

Hullbridge Pigeon Club

Hello everybody, it's time to bring you up to date with what is happening or has happened within this Club of ours within the last season, and for that matter, what the future has in store.

Firstly, our mother club, The Thames & North Eastern Counties has swollen its ranks to around the 150 mark. That, by anybody's standards, in this day and age, with the sport in decline the way it is, is an absolutely fantastic achievement. It has to be said that word has spread far and wide about the camaraderie that is shared between the membership. The breeder/buyer/futurity sales made many fanciers aware of the hard work that was put in by the membership. It gave an insight into what clubs are capable of when valuable work has to be done if results are to be obtained. The main thing is that because of the sales and the transporter fundraising evenings that we held, people became familiar with the Thames and all that it stood for. One person who shines along with others is the Thames Secretary Rachael Bacon. Rachael does an exceptional job in looking after all the admin and has become very well known far and wide by fanciers all over who recognise her for the hard work that she does. Long may she reign!

This weekend the 8th February brings the BICC presentation celebration. The Hullbridge has booked 13 people in for the booze up, sorry presentation of the trophies. Once again our Club will be receiving a few more awards for yet another successful year of National racing.

Micky Watts is up there for winning 1st, 2nd and 3rd Le Mans (2) and 1st and 2nd Guernsey OB receiving two special trophies. Gladwin Jarvis & Family of Formula 1 Lofts won 1st Agen, winning the Mark Gilbert Trophy and the Channel Queen Trophy for the highest hen position in all International races. They also won the 2Bird Average from Agen, gaining 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th.

A couple more Hullbridge members have gained some notable results. Dean Childs, with the BBC won a very respectable 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th, what an achievement. We mustn't forget Tony Buckfield who won the UBI Combine from Falaise. We also have John Buckfield who flies both north and south and has had some phenomenal success on the north winning, I believe, 3 x 1st Combine and 11 x 1st Club. Absolutely great flying from all concerned.

Now I have just heard some unconfirmed reports that another Hullbridge member, Paul Stacey has pulled off what must be the result of the year. He has scored an amazing 5th Open in the South African Million Dollar Race. This has yet to be confirmed but a little bird told me that he had won in the region of a whopping €60,000. Well done Paul, absolutely fantastic result.

Now I have to say that I had decided, due to old age, to have a break from being press officer for the Hullbridge. I was finding it very hard to find things of interest to write about in the closed season. So, after consultation with management



Jack Martin



John Cowlin.

(my better half!) we came to the joint decision to let somebody younger and brighter to take over. I sent a message out to the membership via the Hullbridge chat line to let everybody know what was going on. After being trampled in the rush of volunteers, I brushed myself down and had a cup of tea to settle my nerves. However I had several messages of support asking me to reconsider and carry on. I can honestly say that Tony and John Buckfield were the two people foremost in my decision reversal. The things that were said and messaged to me by many of the membership made me realise how important the articles were to the Club. It took a lot of soul searching but here I am once again sitting in front of my trusty laptop churning out more Club news for the coming season.

Before I finish, I have to say that the members that did go to Bournemouth for the BICC presentation had a fantastic time and did their best to drink the bar dry.

Regards to Paddy in Dublin who has gone off the radar.

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Lee Bastone.



Tony Buckfield.



Micky & Sally Watts.



John & Theresa Gladwin.