



ESC-P NEWSLETTER

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Welcome

Again a warm welcome to all interested poultry breeders. This is already the eighth edition of the ESC-P newsletter. Since we keep getting a lot of positive feedback from all over Europe, we will of course continue this initiative. To keep up with the speed everything is changing in the 21th century, we decided in 2016 to redesign and modernise to make it look more attractive and hopefully that way reach a larger public.

We'd like to ask our member poultry federations again that they publish the letter on their own website or that they create a link to it on the EE website so that many more breeders all over

Europe will be able to reach this information. The breeders should however keep in mind that any decisions published here do not automatically apply in your

country. They have to be officially implemented by your organization first.

Questions of any kind should go to your own national standard commission. It is the contact point for breeders and not the ESC-P directly. Please keep this in mind.

The ESC-P team.





Looking back at 2020

In the very last hours of the horrible year 2020 we'd like to present you with our annual ESC-P newsletter. It has been a very difficult year for most of us. The complete wipe out of a very substantial part of our hobby, the shows, the club meetings, the discussions and friendly rivalry between fellow-breeders and friends, it had a huge impact on all of us. And if it has been only this, we might consider ourselves still lucky, compared to those who lost family members or friends or saw their business or job go down the drain. It was hard not seeing everyone like we were used to and not being able to go anywhere we'd like, not visiting shows in other countries, not showing the world the wonderful birds we've bred and maybe having to slaughter very fine birds we couldn't sell. But let us stay positive. The social media still kept us in contact with each other and

we've been able to show off some of the result of the past breeding season over there. Okay, it probably isn't the same but still. There will come an end to this pandemic and at the moment you are reading this, the first people have already been vaccinated in several countries. It will not immediately be 'business as usual' and things will remain quite challenging over the next few months but it is realistic to hope that next exhibition season will be more or less 'normal' again. Also for the EE the year has been quite challenging but as poultry section we've made the best of it. The only thing that happened as planned was the EE board meeting in Prague in the first weekend of February. By the time our annual standard commission weekend in Pohlheim should have taken place, we were already in lockdown. At first we've tried to postpone the annual general assembly of the EE until September but also this attempt has been futile.

The ESC-P however did meet but virtually in two online meetings in July. Many thanks go to Peter Žuffa and his team in Slovakia who tried their best to organize the tradition EE poultry judges meeting in September. Everything was organised, we had a wonderful program and almost 70 judges from all over Europe had signed up. Covid-19 would however decide otherwise and local health authorities revoked permission for the organisation. What we did manage to do in September was organising our annual poultry section meeting also online. Almost every member country announced its participation, some of them unfortunately experienced technical difficulties reducing the number of participants slightly. However the meeting itself, held in the three official EE languages, turned out as planned and finished exactly in the three hours that were scheduled. By publishing this newsletter on the brink of 2020, we can proudly

say that the EE poultry section did carry out all its annual duties as far as the law permitted and has been the only EE section that kept in touch with its members throughout the year. Another accomplishment in September was that a small delegation of the EE board travelled to Warsaw to settle the organisation of the next Europe Show in 2022.

With great anticipation we look forward to 2021 and hope for the best. At this stage it isn't clear if our normal annual activities will be able to take place at their normal time of the year, especially the parts that normally take place before the summer. Anyhow, our section will continue its efforts to provide what we normally do and we count on a large and active participation by our members and our judges. Meanwhile we wish all poultry breeders within the EE and their loved ones a very happy New Year and above all an excellent health!

The EE Poultry Standard

For decades we've been talking about the EE standard and in 2014 it was formally and unanimously approved off by the poultry section so it is about time some result became visible. We have a clear goal now. The Europe show 2022 in Kielce (Poland) will be the place where the EE poultry standard will be officially presented and copies will be up for sale, finally presenting our member countries with the opportunity to start replacing their national standards. However a few warnings have to be issued. First of all, the work will not be complete as there are almost 600 breeds of chickens, ducks, geese, turkey, guinea fowl and laying quail that need to be fully described and many hundreds of colour varieties. Whatever will be finished by autumn of 2022 (and that will be a very substantial part) will be included. There is however one serious condition to this, publication of a finished breed standard will depend completely on the availability of good quality pictures. We've asked our member countries before to provide us with good pictures of their national breeds but so far the response has been extremely poor. So this time we don't just ask but we urge them to complete this task as soon as possible. Every breed for which we don't have good quality pictures will

