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Disclaimer and Acknowledgements
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The members of the Modern Game Promotional Society wish to gratefully acknowledge Mr Allan Higgs, the members of the Modern Game Club of Great Britain, Doctor Rob Marshall, Mr Alf Woods, and all other enthusiasts for the use of their prints and input to this publication. It is without a doubt that this material is of great assistance to us and other clubs who try in vain to promote this truly wonderful breed of poultry so we believe that recognition should be given to the people who produced the original work of art.
Good-aye fellow Modern Game enthusiasts,
well here we are with the third edition of the newsletter and I hope that you are enjoying the
read however this is it for the people who do not wish to become financial, sad but true, we
will barrel onwards with-out you. The cost of producing these newsletters is being donated
by my fantastic sister who prints them all “free of charge” and I pay the postage to ensure
that this idea has a chance of getting off the ground. All members of the executive committee
have donated cash and made hundreds of phone calls to prospective supporters with this cost
coming out of their own pockets; this is a choice we have made because we are passionate,
dedicated and deadly serious about forming something that will promote this fabulous breed
of exhibition poultry for all enthusiasts to enjoy, Australia wide, so don’t sit on the fence “to
see what happens” get on it and support our endeavour. You must not adopt the attitude that
yes the first show is in Queensland so I will wait until it comes to my state before I join up,
that mentality will not work because when it’s your turn for the show, you will need the
Queenslanders and the other states to raise the funds for your show, so it is important that
enthusiasts from all states support this concept every year.

The breeding season has been quite good from all reports with most people saying they have bred quite a few with some
showing promise at the moment (should make for a good show season). It has been as hot as hell here in Queensland
(temperatures up to nine degrees above average) and even though I haven’t lost any fowl, they are stressing a little but are
still growing ok so I should have a couple to show. We have also sent the paper work into the department of fair trading
for our incorporation and naming rights for the society. We should have it finalised within ten working days. Anyway
that’s enough small talk, I have a newsletter to write, and I hope to catch up with you at the forthcoming shows. Cheers
for now, Wayne.

Feedback report from executive meeting held at John and Carol Pocock’s residence on Saturday 6th February 2010

The first agenda item to be discussed was the venue for which our first show will be held.
We know that we are under some pressure to sponsor The Modern Game Club of
Queensland’s show in 2010 but a lengthy discussion took place with the outcome being
that we will stay with our original plans to (proudly) stage our first event at the Rosewood
Poultry Club show held on the 25th of July 2010 (accommodation can be organised for our
interstate visitors) and then off to New South Wales (venue to be announced) in
2011 followed by Victoria, South Australia, West Australia and so on. This decision has not
been taken lightly but we felt that the positives far outweighed the negatives. The first and
foremost point is that it will give the breeders of Modern Game two shows to look forward
to in the one year rather than just the one. Another clear point was that we had already
published the fact that the first show was to be held at Rosewood and that the Rosewood
Poultry Club was already approached and they accepted the invitation to run this event in
conjunction with their show.

Another topic that arose from you the members was the way the $1500.00 was to be
distributed. We also debated this and the outcome is that instead of only two fowls taking
the lot, a unanimous decision was made by the executive to change the distribution of cash
to promote all the fowls in their respective colour classes. The following concept was sent to us by the Gnome (thanks Col and Deb) and we felt that this represents a fair and equitable way to distribute the cash prize pool and we believe that this may-be the best idea that we have ever heard of. It will encourage the breeding and exhibiting of the less popular colours within the breed.

We will take the $1500 and distribute it using the following model. One third ($500) will go to the Champion and Reserve Champion of the show with 60% going to the Champion Bird of Show ($300) and 40% to the Reserve Bird of Show ($200). The remaining $1000 is divided by the number of entries in the show which will give a dollar value per entry. This dollar value is then used to decide how much prize money is awarded to the Champion and Reserve Champion of each breed colour. The standard fowls and the bantams compete against each other for the Champion and Reserve Champion of that colour.

For example only:

200 Modern Game entries in the show $1,000 divided by 200 gives each and every bird a value of $5. This $5 is then multiplied by the number of birds in each colour class and the result is split into 60% for the champion of that section and 40% for the reserve of that section.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Large Fowls</th>
<th>Bantams</th>
<th>Total No of Birds</th>
<th>$5 value per entry</th>
<th>Prize fund for each section</th>
<th>Champion of section (%)</th>
<th>Reserve of section (%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Red</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>x $5</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pile</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>x $5</td>
<td>$225</td>
<td>$135</td>
<td>$90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Red</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>x $5</td>
<td>$115</td>
<td>$69</td>
<td>$46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wheaten</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>x $5</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duckwing</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>x $5</td>
<td>$85</td>
<td>$51</td>
<td>$34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birchen</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>x $5</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown Red</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>x $5</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$36</td>
<td>$24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ginger</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>x $5</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$24</td>
<td>$16</td>
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<tr>
<td>AOC</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>x $5</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$1000.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$600.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$400.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Another agenda item that was discussed in detail was, are non-members eligible to receive the prizes donated by this society. The answer to that is “yes” they are because the very core of this society (when the idea was conceived) was that we are promoting the fowl and not the people who own them and the only way to correctly do that is to promote the best birds in the shed to the top, not the 2nd or 3rd placed fowls. If a fowl wins a prize and the owner is not a member then so be it, they still get the same benefit as if they were a member. We feel that our honesty and integrity will get us over the line and besides we feel that there won’t be too many exhibitors who will not support our venture, and remember we are all here to do the same thing promote the breeding and exhibiting of Modern Game fowls.

