

Charity Support by the BICC

Pigeon fanciers are a generous bunch by and large. Whether it be helping a new starter in the sport, supporting a fellow fancier when they have had a flyaway or have to spend some time away from the lofts for a holiday or a hospital stay, pigeon folk always seem to answer the rallying call. Sometimes we spend a lot of time talking about the negatives in this hobby, and really there aren't that many, we just perceive there is due to the amount of time and energy wasted on the subjects! However, we must remember the generosity of the fancy and clubs up and down the country do so many things to help people within the hobby and also those outside the hobby.

The BICC is no different and over the past 12-18 months two very worthwhile causes have had the support of the BICC. Young Harvey Watson is the first. An inspiring boy who is not very well and the "Helping Harvey" fund was established to give Harvey as many opportunities as possible, this is something that the committee of the BICC wanted to support, and support it we did. Just shy of £500 was raised by the BICC towards this great cause and the committee voted unanimously to top this up to the £500 mark. All that was left to do was for Gareth Watkins, a splendid ambassador for the British International Championship Club, to make the cheque presentation to Harvey on a recent visit down to Cornwall.

As well as "Helping Harvey", the club have also been resolute in their support of Caron Keating Foundation, supporting families and sufferers of cancer, no doubt a subject very close to many of our hearts. Gloria Hunniford is a major player within this foundation and the club was delighted when we received a personal letter from Gloria thanking the member of the club for the £1,164 which had been raised to support the Caron Keating Foundation.

We have challenges within this great hobby of ours, but what we must remember is that there are people out there, in our own communities, who have much greater an if we are honest, more meaningful challenges. Pigeon racing should be enjoyed, embraced and used to promote the many great things that the fancy does each and every year. Let's all try and remember that when we are sat in our next meeting and something doesn't quote go our way! As Stuart Wilcox said to me at Uttoxeter yesterday, "it's only pigeons."

John Ghent

Press Officer, BICC