not be included in this release and it would be a shame to miss this historic moment. Time is ticking fast en we only have around 22 months and one showing season left to finalise part one. SO please do not waste this time and start actively gathering pictures or start making them. At the moment most birds will be in top condition prior to the breeding season. Standard commissions could contact the top breeders in their country and ask them to send in some pictures. Imagine the honour as a breeder if your bird gets selected to be in the EE standard. Wouldn't that be worth the effort of trying to make a few good pictures ? Of course not every picture can be used. It needs to be high-resolution (file size preferably > 1Mb), contain an animal of good quality and good feather condition in profile. The background doesn't really matter since it will be digitally changed but the whole animal, including the legs and feet should be visible (birds in short grass being acceptable). Small imperfections (like e.g. a few red spots in white earlobes or even a double spike in the comb) are not a problem and will be 'photoshopped'. Breeders or judges who believe they have good pictures can send them also directly to gefluegel@entente-ee.com, large files preferably by WeTransfer.



This way the standard picture of the West of England geese was created.



Naked-neck Silkies

These have been an ongoing discussion within the ESC-P. As reported earlier an exception on the EE-rules for acceptance of new poultry breeds was granted in this case because there was evidence of these birds being present in Europe and even on a Europe Show more than 30 years ago, long before the new rules were made up. An exception remains however an exception. A request from a Dutch breeder for acceptance of naked-neck Silky bantams was denied since this a new creation. So far the ESC-P hasn't been informed of the acceptance of the large breed in any EE country. To avoid any discussions afterwards a few ground rules for the acceptance of this variety were decided during the last ESC-P meeting.

Naked-neck Silkies will only be accepted in heterozygous form, meaning with a tuft of feathers on the front of the neck.



Naked-neck Silkies will only be accepted in the bearded variety, meaning without wattles and with traces of muffs at the sides of the head, the beard itself being interrupted in the middle at the throat.

The body will present the same degree of silky feathers as compared to smooth feathered naked-neck chickens and will present the same amount of feathers on legs and feet as required in normal Silkies.

Brahma colours

Already for some years Brahma and their bantams have become one of the most popular breeds all over Europe. As a result of this popularity we see the appearance of many new colours and even new feather structures like frizzled. As for the feather structures, the EE rules are clear "no new feather structures in existing breeds" so frizzled Brahma don't stand a chance of acceptance within the EE. We strongly ask our member countries therefore to refrain from accepting them. As for new colours there are no current restrictions



With this kind of hackles is not how we want them.

for this breed but we urge our countries to only accept them when they fulfil the requirements for both the breed and the colour. As we've seen in the recent past, some of this new colours have a very soft plumage they inherited from other breeds and prevents them from showing the appropriate shape of the tail and therefore also the typical dorsal line. A disturbing trend is the appearance of (blue) salmon Brahma all over Europe which lack the typical characteristics of this colour. For better guidance of the breeders it was therefore decided that (blue) salmon Brahma should present the same colour as the German Faverolles with the exception of the red fleck in the hackle of the rooster, just like we also see in German Wyandotte bantams or Italiener bantams. This means that the presence of black or blue flames in the hackle and saddle in roosters or in the hackle in hens cannot be accepted.



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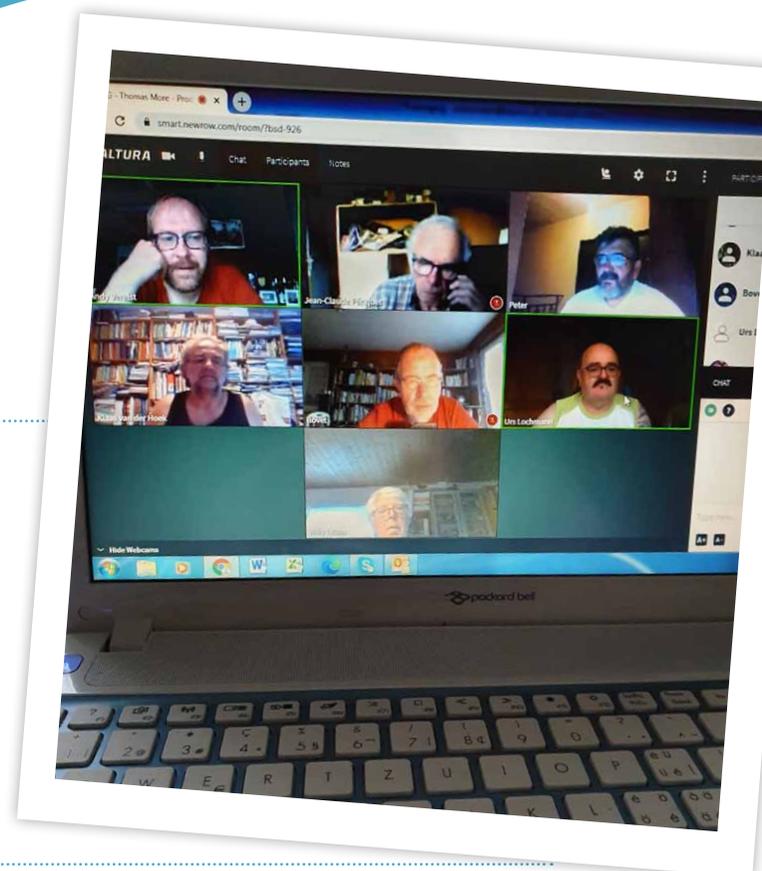
NEWS from the poultry section

