

DAGENHAM & DISTRICT CAGE BIRD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025



**NEXT MEETING
Saturday 17th May
10am to 12pm**

SONG BIRD COMPETITION
To be judged by the Members

(See inside for more information)

SALES TABLES 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
The Vista Group
1st Floor, Unit 7
Fairview Industrial Park
Marsh Way
Rainham
RM13 8UH
07852 959447

SHOW SECRETARY

Geoff Louth
07900 380 765

All Committee Members 2025

President	PETER DECORT
Vice President	Vacancy
Chairman	BARRY JOHNSON
Vice Chairman	LES RIX
Secretary	RICHARD WILSON
Asst. Secretary	DANNY GALLIMORE
Treasurer	PETER DECORT
Publicity & Raffle	BARRY & VAL
Newsletter	BARRY & VAL
Show Manager	DAVY HUNT
Asst. Show Managers	LES RIX & DAVE MASON
Show Secretary	GEOFF LOUTH
Trophy Secretary	LES RIX
Canteen	FRAN, VAL, BARRY & PETE

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

Committee Meetings

**The Show Committee will arrange the Shows.
General Committee Meetings will be arranged as and
when needed.
All Meetings and decisions will be reported by the
Secretary in the Newsletters**

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR
2025**

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 or e-mail them at the addresses shown below.**

Barry – lukeira@btinternet.com Val – valkenh@btinternet.com

**CAR PARK ENTRY CODE IS 0852# - PLEASE CHECK THE LIGHT TO THE
LEFT AS YOU ENTER AND DO NOT ENTER IF THE LIGHT IS FLASHING**

Forthcoming Meeting Dates

2025

Sat 17 th May	Song Bird Competition
Sat 21 st June	Andy Early will be giving a talk on old variety canaries
Sat 19 th July	TBC
Sat 16 th Aug	TBC
Sat 20 th Sep	Rickie Pennell will be giving a talk on Pine Crossbills
Sat 18 th Oct	Club Show League – Second Round – Hen Bird Show
Sat 15 th Nov	Young Stock Show (10am to 2pm) Christmas Raffle & Buffet
Fri 12 th Dec	Staging for Open Show
Sat 13 th Dec	Open / Annual Show (all day)

2026

Sat 17 th Jan	AGM
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The President's Comments

Nothing from Pete this month

The Secretary's Comments

At April's meeting we had Steve Chennell's doing a talk on In Breeding & Line Breeding. It was very informative and well delivered by Steve. There was lots to take in as the first part was done in last year's talk and then the final 4 stages at this meeting. I felt it was for the more serious breeders as it takes many years of dedication and is based on good pairing selections throughout the 8 stages. Thank you, Steve, for sharing your outstanding knowledge with us all.

We now have the PA system which works well and everyone in the hall can hear what our speakers are talking about. However, we still have members chatting in the background or taking calls while our speaker has given up their own time to entertain us. That's just rude and as a membership we need to be better, so please save your chatting for the tea break or after they have finished, mobile phones should be switched to silent, and any calls should be taken outside.

However, if you have anything interesting to say while chatting it would be great to get you booked in to do one of the monthly meetings standing at the front addressing the members, cos it's not easy.

Unsung Heroes

This month's Unsung Heroes are our Kitchen Team – Barry, Fran, Val & Pete. These people are the backbone of our club, month on month without

fail turn up and work so hard for us all. I could write a book about them, but briefly the club would not be the same without them, they make a difference. Barry our Chairman, Photos, Newsletter, on the door, making people welcome, Fran, the captain of the kitchen, hot food, cold food, Bread pudding, Val, front of house, always well organized, she helps me so much with the newsletter & admin. President Pete, who has held every position on the committee, also manages the club`s finances, taking subs & paying bills, collecting cups, washing up and serving. These 4 also prepare and clean up after you`re all gone, they all do so much for us, they lay the foundation for us to have a good time, every time.



May's Meeting

Our next Meeting is on the 17th May and will be the Song Bird Competition with the winner being chosen by the Members.