THESE DECISIONS ARE FINAL AND ARE NOT OPEN FOR DEBATE.
On another note we are very pleased to announce that we have secured the services of Dr. Rob Marshall from Carlingford Animal Hospital in New South Wales. Dr. Rob has kindly agreed to sponsor our concept by donating a full set of Comets (very flash and spectacular sashes as seen on the right) for our first show. We are also starting a forum in the next edition and following editions of this newsletter where Dr. Rob will answer any questions regarding the health of our birds. If you have a problem and need an answer, just simply drop us a line and Dr. Rob will answer it for you. The Question and Dr. Rob’s response will be published (with your permission) in this newsletter for all of us to share. This is a terrific help to all poultry enthusiasts and just another service provided to you by simply being a member of this Society.

Dr. Rob Marshall is regarded as the finest Bird Vet in the country because that is his specialty; Birds. Rob has written numerous books, Doctorates, delivered countless seminars and produced his very own line of products to provide specialist treatment of anything with feathers. Please feel free to contact Rob and discuss any problems that you may have. I have had an association with Rob through my canaries and I can honestly say that Rob has been very helpful with my requests and his line of products really do work. You can send a sample of faeces or even the whole bird to him, he will perform a post mortem and contact you with what the problem is and also the solution. He also has a next day delivery service, so if you need something in a hurry phone the hospital in the morning and the product will be at your post office the next day.

Finally, I must apologise to our South Australian members for taking so long to find a contact list. I received a list of potential members the other day from Mr Tom Bowden OAM and I immediately started to contact the breeders over there in the south. The response has been fantastic with a lot of fanciers over there keeping large fowl which is quite exciting, because there are not a lot of them around over here.

**NEW MEMBERS**

We would like to welcome the following people as members to The Modern Game Promotional Society: A special welcome to our first International Member Mr. Bob Choate from America.

The Australian Standards

Origin Britain Classification Heavy-breed Hard Feather Egg-colour Tinted

Modern Game fowls and bantams are a fancier’s creation. With the outlawing of cockfighting in 1849, Game Fowls came onto the show-bench. Within 30 years, fashion had transformed the English pit fowl into a very tall, fine, reachy, scantily feathered show bird. A little Malay blood was used to hasten this transformation. Known simply as game and finally as Modern Game, these birds were very fashionable and commanded fantastic prices. Modern Game bantams developed over exactly the same period and their popularity, unlike that of the fowls, has never diminished. In Australia, Modern Game fowls and bantams are kept in a wide array of colours.

Male Characteristics

Carriage: Upstanding, active and alert. In the show-pen the bird should stand with a proud posing posture, the back sloping downwards toward the tail, showing plenty of “lift” as if reaching to its fullest height with the eye directly above the feet when posing.

Type: Body short, flat back, wide front and tapering to the tail, shaped like a flat-iron. Breast well developed, evenly curved, broad and full. Shoulders prominent and carried well up. Wings short and strong carried well up. Tail short, fine, closely whipped together and carried slightly above the level of the body, the sickles narrow, well pointed and only slightly curved.

Head: Long, snaky and narrow between the eyes. Beak long, gracefully curved and strong at the base. Eyes well rounded, prominent, bold, bright and clear. Comb single, small upright, of fine texture, evenly serrated. Face smooth. Ear-lobes and wattles fine and small to match the comb. It is customary to dub Modern Game males, leaving the head and lower jaw smooth and free from ridges.

Neck: Long, lean and slightly arched, fitted with short narrow feathers, but thin at the junction with the body.

Plumage: Short, hard and glossy with a minimum of fluff.

Handling: Hard and firm.

Legs and Feet: Legs, long and well rounded. Thighs long, fine and muscular. Shanks long, straight, well rounded and free of feathers. Spurs fine, set low and firmly attached in adult males. Toes, four, long, fine and straight, the fourth (or hind) toe straight out and flat on the ground, not downwards against the ball of the foot (or duck-footed) which is a disqualification.

