

# Blackpool Show Report

Just two weeks before the Blackpool Show was due to take place, we received the crushing news that despite the efforts of the local APHA to lift the zone affecting the Winter Gardens, the fact that there were overlapping zones in the area made it far too complicated to complete their audits in time. We had a huge decision to make and although the prospect of holding the BHW Show of the Year without pigeons was unsuitable, we decided that the whole Blackpool weekend was endowed with many other attractions which would still give value to those who attended and an alternative solution for the Show Racer classes was explored. The Show Chairman David Trippett and I gave our full and determined attention to find an alternative venue and after a lot of hard work we had managed to make arrangements to hold our annual show competition in a marquee based at the Blackpool Pleasure Beach car park.

Plans had been put into place to fully satisfy the APHA General Licence requirements with full bio security and veterinary supervision to ensure all competitors could enter their birds if their home loft was not within a 10km surveillance zone. The quotations for each element were received and

accumulated, with more reasonable alternatives vigorously explored until we finally concluded that although holding a show competition with 1,600 entries was possible under the circumstances, the accumulative cost was far more than we had budgeted for at the time, and we reluctantly decided not to proceed with the marquee and therefore cancel the show competition. We realise how devastating this must have been for those who had carefully prepared their birds, but please be assured that we have left no stone unturned to proceed at an affordable cost. It has been a roller coaster of emotions for us both, with each progressive step spurring us on to greater endeavours, only to be followed by the crushing realisations of the financial implications.

It was the first time that I and many of our new team at the RPRA head office had been involved in organising the show and David Trippett rolled up his sleeves to ensure we all knew what was required with the added benefit of his 50 years of experience and he gave a huge amount of his personal time to help organise various aspects of the show. We held regular meetings to ensure all was on track and with the help of Visit Blackpool,

the staff at the Winter Gardens and the local council, the Solaris Centre was made available to us with the three conference rooms being used to display the Charity Auction birds as well as those auctioneers who were using the Winter Gardens. This went as well as can be expected under the circumstances and all parties were happy with the result. A huge thank you to the fanciers at the St Anne's HS who looked after birds on behalf of those trade stands who planned to sell pigeons but could not attend the Winter Gardens especially Barnes, Walmsley & Reid who accepted the responsibility without question and the Show Stewards who also attended to the Charity Auction birds at the Solaris Centre. Over the weekend the attendance was on par with 2021 and all other functions went ahead as planned. The Mayor of Blackpool, Councillor Kathryn Benson attended the welcome dinner on the Friday evening as did our guests Andrea Hoche from France, Harald Herbach from Germany along with the FCI President Mr I Bardos, this was hosted by RPRA President Les Blacklock and in the speeches that followed, the Mayor thanked us for coming to Blackpool and remarked on the boost to the local



RPRA 2022 Olympiad Team.



economy each year. Long-time friend and visitor Michael Mahr from Germany could not make the show on this occasion but he did send a very generous donation of €1,000 to the Future of the Sport Fund, we thank him and are very much looking forward to seeing him in attendance once again in 2024.

The Gala Evening on the Saturday was held at the Viva with three acts to entertain the 350 guests who had come to enjoy the evening and applaud the 2022 RPRA National Award winners. The awards ceremony was accompanied by a featured video put together by Development Officer,

Richard Chambers, which showed the fanciers and their birds as they came up to receive their award from the President.

First on stage was the 2022 delegation to the

FCI Olympiad who were not able to compete on this occasion but were recognised for their achievement in being selected to represent the UK. RPRA Olympiad Team Manager Mr John



Owen Aberly & John Haynes.



