

*The*  
Rare Poultry Society  
===== *Established 1969* =====



===== Newsletter November 2017 =====

*Also in this issue:*

*White Faced Spanish, Longtail Standards, Bird Flu,  
AGM Agenda, Show Results*

## **From the Chairman** *Martin Anderson*

The sudden death of our founder, Andrew Sheppy, following so soon after the death of David Scrivener, was a huge shock to the poultry world and a great blow to the Rare Poultry Society. In memory of Andrew, a new cup has been purchased to which members can contribute; it will be displayed on our stand at the National. There will be a short silence before our AGM to remember Andrew.



### **Avian Influenza**

AI has been a major problem during this last showing season and we hope that the big shows won't have to be cancelled this year. As another winter draws nearer we must accept the possibility that the disease will strike again with the arrival of migrating wild birds. This could mean the reintroduction of preventative measures by Defra.

### **New Secretary**

Patricia Fieldhouse has become our acting secretary replacing Stuart Clark who has served almost 5 years. I think that our breed club secretaries are the unsung heroes of the poultry world. They work long hours often combined with a full-time job. They never know when the phone is going to stop ringing. Thank you Stuart for all you have done.

### **Why not join the RPS committee?**

We are coming up to our AGM and I ask you to consider standing for the various positions. It is absolutely vital that those standing have the time to help the Society. Work has to be spread out amongst all the committee. It is intended that every committee member has a specific job. The roles will include helping with the newsletter including getting articles and mailing out the newsletter, getting sponsors, reviewing trophies, reviewing the website, taking turns on the club stand etc. A very important job is the breed registrar coordinator - to liaise with our 40+ breed registrars.

### **Website**

I am pleased to say that Chloe Davies is now in charge of our website. In my view we should appoint a committee member to coordinate a review of all the breeds including pictures on the website, and identify those that are missing.

### **Treasurer**

Sandy Hildreth has stated elsewhere in the newsletter that she will not be re-standing for treasurer (unless no-one else stands). I would like to thank Sandy for all her help over the years and hope she will stand for the committee.

### **Sponsorship**

We are very grateful to Marriages for renewing their sponsorship of the rosettes. Their support is much appreciated. Please support them if you can. Thank you Steve for sponsoring and sorting out our new stand.

### **Standards Book**

A revised RPS standards book has now been produced - see details on purchasing elsewhere in newsletter. It will be available for purchase on the club stand at the National and Federation.

### **PCGB**

Some of you may know that I have been elected for a 1-year term to the Council of the Poultry Club of GB. This will not affect my passion for and the time I give to the RPS - whatever position I am elected to.

Hope to see you at the National/Federation.

## From the Vice Chairman *Philippe Wilson*



### Progress

As exemplified by the reports published throughout the year in our newsletters, 2017 has been significant in the development of the RPS. We achieved new sponsorships through the efforts of our Chairman, Martin Anderson, and have promoted the society in the agricultural literature. Indeed, numerous articles have appeared in the specialist press exemplifying the importance of rare breeds in today's agricultural market, as well as important factors in husbandry. Moreover, the RPS has been featured in national and international publications through the efforts of your officers; The Telegraph, The Sunday Times, Modern Farmer and others all feature articles publicising the RPS.

### Breeds and Breeders

We have also had numerous successes with respect to our breeds and breeders. Rare breeds are consistently achieving the highest honours at poultry shows, testament not only to the successes of the RPS as a breed club, but more so the dedication, perseverance and loyalty of our breeder members, who continuously produce top quality stock capable of winning such prestigious awards. Our excellent relationship with our governing body, the Poultry Club of Great Britain, has also allowed us to develop our governance processes in their light and legitimise our compliance. Additionally, we have submitted and successfully standardised a number of breeds now more popular at shows, and had accepted a variety of changes to current standards to unify the breed descriptions we cover. As co-editor of the 7th Edition of British Poultry Standards, I can confirm that we will reinstate all breeds currently standardised by the PCGB. This will therefore return breeds such as North Holland Blue and Crèvecoeur to the main body of the text.

### Andrew Sheppy

Indeed a significant year for the society; although in 2016 we mourned the loss of our Honorary Patron Dave Scrivener, it is this year that we again grieve, but this time for our Founder, Andrew Sheppy. Most of you will know that I considered him the encouraging grandfather. He pushed me to join the RPS and PCGB when I first started farming with him in secondary school, and to take my first judging test at 20. He was an insatiable adept of natural history and believed more than anything in the principles and success of this club.

### New acting secretary

As such, it is fantastic to see the support the society, officers and committee have given to our newest addition to the organisational structure of the society; Patricia. Patricia was kind enough to take on the role of Acting Secretary, and we have received a huge amount of positive feedback since her appointment. We of course thank Stuart for his exceptional service over the past few years, and look forward to working with Patricia in further developing the strategic framework of the society. Personally, I must thank Patricia not only for the role she has undertaken with extreme diligence, but also for the support she provided to myself and the other "family" on the passing of Sheppy. Patricia and her family have always been friends of Cobthorn and I am sure that our Founder is watching over us and glad to see a more defined Fieldhouse involvement in the Society he founded in 1969.

Concluding, I would like to thank the membership for their support to the officers and organisation of the society over the past year, and look forward to continuing to grow together in 2018. We are all members for the same reason and it is wonderful to see the society moving forward in such a positive and wholesome way.

## **From the Acting Secretary** *Patricia Fieldhouse*

Martin and Philippe asked me to be Acting Secretary after Stuart decided to resign from his role as Secretary. I'd like to thank Stuart for helping smooth the transition.

### **Membership**

At the time of writing, the membership stands at 180 members, which includes 8 joint memberships, 4 honorary and 1 junior.

### **Stepping up**

Stepping up to Acting Secretary has been a very steep learning curve and I'd like to thank the committee and officers for their support as I've fumbled through reviewing the National classes (if I didn't have grey hair before I certainly gained some!), fielded questions from methods for poultry and breed traceability in abattoirs, to eggs differences between breeds, poultry export rules, or to figuring out which fancy chicken breed people are after.

I've learnt that when you answer the phone to Joe Public, you need to expect to talk about and be the expert in answering detailed questions on history, bloodlines, and origins of every breed of chicken known to mankind including ones that have their own breed clubs; especially finding myself the default breed registrar of any breed between registrar or lacking one. We do need more proactive and enthusiastic registrars – please!!!

