

BICC SPRING NEWS REPORT.

Here we are once again at the start of a new racing season. The weather here in South Wales during March was excellent with many dry and sunny days making a marked improvement on the previous four months which were relentlessly wet and windy.

I saw my first swallow here in the Rhondda, on Friday morning 8th April and local fanciers have been taking full advantage of the mild and sunny early spring weather to get their birds in tune for "the off" which takes place in mid April for most Welsh Feds.

The BICC starts its 15 race programme on Saturday 30th April with a short dash across the English Channel from Falaise and finishes the season on 10th September with an Any Age race from the same French race point. Here's wishing all those competing good luck and good racing.

Club treasurer Russell Bradford informs me that more than 200 members have yet to pay their 2016 annual subscriptions. This late payment causes a great deal of unnecessary work for the hard pressed secretary Carol, and it also means that the club is several thousands of pounds adrift in income. This late payment of their annual fees by some members has been an ongoing problem for some time and if members persist in being "covetous of their cash" then the committee will have to look at ways and means of prising it from their grasp! Come on lads "chwarae teg" - which loosely translated means fair play or play the game as we say here in God's country.

Russell also informs me that Michael Feeney of Dublin, the BICC Irish section coordinator, is running an auction to raise funds to cover the transportation costs of Irish entries from the Emerald Isle to a BICC mainland marking station. Michael is to be commended for his initiative and dedication to the cause of continued Irish participation in future BICC National and International races.

The Cornish members are still with us despite their request for a Cornish section being denied. Let's hope that the men of Kernow get the bit between their teeth and fully commit en bloc to the BICC cause. John Tyerman, our club President and chairman of the race advisory committee, has had what can only be described as a bitch of a winter as far as his health is concerned, and yet the numerous admissions to hospital and the debilitating effects of chemotherapy have not dimmed his enthusiasm for the sport and his dedication to the BICC. On behalf of all the members of the BICC and your many friends within the sport John, we all wish you a full and swift return to good health. Good luck mate.

"Lady Falaise"

1st Sec E 1st Open British International
Championship Club Falaise 2015
Raced by M & B Flook, Eitham



NWHD13E8995

"Maw"

1st Sec E 1st Open British International
Championship Club Alencon 2015
Raced by Gladwin, Jarvis & Family
Leigh on Sea



GB13P37662

"Shadow's Image"

1st Sec E 1st Open
British International
Championship Club Tours 2015
Raced by Micky Watts
Southminster



GB14A24924

1st Sec NE 1st Open British International
Championship Club Le Mans 2015
Raced by Mr & Mrs David Quattrill
Lowestoft



GB13D00871

"Sienna's Cloudy Day Boy"

1st Sec C 1st Open British International
Championship Club Poitiers 2015
Raced by D Bullen & Son



GB14N83048

"Out of the Blue"

1st Sec NW 1st Open British International
Championship Club Guernsey Y/B 2015
Raced by J Rodway, Rushwick



GB15P45674

"Princess Tara"

1st Sec ES 1st Open
British International Championship
Club Guernsey O/B 2015
Raced by Micky Watts
Southminster



NWHD13N5460

"John James"

1st Sec NW 1st Open British
International Championship Club
Guernsey Y/B 2015
Raced by
D. Heywood & Son, Laidon



GB15N17238

"Timothy's Dream"

1st Sec NW 1st Open
British International Championship Club
Guernsey O/B 2015
Raced by
T & J Davies, Birmington



GB12N22801

Montage by Chris Sutton

One other BICC member and previous Open winner with the BICC is 43 year old Anthony Williams of the B Williams & son partnership from Ystalyfera at the top of the Swansea Valley. Anthony has recently suffered a series of strokes, and as I write this, is hospitalised at Morryston Hospital, Swansea. Bryan Williams, Anthony's Dad, was

telling me that he is making slow progress. I'm sure all those who know Anthony, who is one of the sport's great workers, will join me also in wishing Anthony a full and swift recovery.



Simon Knowles 2015 winner of the Europa Cup with the BICC (best average all International races) holding one of his long distance pathfinders



Bill Knox Runner Up to Simon Knowles in the 2015 Europa Cup stakes pictured with Alan Turner 3rd in the Europa Cup stakes in 2015

So there you have it an up to the minute report on the business of the BICC and some of its members.

If you are an existing member and have not yet received your handbook and paperwork it's probably because you are one of the more than 200 members who have not yet paid your annual subscriptions. My advice is to get a cheque in the post pdq!!

All the best for the coming season and lets hope we have another International winner to swell our ranks by the end of the season.

Gareth Watkins