

# News from Northern Ireland with Irish Rover

## MR & MRS MAGILL INFC RECORD MAKER

The records set by members of the Irish National Flying Club are my great interest and I try to be up to date on most of these. The awards of the INFC are very difficult to achieve. Gold Medal – 13 won in more than 30 plus years. Triple Crown Award – 8 won in 15 years. Winning the two French races, King's Cup Grand National and Friendship National, only about five lofts have won this award in 50 years. Skibbereen YB National and Penzance YB Grand National and again only about five lofts have ever achieved this feat. Then I started to think, what about the main one! OB King's Cup Grand National and YB Penzance Grand National, "has any loft won both". I have to start getting out my files, I asked around those fanciers that are very much INFC, no name came up. But it has indeed been achieved by Mr & Mrs Magill, Muckamore, a former National Champion 1988.

The INFC Saint Allouestre King's Cup Grand National was won by Mr & Mrs Roy Magill, Muckamore HPS in 2016, that was a very difficult race with a winning velocity of 723ypm. The winning pigeon was a light blue chequer two year old hen 'Champion Paula'. The race was indeed difficult, 77 birds recorded in race time, three days, the Magill's clocked a second pigeon to finish 28th Open.

The King's Cup winner a two year old chequer hen mainly Jan Aarden and also contained the bloodlines of Liam McCall's 'Red Laddie' INFC Hall of Fame winner when he was paired to the Harkness Rose Bowl pair. Liam McCall was to win the King's Cup in 2017 with the brilliant blue hen 'Chloe'. 'Champion Paula' was sent feeding a five day old young bird, not raced as a young bird but trained 40 miles and not raced as a yearling, trained 80 miles and then as a two year old she was lightly raced down Ireland plus Talbenny and then the Fermoy comeback race same day as Penzance before being sent to the King's Cup which she won. Talbenny was the only Channel race she flew before the King's Cup. Close relations of 'Paula' have flown France 17 times (Roy's theory, patience and the right bloodlines).

The first leg of the Magill's double Grand National victories came in 1988 and it was a magnificent year for the loft. Penzance has always proved a difficult race for YBs with the Magill's flying over 300 miles across the Channel. The Magill's performance was one of the best ever recorded with the INFC, 1st, 2nd, 6th & 9th, four in the first 10 followed by 34th, 35th & 124th Open, all clocked on the day of liberation. The National winner was a Busschaert, sire from S Currell & Son, Glenarm, a brother was 1st Section Fort William and they came from Paul Smith Regency Lofts. Dam from J Mawhinney & Son, Kells, a winner of 1st Section, 13th Open OB Derby Thurso and a sister won 33rd Open YB National.

The sire and dam of the YB National winner, bred three Section winners, a 1st Open, 2nd Open, 11th Open and 14th Open. They are also grandparents of 1st

EDC, 1st NIPA and a double 1st Open NIPA winner. Michael Leonard of Drogheda won 14 races with great grandchildren of this amazing pair. In between these two Grand National victories. Roy & Catherine won the INFC Friendship National from Sartilly, the Magill loft recorded another amazing result, 1st, 5th, 9th & 12th Open only 16 birds on the day and Roy had four of them plus another one early second morning for 31st Open. The National winner is a super hen winning 7th Open Sartilly Friendship National and 35th Open Yearling National in the same year. Sire Krauth, 31st INFC Friendship National Sartilly. Dam Delbar, this hen was bought at a sale of Ernie Totten, Ballylesson, 12th Open INFC Sartilly Friendship National and 42nd Open INFC Yearling National, her sire was 2nd Open Haverford YB Derby.

The family of birds now raced have taken some time to blend. Jan Aarden mostly Louella but now crossed with the old Irish long distance pigeons. Many good pigeons from Ian Donaghy's long distance family and Liam McCall's best including his King's Cup winner 'Chloe' and Liam's Hall of Fame winner 'Red Laddie'. Excellent birds from Art Kelly including his 2nd King's Cup winner and the 3rd Open INFC Friendship National winner. Other fanciers who have played a part, Gold Medal winner Mick Conlon, Banbridge; Gallagher Bros, Annsborough; J McNeill & Son, Aaron Murtagh, all top National flyers who we swap birds with regularly. More recently Billy McClure's

Hall of Fame winner Deweerdt through Simon Millar which includes seven direct children of his Hall of Fame winners now being blended into my own family.

Over the years Roy has tried many ways to fly pigeons from France but I have come to the conclusion that it is mostly down to pigeon, keep them happy, be fair, treat them with respect, feed them well. We like our birds to have access to a hopper of beans at all times if possible and have been using this method from my early days with the pigeons and don't over race them. During the racing season we like our loft (which is above the garage and therefore cat proof) to be open 24/7.

Our Friendship National winner that year had only one race at 180 miles before his National victory. The YB INFC Penzance National winner had only two races before Penzance and my King's Cup winner was not raced as a YB or yearling and only lightly as a two year old before winning the King's Cup. No training tosses after her first race, access to a hopper of beans and an Open trap.

I have clocked pigeons in the King's Cup and in the Open prize list when the King's Cup was their only race that season. For any fanciers wanting to do well from these French races, I would say, stay focused on your main goal, everything else is only a distraction.

The Mr & Mrs Magill loft are really only interested in National racing. The loft has enjoyed much success from the INFC races and the highlights: 1st Open INFC Grand National King's Cup; 1st Open

## Yorkshire Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire SR Combine

Hi everyone, just a quick update for all the members and organisations in the Combine as you are probably aware getting access into France at the moment with racing pigeons is becoming difficult and hard at the present time. Until the situation is resolved the Combine's committee and Steve Teasdale Pigeon Transport LTD have been working hard behind the scenes to put together an alternative 2021 race programme in case the French Access debate cannot be resolved plus with DEFRA also postponing racing pigeons in the UK until hopefully the 1st May.

Here is the Combine's alternative programme taking the above issues into consideration:

### Old Birds

12th June Chale (Isle of Wight)

3rd July Guernsey

24th July Guernsey

### Young Birds

11th September Guernsey.

Take care everyone.

The Rat Man

INFC Grand National Penzance YB National; 1st Open INFC Sartilly Friendship National; INFC National Champion; Harkness Rose Bowl winner; INFC Merit Award winner. Ronnie Williamson, Alan Darragh, Joe Doheny have all won the King's Cup and finished 2nd Open Penzance YB. Glen Buckley 1st Open Penzance YB and 2nd Open King's Cup. These fanciers are amongst the best National racers in all Ireland. Catherine and Roy Magill can be very proud of their National loft. How did it take me so long to highlight this great National loft.

Ronnie Johnston



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