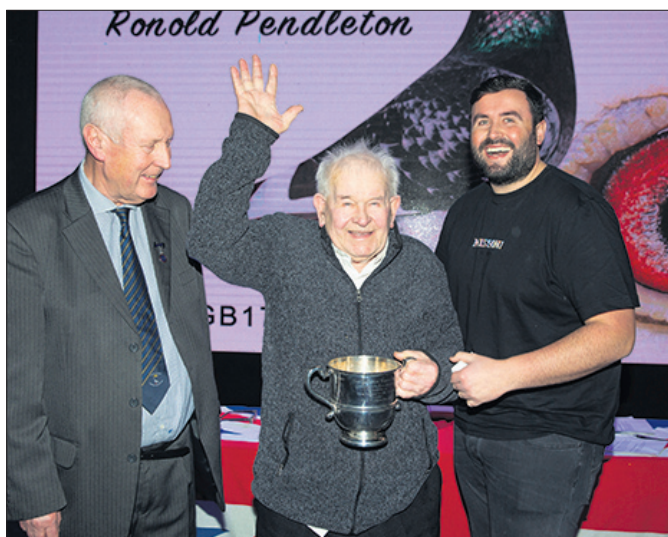
Mellonby, Knowles & Simpkin.



RPRA Awards 2022.



Roger Lowe.



Ron Pendleton.



R & C O'Shea, 2nd Middle-Distance.



Wheatcroft, accompanied by FCI President Mr I Bardos presented a medallion to each of the fanciers which were Mr & Mrs May & Son, D & J Rooney, Mark Gilbert, S McDonagh, Mr & Mrs Kinahan & Turner and E Burdett. They were followed by the UK Masters Zone winners A, Mr J House under 300 miles, Zone B, D Fisher 300-400

miles and Zone C, D Coleman over 400 miles. The UK Masters race was a joint liberation of four national clubs in France which was organised to ensure a smooth entry into France under the new regulations and the RPPA give awards to the three zones based on distance flown.

The **Intermediate Short Distance Award for**

**60-250 miles** was won once again by **Miss Keelie Wright from Northern Ireland**. Keelie has won multiple awards over the past few years and her dedication to her pigeons has taken her to the top once again. The **Intermediate Long Distance Awards for 450 miles and over** was won once again for the second time by **Owen Aberly in**



Owen Aberly.



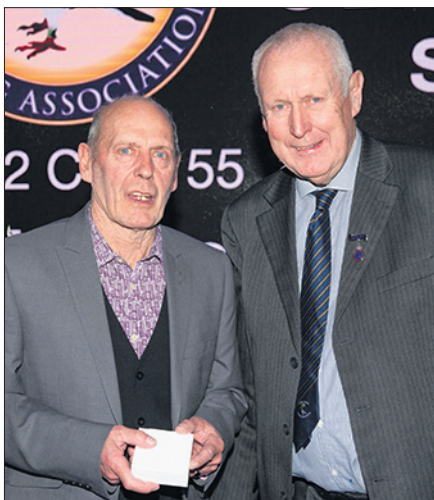
Ethan Nightingale.



J Wood & Son.



Steven Cutts.



S Brenton.



Terry Hadley, on behalf of P Wells.



St Andrews School.



Williams Brothers.



**Reading.** The **Young Racer Short Distance Award** was won by **Ethan Nightingale from Dover**, grandson to Kev Buddle, he has pigeons in his blood and is continuing with the winning ways of his grandad. Second were **H T & J Larkin** and their award was collected by Tom Larkin who went on to win the new Eco Loft in the raffle prize draw. **The Guy Barratt Award** is awarded to a young fancier nominated by his clubmates for their dedication, performances, and willingness to help

in all aspects at the clubhouse. This year's winner was **Oliver Longford**, a young man from the Cumbria Region who is to be congratulated and he can proudly display the large silver trophy for the whole of 2023.

The Schools Championships are based on coefficient and in total we have eight schools competing against each other. These school lofts were put into place from funds raised in the RPR One Loft Race and we have just set up another in

Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. It is vitally important that we support the RPR One Loft as funds raised go to the Future of the Sport Fund rather than a business enterprise and many of those who decide to enter do so on that basis. St Andrews Primary School in Oswaldtwistle came up to collect their fifth award and this time they won the Bamford's Top Flight Schools Championship Trophy for the best performance by a single pigeon, GB20N61597 chequer pied hen,



Mr Istvan Bardos & Dr Agnes Horvath.



Mr & Mrs Trippett.



Phil Murray.



Keelie Wright.



