Watkins