



Official Newsletter of The Old English Game Fowl Club of Australia



May, 2015

Tim Tydd triumphs at Sydney Royal

Thanks to Robert Johnston who wrote this report on the Old English Game sections at this year's Sydney Royal Show and supplied photos of the winners.

It has been a difficult year to have Old English Game in feather to show at the earlier date of the 2015 Sydney Royal Show. This was reflected in the lower number of birds shown with only 51 large and 247 entries in the bantam classes, and one large pair and seven bantam pairs. Most of the females were in good or reasonable feather but only a few of the males had good flow of tail feather. Even so, the OEG did well in the major Hard Feather Awards. C&C White with a



Brown Red pullet was the Champion Hard Feather Standard in Show. Champion Hard Feather Standard Male in Show went to Ray Connor's Black Red D/L Cockerel. In bantams, Tim Tydd won Champion OEG Bantam with a Ginger pullet and also won Champion Hard Feather Bantam Male in Show with a Grey Cockerel. While the birds are at the show for the duration of the show, they are well cared for. All my birds came home in very good condition, with the females laying.

LEFT: Tim Tydd's Champion Hard Feather Bantam Male in Show, a Grey OEG cockerel.

BOTTOM LEFT: C&C White's Champion Hard Feather Standard in Show; **MIDDLE:** Ray Connor's Champion Hard Feather Standard Male in Show; **RIGHT:** Tim Tydd's Champion OEG Bantam.





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Tim Polley

Hello Members

Well once again the annual show is upon us.

The 26th Annual Show is returning to the Sunshine State and I for one are looking forward to seeing if Rosewood can rollout that "Sunny day one day perfect the next" weather that the vice president Owen Glover keeps banging on about.

It is great to see the membership in Queensland getting behind the show and committing to being at Rosewood and there is talk of cracking 1200 entries.

I think from all reports that this is achievable and would beat the previous show entry record of 1058 that was set at Lismore in 2012.

Things are well on track with the committee working hard to deliver the best possible show.

There is plenty to look forward to at Rosewood and with some minor changes to the trophy table I am sure that it will deliver something for all members to be proud of.

The value of the prize pool again this year is \$8500 in cash and prizes and without the aid of the ANZ Sponsorship money it is a great effort from all members who have generously sponsored classes and the addition of a corporate sponsor.

For those who weren't at the meeting at Sydney it was pleasing to be present to see Keith Dubber presented with his Life Membership jacket as he wasn't able to attend the 25th Anniversary Show at Wyong last year due to a clashing commitment as secretary of the Pekin Club of NSW. Talking to the committee all position holders intend to recontest their positions which is also pleasing too as there has been some good progress made within the committee in the past 12 months.

However, all nominations are welcome. If you are interested, please send your nominations along with your judging nomination for the Royals and for the 27th Annual Show in writing to Michael Paterson or myself.

Hopefully everyone has had a successful breeding season and is happy with their results.

I am looking forward to seeing a great line up of birds at Rosewood on July 18-19.

The show presentation dinner will be held at the Ipswich Golf Club with a buffet style meal.

The Country Comfort Motel has been notified that the Old English Game Fowl Club of Australia members intend to stay there and if at the time of booking it is made known that you will be attending the show you will attract the discounted rate of \$130 per night twin share. Details are in the schedule.

Thank you Terry and Owen for offering to co-ordinate the show secretary and show steward roles.

Also a big thank you to Martin who will be organising the shed prep crew of Poppy Prior, Greg and Peter, great effort guys.

See you all at Rosewood.



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Michael Paterson

Hopefully this edition of the newsletter finds all your birds fit and in good feather in preparation for the upcoming show season.

Most of my adult males are not fully through the moult as they did not go into a moult until later in the summer as the Victorian summer was quite a cool one.

I have tried a new method of pen training the young fowl this year, whereby I put two young birds in the same pen for a week or so when they are first brought in from the yard.

This seems to settle them down better rather than by just putting them in by themselves in a show pen straight away.

SECRETARY'S REPORT –cont–

I also box them every night and put them back in the pen in the morning to try and get them used to handling.

Despite this, there is always one or two that won't quieten down and it is invariably the best ones, but I feel they have to be culled or it just breeds flightiness into the strain.

The finishing touches are just getting completed for the 2015 annual show at Rosewood, and hopefully the recent run of bad weather Queensland has experienced will be behind us and we can look forward to a great weekend.



EDITOR'S REPORT

Nathan Watson

Our annual show at Rosewood is now just a couple of months away and I am sure, like myself, many of you are full of excitement for the event.

