

Dear fancier,

Given there will be no magazine from now and into the future we thought it prudent to keep the membership up to speed with happenings as best is possible via a newsletter and electronically.

The website www.bcsa.com.au should be the main area to source the latest information in relation to the BCSA followed by your own Society magazines.

We encourage each Society to print this newsletter plus to promote the BCSA website in their respective magazines, this will give fanciers that are not able to access the website up to date information as well.

One of the great concerns for a number in the fancy is the inability for the BCSA to be seriously competitive at the National level.

Yes we achieve the occasional first and some seconds and beyond, but the majority appear to be placed in the latter half of the birds benched.

We trust this newsletter might spark enough interest to obtain feedback for the BCSA Committee to assess and perhaps modify its mindset in relation to these results if it is seen to be required.

What are the issues in relation to having birds selected at the National level? (or to remain in the fancy and show at shows in South Australia?)

Lets add a list of what we hear: I am breeding the birds for my pleasure, too costly to get my birds to the venue, too hard on the birds showing them possibly 3 weeks in a row, the birds do not travel well, the birds are not looked after properly, the birds do not breed when they return from the Nationals, we do not have a real idea of what we are required to breed, the Standard is too costly to purchase, rings are too expensive, seed is too expensive, the good birds are sold interstate and then they go for crazy money, no one will sell good birds to me, I get sold dud birds by so called experienced and trusted fanciers – hens that do not lay, cocks that do not fill eggs as examples, there are too many fanciers with self interests, I only want to breed colorful birds and the serious showing is not for me.

On a practical level, a number of the issues above can never be addressed by the committee but realistically are the choice of the fancier.

In this Newsletter the Pictorial is included to show the Standard of bird that is desired on the show bench. The pictorial used is not to be reproduced but is able to be used by the Council to promote the fancy, thus its inclusion.

The pictorial is representative of all the varieties thus you can see the challenge that is before us all.

Notice that the width of the head, depth of mask and large round spots are desirable traits but not at the expense of all the other desirables. A reasonably straight backline should be maintained. There is nothing worse than seeing a number of great pluses on the bird and then to see a shocking backline or a seriously hinged tail that spoils the outline of the bird.

As intimated, the pictorial is to give some guidance as to the requirements that judges would like to see on the show bench.

PENALTY AND DISQUALIFICATION:

In recent times the Penalty and Disqualification Clauses have been emailed to all on the BCSA electronic contact list plus has been added to the BCSA website and we trust will be printed in Society magazines to assist those who show to at least be prepared for exhibiting birds that are not disqualifiable and to be aware of the faults that their birds will be penalised for.

RINGS:

Ring problems (burs, numbers not readable, rings not cut cleanly) have been an issue for a number of years now. The contracted ring supplier has put a lot of effort in to remedy these situations and as part of the contract we need to ensure that there is no slip up in their quality control. If you do get problems with a ring / rings, please present a photograph of or the actual ring to someone on the committee to enable that ring to be presented to the full committee for discussion and action at a higher level.

METAL PLATES:

Show managers and fanciers, be advised that the metal plates (ticket holders) on show cages are to be removed from all show cages in South Australia by the 1st January 2009 to conform to the ANBC Standard show cage – this date is not far off now thus there should be some urgency to adhere to ensure that there are no problems at shows in 2009 potentially to disqualify that winning bird just because of the cage.

COMMITTEE:

The BCSA committee is in place to represent you the fancier as best as is possible and to ensure that the state goes forward administratively and puts forward ideas of change to progress the fancy at both a state and a national level.

As part of this Newsletter format (and it is a trial only) you the fancier are encouraged to ask questions of the committee and we will, where we see fit, respond through this medium.

Regards

The BCSA Committee