### **Never-ending enquiries!**

Every day someone has needed something, and when I look at my email I don't know if it'll take me 15 minutes or 6 hours! Dealing with enquiries, people looking for stock, answering emails or chasing up on jobs.

### **Andalusian project**

We've received very positive feedback from the RBST about the Andalusian project. There may be a possibility of the RBST supporting another breed, providing it comes with a registrar as proactive and supportive as Andrew Bowden. This will be discussed at the 1<sup>st</sup> committee meeting of the new committee.

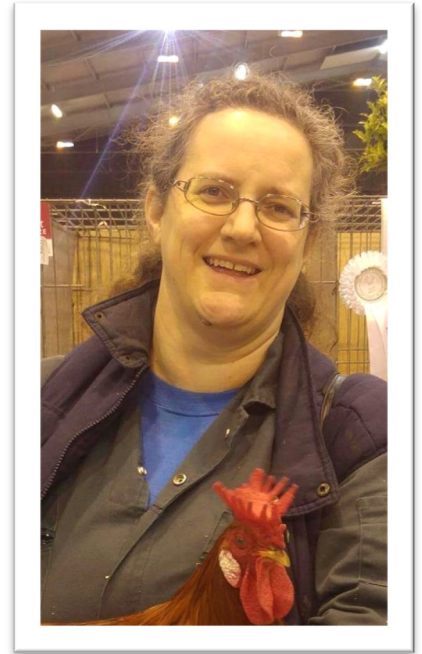
### **Breed registrars and newsletters**

The breed registrar list however is very much in need of some TLC, some work has already gone into it but more work is still required. Newsletters have also proved to be challenging to get out. We are lucky to have a few very active members of the committee who are very dedicated and hard working.

### **The committee**

At the time of writing this, at the AGM there will be at least one vacancy on the committee, plus that of the Treasurer and Secretary. Note that as I'm an Acting Secretary I am not automatically nominated for the role, unlike my committee position. In the same vein any co-opted committee members are not automatically re-nominated for the committee. Only officers and committee elected in those positions at the last AGM are automatically re-nominated.

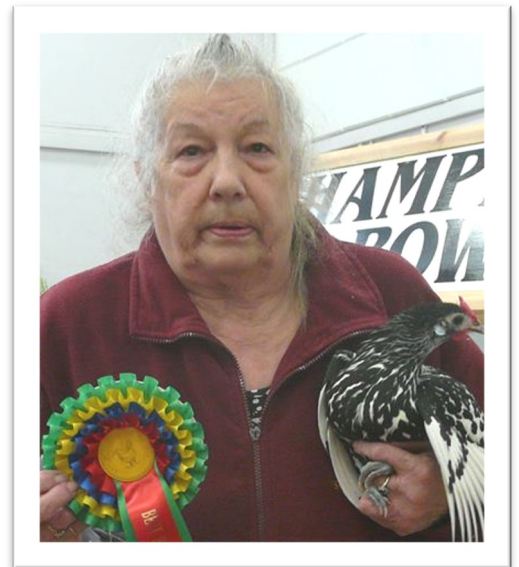
The loss of Andrew has definitely left a hole in the club, and hopefully the members are happy with the ways the committee have come up with to commemorate our founding father.



## Treasurer's Report *Sandy Hildreth*

As treasurer of the Society it has come around to the time of year to give you my report.

This report is based from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016 to our financial year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Due to the efforts of various committee members we have had various sponsorships of over £500. Rosettes did cost us a lot more than previous years – to the tune of £800 in total. I naturally did not want to issue a cheque for them. In the end one was issued and you all saw and seemed to like the rosettes. I hasten to say that in the coming financial year, the rosettes will not be costing that much! Apart from this hiccup, the accounts are staying strong. Since I took over the accounts have increased by £1493.15p. So we are staying on track. The last balance as of the 30<sup>th</sup> September is £3504.77p. We have made a loss this year, to the tune of £73.42.



After being the treasurer for the last five years, a post that I was proud to operate, I have decided to offer this position to another.

The reason for my decision is that maybe the Society needs fresher ideas and a new younger treasurer? I have not made this decision lightly. In my term of office, I have seen three chairpersons, two vice chairpersons and currently another secretary, although co-opted on. I have seen a successful team working together, with new and modern ideas. The sponsorship raised by Philippe Wilson was a great idea and worked well regarding the costs of the rosettes and other items.

This position requires someone who is strong willed enough to keep the officers and committee in tow with regards to spending the membership's money. Having a good year financially the Society, being non-profit making, should also bear in mind keeping the funds coming in for our very special year coming up soon. We hope then that we can thank and reward members by means of specials, extra rosettes and so on.

On this note, I thank the members, officers and committee in having faith in voting me back to this office during the last five years of my service to the Society.

PS I don't mind being on the committee if that is all right with you guys. If nobody wants to take on this role, then I shall continue to do the treasurer's job and not let the Society down.

Please see next page for the full Financial Statement.

## Standing for the committee or as an officer

The president (Peter Hayford), vice president (Julia Keeling), chairman (Martin Anderson) and vice chairman (Philippe Wilson) have stated that they are happy to restand. The acting secretary (Patricia Fieldhouse) is considering whether to stand for election as secretary. The treasurer (Sandy Hildreth) has stated she wishes to stand down so long as there is someone prepared to take on the role.

Kirsty Anthony is standing down from the committee.

If you wish to stand for any of the roles you need to be proposed and seconded at the AGM. If you need any further information please contact Patricia Fieldhouse.

If you are unable to attend the AGM and would like to nominate anyone for any position please send a signed nomination to the secretary.

## Financial Statement

**THE RARE POULTRY SOCIETY**  
**Receipts and Payments Account**  
**1st October 2016 to 30th September 2017**

**Income**

Subscriptions	£1,570.14	
Donations- Raffle	£39.00	
Sponsorship	£1,181.00	
Sales - Badges	£0.00	
Rare Breeds Book DS	£10.00	<b>£2,800.14</b>

**Expenditure:**

Postage	£471.81	
Rosettes	£893.50	
Printing & Newsletters	£1,087.89	
Website & Email	£43.06	
Banner	£32.00	
Badges	£178.19	
National & Federation Show Fees	£135.50	
Unpresented Cheque	£15.00	
Misc Items	£25.00	
		<b>£2,881.95</b>

Opening Balance in Bank Account 1-10-2016	£3,586.58
Closing Balance in Bank Account 30-09-2017	£3,504.77
Net Increase in Bank Account	<b>-£81.81</b>

