

Thames North & Eastern Counties Flying Club

Having finally caught up with 2019, it is time to look forward to 2020. The Thames is moving on at a frightening rate with many changes coming in 2020, including more clubs joining, many more new members and some very exciting changes to the Super 6.

First let's mention the new clubs we have taken in. First up we have the Hadleigh Club, a very long established club in the Essex area. My mum & dad have trophies at home from the early 70's from this Club. In fact technically, this was my first club as mum & dad were flying in Hadleigh when I was born. In fact literally when I was born, as I was born on the first young bird race and my dad timed in the birds before heading up to the hospital to find I had already been born. 45 years later and I am not sure mum has fully forgiven him. The next club we have taken in is Hutton, another club which has been around for a long while and has a very good history of top fanciers both today and over the years. Finally we have the Dagenham Club, this I think will be a great growth area for the Thames going forward as London is still a hotbed of north road

racing and hopefully this Club will gain a lot of members in the next couple of seasons.

In addition to this I think each existing club in the Thames has picked up new members for the 2020 season. This means the Thames now has over 150 members and it is still growing on a weekly basis. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you on board and thank you for your support and wish you every success in 2020 and beyond.

The other big change ahead of the 2020 season is the Super 6, and from what I hear the change has really got people thinking and interested in this type of racing and the interest seems to be gathering at a good pace. What are the changes? Well, we are running a points system which runs in three parts, one covers the whole season and the other two cover what would traditionally be called the old and young bird seasons. However, in the Thames we do not have split seasons as it is any age racing throughout the whole season and this is the same for the Super 6.



The 2019 Messac winners, C. & J. Howse and family.

Any age pigeon can win any race from start to finish.

So how does it work? We have a sponsored £1,000 to be won, kindly donated by a Thames member. Each fancier who sends to a Super 6 race will receive 1 point for sending. Additional points will be given for the first five positions in each race, i.e. 1st = 10 points; 2nd = 8 points; 3rd = 6 points; 4th = 4 points; 5th = 2 points. (Five different lots to win these points in each race.) The



David Coward-Talbot.



Tip Top Tora, raced by Gladwin & Jarvis (a full brother/sister will be in the auction).



Davis & Son.



Dean Childs with his dad holding young Sidney.



Gosling & Jarvis.



D. & J. Staddon.



John & Pat Buckfield.

£1,000 prize money will be awarded to those with the highest number of points at each point in the season: Races 1-14 (first half of season): the lofts with the most points win £100 for 1st and £50 for 2nd. Races 15-23 (second half of season): again 1st and 2nd receive £100 and £50. Races 1-23 (overall): The lofts with the most points win 1st £400, 2nd £200, 3rd £100. The entry fee of £1.65 is made up of: £1 prize money, 65p race entry fee. The prize money of £1 per pigeon will also continue and be split evenly between each race and paid out at the end of the season, just as it did in 2019. Three different lofts will take prize money on each race (one prize per loft each week), 1st 50%, 2nd 30%, 3rd 20%. With the added interest I can easily see the prize money being £100 a week or more. All in all, there will be a nice amount of money to race for. So get on board Thames members and make this another nice success and hopefully win a nice few pounds at the end of the season.

The next change is we have added a fourth sale date to our Breeder/Buyer sales, due to the number of people wanting to enter. These sales start on 8th March and we have a sale each weekend in March, please look on our website for each date and venue, www.thamesnec.co.uk. The first of these is at Sundridge Park HQ, post code BR1 5AF, penning from 10am. I am pretty confident we can break the £20,000 payout in 2020. The race will be held on the first BICC National young bird race. We have one of the best line ups of pigeons promised, I have ever seen for

this type of sale, with pigeons coming from some of the very best and well known fanciers in Belgium, Holland, Scotland, Wales and England. However, we fully encourage all fanciers to put in and all BICC members to buy birds, as this has to be one of the best bets in pigeon racing, in the past some birds have been sold for as little as £25 and will hopefully be racing for £20,000+. There should be lots of prize money and prizes up for grabs and some of the cheapest birds last year took the main prize money. It does not matter if you are a champion or a novice the chances are the same for all.

We also have a Moot for the very first time on Saturday 29th February held at The Grange Celtic Supporters Club, Grainger Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 5DD. What a line up we have, Mark Gilbert, D. & J. Staddon, David Coward-Talbot and Mark Bullied. All four are what I call true all round fanciers that have and do win right through the card from 60-600 miles, year in, year out. I am sure each and every one will learn something from these guys on the night. Can you afford to miss out on all that knowledge?

On Saturday 28th March, the Thames will be holding our annual presentation night to honor all the winners and members of the Thames. This will be held at Pitsea Football Club, Crown Avenue, Basildon, Essex, SS13 2BE. Tickets are just £8 for adults and £4 for under 10s. There will be a bar, DJ and buffet on the night. Non-Thames members are welcome, tickets are on a first come, first served basis, and can be ordered via our website www.thamesnec.co.uk.

The Thames is also running an internet auction on the Pigeon Chat Auction Site, this will start on Sunday 23rd February and end on Sunday 1st March at 8pm. All funds raised are to help cover the running costs for the Messac YB Open National race to be flown on Wednesday 9th September. Donors for this auction include, C. & J. Howse, the 2019 winners, D. & J. Staddon, Mark Gilbert, Mr & Mrs J. Buckfield, Lee Bastone, Dean Childs, K. & J. Zerafa, David Hales, Fred Cornwell, Formula 1 Lofts, P. Jackson & Son, David Coward-Talbot, D. Heywood & Son, Tony Buckfield, Tanner & Symonds, J. Gerrard, Gosling & Jarvis & Davis & Son. I am sure you will agree this is an impressive line-up. Hopefully the money raised will help cover the costs for running the Messac race. The quality on offer is off the scale, direct children of National winners, same way bred as National winners, a child of the 2019 Messac race winner, a direct child of Splendid Bolt, responsible for over 50 x 1st, NFC and BICC Merit Award winners and much, much more. Any one of these 18 lots would grace any stock loft in the country.



Jackson & Son.

Don't forget Gold Rings can be bought now for our Young Bird Gold Ring race which is flown on the BICC's second young bird race. Rings are £10 each, 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. 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. All Section winners get the same prize money, it is not dependent on how many are sold in each Section.

As mentioned the Thames just keeps growing in terms of members and events we are running. It is a truly progressive organisation that is always looking to move forward. In only a couple of seasons it looks like we may have outgrown our transporter for some races, so the committee is working hard to make sure we have alternatives for these races. As I have said, there are plans and back up plans, so please rest assured, we will get all birds to the races and no one will be turned down or be capped on amount that can be sent.

A huge amount of work goes on behind the scenes to make these events work and be successful, most of it unpaid and unseen by the majority of members. So please come along and support as many events as you can in anyway you can. It is the only way these things continue to flourish and grow. As mentioned already, all these events are also open to non-Thames members and it is great to have non-members attending and participating. Tickets and info on all events can be found on the website.

Any news or views to john.gladwin@hotmail.co.uk



A montage of Dave & Gary Heywood birds.



M. Symonds from the Tanner & Symonds partnership.