It is the show all our members would most look forward to each year – and why not, with about 1000 Old English Game under the one roof.

For members who have not had the opportunity to attend our show, it is a sight to be seen. I would encourage all members who may be toying with

the idea of attending to take the opportunity as it will be an unforgettable weekend.

Of course, the other highlight of the weekend other than the fowls is catching up with many old friends and making new ones.

It is a fantastic social event that is always remembered fondly by everyone, with many humorous anecdotes often shared from years past.

Like any event of this size, it brings together many different personalities from all walks of life – but everyone shares one thing in common, a passion for Old English Game.

The opportunity to listen to each other and share our opinions and thoughts on the characteristics of this grand game fowl is one of the highlights of the show weekend.

Different points of view that can be discussed with open minds can help us all learn more and improve our fowls.

At the end of the day we all hold a common love for this breed and we have its best interest at heart.

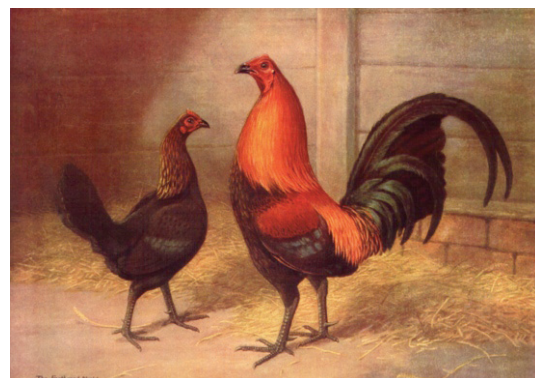
The objective of this club aims to uphold the Australian standard for Old English Game fowls and bantams and that we use Herbert Atkinson's paintings as our ideals.

We strive to breed, show and award fowls that conform to these ideals and bantams that are true replicas of the large fowl.

But even within Atkinson's plates there is variation and room for differences in physical appearance of our birds – some can be finer, others might like their birds larger, or somewhere between the two – but we cannot compromise on the aspects that define this king of fowls.

Activity, carriage, heel, balance and cleverness in hand are non-negotiable, and it is the quality of these attributes that will set apart the champions from the also-rans at a big show like Rosewood.

The club welcomes everyone to this fantastic annual event, so let's all come together in Queensland in July and not only admire the rows and rows of high quality game fowls, but also enjoy the company.



Some of Herbert Atkinson's famous paintings – Greys and Orange Reds.

SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW

Thanks to Robert Johnston for supplying these results and photos from this year's Sydney Royal Show.

Judges: LARGE OEG - Tim Polley; BANTAM OEG - Division 1 Alf Woods (also pairs), Division 2 Terry Politch.

STANDARD

Champion Standard Old English Game, Black Red, Partridge, Dark-Leg – Raymond Connor.
 Champion Standard Old English Game, Brown-Red/Orange-Red Or Dun – C & C White.
 Champion Standard Old English Game, Ginger – C & C White.
 Champion Standard Old English Game, Grey – Peter Irvine.
 Champion Standard Old English Game, Pile – Geoffrey Hine.
 Champion Standard Old English Game, Duckwing, Any Colour – Peter Taylor.
 Champion Standard Old English Game, Any Other Colour – C & C White.
 Champion Standard Old English Game – C & C White
 Champion Standard, Hard Feather, Male – Raymond Connor.
 Champion Standard, Hard Feather, Female – C & C White.
 Champion Standard, Hard Feather – C & C White.



C & C White's large Crele at the Sydney Royal.