Opening Balance in Paypal Account 1-10-2016	£19.99
Closing Balance in Paypal Account 30-09-2017	£28.38
Net Increase in Paypal	<b>£8.39</b>

Petty Cash	<b>£4.95</b>
Closing Balance Combined 2016-2017	<b>£3,538.10</b>

Net Decrease in Funds to 2016/17 Accounts	<b>£73.42</b>
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**ASSETS to RARE POULTRY SOCIETY (Valued at Cost Price)**

Cloth Badges x 13	£52.65	
Enamel Badges	£178.19	
Books - Rare Breeds of Poultry	£168.00	
Books - Breed Standards	£0.00	
Postage Stamps (Estimated)	£76.00	
Stationery Equipment	£75.48	Note A
	<b>ASSET VALUE</b>	<b>£550.32</b>

Closing Balance & Value of Assets	<b><u>£4,088.42</u></b>
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**NOTE A : Annual depreciation of Non Sale assets is at 20% per annum.**

# The Annual General Meeting of the Rare Poultry Society Agenda

1. President, Peter Hayford to open the meeting
2. One minute silence for our founder Andrew Sheppy and other members lost this year.
3. Apologies (apologies for absence to be given to the Chairman in writing before the meeting)
4. Minutes of the 47th AGM held on 19th November 2016 (published in the February 2017 newsletter)
  - a) Accuracy
  - b) Matters arising there from, not listed below
5. To receive the Officers reports
  - a) President
  - b) Chairman
  - c) Vice chairman
  - d) Secretary: Stuart Clark until 30th June, Patricia Fieldhouse from 1st July
  - e) Treasurer
6. To receive the Accounts for year ended 30th September 2017
7. Election of officers and committee
8. Appointment of Independent Examiner
9. Registrars
10. Approval of new constitution
11. Breeders Directory
12. Ohiki standard
13. Show Arrangements for 2018
  - a) Judges for 2018
  - b) Area and Regional shows
14. Members thoughts on commemorating RPS's 50th Anniversary in 2019
15. Any other business (Please let the acting secretary know at least 1 week before the meeting)
16. Date and place of next AGM. Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018 at the Telford International Centre.

A committee meeting will follow the AGM in the same room.

There will be a committee meeting at the Federation Show on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

## Proposed revised Constitution

### Name

The name of the club shall be The Rare Poultry Society (hereinafter referred to as 'the Society') and the office of the Society shall be at such place as may from time to time be decided by the committee.

### Objects

- a. To promote and protect rare poultry breeds (as recognised by The Poultry Club of Great Britain PCGB).
- b. To maintain, and for new breeds produce new, breed standards and promote the improvement of the breeds to meet those standards.
- c. To take whatever steps the Committee feels necessary to save a breed, if it is on the verge of extinction.

'Rare' poultry breeds are those without their own PCGB recognised breed society. Excluded from the Society are non-standard versions of already standardised breeds with their own breed clubs, and game breeds with no tradition of exhibition.

## Activities

The Society's activities will include:

- a. providing information and assistance to members and supporters by various means including meetings, events, newsletters, website and online forums.
- b. maintaining a members, breeders and keeper's directory. Information contained in such lists to be data protected - see below.
- c. promoting the exhibition of rare breed poultry, and educating breeders and judges on the standards.
- d. submitting new standards to PCGB.
- e. raising awareness of the breeds.

## Committee

The administration of the Society shall be invested in a committee acting on behalf of the membership. All members of the committee must be fully paid members of the Society and be over 18 years of age.

The committee shall consist of up to 12 members plus officers: President, Vice President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Members shall elect officers and committee members annually at the AGM, excepting the chairman who shall be elected at AGM every two years. To ensure continuity one third of the committee will stand down each year - at the end of the first AGM following the constitution being adopted. Lots will be drawn to decide who is elected for 1 or 2 or 3 years.

Nominations for committee membership must be made in writing to the secretary at least two weeks prior to the AGM. Each candidate must have a proposer and seconder who must be fully paid up members.

All officers, except the chairman, shall be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Society. In the event of a tie, the chairman will have the casting vote.

The committee may fill a vacancy occurring during the year. Such a committee member will have full voting rights and must stand down at the next AGM.

The committee have the right to co-opt up to three members, who will not have any voting rights and must stand down at the next AGM.

All officers and committee members can stand for re-election.

## Membership

The club shall consist of members paying an annual subscription, the amount of which shall be decided at an AGM or such other general meeting convened for that purpose.

The subscription is due 1st January each year. Unpaid members will be deleted from the membership list on 31st March. A reminder will be included in the February newsletter. After this date, membership will be terminated and no further newsletters will be sent.

No one shall be entitled to vote, or to have any of the rights and privileges of membership, until the secretary or treasurer has received the appropriate subscription.

The categories of membership are:

- a. adult: person over the age of 18 years at the time of joining.
- b. juvenile: any person under the age of 18 years at the time of joining.
- c. family: married or co-habiting couples and their children under the age of 18 years, all residing at the same address. The family will have one vote only.

Data Protection - for security reasons the membership list shall not be issued or made public, and members' details shall not be divulged to anyone without authority.



## Refusal/Termination of Membership

The committee shall have the right to refuse or terminate membership and expel any member (on a temporary or permanent basis) if, in their opinion, the person has engaged in:

- a. behaviour in contravention of these rules.
- b. behaviour in contravention of PCGB or other relevant show rules.
- c. rude, intimidating or bullying behaviour towards another member of the Society or the Fancy (whether in person, in writing, or electronically).
- d. other activities or behaviour deemed to have brought the Society, the breeds, the PCGB or the Fancy into disrepute.

## Code of Conduct and Policies

Members must be aware of the Code of Conduct and Policies e.g. bullying and harassment, complaints, grievance procedure, disciplinary procedure. These will be on the RPS website, alternatively copies can be obtained from the secretary.

## Financial Year

The financial year end shall be 30th September or such date as the committee shall decide. Members will be presented with audited accounts at the following AGM.

## Committee Meetings

A quorum for all general meetings shall be 6 Members and include at least one officer. All committee members and officers must be given 10 working days' notice of the meeting via email, post, or phone.

The committee will meet as often as required. The committee will not be required to meet in person and may do so remotely if it deems fit e.g. by conference call or by email.

All cheques must be signed by the treasurer (or, in their absence, a nominated officer) and one other. Only one member of a family can be put forward as a cheque signatory.

