

Hullbridge Pigeon Club



Jack Martin

Let's start off with wishing everybody out there a belated very happy new year from all of us here at the Hullbridge Pigeon Club. What will the new year have in store for us all? My dream is to win a National in a distance race. I have been buying in some cracking birds from a very well known and respected distance flier from Ramsgate, Kent. It's now down to me to put some work in, pick up a few tips from some of our National winners within the club and see what I can do. I have got the blood so no excuses. From here on in it is going to be hard work all the way. You only get out of your pigeons a return on what you have put in to them. What about you, the readers of this column, what are your dreams for the coming season? I would love to hear about them and maybe publish a few.

I know that many people are very early breeders whereas others stick to Valentine's Day. Who's right and who's wrong? Personally I don't think it makes

much difference provided the conditions are right and the birds are fit and ready. My distance stock birds are all down on eggs or squabs but the race team will have to be a bit patient. I know they are all raring to go and I'm very tempted to open up the sections and let them choose their own mate, but I mustn't let my heart rule my head. I so much want to join the elite of the club and win a big one. Time, like so many of us, is not on my side so something big must happen soon.

The weekend of 17th January saw the Show of the Year held at Blackpool. Formula 1 who race with us will be there with some top quality birds so hopefully you will have grabbed yourself a bargain. I heard on the grapevine that they have gone for an early auction so they will have plenty of time to partake in a few glasses of whatever they fancy. Personally, I won't be going, I just can't keep up with the club drinkers. Once they hit the bar there is

nothing stopping them. We were all young once. Sitting in my front room, all I could hear was my phone pinging non-stop with people on Hullbridge chat line messaging each other. It turns out that the crazy gang, aka the Hullbridge boys were hitting the town as early as lunchtime on the Friday. On reading the messages it was clear that it was non-stop barracking of each other. Unfortunately, Luke Skywalker, being on the portly side, was taking more than his fair share of the micky taking. As was John Cowlin who was being ribbed rotten for being non-stop on the phone to his wife Debbie. That's what happens when you're young and in love.

We have had some very good news within the Thames. Another three clubs are turning south and joining us. Our membership must be around the 150 mark, if not more. Fantastic news by anybody's standard. I believe plans are in place to have a standby vehicle just in case birdage exceeds the lorry's capacity. Well done to the committee on some forward thinking. Another bit of news is that once again we are having the futurity sales with the hope of reaching the £20,000 prize money mark. I stand corrected if I'm wrong, but I also understand that because of the size of the Thames and the area covered by the sales, there may be Section prizes to encourage more people to enter.

Racing will be on us again before we know it, so it's time to knuckle down and get the birds fit and ready for the season ahead. I have no more photos for this article but hopefully there will be some in the pipeline before too long.

Enjoy your sport everyone. Regards to Paddy in Dublin.

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