

Thames North & Eastern Counties Flying Club

With all the race reports completed for 2019, the only points left to close out the season are the round up on all the results and of course the presentation night of which this year will be on Saturday 28th March at Pitsea Football Club, Crown Avenue, Basildon, Essex, SS13 2BE. Tickets are £8 for adults and £4 for under 10s. This includes a DJ and buffet. I hope to see as many members and partners/friends as possible and of course non-Thames members are also more than welcome. If you fancy a good night out and no doubt some good pigeon talk, along hopefully with one or two bargain pigeons which are put up for auction and raffle prizes then come along. Last year we had pigeons donated by the likes of Mark

Gilbert, K & J Zerata, just to give you a small taste of the quality on offer.

After the event of course I will be doing a full write up of the night and the attending members. But before that I wanted to break down the numbers into some stats for the 2019 season.

In the main races, 42 different members managed a top 10 finish in the Thames Open results. D. Wilton & Son of the Tilbury Club came out on top in terms of number of wins and top 10 positions during the course of the season with an incredible 5 x 1sts, 5 x 2nds and another 19 top 10 positions, giving them a total of 29. In an organisation with over 100 members, sending on average well over 1,000 pigeons and with a three bird clocking rule, that is some flying. I am sure you will all agree. Well done guys yet another great season inland south road as can be seen, but also over the Channel and even on the north road, with many top results once again in each.

How you like to read results, will influence how you view the runner up spot, as for me there are two options when studying the season's results, positions won in the top 10 or amount of firsts. On this point I will not offer a view and will let you the reader decide how you view it. However, whichever way you look at it the next seven lofts all had great seasons.

I will go down the list in order of number of top 10 positions won, highlighting also the 1st and 2nds won by each member.

Coming in 2nd place and pushing the Wiltons all the way to the finish line was John Cowlin of Hullbridge Club with 2 x 1sts, 4 x 2nds and 18 other top 10 finishes, for a total of 24. Like D. Wilton & Son, John flew a very good pigeon in the Channel as well including having 2nd member, 4th Open in the BICC YB National and 4th Open BICC OB National among his many 2019 results.

Coming in 3rd on number of top 10 positions we have a new member of the Thames for the 2019

season, P. Jackson & Son of Sundridge Park Club with 2 x 1sts, 3 x 2nds and 13 other top 10 positions for a very good total of 18. Like the previous two they also flew a good pigeon in the Nationals with some very good results including 2nd, 4th, 5th, 8th and 10th Open BICC in one race alone. It is great to see new members come in and do well from the start.

Finishing in 4th spot is Tony Buckfield of Hullbridge Club with a very good tally of 17 times in the top 10. Tony also flew very well across the water this year and this is a new test for him as he has always been an exceptional sprint fancier but in the last two seasons he has tried to aim more and more for the Channel events and this paid off with some good National positions and winning the UBI Combine for Falaise.

Taking 5th with 1 x 1st and 2 x 2nds and 13 other top 10 positions, we have Frank Aloisio from Hullbridge. Frank also had his best year across the water, only recently going fully south road. Frank was well up in many of the Nationals and also won the Thames Breeder/Buyer along with £5,000 in prize money. In addition he also got a couple of pigeons ready for the longest north road race from Thurso and won the Combine with his super cock bird (Peter C). For me it was one of the best Thurso performances I can remember. Unfortunately Frank will not be racing pigeons in the near future. You will be badly missed mate.

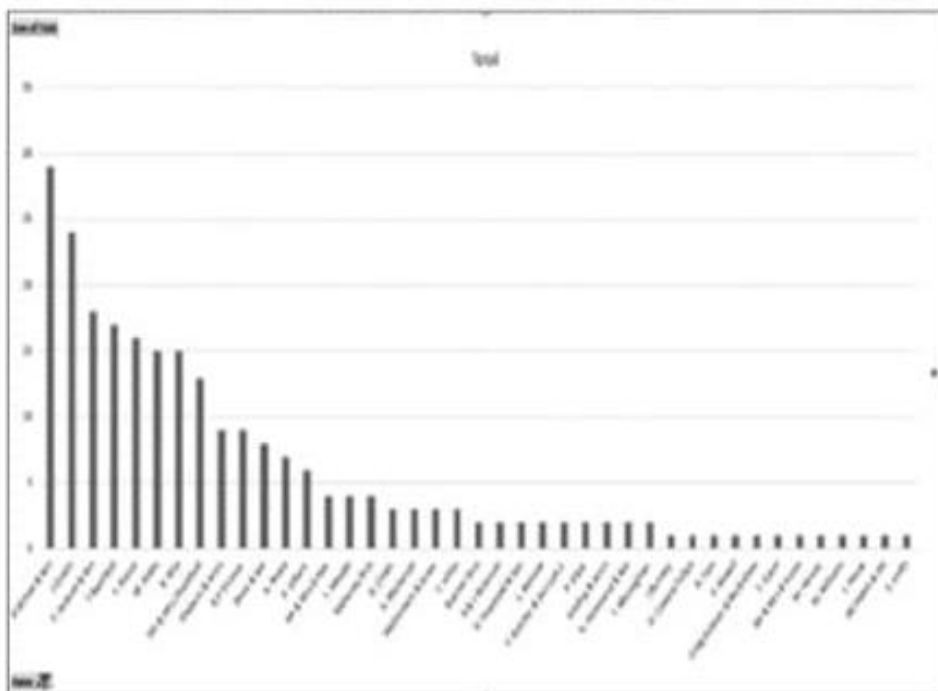
Finishing in 6th spot via the number of top 10 finishes but joint second on the number of actual firsts with 3 x 1sts, and 3 x 3rds we have one of our very best sprint fanciers in Bob Wija of Colchester Club. Bob also had nine other top 10 finishes for a total of 15. Bob's team of Leo Heremans certainly did well for him again in 2019.

