



Scottish National Racing Pigeon Club

Annual Dinner & Presentation of Prizes

The club's annual presentation took place on Saturday 26th January at the Cairn Hotel Bathgate

Unfortunately our main guests this year Mr David Higgins President of The Royal Pigeon Racing Association and his wife could not attend due to the dreadful snowy conditions which made travelling impossible on this weekend, this was most disappointing as we were very much looking forward to meeting Mr Higgins but I'm sure we will have him as a guest sometime in the near future.

However we were very fortunate to be able to call on our good friend and honorary member Mr Les Blacklock and wife Merle to do the honours a task which Les happily undertook with his usual polished style.

Following the Top Table and Race winners being piped into the hall the President Ian M Brown welcomed the company and invited the Senior Vice President Andy Thomson to say grace.

Following a splendid dinner the President introduced the top table starting with the Senior Vice President Andy Thomson and his wife Margaret, Mr John Ellis and wife Pat, Ian's wife Audrey, Mr Les Blacklock and Merle and finally our secretary John McFall and his wife Marcella.

We were absolutely delighted to have one of Britain's finest fanciers John Ellis and his wife Pat as guests for the evening it was great to see John looking so well, he then proposed the toast to the SNRPC.

The presentation then got underway with the Peterborough Young Bird National, Andrew Lees of Eyemouth came forward to receive his winner's medal and framed 1st Open diploma from former president and honorary member George Wilson. Andrew is a well known and respected fancier throughout Scotland and was proud to add this award to his collection. The section winners who received Bronze medals were Bruce McKenzie Section C, Bert Sharp Section D, Hamilton & Thomson section E and John Murdoch section F.



Andrew Lees of Eyemouth receiving his 1st open silver medal from George Wilson

The next presentation was the Billericay Inland National by Les Blacklock, Peter Virtue and grandson Brodie of Cockburnspath received the winners silver medal and 1st Open diploma. Peter is renowned for timing multiple pigeons from distance races this demonstrates the genuine quality housed in his lofts at Co'Path.

Section Bronze medal winners were: D Armour section C, Jim Shaw section D, John Frod & Son section E and Karl Kelly section F.



Peter Virtue and grandson Brodie being presented with their 1st open Billericay medal from Les Blacklock

Next came the major honour of the night the Gold Medal Presentation for the Reims National Race

President Ian Brown presented a very proud 1st Open winner Frank Baillie of Clackmannan with the award. Frank was on cloud nine when he returned to his table to join his two sons with the newly bestowed gold medal round his neck, and quite rightly so as this is the ultimate achievement for any dedicated distance fancier.

Bronze medal section winners were: John Robertson section B, Gary Hall section C, Ken Buchanan section E and Ian Ross section F.



Frank Baillie of Clackmannan receives the Reims Gold Medal from President Ian Brown



A very proud Frank Baillie with his 1st Open Reims Gold Medal flanked by his two sons

The Fontenay National Silver medal was next to be presented to a very worthy winner Joseph Bowman of Cowdenbeath. This years Fontenay was the hardest race the SNRPC has encountered yet and it was very fitting that the presentation was made by none other than John Ellis who paid tribute to the four gallant pigeons timed in the race. Narrowly beaten into second place was the great partnership of Wilson & Jack of Lanark Davy and Robert came forward to receive there bronze medal as winners of section E. The third pigeon to be timed and winning third open second section C was that of Davy White of Cardenden. The fourth pigeon timed just out of race time was owned by Jim Anderson also of Cardenden.



Joseph Bowman of Cowdenbeath being awarded with his 1st Open Fontenay medal from John Ellis

The last channel race of the season the Arras National was the final race awards to be presented. Regrettably 1st Open and winner of the 1st Yearling Brian Kelly of Chirnside was unable to attend as he was recovering at home after just being discharged from hospital, fellow clubmate Norman Renton of Foulden accepted his awards on his behalf from Senior Vice President Andy Thomson. Bronze medal winners were: Alex Brunton section C, Frank Baillie section D, John McFall section E and Matt Luke & Son section F.

Les Blacklock made the presentation of the Claret Jug for the overall average winner to Davy White of Cardenden this was followed by the Crystal Decanter for the extreme distance average won by Hamilton's Wilson & Jack. Davy White and Wilson & Jack were also presented with their Crystal Plaque's as section average winners. John Ellis presented the Jock Trail Memorial trophy to Joe Bowman for best performance north of the Forth



Joseph Bowman winner of the Jock Trail Trophy
The special Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Nomination from Reims was made by Secretary John McFall to the winner 86 year old John Robertson of Port Seton this consisted of a framed photograph and a cheque for £200.



Jock Robertson with his Diamond Jubilee Award
George Wilson again took the floor to present the John Fairbairn Memorial shield to the Reims winner Frank Baillie.



Davy White being awarded with the Claret Jug as overall average winner



Wilson & Jack Extreme Distance Average winners with the Crystal Decanter

The Scottish National Racing Pigeon Club Champion Awards were next to be presented again by John McFall
And were as follows; Peter Virtue Silver, George Anderson Silver, John Anderson Bronze, Frank Baillie Bronze, George Anderson Bronze and Peter Virtue Bronze.

The secretary completed the presentation by presenting gifts to the guests and main guest Les Blacklock drew an end to the evening with a fine speech where he complimented the club and its members on some of their excellent achievements over the years.

I think we can safely say that it was another great night for the SNRPC and very well done to our secretary and president who both put a lot of very hard work into making this evening such a success and as always I would like to say a huge thank you to Ian's wife Audrey who did a wonderful job with the marvellous flower arrangements on the tables which provided that additional touch of class to the proceedings.

Duncan Knox
Press Officer