

# Annual Meeting of the Dutch Brahma Club



at Blijham, April 2009

Text: Berend Beekhuis  
Photos: Willem de Wit

It was a long journey for a lot of members to be able to join this Assembly in a village high up-north. A few of them could reach it easier via Germany. However, in spite of the fact that it was rather far away, a respectable number of attendants were there - including a few new members, some of them even from Germany. Blijham, the little village where it all took place, was easy to find, thanks to route instructions and how it was all pointed out on the way. A very narrow path gave way to the beautiful house belonging to Rob Mors in the typical township. Around the house, an environment filled with trees, something you would not necessarily expect in the province of Groningen.



The reception was outstanding with coffee and cake and before the 'official' start of the meeting there was plenty of time to discuss each other's breeding results; this was possible because everyone arrived on time. This way, the Brahmas that had been brought along could be showed beforehand in the specially arranged big cages. The weather was outstanding, a

lot of sunshine and an acceptable temperature, so the meeting could be held

outside, just as planned. The administration even had a space which was covered. There was a sound installation (P.A.) as well. All of this thanks to the Winschoter Poultry Club. It all made such a good impression that Rob Mors was immediately covered with compliments by the chairman. Compliments, also, for the Winschoter Poultry Club, their honoured chairman and Willem de Wit, who helped tremendously as well.

The meeting could start around the time it was scheduled to start, with a special welcome for members who turned up for the First time, Poultry Judge Wim Voskamp and Dietrich Kroner as a new member and contact person of the 'Sonderverein' from Germany. The usual issues on the agenda were dealt with quickly. The chairman was re-elected with loud applause. The 2010 Club show will be at the Noordshow, although there was some criticism on the quality of the litter in the show pens and the lightning in the Halls during this year's show. It was promised to be better next year. Next it was unanimously decided to organize a European Breed Show for Brahmans and Brahma bantams in the Jubilee Year, 2011. Further instructions will follow as soon as the Entente agrees with this idea.

After the meeting everyone could enjoy a drink and a well topped up roll.



The breed discussion, conducted by Willem de Wit, started with monitoring the new and rare colour varieties.

**Left:  
A birchen cockerel.**

#### *Birchen – Brown Red*

To start with, the Large Birchen were discussed by Martin Linskens. These are only seldom present at the Shows and are mostly bred in combination with white black columbia. It is difficult to breed the proper markings.

Judge Wim Voskamp had some tips to improve the marking, for instance by breeding birchen x birchen and breeding more offspring, thus more chicks to choose from. Martin also discussed the Brown Red bantams; again some breeders are enthusiastic to try and have this colour recognised in the Brahma bantams. The present birds give hope for recognition.

#### *Cuckoo*

Berend Beekhuis discussed the Cuckoo Brahmans; the penned birds were 'made' with Turkeyhead Malines and black Brahmans. The colour and markings were considered to be OK. We have other cuckoo Brahmans in Holland with a different – and unknown – background. These birds are also improving by crossings with black Brahmans. We will continue with the recognition procedure.



**Above: Cuckoo cockerel and pullet.**

Blue silver pencilled

The two blue silver pencilled Brahma bantams present at the meeting, brought by Abe Heerdink, were also analyzed. The difficulty resides in the red or gold factor which seems to be attached to blue silver pencilled, but the old cock gives hope, only a bit of red in the primaries and secondaries. When this is gone, they are pretty well acceptable.



**Right: Blue pencilled bantam cockerel.  
Left: Isabel partridge bantams.**

Isabel partridge

Abe penned four bantams in the new colour variety Isabel partridge. The (imported) cock and hen showed how beautiful this colour can be. Especially the hen showed a very nice lacing pattern; the cock could be a bit softer and lighter in colour. We have to keep an open eye for the dun factor, coming from the earlier used blue partridge, which is fading the pattern in the hens. In various countries breeders are trying to create this colour in the large Brahma.



After discussing the colours, some additional subjects were brought to the participants' attention.

1 – The common conclusion was that leg colour can be influenced through feeding; however, the genes for yellow legs must be present. In the first week after hatching the yellow must be more or less present in the legs; after that, the yellow colour might fade. But when 4 to 5 months old, the leg colour should again be yellow, so keep that in mind when selecting your birds.

**Right: These chicks have the wanted yellow leg colour.  
Photo: Bobo Athes.**



2 – Cocks in the columbia varieties, showing some black (or blue) markings in the saddle hackles often get this noted as a remark on the judge report, and correctly so, according the standard description. However, such birds are very good for the breeding pen. A judge who is familiar with the breeding of these colour varieties will be tolerant when judging this. Also a grey down colour (instead of a light down colour) should be tolerated in the white black columbia variety. We discussed whether these two subjects should be adapted in the standard, but our opinions were still divergent.



**Left: Saddle without marking, conform the Dutch standard.  
Photo: Peter v.d. Top.**

3 – The colour of the neck hackles of the Blue variety is often darker than the blue in the other body feathering. It was unanimously agreed that this was only a minor fault, one point less.



**Right: Blue pullet.  
Photo: Peter v.d. Top.**

4 – The width of the wing feathers in centimetres is not specified, the judge is supposed to know the wanted width and to compare the birds. Stating that in an 'opened' wing the feathers should form a closed field, is too vague a saying.

Following all of this, we went to visit the coops of Willem de Wit. He lives nearby, in a town called Winschoten. Recently, because of health problems, he stopped breeding the large Brahmas, but now his interest lies in breeding buff black and buff blue columbia Brahma bantams, besides breeding Holland Lops. Willem has his mind set on the right pea-comb, even though it was obvious that there were no combs on his birds which were not in order.



After we returned to Blijham, we were served a spectacular Chinese Buffet, with plenty of drinks which we all enjoyed very much.

This perfectly organized day went smoothly, so that everyone could start their way home at approximately half past four. We hope this article is another THANK YOU to the hosts who were in charge; it was a day with an outstanding atmosphere, which we all shall remember for a long time.

See also Brahma Club Nederland. <http://www.brahmaclub.nl/> (Dutch text, many photos)