## Annual General Meetings

The AGM shall be held every year, not less than 6 weeks nor more than 6 months after the end of the financial year, and not more than 15 months apart. Resolutions to be proposed at the AGM must be sent in writing to the Secretary at least one calendar month before the meeting. The date and place of the next AGM will be announced at the end of the last AGM, and published in the newsletter. The business to be transacted at the AGM shall include the presentation of an annual report and statement of accounts, and the election of officers, committee members, and auditor.

## Extraordinary General Meetings

An EGM may be called at the direction of the committee, or on application in writing signed by either 10 members or 25% of the membership, whichever is the lower number, stating the business they wish to conduct. The members' application must be sent to the secretary. All members shall be notified of an EGM, and of the business to be transacted, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. The time and place of such a meeting to be decided by the committee and the meeting shall be held within 45 days of the application being received.

## Club Trophies

All trophies remain the property of the Society and shall be awarded only to fully paid members of the Society. They shall be held until next due to be awarded, at which time they should be returned to the secretary. Every trophy winner shall sign that they are fully responsible for that trophy and its return at the due time.

## Formation of New Breed Clubs

A group of breeders wishing to form a separate breed club for an RPS listed breed should announce its intentions at an AGM. The new club would have a year in which to organise its affairs showing evidence that it can stand alone. At the next AGM a proposal can be made that it be recognised by the RPS, subject to the approval of the PCGB. Any relevant breed trophies would become the property of the new club but would be returned to the RPS should the breed club fold.

## Alteration to Constitution

Any resolution to amend or vary this Constitution must receive the assent of at least three quarters of those present and voting at a General Meeting of the Society, due and valid notice of the meeting and the resolution having been given.

## Winding Up

In the event of the winding up or dissolution of the Society the remaining assets, after paying off all debts, will be transferred to The Poultry Club of Great Britain (charity number 298415).

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY AT THE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 4th JUNE 2017. TO BE PUT BEFORE THE NEXT AGM.

## New Standards Book

The revised RPS standards book will be available to purchase at the National and Federation shows. It will be in a leather-effect ring binder where updates can easily be inserted. The cost is £12 (non-members £17) plus postage/packaging £3.50.

It can also be ordered by mail, please send a cheque made out to "The Rare Poultry Society", including your name and address and cheque to Martin Anderson, The Old Bakery, 102 Low Street, Collingham, Newark, NG23 7NL.

## Avian Flu Latest – Time Between Shows *Jed Dwight, 12 October 2017*

### DEFRA guidance for exhibitors

Due to the changeability associated with the risk of AI, and the regulations relating to it, myself and Lee wanted to provide some clarity relating to time periods between shows.

### Background

Previously, in the event of an outbreak, DEFRA have made it clear that the same birds cannot go to shows within a particular timeframe, be this at all (during a ban on gatherings), 14 days of one another or indeed 7 days of the next show.

This changes regularly, as does the strength of regulation imposed, varying from a legal requirement to general guidance.

### Guidance

'It's guidance': We want to be clear that, at the current time, and in-part thanks to the PCGB's interaction with officials, DEFRA guidance states that the same bird should not go to two shows within 7 days of one another. This is, however, just guidance, and it is up to exhibitors to decide for themselves whether they follow that guidance.

It is also worthy of note that the officials at the Department appreciate that we as exhibitors and breeders have the advantage in knowing our own birds, and the breeds that we keep. As you will understand, some birds and particular breeds cope with the stress sometimes associated with a show better than others, and this should be taken into account.

### **Alternative Declaration Form**

Therefore an alternative declaration form - which will be made available on the PCGB website - may be of use to those participants that choose to show more frequently. (It is up to the organisers if they choose to accept this declaration).

Those without access to the internet, and who wish to use this alternative declaration form, should make contact with the PCGB secretary. We will also be issuing a statement in Fancy Fowl to ensure that coverage is as wide as possible.

We hope that this clarifies this particular point, and wish everybody an enjoyable show season.

## **PCGB meeting with DEFRA** *Jed Dwight (amended to remove waterfowl-related information)*

### **Introduction**

On Friday afternoon (29th September), the Poultry Club of Great Britain's (PCGB) two liaisons to DEFRA, Jed Dwight and Lee Grant, met with officials at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, including devolved administration representatives from Wales and Scotland.

This meeting was used to raise items that have been brought to the PCGB by its affiliated societies and members, whilst also being an opportunity to discuss items ahead of this year's winter showing season.

The PCGB is pleased to be able to provide the following update following the meeting.

### **Acceptable modes for transporting birds to and from shows**

A large number of PCGB members have been in contact to raise concerns surrounding the way in which they should be transporting their stock to and from shows. In recent years many people have used 'pet carriers' for this. During the summer shows it was advised that cardboard should be put in the front of these carriers to stop shavings from escaping. Members also enquired as to how they can transport large birds from their vehicle to the provided pen within the show.

### **Answer - Appropriate methods of transporting birds**

As previously, all boxes and carriers should be clean, and should be turned away if this is not deemed to be the case. Where possible litter should not be able to escape these carriers, and all possible precautions should be taken to adhere to this requirement. Where litter does escape it should be cleaned up as soon as possible.

### **Criteria for a blanket ban on show**

As members and affiliated societies will be aware, in December 2016 a case of AI led to a blanket ban on poultry events across the entirety of the UK. The PCGB's liaisons therefore felt it prudent to enquire as to the steps that had been taken during that time, and what triggers might lead to a further ban on poultry gatherings being put in place.

### **Answer - Steps that would lead to a future ban on gatherings, and steps that have been taken to reduce this risk**

Risk measures put in place following cases last winter mean that the UK has far more robust procedures in place when compared to November 2016, and poultry keepers across the country are more aware of what could lead to a case of AI and are taking necessary action to prevent this. Due to the time of year,

change in the strain of virus, and the fact that DEFRA are naturally risk averse due to the impact that an outbreak of AI in a show environment presents, officials could give no specific guidance on what steps would lead to a further blanket ban on gatherings.

DEFRA officials did praise the PCGB's proactive approach to informing its members and the wider poultry community, both through social media outlets, and its own methods of publication, and also welcomed the Club's continued interaction with the NFU.

### **Requirements for this year's winter shows**

As members will be aware, there are a number of requirements that shows need to adhere to, no matter the size of that event. Of particular interest to members has been the requirement for birds to be checked prior to entering the show. The PCGB's liaisons did enquire as to whether this requirement would remain in place.