Female Characteristics

The general characteristics are similar to that of the male, allowing for the natural sexual differences.
Colours

**Birchen:**

*Male:* Cap silver-white. Neck and saddle hackles, back and wing bows, lustrous black laced with silver-white. Front of neck and breast narrow laced with silver-white as low as the top of the thighs. Remainder of plumage lustrous black.

*Female:* Cap silver-white. Neck hackle black lace with silver-white. Front of neck and breast laced as in the male. Remainder lustrous black.

*In both sexes:* Beak dark horn or black. Eyes, legs and feet black. Comb, face, wattles and ear lobes, dark purple (mulberry) or black.

**Black-red**


*Female:* Cap clear gold. Neck hackle gold, slightly striped with black. Breast rich salmon, shading off to ash on the thighs. Main tail black, except the top feathers, which should match the body colour. Remainder light partridge-brown, very finely pencilled, and a slight golden tinge pervading the whole, which should be even throughout, free from any ruddiness whatever and with no trace of pencilling on the flight feathers.

*In both sexes:* Beak dark green. Eyes, comb, face, ear-lobes and wattles bright red. Legs and feet willow.

**Black**

*In both sexes:* Plumage lustrous green-black throughout. Beak dark horn or black. Eyes, comb, face, ear-lobes, wattles, legs and feet black.

**Blue**

*In both sexes:* An even, clear, rich, medium to pale blue, free from lacing. Darker blue top colour in males and hackles of females. Beak black or blue. Eyes, comb, face, ear-lobes, wattles, mulberry. legs and feet black or leaden blue

**Gold Duckwing**

*Male:* Hackles creamy-white or straw, free from striping. Back, saddle and wingbow pale orange or rich yellow. Wing bars and primaries black with blue sheen. Secondaries pure white outer web, black on the inner web and tips, the white only to show when closed. Remaining plumage is black with a blue sheen.

*Female:* Hackle silvery-white, finely striped with black. Breast salmon, shading off to ash grey on thighs. Tail is black, with the top feathers matching the body plumage. Remainder is French or steel grey, very finely pencilled with black and an even shade throughout.

*In both sexes:* Beak dark horn. Eyes, comb, face, ear-lobes and wattles are red. Legs and feet are willow.

**Silver Duckwing Male:**

Hackles, back, saddle, shoulder coverts and wing bows pure silvery-white. Secondaries are pure white on the outer web, black on tips and inner web. Only white to show when wing is closed. Remainder of plumage is lustrous blue black.

*Female:* Cap silver. Hackle silvery-white finely striped with black. Breast pale salmon shading off to a pale ash grey on thighs. Tail black, with top feathers matching the body plumage. Remainder is light French grey, very delicately pencilled with black with a silvery tinge to the whole. Body colour should be even throughout.

*In both sexes:* Beak dark horn. Eyes, comb, face, ear-lobes and wattles are red. Legs and feet are willow.
Blue Duckwing

**Male:** The colour of either a silver or golden Duckwing male with the black replaced throughout by slate-blue.

**Female:** Cap silver. Hackle silver with larger feathers striped with light blue. Front of neck and breast light salmon shading off to light blue thighs. The remainder light blue, some very fine stippling showing on wings, back and coverts.

**In both sexes:** Beak dark horn. Eyes, comb, face, ear-lobes and wattles are red. Legs and feet are willow.

Cuckoo

**In both sexes:** Indistinctly barred throughout all sections with alternating dark slate and very light grey.

Beak is yellow or horn. Comb, face, ear-lobes, wattles and eyes are red. Legs and feet are yellow.

Spangled

**Male and Female:** Closely resemble the black-red male and female in colour with the end of each feather in all sections finished with a small white tip or spangle. The more evenly distributed the better.

**In both sexes:** Eyes, comb, face, ear-lobes and wattles are red. Legs and feet either all yellow or all willow, the latter preferred.

Pile

**Male:** Hackles bright orange-yellow (dark or washy hackles to be avoided). Back and saddle rich maroon. Wing is bay maroon. Wing bar is white and free from splashes. Primaries white. Secondaries, outer web dark chestnut, white on tips and inner web, the dark chestnut alone showing when the wing is closed. Remainder of the body is pure white.

**Female:** Hackle is white tinged with gold. Breast is rich salmon. Remainder of the body is pure white.

**In both sexes:** Beak yellow. Eyes, comb, face, ear-lobes and wattles are red. Legs and feet are orange-yellow.

Golden Creel

**Male:** Neck and saddle hackle indistinctly barred orange. Back, shoulder coverts and wing bow indistinctly barred deep orange. Lower web of secondaries chestnut indistinctly barred with light grey or white. Remainder cuckoo (alternating dark slate and almost white markings) throughout all sections.