BANTAMS

Champion Old English Game Bantam Pair – Gregory Watson.
 Champion Bantam Old English Game, Black – Danny Mackney.
 Champion Bantam Old English Game, Black-Red/Black Tail Wheaten – Dale Ashton.
 Champion Bantam Old English Game, Blue Red/Blue Tail Wheaten – Jake Varena.
 Champion Bantam Old English Game, Black-Red, Partridge, Dark-Leg – Brendan Hopkins.
 Champion Bantam Old English Game, Self Blue – Danny Mackney.
 Champion Bantam Old English Game, Blue-Red, Partridge, Dark Leg – Brendan Hopkins.
 Champion Bantam Old English Game, Blue-Red, Light Leg – Danny Mackney.
 Champion Bantam Old English Game, Blue-Tail Wheaten – Keith & Jeanette Dubber
 Champion Bantam Old English Game, Blue-Red, Partridge, Light Leg – Cliff Virtue.
 Champion Bantam Old English Game, Black-Red, Light Leg – Phillip & Linda Tisdell
 Champion Bantam Old English Game, Black-Tail Wheaten – Dingo Valley Poultry Stud.
 Champion Bantam Old English Game, Black-Red, Partridge, Light Leg – Brendan Hopkins.
 Best Bantam, Old English Game, Brown Or Orange-Red, Male – Tim Tydd.
 Best Bantam, Old English Game, Brown Or Orange-Red, Female – Ian Nash.
 Champion Bantam Old English Game, Brown Or Orange-Red – Ian Nash.
 Champion Bantam Old English Game, Ginger – Tim Tydd.
 Champion Bantam Old English Game, Duckwing, Any Colour – Robert Johnstone.
 Champion Bantam Old English Game, Crele, Any Colour – Brendan Hopkins.
 Champion Bantam Old English Game, Grey – Tim Tydd.
 Champion Bantam Old English Game, Pile – Robyn Armstrong.
 Champion Bantam Old English Game, Spangled – Robert Johnstone.
 Best Bantam, Old English Game, Blue-Dunn, Male – Danny Mackney.

SYDNEY ROYAL RESULTS –cont–

Champion Bantam Old English Game, Blue-Dunn – Danny Mackney.

Champion Bantam Old English Game, Any Other Colour Or Variety – Peter Irvine.

Champion Old English Game Bantam, Male – Tim Tydd.

Champion Old English Game Bantam, Female – Tim Tydd.

Champion Bantam Old English Game – Tim Tydd.

Best Bantam Hard Feather Male – Tim Tydd.



Robert Johnston's Champion Spangled Bantam and Champion Duckwing Bantam at Sydney.

JUDGES' REPORTS**Tim Polley – Large Fowl**

Firstly I would like to thank the members of the club for their nomination and support to have the opportunity to judge at the Sydney Royal.

The fowls, as is the case with OEG every year at Sydney especially when it is a bit early, were struggling to feather up.

The first class I judged was the Black Reds and there was a large line up of pullets, 6 cockerels and 4 hens.

The best award went to a pullet that was at her peak on the day. The second and third place pullets will mature as the year progresses and were beaten by fitness and maturity only on the day.

The cockerel that won the class was the stand out on the day and went on to win best OEG male. With not many males fit and in feather on the day, the Black Red cockerel went on to win champion hard feather large male.

There was a sprinkling of other colours but no large classes.

The Best OEG Large went to an Orange Red Hen. She was well put down and in good feather condition, she was also very fit, active and moved well on her feet – a stand out in the Large OEG classes.

The Orange Red Hen went on to win Champion Large Hard Feather of show.

JUDGES' REPORTS –cont–

Reserve Large OEG went to a Creel Hen and a very good hen in every aspect. She pushed the Orange Red hen hard for the major award but was unfortunately missing far too many feathers to take any further.

Alf Woods – Bantams Division 1

What a lovely weekend I shared with other club members. I refer to the Sydney Royal Show and how fortunate the poultry fraternity are in that state.

They can still go to a Royal where agriculture pursuits including poultry are still the main drawcard for the general public to view.

I was fortunate to have the privilege to judge Division 1 of the Old English Game Bantams, with Terry Politch running the stick over Division 2.

The breeders who exhibit at this time of the year show their skill in having their birds in top condition at a time when it can be too early to have them completely through their moult and having to breed very early in the season to have the chickens at their top for Sydney.

There were many game bantams that reached their peak or were very close to their top.

The Wheaten classes unfortunately had been doubled up in the schedule, however this colour is generally the most popular in game breeds and some top birds were benched.

One of these was a tasselled female with the correct angles and active.

A Black Red L/L male of Phil & Linda Tisdell's was my Reserve Champion, a nice shape well shown.

The Black Red D/L classes had some well shown and typey birds, but please watch the weight and density of the flesh. I had to penalise some that had this problem. You can have a bantam that appears a little large but it should handle light and corky.

My best bantam on the day was a Brown Red female shown by Ian Nash. It was the third last bantam I judged. The instant I had her in my hand it was the winner, the handling was perfect, light and corky, the plumage like velvet, as it moved around it seemed to own its pen, and the weight for a pullet was spot on.

I congratulate the exhibitors for preparing so many good birds on the day.

Terry Politch – Bantams Division 2

It was my privilege to judge the second section of the OEG Bantams at the Sydney Royal.

