



Cuckoo pullets reproduced by kind permission of Steve Massenhove. All females and some males carry 1 copy of the barring gene and appear dark because the dark barring is two-thirds the width of the lighter background.



Double Factor Male Cuckoo (a male carrying 2 copies of the barring gene) owned by Steve Massenhove. His pale appearance is due to his dark barring being one third the width of the light background. When mated with blacks, all his progeny will be single factor.

THE ORPINGTON CLUB

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SPRING NEWSLETTER 2017



TERESA HABBERFIELD OUR NEW CHAIRPERSON

JUDGES PANEL

BRIAN ANDERTON, STEPHEN ADCOCK, ROGER CLARKE, HUGH THOMPSON,
GEOFF HAMER, RICHARD ROWLEY, DAVID POWNALL, IAN DAVIS,
ANDREW RICHARDSON, JAMES FINLAYSON MBE, FIONA STOBINSKI,
PHILIP SMEDLEY, MARK RANGELEY, RYAN LIGGETT

COMMITTEE

RICHARD ROWLEY (VICE PRESIDENT), ROGER CLARKE, DAVID POWNALL,
GRAHAM & STEPHEN HODGE, MARK RANGELY, LAUREN SANDERS

LIFE MEMBERS

BRIAN ANDERTON, ROGER CLARKE

Hello and Welcome this Spring!

Well, it looks like I am your new Chairman. I am not quite sure how that happened but I am deeply honoured and thank you very much for entrusting me with the position. I was inspired by Brian's "farewell" article in our 2016 Yearbook explaining why he was to retire as Chairman. I am sure that Will Burdett would be absolutely delighted that Brian has taken over his mantle as President, and we can all benefit from his years of experience and success.

How impressive our Secretary, Andrew, was to come to the Federation to attend the AGM, immediately after quite a complicated operation on his hand. This shows real commitment and dedication. I understand from Andrew that he has now had his cast removed and we will all want to wish him well in getting back full use of that hand.

Ryan Liggett is a welcome addition to the Judges Panel, and he kicks off by judging this year's National. Ryan will be available at the Orpington Club stand on the Sunday morning at around 11am to offer feedback, and chat about the reasons for his judging decisions. Speaking of judges' feedback, or judging workshops, I would like these to be a regular course of events for our Members and also, with the right publicity, for prospective new Orpington keepers/members. Workshops are important in many respects; for instance, aiding us to select the right birds to show and breed from, and helping breeders of our rare standard-bred or non-standard birds to gradually improve them with careful selection – whether they show them or not.

We have a new time for our AGM at the Federation Show at Stafford – it will now be 1.30pm on the Sunday. Attendance has been disappointing at our previous time of 9.30am and we understand that people are tired on a Sunday morning and need a bit of lie-in. If we can get the business of the Agenda dealt with promptly, there will be time for our trophy presentations followed by some social time with tea and cakes – giving you energy to go and start packing up for the journey home!

I am hoping to organise an "Orpington Day" in Devon this summer if I can find a suitable venue. Please let me know if you can think of an appropriate place to hold it – perhaps at your home if you are a Devonian? It could be a mixture of good food (perhaps by repairing to a local hostelry), some "fun" showing, judging instruction, a raffle, veterinary advice, and a fund-raising raffle. But most important of all, a thoroughly enjoyable day out - a chance to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. I would like it to be in Devon so that Members in Cornwall won't have too far to drive, and to be accessible from Somerset and further afield. It will have to wait until the latter part of the summer to make sure we are clear of Defra restrictions. Hopefully, this "Orpington Day" would attract new Members, and be repeated in various parts of the country in the coming years.

This optimism may not ring true for many of you, with the depressing shadow of bird 'flu hanging over us. I am aware that some of our Members have had the most demanding of winters coping with the restrictions, and that some feel they cannot

The AGM

As you will see from the front cover due to the sad loss of Will Burdett MBE we have had to elect some new officials. Brian Anderton has now become our president, an office he has held before. Teresa Habberfield has become our new Chairman, a position she is taking very seriously and has already been a great help in chasing up lapsed members and new ideas to move the club forward.

As far as the Judges Panel is concerned, congratulations to Ryan Liggett in being elected a new Member; and this brings me to our Judges for next winter's shows (hoping they do take place), which are as follows:-

Club Show - Federation Show, Stafford: Hugh Thompson
National Regional Show, Telford: Ryan Liggett
Judges for the Regional Show in Ulster will be chosen locally.

