



BICC JANUARY NEWS REPORT.

With the 2017 racing season just around the corner, the committee of the BICC gathered on Saturday January 7th to discuss various aspects of management in the run up to the 2017 AGM which had been rearranged for Sunday February 19th due to the fact that the earlier arranged date clashed with the 2017 Olympiad in Brussels.

Unfortunately our hard working secretary, Carol Francis had been taken ill suddenly on the morning of the meeting and so was unable to attend. We all hope you're feeling much better now Carol.

Those committee personnel present were as follows:-

President John Tyerman; Vice President John Wills; Chairman Albi Deacon; Treasurer Russell Bradford plus Mark Gilbert; Geoff Cooper; Tom Firmager; Mike Armitage; Eddie & Rita Good; Richard Down; Jill & Clive Rogers; William Knox; Mike Mitchell, Jeff Lyden and Mick Bunney. With apologies for non attendance from John Chipperfield, Alan Weber, John Ghent, Kevin Buddle, Gareth Watkins and Ray Strawbridge.

The meeting opened with discussion about 'drug-testing' and the committee agreed the format of a letter that was to be sent to the RPRA, with recommendations and suggestions.

A statement concerning Mr. Michael Feeney was read out regarding monies he had raised on behalf of Irish BICC members, this statement of clarification now appears on the BICC web site under 'News'.

Mike Armitage stated that Gloria Hunniford might be in Japan and not able to attend for the presentation of the Charity cheque at Bournemouth. It was agreed that if this is the case, then the Charity Z Pool money be accumulated for a further year. Presentation guests

would be Mr/Mrs Steve Appleby plus our two drivers who work so hard in ensuring the welfare of our pigeons during the racing season.

The Treasurer gave a report on the club's financial affairs to include the audited accounts with a surplus in 2016 of £7,892, stating that much of the reason for maintaining profitability was keeping a close eye on expenditure. Russell also stated that the 50p increase on birdage for three National races in 2016 had not adversely affected the number of pigeons sent, as it had in fact increased by some 500 pigeons on these three races, bringing in a further £6,000 income. He stated the request to open a dedicated Transport Savings account had been complied with and there was now £32,895 in this account. The accounts are swept weekly with surplus amounts going to a further deposit account and between the two accounts the bank had returned over £400 in interest in 2016. The club has now registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (Data Protection) as a legal requirement. Comment was made that BACS payments made for the prize money pay-out all went through on the designated day in October whereas there are still some 19 cheques outstanding at present totalling over £600.00, and that many members takes months to pay in cheques.

Finally, Russell asked that a new rule be supported by the committee that members paying their annual subscriptions after March 31st. be levied with a late-payment fee. He stated that in May, June and even July last year there were simply hundreds of members who hadn't paid their subs and it increased the secretary's work load, at a time when she should be concentrating on race results.

The Data Protection issue was then discussed and it was stated that going forward in 2017 the race and administration software be password protected, and that all member's bank details held on the system should be encrypted. The committee unanimously agreed with this proposal.

Chairman, Albi Deacon then thanked Russell on behalf of the committee and members for all his hard work, both with handling the club's finances and with up dating our computer and security systems.

It was also proposed and seconded that the race results should not appear on the web site until at least 18:00pm on race days in order to increase security. Once again all present were in favour of this proposal.

Marking security was discussed at some length and a new rule is amongst those to be circulated to the membership as a proposition. It proposes that Marking Station I/C's birds to be marked independently and these sheets to be sent in to the BICC secretary separately. The committee were all in favour of this proposal but obviously the membership will decide if this should be accepted.

ETS was discussed and everyone agreed the onus must be on the member to ensure his ETS details are correct before submitting any pigeon for marking. It was agreed that I/C's should not accept pigeons with either incorrect details or where birds were still active under another race and should be refused.

President John Tyerman, stated that we would continue to replace the old wooden crates with aluminium ones again in 2017 with the likelihood that another fifty new crates would be ordered.

During discussions over the opening of two possible new marking stations at Runcorn and Hull, Albi Deacon suggested that the organisers be offered the new BICC trailer and Committee agreed that this should be done. It was further agreed that an urgent advert be placed in the fancy press to see what response is received for the possible new venues. If the Committee do receive a favourable response from the advert and subsequently decide to open the new venues, both of the club's convoyers have already indicated they are happy to take on the extra workload. A final decision will be taken at the next Committee meeting.

Russell Bradford, along with a number of other committeemen, had carried out a rules review and some of the redrafted rules were presented to the meeting. These were then discussed at length and it was agreed that they should go forward as Notices of Motion to be voted on by the membership.

These are the rules on which the members will be asked to vote.

General Rules: -

- *Delete Rule 3 in its entirety and insert to replace with –*

The member's annual subscription shall be set by the Management Committee. Annual subscription fees must be paid by March 31st and late payers will be subject to a late payment fee, with the late fee amount to be decided annually by the committee. Both amounts

to be printed in the relevant year book and shown on the BICC web site. The entry fee for new member's applications shall be £5.00

- *Delete General Rule 11 in entirety (and note a new Racing rule 14).*

Racing Rules: -

- *To Racing Rule 3 add the following as a further paragraph –*

A Diploma of Merit will be awarded to any pigeon gaining 3 or more prizes in the top fifteen of all BICC Internationals.

- *Delete Racing Rule 7 and insert to replace with; -*

For National races your first pigeon needs to be verified within fifteen minutes, using either of the methods detailed below. Only verify your first pigeon. When verifying you must include your BICC membership code, your name; your town; the full ring number and the time the pigeon was clocked, plus any wing marks if applicable. The telephone verification to be via a premium rate dedicated phone number, or via the On-Line verification, which is free for members on the BICC web site.