This will be the sixth time Dagenham CBS has held the Song Bird Competition and the rules are simple. So, whether you like the field song of a Goldfinch, the vocal power of the Canary, Mule or Green Singing Finch, or maybe the chatter of the Zebra Finch or Budgie, there will be something for you. Everyone has a favourite.

Members can enter as many birds as they like (£1.00 per bird). Birds can be in any suitable cage (it doesn't need to be a show cage). Each bird will be given a number and placed on the staging.

We can then all sit down and have a cup of tea and something to eat and talk about how the breeding season is going so far while all the birds are singing away.

At the end of the Meeting all Members present will be able to vote on which bird's song they liked the best and the winning bird will receive a rosette and a £20 cash prize.

2025 Show Prize Money Fund

The following donations were made in April

Paul Jupe £20.00 Mick Buckland £10.00 Sales table £5.00

We have a total of £2,407.00 so far this year

Thank you to all who donate to the Club to help generate funds towards the prize money for the Club Shows. £2,267.00 was raised in 2024

Members on other Committees etc.

IOA Committee

Richard Lawson & Eddie Wells

British Bird Council Delegates

Richard Wison & Davy Hunt

Are there any other members sitting on any committees at their specialist canary clubs? We would be interested to know what's going on so we can put it in the newsletter.

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. 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

BBC (British Bird Council) Call or e-mail for rings or Membership

Phone: 0121 476 5999 Office open 9.15 - 12.00 Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri -

e-mail - info@britishbirdcouncil.com

Membership – Adults & Partnerships £15.00: 60 or over £9.00: Juniors (under 16) Free

This Year's Club Sponsors

Direct Bird Products – Shane Evans

Don't forget you can ring Shane and give him your order which he will bring to the next meeting or he can post it to you
Please see details in the advert at the end of the Newsletter

Mooro's Events

Mooro's Events are based in Chigwell, Essex and have again agreed to supply 2 bottles of drink for our raffle prizes every month in 2025

Please see their details in the advert at the end of the Newsletter

Members' Recommendations

Suppliers of Colour Food by The Standard Laboratory

Carrophyll Red/Orange/Yellow

Contact George Weeks

E-Mail: george@standardlabs.co.uk

Phone: 01959 573 719

(New Phone No Mar 2024)

Wiltons Pet Centre

Phone: 01268 726 216

95-97 Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford, Basildon, SS13 2HN

Gladwells Pet & Country Store

(Copdock Mill)

Lubbards Lodge Farm, Hullbridge Road, Rayleigh, SS6 9QG

Phone: 01268 642 601

DG Pest Control - David Galea

(Club Member)

E-Mail davidgalea@live.co.uk

Latchford Farm Aquatics

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, RM14 3PB

Phone 01708 472172 or

07882 951 578 (Mobile)

www.dgpestcontrol.co.uk

Phone: 01708 641363

Bird, Fish and pet supplies

Items for Sale or Items Wanted

For Sale – Len March and Alan Short have **2 wire cages for sale**. They are **1m long, 15" high and 15" deep** and are **£20.00 each**. If you are interested, please phone **Len on 07572 516 681**. (2nd entry)



Wanted – Len March and Alan Short are looking for **Red Ivory Hen Canaries**. If anyone can help, please phone **Len on 07572 516 681**. (2nd entry)

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

Please note, adverts in this section will only be included in two Newsletters. If you want your advert in after the two months, please let Barry or Val know. Thank you.

Treasurer's Monthly Report & Attendance for April 2025

Raffle made

£198.00

Current Members present 40

Tea Bar made	£88.80	Guests	3
Donations:-		New / Returning Members	1
Richard Wilson	£10.00		

Raffle

John Martin won the £50.00 from this month's raffle

**Our thanks to Vista Workspace Solutions
for their sponsorship and the raffle prizes**

Alan Green won this month's Club Members' Seed Raffle

New and Returning Members

There was one new Member at the April Meeting so welcome to
Joshua Croxon who keeps Canaries, Goldies & Bullies

Our Club Membership is currently 106 made up as to
76 Single Members, 13 Partnerships (26 Members) and 4 Juniors

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 Group Page – We now have 797 Members
on the Group Page. Please give it a look, join in the banter
and see the up-to-date news from the Members.

