



# HOMER'S ODYSSEY



## NIPA & IRISH NATIONAL FC UPDATE



Willy & Nicola Gilbert, winners 1st Old Bird Handled.

The Annual New Year Show for Mid Antrim Sect B lofts was again held in the Ballymena & District HPS. For the second season on the trot all pens were filled to capacity, some 225 birds penned for the judges who had travelled down from Larne & District HPS. They were made most welcome by Chairman of Ballymena & District Tom McAlonan, the high flying lofts of Crawford & Robinson top prizewinners in 2013, David & Paul Harvey and Stephen Gray. Space is a big problem and that's the reason entry has to be restricted to Mid Antrim area lofts. A new ventilation system had been installed before the show season and this worked perfectly on the biggest day. Show Secretary Willy Gilbert arrived early to make preparations and Homer was there as usual to get the fire going.

W. & N. Gilbert for the local club had 1st Old Bird Handled and lifted Best in Show, Alan Barkley & Son from Kells & District had 1st Young Bird Handled lifting Best Opposite Sex

and the Special for Best Young Bird, Brian Herbison from Cullybackey had 1st Old Bird T/W and also from Cullybackey Len Russell won three classes including both Eyesign Classes and with 17 cards had Most Points in Show. The main prizes and specials were sponsored by Frazer Animal Feeds (Banbridge) and trophies were kindly supplied by Len Russell and W. & N. Gilbert. The winning Dark Cheq hen for W. & N. Gilbert has been the Champion all year winning 6 x 1sts and now going to Blackpool Show.

**Results. Old Bird T/W:** 1st B. Herbison; 2nd and 4th W. & N. Gilbert; 3rd and Commended A. Barkley & Son; Reserve Russell Bros; VH Com McAlonan Bros; H Com Percy Son & Murphy. **Old Bird Handled:** 1st, H Com and Commended W. & N. Gilbert; 2nd, 3rd and VH Com A. Barkley & Son; 4th Blair & Rankin; Reserve G. & A. Eagleson. **Old Bird Eye-sign:** 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, VH Com and H Com Russell Bros; Reserve and Commended W. & N. Gilbert. **Young Bird T/W:** 1st, 3rd and Reserve Russell Bros; 2nd, 4th and H Com W. & N. Gilbert; VH Com A. Barkley & Son; Commended N. & S. Anderson. **Young Bird Handled:** 1st A. Barkley & Son; 2nd, 3rd, 4th and VH Com Russell Bros; Reserve B. Herbison; H Com Mr & Mrs M. Sempey; Commended N. & S. Anderson. **Young**



Homer (I) with main sponsor of Ballymena Show Neil Frazer.



Len Russell had six cards in OB Eyesign, including 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th.



Alan Barkley won the specials for Best Young Bird and BOS.



Judges from Larne & Dist, D. & P. Harvey, S. Gray and Crawford & Robinson.



Nicola Gilbert presents 1st Old Bird T/W to Brian Herbison from Cullybackey.



Judges D. & P. Harvey and Stephen Gray with the winner of BOS and Best YB.

**Bird Eye-sign:** 1st, 3rd and 4th Russell Bros; 2nd W. & N. Gilbert; Reserve and Commended B. Herbison; VH Com A. Barkley & Son; H Com D. & G. McMullan.

Chairman Tom McAlonan at the presentation thanked all involved, those who brought birds and prizes, the judges, and all who assisted including Mr & Mrs Sempey, Billy Smyth, M. D. C. Magill and W. & N. Gilbert. He also thanked members and friends for donations and specials, and all the sponsors who included Frazer's Animal Feeds, Brian Herbison Feeds, Connon Feeds and many others.

The AGM for Ballymena & District will take place in the local clubrooms at Fountain Place on Monday, 9th February at 8pm. Resolutions for the agenda must be with the Secretary Willie Reynolds by Saturday, 31st January, and any resignations prior to the AGM.

**Ballymoney HPS:** Members should return cups and trophies to the clubrooms as soon as possible, the presentation of awards is 24th January.

**Kells Open Show** – Kells was the venue on Boxing Day for the Annual Open Show attracting fanciers from across Mid & East Antrim with 240 birds penned for the six classes. Judges were Rob and George Mills from Larne & District and Mickey McConville from Crumlin & Dist. D. & R. Turkington from Doagh & Dist won Old Bird Handled, also Best in Show and D. & G. McMullan from Ballymoney had 1st Old Bird T/W and Best Opposite Sex. The prizes were well spread out with individual winners of the six classes, Russell Bros from Cullybackey had 1st and 2nd in OB Eyesign, K. Wilkinson & Son from New Antrim had 1st Young Bird T/W, Edgar & Wiggins from Ballymoney had 1st YB Handled and finally for the home club A. Barkley & Son had 1st YB Eyesign. The Club Show Cup was presented to Alan Barkley & Son.



Best in Show D. & R. Turkington from Doagh with Mickey McConville.



The major winners at Ballymena Show W. & N. Gilbert and Alan Barkley with Tom McAlonan.

The former Chairman of Kells & Dist Brian Swann thanked all present for their support, those who helped at the Club, brought birds and prizes, and he also thanked the judges. Other sponsors included Francis Connon, Brian Herbison, Frazer Feeds and Sizzlers Chip Shop. I was unable to attend and thanks to the local lads who covered the photos.

**Old Bird T/W:** 1st D. & G. McMullan; 2nd W. & N. Gilbert; 3rd and 4th F. Simpson; Reserve V. Montgomery; VH Com Percy & Murphy; H Com D. & R. Turkington; Commended Surgenor Bros.  
**Old Bird Handled:** 1st and HC D. & R. Turkington; 2nd A. Barkley & Son; 3rd W. & N. Gilbert; 4th K. Wilkinson & Son; Reserve F. Simpson; VH Com T. & K. Mawhinney; Commended Surgenor Bros.  
**Old Bird Eyesign** – 1st, 2nd and H Com Russell Bros; 3rd K. Wilkinson & Son; 4th Reserve and VH Com F. Simpson; Commended D. & R. Turkington.  
**Young Bird T/W** – 1st K. Wilkinson & Son; 2nd, 3rd and 4th V. Montgomery; Reserve Mr & Mrs Suitters; VH Com T & K. Mawhinney; H Com W. & N. Gilbert; Commended Gregg Bros.  
**Young Bird Handled:** 1st Edgar & Wiggins; 2nd and 3rd A. Barkley & Son; 4th B. Swann & Son; Reserve J. McGrugan & Son; VH Com Russell Bros; H Com A. Neill, Commended F. Simpson.  
**Young Bird Eyesign:** 1st A. Barkley & Son; 2nd A. Neill; 3rd H Com and Commended D. & R.

Turkington; 4th D. & G. McMullan; Reserve W. & N. Gilbert; VH Com V. Montgomery.

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Alan Barkley (l) collects the Show Cup from Robert Mills at Kells Open Show.



Len Russell (l) won Old Bird Eyesign at Kells.



Ken Wilkinson (l), 1st Young Bird T/W with Mickey McConville.