

NEWS

FROM THE BRAHMA CLUB of the NETHERLANDS



Photo: Hub Maar

Text: Syb Cornel

Photos: Berend Beekhuis, all photos taken at the Gelderland Show

The exhibition season 2015 is over so we can all draw our conclusions about the birds we bred. Are you continuing your Brahma breeding on the same path, or are you going to add a new bird to your breeding pen? Watch out; a new bird might bring improvement, but also brings with it potentially undesired traits. The problem is that you do not know what he or she will pass on to the offspring. Now this is the game that we call 'breeding'.

In recent years, our members have been busy creating new colours. This was clearly seen at the Young Animal Day, in the AOC class and the recognition applications.

Blue salmon hen.

At the Young Animal Day the salmon colour was intensely discussed. The breeding committee had a tough job. They came to the conclusion to follow the colour and marking of the French type Faverolles. The how and why has been explained at the Club Day.



The green light was given for the recognition applications of the Large Brahma in the blue colour variety and the Isabel partridge colour variety. The yellow birchen Brahmas were striking. Good quality, but it's still a chore to get the right marking on the roosters.

Still, we must watch out that the existing colours do not become victims of the fanatical breed of new colours. Creativity and innovation is good, but let's be particularly careful with our existing colours.

Birchen bantam hen.

In the Large Brahmas, the birchen remain a rare appearance. We have also witnessed the numbers and quality of the blue partridge, both in large and in bantam, decline in recent years. Black large Brahmas were better in the past and this also applies to the cuckoo variety.

Buff black columbian bantam hen.

Large Fowl, Best of Colour variety: partridge - Ludwig van Roy; silver pencilled - Ludwig van Roy; white black columbian - Sander Visser; white blue columbian - Sander Visser; buff black columbian - P.S.C. Kuijs; buff blue columbian - H. Vierwind; black - B.

Beekhuis; mottle - Willie Groote Schaarsberg; cuckoo - J. Poppelaar; white - Wilco Bril; birchen - Sander Visser; blue - Hub Maar; isabel partridge - Mark Rechterschot; 1st AOC class, yellow birchen - Mark Rechterschot; salmon - Mark Rechterschot; lavender cuckoo - Mark Rechterschot.

Bantams, Best of Colour variety: partridge - Kris de Vos; silver pencilled - J. Beukers; blue silver pencilled - Kris de Vos; isabel partridge - Paula van Vliet-Pennings; white black columbian - Kris de Vos; buff black columbian - R.L.M Dol de Maaijer; buff blue columbian - R.L.M Dol de Maaijer; black - Jos Breden.

Mottled hen.



This year, the European show was held in Metz, France. Some Club members participated. Sander Visser, Ludwig Van Roy and Benjamin de Bakker won European Champion, and Paula van Vliet-Pennings won European Champion with her Isabel partridge Brahma bantam. On behalf of our club, congratulations for these great results.

White black columbian hen.

The show in Affligem, Belgium, where more than 200 Large Brahmas and 300 Bantam Brahmas were exhibited, is each year visited by more breeders from The

Netherlands. This year, one Brahma was awarded 97 points – a White Black Columbia hen bred by our Honorary Club President, Martin Linskens. The same bird was chosen as the Best Brahma in the Show and the best exemplar of a foreign breed.

Our 2015 Club Show was housed by the Gelderland Show in Wijchen, which was held between December 18th and 20th. Our members had entered many beautiful birds in various colours. Champion Large Fowl Brahma was won by Willie Groote Schaarsberg with a white pullet. Piet Stokkermans won Champion Brahma Bantam with his buff black columbian pullet.

White pullet of Willie Groote Schaarsberg, Best LF Brahma at the Gelderland Show.

LF Brahma Club Champion in each colour class: Partridge 95 p. Syb Cornel; silver pencilled 95 p. Syb Cornel; white black columbian 96 p. Martin Linskens; white blue columbian 95 p. Sander Visser; buff black columbian 96 p. Johannes Zandbergen; buff blue columbian 96 p. Mark Rechterschot; mottled 95 p. Willie Groote Schaarsberg; white 96 p. Willie Groote Schaarsberg; cuckoo 95 p. Wim Gerritsen; blue 96 p. Jos Breden and Best LF in the AOC class.

Silver pencilled hen.



Brahma Bantam Club Champion in each colour class:

Partridge 95 p. P.A.M. van Vliet-Pennings; birchen 96 p. Maarten Kweens; white black columbian 96 p. Martijn Maathuis; buff black columbian 96 p. Piet Stokkermans; other colour varieties together, 96 p. Jos Breden with a black pullet.

White black columbian bantam hen.

At the Noordshow in Assen, the Large Brahma in the colour varieties Isabel partridge and Blue were presented for recognition. Unfortunately, the judges of the Standard Committee did not give their approval. In one of the Blue Brahmas, a broken nail was regarded as a missing nail and the marking of an old Isabel partridge hen was not considered good enough. This is very unfortunate, especially now that we have set up a technical breeding commission to prevent these problems. We hope to try again next year.

Blue hen.

In the standard colour varieties, the quality was slightly better, although many birds had already achieved their peak. The most beautiful Brahma was again the impressive White hen of Willie Groote Schaarsberg. Best Brahma bantam in Show was won by Andries Smeding and Rens Linders won best Brahma in the Junior Show.

Black hen.

And then comes the question regarding the status of the Brahma and Bantam Brahma in the Netherlands. The technical breeding committee will also ample inform about this at the Club Day. For those who have Facebook: there is much happening in Europe with the Brahma. Facebook alone is not decisive though. There is increasing talk of a



European standard. Many breeders want this but it has to be discussed within the club. Also, technical breeding committees are active in Germany and The Netherlands, closely monitoring the development of the breed. They will be important in order to achieve a unified, stable and commonly agreed European breed standard description.

Buff blue columbian cockerel.

The future Brahma will be wanted with a bit longer legs. But this needs to be accompanied by a more robust body. The narrower Brahma will disappear. Eye-brows are a must. The outer toe must be correct. Very important are the club judges. As long as the judges are not fully aware of what we want, we will never get there.

Buff black columbian hen.

Then the Bantam Brahma: in my opinion, a big part of the Dutch and Belgian Bantam Brahma are too large and the difference between a bantam and a large Brahma is not noticeable enough. Bantam Brahmas must therefore be less robust. Also the proper 3-row peacomb will get more attention. Obviously, other specific Brahma characteristics will remain of great importance, such as the nod behind the head, the eye-brows and the short curved beak.

Isabel partridge bantam pullet.

And do not forget: the new Brahma book is still available for the fans; on the Brahma Club site (www.brahmaclub.nl) you can find which is the easiest to get it. In the book, you can easily see what has been the development of recent years and it is up to you to predict where we will go with the new European type.



Partridge hen.



Black bantam hen.

Below: Cuckoo hen.



Partridge bantam hen.



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