Coming in 7th is M. Watts of Hullbridge, and considering he only flew around 50% of the races, I am sure you will agree he had a brilliant season by anyone's standards when you also consider the small fact of 2 x 1st National winners including taking the first three from Le Mans BICC National and first two from BICC Guernsey National. Inland Micky also won 2 x 1st and 1 x 2nd for a total of 15 top 10 positions. Well done Micky a great season yet again.

Coming in 8th, though again they could be considered second highest prizewinners with 3 x 1st and 2 x 2nds we have the brilliant partnership of Mr & Mrs J Buckfield from Hullbridge. They had one of the best seasons ever in the history of north road racing in Essex with three Combine wins from four Combine races plus an Amal win. I am sure



Robbie, Andrew and Louie Wilton.



Graph of how many positions in the top 10 each fancier won.



P. Jackson & Son.



Frank Aloisio.

you will agree in that is one hell of a season by anyone's standards. Heaven help us if John & Pat decide to have a full go at south road racing, one day.

Coming in 9th, we have another top loft in R. P. Thomas, also from Hullbridge with 1 x 1st and 1 x 2nd, seven other top 10 finishes. Paul also moved his sights more towards Channel racing, having raced mainly inland for his first two seasons on the south road and I predict it will not be long, quite possibly in 2020 that Paul adds a National win to his already impressive CV of Combine/Amal winners.

Completing the top 10 with nine top 10 finishes was myself, Gladwin & Jarvis mainly aimed at the Channel in 2019 and supporting the new Super 6 format.

Beyond the top 10, the following all won a Thames race, Paul Gilbert, McDermott & Jones, A. Mackenzie, F. White, D. Heywood & Son and M. Harvey. As I said at the start, 43 members made the top 10 during the season. When you look at the quality of fanciers you start to realise what an achievement it is to win the Thames. When you consider we have National winners that have not won the Thames and some members taking more top 10 National positions than top 10 Thames positions in 2019, I hope it helps puts into perspective just how strong the competition really is.

I have included a graph of how many positions in the top 10 each fancier won, who had at least one top 10 finish in 2019 in the main lib races. Well done to all and let's hope for another great season in 2020.

As we move on to the Super 6 races, I would like to remind everyone this was a new concept for 2019. The reason behind the Super 6 is to try and



Rodney Royce.

give a level playing field for all members, with no drag involved as you can only send a maximum of six birds per week. This also opens up more possibilities for people to hopefully race for some money as everyone has an equal chance. For this reason we made the cost to send £1.65 a bird instead of the normal 65p the extra £1 all goes to prize money which is split into three prizes. To help the prize fund go around only the first pigeon per loft counts, so a maximum of one card can be won per loft per week with a maximum of one hit of the prize money per loft, per week.

Moving onto the results and it was great to see many fanciers having a go in the first season and equally great to see the prizes and money being spread around with 19 members all winning some money during the season and 28 members all making the top six during the season. What was also very pleasing and hopefully you can see this from both graphs, there were some different names in the top 10 compared to the main race results, in fact only five members managed to finish in the top 10 in both formats.

