



Official Newsletter of The Old English Game Fowl Club of Australia



December, 2014

Successful centenary celebration in South Australia

The All Game Club of South Australia celebrated a very significant milestone this year – it's 100th anniversary. Here is the show report from the club's president, Anthony Klatt.

On June 28-29, the All Game Club of SA celebrated it's Centennial Show. What a great weekend it turned out to be with 830 game birds benched for our three judges, Tony Davis (NSW), Owen Glover (QLD) and Andrew Whiteside (NSW).

As with all shows, exhibitors make the show and the centennial show was no exception with many interstate exhibitors making the trip to be part of the weekend.

Representation was from NSW, Victoria, Tasmania and of course SA.

Very special thanks must go to all exhibitors and especially those that travelled many miles and hours to be part of this special weekend.

Champion Bird of the Show was awarded to a large Black Red light leg Old English Game cockerel exhibited by Tim Polley from Tasmania, with the reserve bird going to a Bantam Blue Indian Game Pullet, exhibited by

South Australia's own Gavin Woods. On Sunday morning, the inaugural state of origin competition was run to conclude the weekend, with South Australia taking on the rest. Each team coach selected 14 birds that hadn't won specials to represent their team in specific categories, i.e. Large OEG Cock, Hen, Cockerel, Pullet etc.

The judges then selected the winner in each category, with SA coming out the inaugural winner and receiving the trophy.



Tim Polley's Champion Bird in Show.

MORE PHOTOS FROM THE CENTENARY SHOW INSIDE



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Tim Polley

Hello members,

I trust that everyone has had a successful and productive breeding season. I have heard reports from our members from all over the country that suggest there hasn't been an issue hatching chickens anywhere and that the weather has been very kind to the breeding season.

Now starts the rearing which happens to be my favourite time of the year, keenly watching the development of my prospective show team for the coming season. It is nice for once in my life to have not bred too many chickens. Well, the numbers are almost half of previous years, but there is still a few there.

Won't be long and Christmas will be on our doorstep, then the new year will be here and 2015 is going to be a big year for our club, with some new members on the committee and the return of the club show to the Sunshine State.

Rosewood is the nominated venue and from what I have heard there are no poultry sheds around that can rival it. As I have never been to Rosewood, I am looking forward to the opportunity of inspecting it firsthand.

I know that the committee running the club show have booked the venue and are keenly getting organised to deliver a well-prepared shed and set the bar high for the next club to take on host of our annual club show.

I would like to wish all members a safe and happy Christmas period and a prosperous new year. I am looking forward to catching up with you all soon.



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Michael Patterson

Dear members,

I hope you, your families and your birds are all in good health.

I recently returned back to Scotland for a family wedding and had to rely on a neighbour to look after the birds in my absence.

It was a good opportunity prior to going to tidy up the bird pens, which included installing a self watering system (I can't believe I have not done this previously – it saves an amazing amount of time); fixing the leaks to the laser light roofing; fixing the hinges to the doors which previously required certain lifting and positioning techniques to open and close, and were held together with a selection of wire, cable ties and ropes; fixing door handles which freed up about 6 brooms which were previously the method they were being held closed; top up the litter in the pens using a mixture of mulch and sand; transferring all the feed into plastic wheelie bins rather than steel bins with bits of old timber on the top of them to keep birds/rodents out (the wheelie bins are also easier to move around when full to clean the penning shed out); and, having a good stock reduction.

It is now more relaxing to be around the pens – I need to find the time to do the maintenance on a more regular basis.

I also made a conscious decision whilst on the plane back home not to breed as many young birds this year as I am busy at work and the list of odd jobs needing done around the house is endless.

Last year I had some promising cockerels which I did not get the chance to show as they had broken feathers due to overcrowding whilst rearing – a lesson learnt.

I must have had the same thought at the end of the breeding season last year, as when I unpacked the incubator I found a note I had written and put in the top of the box saying: "Don't breed as many this year".

SECRETARY'S REPORT – cont-

It was not the best time of year to view birds whilst in the UK, as it was late summer and the adult birds were in the moult and the chickens were at the ugly adolescent stage.

I unfortunately have not had a chance to put a report together on the birds seen, (both Carlisle and Oxford type), but will do so for a future newsletter.

