



HOMER'S ODYSSEY

NIPA & IRISH NATIONAL FC UPDATE



Dublin Show – Another Success

Despite the weather conditions, fanciers from across Ireland flocked to Dublin for the Annual Charity Show held on Saturday 8th November. I arrived in the afternoon before the prize presentation and soon met up with President Eugene Fitzgerald and Show Secretary Mick O'Driscoll. The place was busy with a top sale upstairs, always a major attraction and trade stands, many with birds reporting good business. Following the presentation of the show awards we had the charity sale in the main area, the auctioneer as usual was Kevin Doyle. Charity cheques presented at the show included €2,000 to St Michael's House, €1,000 to Laura Lin and €1,000 to Peita House. Very well done to all concerned, pigeon fanciers are always to the fore where charity is concerned across the island of Ireland.

Lofts from up north again dominated the show classes, 7 x 1sts for T & K Mawhinney (Donaghcloney), 4 x 1sts for Rouke & Christie

(Armoey), 2 x 1sts for W & N Gilbert (Ballymena) and 1 x 1st for J Douglas & Son (Lurgan). The Mawhinney loft took the cup for Most Points but missed the other two big ones with Best in Show and Best Opposite Sex going to Rouke & Christie, their first time to lift these awards. Winners were: Class 1 Old Cock Flown Channel – D Emerson; Class 2 Old Hen Flown Channel – T & K Mawhinney; Class 3 Old Cock Flown – W & N Gilbert; Class 4 Old Hen Flown – T & K Mawhinney; Class 5 Young Cock Flown – T & K Mawhinney; Class 6 Young Hens Flown – T & K Mawhinney; Class 7 AA Hen/Cock Eyesign – C Maples; Class 8 Old Cock T/W – T & K Mawhinney; Class 9 Old Hen T/W – P McArdle; Class 10 Young Hen T/W – W & N Gilbert; Class 11 Young Cock T/W – T & K Mawhinney; Class 12 Matched Pairs – J Douglas & Son; Class 13 Colour Class – T & K Mawhinney; Class 14 Show Racer Young Hen – Rouke & Christie; Class 15 Show Racer Young Cock – Rouke & Christie; Class 16 Late Bred Hen or Cock – P McArdle; Class 17 Show

Racer OC Unflown – Rouke & Christie; Class 18 Show Racer OH Unflown – Rouke & Christie. The judges were Lee Fribbins, Tom Boland, Gerry Marley, Terry Craggs, Jack Cockcroft, Sonny Galloway, Harry Moore, Jim Fitzpatrick, Alan Spedding, Keith & Matt Arkness, and Mark Johnston. Gifts were presented to fanciers who have assisted at the show over the last number of years, namely Sonny Galloway and Terry Craggs. The main sponsor of the show was Sean Hunt and family owners of The Corn Store, they even purchased new pens. Others behind the scenes who gave valuable service included Gerry Daly, J Byrne, M O'Connor and Ben O'Hannigan.

Mid Antrim Show Scene

A busy season continues with Ballymena & Dist each Monday evening and the members in the last week judged at a number of the local events including Ahoghill, Kells, Cullybackey and Ballymoney. The big Open Show Dates are Cullybackey HPS Saturday 20th December,



The winning birds and trophies BIS & BOS at Dublin Show with Show Secretary Mick O'Driscoll.



Henry McLaughlin from Coalisland, Blue Devil Lofts.



Visitors from Kells & Dist from (l) Harry Boyd, Brian Swann, Jeff Surgenor and club secretary Mervyn Gregg.



President Eugene Fitzgerald (l) presents the Best in Show at Dublin.



Willy & Nicola Gilbert from Drumtara Lofts.



The happy team from North Antrim Rouke & Christie.



From Larne Noel Percy and Brian McCammon.

Kells & District Boxing Day Friday 26th December and finally Ballymena & District New Year's Day Thursday 1st January.

Ballymena & District: Albert and his brother Tom Young travelled in from Ahoghill to judge the recent classes penned for the local club, Young Pairs and Old Bird Fancy. This year's show season is the longest on record, 17 classes over nine weeks up to Christmas, then the Annual Open Show on New Year's Day. New Show Secretary Willy Gilbert is having a good introduction to the job, he wins a class most weeks and last week won both classes with the Best in Show Special in Young Pairs that had earlier been picked out by several members. Young Pairs (60 birds): 1st and H Com W & N Gilbert; 2nd G & A Eagleson; 3rd and V H Com McAlonan Bros; 4th Blair & Rankin; Reserve Russell Bros; Commended B Herbison. Old Bird Fancy (38 birds): 1st and H Com W & N Gilbert; 2nd McAlonan Bros; 3rd and 4th Russell Bros; Reserve Blair & Rankin; V H Com McFall & McManus; Commended B Herbison. Bertie Blair won the raffle for the second week. Monday 15th December is Red, Mealy & Grizzle. The Annual dinner and prize presentation will be in the Tullyglass Hotel on Saturday 10th January 2015.