Members' Info.

Please don't forget to let Richard have your contact details if you are happy
for them to be put onto the website page. This will allow Members,
especially those who are not on Facebook, to stay in touch and give advice
and help to other Members who keep the same species or share the same
problems.

Buying Birds by Len March

Hi friends I am Len March, 86 years old and registered blind although I do have a bit of sight in my left eye.

My father kept canaries which gave me an interest in birds since the age of seven. We would go birdwatching together and for the next few years I always kept a few budgies and the odd canary, but in 1980 I went to the Southend bird show and saw these beautiful red canaries and I fell in love with them right away. I found out that the man who bred them was named Dickie Wren who sold me two pairs. I then joined the Colour Canary Breeders Association managing to breed some birds the following year which I was able to show at the Coloured Canary Show winning best novice – I was hooked! From then on, I carried on with my reds until I saw other coloured canaries. So, I purchased a red agate pair moving on to Isabel's hen yellow black opals where I came into contact with Mick Pegram. We both had birds that needed to have black legs so I told Mick the secret. If you want to know what it is you can now ask Mick. From then on, I kept topaz.

For the last 10 years my eyesight has been going downhill and three years ago I was registered blind but, like I say, I could still see a little bit in my left eye. Two years ago, Malcolm Thornton and myself went to our show. It was there while I was walking around that I saw red Canaries. Now my vision was bad enough that on the topaz I could not see the markings clearly but with the reds who have no markings, I could see them, so I decided then that I would change to keeping red canaries. A young man said that he knew of someone who lived in London who was selling red canaries so on the Monday I phoned this man to ask about them. He didn't seem to know very much although he said that he had three pairs so I asked him, were they closed rung. The reason I asked this question was I liked to keep records of my stock and my breeding program and I could always recognise them by their closed ring. He wanted just short of £300 so Malcolm Thornton drove me up to London to see this man. The six reds were in one cage. There were no other red canaries to be seen so I bought them finding when I got home low and behold, no closed rings all plastic rings with no numbers. I put these six birds into my flight and within two weeks all six of them were singing and I thought blow it I've bought six cock birds which were no earthly use to me because I had no hens. Shortly after that I took them to our sales day and sold them telling people who bought them that they were all cock birds. I felt a bit disappointed but I phoned the Coloured Canary Breeders Association and the secretary said that I should phone a man who he thought had some for sale so I phoned

this guy and he agreed to sell me a pair of reds for £75. He sent them by courier which cost me another £40 when I got them home, again they were not rung. The cock bird looked okay because he was unflighted, but the hen looked a right old lady. Once again, I was very disappointed although early in 2024 she laid one egg. Soon after that in the autumn I found another man who had red canaries for sale. I phoned him and he sold me five red canaries for £150 and when I got them home, I put them in my flight. Two of them could not even fly so I put them in a cage and within two days one had died and two weeks later the other died. I didn't worry because I thought I had three left and they were hens. They didn't sing so I put them in cages and conditioned them and this year 2025 I thought I would pair them up. I gave them some nice material which they showed no interest in then I thought the only way to find out what's going on is to put a cock in with each bird well they fought like cat and dog so I knew that I've got three more cock birds which were sold to me as hens so once again I was very disappointed.

At this time my friend Alan Short said he would like to keep red canaries so I put him in touch with the guy who had sold me the five birds and when Alan received them, he put them in his aviary. He bought some cages and then transferred the birds into them assuming they were hens. He then bought a pair of cock birds from Richard which were very nice birds but in a short time he realised the five original birds were cock birds. Now this guy had sold both Alan and myself five cock birds and although Alan phoned the guy and told him what had happened the response he got was that's hard luck – I'll see what I can do next year. Alan politely told him not to bother so we then sat down and decided to get reds and red ivories as they are sex linked making it easy to sex the birds. Well, we phoned around but there were none available so Alan and myself are looking like having a non-breeding year which is very sad for Alan considering he wanted to start this year so where do we go from here?

