

# ACE OF THE SHOW

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Part 2



## ANNUAL FUR AND FEATHER SHOW 2014 IN MALTA

held by Malta Fancy Poultry and Pigeon Club  
3 & 4 May 2014 in San Anton Gardens, Attard (MT)  
Photographers: Irena Cassar, Odette Manicaro

We, fanciers of poultry and pigeons hailing from the tiny Mediterranean country of Malta, invite you to take a stroll with us through one of Malta's oldest and most beautiful gardens, the gardens of San Anton Palace, where in the beginning of May 2014 the annual Fur and Feather Show was traditionally held, filling the luscious and elegant gardens with the clucking, crowing, quacking and cooing of well over half a thousand poultry and pigeons.







Photos of the venue - the garden.



The Fur and Feather Show in the Maltese Islands dates back to 1920-ies, a tradition started by the British governor as Malta was a British colony in those times. Poultry, pigeon, bird and rabbit enthusiasts were then gathered in one large club. Malta Fancy Poultry and Pigeon Club was formed 35 years ago of poultry, pigeon and fowl fanciers. For the last 5 years two clubs - that of rabbit fanciers and our Malta Fancy Poultry and Pigeon Club - organize this show as a joint venture, which makes it a spectacular sight indeed and the Club's largest event of the year.



The graceful pathways of the gardens are lined with rows of exhibition cages, some of them encircling a large pond where the garden's own waterfowl live; large birds such as peacocks, turkeys and geese are placed in larger cages for comfort, and pigeons and doves are found in their own separate section.



**Below, Left to right:  
Roderick Galdes, Honorary Secretary for Animal Rights in Malta; Club's vice-secretary Bernardette Cutajar with one of her peacocks, and Club President Angelo Mifsud.**



The weather in Malta in the late spring can usually be counted on, but this year was a small exception with some rain on Saturday morning which however caused no harm because the birds had been covered to protect them from the elements. The clouds lifted and the day continued to unfold beautifully as the judging commenced. A little later Honorary Secretary for Animal Rights in Malta, Mr.

Roderick Galdes, made an appearance and officially opened the show. Meanwhile peacock Troy of the young Club member and peafowl enthusiast Bernardette Cutajar greeted everyone at the entrance to the park throughout the day, making him arguably the most photographed bird of the weekend!



**Right and below: Bernardette Cutajar and her peacock Troy who was in the "greeting committee" at the entrance to the show!**



The majority of entries were chickens - this year saw some 350 chickens, 200 pigeons and around 50 specimens of other types of fowl (waterfowl, pheasants, turkeys, quail, doves).

With the country's whole population being approximately 1/3 of that of Amsterdam or less than 1/7 of Berlin, that seems to be enough entries to begin to admire and appreciate the enthusiasm of the Maltese poultry and pigeon keepers!

**Right: Reg Massey judging the chickens.**

The birds were evaluated by several judges. Pigeons were judged by Raymond Ebejer, Jason Buttigieg and Raymond Debattista, fowl by Kevin Mallia and Nenu Saliba, and chickens by Reg Massey (UK) who himself is a breeder of Araucana, Booted Bantam, Barbu d'Anvers, Dorking and Polish chickens. The show was generously sponsored by our supporters: one of the largest pet supply distributors in the Maltese Islands "Borg Cardona & Co.Ltd", as well as by Andrews Feeds, "Tas-Salib" Veterinary Pharmacy, KPH Feeds and Malta Dairy Products.





Below are the results of our birds:

Best Bantam Pair: Columbian Wyandottes. Owner: Carmelo Catania.  
Reserve Bantam Pair: Black Rosecomb. Owner Ray Sciberras.  
Best Game Bantam Pair: Old English Game, furness. Owner Frans Borg.  
Reserve Game Bantam Pair: Ko Shamo. Owner Paul Tatham.  
Best Large Fowl Pair: Black Croad Langshan. Owner Eric Manicaro.  
Reserve Large Fowl Pair: Black Maltese. Owner Carmelo Catania.  
Best Single Large Game: Old English Game rooster. Owner Christian Cutajar.  
Reserve Single Large Game: Shamo hen. Owner Paul Tatham.  
Best Single Bantam: Black Rosecomb rooster. Owner Frans Borg.  
Reserve Single Bantam: Ko Shamo hen, ginger. Owner Eric Manicaro.  
Best Single Large Fowl: Brahma rooster, partridge. Owner Christian Azzopardi (unfortunately no photo was obtained).  
Reserve Single Large Fowl: Thuringian hen, black. Owner Eric Manicaro.  
Best Pigeon: German Modena. Owner Anthony Bugeja.  
Reserve Pigeon: Polish Lynx. Owner Anthony Bugeja.  
Best Dove: Zebra Doves. Owner Carmelo Catania.  
Reserve Dove: Chinese Quail. Owner Carmelo Catania (unfortunately no photo was obtained).  
Best Fowl: Peacocks. Owner Carmelo Catania.  
Reserve Fowl: Crollwitzer Turkeys. Owner Eric Manicaro.  
Best Waterfowl: Chinese Geese, grey. Owner Carmelo Catania.  
Reserve Waterfowl: Pied Indian Runner Ducks. Owner Carmelo Catania (unfortunately no photo was obtained).

**Right: BEST IN SHOW OVERALL was awarded to Frans Borg's black Rosecomb rooster.**



Fur & Feather Show 2014, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
San Anton Gardens, Balzan



**Columbian Wyandottes**  
**Owner: Carmelo Catania**



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**Black Croad Langshan**  
**Owner: Eric Manicaro**





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*Best Large Game*

**Old English Game rooster**  
**Owner: Christian Cutajar**



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*Best Game Bantam Pair*

**Furness Old English Game**  
**Owner: Frans Borg**



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*Best Waterfowl*

**Grey Chinese Geese**  
**Owner: Carmelo Catania**



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*Best Fowl*

**Peacocks**  
**Owner: Carmelo Catania**



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San Anton Gardens, Balzan

*Best Pigeon*

**German Modena**  
**Owner: Anthony Bugeja**



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*Best Dove*

**Zebra Doves**  
**Owner: Carmelo Catania**



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*Reserve Bantam Pair*

**Black Rosecomb**  
**Owner: Ray Sciberras**



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*Reserve Large Fowl Pair*

**Black Maltese**  
**Owner: Carmelo Catania**



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*Reserve Large Game*

**Shamo hen**  
**Owner: Paul Tatham**





Fur & Feather Show 2014, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
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*Reserve Single Large Fowl*

**Black Thuringian hen**  
**Owner: Eric Manicaro**



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*Reserve Single Bantam*

**Ginger Ko Shamo hen**  
**Owner: Eric Manicaro**



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San Anton Gardens, Balzan

*Reserve Game Bantam Pair*

**Ko Shamo**  
**Owner: Paul Tatham**



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*Reserve Fowl*

**Crollwitzer Turkeys**  
**Owner: Eric Manicaro**



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*Reserve Pigeon*

**Polish Lynx**  
**Owner: Anthony Bugeja**

A great time was had by all (including the birds!), and we look forward to perhaps welcoming some of the readers' at our Fur and Feather Show next spring.

**Below: Best in Show, and Best Single Bantam: Rosecomb bantam, by Frans Borg.**

*Best Single Bantam*  
**Black Rosecomb rooster**  
**Owner: Frans Borg**



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English edition ISSN: 2352-2445  
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