Congratulations to Roger Clarke on being made a Life Member of the Club to recognise all the support he has given the club for over the last twenty five years. The man to beat in the nineties but never afraid to disperse his stock country wide to encourage interest in the black Orpington bantam, many of today's champions will have more than a little of the Roger Clarke bloodline in them. An excellent judge with his "eye for a good 'un" and will no doubt be judging one of our major shows in the future.

A period of silence was held in respect of the loss of our president Will Burdett MBE. More accolades and memories will surely be printed in this year's Year Book.

Facebook Page

We now have an exclusive Facebook Page for paid-up Members. We can post our thoughts and photos on there, enjoy reading others, and it is a forum for selling and sourcing birds and hatching eggs. Search for "Orpington Club UK Members Only" to join us and, of course, you will be made very welcome!

Some Show Winners 2016

Steve Holt: Ayr Agricultural Show, BIS - Black Bantam Cockerel
Simon Patel: Best Overall Trio, Federation Show - White Bantams
Simon Patel: Selston Show, Res BIS - White Bantam
S & G Hodge: Southport Show, BSFHB – Black Bantam Female
Teresa Habberfield: Cullompton Show: BSFHB – Black Cockerel
Andrew Richardson: Holme Show, BLSF - Large Blue Hen

BLACK COCKEREL (7)

1
2 M RANGELEY
3 D G POWNALL
4 D POWNALL

BLUE MALE (2)

1 M RANGELEY
2 M WALKER

WHITE MALE (0)**AOC MALE(1)****NON STANDARD M OR F (0)****BLACK COCK(4)**

1 F M & S JACKSON
2 R LIGGETT

BLACK COCKEREL (11)

1 PRIESTLEY & SANDERS
2 S & G HODGE
3 R SWALE
4 S & G HODGE

BLUE COCK (2)

1 W BURDETT MBE

BLUE COCKEREL (4)

1 O FRANKLIN
2 S & G HODGE

WHITE MALE (1)

1 S PATEL

NON STANDARD M OR F (1)

1 P SMEDLEY

BLACK PULLET (12)

1 D G POWNALL (CLUB SHOW CHAMPION)
2 M RANGELEY
3 M RANGELEY
4 D G POWNALL

BLUE FEMALE (6)

1 M WALKER
2 M RANGELEY
3 N LEWIS
4 N LEWIS

WHITE FEMALE (0)**AOC FEMALE (0)****BANTAMS****BLACK HEN(8)**

1 T PAICE
2 F M & S JACKSON

BLACK PULLET (13)

1 R SWALE(RES CHAMPION)
2 R SWALE
3 R SWALE
4 F M & S JACKSON

BLUE HEN (2)

1 A RICHARDSON
2 A RICHARDSON
3 W BURDETT MBE

BLUE PULLET (7)

1 PRIESTLEY & SANDERS
2 S & G HODGE
3 PRIESTLEY AND SANDERS
4 O FRANKLIN

WHITE FEMALE (1)

1 S PATEL

NOVICE/JUVENILE (1)

hatch this season, or have to reduce their hatches. This is quite understandable, of course, in that welfare is of the utmost importance and would be compromised by overcrowding. A consequence may be that our breed could be in short supply later on as a result. With some colours already well down at the shows, perhaps those of us who have sufficient space and time could hatch a few more or take on another colour. This leads me on to an exciting and generous offer from Steve Massenhove, a Member who breeds large Orpington's in all colours – please see my piece "Save our Orpies".

If you have any ideas for the Club, please do get in touch with Andrew or myself. For instance, an organised trip to Europe for one of the larger shows has been discussed amongst some.

I hope to see you in the not-too-far off future.

With Very Good Wishes to you all.

Teresa Habberfield

Tel. 01278 661562. Email: t.habberfield@btinternet.com

Rowley's Ramblings

It has to be with the passing of The "The Legend" in the whole fancy not just the Orpington Club of our President Will Burdett. I can go back to Alexander Palace {Alley Palley} when I was elected as club secretary with £26 in the Club funds and was so proud to have my name on the front of the year book in the middle of Brian Anderton and Will Burdetts. One of the most exciting times in our hobby --any new person showing Orpingtons I used to contact them to try and increase membership etc. Will was always in the background helping everyone – I'll never forget my first trip to Hutton Sessay (after having original stock from Cliff Lowe) to purchase a trio of black bantams. Will came out of his lovely country house with china cups and home made scones into the penning room. As Andrew has alluded to Mrs Burdett (Phyllis) was an angel --a lovely honest caring lady . And looking at Will's birds was like being in a massive "toy shop". Never forget his "drying room system" and boxing room (massive). When the Burdetts moved to Hutton Sessay I'll always remember Mrs Burdett telling me the absolute first job was the penning room etc before any jobs were tackled in the house. Will's enthusiasm with his blues was as keen as when the Germans used to queue up for his birds at Stafford Show (The Fed) and Will's influence was such that the Officials used to let the European Cousins exit at midday to catch the boat etc.