At the annual show, Anna had organised postcards of the Atkinson prints – I bought some and have them laminated in the penning shed so they are a constant reminder of the type of birds that we are striving to emulate – although there are some variances in the bird that Atkinson painted the overall type and size etc are shown. As they say, “a picture tells a thousand words”.

Best wishes for the festive season.

**EDITOR'S REPORT**

Nathan Watson

Time flies. Christmas is almost here and the 25th anniversary show in Wyong is a distant memory as everyone is busy raising chickens and hoping they will be the champions at Rosewood next year.

I hope everyone has managed a successful breeding season and have lots of young ones growing strong. It is a time I look forward to every year and I was fortunate to get a good early start to hatching. Some of the oldest chickens are showing plenty of promise. Breeding season is the best part of our hobby and I

get great enjoyment in the evening after work and on weekends looking through the young ones and watching them develop.

Thanks to everyone who sent positive feedback about my first newsletter as editor. The response was overwhelming and it certainly is rewarding to know that you all enjoyed the read.

This newsletter is packed with many of the show results we could not squeeze into the last newsletter due to the volume of content on the club's annual show.

I am pleased that almost every State is represented in this newsletter, with show reports, results and photos from Queensland, Tasmania, South Australia, New South Wales and Western Australia, and a breeder profile from Victoria.

One of the show reports is from the 175th Adelaide Royal Show where I was honoured to be invited to judge the OEG bantams. What a fantastic show it was and the hospitality of the Adelaide Royal Agricultural Society and South Australian Poultry Association was second-to-none.

As well as the opportunity these events present to socialise with old friends and make new ones, one of the highlights was marking the show's 175th anniversary by dressing up in period costume for a photo shoot.

The judges, stewards and poultry councillors certainly looked the part and the initiative was a lot of fun and will be fondly remembered by everyone for a long time.

Another pending milestone is the 10th anniversary of the Game Fowl Club of WA next year, a small anniversary but important one none-the-less and a proud occasion personally having put much effort back in the early days into getting the club off-the-ground.

Over these 10 years the Old English Game Fowl Club has sponsored us every year with sashes and other prizes. The club has been very grateful for that ongoing support and as president I'd like to thank the OEG Club on behalf of all our members.

It is fitting that at the anniversary show next year our feature breed will be Old English Game and we hope that will help attract a record number of Old English entries and break our previous top mark of 250 bantams and 100 large fowl.

In signing off I'd like to congratulate committee member Malcolm Fuller on again winning Reserve Champion Bird in Show at the Adelaide Royal with his large Black Red D/L OEG cock – a very worthy winner.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe Christmas and prosperous New Year.

A stud worth visiting

By James Bishop

Over the past three years the time I have for fowls has been less than I have ever had over the past 15. Accordingly it is a great pleasure to get to maybe two or three shows a year (the one I most look forward to is the OEG Fowl Club of Australia annual show) and I like to visit one or two poultry studs. One lovely stud that I have visited most years over the past four is David Holden's stud at West Creek near Wonthaggi in South Gippsland.

A very dear friend of mine who I first met as a Year 7 school student in 1983 also keeps pure bred fowls but who does not exhibit them lives at Toora in South Gippsland. Every year I visit him if at all possible to go through his birds with him and so I like to call in on David as I virtually pass his door to get from East St Kilda to Toora.

David has been a really passionate fancier and primarily a breeder of Old English Game fowls and bantams for more than 40 years. Back in the late 1980s when the Gippsland Game Club was formed



David Holden with one of his tasselled ginger Old English Game cocks.

at Maffra, David was a foundation member of that Club and a wonderful exhibitor of mostly OEG bantams in those days. He was also a member of the OEG Fowl Club of Australia. We had quite a few members in Gippsland in the 1990s. David would bench some especially good quality Duckwing and Grey Bantams, as I remember, along with quite a few other colours as well. His birds were always characterised by refinement, style, feather quality and good handling.

Over the almost 30 years that have passed since those days, David's stud has greatly increased in the range of varieties he keeps, the number of large fowl and the very important variety of rare bloodlines and colours that he keeps at West Creek.

