

DAGENHAM & DISTRICT CAGE BIRD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2020



**NEXT MEETING
which should have been on
Saturday 15th August 2020
10am to 12pm
HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO THE
CORONAVIRUS**

(Please see inside for more information)

SALES TABLE AT EVERY MEETING

Dagenham and District
Cage Bird Society
Meetings held at
Wantz Hall
Rainham Road North
Dagenham
Essex
RM10 7DX

PRESIDENT

Peter Decort
5 Campbell Close
Collier Row
Romford, Essex
RM1 4SA
0772 666 4671

CHAIRMAN

Barry Johnson
01708 348330

TREASURER

Peter Decort
0772 666 4671

SECRETARY

Richard Wilson
Unit 5
28-30 Fowler Road
Hainault, Essex
IG6 3UT
07852 959447

SHOW SECRETARY

George Philpot
0208 805 8179

Committee Members 2020

President	PETER DECORT
Vice President	Vacancy
Chairman	BARRY JOHNSON
Vice Chairman	Vacancy
Secretary	RICHARD WILSON
Asst. Secretary	Vacancy
Treasurer	PETER DECORT
Publicity & Raffle	BARRY & VAL
Newsletter	BARRY & VAL
Show Manager	STEVE WALLIS
Asst. Show Manager	LES RIX
Show Secretary	GEORGE PHILPOT
Asst. Show Secretary	Vacancy
Trophy Secretary	LES RIX
Canteen	FRAN, VAL & BARRY

Committee:

Dick Lathleiff, Mick Pegram and Ted Papandreas

Meetings are held on the third Saturday of the month at 10am to 12pm at Wantz Hall – Rainham Road North – Dagenham – Essex RM10 7DX

Committee Members' meetings

Would Officers and Committee Members please attend these monthly meetings starting from 10am on every meeting day?

SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2020

Single	£15.00
Partnerships:	£20.00
Juniors (to 16):	FREE

If anyone would like to contribute an article to the Newsletter about their birds or their showing – or anything else – please speak to Barry or Val at any of the meetings.

Forthcoming Meeting dates during 2020
CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID 19

Sat 15 th Aug	Open Show Preparation
Sat 19 th Sep	TBC
Sat 17 th Oct	Club Show League – Second Round – Hen Bird Show
Sat 21 st Nov	Young Stock Show (10am to 2pm)
Fri 11 th Dec	Staging for Open Show followed by Christmas Raffle Draw and Buffet (8pm to 10pm)
Sat 12 th Dec	Open Show (all day)
<u>2021</u>	
Sat 16 th Jan	AGM

The President's Comments and chit chat

I recently had a phone call from Ken Grigg to tell us how one Member of our Club had helped him for the last four to five months doing his shopping five times a week. Ken and his wife wish to thank **Fergus McCarthy** for all the help he has given them.

I also understand that during lockdown **James Bavister** has been delivering seed and equipment to several of our Members.

May I on behalf of our Club give our thanks to both **Fergus** and **James**. Well done both of you.

When you have Members like these it's no wonder that our Club has so much respect around the bird world. So keep up the good work. See you soon.

Birds

As I think I told you, Barry and I bought some Gouldians from James – 5 Cocks and a Hen.

Well I had the pair plus two Cocks and Barry had two Cocks, all normals.

I do not inspect the nest box that often, then a short time ago I was cleaning out the flight and I saw some egg shell on the floor, so I decided to look in the box. There are no doors to the box so I had to look through the entrance hole. When I looked in I saw something at the back of the box. It looked like a ball of yellow feathers with eyes, so I quickly put the box back and waited. It must have been about three days by now and I thought my eyes had played tricks, but then, one afternoon, when entering the

shed this little completely yellow baby Gouldian went up and down the flight. Eyesight vindicated!! So I quickly left the shed so it could get used to its surroundings and waited to see if there were any more. No such luck. But having never bred these birds before, I was tickled pink. Now I can't wait to get some more pairs.

So if anyone knows of anyone who breeds these beautiful birds and has any for sale please let me or Barry know.

Pete

Pete was supposed to be PICKING the strawberries!!



Staging Fund

Here is an updated list of donations towards the new show staging with three more donations this month –

New donations this month –

Les Rix donated cages = £120.00

Richard Wilson donated Bullfinches = £120.00

John Young donated Cash = £50.00

Mark and Sally Logan = £500.00

Yellow Hammer donated by Les Rix = £50.00

Pair of Redpolls donated by Dave Mason = £60.00

Canary x Bullfinch donated by Richard Wilson = £210.00

Hospital Cage donated by Mick Pegram = £40.00

Light Greenfinch Mule donated by Lawson & Wells = £160.00

CASH donation by Fergus McCarthy = £200.00

CASH donation by Steve & Bill Wallis = £200.00

Goldfinch Mule donated by Steve & Bill Wallis = £145.00

Cock Greenfinch donated by Lawson & Wells partnership £40.00

TOTAL = £1,895.00

If you or someone you know would like to help with a donation please get in touch, every little bit helps.