Being Chair of the Laced Wyandotte Club and Australorp Club plus taking candidates for practical judging tests and my love for Blue Furnace Old English Game and getting reacquainted with the [in my opinion] TOP MAN IN OEG and a larger than life character Austin Shaw----etc etc I found myself having less time and, as such, something had to "give".

In ringing up Mrs Habberfield to congratulate her on being elected Chairman of the Orpington Club we have exchanged texts etc and I owe the lady a phone call to explain why I am still vacillating over "my time". Having reached the Biblical Age of any thing "plus" is a bonus, I'm still at the cross roads of how to apportion "it" -----something you never really consider when younger. Having reduced my stock which only took about 40 years to decide (and obtain the mental energy no joking in this "obsession not hobby)--- I found myself obtaining blue bantams off two expert breeders and exhibitors (one being Graham Hodge) I love them – the contrasting two blue colours are well represented in the male bantam apparently "going into" the new standards book. Before talking more about blues – I echo Will's comments in trying to support the other standardised colours namely jubilees, spangles and cuckoos, the latter being one Teresa is going to talk about, she tells me, in the newsletter. Such a shame the lady from near Newark no longer has the rarer colours she represented so well. And I also echo Brian's point about having someone in authority (as well as Andrew) that is computer "savvy"... We have someone, no several, in the Laced Wyandotte Club who have the time to perform both roles .

Back to the blues – could go on for ages but one important point to be highlighted, I feel, is to remember when judging or breeding or showing that I fought hard to maintain a differential at previous meetings although only being 5 points in the standard so that colour counts with the blues to help us not to have a situation where a poor coloured blue could win because of excellent type. If interested look at the points or ask me – you may understand better. The question of a blue bred black male onto a blue bred splash will throw the best blues is a factor you can play around with to "infinity" to a degree. One can go back years and prove many different conclusions. Don't mean this to be a loose generalisation but only time will formulate your opinion, which believe me may vary between breeders.

So there you have it – having been to Orpington for my honeymoon (much to the chagrin of the ex Mrs Rowley) – Orpingtons will always be in my DNA .

Finally, and very importantly, congratulations to Andrew for continuing running our club, a thankless task at times, but secretaries don't "grow on trees" and as Andrew says "drop in for a brew sometime"– his (Andrew's) welcoming character is essential in dealing with personnel not to make too fine a point.

And a final final point, well done to Graham Hodge and David Pownall to name but two present successful breeders and exhibitors setting the standards for other aspirants.

Richard A Rowley

BLUE MALE (1)
1 H COOPER

WHITE MALE (0)

AOC MALE (0)

NON STANDARD M OR F (0)

BLACK COCK (5)
1 S & G HODGE (RES CHAMP)
2 D GARDINER
3 E J L ROBERTS
4 PRIESTLEY & SANDERS

BLACK COCKEREL (7)
1 R J SWALE
2 D GARDINER
3 R J SWALE
4 S & G HODGE

BLUE COCK (0)

BLUE COCKEREL (2)
1 S & G HODGE

WHITE MALE (1)
1 S PATEL

A/C NON STANDARD MALE (0)

NOVICE (0)

LARGE (0)

BLUE FEMALE (2)
1 M WALKER
2 A DOWDEN
3 A DOWDEN
4 M WALKER

WHITE FEMALE (0)

AOC FEMALE (0)
1 RICHARD BETT

BANTAMS

BLACK HEN (6)
1 D GARDINER
2 S & G HODGE
3 E J L ROBERTS

BLACK PULLET (12)
1 R J SWALE
2 G HAMER
3 R J SWALE
4 R J SWALE

BLUE HEN (0)

BLUE PULLET (3)
1 PRIESTLEY & SANDERS
2 S & G HODGE
3 T BUCK

WHITE FEMALE (1)
1 S PATEL

AC NON STANDARD FEMALE (1)
1 P SMEDLEY

JUVENILE

TRIO

BANTAM (1)
1 DERMOT GARDINER

CLUB SHOW RESULTS STAFFORD 17/18 DECEMBER 2016

LARGE FOWL

BLACK COCK (0)

BLACK HEN (5)
1 D G POWNALL
2 C L THOMAS
3 M RANGELEY

NEW MEMBERS

Below is a list of our recent new members, some of whom have already been successful on the show bench, can we wish them all the best for the future with our marvellous breed and ask them not to hesitate in contacting officials and members of the club for any help or advice.