On to the breakdown of the results. In 1st with amount of wins and top six finishes was myself Gladwin & Jarvis. As I mentioned above I was a big supporter of this format, as originally it was my idea to introduce this format of racing into the Thames. I must say I also found as a bonus element it was not just good for sending six sprint pigeons, I decided to send three birds set up for sprinting and three I wanted for the Channel races and I found the birds which did these formats performed much better for me in the Nationals, in fact my first pigeons from the first three Channel races had all done at least three Super 6 races beforehand. Just some food for thought. Maybe the Super 6 is not just great for high class sprint races but could also be good to get the Channel birds some experience of thinking and coming in smaller groups. I finished with 4 x 1st, 3 x 2nds and 2 x 3rds Open Thames and 15 top six finishes.

Next up in terms of top six positions won, was Mr T. McLaughlin who had a superb season in this format. For me this is the exactly what this format was meant to do, he has a smallish team and works long hours and this gives him a level footing to perform on a weekly basis. He won 1 x 1st, 2 x 2nd and 4 x 3rd Open Thames and 12 top six finishes. A very big well done.

Coming in 3rd on top six finishes we have another loft which had an exceptional season in all formats. In the Super 6 Frank Aloisio won 1 x 2nd, 2 x 3rd and 11 top six finishes.

Next up we have the most consistent loft over both formats if you look at the stats he was in 4th



Micky & Sally Watts.

place in both formats, Tony Buckfield. He also had joint second place in terms of number of actual 1sts by winning 3 x 1st, 1 x 2nd, 1 x 3rd and 10 top 11 finishes.

Just being pipped in terms of positions won but drawing on actual firsts we have Tony's mum & dad, Mr & Mrs J Buckfield who also won 3 x 1sts along with 2 x 2nd, 1 x 3rd and eight top six positions in total. I will leave the Buckfield family to agree or not on who came out on top, does an extra 2nd place trump two extra top 6 finishes? One to debate next Sunday down the club, I reckon.

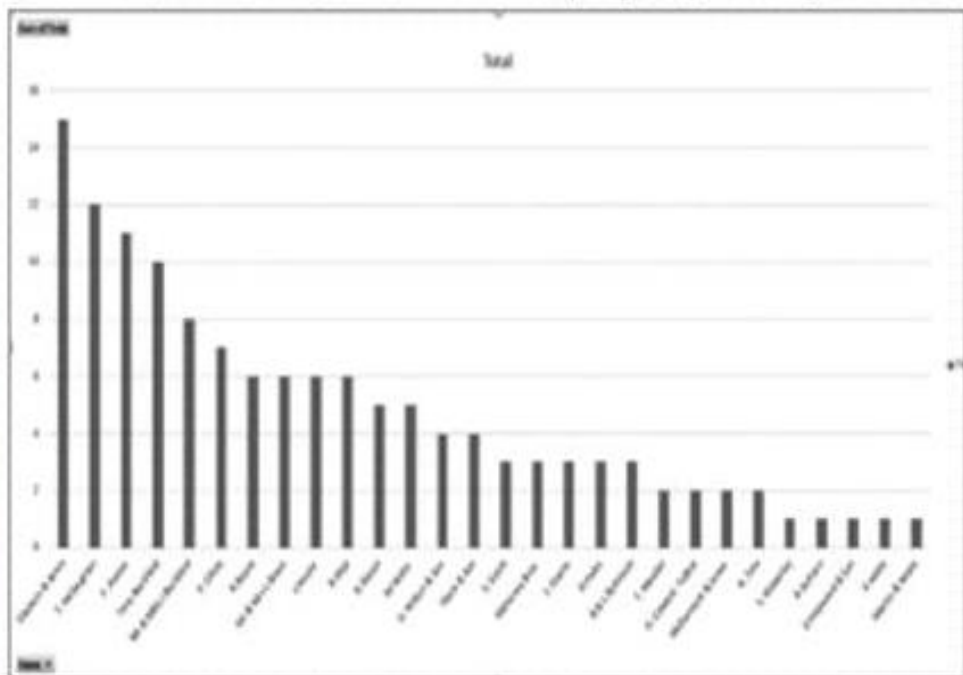
Next up is another fancier who the Super 6 format was kind of designed for and that is Paul Elliott. Paul is another small team fancier that concentrates on sprint inland racing. The Super 6 allows fanciers like Paul to fly on a level footing each week. Paul flew a good pigeon as always to win 1 x 1st, 2 x 2nd and 4 x 3rds and a total of seven top six finishes.

Coming in 7th we have another loft which flew very well in both formats in 2019, the Colchester ace Bob Wija who won 2 x 1st, 2 x 2nd, 1 x 3rd and six top six positions.

Taking 8th we have another top fancier who has done very well since turning south road and that is Rodney Royce, who managed 2 x 1sts, 1 x 2nd and six top six finishes.