At **Ahoghill FC** Robert Alexander from Ballymena & Dist placed the cards in the recent show, classes for Young Pairs and Fancy. R Lowry was 1st in Young Pairs and 2nd Fancy while T & G Balmer had 1st Fancy and 2nd in Young Pairs, not much between these lofts. Young Pairs: 1st and Reserve R Lowry; 2nd and V H Com T & G Balmer; 3rd C Moore; 4th A & N Young; H Com and Commended Mr & Mrs Robinson. Fancy: 1st and 3rd T & G Balmer; 2nd and V H Com R Lowry; 4th and Reserve T McFall; H Com C Moore; Commended Balmer, Young & Sons.

At **Cullybackey HPS** judges travelled in from Ballymena & Dist, George Eagleson and

neighbour George Connolly placed the cards for Old Hens Handled and Fancy. For the local club J & J Greer had the red card in both classes and Best in Show. Old Hens Handled: 1st and 3rd J & J Greer; 2nd and 4th Gibson & Dickey; Reserve and Commended A Darragh; V H Com Russell Bros; H Com N & S Anderson. Fancy: 1st and Reserve J & J Greer; 2nd and 3rd N & S Anderson; 4th and V H Com T McFall; H Com A Darragh; Commended Russell Bros. Saturday – Old Bird & Young Bird

Eyesign. The Annual Open Show is on Saturday 20th December, 3 in 1 Show. Penning 10am-1pm. Doors reopen at 5pm followed by prizegiving.

At **Ballymoney HPS** Ballymena & Dist Chairman Tom McAlonan and Martin Sempey travelled down to Ballymoney to place the cards in the recent show classes. It was a good night for Secretary Derek McMullan with the red card in all three classes and the BIS Special in YB Eyesign. Old Cock T/W: 1st and 2nd D & G McMullan; 3rd, Reserve and Commended D



Main sponsors the Hunt Family from Corn Store with Show Secretary Mick O'Driscoll.



Kevin Douglas from Lurgan Social winner of Matched Pairs.



C Maples was winner of Class 7 Any Age Hen/Cock Eyesign.



P McArdle was winner of Classes 9 & 16.



Top Points winner yet again Timmy Mawhinney.



Charlie McManus (l) was judge at Kells & Dist, 1st & 2nd Pairs was Jeff Surgenor.



Gary McKenna and Reilly with the Young Hen Handled winner at Eastway. Davy Campbell with the T/W winner. Judge Robert Johnston presenting the Show Shield to Mr Billy Whiteside, overall Best Showman in Eastway 2014.



Peita House collected a cheque for €1,000.

Dixon; 4th and V H Com D Gage; H Com L Neill. Old Hen T/W: 1st D & G McMullan; 2nd Brown & Stewart; 3rd J Connolly; 4th and Reserve D Gage; V H Com Edgar & Wiggins; H Com L Neill, Commended D Dixon. Young Bird Eyesign: 1st and Special D & G McMullan; 2nd and Reserve D & G McMullan; 3rd, 4th and Commended Brown & Stewart; V H Com and H Com D Dixon. Brown & Stewart won Raffle. Raffle tickets need to be returned immediately.

The final show in the **Eastway HPS** autumn series was Young Hens T/W and Handled. Young Hens T/W: 1st and Reserve D & J

Campbell & Bigger; 2nd M & T Griffith; 3rd Whiteside Bros; 4th G McKenna; V H Com R Irvine; H Com D McElhone, Commended R Francey. Young Hens Handled: 1st G McKenna; 2nd and 3rd D & J Campbell & Bigger; 4th Whiteside Bros; Res D McElhone; V H Com R Irvine; H Com and Commended R Francey.

Lurgan Social Any Age C/H: 1st and V H Com E Wright; 2nd, 4th, Reserve and Commended K Douglas; 3rd and H Com A Mallon. Best Young Bird won by Kevin Douglas. Thanks to judges R Bothwell and D McBride. Next week's show is Any Age Cock/Hen - Special for BYB.

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Charity cheque presentation to St Michael's House.



At Cullybackey, J & J Greer who won both classes with judges from Ballymena, George Eagleson and George Connolly.



W & N Gilbert won both classes at Ballymena & Dist with the judges from Ahoghill, Albert & Tom Young.