**Female:** Hackle lemon indistinctly barred with light and dark grey. Breast and thighs indistinctly barred salmon. Back and wings cuckoo (alternating dark slate and almost white markings) with a slight golden tinge throughout. Flights and tail cuckoo.

**In both sexes:** Beak horn or yellow. Eyes, comb, face, ear-lobes and wattles are red. Legs and feet yellow.

Silver Creel

Males resemble a silver duckwing with black everywhere replaced with cuckoo markings. The female is very similar to the golden creel hen. Her hackle is silver, indistinctly barred with light and dark grey and there is a slight silver tinge throughout to her plumage.

**In both sexes:** Beak horn or yellow. Eyes, comb, face, ear-lobes and wattles are red. Legs and feet yellow.
Lemon Blue

**Male and female:** Top colour and markings exactly the same as for the brown red with the black replaced everywhere by one even, clear shade of blue. Allowance is to be made for greater lustre and darker shade of blue on the top colour of the male.

**In both sexes:** Beak dark horn or black preferred. Eyes, comb, face, ear-lobes and wattles are mulberry or black. Legs and feet black or leaden blue.

Silver Blue

**Male and female:** Top colour and markings exactly the same as for the birchen with the black replaced everywhere by one even, clear shade of blue. Allowance is to be made for greater lustre and darker shade of blue on the top colour of the male.

**In both sexes:** Beak dark horn or black preferred. Eyes, comb, face, ear-lobes and wattles are mulberry or black. Legs and feet black or leaden blue.

Black tailed wheaten

Head Gold. Neck is clear golden with some narrow black striping in the centre lower feathers permissible. Front of neck and breast light salmon shading off to ashy wheaten toward thighs. Back, shoulders, wing fronts, wing bows, coverts and secondaries are wheaten colour (colour resembling ripe wheat). Primaries are dark wheaten. Body, stern and lower thighs are ashy wheaten. Tail is black except for the top two feathers, which with the tail coverts, are wheaten colour. Eyes, comb, face, wattles, ear-lobes are red. Beak is horn. Legs and feet willow

Blue-tailed wheaten

Same as the black tailed wheaten except the black is replaced everywhere by a clear, even shade of blue

Blue-tailed silver wheaten

Same as the black tailed silver wheaten except the black is replaced everywhere by a clear, even shade of blue

Self White

**Male and female:** Plumage pure white. Beak yellow. Eyes, comb, face, ear-lobes and wattles are red. Legs and feet are orange-yellow.

Weights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Large</th>
<th>Bantams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Male</strong></td>
<td><strong>Male</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 - 4.10kg</td>
<td>570 - 620g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7 - 9lb)</td>
<td>(20 - 22oz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Female</strong></td>
<td><strong>Female</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.25 - 3.20kg</td>
<td>450 - 510g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5 - 7lb)</td>
<td>(16 - 18oz)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Natural versus Artificial
By Wayne Ingleton.

In all the years that I have kept, bred and exhibited poultry, there has always been a difference of opinions (between fellow breeders) whether you should let mother nature have her way or should I intervene and use artificial methods of hatching and rearing poultry. There is no doubt that fanciers have had success using both methods and with some breeds (Sussex, Rocks, Leghorns, Ancona’s and Indians, to name a few) there is no other way you can do it. They are either too heavy and smash more eggs than they hatch or they are bred not to brood but to lay eggs, so fanciers of these breeds use either foster parents or they revert to using incubators and brooders (artificial methods).

There are definitely pros and cons for both methods and I have personally used both with success or you can use a combination of the two such as hatch under hens and rear the chicks in a brooder. I know of quite a few breeders who use the later method with a great deal of success. Take Barry Simpkins for instance, he hatches hundreds (about six) of Old English Game bantams under hens and then takes them away from their mother and rears them in brooders where as John Lane collects the eggs from the hens and hatches them in an incubator and rears the chicks in brooders. Both men have a great deal of success using their chosen methods and manage to successfully rear hundreds of fowls each season.

So is there a right or wrong way of doing things. I believe that fanciers should use whatever method suits their needs, be it time constraints, ease of feeding and watering, room (pen space), vaccination requirements or maybe you would like to hatch more chicks, it’s basically whatever ‘turns you on’ and you should do whatever works for you. Myself personally, I will never use artificial methods again (unless extreme circumstances call for it) even though I have had quite a few successful seasons of doing so but I was chasing numbers (increasing my breed stock) after a spell of not having fowl.
Modern Game bantams do not respond well to artificial methods of hatching, they will rear in a brooder quite well providing they are reared on their own as they are prone to being picked on by other more resilient breeds. Anyway I will now continue to tell you why I prefer the natural ways of doing things. The first thing that springs to mind is the natural resistance to disease that a chicken gets from being hatched under a hen and then reared on the ground under its mother. I don’t use much litter in a nest box but what I do use is a 20 litre oil drum (round tin) with a hole cut out of the front with an angle grinder and then I simply throw a shovel full of litter from the pen floor into the nest. The hen lays her eggs and hatches her chicks on this bed of dirt, dried grass clippings, dried chook manure and whatever else was scattered on the floor of the pen. I get better hatches and stronger chicks by doing this and my mentor (Ted Gray) used to always say that there is a natural resistance to Coccidiosis by this method and do you know that I have never really had to use any treatment for this disease when chicks are hatched like this.