Nigel Breese has a pair of Goldfinches he is donating to the club for the staging fund, anyone interested please call Richard.

Update on New Staging

Staging has been ordered which will be ready in September. We have a small issue in terms of collection/delivery as Portugal is outside the UK safe zone so we are waiting on an update.

Richard

This Year's Breeding Season

How has everyone got on with their breeding season this year? As usual, I didn't pair up until Easter. As of July 19, I still had 4 pairs due to hatch if eggs are full (I never check them, preferring to wait for a surprise!). As you know I'm a Fife breeder, at today's count of chicks we have 80, certainly not as many as last year, but the quality has improved which is more important. Actually there wasn't much difference between the number of chicks bred between round 1 or 2, but I did experience a few dead in shell this year. It appears to me that a number of breeders have sadly suffered from the dreaded 'Mite'.

I give my sincere thanks to **Roger Mack, Nigel Breese, Gary MacBeath, Richard Wilson** and **James Bavister** for their invaluable advice early in the year on products to help eradicate the problem. Roger and Nigel for advising to use the **brown diatom powder**, in preference to white powder, Gary for using **Clean & Clear Check Mite**, Richard for using **Mil Ban** and James for using **Green 7**. To me, a club is all about passing on useful information, especially to Novices.

My regime this year took on a much stricter procedure than ever before. First is the use of **Red Stop** in the drinking water, initially used for 10 days, then 1x week thereafter. I have used this for about 4 years now and only lost a handful of birds that had mite BUT I believe that is due to a poorly

bird not drinking. I understand Aviform now have a very similar product out on the market.

Nest felts were smothered in **Diatom**, then repeated when eggs were set (dust everywhere!). It was also spread under trays and mixed in with floor covering. **Mil Ban** was painted on nest hooks and blocks which twist onto cage fronts Last year that was a severe breeding ground for mite, this year nothing! It was also painted in runners where divider boards sit and wherever else mite would breed. **Green 7** was used to wash all cages before repainting (plastic cages before sealing gaps), and then used to wash down during breeding season.

My perches are checked for mite and 'dunked' in boiling water EVERY DAY for 2 reasons. Perch ends are ideal for mite to hide and breed, **boiling water** will kill them, if I find mite, I spray the cage front where that perch sits with **Clean & Clear Check Mite**. The other reason is, dirty perches can lead to eye problems in birds! They get an eye irritation, then rub their face along a perch that is covered in residue from their droppings, infection then sets in, causing distress! PREVENTION is better than CURE!

Brenda Kettle

'Titter ye not'
(as quoted by the late Frankie Howerd!)

Reading about John Shaw in the July newsletter brought back to me many happy memories of John, and I thought you may well like to read a funny story about myself many years ago, and upon telling John what happened he thought it was hilarious.

Where we lived in Enfield we only had a small back garden, so my bird shed was only about 8ft x 10ft plus a small outside aviary. At the time I was keeping Border Canaries, and only worked part time, allowing me to spend the afternoons with the birds. During one very hot summer season I decided to clean out some show/training cages, my goodness it was like working in a sauna. Well, as Steve was at work and no neighbours were around, I decided to clean the cages 'topless'. As you know those cages are not particularly easy to clean, so for me the best way was to hold the cage close to be able to get my hand inside the cage. I'm sure you can now imagine what happened!! Yes, you're right, something of my personal anatomy decided to get trapped between the wires!! Thankfully it wasn't painful, but it taught me a valuable lesson, always wear a bikini top! On

hearing of my predicament John just couldn't stop laughing and never let me forget it.

Brenda Kettle

The Holy Grail of Hybrids

Ken Grigg, Dagenham & District and IOA member has achieved the Holy Grail of the British Bird, Mule & Hybrid world by breeding a Siskin x Bullfinch. Some people may say how lucky this achievement is, but this is no accident or a lucky coincidence. Ken has tried this pairing for over 30 years and talking from his home in Kent with his wife Jean has said that over this period he has had around 400 clear eggs from this pairing. Yet year after year Ken sets out his breeding plans for the bird room and now has defied the odds and produced a stunning specimen (see photo below).

Ken is no stranger to success, only last year being awarded the Order of Merit award from the IOA, only one of twelve of the Greatest Birdmen in the country to receive such an honour. He has been a breeder for over 60 years and has been the general secretary of the Southern Norwich Plain Head Club for over 40 years and has been an OMJ judge since the 80's.

He has competed & judged in many countries also winning gold medals at the world show.

The list of so many great achievements goes on, but many of us know Ken at the grass roots level of this hobby. At Dagenham & District Cage Bird Society, Ken mucks in with helping at shows and meetings, he always has a kind word of encouragement or advice for members young and old.

