

The Golf Inn in Newry City played host on Friday 29th February to an excellent well organised 3 in 1 dinner and prize distribution for the following parties, Newry & District HPS, Millvale HPS and the North South Federation. As the main guest for the event along with my father Homer and mother Rose

AROUND IRELAND WITH ADIE



PRIZE WINNERS GALORE IN NEWRY



George McCartney (left) present the top prizewinners award in Lurgan Social to Furphy Bros.

I opted to travel on this occasion as a passenger in my fathers car, which meant I could enjoy a drink or two without the pressures of having to drive home on what was a dreadful night of weather with unrelenting

officials can take good heart from the excellent turn out which is a true reflection on the professional manner in which the Newry & Dist HPS, Millvale HPS and The North/South Federation are run.

Among the excellent attendance were some of Northern Ireland's elite fanciers, no surprise of course as the Newry Area have enjoyed un-remitting success at all levels of competition for many years now. John & Richard Donnelly racing as Donnelly Bros would certainly come under the elite fanciers banner having this year clocked up their 27th NIPA Open success and when having a quick glance over a sample of the impressive North/South Federation Diploma which I might add looks fantastic I can see that out of the 30 Federation races the Donnelly



Geoff Douglas.

tion. I would like to add praise at this point to Rosemary Muholland who was compare for the evening and what a job she did. As stated earlier in this report all clubs in the Newry area have had their fair share of top results from all

1st Gary Hughes; Roscrea 1st Gary Hughes; Clonmel 1st Ron McKelvey; Pilmore Beach 1st Ron McKelvey; Rosscarbery 1st Mark Maguire & son; Pilmore Beach 1st Ron McKelvey; Skibbereen North 1st Gary Hughes; Talbenny 1st J Kennan; Barley Cove 1st Mark Maguire & son; Roscrea 1st Ron McKelvey; Talbenny (2) Kenny Byrne & sons; Talbenny (3) 1st Kenny Byrne & sons; Mallow 5-Bird 1st Ron McKelvey; Sennen Cove 1st K Byrne & sons; Sennen Cove Classic 1st K Byrne & son; Sennen Cove 1st G Dixon; Portsmouth 1st M Maguire & son.

YB Mullingar 1st Ron McKelvey; Tullamore 1st Niblock Bros; Roscrea (1) 1st Ron McKelvey; Roscrea (2) 1st Ron McKelvey; Clonmel 1st Ron McKelvey; Sennen Cove 1st M Maguire & son; Sennen Cove OH 1st M Maguire & son; Pilmore Beach 1st J F McCabe; Talbenny 1st M Maguire & son; Tullamore 1st F McCabe; Fermoy 1st Owen Markey; Fermoy 5-Bird 1st Owen Markey; Rosscarbery 1st Ron McKelvey; Skibbereen North 1st Owen Markey.

Next it was the turn of the Millvale HPS to hand over their awards to the respective winners and my mother Rose was called upon to do the honours. In no particular order one of the biggest winners



Kevin Henderson.

heavy rain and high winds on our journey from Lisburn to this fabulous location on the Forkhill Road.

The attendance in Newry topped the 130 mark which is something similar to the numbers enjoyed by the mighty NIPA awards night held back in November. So the



Kevin Douglas.

Bros partnership won 13 of these. No easy task against excellent competition from many of the local members that would see birdage topping the 1,500 mark.

Newry & District were the first to distribute their annual awards and Homer was called upon to conduct the presenta-



Gilbert Kennedy.

organisations over the last few years and when your topping your relevant clubs in this area you are always likely to feature prominently in the overall Open result.

The Newry prize list in order of races won is as follows: OB Tullamore (1) 1st Gary Hughes; Tullamore (2)



Eamon Wright.

of the night were the Maguire family who I have personally known for some time. A substantial loft report I have already started will be completed soon. In the Millvale HPS, Malachy Maguire & son Mark collected awards for outstanding results in the following races during

the season: OB French Derby Cup, Talbenny YB Derby, Best Average in the two YB Derbies, Lowest Winning Velocity (on a hard day you look, Mooney Bros Cup for the



Dennis Lyness.

