



The 2019 EE poultry judges meeting in Mijas, Spain.



This year the annual judges meeting of the poultry section was held in Mijas (Spain), very close to Malaga at the Mediterranean sea. In fact the Mediterranean was within 20 meters of the hotel. Never have we've been a guest so close to the border of Europe, from a certain height the coasts of Africa could be seen. This however didn't cause any problem for travelling there as Malaga is a big tourist place and the international airport is a destination for low cost air companies with flights arriving from almost every airport in Europe. Therefore it is a pity that only around 50 judges participated.



The Spanish federation Fesacocur had a difficult job to organise such an event since it completely changed its board last year and no one from them had ever attended a judges meeting the past. And it must be said that they did a very good job. Of course there were some minor points that might have gone better but the overall organisation was very good. The hotel was a big four star resort right next to the beach with an outstanding buffet

and all the judges were booked 'all inclusive', meaning all drinks and snacks were included in the package. Can you imagine? Free cocktails on a Mediterranean beach after the technical sessions is not exactly what we were used to. On Saturday evening our hosts had a really nice surprise for us by taking us 'offsite' to the historical centre of Mijas where we enjoyed an outstanding typical Andalusian dinner in a very nice enclosed garden.

But let's not forget about the technical part because that is the reason we all travelled to Malaga for. The agenda was, as usual, a mix of well and less known local breeds and some more international breeds. Lucky for us, Spain has several breeds which are internationally bred although not in large numbers, making them very interesting subjects for our meeting. The first breed we discussed was immediately the 'Queen of the Spanish breeds', the blue Andalusian. The presentation



was made by the president of the German breed club, Holger Schellschmidt, but while he couldn't attend personally it was delivered to us by Uli Freiburger. The conclusion is that the ideas on this breed are very similar between the mother country and the others. After this Enrique Armero presented the Spanish game to us, a breed almost unknown in the rest of Europe but very interesting nevertheless being of a very different type and size than almost every other game breed we know. After this presentation Andy Verelst explained the four

different 'Leghorn' breeds accepted by the EE, the American Leghorn, English Leghorn, Italiener and the Livorno, by comparing them and showing the differences in type, comb and feathering on pictures of birds of the different breeds in the same colour.



After the first three presentations we made a short bus trip to a nearby town where a small demo show was organised with all the breeds on our agenda present. Extremely well done by our hosts ! First we were welcome by the mayor who officially cut the ribbon at the entrance and also the local Andalusian television network was present to shoot the necessary footage and do an

interview with the poultry section president.

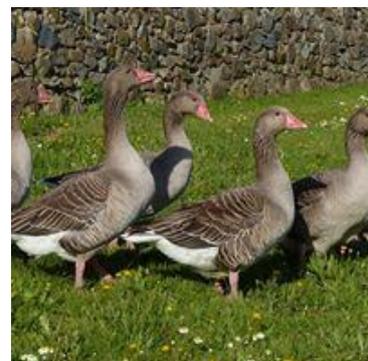


The afternoon was filled with many more presentations. Enrique first explained the Spanish whiteface and the Castilian, two breeds that we also know in other countries since they are 'Spanish classics'. Then we learned about the Asturian, which at the moment is only known in a few countries outside Spain but will probably spread further in Europe because of the attractive colours. The afternoon was concluded again by Andy Verelst who gave a detailed explanation about Serama, stressing the animal welfare issues with the so-called 'Malaysian' Serama and explaining why the EE cannot support them because of that.



On Sunday again several Spanish breeds were presented to us. The breeds from the Balearic Islands, the Minorca and Mallorquina, and also the Spanish goose breeds, the Empordesa, the Bask goose and the recently accepted Andalusian geese were presented by Mariano Mas and Miguel Angel Garcia. Especially the special 'yellow wheaten' colour of the Mallorquina and the small pink-billed Andalusian geese attracted a lot of attention because these features are unknown in other countries. Ivan

Fernandez of the Spanish standard commission presented two more Spanish breeds from Catalonia, the Penedesenca and the Empordanesa, both known for their 'carnation-comb', also known as 'clavel' in Spanish.





After one more trip to the show to study the specimens of the breeds we just learned about in theory, a final presentation was made by Peter Zuffa on disqualification defects, not unimportant because the interpretations about disqualification often differs somewhat between northern and southern countries. Unfortunately we had been a little to enthusiastic when writing the program because we had to cut the presentation short due to lack of time since some already had to leave and we still had to have a ESC-P

meeting. After a very big thank you and a big applause for our Spanish hosts and friends, the poultry judges meeting 2019 was officially closed and those who didn't have to leave yet and didn't have to attend the ESC-P meeting, could go and put on their bathing suit for another free cocktail on the beach. Eviva España ! Next year we'll meet in Slovakia.

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