*example of pet carrier with Perspex to prevent shavings falling out*

### **Answer: Relaxation of checks for winter shows**

Due to the timing of our show season, it is likely that the risk level would be high at that time, and therefore it would be unlikely that this requirement would be relaxed. It would, however, be for the poultry expert / vet to determine what level of examination is required. As its biggest event, the PCGB will set out guidance in relation to the National Show momentarily, and this will be provided to all exhibitors prior to the show.

### **Any Other Business**

#### **Registration of poultry gatherings**

At the conclusion of our meeting, DEFRA officials informed us that Ministers at the Department regularly enquire as to the impact that imposing a ban on gatherings would have. Therefore, we would strongly recommend that show organisers register the dates for upcoming shows with the relevant authorities as soon as they have been confirmed, ensuring that officials have a greater understanding of the impact that a blanket ban on gatherings could have, and potentially leading to alternative measures being sought.

#### **Updates from APHA and the poultry register**

The PCGB's liaisons raised concerns surrounding the irregularity of updates for members via text and email, citing that it was as a result difficult to rely upon them for information. DEFRA officials confirmed that they would investigate this. Officials also said that poultry keepers should look to ensure that details held within the register are kept up to date, and the current social media campaign encourages poultry keepers across the country to take similar action.

### **A New Show – the Royal Lancashire *Steve Lane***

I was originally approached, about 6 months, ago by the Royal Lancashire Show regarding organising a poultry event. Sadly due to bird flu at the time, and short notice it was a non-starter.

As a gesture I agreed to show a few of my own birds and eggs as a PR exercise. The event was hold over 3 days, 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> August, of which I attended the Friday and Saturday.

It was a great success and proved extremely popular with adults and children alike. The youngsters had the opportunity to handle the birds, which was worth it just to see their little faces!

I have agreed with the help of a few volunteers to put on a show next year. I was very impressed by the

enthusiasm of the organisers (all of whom have given up their own time) and feel they deserve our support.

It is sad to see one of the oldest and prestigious shows struggling over the past few years, plagued by poor weather, negativity etc. They have now acquired the present site for a minimum of 3 years (and what a site, a huge area and so picturesque).

Hopefully agriculture will play a much bigger part next year, with so many breeds of cattle having their regional shows and pledging their support to the Royal Lancs.

I only hope the poultry world will do likewise and attend this prestigious event, the organisers certainly deserve our input to make it even more successful in 2018 (may even ask Prince Charles to judge, now that would be something).



## Another New Show – Launceston Agricultural Show *Steve Davies*

In 2016 my wife and daughter while perusing the trade stands at Camelford Agricultural Show were engaged into conversation by one of the organisers of the Launceston Show. Once he knew that we were at the event because of the poultry show he told them that the Launceston show committee had been trying to get someone to organise a poultry show at their agricultural show for many years.

We were hooked. After a few texts to friends Roger Thomas (Secretary Pekin Club) and Jason Kestell local breeder and exhibitor, we had a committee. Of course in the summer of 2016 AI had not raised its head and so we were already planning our first show. Another phone call and we had our first judge, Andrew Sheppy.

As we know things changed a lot over the next 6 months and we decided that a show was not feasible for 2017 but that we would put on a poultry display.

Between us we had over 30 different breeds which we could display, covering rares, large fowl, bantams, true bantams and hard feather. We also had an egg show for which Peter Hayford stepped in to judge after the sad loss of Andrew.

The day was a great success. We had day old La Flèche chicks for children (and adults!) to handle and a mini incubator with chicks hatching on the day. Chloe was roped in to do an interview for BBC Radio Cornwall and we had a local winner of our first trophy “best exhibit by a Juvenile” for a plate of 6 eggs.

Next years show is on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> of July. If anyone would like to exhibit and register for a schedule or even judge at next years show, please contact us on [launcestonpoultry@gmail.com](mailto:launcestonpoultry@gmail.com)



## **The Spanish** *Andy Marshall*

### **History and Background**

In some parts of the world this rare and eye catching breed is called White Faced Spanish. Here in the UK it has always been known as Spanish. This is a breed whose history is not clear. All that can be said is that the breed has been in these Islands since the early 1800s. It was exhibited at the very first shows of the Victorian era when numbers in excess of 300 were common.

We know from recognised authors including Edward Brown, Lewis Wright and Rev Sturges that the breed was well established and popular in the UK during the first half of the 19th century. They were famed as being excellent layers of large white eggs. Then at some point fanciers' fashion took

hold and the breed quickly lost ground to the Minorca. There was intense competition between breeders of Spanish in Spitalfields London and Bristol; some preferred the smoother face seen in Holland whilst others preferred the cauliflower face. There were poultry yards specially designed for Spanish complete with heated winter quarters; such expense was claimed as being necessary to ensure large combs, white faces and the much desired blue legs.

All of this resulted in a fall in numbers with the breed already relegated to the Any Other Variety classes by the early 1900s. At one time Lewis Wright kept them before he was tempted away to his favoured Brahmas. It was not until the 1960s when Rex Woods and Ian Kay got together that any kind of revival occurred. Using an infusion of Minorca blood there were sufficient numbers to merit a class at the first RPS show held at Congresbury in the early 1970s.

### **The 1970s onwards**

Then during the 1970s Fred Tyldesly from Lancashire and Fred Hams in Kent continued the improvements. This was helped by Fred Hams obtaining some German stock. David Scrivener bought 6 Spanish from Fred Tyldesly in 1978 when he was based in Luton. David's heart was in fact always with the hard feather breeds especially Malay, and John Odell who lived nearby took on many of these Lancashire birds and has bred them ever since. David was really interested in the breeding of different colours and he made both the white and blue Spanish. These never really caught on so he John and Fred got to work on the bantams which were first exhibited in 1985/6.

It is thanks to these four breeders that we still have this breed. John Odell will have had them 40 years next year.

I obtained my original stock from Eric Parker in 1990 and for many years the Spanish shield at the club show would be won by David, John or myself. All of us have distributed birds far and wide yet sadly we rarely see many at shows. There does seem to be an increased interest overseas and I was privileged to be asked to provide stock for the Australian import project. I am also aware of stock in Holland and USA.

### **New Breed Registrar – Paul Morgan**

Paul Morgan from Somerset is a recent recruit to the breed and has kindly agreed to become the new breed registrar. When there are so few genuine breeders, having an active registrar is vital. Paul is keen to hear from anyone who keeps Spanish. His details are included at the end of this article.

### **Required Conditions for keeping Spanish**

This is a breed that cannot cope with wet muddy runs. They like to range. If this is not an option large indoor well-ventilated pens is a suitable alternative.