In fact, the list of varieties that I am about to list is almost certain to be incomplete but I have seen on his property the following varieties of Old English Game fowls:

Partridge-bred willow-leg Black Reds, Partridge-bred yellow-leg Black Reds, Wheaten-bred Black Reds (Light Reds), Wheaten-bred Blue Reds, Duckwings (Silver and Gold) both yellow and dark-legged, Creels, Orange Reds, Ginger Reds, Brown Breasted Brown Reds, dark-eyed Ginger Reds (Red-quills as they are often called),

Spangles, Dark Greys, Mealy Greys and Duns (both Silver and Yellow). As well he has tasselled subvarieties of many of these colours.

In the bantams the list is just about as complete: Partridge-bred willow-legged Black Reds, Duckwings both silver and gold with both light and dark legs, Ginger Reds, Orange Reds, Red-quills, Brown Breasted Brown Reds, Creels, Spangles (dark and yellow-legged) and Greys. Again, the tassel gene is in many of these varieties.

If that were not enough, he also keeps a small number of good quality Australian Game bantams and a very good small stud of Australian Langshan bantams.

To house all these birds, David has, over the years, built five long rows of good pens, all well ventilated and facing north. There would be well over 100 pens. It takes about two hours just to have a quick look into every pen of birds. Well, it takes me about two hours as I like to have a good look at the birds and a conversation about them too.

A STUD WORTH VISITING – cont-

Like every breeder of OEG, David’s birds are founded on a variety of bloodlines but of particular interest is his strain of what are called “Spencer Johnstone Greys” – a very refined and pure breeding strain of Greys that came from Queensland.

This long established strain breeds very pure and is especially noteworthy for its beautifully graceful carriage, very good temperament, excellent action and the superb furnishings on the cocks. A Spencer Johnstone Grey cock on his walk at David’s place is a truly beautiful sight to behold.



A Spencer Johnstone Grey cock and hen in the yards of David Holden.

Also of particular interest are David’s large Spangled Old English Game and his Spangled OEG bantams. About 20 years ago large Spangled OEG had all but disappeared in Australia and Spangled bantams had also declined seriously in number.

Admittedly, the Spangled bantams that were so popular in the 1950s would not be so admired these days, the males anyway, as they lacked the furnishings called for by the standard along with the correct stance and leg placement. Many of those Spangled bantams were, in fact, more akin in many respects to the grotesque parody of an Old English Game fowl that the so-called OEG bantams and the Carlisle OEG fowls have become in England.

We Australians must be forever grateful to those bantam breeders, Theo Gray in particular, who ensured that Old English Game Bantams in this land are expected to be genuine miniatures of the fowls in every respect. However we may individually interpret the standard, we would all readily accept that there is no place (in the breeding pen or on the show bench) for birds that are obviously full of Indian Game and Modern Game Bantam blood.



A tassel spangle cock.

These birds are usually typified by horribly exaggerated bodies, coarseness of texture, incorrect head points, bad leg placement, poor handling, incorrect wing placement and incorrect feather quality. Yes, in terms of actually applying the standard to birds of this type, there is, truly, practically nothing to commend them.

A STUD WORTH VISITING – cont-

The Spangles now in David's stud are all birds of good quality. They all look alike, both large and bantam, and many of them are tasselled to boot. They are great testimony to the value of what perseverance with a rare variety can achieve for any breed of fowl.

It would be true to say that many of David's bantams and to some extent his fowls too, owe a good deal to the Harry Eather Strain of bantams preserved still (I hope) by our long time member Robert Johnstone.

In more recent years, David has been the founder of another Game Club in Gippsland, the South Gippsland Game Fowl Club, based at Warragul, which has its annual show in early July.

This show is the only two-day show in Victoria and it has attracted exhibitors from as far away as Western Australia and as far north as Queensland. Not a bad effort for the far south of Victoria.

A feature of this annual show has also been the fact that the judges are almost always from interstate, often coming from afar to give a completely independent and often refreshing opinion on the birds entered.

Any lover of purebred poultry and especially any lover of Game fowls will find a visit to this remarkable collection of Old English Game Fowls well worthwhile. It is always best to ring first though as David is a busy man. With work, his fowls, his club and his writing he does not have all that many spare hours in the day.



A dark-eyed ginger cock.



They're getting married!

Love is in the air in South Australia.

Two lovebirds who are well known to many of you and whose splendid photographs from shows you have enjoyed seeing in these pages, have got engaged.

Michael Hall got down on one knee and proposed to Melissa Rose Bulke on October 11.

The couple met at a friend's wedding back in January 2012 and a week and a half later they went on their first date.

