

East London venue change prompts bumper entry

CLUBS

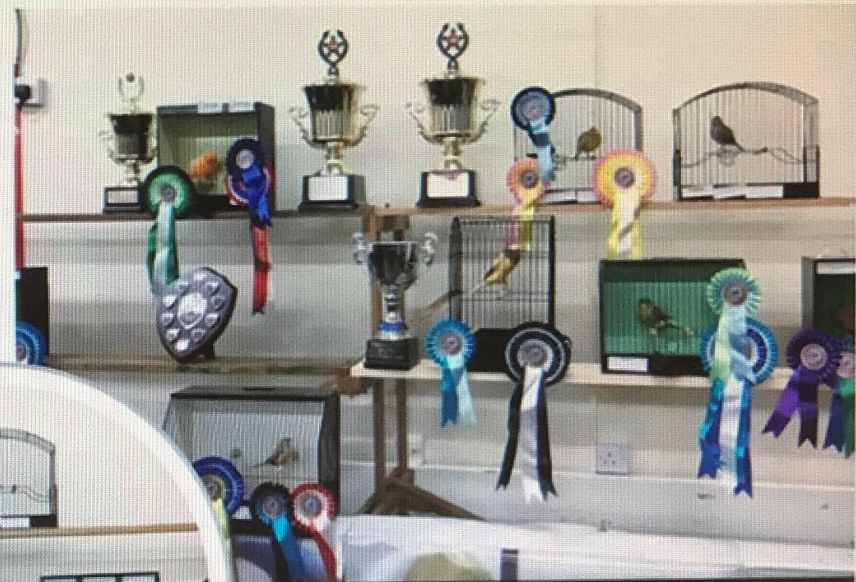
BENCHED ENTRIES AT an East London bird club have surged, despite venue complications that had put the show's future in doubt.

A total of 426 birds were benched at Dagenham CBS's December 16 open show, compared to 292 the previous year.

In December 2016, Dagenham CBS was told by its local council that the hire fee of Heath Park Hall would be doubled – on top of news that the year's rent

had to be paid urgently. The members' fight to stop the increase was lost, however, a new home at Wantz Hall, Dagenham, was secured the following month.

Club secretary Richard Wilson told *Cage & Aviary Birds*: "This was a huge task as many members had been going to the previous venue for decades. But the new hall can only be described



Above: major winners on display. Other top winners include P. Major who took best Fife. Best Gloster went to Lawson & Wells, and Holloway & Oakley won best foreign or parrot-like. Left: the new show venue, Wantz Hall, also hosts the club's monthly meetings



Sponsor Vista Workspace Solutions Ltd has supported the club for the past three years and added to the show's cash prize fund. The 2017 event had a prize fund of £900, with £150 being awarded to best in show

as perfect and we've received many positive remarks."

An increase in all sections was reported, including 206 British, mules and hybrids. Best bird, best canary and best Norwich in show was awarded to Chris Rigden.

In addition, the club has been further boosted with 12 new members joining in

the space of five weeks.

Mr Wilson commented: "This makes us one of the few clubs in and around London to see an increase in our membership.

"Our members have been fantastic and have embraced the challenge we faced."

● A full show report will appear in *Club News* in a future issue.