We have phoned one or two breeders but they will not have any stock available until October or November this year so we are disappointed. But can I say to all our bird friends be careful what you're selling? Know what you're selling? We just ask that you would be fair and honest with people and not try to tuck people up. The trouble with being blind and Alan not driving far is that we can't get to the Dagenham meetings which we would dearly love to do. In the latter part of last year Malcolm Thornton did take us but unfortunately he is no longer able to due to business commitments. So we hope you enjoy this little story of our bad luck and who knows one day we may get to see you all. God bless you. Len.

*(NB: Can anyone help Len March and Alan Short continue to come to the Club? Len cannot drive and Alan only drives short distances and, as Len said, they are no longer able to get their usual lift? Both live in Southend. Len is in Shoeburyness (SS3 9HU) and Alan is in Great Wakering (SS3 0BJ) but they can travel to a convenient pick-up point. **If anyone thinks they might be able to help, can you please ring Len on 01702 293 053 or Alan on 07927 454 412)***

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

Mick is continuing with his monthly "Spot the Member" and will be donating £10.00 to the Member who is circled in the following photo. The prize must be claimed at the next Meeting or the £10.00 will be donated to the club

Last month's winner was **Richard Wilson** and he kindly donated the £10.00 to the Club's funds.



Membership Subscriptions

The Club's year runs from January to December
If you know anyone who is unable to get to the Meetings, they can send their 2025 subs to Pete (details at the front of the Newsletter)

**Cheques should be made payable to
Dagenham and District Cage Bird Society**

Single – £15.00.....Partnership – £20.00.....Juniors (to 16) – Free

Members' Christmas Raffle

Richard is continuing the Members' Christmas Raffle again this year. Every Member who is signed in at the Meetings will receive one entry for each Meeting attended. This year the draw will take place at the November Meeting and the winner will receive a cash prize of £100.00 donated by Vista Workspace Solutions.

This year the Club is also adding £100.00 to the Christmas Raffle. This will be split as to £60.00 for the second name picked and £40.00 for the third, so there will be three individual winners.

To win one of these prizes you must be at the Meeting on Saturday, the 15th November otherwise another ticket will be picked until a winner is declared.

The usual monthly raffle will also take place on that day, with its £50.00 cash prize plus other prizes as normal.

Bird Keepers Association

The remaining 2025 BKA Sales Days are
15th June, 17th August, 19th October and 21st December