Coming in 9th we have another fancier who currently really suits this format following a house move and building up a new team and that is one of our hard working committee members Joe House. A little bird also tells me, Joe is going to help run the BICC marking station in 2020. At the Estuary Club, Joe won 1 x 1st, 2 x 3rd and six top six finishes in total.

Completing the top 10 and very unfortunate not



Graph for the Super 6 races and each fancier who managed a top six finish.



Bob Wija.

to get a win, still managing 2 x 2nd and six top six positions was Mr & Mrs L Brace.

Other race winners were Micky Watts with 2 x 1st, 1 x 2nd and five top six finishes. Also D. Wilton & son with 2 x 1st and 4 top 6 finishes. And last but not least Mahoney Bros with 2 x 1sts and three top six finishes.

I have included a graph for the Super 6 races and each fancier who managed a top six finish.

I would like to personally say a big well done and thank you to everyone who supported the Thames in 2019 and welcome aboard to the many new members we have for 2020, which I believe is around 40 new members. The Thames must be doing something right, as most of what I read is about diminishing numbers and birds, however, the Thames is growing at a rapid rate and even beyond our own expectations.

Just to give you an update, the Super 6 has an extra element for 2020. We have a £1,000 sponsorship which will be flown for in a league/points format over the season. The prize money will be split over two halves of the season, so anyone not starting until young bird etc can still have a go at the money. From the buzz I get when speaking to members, I also think the weekly prize money will be at least a £100 a race in 2020. So I would highly recommend fanciers putting six birds aside, just for these races as there will be a nice pot of money to walk away with in 2020. As you can see below the way the money is split plenty of people should have a nice pick up.

Super 6 Points League: 10 points for 1st; 8 points for 2nd; 6 points for 3rd; 4 points for 4th; 2 points for 5th; plus an extra 1 point for sending for each member per week including members who win points for being in top five. Prizes will be split as follows. The first half of season prize fund runs from race 1 up to and including race 14.

Race 15 up to race 23 (only inland races are



Tony Buckfield, John Cowlin and Lee Bastone.

included) is considered second half of the season. First prize for complete season's £400 (the loft with highest number of points after all 23 races). Second prize for complete season £200, (the loft with second highest number of points after all 23 races). Third prize for complete season £100, (the loft with third highest number of points after all 23 races). First prize first half of season £100, (the loft with highest number of points after race 14). Second prize first half of season £50, (the loft with second most points after race 14). First prize second half of season £100, (the loft with most point between race 15 and 23). Second prize second half of season £50, (the loft with second most points between races 15 and 23). In addition the weekly prize money is split 50%, 30%, 20%, this is calculated by taking in all income and dividing by the amount of races and then doing the split mentioned.

Finally, don't forget the Thames Gold Rings can be bought now for the Thames North Eastern Counties Gold ring race, which is flown on the BICC second young bird race. Rings are £10 each and a maximum of 10 per loft. Please call Rachael Bacon on 07718 882067 or look on the Thames website where these can be ordered and paid for, www.thamesnec.co.uk. We paid out £4,350 in 2019 and we hope and expect to pay out more in 2020. So get your rings even if you live in an unfavourable Section in the BICC, this race is a great bet as we also pay Section prizes for all BICC Sections, with all Section winners getting the exact same prize money which is not dependent on how many rings are sold in each Section.

The Thames is also running a Moot on 29th

February at The Grange Celtic Supporters Club, Grainger Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 5DD. Tickets are £10 each and include a fish and chip supper. Already confirmed on the panel are Mark Gilbert, D & J Staddon, David Coward-Talbot, Mark Bulled (further panellists may be announced). I am sure you will agree this is a top line up of all round fanciers who win at sprint, middle and long distances, with old and young birds. So whatever racing you like I am sure you cannot fail to learn something new from this Moot.

In addition please look out for the Breeder/Buyer sales each weekend in March, after paying out £18,100 in 2019 we are hoping to break the £20k mark in 2020. Anyone can enter but only BICC members can buy. Come and be part of something very exciting and rewarding.

I am sure all the Thames members and the people who have supported the Thames, during 2019 will join me in saying a very big thank you to the best Secretary in pigeons, Miss Rachael Bacon on doing such a great job.

Lastly I am sorry if I have not put pictures in and details of your winning pigeons over the season but this is because I do not have them if no one sends me any details. I do try and find pictures etc but it is not always possible. Could I suggest each marking station appoint someone to send me the info each week, just a few lines on the winning pigeons and a quick picture would make such a difference. I would very much like to give everyone the full credit they deserve in 2020.

As always any news or views to john.gladwin@hotmail.co.uk and please have a look at the Thames new website for any further information www.thamesnec.co.uk



Davis & Son.



Mr & Mrs J Buckfield.



Gladwin & Jarvis.