Best Average in the first and last races in both YBs and OBs and finally they lifted the R & M Mullholland Cup for the Most Points in all Derbies and Nationals. Son Mark races very well assisted by his son Mark also they lifted three awards including the OB Cross Channel Average, Bude OB and Best Average first Inland and first Cross Channel OB.

Noel Murtagh had an outstanding season collecting a number of awards during the night including the YB Inland Average and the Points Cup. Aiden Curran had a super



Homer presents Gary Hughes with a few of his awards.

year also lifting six awards from the prize table they included the OB Inland Derby Cup, YB Longest Inland Award, YB Inland Derby, YB Mallow (Fermoy) and the W Black Cup for the Best

Average in the Longest Inland Races in both the YBs and OB, well done Aiden. P McAteer & son collected awards for the Yearling National and collected the much sought



Cooper & McGrath.

after OB Inland Average. T Mooney & son collected the OB Combined Average and the Longest Inland Award in the



Malachy Maguire and grand-daughter Caoilfhionn.

OB. H Walsh & son also made it to the prize table collecting the club award for achievements from the Sennen Cove OB. Again a very well done to all the winners and indeed to all the members who create some great competition.

The longest presentation of the evening was next and that was the North/South Fed awards it was my turn to present these and what an honour it was, each Fed winner was presented with a full colour A3 certificate and the cup winners were as follows: Roland & Harris Cup was won by H Walsh & son, Lowest Winning Velocity was won by Malachy Maguire &

son with a super pigeon named 'Caoilfhionn's Choice'. What a pigeon this is bred down from a pair of Jan Ardens bought direct from LPW. In total this blue pied 3yo hen has won



Tolan & Fitzpatrick.

7x1sts and a host of 2nds and has topped the Newry Combine no less than five times from some of the most difficult races, a gem of a pigeon and one anybody would be proud to have around the loft.

YB of the Year and OB of the Year were both won by Donnelly Bros, once again what can you say about these two boys. I can only refer you to my loft report that was published recently, their racing exploits are something



Mark Maguire & son Mark.

else. Cross Channel Points was won by the distance loft of Malachy Maguire & son. The young Fancier of the Year was Kenneth Havern who finished 2nd Fed on a couple of occasions and as Richard Donnelly quotes a star for the future. The Donnelly Bros were once again crowned North/South

Federation Fanciers of the Year. Before detailing all the Federation Winners I would like to mention the successful Breeder/Buyer event run every year by the Federation, this

year the winner and breeder was the WKD Lofts of Timmy & Kiera Mawhinney they weren't in attendance as they along with many other fanciers were away for the weekend at the Dutch Show.



Tommy Mooney.

2nd in the Breeder/Buyer event was P Murtagh with a pigeon bred by N Murtagh, 3rd was A McAteer with the breeder being M Maguire & son and finally fourth went two Eddie McAlinden who was the Breeder and the Buyer.

Federation winners: OB Tullamore (1) 1st N Murtagh; Tullamore (2) 1st G Hughes; Roscrea (1) 1st G Hughes; Clonmel 1st Donnelly Bros; Pilmore Beach (1) 1st Donnelly Bros 1645; Rosscarbery OB National 1st Donnelly Bros; Pilmore Beach (2) 1st Donnelly Bros; Skibbereen National INFC 1st Donnelly Bros;

Talbenny (1) 1st Donnelly Bros; Barley Cove Yearling National 1st P McAteer; Roscrea (2) 1st R McKelvey; Talbenny (2) 1st Donnelly Bros; Talbenny (3) 1st



Noel Murtagh collecting his award from Rose McCormick.

