

# Minutes of the International Judges' Seminar of the EE Poultry section in Murten/Switzerland on 16. September 2006

Start: 8.45am

Agenda;

1. Welcome
2. Recording Attendance
3. Presentation of the Poultry Standard for Europe
4. European Show in Leipzig from 8. – 10. December 2006
5. Toenails in Booted Bantams etc.
6. Discussion about the structure of the Standards Committee
7. Discussion on the ESK-G regulations
8. Report from the Standards Committee
9. Breeds to be discussed: Chabos; Booted bantams; Barbu d'Anvers
10. A presentation on Barring and Pencilling
11. Any Other Business

1. The President, Frans van Oers (NL) welcomed all participants and showed his appreciation on the enormous turn-out. He thanked the organisers, Hans and Margit Zürcher and wished all a constructive and useful meeting.

2. There were 44 participants from 13 countries: Switzerland, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, the Czech and Slovak Republics, Austria, Denmark, Italy, Belgium, Poland, Croatia and France.

3. H. Zürcher (CH) presented the Poultry Standard for Europe from the Swiss point of view. The illustrations were based on photos that had been edited. This standard contains all breed lists of the affiliated countries. 23 breeds that are not standardised in Germany had been added to the Swiss edition. The French version had been made through M. Bovet's (CH) translation. The Swiss edition costs €95; M. Wyss had some copies for sale.

R. Möckel (D) stated that several colours that were standardised in Switzerland had been added to the BDRG version of the standard.

H. Zürcher commented that in the past certain breeds had been bred in different ways, e.g. the Faverolle; this should be avoided in future. The president of the SRGV, M. Wyss thanked the BDRG for the smooth cooperation in compiling this standard.

4. Dr. W. Lüthgen (D) reported on the regulations for the European show in Leipzig. The European Ribbon will be the highest accolade that a judge can award; this award must be confirmed by the head judge. The second highest accolade is the ELB – Leipzig Ribbon. All judges must be able to write their comments on the cards in one of the three official languages. It needs 160 exhibits from a country to engage a judge; in isolated cases 80 exhibits will suffice.

Judges' fees are as follows: 2 x €40 for two days' judging, 1 x €40 for travel to and from the exhibition hall as well as three nights accommodation. Travel costs will be refunded on the basis of second class rail fare, receipts are required. Each judge will be given a souvenir medal, a catalogue and free entry to the show.

The comment cards will be on the pens and contain the following information: Breed, Colour and Sex.

D. Kleditsch (D) further commented on the usual awards in Germany such as AAB. 1 x E and 2 x Z are awarded on every 10 exhibits. All judges will be sent a contract, a sheet containing all information needed to judge the show as well as a table of all breeds to be judged.

5. R Möckel commented on his research with the German Breed Clubs catering for breeds with shank and foot feathering. 3200 booted bantams from 87 flocks were examined. The missing outer toe nail was colour bound and found between 23% and 74% of the cases studied. At the hatching stage the toe nails were present in 90%. Prof. Dr. J. Schille (D) stated that this trait can be influenced by selective breeding, so all nails should be present. As disqualification of exhibits with missing outer toe nails would mean the end for certain colours, it was decided that the maximum points for such exhibits would be 95. The goal remains to have a full set of toe nails in each exhibit, but it is taken in stages. The European show will be dealt with under the current rules; countries that have a tougher stance already, do not need to make any extra provisions.

**6.** H. Zürcher questioned the current composition of the ESK-G. Regional representation should be considered. All minutes should be written in French as well as English. Pictures should accompany certain decisions. A proposal of how to split Europe into regions was available to all representatives. All were in favour of this proposal. A. Verhelst (B) said that a great standard for Europe had been compiled and it should be everyone's intention to develop this further.

**7.** M. von Lüttwitz (D) aired his opinion to reduce the amount of meetings and instead use more modern means of communication. U. Lochmann (CH) however insisted on two meetings per annum. A discussion took place about the pros and cons of having a meeting in conjunction with the annual general meeting. R. Möckel once more mentioned the deadlines for proposals of standardisation of breeds; these are 1. February and 1. August respectively.

**8.** U. Lochmann requested that all representatives would compare their national standards with the standard for Europe and list any deviations. It is also important to check weights as described in the standard with the weight of the exhibits in the show pens.

The objection of the German Sussex breed club with regard to the determination of plumage undercolour in columbians will be put on the next ESK-G agenda.

**9.** R. Möckel did a visual presentation on the head points of poultry breeds, especially of Chabos. The size of the comb has to be in keeping with the animal. Higher standards should be expected for smooth feathered animals than for frizzled. In the case of big massive combs, support folds would be allowed. The shape of the serrations is also very important. The front of the comb should not exceed the tip of the beak. The wattles should be of good fleshy texture and stand off slightly. The wattles in e.g. Minorcas and Dorkings should be judged more leniently.

The comb and wattles should be in proportion. Bulging wattles are incorrect. The comb in females should preferably be large and well serrated and will not be penalised for being upright. There should be no more than five serrations. All this information was eventually put to the test with the poultry that was brought along; small differences were found in certain colours and discussed.

H. Bachmann (CH) did a presentation on the Booted bantams in various colours. It was established that the problem of missing toe nails does not exist in Switzerland.

M. Strässle (CH) discussed the Barbu d'Anvers in the quail colour. Here it was established that Belgium and the Netherlands prefer a paler colour to the rest of Europe, despite the fact that the standard text is almost identical in all countries.

**10.** K. v.d. Hoek (NL) did a slide presentation on the difference between barring and pencilling. Brakels have the most coarse barring, whilst Hamburgs have the finest. Friesians have the most colours with pencilling; the most exciting no doubt being the Red Black pencilled with white feather tips. Slides with drawings of single feathers showed the characteristics as well as the faults. The tips of the feathers in Brakels should be black.

**11.** M. Wyss requested from all representatives to promote and support the Scientific Poultry Unit of the BDRG in their own countries. Only through scientific knowledge can we combat the animal rights institutions. Presently the scientific unit is concentrating on the following subjects: 1. Researching the breeding of poultry; 2. PR and 3. Conservation of genetic variety.

Frans van Oers recommended that all should attend the symposium that will be held in Leipzig on 8. December 2006 in conjunction with the European show.

The Dutch authorities have ordered that all poultry should be under cover again.

The President closed the seminar at 4pm.

Dietmar Kleditsch – Minutes Secretary