It wasn't long before Michael was dragging Mel around to the poultry shows – just four weeks after their first date in fact.

Mel took to the world of show chooks like a duck takes to water, and at the 25th anniversary show at Wyong this year, Mel showed her first Old English Game.

"That just about sealed the deal, I was very proud,"

Michael said. After Mel said yes to Michael's proposal, the pair went shopping for an engagement ring and, not

wanting to waste any time, they have set the date for their big day on January 17 next year.

"We are looking forward to the next chapter in our lives together, hopefully with plenty of time to mix with our friends in the chook world," Michael said.

Cheers to Michael and Mel.

AROUND THE SHOWS - 2014

ALL GAME CLUB OF SA

Here are more photos by Michael Hall and Melissa Bulke of the winners at the All Game Club of South Australia's 100th anniversary show on June 28-29.



ABOVE: *Champion Division 1 large pullet, Black Red Y/L, Tim Polley.*

BELOW: *Champion Division 2 bantam cockerel and Reserve Champion OEG Bantam, Mealy Grey, Gary Smith.*



ABOVE: *Champion Division 2 large cock, Grey, David Holden.*

BELOW: *Champion Division 3 bantam, tassel Spangle, David Holden.*



If you have any show results and photos to include in the newsletter, email Nathan Watson at nwatson83@hotmail.com

GAME FOWL CLUB OF WA

Here is a report by judge Alf Woods and photos by Nathan Watson from the Game Fowl Club of WA Show held on August 23-24.

My journey to the show actually started with a problem. I have a trade off with my wife when I judge interstate, two days at a show and three or four days holiday.

On the Wednesday morning my wife was not well so I cancelled her air ticket.

On arriving at Melbourne airport Thursday all was well, but on boarding the plane at 12.30pm we were told there was a problem with the brakes.

Two hours later we left the ground and arrived at Perth airport in heavy rain and I was pleased the brakes worked.

I then hired a car and drove to a relative and stayed for the night.

Friday morning out of bed at 7am and a note on the table said: "Great to see you again Alf, have a good weekend. I left for work

6am, press the coffee machine button for a cuppa.

I've left the GPS navigator on the table for you".

At 87 years of age I set my first navigator. My father often said to me: "Listen to me son, there is always something new for you to learn".

On arriving at Narrogin I went to the motel and asked the lady if she knew where the chook show was. I received a blank look and

was told to try the sports complex down the road.

I next stopped and asked a

man on a ride on mower who was cutting grass. He said at the corner of the football oval there was a shed with a board that has poultry written on it.

Whenever I see or hear that word poultry my day is made. I instantly feel better.

Friday night with fellow fanciers we had a meal and plenty of stories were told at a local hotel.

On Saturday morning a large egg and bacon sandwich with a cup of coffee set me up for a great day. My co-judge was Peter Strike who handled the moderns and I did all the other hard feather breeds.

In the Old English Game fowl, I found the overall quality good, there were quite a few of note. In the Black Reds a good male and a good female, the best Black Red female I could not catch so it went down the line.

There was only one Brown Red, a female well shown, good outline, active and walked correctly around the pen, and well prepared.

Several Blue Reds were a credit to the owner, I liked the correct colour of the females.

A Duckwing cock was well shown, nice body with defined outline and quality plumage.

In the Old English Game bantams, the Blue Red classes were strong, the winning male could have been a little tighter around the rear end but a good bantam.



Champion OEG, Champion OEG Bantam and Champion Division 1 OEG Bantam, Blue Red L/L cock, Nathan Watson.



Reserve Champion OEG, Reserve Champion OEG Bantam, Champion Division 2 OEG Bantam, Silver Duckwing D/L, Rob Mellor

GAME FOWL CLUB OF WA – cont-

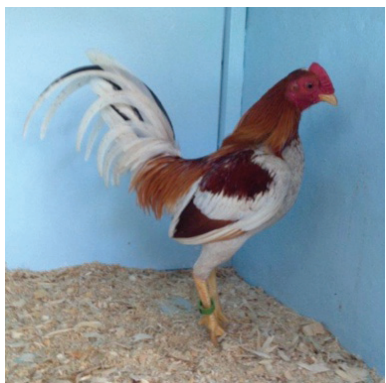
Wheatens had a strong male section with strong bodies and ample plumage. We bantam breeders must watch the weight of our birds. The female wheatens did not impress me. In the Greys, some very well presented birds with beautiful quality of plumage, but watch the length of the body, the standard calls for a back short and flat. Duckwings. what a pleasure to see some really good white-leg Silvers, rather rare these days. My best was a male from the dark-leg section, which was also impressive. Some nice Gingers and Tassels were also on display. On Saturday evening a great presentation and dinner was enjoyed by all. As I mentioned in my first paragraph, I had a delay of 2 hours with the plane’s brakes at Melbourne. Well, we sat on the tarmac at Perth for another hour with an electrical fault.



