



### **BICC SPRING NEWS REPORT.**

*Well the 2017 racing season is just around the corner and the BICC kick off the fifteen race programme on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April with a short dash across the English Channel from Falaise which is 237 miles to my loft here in the Rhondda Valley in South Wales.*

*I appreciate that it's a lot further for the long distance diehards further north and I have it on good authority that the lads in the North East have had the training baskets out for the past month or so!! Good luck John Rumney and the other Geordie lads.*

*During the winter months there has been much discussion regarding the inclusion of the two Poitiers races that the BICC has incorporated in its old bird race programme. I appreciate that these two races, taking place so early in the season on 27<sup>th</sup> May and 10<sup>th</sup> June, will be a race too far and too soon for the more northerly competitors. Perhaps I should explain the reason for their inclusion. This was to ensure that the BICC pigeons were well prepared with sufficient "miles under their wings" for the early International races which start with the Pau International on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Hopefully we can readjust the old bird programme in future years to give greater consideration to the longer flying members of the club. Nothing is set in stone and the committee is always willing to take on board members suggestions whenever feasible.*

*Following on from the February AGM, the club felt that members and the Fancy in general, might like to be made aware that new marking stations have been sanctioned by the committee in Hull and Spalding. Three existing marking venues at Ipswich, Steventon and Northampton are moving to new addresses near by, and overall we now have nineteen sites at which you can race mark your pigeons, without the need for pre*

*booking or pre payment. A full list and map of the marking stations can be found on the BICC web site.*

*At this point I should point out that-*

*Subscriptions are now overdue, and a new rule is now in place whereby subscription payments after March 31<sup>st</sup> each year will be subject to a £10.00 late payment penalty.*

*At the time of writing this report Carol Francis informs me that there are still more than 300 members who have yet to pay their subscriptions and these fanciers will now be liable to the £10 late payment surcharge.*  
*YOU WERE WARNED.*

*2017 rings are still available from our secretary at £7.00 for a pack of 20 and in each of the two YB races, from Guernsey and Falaise, the first BICC ring clocked in every section will receive a £25.00 prize, for no further cost or nomination. Any ring will be accepted in the YB races. Below I have reproduced the BICC race programme for this season.*

*The race program comprises seven old bird and two young bird races, along with six Internationals and is listed along with marking dates on the web site. Race Dates and costs per bird are: -*

#### **NATIONALS**

<i>29<sup>th</sup>, April</i>	<i>FALAISE</i>	<i>£3.50 per bird</i>
<i>13<sup>th</sup>, May</i>	<i>ALENCON</i>	<i>£3.50 per bird</i>
<i>27<sup>th</sup>, May</i>	<i>POITIERS (1)</i>	<i>£3.50 per bird</i>
<i>10<sup>th</sup>, June</i>	<i>POITIERS (2)</i>	<i>£3.50 per bird</i>
<i>17<sup>th</sup> July</i>	<i>Le Mans</i>	<i>£3.00 per bird</i>
<i>19<sup>th</sup> August</i>	<i>Guernsey YB /AA</i>	<i>£3.00 per bird</i>
<i>9<sup>th</sup> Sept</i>	<i>Falaise YB/AA</i>	<i>£3.00 per bird</i>

#### **INTERNATIONALS**

<i>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June</i>	<i>Pau</i>	<i>£8.00 per bird</i>
<i>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>Agen</i>	<i>£6.50 per bird</i>
<i>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July</i>	<i>Barcelona</i>	<i>£8.00 per bird</i>
<i>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July</i>	<i>St Vincent</i>	<i>£8.00 per bird</i>
<i>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July</i>	<i>Marseilles</i>	<i>£8.00 per bird</i>
<i>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August</i>	<i>Perpignan</i>	<i>£8.00 per bird</i>

*For the Annual Subscription of £25.00 and a one off Joining Fee of £5.00 for new members, fanciers have the opportunity to compete at all levels – sprint / middle /long distances and Internationally in a program of fifteen races. So come and join us, you know it makes sense.*

## NATIONAL RACE WINNERS 2016

*"Red Eyes"*

GB14N28351  
1st Sec W 1st Open British International  
Championship Club Alencon 2016  
Raced by E Reilly & Son, Barnstaple.



*"Southfold Sebastian"*

GB13J11314  
1st CS Sec 1st Open British International  
Championship Club Falaise 2016  
1st CS Sect 1st Open British International  
Championship Club Agen 2016  
Raced by M Gilbert, Winkfield



*"Mr White"*

GB15N87198  
1st Sec ES 1st Open British  
International Championship Club  
Le Mans 2016  
Raced by J Clarke & Dir, Selling



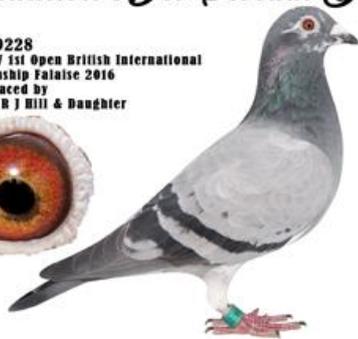
*"Leading Lady"*

GB15N68779  
1st Sec ES 1st Open British International  
Championship Club Guernsey 0/B 2016  
Raced by Nicky Watis, Southminster.