The males should be separated into individual pens as they mature to avoid any damage to the developing face. I have them in 4 foot square pens on grass from spring through to autumn and then on deep shavings during the winter. Do not expect to show and breed from the same males as the females can peck at their faces consequently ruining them for exhibition.

Other tips include making sure the males cannot dip their wattles into drinking troughs as this can result in grit and dust sticking to the fine soft white face and result in scabs. The face also benefits from a regular wash if the bird has been singled out for exhibition. This should be done with cotton wool and witch hazel. Then very gently rub in some Zinc and Castor oil ointment. Finally dry off with baby talc. Careful management will ensure the face is perfect for the club show. You can always tell if the bird has suffered from a scabby face as there will be red scars in the otherwise white face.

## **Fertility**

Unlike other rare breeds of poultry they are always fertile, easy to hatch and rear. The females are good layers and they provide a plentiful supply of eggs year round. As growers though they are not the most endearing, and males can get really quite feisty during the breeding season. Once adult, Spanish are a breed full of character.

In the breeding pen females can have the tendency to peck at the face which makes the male useless for exhibition, so the breeder needs to have several males available. Well ventilated dry pens are essential to avoid blistering of the face in the males. I have found that they prefer pellets and grains to mash as this lessens the risk of damaging the face.

## **Conclusion**

The Spanish is a breed that merits preservation. They are fertile, full of character, easy to rear and good layers making them far less of a challenge than many other rare breeds. So if you want to contribute to maintaining British Poultry Heritage you should try the Spanish and help preserve this lovely breed.

*Andy Marshall*

*Stable Green Farm*

*Chulmleigh*

*Young males pre-selection*



## **Calling all Spanish poultry breeders** *Paul Morgan*

Please make contact with Paul Morgan, the Rare Poultry Society's Spanish Breed Registrar.

**Phone:** 01934 741771 (please leave a message)

**Email:** spanishchickens@gmail.com

Do you either: keep Spanish, breed Spanish, or know someone who does? Or know of someone who has in the past bred or kept them and can add to the archive of the breed we are trying to put together.

Paul will also be building a Breeders Directory and a website, to include more history of the breed, pictures, a for sale/wanted section plus much more, in fact anything keepers of the breed would find useful.

Please help me to invigorate the breed and improve its position in British Poultry Heritage

## Breed Focus – The Spanish *Andy Marshall*

### Points to look for when selecting stock and judging

I have been tasked by the editor to identify good and bad points of the breed when judging or purchasing stock.

#### Eyes

Currently one of the most serious faults seen in exhibited birds is light eyes. They should be as dark as possible. Other serious faults I have noticed recently are incomplete white faces above the eye. The white face must totally circle the eye. A small red patch just behind ear is acceptable. I well remember discussing eye colour with Eric Parker, and Fred Hams can recall “discussions” with some European fanciers and Eric regarding this point. Tegetmeir (1873) describes how important dark eyes are. It does help improve overall balance.



*Spanish female – good head*

*Good female head. Hens have a tendency to get a red ring in the dark eye as they get older, this one is three years old. Don't breed from females if they have this in their pullet year, as it will encourage light eyes. Note the white around the eye.*

*Incorrect Spanish male head*

*Incorrect male head showing light eye, red above the eye, comb with too many serrations. Such birds should be passed when judged and culled by breeders.*



#### Comb

As with all breeds of poultry balance is all-important in Spanish. The comb in both sexes is important: females' single combs should gracefully fall to one side and be free of poor end finish, and have even serrations (5-6 is best). Side sprigs or fish tailed spikes are not acceptable.

In the male the comb needs to be not over large or beefy. The blade should follow the line of the neck and flyaway combs are not acceptable. Where possible select against birds with thumb prints.

#### Balance

With the head being such a feature in the breed, ensuring the bird has balance is really essential. Birds that have any physical faults including squirrel tails, wry tails, knock knees, narrow and roach backs, must be dismissed by judges.



As the gene pool is so small, giving such birds a prize card risks encouraging exhibitors to breed from birds with these faults. This needs to be avoided as much as possible.

### The Face

The white face in males must be even on both sides and not lopsided and free from scabs or any red scars. Females need to have a clear white face, ideally running down the neck with red wattles in the centre and not lop-sided. The white face will improve with age so be patient when selecting females for the breeding pen. Second and third year birds are best.

### Plumage

As the females age, white tips on wings and tail will appear and this is acceptable in hens but not in pullets. If the occasional red hackle feather is seen in a male, treasure it, as this is perfect for helping to maintain the intense black and beetle green sheen of the feathers.



### Legs

Blue legs are another distinguishing feature. Birds with black or dark legs should be dismissed by judges and culled by their owners.

*Spanish legs*

*Correct blue leg colour*

## Jersey Giants Wanted!

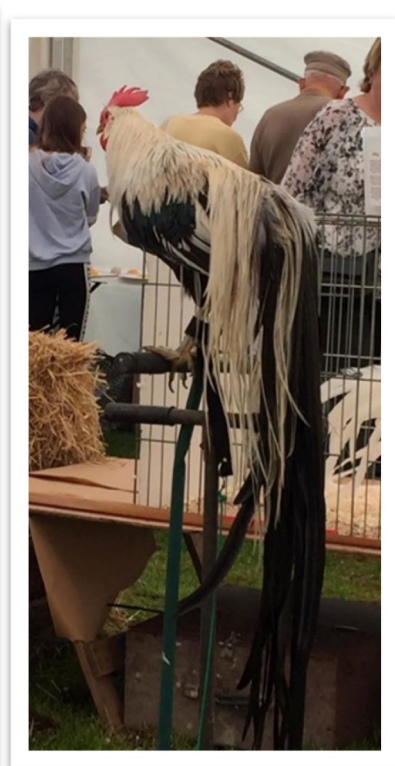
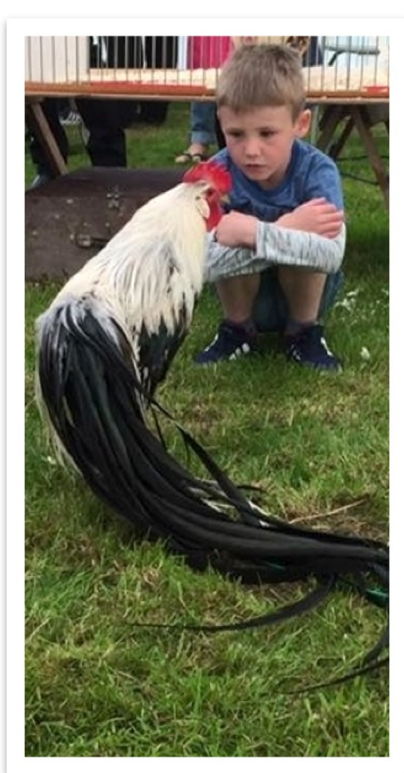
John and Lesley Gaylard are on the hunt for some black Jersey Giants from good stock, or for some hatching eggs come the Spring. Can anyone help? If so please email them at

[johnandlesley189@btopenworld.com](mailto:johnandlesley189@btopenworld.com).