Champion Division 3 OEG Bantam, tassel Blue Red L/L cock, Joe Hickey.



Reserve Champion Bird in Show & Champion Bantam, Black Red L/L cockerel, Tim Polley



Reserve Champion Bantam, tasselled Pile L/L cockerel, Anthony Mountney.

TASMANIAN GAME SPECTACULAR

Here are results and some photos by Tim Polley from the Tasmanian Game Spectacular held on August 15.

- Champion Bird in Show & Champion Large Fowl** – Tim Polley (Black Red D/L hen)
- Reserve Champion Bird in Show & Champion Bantam** – Tim Polley (Black Red L/L cockerel)
- Reserve Champion Large Fowl** – T Beaumont (Blue Red D/L cockerel)
- Reserve Champion Bantam** – Anthony Mountney (Pile L/L cockerel)

LARGE:

Black Red: Hen (4): 1st & BOB T Polley, 2nd H Pyke; Ckl (2): 1st T Polley, 2nd T Beaumont; Plt (7): 1st H Pyke, 2nd T Polley, 3rd T Mountney. **Blue Red:** Hen (1): 1st T Polley; Ckl (1): 1st T Beaumont; Plt (1): 1st T Mountney. **Ginger:** Hen (1): 1st W Anderson; Ckl (1): 1st T Beaumont; Plt (1): 1st T Beaumont. **Blue Duckwing D/L:** Plt (1): 1st T Mountney. **Duckwing D/L:** Hen (1): 1st D Barker; Plt (4): 1st & BOB T Mountney, 2nd J Watson. **Pile D/L:** Hen (1): 1st R Pike; Ckl (2): 1st & BOB T Mountney, 2nd R Poke; Plt (4): 1st & 2nd T Mountney. **Black Red L/L:** Ckl (1): 1st T. Polley. **Blue Red L/L:** Ckl (1): 1st J Watson. **Pile L/L:** Plt (1): 1st R Poke. **Spangle:** Ckl (2): 1st & 2nd J Watson.

BANTAM: Black Red D/L: Hens (3) 1st & 2nd B Bennett. **Black:** Cock (2): 1st P manning, 2nd R Poke; Hen (5): 1st, 2nd & BOB B Bennett; Ckl (1): 1st P Manning; Plt (2): 1st & 2nd P Manning. **Blue Duckwing D/L:** Cock (1): 1st J Watson; Hen (1): 1st J Watson; Ckl (1): 1st J Watson; Plt (1): 1st J Watson. **Duckwing D/L:** Cock (1): 1st B Bennett; Ckl (1) 1st & BOB J Watson; Plt (1) 1st J Watson. **Ginger:**

TASMANIAN GAME SPECTACULAR – cont-

Cock (1): 1st P & D Biddle. **Orange Red:** Hen (1): 1st B Bennett; Plt (1): 1st P Manning. **Grey:** Hen (1): 1st T Polley; Ckl (5): 1st & BOB, 2nd T Polley. Plt (4) 1st & 2nd T Polley. **AOC D/L:** Hen (1): 1st B Bennett. **Black Red L/L:** Cock (2): 1st BOB, 2nd T Polley; Ckl (7): 1st T Polley, 2nd & 3rd H Pyke. **Black Tail Wheaten:** Hen (1) 1st & BOB T Polley, 2nd T Mountney; Plt (2): 1st T Mountney, 2nd T Polley. **Blue Red L/L:** Cock (1) 1st T Mountney; Ckl (1): 1st T Polley; **Blue Tail Wheaten:** Hen (3) 1st & BOB T Mountney, 2nd T Polley; Plt (4): 1st & 2nd T Mountney. **Crele:** Ckl (5): 1st & 2nd J Watson. **Spangle:** Cock (1): 1st T Mountney; Hen (1): 1st & BOB T Mountney; Ckl (1) 1st W Anderson; Plt (2): 1st & 2nd T Mountney. **Brassy:** Hen (1): 1st W Anderson; Ckl (1): 1st W Anderson; Plt (1): 1st W Anderson. **Pile:** Ckl (1): 1st T Mountney.