Online section meeting

On Sunday September 20th the annual section meeting took place online from 9 till 12 o' clock. 17 countries requested the login data for participating but a few experienced some technical difficulties. Since

there was no possibility for simultaneous translations like we normally provide, the section chairman presided the entire meeting in the three official EE-languages and all the PowerPoints were also trilingual.

Everything considered, the online meeting was a good alternative considering the exceptional circumstances. Nevertheless we hope for a physical meeting next year because the possibilities are a lot wider.





International judges meetings



In 2019 a successful edition of our judges meeting was organised in Mijas (Spain) with the help of our Spanish friends from Fesacocur. A short report and some pictures can be found on the EE website in all three official EE languages. Many thanks go to Arturo Gonzalez and his team.

In 2020 the meeting was planned in Trencin (Slovakia). A very interesting program with a good mix of chicken and other species topics, both local and international breeds was prepared by judges from many different countries.

Despite the Covid-situation (which was temporarily better during the summer) a larger than usual number of judges enrolled for the event. Unfortunately we had to cancel because of the deterioration of the pandemic. Peter Žuffa and his team have promised us

however they will organize the cancelled meeting in September 2021. Many thanks for this. In 2022 we will be received in Poland in preparation of the next Europe Show which will be held in November 2022 in Kielce.



Breed-specific Europe shows

In 2019 six breed specific Europe shows were organised throughout Europe. There were Europe show for Sebright (D), Orpington, Sussex and Dorking + bantams (NL), Altsteirer and Sulmtaler + bantams (A), Brahma + bantams(F), German bantams (DK) and Silkies and (bearded) Polish + bantams (I). In total around 2700 birds were exhibited at these shows. Reports and pictures of all these events can be found on the EE website in all the official EE languages. Unfortunately all announced breed-specific Europe Shows in 2020 had to be cancelled. In some cases it looked like they could take place and very even very nice numbers of birds were entered but sometimes only a week before the show legislation changed and it could no longer take place. Since the next Europe Show will not take place in 2021 but only the year after, 2021 unexpectedly became a possibility for organising breed specific Europe shows also. All the organisers from the 2020 editions were informed that they could postpone a year if wanted. So far already a few of them took the opportunity and announced a new edition. You will find the list below. It is expected that a few more will follow so visit the EE website to keep being informed.

- October 22nd-24th 2021 Limoges (F) : Sussex and Sussex bantams
- October 22nd-24th 2021 Limoges (F) : Cochinchina and Cochinchina bantams
- October 29th-31st 2021 Tessenlo (B) : Brahma and Brahma bantams
- December 10th-12th 2021 Herning (DK) : Orpington and Orpington bantams
- December 10th-12th 2021 Herning (DK) : Wyandotte bantams and German Wyandotte bantams



New regulations for ornamental birds on EE-shows

Since the showing of ornamental birds on EE-shows was poorly described in the different sets of rules, a completely new regulation was drawn up and unanimously approved off by the section during the online meeting. This new rules provide the frame for exhibiting ornamentals on EE shows. It

must still be completed with a few technical appendices which are currently still being drawn up by an international group of specialists and afterwards need to be approved off by the ESC-P. The entire process should be completed by spring 2022. The most essential topics in the new

regulations are:

- Ornamental waterfowl, gallinaceous birds and doves can only be exhibited in the poultry section, regardless of the situation in the home country.
- All birds, with the exception of Laughing doves, are exhibited as couples in naturally decorated

and enriched cages.

- All species will be divided into groups and the champion titles will be awarded to these groups instead of to individual species (only in case 10 or more couples present from one specific species, an extra title will be awarded to the species individually).