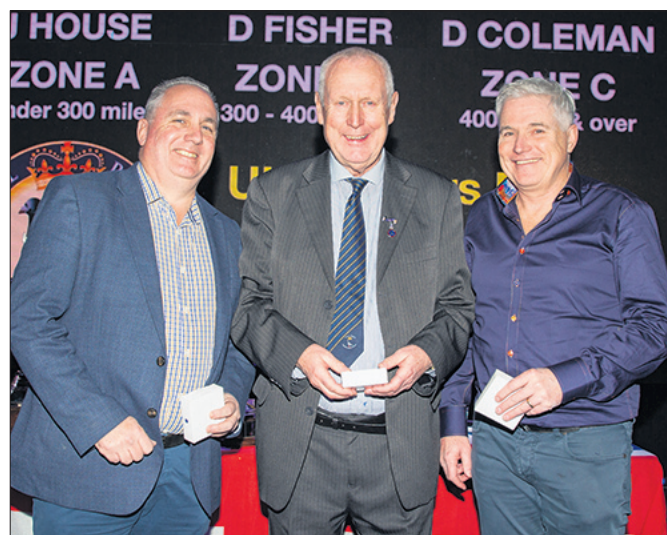
Master Tom Larkin.



Oliver Longford.



D & R Williams.



D Fisher & D Coleman.





Mr & Mrs Mellonby.



Steve & Yvette Harris.

coefficient score 3.710, vel 1654.125ypr 1st Club 224 birds, 2nd Fed 539 birds, 5th Amal 969 birds. The school received the trophy, a medallion and a cheque for £50.

The Adult Awards followed with the **Short Distance 60-250 miles** and first place went to **Williams Bros in Oldbury** with their pigeon GB21Z26164 achieving a coefficient score of 6.156. They received the Selby Thomas Memorial

Trophy, a medallion and a cheque for £100. Second prize is awarded to **Ben Walton of Congleton** with GB20C23846, coefficient score of 9.380. Ben received a medallion and a cheque for £60. Third prize was awarded to **Stuart Wilcox of Walsall** GB20N70069, coefficient score of 10.306. Stuart received a medallion and a cheque for £40.

First in the **Middle Distance 251-450 miles** was **Steven Cutts of Rotherham** with GB20N85325 on a coefficient score of 2.975. Steven received the Preston Trophy, a medallion and a cheque for £100. Second was awarded to **R & C O'Shea of Worksop** with their pigeon GB21Z41520 and a coefficient score of 4.198, they received a medallion and a cheque for £60. Third was **Hughes & Buckley of Rochdale** with GB20X18862 and a coefficient score of 4.993, they also received a medallion and a cheque for £40.

The **Long Distance Award for over 450 miles**

was not decided on a coefficient, that went to the judges to decide. They would receive the winners from all the regions and choose their overall UK winners. First prize was awarded to **Ronald Pendleton of Liverpool** with Sheila's Wings, GB17Z62140, which won 1st Open National Flying Club against 2,035 birds over a distance of 714m 718y. Ronald received the Queen's Coronation Cup, a medallion and £100. Second was **C McArdle & Sons of Banbridge** when GB20B45105, was 1st Open against 2,118 birds flying 470m 1655y, they received a medallion and a cheque for £60. **D & J Staddon of Ditcheat** were 3rd with GB19B03004 winning 1st Open against 269 birds flying 560m 246y. They received a medallion and a cheque for £40.