BRISBANE ROYAL SHOW

Here is a report from Honorary Council Steward Owen Glover and photos by Cathy Newton on the Old English Game entries at the Brisbane Royal Show held from August 8-17.

The Brisbane Royal Show, or “Ekka” as we affectionately know it, came to a close a few months ago now and what a wonderful show it was.

We Queenslanders are passionate about most things in life, especially our State of Origin, just ask the bloody cockroaches south of the border.

Our show is very dear to us as well, as not many would be aware it is the number 3 icon on the list of 10 in this state – not bad for a 10-day event – and most fanciers either show or come for a visit here in the sunshine state.

The Ekka still retains that big country show feel and friendly environment that recognises the past historical significance moving into the modern era with new ideas and amenities.

From an Old English Game perspective, the breed was well represented in the show pen with good classes in both large and bantams.

The poultry section drew very large numbers with some 2300 entries on hand, including 143 Large and 158 Bantams in the OEG.

This year we engaged well known club members Malcolm Fuller (SA) and Peter Spotswood (Tas) to adjudicate on the large and bantams respectively.

On the first few days we had a lot of long term visitors from interstate on hand with Alf Woods and his daughter Pauline making the yearly vigil, Brian Bennett from across the Bass Strait to judge the waterfowl and run his eye over the Old English before sampling a few Sav Blancs.

The first Saturday is normally the day when all the visitors from the Northern Rivers make it up for a look and fellow Queenslanders Keith Waugh, Col McCall and Graham Prior – just to mention a few from memory – were seen having a look through.



Reserve Champion Hardfeather Large and Champion Large OEG, Blue Red D/L cock, Scamp & Hughes.



Reserve Champion Large OEG, Ginger D/L cock, Errol Hetherington.

BRISBANE ROYAL SHOW – cont-

The section this year was in a new location for the first time after 65 years and from my perspective as Honorary Council Steward, the change presented plenty of management challenges in the lead up, but boy the environment was just wonderful. Exhibitors could drive in and out and pen in a very friendly atmosphere, a far cry from the hustle and bustle of the car park in our previous location. The aisles were nice and wide and people just poured through the pavilion over the two weeks. Congratulations to Scamp and Hughes for annexing the Champion Large OEG with a Blue Red D/L cock, and Champion and Reserve OEG Bantam with Blue Red L/L and Black Red L/L cockerels respectively. Shane and Darryl have certainly set the benchmark in the past couple of years and with this year having four fowls out the front, boy the whips are cracking to beat them.



Reserve Champion OEG Bantam, Black Red L/L cockerel, Scamp & Hughes.

Well done guys you truly deserve it as your fowls are always shown to perfection. Also good to see the “Mayor of Dallarnil” Errol Hetherington down for the occasion and doing well, winning Reserve Champion Large OEG with a Ginger cock. Jon and I were very honoured to win Grand Champion Fowl of Show with a Modern Game Wheaten, our ninth win of that award against a very good line up of fowls in the championship row. Well done to you all for supporting the show and putting on a wonderful display of game fowl.

ADELAIDE ROYAL SHOW

Here are the reports by judges Mark Waters (Large Hardfeather & Hardfeather Bantam Section 2) and Nathan Watson (OEG Bantams), and photos by Michael Hall and Melissa Bulke from the Adelaide Royal Show held from September 5 to 14.

LARGE: As judge of the Standard Hardfeather and Hardfeather Bantam Section 2 of the 2014 Adelaide Royal, I thoroughly enjoyed my day judging high quality fowls. Both Kirralee and I had a lovely time and were made feel welcome with kind hospitality shown to us.