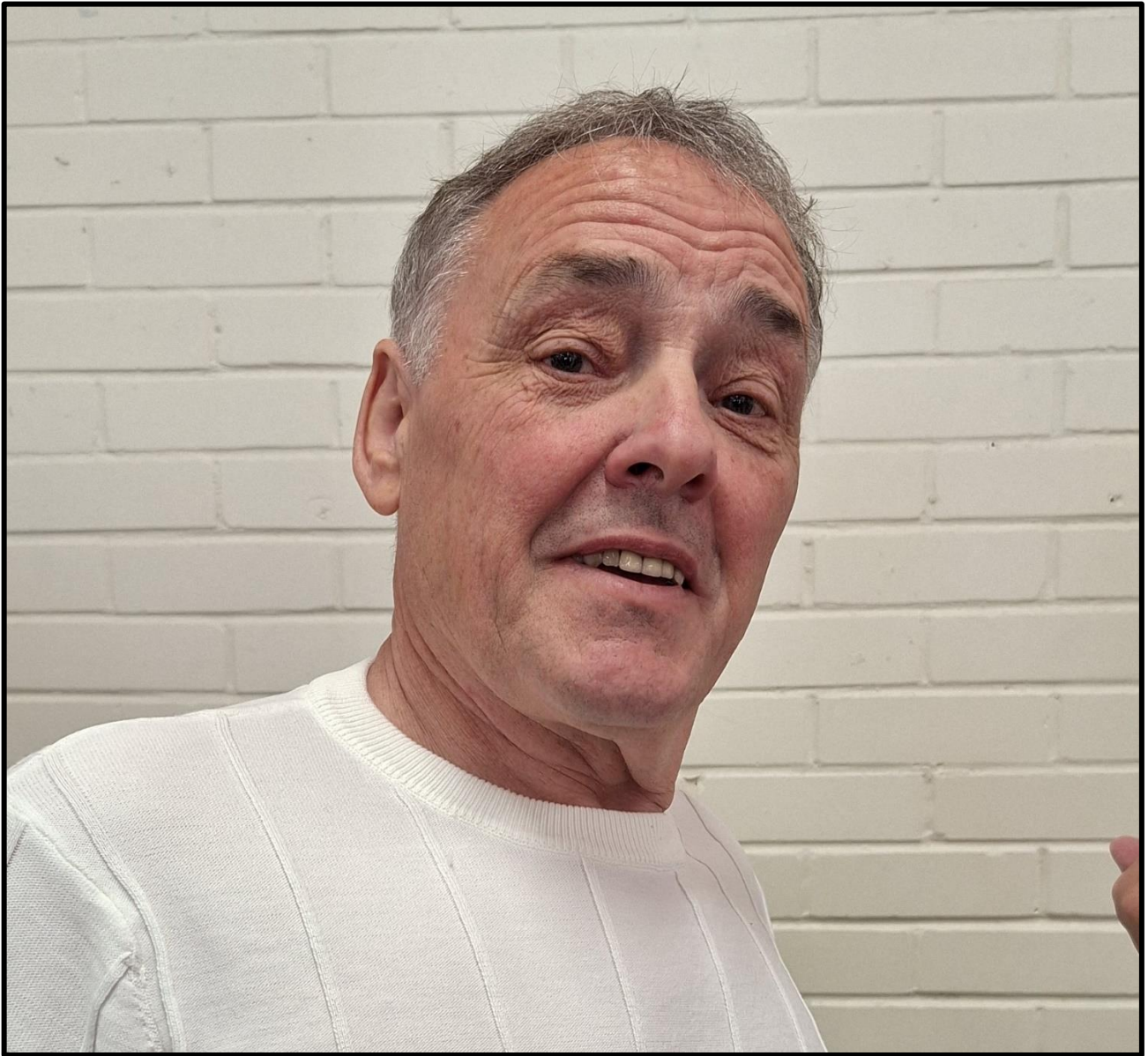
The Premier Bird Show will be on Sunday, the 7th December

Venue for all events is Cowdray Hall, West Thurrock, RM20 3JE

Further information relating to the BKA can be obtained from
Shane Evans on 07376 669 333 or Jamie Taylor on 07999 354 911
They can also be contacted via the website www.bkauk.org.uk
or by e-mailing info@bkauk.org.uk

Some Photos from the last Meeting





A great talk on inbreeding by Steve Chennells above








This Year's Club Sponsors

Mooro's Events



The best private hire venue
in the south east

To book now
☎ 0208 559 8714
✉ table@mooros.co.uk
✕ Follow

STRESS FREE CELEBRATIONS

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CHARITY EVENTS~~BAR/BAT MITZVAHS

CELEBRATION OF LIFE~~CHILDRENS PARTIES

BABY SHOWERS~~CHRISTENINGS

WWW.MOOROS.CO.UK

Direct Bird Products

Direct Bird Products are suppliers of seed and equipment. They are happy to post Members' orders to them or deliver to the hall on meeting days. They also plan to have a sales table at every meeting.

Members can contact them by calling **Shane Evans** on **07376 669 333** or message on Facebook Direct Bird Products.



Find us on

Instagram: Direct Bird Products

Facebook: Direct Bird Products

YouTube: The Bird Room

Website: directbirdproducts.com