They are members of the RPS and currently keep Vorwerks and Lakenvelders.

## Longtails and Long Crowsers

A stunning display of Amanda Wadiun's longtails at Emley Show on 5 August 2017



# Classification of Japanese Longtails

*Julia Keeling*

My apologies to anyone who has read this before – but I am trying to reach everyone concerned.

There has been a lot of discussion recently regarding the classification of the various Japanese long-tailed breeds.

The 'Yokohama' standard was initially compiled many, many years ago, at a time when all the long-tailed breeds of Japan were thought to be variations of the same breed, rather than several different breeds as we now know. This explains all the variations of comb type, leg colour, ear-lobe colour etc, which are currently allowed in this complex standard.

So – the current standard covers not only all those pure breeds (Totenko, Kurokashwa, Minohiki, Onagadori and Shokoku), but also all the descendants of the cross-breeding that initially took place through lack of knowledge. Now that we are aware of the separate pure breeds of Japan, and have breeders wishing to preserve them correctly and also show them correctly, we obviously have a problem. This needs to be addressed, but sorting it all out will take some time.

The current situation is that these pure Japanese breeds are covered by the PCGB 'Yokohama' standard – which should now be interpreted as a catch-all term for all the Japanese long-tailed breeds. Excluded are the Satsumadori – which is a gamefowl breed, and the little Ohiki – which is a short-legged bantam breed, both of which are standardised individually.

A further problem arises, the extremely long-tailed Onagadori cannot be shown in standard double pens. Currently birds can only be exhibited at PCGB shows in standard show pens. So this is also something that must be addressed.

I hope this small piece will help explain the current situation, and make everyone appreciate that we are fully aware that it all needs sorting out. But also that the current PCGB classification stands until this is achieved, and that it will take some considerable time!

My own solution to the problem would be fairly extreme. This would be my suggestion:

- The name YOKOHAMA (in both large fowl and bantam) to be retained for the red-saddled walnut combed longtails only – which would also bring us in line with USA and Europe.
- The true Japanese Longtails to be known only by their correct names. Some may be accepted by the PCGB as standardised breeds. The rarer ones may have to remain as 'Rare Non-standard' for some time. But at least they could be shown under their correct names.
- Alternatively, have AV or AOV (where there are already named classes) JAPANESE LONGTAIL BREED to cover all the recognised Japanese long-tailed breeds.
- Have AOV LONGTAIL classes (in both large fowl and bantam) to cover the game-coloured longtails which are not specific Japanese breeds, and which are currently covered by our Yokohama standard. (The name 'Phoenix', used in USA and Europe would not really be suitable, as that standard is very specific, whereas our category for these birds would need to cover all the varieties in type – except the red-saddled - now covered in our existing Yokohama standard)

These are my own personal first thoughts on the matter, and are not an official RPS suggestion.



## Club Show at the National

### Trophy Presentation

We aim to present the many RPS trophies to the winning exhibitors at 1pm on Sunday. This will take place by the RPS stand. Please check at the stand for confirmation of the time as this may change. Trophies can only be presented to RPS members

### Renew Membership

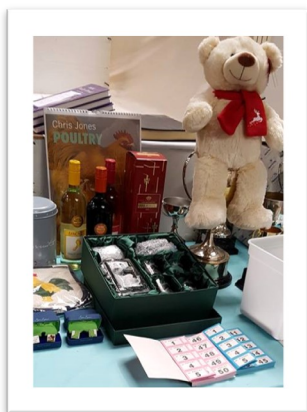
Please take this opportunity to renew your membership.

### Help

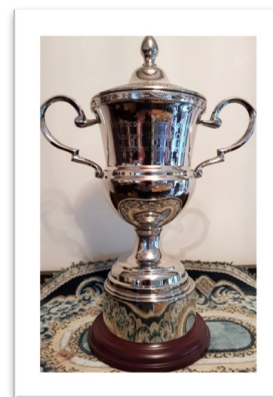
If you are able we would greatly appreciate any help/time you can give to us at the show.

### Raffle

We will be holding a raffle again this year and would appreciate any gifts of raffle prizes



*The Andrew Sheppy cup*



## RPS Regional and Area Show

### Results

#### Wigtown (Area) – 2 August 2017

Judge: Jim Lockwood

Entries: 18

Champion Rare: Peter Kendall, Black Jersey Giant male

Reserve Rare: Annette & David Mitchell, Bantam Sumatra Male

Special: Peter Kendal, Black Jersey Giant female

Special: A D Mitchell – Kraienkoppe female

Special: J Houghton-Wallace – Black/Red Yokohoma female

Special: E & L Hamill – Brown Marsh Daisy female

#### Malvern Autumn Show (Area) – 24/25 September July 2017

Judge: Wendy Shackel

Entries: 32

Champion Rare: Denise & Pete Wood – Red Saddled bantam Yokohama

Reserve Champion Rare: Wyn James – Black naked neck bantam cockerel

#### Bugle and District Poultry Show – 7 October 2017

Judge: Andrew Marment

Entries: 51

Champion Rare: June Marsh – Ohiki female

Reserve Champion Rare: C, S & S Davies – La Flèche LF

*June and her Ohiki*



## **Best Rare Results Around the Shows**

Well done to all the winners, and especially to Geoff Tinson whose Sumatra bantam male won best rare at the Halifax Show, Cheshire Show, Bakewell Show as well as reserve show champion at the Great Yorkshire Show and Champion Longtail at the National 2016! It is pleasing also to see that occasionally the champion rare is going on to take further honours in the form of Best in Show or Reserve Best in Show.