If you compare this method to that of chicks hatched in an incubator and I bet you will find that the incubator gets “bombed” with potash and formalin regularly to kill all the bugs in the incubator and the chicks are continually exposed to a coccistat to ensure their survival (in these usually overcrowded conditions). To me this ensures that the weak chicks (that would have died under a hen) will hatch, grow up and carry this weakness onto their young, not to mention that you would have to help quite a few out of the shell because an incubator can’t replicate the feats of the mother hen when it comes to supplying the correct conditions needed for successful hatching.

When the chicks are hatched, I simply throw them on the ground (in the same litter as the nest was made of), ensure that they have clean water and good tucker and away they go. If any of these chicks die I believe that’s Mother Nature’s way of culling out the weak and ensuring the strong survive. I will not help a chicken out of the shell (no matter what) firmly believing that if it’s not strong enough to make it out on its own then it’s weak and was not meant to survive.

When the chicks are on the ground under the hen’s care they get the opportunity to experience all the different temperatures and conditions that Mother Nature throws there way such as cold spells, wet weather, wind and they also learn to eat when their mother says the weather is suitable. All these varying factors ensure that the weak are culled naturally. Whereas in a brooder the chicks don’t get the varying temperatures and weather conditions to those under a hen so the weak chicks that would have died under the hen will no doubt survive. They will grow up slowly and more times than not, they will not be good “doers”, but nonetheless they will survive. In Nature you will not see a hen that has the misfortune of having a sick weedy chick go over and sit on it. See does not do this instead instinct tells her that she should look after the healthy chicks and leave the ailing one to the elements and ultimately it will be culled by her and she will turn her attention to the remaining healthy brood.
When these weak chicks have grown up the temptation is there to use them in the breeding pen (cause they look all right but in reality they have no guts) so straight away we are breeding from a fowl that would not have survived under Mother Nature’s law. I believe that this is the quickest way to weaken a strain (keep breeding from the weak) and eventually you will find that more and more chicks will be sitting in the corner cheeping their weak little hearts out but because the brooder is warm and we pump them full of antibiotics to stop them from choking down. These fowl will never be any good to a strain and a lot of the time inbreeding (to closely bred) will be blamed for the problem. If these “weak” chicks were left with the hen, culled naturally and we bred from the survivors then we would find that we could continue to inbreed (as close as you like) providing Mother Nature is left (without intervention) to do her job.

Another point that should be added at this time is one that not enough importance is placed on it by the breeders. Personally have culled my fowl out of the yard if they did not lay consistently and if their eggs were of poor quality, small or not enough of them or they had long spells between eggs. The same applied with the cocks if they were spasmodic with their fertility. If you persist with these sorts of problems they will only be exasperated at a later date (they will only get worse) and you are better off biting the bullet and kill these types out of the way. You may have a hen that is a world beater in the show pen and instinct tells you that you should breed with her, so you do. During the season she only lays a few eggs and it took her ages to do that so what do we do? The obvious answer and one that most fanciers undertake is persistence with this type of unnatural behaviour and hatch her eggs under another hen, rear the offspring and then use them again next season. The result of this exercise is usually offspring produced by this hen will either produce the same as the mother or (more likely) worse. So if you persist with this regime you will eventually breed the strain into extinction. If Mother Nature had her way in this scenario the hen in question would not have hatched any of those eggs because the time it took her to lay them they would have been stale and probably would never have hatched... That is just another example of how Natural methods would have culled her out of the breeding chain and eliminated the problem at its source. I bet everyone knows of a strain somewhere that are lousy producers so what good are they? The same applies to the cocks if they are dodgy when it comes to filling eggs (especially if they are young and healthy) I can assure you that they will not get any better with age and nine times out of ten their sons will carry the same problems only worse. The best bet is to bite the bullet and call them out of the way and I mean call them, don’t sell them to some other poor unsuspecting fancier kill the bloody things (they can’t cause grief from inside a wheelie bin).

