



Scottish National Racing Pigeon Club

Annual Dinner & Presentation

The Annual Dinner and Presentation of prizes took place on Saturday 2nd April in the Leapark Hotel Grangemouth, slightly later than our usual date of late January due to the Covid situation and restrictions at that time. In true SNRPC tradition the top table and winners were piped into the hall along with the 2020 winners, the management committee felt that the 2020 winners missed out with there being no formal presentation that year. The evening got underway when club President Peter Keogh welcomed the company and introduced the top table and guests. The principle quests this year were Mr & Mrs Les Blacklock and Mr & Mrs Forrest. Les and Meryl Blacklock are old friends of the club and have missed very few presentation nights since 2005 and then only because Les was officiating as President of the R.P.R.A. at some other function. Ally and Jo Forrest have been major sponsors of the SNRPC Reims national for many years and thoroughly deserve this recognition for their wonderful generosity.



Top table

The presentation got underway following a short comfort break when the president congratulated the Leapark hotel once again serving us with an excellent meal, the Leapark has proved an excellent choice of venue. The first awards to be presented was the 2020 Hazebrouck National 1st open winner Danny Henderson of Dundee followed by the Arras Yearling National winner Bruce McKenzie also of Dundee, then the Peterborough Young Bird National 1st open Billy Bilsland of Ayton all presented by Les Blacklock.



Danny Henderson, Bruce McKenzie, Billy Bilsland 2020, 1st Open Winners

The 2021 awards then got underway starting with the Leicester Young Bird National presented by our excellent secretary David McArthur 1st Open was Billy Bilsland of Ayton in Berwickshire, Billy put up yet another great performance in this race taking the first 3 in the open result. 1st section C Bruce McKenzie of Dundee another loft in blistering form carried on from the previous season, 1st section D Robert Hamilton of Cambus in Clackmananshire, Robert is one of the top national fanciers in Scotland and he also carried on his lofts good form from 2020 into 2021.



SNRPC Secretary David McArthur presenting Billy Bilsland with his 1st open Y B National silver medal

The Billericay inland national was the next to be awarded by Tom Weir our race secretary, this year we had a very popular winner in Matt Shields of East Wemyss in Fife Matt came forward to receive his awards to rousing applause, sadly this was Matts last season in the sport having to give up the birds on his doctor's advice what a way to bow with his first national win. 1st section B James Mark of Tranent , 1st section D Robert Hamilton with another 1st section medal, 1st section E was Hamilton's Ken Buchanan and 1st section F Smith & McCallum of Cumbernauld.



SNRPC Race Secretary Tom Weir presents Matt Shields with his diploma and silver medal 1st Open Billericay National

Les Blacklock did the honours for the Huntingdon national which was won by A & E Luke of Dunbar this was Adam's 4th national win, 1st section C Bruce McKenzie, 1st section D Robert Hamilton, 1st section E Ken Buchanan and 1st section F Ian Ross of Kirkintilloch.



Adam Luke being presented with his 1st Open Huntingdon Diploma by RPR President Les Blacklock

Littlehampton National was next to be presented unfortunately 1st open winner David Crees of Coldstream could not attend due to work commitments, 1st section D our hard working president Peter Keogh from Broxburn presented by Mrs Jo Forrest, 1st section F Ian Ross.

The section averages followed presented by Mrs Georgina Weir winner of section B: A & E Luke of Dunbar, section C: Matt Shields East Wemyss, section D: Peter Keogh, section E: Willie Watson of Kirkfieldbank and section F: Ian Ross.



Adam Luke Section B Average. Matt Shields Section C.Average



Section D Average Peter Keogh. Section E Average Willie Watson



Section F Average Ian Ross

The next award to be presented was the overall average (The Claret Jug) by Mrs Meryl Blacklock to Matt Shields.



Meryl Blacklock presents Matt Shields with the Claret Jug, Overall Average Winner

Meryl then presented the Cumbria Region Friendship trophy to winner Billy Bilsland of Ayton.



Mrs Blacklock presenting the Cumbria Region Friendship Trophy to Billy Bilsland

This concluded the presentation; the President showed two new trophies to the company firstly the Kevin J Murphy trophy to be awarded to the first pigeon north of the Tay from the gold medal race presented to the club by the Murphy family in honour of their son Kevin who tragically passed away last year. The second trophy was a gift from the RPRA Cumbria Region in the form of a beautiful specially inscribed plate to commemorate the Queens 70 Jubilee, we have still to decide what race this will be competed for.



The R.P.R.A. Cumbia Region Special Award to commemorate the Queens 70 Jubilee



The Kevin J Murphy Trophy to be awarded to the first pigeon North of the Tay in the Gold medal race

Although there was no band present at this year's presentation night in keeping with the hotels regulations a great night was enjoyed by all present, it certainly was so nice to be able to sit and enjoy the company and catch up with old friends.

Duncan Knox

Press Officer SNRPC