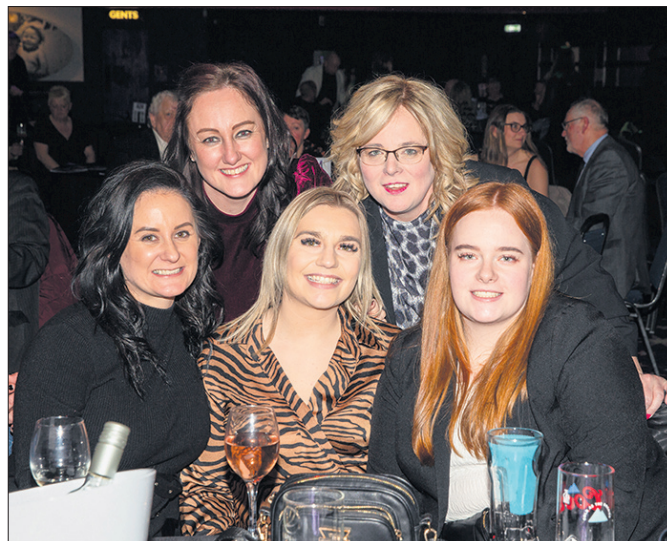
The **Tony Cornwell Memorial Trophy** is awarded for the best all round performance by a single pigeon and in 2022 the 1st prize was awarded to **Mellonby, Knowles & Simpkin of Bridlington**, GB19Z56447 with a coefficient score of 6.157, they received the trophy, a medallion and a cheque for £100. Second was **P J Wells of Dunstable** with his pigeon GB20H36757 and a coefficient score of 9.154, he received a medallion and a cheque for £60.

Third was awarded to **J Wood & Son of Oldham** GB20N47255, coefficient score of 14.122, they received a medallion and a cheque for £40.

The **Louis Massarella Trophy** for the best performance by a young bird was won by **D & R Williams of Cleobury Mortimer** with their young







bird GB22Z34341 on a coefficient score of 4.019, they received the trophy, a medallion and a cheque for £100. Second is awarded to **S Brenton & Son of Castleford** with GB22C29155 and a coefficient score of 7.629, they received a medallion and a cheque for £60. Third went to **M Bundy of Norwich** with GB22A13405 and a coefficient score of 8.387, he received a medallion and a cheque for £40.

As I said previously the RPR One Loft is our enterprise, owned by all the members of the RPR One Loft of which the funds raised go to the Future of the Sport. Any member wishing to enter a one loft race should think long and hard as to which one gives the most, and I do not just mean prize money, although we can compete with all the rest on prizes, this is the one which puts your money towards the future of the sport too. The RPR One Loft Race for 2022 had a total of 1,496 young birds enter the loft and the final race took place on Sunday 25th September at 9am from Sennen Cove in Cornwall, a distance of 199 miles 264 yards and a total of 297 birds were marked. The winner was Joe Dunning with GB22V56406 at

1271.4238ypm. Joe wins the first prize of £25,000, a trophy and medallion, and the winner of the 2022 RPR One Loft Young Birds Ace Pigeon was Phoenix Knights with WHU2022D04515 at an average velocity of 1033.88ypm and win £8,000, an RPR trophy and medallion. The Two Bird Average winners were Aston Flyers who were 13th and 14th in the final with a combined flying time of 30,061 seconds, they win £500, winner of the 2022 RPR One Loft Young Birds Two Bird Average an RPR trophy and a medallion. The RPR One Loft Yearlings Race 2022 had a total of 193 yearlings entered of which 77 were marked for the final race from Arbroath on 23rd July 2022. Flying a distance of 314 miles and 934yds, they were liberated into a light WSW wind with Aston Flyers further proving the quality of their birds by taking the first prize of £10,000, an RPR trophy and medallion. The winner of the 2022 RPR One Loft Yearlings Ace Pigeon was White Rock, WHU2021C39366 at an average velocity of 1326.76ypm taking the prize of £1,000, an RPR trophy and medallion.

I would like to thank all those who attended the Blackpool Show of the Year, and all things considered it was a success. We felt it most important to soldier on to find a reasonable solution to the avian flu outbreak to ensure there was a blueprint to build upon in the future. DEFRA were happy by the way we coped and as there are many bird gatherings planned during the year, we must be flexible in the event of a protection zone arising for any one of them. My heartfelt thanks to all those who went above and beyond the call of duty to make this show happen and I will end with a few words from the Show Chairman, David Trippett. 'The show maintains its resilience after three turbulent years, this has only happened through what has been invested in the show in the past and continues to be invested now, through the continued abilities and commitment of all those who have been involved and are now involved in its running and organisation.'

CHRIS SUTTON  
CEO and Manager, Show of the Year

