

Hullbridge Pigeon Club



Jack Martin



Young Ethan lucky bidder.

My goodness, where do I start with this write up? It looks like it is all doom and gloom for the pigeon fraternity once again. Maybe it is just me but this is how I see things. Pigeon racing is 'temporarily banned' to avoid too many people congregating in one area and spreading the virus. I mean, come on, one driver going to the liberation site, not mixing with any crowds and then releasing the birds. OK, what about mixing in the clubs on marking or strike night? How hard would it be with the majority of clubs these days to regulate how many people can mark at a time. We are not children and a vast majority of us are in the 'at risk' category, myself included, and I'm sure we are as concerned with our personal welfare as anybody. The one big question I have is, why was the Cheltenham horse racing allowed to go ahead with thousands of people standing shoulder to shoulder with no restrictions? Surely can't be



Rachel Bacon working hard.

anything to do with it being a mainly rich mans sport could it? After all, I wonder what would happen if our patron The Queen were to step in and have something to say about the ban, food for thought!

The Thames had the second of its four planned futurity sales on Saturday 14th March in Reigate. We had a good turnout with over 80 lots to choose from. All of the usual helpers were there who I shall name, Dave Coward-Talbot, Gary Heyward, Michael Symonds, Frankie



John Gladwin giving out the rules.



Getting ready for the birds.



Getting the tables set up.



Auction underway.



Punters moving in.

White, Theresa Gladwin, not forgetting our very hard working Secretary Rachael Bacon who works extremely hard and of course our resident auctioneer John Gladwin. We were afforded a nice big venue for the auction with the all important bar just a few feet away. There was plenty of time for the penning and Michael and David worked tirelessly to get the birds into the correct pens along with any relevant paperwork. At 2.30 sharp the auctioneer spelt out the rules of the sales including details of Gold and Futurity rings on offer. Sale on. There was also a young bird in the raffle from National winner Lee Bastone of a quality bird going to some lucky punter.

Bidding was brisk and slowly but surely the monies were soon adding up towards the £20,000 prize total after the fourth planned sale. Of course none of this would be possible without the hard workers who set the whole thing up and

of course you, the punters who spent their money hoping for a share of the prize fund. In amongst the bidders was a young man who certainly knows his way round a football. He must have had his eye on a particular bird because as soon as it was in front of the auctioneer he was on his dad's lap ready to bid and bid he did. Young Ethan was over the moon with his winning offer, although it was dad who had to shell out £100 for the bird, good luck with that one Ethan.

Since starting this write up I have been told of some expected but not wanted news. The third and fourth futurity sales have had to be cancelled. This in itself is going to prove to be a major headache for the committee to sort out. I don't know what will happen concerning the birds all ready purchased, could they carry on later in the year with the sales and turn it into a yearling race instead of a young bird race? I'm

afraid we shall have to leave it to the infinite wisdom of the committee to come up with a solution, good luck with that one.

At the moment my wife has put me on voluntary self isolation so I am not allowed out for my much needed Sunday lunchtime drink down the club house. I am getting withdrawal symptoms from my abstinence from my favourite tippie. Not to mention of course the battle I have with John Buckfield on the crib board and John, Luke and Barry on the dart board who are always happy to take my money!

I'm afraid that all I can bring to this write up is doom and gloom with a sprinkling of hope. Good luck everybody and stay healthy. One good thing out of this is that the Percy's will have to look elsewhere for food.

Regards to Paddy in Dublin, hope you are well. Any news or views to jmtailendcharlie@hotmail.co.uk



The workers.