If you use Natural methods of hatching and rearing chicks I believe it will leave your breeding hens fitter and better equipped so that they produce for longer not to mention breed better, healthier chicks. I believe that it stands to reason really that when a hen lay’s in a nest (that she has prepared) she is happier and more contented and will set about the task of reproducing at will (providing she is alone and not bothered by other females). If we have followed the above principles she will lay a clutch of eggs and then go broody. If you look at a broody hen closely she does not feel the heat or the cold as much as the hen next door that is not broody at the moment. This is because when birds become broody their
metabolism slows down so they do not feel extremes in conditions and in actual fact the
hen is having a “well earned rest”. She is on the wind down, letting her body recover from
the rigours of mating, laying and hatching her brood. This is Mother Nature’s way of letting
her body recover; if we just kept on collecting her eggs for the incubator, she will just keep
on laying and she will not get to have that Natural spell provided to her by Mother Nature
so the result will be that she will not produce like that for long.

On the other hand I have had hens that have been left to their own devices mate, lay and
hatch good healthy clutches right up to the age of thirteen or fourteen years, in fact our
President Al Brennan has a duckwing hen that I hatched back in 1994 and she laid, sat and
hatched a clutch this season so you do the maths. I would like to see hens that are pushed
breed when they are that age and particularly moderns. Another thing that I am big on is do
not show your potential breeders. I believe that if you have two sisters and you choose to
show one (usually the better of the two) and leave the other sister at home in her pen,
contented, happy and her regime is left uninterrupted. When the show season is over mate
the two sisters to the same cock and I will bet pounds for peanuts that the unshown sister will
produce better quality offspring and more of them. She has not been put through the rigours
of show preparation, transport, being poked and prodded at; she has stayed at home in her
pen happy contented and largely uninterrupted. I have tried this experiment countless times
and I have always proven my theory correct so try it yourself I think that you will be
pleasantly surprised and as you all know showing a fowl is quite an unnatural act for the
bird. I do it all the time and if you can get away with showing the second best and leaving
the best one at home than the results are even more rewarding.

On the downside of all of the above statements are the positives for the artificial methods such as having all of the offspring in
one area so that watering and feeding is a not such a pain in the ar–e as it is with having to visit every pen and clean out
drinkers and feeding the different clutches. If you are a vaccinator then it almost impossible to vaccinate day olds reared
under hens whereas if they are in a brooder than it is relatively simple to plan your hatches around your vaccination
programs. Worming becomes easy and much cheaper as all the offspring are in one or two locations and are easily accessed
via merely adding the worming mixture to one or two drinking vessels rather than a couple of dozen of them. Another
positive for artificial hatching is the ability to plan your hatches so that all of your chicks are hatched on certain dates
specifically targeted for certain shows. All these things (I consider) are good things but I still don’t believe that they have
any bearing on the simple fact that Mother Nature has been interfered with so her job of culling out the sick and weak
ensuring that we are left with strong, healthy, and vigorous chicks to keep our bloodlines strong and virile for many
generations.

I have tried to use incubators years ago and found that every chick (only a few) would hatch
out with a defect such as crooked toes, crooked beaks and so on. Angus McDonald and Ian
Simpson told me the other day, that they used suffer with this problem but since they have
used one of Laurie Smart’s incubators they have had nothing but success. I spoke to Laurie
the other night and he informed me Modern Game respond/hatch much better if the machine is run at one degree hotter than normal. After I spoke to Angus and Laurie I was encouraged to learn that Smart incubators may finally have the formula correct for hatching Modern Game artificially.

The Modern Game Promotional Society welcomes Doctor Rob Marshall of Carlingford Animal Hospital

Dr. Rob’s forum starts in the next edition and covers a question asked by our president Kevin Everson regarding the disease that plagues us all at one time or another Chronic Respiratory Disease (CRD). Kevin wishes to know;

I have heard that there is a vaccine available to protect our fowl against this disease is this true?

If there is such a thing available, is it worth using and what protection does it provide?

If a vaccine is available where can it be obtained from and what vaccination programme would you recommend?

He also has asked is there a better way of dealing with this problem such as culling or husbandry ethics and would appreciate any advice and suggestions that Doctor Rob has to offer.

This disease has plagued the poultry industry for as long as I can remember and we all know that we treat the disease with the use of antibiotics but it always seems to come back at some stage or another. I personally keep some Oxytet 200 LA inject able in the fridge and if any of my birds that look to be off colour or have a nasal discharge of any sort, I inject point two of millilitre into the breast of the affected fowl and this clears it up. But on the odd occasion it will come back and in particular during the hot summer months.