### **Cleveland County Show - 23 July 2017**

Champion Rare: Red Saddled Yokohama

### **New Forest Show – 25 July 2017**

Champion Rare: Wendy Shackel, black Thuringian bantam male

### **Nantwich Show – 26 July 2017**

Champion Rare: Geoff Tinson, silver duckwing Yokohama male

### **Bakewell Championship Show – 3 August 2017**

Champion Rare: Geoff Tinson, Sumatra bantam male

### **Ashover Show – 11 August 2017**

Champion Rare – Sharon Brinsley, Vorwerk large fowl female

### **Halifax Show – 12 August 2017**

Champion Rare – Geoff Tinson, Sumatra bantam male

### **Peebles Show – 12 August 2017**

Champion Rare and **Best in Show** – S Johnstone, Kraienkoppe bantam male

### **Pembrokeshire County Show – 15 August 2017**

Champion Rare: Gareth Morgan, silver Campine female

### **Bedwelty Show – 19 August 2017**

Champion Rare: Gareth Morgan, silver Campine female

### **Mid Somerset Show – 20 August 2017**

Champion Rare: Harriet Caudray, Sicilian Buttercup

### **Egton Show – 23 August 2017**

Champion Rare: Michael Evans, Ayam Cemani

### **Wensleydale Show – 27 August 2017**

Champion Rare: S & L Dinsdale, Sumatra bantam female

### **Keithley Show – 2 September 2017**

Champion Rare: Darren Baines, Naked Neck bantam male

### **Henley Show – 9 September 2017**

Champion Rare: Allan Brooker, Sumatra bantam

### **Usk Poultry Show – 9 September 2017**

Champion Rare: June Marsh, Friesian female

### **Penistone Show – 9 September 2017**

Champion Rare: Jacqui Moore, large fowl Kraienkoppe

### **South Devon Fanciers Poultry Club – 9 September 2017**

Champion Rare and Champion Chick: C, S & S Davies, LF black La Flèche pullet

### **Royal Berkshire Championship Show – 16/17 September 2017**

Champion Rare: Wendy Shackel, LF black Thuringian male

### **Nidderdale Show – 25 September 2017**

Champion Rare: S & G Hodge, Sumatra bantam male

### **Northampton and Durham Bantam Club – 30 September 2017**

Champion Rare: Barrie Dowson, Kraienkoppe female

### **Reading and District Bantam Society – 7 October 2017**

Champion Rare & Reserve Show Champion: Jane Freeman, bantam Vorwerk cockerel

### **Eden Valley – 8 October 2017**

Champion Rare: Wendy Shackel, LF black Thuringian male

*Geoff Tinson with his Yoko*



# Proposed Rare Poultry Society Shows 2018

To be discussed/agreed at the AGM. If you have any suggestions please let the committee know as soon as possible. These dates are correct to the best of our knowledge, but please check.

## CLUB SHOW

The National  
w/e 1/2nd December 2018

## REGIONAL SHOWS

The Federation  
w/e 22nd/23rd December 2018

The Welsh National  
Sunday 14th January 2018

The Scottish National  
w/e 20/21st January 2018

Reading and District Bantam Society  
w/e 24th/25th February 2018

## AREA SHOWS

Ballymena Championship Show  
January 2018

Devon Fanciers Exhibition Society (Dawlish)  
February 2018

East of England Poultry Club (Horncastle)  
22nd March 2018

Billington Poultry Club  
Sunday 11th March 2018

Devon County Show  
17/18/19th May 2018

## Contact Details

President: Peter Hayford

Vice President: Julia Keeling, shamolady@manx.net

Chairman: Martin Anderson, martin@martinanderson.me.uk,  
079887 86288

Vice Chairman: Philippe Wilson, philippe.b.wilson@gmail.com,  
07710688519

Acting Secretary: Patricia Fieldhouse, secretary@rarepoulttrysociety.org.uk,  
01934 824213 (evenings, best time between 9pm and 10pm)

Treasurer: Sandy Hildreth, orpingtons@btinternet.com,  
01673 885856

**NEW!!!** Surrey County Show  
Monday 28th May 2018

Staffordshire County Show  
Wednesday 30th May 2018

The Royal Bath & West Show  
Wed 30th May – Sat 2nd June '18

North Yorkshire County Show  
Sunday 17th June 2018

Royal Cheshire County Show  
Tuesday 19th June 2018

Great Yorkshire Show  
Thursday 12th July 2018

Tendring Agricultural Show (Colchester)  
Saturday 14th July 2018

Wigtown Agricultural Show  
Wednesday 1st August 2018

Malvern Autumn Show  
w/e 23/24th Sept 2018

Bugle and District Poultry Show  
October 2018

Kent Poultry Club  
October 2018

Welsh Federation  
October 2018

Countryside Live  
October 2018

Southport and Ormskirk  
November 2018

Publications Group: Philippe Wilson, Steve Davies, Jane Freeman,  
Rudy Roberts

Show Group: Philippe Wilson, Jane Freeman, Harriet Caudrey,  
Patricia Fieldhouse

Committee: Kirsty Anthony, Les Allen, Kate Barber,  
Harriet Caudrey, Colin Clark, Katherine Cox,  
Steve Davies, Stuart Clark, Jane Freeman,  
Kayleigh Freidl, Steve Lane, Rudy Roberts

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Groninger: Rudy Roberts, groningen-reg@outlook.com

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Niederrheiner: Contact the Secretary

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North Holland Blue: Peter Hayford, 01548 821212, no email

Ohiki: Julia Keeling, 01624 801825, shamolady@manx.net

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Penedesenca: contact the Secretary

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Sultan: Les Allen, 01502 560573, newmansince@yahoo.com

Sumatra: Julia Keeling, 01624 801825, shamolady@manx.net

Svart Hona: Daniel Nixon, danieljnixon@aol.co.uk

Thuringian: Wendy Shackel, 01444 831573, wenshack@hotmail.com

Transylvanian Naked Neck: Simon Capstick, simon.capstick@fast-glass.co.uk

Vorwerk: Jane Freeman, 07710 653124, Janemfreeman@hotmail.com

Yokohama: Julia Keeling, 01624 801825, shamolady@manx.net

For all other unlisted breeds please contact the Secretary.

## With thanks to our sponsors

### Steve Lane

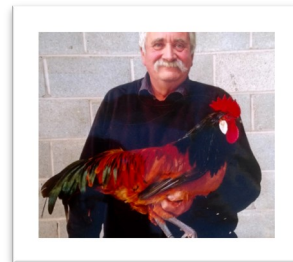
£200 for club stand and rosettes (December 2016)

### Nagra Media UK

Donation of electronic devices for use on the club stand.

### Marriages Feed

£536 for our rosettes for 2017 (January 2017) and we are pleased to announce Marriage's would like to continue their sponsorship of our rosettes for next January.



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