*"Rhannon's Jet Stream Girl"*

GB13S79228  
1st Sect W 1st Open British International  
Championship Club Falaise 2016  
Bred & Raced by  
Mr & Mrs R J Hill & Daughter



*"Stan's Machine"*

1st Sec CS 1st Open British International  
Championship Club Guernsey Y/B 2016  
Raced by S Ferguson, Brighton.

GB16B33354



*"Gwasted Polly"*

1ST Cwmillery R.P.C  
1ST Llanilloth B/B  
1ST E Sect, 1ST WSR Federation  
1ST E Sect 1ST WSR National  
1ST W Sect 1ST OPEN BICC  
FALAISE Y/B 235mis  
219 Members Sent 1578b  
Bred & Raced by  
Preece Bros & Sons

GB16A33272



*Montage by Chris Sutton*

# INTERNATIONAL RACE WINNERS 2016

## *"Southfield Supreme Junior"*

GB13J11060

1st Sec CS 1st Open British International  
Championship Club Pau 2016  
Raced by M Gilbert, Winkfield



## *"Southfield Sebastian"*

GB13J11314

1st CS Sec 1st Open British International  
Championship Club Falaise 2016  
1st CS Sect 1st Open British International  
Championship Club Agen 2016  
Raced by M Gilbert, Winkfield



## *"Southfield Emma"*

GB14P08770

1st Sec CS 1st Open British International  
Championship Club St Vincent 2016  
Raced by M Gilbert, Winkfield



## *"Tommy's Boy"*

GB10F8983

1st Sec NE 1st Open British International  
Championship Club Marseille 2016  
Owned & Raced by  
A & T Wright, Norwich



## *"At Last"*

GB11A17453

1st Sec ES 1st Open British International  
Championship Club Barcelona 2016  
Raced by R. Dove, Kingsnorth.



## *"Lady Teresa"*

GB14N14592

1st Sec ES 1st Open British International  
Championship Club Perpignan 2016  
Raced by J Chipperfield, Herne Bay



*Montage by Chris Sutton*

*BICC secretary Carol Francis has asked that any trophies that are still in the hands of previous winners but were not returned in time for the 2016 presentation be returned to her immediately. You know who you are, so please get the trophies back to the secretary so that future*

*winners will have the honour and pleasure of receiving them at a forthcoming presentation.*

*Our treasurer Russell Bradford informs me that there has yet to be a reply to the RPRA's request to the FCI to see if the 2017 six digit rings can be accepted for International racing.*

*I have included with this brief report some photos of BICC members who have suffered serious health problems over recent months. I'm sure all BICC members and indeed fanciers everywhere will join me in wishing club President John Tyerman, along with David Hales, Dave Padfield and John Smale a swift return to good health, best of luck lads.*



*John Tyerman [C] with Carol and Kevin Bakes*



*David Hales pictured with Carol at a recent BICC PD*



***Dave Padfield***



***John Smale 2nd Open BICC 4th Open International St Vincent  
pictured with Clare Bradford and Carol Francis BICC secretary***

***I have also included a photo of the recent cheque presentation to young  
Harvey Watson of Cornwall.***



***Presentation of the cheque to Harvey's parents Steve and Tamsin along  
with Trevor Jenkin, Sandra Watson and Harvey's sister Layla***

*Harvey has a serious life limiting health condition and needs an operation in the very near future if he is to have a chance of leading something like a normal life. Various activities have been arranged to help raise the funds to pay for Harvey's operation which cannot be funded on the NHS. In 2017 the BICC has taken up Harvey's cause and all monies raised from the "Z" pool will go towards Harvey's Fund. I recently asked a number of BICC members if they would donate a pigeon for auction on the Elimar website in order to bolster Harvey's Fund and I have to thank the following generous fanciers who stood up to the mark and gifted pigeons to this worthy cause, so take a bow :-*

*David Hales and Duncan Goodchild; Kevin and Lee Buddle; Alan Turner; Frank and George Bristow; Bill Knox; David and Gary Heywood; John Gladwin & Family of Formula 1 Lofts; John Smale; John Ludlam; Ray Strawbridge and John Williams; Dave & Vince Padfield ; Jim & Hazel Hooper and last but not least D Wilton & son. You did the BICC proud lads. Many thanks on Harvey's behalf. The auction is still ongoing, so if any other BICC members or indeed any fancier nationwide would like to contribute to helping this young lad lead as normal a life as his condition will allow please, get in touch with me on the email and phone number given at the end of this report. I will then pass on your offer to the Watson family. Alternatively, you can go direct to Harvey's uncle Trevor Jenkin on **01736 / 361347** or **E-Mail [trevorchristine@talktalk.net](mailto:trevorchristine@talktalk.net)***

*Finally, a personal request from me as Press Officer, to those fanciers who are successful in the 2017 BICC races. Would all those fanciers who time pigeons to feature in the top three of the section results and in the top ten of the Open results please make every effort to contact me **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** on the day after clocking so that I can compile the race report in time for the very tight deadline for printing in the following week's pigeon papers.*

*In the past I have had to resort to phoning [sometimes several times], emailing and texting some fanciers and have even had to resort to press ganging third parties into contacting the successful fanciers. As this is my last season as BICC Press Officer, I would greatly appreciate your help and cooperation in giving you and your pigeons the publicity you both deserve.*

*My contact details are as follows:-*

*Email [Gcymro@aol.com](mailto:Gcymro@aol.com)*

*Telephone 01443 / 435684.*

*Here's wishing good luck and good racing to all.*

*Gareth Watkins*