Donnelly Bros; Sennen Cove Yearling National 1st A McAteer; Mallow 5-Bird 1st R McKelvey; Sennen Cove 1st H Walsh & son; Portsmouth National 1st M Maguire & son; Lamballe National 1st A McAteer; Sennen Cove Old Hens 1st M Maguire & son.

YB Mullingar 1st N Murtagh; Tullamore 1st O'Markey; Roscrea (1) 1st R & M Mullholland; Fermoy 1st A

Maguire & son; Rosscarberry YB National 1st Donnelly Bros; Skibbereen National 1st Donnelly Bros; Roscrea (2) 1st R McKelvey 1680.

After a very enjoyable presentation and a very attentive audience a few gifts were presented to some of the ladies who assisted in various ways in helping the organisations function in 2007, a very nice gesture. I on behalf of the



Young Johnathan Donnelly son of the masterful Richard Donnelly picks up just some of their many awards from my good shelf.

guests would like to thank Malachy Maguire for inviting us down to what was a very enjoyable evening with excel-



The Donnelly family after a very successful night, included are Richard, Irene, Victoria, Emma Jane and Johnathan.

Curran 1281; Clonmel 1st Donnelly Bros; Pilmore Beach 1st Donnelly Bros 1543; Talbenny YB National 1st Donnelly Bros 1310; Sennen Cove YB National 1st M

lent food and company and a dinner presentation that would sit at the top of the many that I have attended over the years. A very well done to all involved on what was truly a magical

night and I wish all the members of Newry & District, Millvale HPS and the North/South Federation every success in the 2008.

LURGAN AREA UPDATE

Geoffrey Douglas gave me a few lines on a 3 in 1 presentation held recently when meeting him at the RPRA Irish Region meeting in Dromore. The combined prize distribution of the Wilton Cross, Lurgan Social and Moira HPS was held recently in the Lurgan Golf Club. Special guest George McCartney the famous butcher from Moira presented the trophies and prize money. In the Lurgan based Wilton Cross the top prizewinner for 2007 was the former Kings Cup winner Geoffrey Douglas, this ace loft won 19x1sts. The D & B Lyness team were next best and overall had 5x1sts. Lurgan Social HPS had a consistent season and the top



Aiden Curran.

loft were Furphy Bros followed by D & B Lyness. Moving on to Moira HPS it was Turner Bros who were tops with 7x1sts plus the Inland Average and Combined Inland Average. Runner-up T & G Kennedy also had 7x1sts followed by the consistent E Wright & son winning 3x1sts plus Cross Channel Average, Combined Channel Average and Old Bird Average.

The three local clubs enjoyed a great evening which I understand carried into the wee small hours. The clubs wish to extend their thanks to Eamon Wright & son for presenting such a great night each year.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Having called with Mandy Mitchell yesterday on my way back from my fathers the young birds for the sale next week are looking fantastic and having a quick shifty through the pedigrees what class pigeons, not surprising from an award winning loft with very few pigeons. A loft profile was published in *The RP*. These pigeons will be auctioned on Monday evening (March 10th) at the Sarsfield



Fed Young Fancier of the Year, Kenneth Havern of Ballyholland.

RPC in Ballyfermot starting at 8pm. The basis of the stock is the excellent Busschaerts from the mighty Lisburn Loft of Len Magee & son Jack (L Magee & son), these boys just don't sell pigeons full stop.

Orchard Combine in County Armagh will have the prize night and annual dinner in Digby's on Friday 7th March at 8pm. All cups and trophies should be returned immediately. The AGM has been arranged for Monday 10th March in the Armagh Rugby Club at 8pm.

Alexandra HPS will have a Breeder/Buyer race to be flown from the INFC Skibbereen North YB National (North Sect) on 20th September and open to all Irish National FC members. The 1st prize will carry a guaranteed £1,000 Breeder and £1,000 Buyer with additional prizes depending on entry. All told there will be three sales of young birds from the top lofts in Ireland. Newtownbreda HPS on Friday 7th March at 7.30pm,

Grosvener HPS on Friday 14th March at 7.30pm and Alexandra HPS on Tuesday 25th March at 7.30pm.