In the OEG Large classes, there were many good birds in all colours. The best I felt was a Black Red cock bird that went on to get Reserve Bird of Show. It was a great example of an OEG bird. It handled well and was very fit. Also in this section, I should mention a lovely Black Red cockerel that when matures into a cock bird will give the adult males a run for their money. Other OEG birds that impressed me were the Partridge hen and pullet that were in great condition. Also, a Duckwing female and a Blue Red cockerel impressed me. Overall, a very impressive line up all round. **Mark Waters**

LEFT: Reserve Champion Bird in Show, Champion Large Hardfeather, Black Red D/L OEG cock, Malcolm Fuller.

ADELAIDE ROYAL SHOW – cont-

*Reserve Champion Large Hardfeather,
Reserve Champion Large OEG, Black Red D/L
OEG cockerel, Malcolm Fuller.*



*Best Large Old English Game hen, Black Red
D/L, A Williams & B Oakey.*

BANTAM: Firstly I'd like to extend my thanks for the invitation to judge at the 175th Adelaide Royal Show.

The Adelaide Royal is regarded as one of the very best poultry shows in Australia and to be invited to judge at my first royal show in Adelaide on such a significant occasion was indeed a huge honour.

The hospitality of the Royal Agricultural Society and SAPA was outstanding and the chance to catch up with familiar faces and meet and chat with new people made for a very enjoyable weekend.

I admired the efforts at the show of all the poultry councillors and stewards, but especially Adrian Burgess who did an outstanding job making sure the event ran smoothly. I'd also like to thank my two stewards who did an excellent job.

The efforts of Michael Hall and Melissa Rose-Bulke to photograph about 70 of the winning birds also needs a special mention – a huge task, well done.

I was privileged to judge Old English Game bantams and had about 280 exhibits to appraise on Friday morning.

The best cock, hen, cockerel and pullet stood out and were worthy winners on the day.

Unfortunately, as is the nature at this time of year, it was difficult to find birds in top condition, especially females, many of which were soft and obviously in lay or very close.

My best cock on the day and Champion OEG Bantam was a tasselled Black Red L/L shown by T&N Gamefowl. He carried a bit too much body behind his legs but had all the attributes of an OEG I was looking for – upright carriage, correct thigh placement and close heel, good movement in the pen, fair length of neck, large upright tail and was balanced in hand.

He was in good feather condition and well presented too, going on to be Champion Hardfeather Bantam.

Another cock that impressed was a Grey in beautiful condition, but he lacked the body shape of the winning cock and was let down by presentation.

I awarded best cockerel and Reserve Champion OEG to a Silver Duckwing D/L, also shown by T&N Gamefowl. He was presented in very good condition, and handled well.

ADELAIDE ROYAL SHOW – cont-

He was a bit sulky in his low, dark cage, but when brought out into a lighter, top pen for a better look he showed himself well. He pushed the Black Red for best bantam but was a bit horizontal in carriage compared to the winning cock. My best hen was a lovely little Grey, beautifully balanced in hand, was in the best body condition and had the best carriage and tail set of all the females on the day – a credit to her owner, Anthony Klatt. Mr Klatt also showed the best of the Wheaten females, a tassel Black tail hen that showed well and pushed the Grey, but was not quite as good in her carriage and tail set.



Champion Hardfeather Bantam & Champion OEG Bantam, Black Red L/L cock, T&N Gamefowl.

Best pullet was awarded to a Furnace shown by B Oakey & A Williams that was presented well, and the fittest of all the pullets I handled on the morning. Her horizontal carriage and sweeping tail set stopped her from pushing for higher awards, but she was a nice little bantam.

There were a couple of handy Furnace cockerels too, which were among the better-balanced males in hand on the day, but needed a bit more maturity. They should make good cocks.

Consistent problems I found in most of the classes were horizontal carriage, incorrect thigh placement, U-shaped backlines and no balance in hand. A few males also tended to tip-toe, which is very undesirable. Breeders need to focus on carriage and thigh placement, as it is very difficult to achieve the desired balance without those attributes.

I'd like to thank all the exhibitors for showing their birds – it was a pleasure to judge them and your support is what makes the Adelaide Royal the wonderful event it is, and it also showcases our fantastic hobby to many who would otherwise not be exposed to the fancy.

In closing, I'd like to congratulate Gavin Woods and Malcolm Fuller on their success in winning Champion Bird in Show and Reserve Champion Bird in Show respectively.

And again, thanks to everyone in South Australia for making me feel so welcome and I hope I have the privilege of a return visit in the future. **Nathan Watson**



Reserve Champion OEG Bantam, Duckwing D/L cockerel, T & N Gamefowl.



