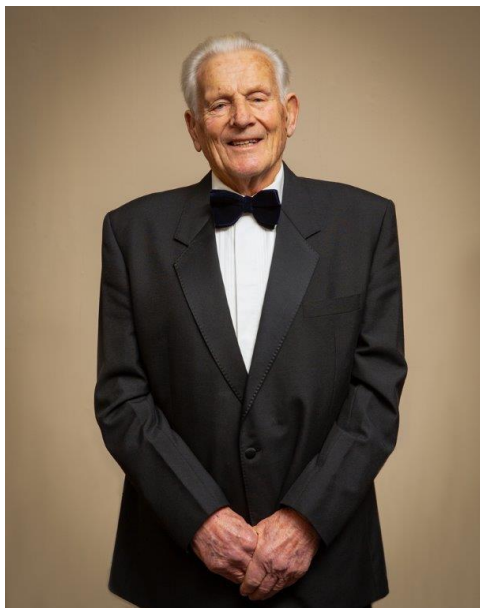


## NFC AGM

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February saw the committee gather for the recent AGM AND General Management Committee meeting at our usual venue- The Alveley Sports and Social Club. A detailed set of minutes from both meetings will be available in the near future on our website, for now I wish to highlight some housekeeping changes and gentle reminders to members to ensure we are all ready to go for the start of the season.

The roles of Chairman and Treasurer remain unchanged from the previous few seasons – with the thinking being “if it isn’t broke then don’t change it”. To that end Paul Naum once more took on the role of Chairman with Stephen Beardsmore remaining as Treasurer – so members can be assured that the management of The National Flying Club remains in safe hands. The Committee would like to thank them for agreeing to stay in post for another 12 months. The role of President was vacated by The Maestro himself Mr Geoff Kirkland following his tenure and for 2023 it has been undertaken once more by another true gentleman and NFC stalwart Mr John Edwards. As seems to be the tradition, the new President brings wit, charm and a wealth of experience, energy and tenacity to the role, and John has that by the bucketful.

We also welcomed on board two new committee members – Paul O’Leary for Section B and Alan Webber for Section F - both keen, talented and hard-working fanciers who already do a great deal for The National Flying club.



One really positive piece of news was that the club membership has proved to be remarkably resilient in the face of many organisations turning north, and the fear and uncertainty surrounding acquiring your CPH number, vet visits and the costs involved. It would seem that those of us who competed from the channel in 2022 have gone quite some way to dispel the initial fears, and in fact the number of resignations was remarkably low and almost matched by applications from new members. So, it looks like the appetite for channel racing remains high, with the keen interest shown by our members giving high hopes for a competitively fought season. The future looks bright, let's do this together, and let's fill those baskets.

As members will be aware, we have had some administrative changes over the past few months and we now have an Office Manager in post with responsibility for the day to day running of the Club, and a Race Manager who will oversee all aspects of the race programme including entries, results and allocation of prize monies and diplomas. These are both big roles and central to the running of the club – so it is just as well that we have 2 absolute stars filling these roles. The Office Manager is Gill Naum and the role of Race Manager has been ably filled by Jill Webber who will be known to any member who uses Steventon marking station in Oxfordshire. These two ladies are working in tandem to guide us through the 2023 season and beyond – I am sure I speak for all of the members when I say welcome aboard ladies.



Which brings me nicely to the first bit of housekeeping for the 2023 season. Could I ask that members send an email to Gill Naum so that she has a copy of your most recent email address and include in the email your most recent phone number so that the database can be updated accordingly. You would be surprised at how many members do not have a current contact number, so by doing this you will have ensured that we have two routes of contact.

Also, to allow for a speedy means of paying out prize and pool money as soon as possible after each race, we will require your bank details to allow Jill Webber to pay out using BACS. Now, I know that some members worry about providing their details and that is understandable, but you are only providing the same details that can be retrieved from any cheques you issue. Having your bank details ensures that BACS can be implemented to allow the safe and speedy payment of any monies you win during the season. Could I ask that you email or text these details with your flying name and membership number to Jill Webber. The contact details for both ladies can be found on our website or you can ask via our Facebook page.



Could I also request that you log on to the website to ensure that you remember your log in details rather than realising that you have forgotten them when you try to enter birds online for the first race .If you have any queries or problem then just ring or email Gill Naum and she will quickly get you sorted and ready to go.

As with last year we will need a Vet present at all marking stations for each race this year, and most probably for the foreseeable future. To help counter the costs that this will incur we are once more running a young bird auction when top fanciers from within The British isles donate from their very best. This will start on the weekend of the 19<sup>th</sup> March and once again will be on [comparethepigeon.com](http://comparethepigeon.com). So get involved and get bidding - there will be the usual high quality on offer.

As you will know it is enshrined in law that the crates need to be cleaned and disinfected within 24 hours of returning from a race point, and this is an unavoidable cost. We have been informed by the contractors who undertake this messy task that this year the cost per crate has been increased. As a result the Committee have been forced to increase the cost of the birdage by 25p per bird to try and counter the increase. Unfortunately this cannot be helped and is a necessary step that had to be taken.



The 2023 Presentation evening will be held in Southport over the weekend of 25<sup>th</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023. This is always a great night with an incredible array of trophies on display that are presented over the course of the night to those fanciers who have seen their efforts and endeavours for the season rewarded. I always say that you do not have to be collecting an award to attend, it is a great night where you will be in the company of some truly wonderful people. Put the date in your diary and get your tickets booked.

Finally, there was one proposition put forward for voting on – an amendment to Racing Rule 26 which covers the process of verification of your first arrival on race days. This amendment was carried and common sense prevailed.

Right, that's all from me for now. As always feel free to get in touch with any news or queries. I can be reached on 01926 817796, or if you are shy then email on [weebu@hotmail.com](mailto:weebu@hotmail.com). I have included a few more photos from the 2022 Presentation evening at Buxton. Until next time stay safe and let's hope for plenty of egg shells on the loft floor.