A lot of fanciers don’t like to admit it but I’m sure that at one stage or another they too have had to deal with symptoms such as these and it puts un-necessary pressure on the hobby with affected birds not doing well and quite a deal of embarrassment on the breeder (no one likes to admit that their birds are crook). I needle the affected bird and if this does not work; I cull them out of the way so I too am looking forward to Doctor Rob’s response; Wayne.
Game Fowl Club of WA, August 22-23, 2009JUDGE: Peter Irvine, NSW

Reserve Champion Bird in Show, Champion Modern Game in Show, Champion Modern Game Bantam and Best Modern Game Bantam Cockerel: Peter Strike, Black Red Cockerel

Best Modern Game Bantam Cock: Peter Toovey, Black Red

Reserve Champion Modern Game Bantam, Best Modern Game Bantam Hen: Les Oxley, Black Red Hen

Best Modern Game Bantam Pullet: Peter Strike, Blue tail Wheaten

Champion Large Modern Game and Reserve Champion Modern Game in Show: James Hughes, Pile Cock

Reserve Champion Large Modern Game: James Hughes, Blue Red Cockerel

These photos were kindly supplied to us by Nathan Watson, our west Australian correspondent. If anyone else has something of interest please send it in and I will print it.
Let me introduce you to Paul Smallpiece

Paul was born in Gunnedah New South Wales in 1947 to his parents Cyril and Edith and is the youngest brother of two boys, Peter being ten years older than Paul. Paul has spent all of his life around the Gunnedah area working in the local mines as a driver and the last six years as a first aid officer. He met and married a wonderful woman named Sandra and they got busy making a family of their own, five kids between them in fact and oh yes they are a virile lot with ten grandchildren and two great grand children.

Paul kept a few Old English Game Bantams (that he got from a gentleman named Hec Millard from Gunnedah) as a lad and showed them at the local shows, not winning a lot but his interest was stimulated in poultry and like all of us he got out of the bantams and pursued other interests and started having kids of his own. In 1990 his elder brother Peter was going to shows until he became sick and could not drive his vehicle at night, so as all good brothers do Paul came to the rescue and started driving Peter around to the local shows at Wariarlda, Inverell and Dubbo plus a few others around the district. This chauffeuring job once again lit the exhibition poultry fire in Paul and ever since then he was hooked.

In 1991 Paul was introduced to the late great Ted Gray through Peter’s connections with Ted’s brother Theo and he purchased a trio of black red modern game and a duckwing female and away he went. In 1992, his first season Paul’s birds (which he bred) won everywhere. He secured champion modern and hardfeather bantam at Muswellbrook poultry club show with a black red cockerel. At Narrabri poultry club he secured champion modern game, reserve hard feather bantam and reserve champion bird in show with a duckwing modern pullet. This pullet was bred out the original black red male crossed with a duckwing
female that he obtained from Ted. Theo judged this show and in his comments he stated that this is best duckwing modern game he has ever clapped eyes on and trust me Theo would know. The same duckwing pullet went on to win champion modern game and champion hardfeather bantam at Warralda in the same year. I have seen this duckwing pullet and trust me she was very worthy of her awards and was the beginning of a great strain of duckwings for Paul. He also won champion modern game and champion hardfeather bantam at his own club show at Gunnedah. “That’s not bad for your first outing on the show circuit Paul hell did you give anyone else a go”

There’s a funny story that I must tell even though Paul will probably kill me but hell “what the hey” remember back in the first edition of this newsletter I had a picture of a black red cockerel standing on a wheelie bin and I think I said that only Kevin Everson and Owen Glover would recognise what the vine in the back ground was, well I forgot but I think Paul would remember it better than all of us. You see at a show back in that year our young Paul took the advice of one of our older and well respected breeders (Mr Gray) and rubbed a little of that “special Vine “ on the legs of his black reds. “Wow” look at how beautiful and green they are, let’s stick them in a box and get to the show. Then along came the judge and he was working through the classes when all of a sudden he came across a black red cockerel with shiniest green legs he had ever seen in fact they were just a little bit to shiny and our adjudicator started to smell a rat or rather a passionfruit leaf.

He took the fowl out into the sunshine and began to rub the green off with a white handkerchief and consequently disqualified all of Paul’s fowls. The fowls had lovely leg colour as it was but who was Paul to question the great man (Ted). Teddy phoned me, laughing his head off, as soon as he heard of what happened and told me not to rub passionfruit leaves on their legs anymore (not that I used to mind you ha-ha-ha).