Best OEG Bantam hen, Grey, Anthony Klatt.



Best OEG Bantam Pullet, Furnace, A Williams & B Oakey.

LAUNCESTON ROYAL SHOW

Here is the report and photos from judge Terry Politch on the Launceston Royal Show held from October 9-11.



Best OEG large was a partridge hen belonging to Tim Polley, she ticked all boxes on the day and went on to be Grand Champion Fowl of Show. She was conditioned and shown to perfection and a credit to her owner .

Reserve Large OEG was a Black-Red D/L cock of Harvey Pike's, a really nice cock also in great condition but lacking a bit in show preparation. A pile hen of Peter Spotswood was also worth a mention and well deserving of an award.

The OEG bantams saw a great line up with a number of quality fowls. Unfortunately quite a number of females were close to lay at this time of year, which let them down in condition, but all exhibitors were in a similar position.

The males were in excellent condition with best being a Black-Red L/L cock belonging to Tim Polley with Reserve OEG Bantam a Black-Red D/L cock owned by Peter Spotswood, the result being very close and only the smallest detail deciding the result between the two.

In all a credit to the organisers to present such a well run show with a huge trophy and prize list in a top class facility.

I must also mention the morning tea which has to be the best anyone would ever see, tables completely full of just about anything you could imagine.

It is worth the trip to Tassie just for smoko.



ABOVE LEFT: *Champion Bird in Show & Champion Large OEG, Black Red D/L hen, Tim Polley.*

BELOW LEFT: *Champion OEG Bantam, Black Red L/L cock, Tim Polley.*

SHOW WINNERS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA

Here are some more photos of major Old English Game winners from other club shows around Australia during the 2014 show season.



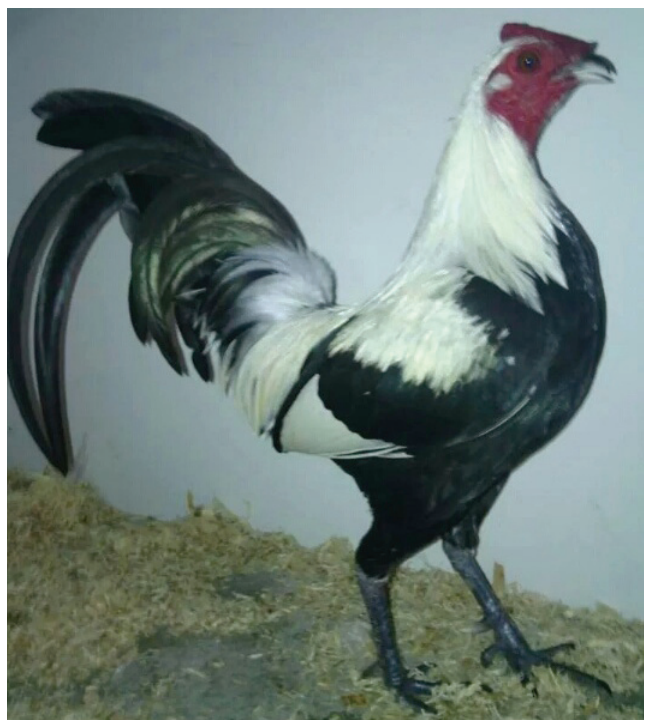
Joe Hickey won Champion Bird in Show at the Narrogin Poultry Society young bird show in WA with this Grey bantam cockerel.



ABOVE: *Champion Bird in Show at the South West Poultry Association's open bird show in WA was Nathan Watson's Blue Red L/L bantam cock.*



Champion Bird in Show at the Lismore annual show in NSW was John Gibson's large Black Red D/L cockerel.



BELOW: *Tony Davis won Champion Bird in Show at the Central Coast Poultry Club show in NSW with this Duckwing D/L bantam cock.*

If you have any photos of your birds that have won major awards, email them to nwatson83@hotmail.com

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Champion Bird in Show at the South & Central Queensland Game Club show, Blue Red L/L cock, Graham Prior.



Reserve Champion Bird in Show at the South & Central Queensland Game Club show, Black Red D/L cockerel, Errol Hetherington.



Champion Bird in Show at Strathalbyn Poultry Club show in SA was Anthony Klatt's Black Red L/L bantam cock.