Mr Mark Selby, Aborgele, North Wales
Mr David Roberts, Aborgele, North Wales.
Mrs Claire Pengelly, Tunbridge Wells, East Sussex
Mr Simon Patel, Tamworth, Staffs
Mrs Anthea Randal-Smith, Whilton, Northants
Mr George Le Page, St Saviours, Guernsey.
Mr Adam Dowden, Ruislip, Grt London
Mrs Helen Cooper, Fitzwarren, Wilts
Mrs Helen Curgenvin, Quintrell Downs, Newquay.
Mr & Mrs Ray & Frankie Dowden, March, Cambs.
Mrs Sharon Collier, Honiton, Devon.
Mrs Brenda Brayford, Hadleigh, Suffolk
Mr Jason Kestell, Lausteston, Cornwall

Subscriptions are now due for 2017 If you have received this newsletter by post you are fully paid up, if you received this news letter by e-mail it means your subscription is in arrears and you are not on the list for the 2017 year book. Annual subscription is now £10 and can be paid by BACS:

Sort code 30 96 85
Account number 32244360

If you no longer want to be a member of the Orpington Club, please let me know and I will take you of the e-mailing list.

RESULTS OF THE REGIONAL SHOW HELD AT STONELEIGH ON 19th/20th NOVEMBER 2016

LARGE FOWL

BLACK COCK (1)
1 T J BIELA

BLACK HEN (2)
1C & I THOMAS(CHAMPION)
2 C L THOMAS

BLACK COCKEREL (2)
1 R LIGGETT

BLACK PULLET (7)
1 H WALMSLEY
2 R LIGGETT
3 P A SWANDEL
4 T J BIELA

Save Our Orpies!!

There is no doubt that to attract newcomers it is vital to showcase our standardised Orpingtons at shows, both large and small. When Colin and I were thinking of getting into poultry, with no previous showing experience, our first priorities were prettiness and colour; and then, once we started showing, we acquired standard-bred blacks, etc. This is probably a route followed by many - their first port of call might be to look around a major show to see what attracts them. If it weren't for a quirk of fate (buying in a mixed batch of day-olds to put under a broody), we might have been smitten by another breed.

The other route many will take is to support a rare British breed and a natural port of call would be the Rare Breed Survival Trust website. The Orpington is represented there but images could be improved, and this is something that needs looking into when time permits.

Our European friends love the Orpington; I've yet to venture to a major continental show such as Hamburg, but I understand that their large shows have rows and rows of good quality Orpingtons in different colours (with many for sale), so perhaps it's time for us to start banging the drum more loudly for our gorgeous and friendly breed – whose birthplace was, after all, Orpington, England! As Richard Rowley says, the Germans used to queue up to purchase Will Burdett's birds to take home. Perhaps in the future we can build the colours and quality to a point when, once again, the Europeans will want to come over here to acquire them.

Additionally, we may not always be able to replenish our stocks from the Continent – this winter Europe has been affected more than ourselves by bird 'flu, and what the future holds is uncertain.

To this end, Andrew and I would be grateful if you could let us know as soon as possible exactly what colours and sizes you keep and/or breed and whether you are happy to supply birds and/or hatching eggs, so that we can update the breeders list, and you will know who to approach for stock.

Our rarer standardised colours are hardly represented at all in the UK (at least at the shows), namely: white, spangled, cuckoo and jubilee in large, and white in bantam. Blacks need continued support also, of course, as the long rows of Black Bantams seen in recent years are now no longer in evidence at the major shows. Producing blues is a challenge, but a fascinating one with a solid band of enthusiastic supporters, and hopefully fans of these beauties will continue to grow. Simon Patel has some lovely white bantams which he has shown to great effect recently. He was lucky (or perhaps canny) enough to import hatching eggs from one of Denmark's finest breeders. It was encouraging to hear that he has supplied a breeding group to Ryan Liggett of Northern Ireland, and let us hope this is the very beginning of a renaissance for them.

Colin and I hope to add some large blue and large cuckoo this year. We did have cuckoo in 2009-10 and wish now we had held on to them. At that time we helped

Steve Massenhove establish his, and he then upgraded them by crossing with blacks sourced from David Pownall.