If ever there was a story of not giving up this would be it. Going through 30 years of disappointment and crushed plans and dreams to finally succeed where so many have tried and failed is testament to the man and our great hobby.

Kens Fabulous Siskin X Bullfinch



Useful Numbers and Contacts

Rings

IOA (International Ornithological Association) Website – www.ioa-com-uk.org

For all rings call Richard Lumley on 01653 697565

Email - ruby@lordlumley.plus.com

Richard is very helpful and provides a great service. The IOA are also sponsors of Dagenham CBS.

For closed or split rings email or call Hans Herr in Germany. Contact Melanie Siegel she speaks very good English, is very helpful and quick, I

ordered & paid for rings on a Wednesday and I received them on the Monday. The quality of the rings is excellent.

Website – www.vogelringe.de

Phone: 0049-721-686023

Fax: 0049-721-683029 -

E-Mail: ma.herr@vogelringe.de

Colin Leask

I have recently ordered some items from Colin Leask. I was having problems ordering on the website so phoned him and placed my order which was delivered very quickly.

This note is just to let you know that Colin has been experiencing problems with his website so, if you, too, are having problems ordering it will be easier to phone him on 01383 835208.

Barry

Members' Outlets

Essex Bird Fancier

Mark Smithson

Facebook and Ebay

Telephone – 07983 108 383

e-mail – essexbirdfancier@gmail.com

Bavister's Pet Centre

James Bavister

Website - www.bavisterspetcentre.com

Telephone – 01268 544 336

e-mail – info@bavisterspetcentre.com

If there are any other Club Members with similar outlets who would like a mention in this section of the Newsletter please send the relevant information to Val (valkenh@btinternet.com) or Barry (lukeira@btinternet.com).

Items for Sale

Fred Thorn has a **Double Cage** for sale (see photo below). If you are interested please call him on 07958 003 625.

Several pairs of Glosters and some single Cock Birds (Consorts and Coronas). If you are interested please ring **Fergus McCarthy** on **07961 803 100** and make him an offer.

If you have any birds or equipment for sale please bring them to the Club or let Barry or Val know and they will add it to the next Newsletter.

Fred Thorn's Double Cage



Items wanted

Mark Cussen is looking for a **BRITISH SHOW CAGE NUMBER 2**. If you can help please phone him on **0759 807 4418**.

Owl Finches (Bicheno's Finches) a pair and a single **Hen** are wanted by **Barry Johnson**. If you can help please phone him on **0751 609 1070**.

A **Rosa Bourke Hen** and a **Rock Pennant Hen** are wanted by **Roger Mignot**. If you can help, please phone him on **07763 352 449**. He is also still looking for a **Blue Pennant Hen** and a **Mountain Parakeet Hen**.

Two Goldfinch Hens are wanted by **Mark Logan**. If you can help, please phone him on **01708 501926**.

If there are any birds or equipment you want please let Barry or Val know what you are looking for so that it can be added to the next Newsletter.

PLEASE NOTE, ADVERTS WILL NOW BE INCLUDED IN TWO NEWSLETTERS ONLY. IF YOU WANT YOUR ADVERT IN AFTER THE TWO MONTHS PLEASE LET BARRY OR VAL KNOW. THANK YOU.

New Members

There were no new Members during the last month but it looks like Lara might want to join!!



Lara is wondering if Essex Bird Fancier sells Dog Biscuits !!!!

The Club's Website, etc

The Club's **website** is www.dagenhamcbs.com. You can find out all about our Club right back to 1935, Newsletters, Shows, history and much more. The Club can also be contacted by **e-mail** – info@dagenhamcbs.com – or via our **Facebook** page.

Dagenham CBS Facebook Page: We now have over 100 members on the new group page, please give it a look and join in the banter and the up to date news from the members.

Don't forget to keep checking the Website and Facebook for Richard's updates

Members' Info.

Mick Pegram has been leading the charge on our FaceBook page and I have received contact details from a few Members to put onto the website

page. This will allow members to stay in touch and give advice and help to other members who keep the same species or share the same problems.

Richard

Mick Pegram's "Spot the Member" give-away

The winner from the March Newsletter was DAVID DAWKINS so this is being held over until the Club re-opens to give David a chance to claim his winnings.

2020 Membership Subscriptions

The Club's year runs from January to December

2020 Subscriptions

Single - £15.00

Partnerships - £20.00

Juniors (to 16) – Free

Sent in by Mick Pegram

A photo of Dagenham CBS and Barking CBS promoting the hobby. We took over the cloakrooms and adjoining Hall to put on this display at a School Fete. Really was successful and both Clubs gave a donation to the School funds. More pictures to follow in later newsletters.



Left to right Ronnie Andrews, teacher, teacher, Jimmy Todd, Council Governor