Banbridge Social will have a Breeder/Buyer sale in the local British Legion Hall in Banbridge on Friday 14th March starting at 8pm. The event has been well supported



Richard & Dianne McMinn collect their winnings.

locally and a number of other top lofts have donated birds.

The AGM for Mid Antrim Combine will be held in the Harryville HPS Clubrooms on Wednesday 19th March at 8pm. Two delegates from each club to vote on proposals. The local fancy are asked to donate squeakers for a fundraising sale for Harryville partnership



Pictured from the Millville Club, John Dodds, Cathy Dodds, Raymond Little, Carol Little, John Power and Shirley Hammond.

and Ballee Community Associations. This will raise a contribution to go towards the building of Business Units under construction at the Antrim Road close to the



Mrs Patricia Maguie wife of the Fed chairman Malachy was presented with a bunch of flowers by Hazel Young.

Harryville HPS Clubrooms. Bids will start at £25 and the sale will be held at Chimney Corner Football Club on Thursday 27th March at 8pm.

Corcreeny Breeder/Buyer now in its fourth year, this major event has a 1st prize of £2,000 each year. The race will yet again be the INFC Skibbereen North YB National to be flown on Saturday 20th September. Sales Newtownbreda on Thursday 20th March at 7.30pm and Banbridge on Thursday 27th March at 7.30pm.

East Belfast Juniors FC, Susan Albert has arranged a YB auction to be held in the Newtownbreda HPS Clubrooms on Wednesday 26th

March at 7.30pm to raise funds to help the children of the local football club participate in a tournament in Blackpool in May. Already they have had support from B

Hogg & Son (Newtownbreda), Alex Crawford (Ballylesson), Rab Hunter (Ballynahinch), A Cousins & sons (Ballylesson), R Moore & son (Bangor) and S Brown & sons (Dundonald) to name but a few. Contact home (028) 9069 2158 or mobile 07513 828558.

Eastway HPS will have a young bird sale, in aid of club funds, in Ligoniel HPS on

Francey & Son, plus others.

Glengormley & District HPS have decided to opt for a Gold Ring competition during 2008 rather than the usual Breeder/Buyer event. It will be open to all competing lofts in the NIPA and will have a guaranteed 1st prize of £1,000. The overall prize list will be determined by the entry, rings will be £40 each. Race will be the



The Byrne family have raced a lifetime in the Newry area at least three generations pictured here including Pat who is chairman of the Newry & District HPS.

Friday 28 March. Penning from 7.00, sale starts at 8pm. All birds in this sale will be eligible to compete for a cash prize presented for best velocity from the INFC

Rosscarbery YB Inland National, and the closing date for entry is 30th June. All ring Numbers must be supplied by 19th July. Contact any of the following members for further information Hugh Bigger, David Campbell or Tommy Gratten.

Dundonald 3-Bird Challenge exciting new race will be flown from the INFC Skibbereen North OB National. (North Section). £150 for three birds nominated, ring numbers and payment to Secretary L McKinstry before April 30th 2008. With expected support it is hoped to have a 1st Prize of £5,000. A beautiful new trophy donated by Gibb & Byrne will go to the winner. Include this race in your plans for 2008 contact or B Foulis.

Golden Wing YB Open race organised again by Glenavy & District and main sponsor H Beattie & son. Maximum 10 rings at £10 each available from H Beattie & son, John Withers, Gordon Parker or any member of Glenavy & District HPS. More info later. Corcreeny HPS will be operating the usual Breeder/Buyer event, details from Colin Gibson etc.

Adie McCormick



Compare for the evening Rosemary Mullholland was also presented with an award for her tireless work.

Skibbereen North YB National (North Section). Prize money will be depending on the entry. Sale is open to all and will include birds donated from many local top lofts including Jimmy Burrows, Grattan Bros, Whiteside Bros, Gary McKenna and Roy