- *Delete Racing rule 11 and insert to replace with: -*

The Management Committee have the power to instruct that any pigeons entered in BICC races may be drug tested in accordance with RPRA rules

- *Delete Racing rule 13 and insert to replace with; -*

To improve security the Management Committee reserves the right to wing stamp any birds entered in BICC races. In addition, those Officials in charge of marking stations must have their birds marked independently by at least two identifiable members who will ensure that the I/C's Race sheets, and if applicable ETS print outs and rubber stubs, are sealed in an envelope and sent separately to the Secretary.

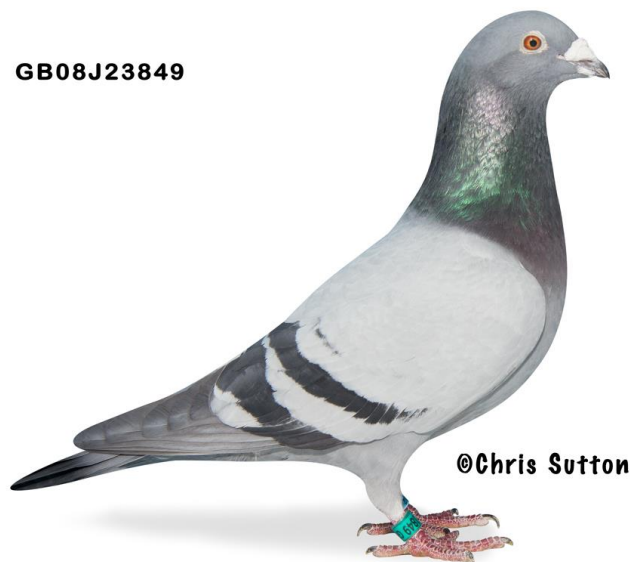
- *New Racing rule 14: -*

Race sheets will be supplied for all National and International races and these must be fully completed in accordance with the instructions issued for each race. A BICC entry paper sheet must be completed with a minimum of Name; BICC code; Race Point and number of birds entered. A properly signed and completed ETS print out will be accepted in lieu of handwriting ring numbers; colour & sex on the National entry sheets, but members must complete the handwritten sheets to include any pooled pigeons. The onus is on the member to ensure all ETS details are correct, and may be refused entry if not.

All agenda items done and dusted the meeting closed. My thanks to Russell Bradford, our hard working treasurer, for much of the information contained in this report.

I have included a few photographs of some of the Merit Award winning pigeons plus the outstanding long distance racer Jack Jones which was the only bird clocked on the day into the UK from Perpignan a couple of seasons ago.

GB08J23849



©Chris Sutton

*David Hales' Tubby Merit Award winner of 3rd & 8th Open
Marseille, plus 7th & 9th Open Pau BICC*



*Dickie & Steve Pearmain's Meritorious Award winner Marseille
Maur 15th,5th &10th Open BICC Marseille*



*Owned and raced by Geoff & Clayton Preece 1st Open BICC
Perpignan (only bird on day in the UK) "Jack Jones"*

"Mike"



*Mike 3rd,4th & 9th Open Marseille 594 miles;13th Open Agen,24th
Open Perpignan, 37th,60th & 64th Open Pau*

for Lee & Kevin Buddle



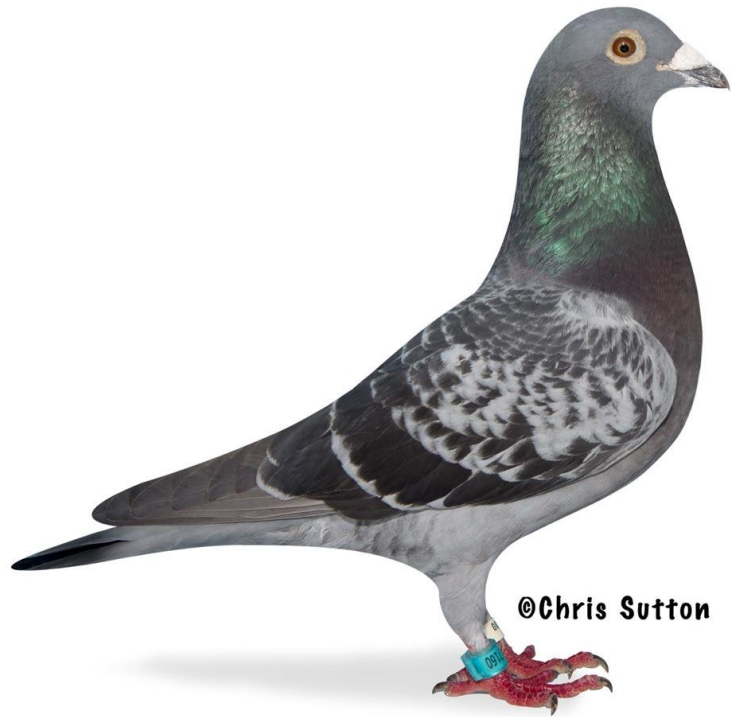
*Padfield Family's Merit Award cock winner of 2nd Open St Vincent;
4th Open Agen;10th Open Pau; 2nd Open Barcelona*



Pearmain & Son's Merit Award winner 13th Open Pau;26th Open Agen;34th Open Pau;18th Open St Vincent;2nd Open Perpignan;21st Open Pau & 1st Open BICC Perpignan



Pipi Four times Barcelona at 673 miles winning 5th,9th & 10 th Open



Wiggins Geoff & Clayton Preece's Merit Award winner

Also included is a photo of the BICCC Trophies that are awarded each season. Who knows the 2017 season may see one [or more] of these wonderful pieces of silverware on your sideboard. You'll never know unless you try. Good luck and good racing to all in 2017.



Gareth Watkins