As with all fowls at this time of year, it is very difficult to have them prepared or old enough, the older ones heading into or out of a moult and the new season's birds just mature enough to show. Full credit to all exhibitors for presenting fowls in the condition they did and by putting in the effort to show, presenting a line up of OEG Bantams for the general public and show goers.

These Royal Shows give our hobby/interest/obsession the greatest public exposure of any poultry show and give them a greater understanding.

Hopefully we gain supporters or future exhibitors from the many people that pass through the pavilion.

Of the birds I judged my best was a ginger female owned by Tim Tydd.

On the day she was in top show condition and a credit to her owner and went on to be the best OEG bantam.

Reserve came from the Grey bantams with quite a few benched, showing the growing popularity with this colour.

This cockerel was still a bit young but a deserving winner, and also shown by Tim Tydd.

Spangles, Duckwings and others all had deserving winners with birds just needing time.

Many poultry people seem to make this show which is one of the real attractions, with many catching up at the presentations which this year involved the family of late Australian cricketer Phil Hughes and TV veterinarian Dr Harry Cooper.

Thanks again to all those who exhibited.

If you would like to nominate a judge for the 2016 OEG Fowl Club of Australia Show or 2016 Sydney Royal Show, please email your nominations to club president Tim Polley or secretary Michael Paterson.

MINUTES

General Meeting held on Friday, March 28, 2015 at the Sydney Royal Show. Meeting commenced at 10.12am.

1.0 Attendance

Tony Davis, Tim Tydd, Chris White, Alf Woods, Peter Irvine, Keith Dubber, Barry Bilton, Robert Johnstone, Ian Nash, Col Wilby, Tim Polley, Michael Paterson.

2.0 Apologies

Anna Shaw, Mark Shaw, Tony Johnston, Shane Moss, Chris Jaegar, Brian Bennett, Bruce Patterson, Justin Osland, Malcolm Fuller, Nathan Watson, Owen Glover, Mick O Connell, Terry Politch.

3.0 Approval of minutes from general meeting held Sydney Royal, April 11, 2014

Moved: Tony Davis, Seconded: Alf Woods.

4.0 President's Welcome/Report

Welcome all to the meeting. 2015 has been a busy year for the club so far, with the organisation of the upcoming annual show to be held at Rosewood Queensland.

The committee has been communicating well together, working through any issues that arise, and looking at a variety of ideas on how to improve the club.

The Queensland members have gotten behind the annual show, with the Rosewood Agricultural Society sheds booked and the local golf club booked for the evening presentation.

The show schedule is coming together and we are working on finalising sponsors.

Trophies/sashes and prize cards are ordered as are the Royal show trophies.

Membership is down slightly from past years, however it is encouraging that there are a number of new members, and that our core membership remains strong

5.0 Secretary's Report

Congratulations to all exhibitors for penning such high quality birds at this year's Sydney Royal. Thanks to the fellow members of the committee.

Owen has spearheaded the organisation of the upcoming annual show in Rosewood, Queensland, Malcolm has continued on the good work by his predecessors, Anna (treasurer) and Corina (membership secretary).

Nathan with his professional experience is producing newsletters that any club would be proud off.

Finally to Tim, for being the backbone behind the club, and for all his hard work and support during the year.

We will get to Malcolm's report shortly, but it is disappointing to note that membership is down.

We need to look at ways of how this can be turned around, hopefully as we are now looking at rotating the annual show through different geographical regions, we can encourage new members from those regions to join and support our club.

6.0 Treasurer/Membership Secretary's Report

Michael read through the report provided by Malcolm.

Report Moved: Peter Irvine, Seconded: Tim Tydd

7.0 Website report

Michael read through the report provided by Anna. Highlighting that we are averaging 16no hits per day, which is fantastic

8.0 Incoming/outgoing correspondence

Correspondence incoming/outgoing as per attached list

9.0 Overview of Rosewood show

Tim gave an update of the progress made in the organisation of the annual show to be held

SYDNEY MEETING MINUTES –cont–

10.0 Auction Proposal.

A proposal was submitted to change the current auction system to a pencil auction where buyers would bid by writing their bid on a form on the cage front (see attached proposal). After extensive discussion this proposal was defeated with the underlying feeling that the current system works adequately and provides a better financial return than the proposed system. Chris White agreed to act as the auction steward, with auction nominations to be submitted to Chris after the AGM on the Saturday evening. This would enable Chris to organise pens etc. The schedule to state that the show will conclude after the auction (approx. 10am) to ensure visitors to the show who may believe the show is open all day on the Sunday are aware of the event programme.