One way to make a start with Cuckoo is to acquire hatching eggs from a reputable breeder and another way, if you already have large blacks, is to acquire a double factor male (ie a much paler-coloured male which normally has 2 copies of the barring gene) and mate him with your black females. The result will be 100% cuckoo offspring. I have included photos which demonstrate how to tell the difference between a single factor and double factor bird. The Cuckoo Poultry Stud of Australia are providing us with an in depth article on breeding cuckoo for our yearbook but, in the meantime, their website makes fascinating reading: www.thecuckoopoultrystudofaustralia.

I have included an extract from The Cuckoo Stud's article here, which will help if you are contemplating joining the cuckoo train:-

"it must be said here regarding the offspring of Double Bar Factor rooster over Black hen mating:

*The beak may have dark striations but this usually breeds back to the essential white in the first cross of these offspring back to Cuckoo. Also the legs and occasionally the feet/toes of this Double Bar Factor to Black mating offspring will have a lot of dark on them - usually goes back to mottling or even white at the first cross to Cuckoo but occasionally there will be a chick from the Cuckoo X Black bird when mated back to Cuckoo that has dark legs = this is a 'put it in the pot bird'. It is extremely rare from a Double Bar Cuckoo male over a Black hen to get solid black legs and beak = IF this happens these should not be bred from = if pretty sell them as layers but NOT for breeding. You also have to watch the eye colour = must be red or at the very least a dark orangey red = about 5% of double bar cross black chicks will have dark eyes = **do not** breed from them = even IF their legs and beak are white = they will throw the dark legs and eyes = again = if pretty sell as layers but NOT for breeding."* I would add that if the chicks hatch with black legs, you could try growing them on as this may change as they mature. The Standards for the Cuckoo Orpington can be found on the Orpington Club website.

If you decide to go down the route of adding one or more of the colours mentioned here to your flock, it would be lovely to hear from you from time to time with your progress and photos. These will give us excellent material for the poultry press – I have already approached Fancy Fowl and they are enthusiastic to hear from us.

Finally, if you have rare standard bred or non-standard bred Orpingtons, it would be great if you could show them and let others see them! Don't forget, there are trophies for non-standards at our Club Show (please see list of Club Show Awards Andrew has listed later).

With very best wishes,

Teresa

Teresa Habberfield

Email: t.habberfield@btinternet.com

Tel. 01278 661562

Members who may have Stock/Hatching Eggs Available Now
- please enquire
(With Special emphasis on the Rarer Standardised Colours)

Mark Rangeley, Nr Huddersfield, W Yorks HD7 5JA. Cuckoo, also large black, blue and buff. Black and blue in bantams. Stock and Hatching Eggs. Tel. 07903 082334.

Steve Massenhove, Nr Southminster, Essex. Email: steve@orpingtonchickens.co.uk. Website: orpingtonchickens.co.uk. Tel. 01621 774744. In order to support their resurgence, as from the end of April and for this year only, Steve has very generously offered to supply up to 12 hatching eggs **FREE OF CHARGE** in spangled, jubilee, cuckoo and white to **paid-up Orpington Club members**, provided that postage and packing is covered. This will be on a first-come first served basis. If you would like to take advantage of his offer please contact me first so that I can verify that you qualify. Steve has asked me to make you aware that, as of the date I typed this, he was in a restricted area for bird flu.

Richard Bett, Louth, Lincs. Large spangled. Also large black, blue, buff. Bantam black, buff, blue. Email: jbett@tiscali.co.uk. Tel. 01507 363742.

David Roberts, Aborgele, N Wales. Large cuckoo, white, spangled. Also Large Black, Blue, Buff. Bantam Black, Buff, Blue. Email: archie_1232011@hotmail.co.uk. Tel.01745 860490.

Simon Patel, Tamworth, Staffs. White bantams. 07826 525810.

Ryan Liggett, Co. Armagh, N. Ireland. White Bantams. Tel. 02838 840978. Email: ruthamliggitt36@hotmail.com.

Andrew Richardson, Preston, Lancs. Blacks and Blues in Large and Bantam. 07879410495.

Teresa Habberfield, Taunton, Somerset. Several black bantam pullets. A cockerel is also available but he is full sibling to the pullets. Also available – a couple of buff pullets. Tel. 01278 661562. Email: t.habberfield@btinternet.com

Theresa Hodges, Backwell, North Somerset. Tel:07515021986. Hatching eggs and some 2016 Stock Cockerels available now. Breeding groups made up of quality birds from Essex Orpingtons and Mark Rangley. All stock wormed & free range reared. Blue, Splash, Spangled, Lavender/Lavender Cuckoo, Lemon Cuckoo, Gold Laced.

I apologise if you have birds or hatching eggs available now, or breed the colours mentioned but have not been included here. If this is the case, please let us know so that we can update our directory, and have the information available for Members when they enquire