



Scottish National Racing Pigeon Club

2017 Annual Presentation

The 2017 Annual Presentation Dinner was held on 27th January once again at the Cairn Hotel Bathgate this year we were fortunate to have former National Flying Club Tarbes Grand National winners Peter and Barry Winter from Howden East Yorkshire as our main guests. The top table guests and national race winners were piped into the hall and once they had all taken their seats president John McFall welcomed the company and introduced the top table.



The Top Table



Mr Peter Winter toasts the club

Mr Peter Winter proposed the toast to the club and following an excellent meal the presentation got under way starting with the Peterborough Young Bird National, Peter Winter did the honours and presented the 1st open silver medal to Gordon Turnbull of Chirnside the president asked if Mrs Susan Turnbull would accompany Gordon to receive the medal as she had played a big part in the preparation for the race.



Gordon & Susan Turnbull 1st Open Y B National Peterborough

The next presentation was the Billericay Inland National again by Peter Winter 1st open and multi-national winner Billy Bilsland from Ayton was called up to receive the 1st open silver medal.



1st open Billericay Inland National Billy Bilsland

The Arras Old Bird and Yearling National was next to be presented this time by Barry Winter 1st Open winner was John Bell of Tranent this was John's third national win having previously won Tours and the Yearling National.



1st Open Arras John Bell

The Arras race incorporates the Yearling National and this year's silver medal winner was Jimmy Jackson of Dunbar, Jimmy is a past Rennes Gold Cup winner with the SNFC



1st Yearling National J Jackson

The Extreme distance race from Troyes was the next to be presented, unfortunately as we were not able to enter Troyes due to the Tour de France race the birds were brought back to the next longest race point Reims, winner of 1st open was Jim Benvie of Kirkcaldy Jim is another fancier with a great history in the sport this was his 4th x 1st National win.



Jim Benvie 1st Open Troyes / Reims

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Reims Gold Medal the honour of presenting the gold medal traditionally falls to the club president and John McFall was delighted to present this to the 1st Open winner David Crees of Coldstream accompanied by his little daughter Chloe, David had a tremendous race winning 1st and 2nd open



1st Open Reims and Gold Medal winner David Cree's and Chloe

The average winners were next on the agenda by Barry Winter the winner of the Crystal Claret Jug for the overall average was Les McKay of Carnoustie. The crystal claret jug is won outright each year and is a lovely prize to have Les was delighted to receive it I'm sure it will have pride of place in the McKay household, later this year the other claret jug will be coming to Carnoustie as the British open golf championship is to be played on the famous old links a stone's throw from Less's bungalow. The extreme distance crystal decanter was next to be presented this year's winner was Jim Benvie of Kirkcaldy this is for the best average from Reims and Troyes. Jim Benvie also collected the section average for section C the only section average prize to be won this year and to complete an excellent season Jim also won the John Trail memorial trophy.

The John Ellis memorial trophy is for the best average from Reims and Arras and this year John Bell of Tranent was the very worthy winner.

New for 2017 was the Joe Bowman memorial trophy a lovely crystal rose bowl presented to the club by Mrs Bowman in memory of Joe who sadly passed away earlier this year, this is presented for the first section C pigeon from the Gold medal race and George Anderson of Scone Perthshire was the inaugural winner.



George Anderson of Scone receiving the Joe Bowman Trophy from Margaret Hillis



Extreme Distance Average winner Jim Benvie

The John Fairbairn plaque was last to be presented engraved on the plaque is a history of all the national winners each year this is traditionally held for the year by the Reims Gold medal winner David Crees.



David Crees and Chloe receiving the John Fairbairn Plaque



Barry Winter and overall average winner Les McKay

Champion Awards

This year there were eight champion award winners, two silver champions one belonging to Peter Virtue of Cockburnspath and the other Vincent Smith from Carluke and six Bronze awards three to Peter Virtue and one each for John Mackenzie, Ian Ross and Kevin Whitham these were presented by the senior vice president and will feature in a future article as will the section winners for all the national races. Only channel races count for the SNRPC Champion Awards and it is very difficult to win one of these coveted awards as only official open or section diplomas count and being a small club you have to feature high up in your section to meet the criteria making winning one of these awards all the more special

An excellent and entertaining speech by Barry Winter closed the proceedings and I think I can safely say another very enjoyable night was had by all.

Annual General Meeting

Next on the calendar is the club AGM to be held in Newbridge Bowling club on Saturday 10th of February at 1pm.

Duncan Knox

Press Officer