Paul has shown at the Queensland modern game club show since 1994 and has never missed a year but will not be exhibiting this year as he will be judging it instead. He is always a strong competitor and has annexed the top award on one occasion which is a great feat as this is the premier modern game event on the show calendar in Queensland. His greatest win came in 1994 when he managed to blitz approximately 2600 fowls at the silver and crystal show held Glen Innes. Paul’s golden duckwing cockerel took out the supreme exhibit in show and if my memory serves me correctly my cousin the late Mr Robbie Janusch adjudicated on the day. I was at this show not as an exhibitor but as a spectator and I can remember this fowl well, he was very typical of the strain magnificent type and impeccable colour, one of the best I have seen. Paul chooses to use the natural methods of breeding his fowl by letting the hens set on their own eggs and rear the chicks. He feeds
mainly chick starter until they are about six weeks of age and then weans them onto a good clean grain mix. He feeds lots of green feed and quite often lets his chargers out onto the lawn for a pick and a scratch and to enjoy the sunshine which is very important Paul says. Paul lives in town and has a terrific set-up with 12 good sized breeding pens and 10 smaller ones about a metre square which he uses for hens rearing chicks and for cockerels when they are not in use. The pens are worked off the deep litter system and he generally mates up in pairs or on the odd occasion he may use trios. All the chicks are diligently toe-marked so that there can be no mistake on the ancestry of each fowl. Because he lives in town, Paul used to take his male birds out to his brothers place on the outskirts of town but Peter has not been well and has sold his place and moved back to town so now Paul has a place where he agists his male birds. He visits them daily to feed and water them and when they are ready to dub they are bought back home and trained ready for the show season. Paul is big on training and presenting his fowl in the best possible condition for the show season, often stating that you only get out of it what you put into it so that giving the fowl the best possible chance of winning is imperative. Paul’s best philosophy is that he goes to the shows to enjoy the company of his fellow fanciers and if you manage to jag a prize then all well and good but if you don’t then it was still a good day out. Paul has been an active member of the Gunnedah poultry club for the last ten years and in the last few years he has been either the secretary or the president and he is the president at the moment. I can remember travelling down a modern feature at this show and it was one of the best trips I have ever had. The members were very welcoming and the shed is very accommodating not to mention the fact that Mr Smallpiece did not mind a cold beer on a hot day back then in fact if my memory serves me correctly I think we had quite a few cold beers at the local golf club that night. Not as many as we had at the Glen Innes show but then again I don’t think I have ever had that many beers since, hey Paul!!! I hope that you have enjoyed the read on Paul as much as I have enjoyed writing it you see Paul is a real gentleman and it is very easy to enjoy his company and comradeship something that I feel we will enjoy for many years to come, cheers mate.

Advertisements
The Smart Incubator

Is this the best incubator on the market for hatching Modern Game Bantams, Angus McDonald and Ian Simpson think so? They swear by the machine in fact Angus used to dread his breeding season until he purchased his Smart incubator and since then he has had nothing but success. This makes his hobby so much more enjoyable because he actually has no more problems hatching his Modern Game and Wyandottes.
There are three different sizes available an 81 egg, a 162 egg and the big one holds 486 eggs.
Phone Laurie Smart on (03) 52313156 or check us out on the web
Auction sale
Complete dispersal sale of Lane and Ash
Game Bantam Stud.
“Australia’s best”
Contact John for details (02) 6342 1237

John and Beryl Lane along with Steve Ash have decided to stage a complete dispersal sale of all Old English Game Bantams. This is an opportunity of a lifetime to secure the best of the best, Spangles, Duckwings, Black-Reds, Blue-Reds or the famous Wheaten line. You can be assured that you will get quality birds no matter what colour is on offer. In excess of 500 birds will be sold at six different auctions held at Cowra and Bendigo. Each auction will feature one or two colours and no birds will be beforehand.

(All birds on offer are as typical as these photographed)

Auction Dates 6th June 2010 Cowra showground all duckwings & yellow legged black and blue reds.
1st July 2010 Bendigo showground all duckwings & yellow legged black and blue reds.
June 2011 Cowra showground all dark legged black and blue reds
June 2011 Bendigo showground all dark legged black and blue reds
June 2012 Cowra showground all light legged black and blue reds and spangles
June 2012 Bendigo showground all light legged (wheaten bred) black and blue reds and spangles plus all of John’s equipment, pens, incubators, brooders, show boxes.

We are starting an advertisement column in these newsletters so if you have something to sell, Fowls, Equipment, carrying boxes, your wife or anything else that you wish to get rid, try advertising in this newsletter. It is being sent out to over 137 members Australia wide. It will only cost $30.00 per issue or $100.00 for a whole year

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
We the members of the Modern Game Promotional Society wish to thank Col and Debbie McCall for kindly donating a Carafe and four wine glasses with the Modern Game Promotional Societies name engraved on them and Carol and John Pocock have also kindly donated a set of towels and linen as second place. These prizes are to be used as a raffle, so you can look forward to receiving some tickets in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Happy 60th Anniversary to Merv and Jill Bryant

WHAT’S IN THE NEXT ISSUE
A member profile on Merv Bryant (may-be our oldest member)
Doctor Rob Marshall’s report on CRD
Who Reigned supreme (breeders, judges, Writers or artists) by Alf Woods
Internal Parasites by Wayne Ingleton
Treasurer’s Report
Advertisements
Please fill out this part so that we can start a breed Register for other members to benefit from. It will also help us when we come to putting on classes at our sponsored shows. Just tick what colours you breed.

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Membership: $30.00
Donation: voluntary
Total: Equals

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