Any Other Business

11.0 Presentation to Keith Dubber – Life Membership.

Tony presented Keith with his life membership jacket. Life membership was awarded to Keith for his life long devotion to the club, being the first secretary/treasurer of the club and his underlying support to the club donating printing requirements to the club for an extended period whilst owning a printing business.

Keith addressed the meeting thanking the club for the award. Keith gave a brief overview into the early beginnings of the club and why it was set up. Keith then discussed the importance of remaining true to the club's origins and continuing to promote Old English Game as depicted in the Australian Standards and as per the Atkinson plates which the club has adopted as being the true representation of Old English game fowl. Keith acknowledged that the Atkinson plates vary slightly, but not to the extent seen in the different types of birds penned at shows –we need to continue to educate exhibitors and above all stick to the standard.



ABOVE: Tony Davis, Keith Dubber, Alf Woods, Chris White and Robert Johnston at the presentation of Life Membership to Mr Dubber during the Sydney Royal Show general meeting.

12.0 Types of fowl being shown

Alf Woods addressed the meeting and continued on the same theme as Keith's address on the need to remain true to type, and whilst we can admire all types of fowls, our constitution states we are to honour the fowl as depicted in the Atkinson plates. Barry Bilton, Chris White and Tony Davis made comments to the same effect.

SYDNEY MEETING MINUTES –cont–

13.0 Junior judging

Chris White believed that the club shows junior judging completed by Alf at recent club shows is a major drawcard and of benefit to juniors. Alf is too be congratulated on the programme which has become popular at recent shows. Alf agreed to complete junior judging at Rosewood, and the event to be publicised on the schedule to hopefully attract more participants

Ian Nash commented that a similar programme should be made available to novices. Where juniors may get distracted by other leisure activities, work or studies, with novices, they are more settled down and more likely to stay within the fancy. It was decided to run only with the junior programme at Rosewood, but it was agreed that we need to explore other options to encourage and educate novices.

14.0 Club's Facebook Page

Tim mentioned that whilst the club does have a Facebook page, the fact is not well known, or well patronised. Tony Davis reminded all that once comments are written on social media, they can not be retracted/deleted, something which needs to be borne in mind. Tim to review need for Facebook page.

15.0 Poultry 2016.

A recent committee has been formed that will run an all breed poultry show at the Sydney Show grounds in June 2016. This show will hopefully replace the Canberra show, which was held every 4 years but has recently ceased due to various reasons.

There is an opportunity for all breed clubs to become actively involved in this venture, with the possibility of breed clubs given access to set up breed club stands, nominate judges/stewards etc Graeme Sharp from the organising committee came into the meeting and gave a brief outline of the show.

Tony Davis suggested that a sub committee of the club should be set up to look at ways our club could become involved and benefit from the venture, also mentioned that their may be implications for our club show to be less well supported as the cost of travelling, may force exhibitors to chose which major events to support during any show season. Tony suggested a sub committee be formed to investigate how the club could benefit from our involvement.

Meeting closed 11.20pm



ABOVE LEFT: Tony Davis presents Keith Dubber with his Life Membership jacket. **RIGHT:** Club president Tim Polley and secretary Michael Paterson prepare for the Sydney meeting.

If you have any reports, breeder profiles, show results, or photos of show winners to share in this newsletter, please email Nathan Watson at nwatson83@hotmail.com



© Newton, Catherine



© Newton, Catherine

Above are a couple of photos of Monement and Sessions' large OEG they showed at the Lawnton Rare Breeds Show in QLD on April 26. The Crele was judged Reserve Champion Rare Variety. Thanks to Cathy Newton for the photos.

BOOKS ON GAME FOWL

Newsletter editor Nathan Watson shares some of the book titles that can help new breeders and exhibitors of Old English Game learn more about the breed.

There are a range of good titles available to help new fanciers and exhibitors of Old English Game learn more about the breed and get a better understanding of its history, characteristics, breeding and management.

I'd like to share some of the titles I have found helpful over the years and have read time and again, each time picking up something new from their pages.

There is a lot of literature out there on Old English, some books are more helpful than others while some titles are very rare and hard to find.

It is my belief that any student of the breed with a thirst for knowledge cannot read too much or learn too little and we are grateful to some of the experienced game men of past and current years who have penned some of their knowledge.

Australian Poultry Standard

Of course, the standard is the bible and should be everyone's first reference. We aim to breed and show game fowls that conform to the standard.

There are different standards in different countries, but in Australia we show and judge fowls and bantams to the *Australian Poultry Standard*, and that is the standard this club upholds.

The second edition of the *Australian Poultry Standard* is now in print and available to purchase.

The standard for Old English Game in the *Australian Poultry Standard* is the Oxford Standard of 1920, which aims to preserve the old breed of Game Fowl as it was known in England up to when cockfighting was outlawed in 1849.

It also expects bantams to be miniatures of the Old English large fowls in every respect, and it is pleasing to see more and more bantams on the show bench conforming to this ideal.

As a beginner, understanding the terms in the standard and what they mean, or were intended to mean when it was written, can be difficult.

That is where other literature can help explain the finer points required and how they are achieved.

GAME FOWL BOOKS –cont–

The Royal Fowl

The book I found most helpful in explaining the standard and which, over the years, I have read countless times is *The Royal Fowl* edited by A.G Strachan.

In recent times copies of this book have been scarce but I understand it is available again through Bellsouth.

Second-hand copies can also be found online from time to time through E-Bay and other good second hand book websites.

I consider *The Royal Fowl* one of the best works in explaining the breed in detail in simplistic terms. The book best describes its aim itself.

“To simply learn the standard by ‘heart’ is not enough. For a full appreciation one has to come to grips with why certain words were used, and their meaning at the time of drawing up the standard.

“The Old English Game Fowl standard is no exception. Its simplicity and sparseness of word is often criticised by the newcomer...”

While not everyone would, including myself, necessarily agree with everything written in *The Royal Fowl*, its chapters and rough diagrams contain much valuable information and descriptions.

Herbert Atkinson

The Old English Game Fowl Club of Australia upholds the paintings of Herbert Atkinson’s as ideals of the breed and these works should be studied in detail.

Likewise, the master himself wrote several works well worth sourcing and reading.

The Old English Game Fowl – Its History, Description, Management and Feeding is now in reprint and easily available online at little cost.

It is a small paperback handbook that Atkinson wrote with the intention of giving new fanciers of Old English helpful guidance and advice.

In the book’s introduction, Atkinson writes: “In writing this little work on Old English Game, it has been my endeavour to describe the birds for the benefit of those fanciers and beginners who are not yet fully conversant with them.

“I am not for one moment supposing that any work such as the present will be of much value to old hands, but if it causes the true Game Fowl to be better known and more widely kept, and is of any assistance to the poultry fancier about to take up the breed, it will have attained its object.”

Cockfighting and Game Fowl – From the notebooks of Herbert Atkinson of Ewelme is a comprehensive and spellbinding read.

While some chapters contain no relevance to today, such as those on cockfighting, it is interesting reading and helps better understand the breed’s history and the purpose for which it was bred. Later editions are easier to source than the first edition, and can usually be found online.

The King of Fowls

Mark Marshall is perhaps one of the most respected and admired past gentlemen of the game fancy in Australia and his work *The King of Fowls* has been a sought-after title for many book collections.

It has been republished several times since it was first printed in 1958.

Like Atkinson, Marshall was a talented artist and painted several plates of Old English Game which are reproduced in his book.

One of the highlights of the book is the poem at the front, titled “Young Tarpot”, telling the story of a duckwing cock.

Other titles

Numerous other titles have been published on Old English Game Fowl over the years, too many to list here and others will have their own preferences and recommendations.

In recent times there have been some worthwhile books published in Australia, some are hard to find and others easier to obtain.

This Celebrated Race of Fowls by James Bishop is a great handbook but now out of print, and former club treasurer David Holden has also written two good handbooks, the first of which also contains interesting chapters by Tony Davis and Chris White.

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ABOVE: Ben Williamson won Champion Large Hardfeather and Reserve Champion Bird in Show at Caboolture with this large Brown Red female.

This poem was written by Shaine Dupree, of South Australia. It is reproduced here with his kind permission.

The Cocks

*In days long gone before Sketchley wrote
 Of man and bird within his notes
 Before great men took fowl and hid
 A secret practice King's forbid
 A cock was born of simple seeds
 A pastime grand of noble deeds
 Feather splendid colour matched
 Six alike preference hatched
 Lord and common man alike
 Partook the practice wrong or right
 Pride at stake, win or lose
 Odds laid down a punters muse
 And as he came a silent flutter
 Flash of steel and timely shutter
 Eye flash wild wings a blur
 Tempest flared and take no cur
 And as the silent breath bespoke
 From vanquished fallen there awoke
 A cock so grand no words describe
 Why today he has to hide.*

Dupes