



View of the centre of the main hall showing the "Winners Circle".  
Egg display and on the balcony the Asian Game entries.  
Under the Asian Game you can see part of the Trade displays that went  
down both sides of the exhibits.

# THE FEDERATION POULTRY SHOW UK DECEMBER 2019

By Ian Selby.

In December 2019 we visited our family in the UK and I had the opportunity to attend the Federation Poultry Show in Stafford, on the 21st & 22nd December. I met our friend Chris Parker and the President of the Poultry Club of Great Britain, Paul Kerfoot, at the hotel in Stafford and on penning night we went to the show for a couple of hours. I was introduced to a number of fanciers and was allowed to handle a few Old English Game birds prior to penning. The Carlisle Game were very much like ours but had slightly longer legs. I also met Ian Allonby who along with Philippe Wilson edited the British Poultry Standards.

On judging day the hall was just abuzz with people. There were 6900 entries made up of 1300 Game and Game bantams, 4500 Fowls and Bantams, 500 Waterfowls and 600 egg entries. These were in 3 large halls. All the Game and Game Bantams in one hall, the Waterfowl and Sale Birds in another and the remainder in the main hall. On the balcony were the Asian Game classes. The Asian Game classes had round the clock security to stop the Gypsies from stealing them for cockfighting.

It was about as interesting as it could be. I was allowed to walk freely amongst the judging as were many others. I was also on a fact finding mission too. All the breed club members were manning all the Specialist Club displays so you could talk to these people at any time.

My first port of call was to talk to Claire Beebe of the Poland Club. What a lovely lady she was and exceptionally helpful. Then I went to the Araucana Club and chatted about the colour standard. Now onto the Barnevelder stand to talk about their colour Standard. All interesting and a great learning curve.

As I travelled around the show I saw plenty of people that I had heard of and made myself known to them. I met Julian Emerson who took over Veronica Mayhew's Poultry Book business and purchase a couple of small items. It was good finally meeting him and another valuable time spent with him.

I wanted to go up on the balcony to see the Asian Game. There was security everywhere and to my surprise so were the Gypsies. I reckon there were 2 security guards to every Gypsy. Needless to say no-one was going to get away with anything. If I could have bought any home to New Zealand they would be a pair of Wheaten Ko Shamos that were in the Asian Game aisles.



*View of one end of the show. Through the 2 open doors are the Game exhibits. To the right you can see the stairs to the Cafe, under the stairs is the start of the Trade displays.*



*Viewed from the Game hall to the end where another hall displayed the Waterfowl and Sale birds.*

Another thing that amazed me when I was walking around the show was that every stand had a basket of fruit pies and tins of chocolates. So no-one went hungry, they just kept on rolling them out.

Just before lunch, Chris Parker asked me to join him and Philippe Wilson to a meeting with 3 European Poultry Judges. Well you would jump at the chance wouldn't you. While the discussion was pretty confidential there was plenty to take in and learn. The European Union of Poultry Federations consisted of 46 countries and covered all of Europe and a little bit beyond. It was also interesting to note the British Standard is being sold in Turkey in quite large numbers.

In small meetings like these you get to know these guys from the other side of the World and strike up lasting friendships. The meeting was held over lunch and a great experience.

After the meeting it was time to go back to the show and look at all winners.

Best Bird in Show was a Barnevelder Bantam Hen. She deserved the award and was picture perfect with all the markings in the right places, well prepared and presented in tip top order. Among the crowd, in the afternoon, was Louise Carpenter the Chairwoman of the British Poultry Club. Another nice young lady who had the respect of all the fanciers.

I think though the biggest surprise for me was meeting Mike Hatcher. I was just coming out of the



*Another view of the show layout looking toward the Game bird hall..*



*This photo shows the pen prizes to be won.*

Waterfowl hall and coming towards me was this mountain of a man with this massive beard and a walking stick. I couldn't resist stopping him and introducing myself to him. We must have had a conversation for 10 to 15 minutes and he was really interested in New Zealand and our Poultry. For those of you who are not familiar with him, he is one of the world leading Poultry writers especially on Waterfowl. He looked after the Queen Mothers Buff Orpington Fowls. It was a real privilege to have met him.

By then it was time to go and the first day was over. It gets dark about 4pm in the UK that time of year and a nice beer with a good meal awaited the 3 of us.

The next day was even more exciting than the first as all the exhibitors were there.

In the morning Chris and I met the two French Judges to walk around the exhibits and give them our appraisal. Interesting to learn how the



*These two gentleman are Jamie Robinson on the left of Chris Parker and myself and Phil George on the right. Both top Sebright men who travelled with me to the European Sebright Show in Germany a few weeks earlier in November. Jamie is a past club secretary of the Sebright Club.*

Europeans Judge act, they appraise each bird and award points.

On the way around the show we met some interesting fanciers.

By the Sebright stand were two other interesting fellows.

At this stage I wanted to get some photos of birds, but alas my camera didn't perform as I would have liked, so Chris took a couple for me. The 2 that I really wanted was a photo of a Partridge Wyandotte Cockerel with the correct lemon in its hackle and White Silkie Bantams. Below are the two photos.



*From left to right is John Harrop MBE, President of the Minorca Club, the two French Judges Jacques Schweisguth and Arnaud Asselin, Rob Walker, Chairman of the Minorca Club and myself.*



*Rob Walker presented each of us with a framed print of 2 Famous Minorca Males, 'McNab' who was Supreme Champion of the Olympia Show in 1924 and 'Lord Duke' who was the Supreme Champion at the Federation Show in 2016. Rob Walker bred 'Lord Duke.'*



*These are just some of the information that can be gathered or bought on the stands.*

The time went so fast but before I went I needed to have a decent look at the Modern and Old English Game Bantams. It was absolutely amazing the number of birds in a classes. In the Modern Game Bantams there were 30 in each and in the Black Red and Duckwing classes they were all the same. Any one of them could have won the class. They were very small, dainty and quite, just charming.

But the highlight for me was in the Old English Bantam section. There was a guy shown other fanciers his birds. At these shows you are able to take your own birds out of the pens, but only yours. Anyway this guy was letting others handle the birds as he was describing them. I'll be into this so after a while I asked if I could 'have ago.' These Bantams are bigger than ours but nevertheless really good ones. The owner was Lee Grant who is currently the Vice President of the Poultry Club of Great Britain. He certainly knew his stuff and the exhibits he showed me were all the same except their colour. I spent  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour with him just talking Old English Game Bantams which at the end of the day that is what it is all about.

There were so many other people I met and maybe one day we just might go back.

To say the show and the culture is different is an understatement. Certainly a wake-up call for us in New Zealand.

If your exhibit got First, second, third and fourth you got a prize card. If your exhibit got either Best or Reserve you also got a prize card and if you were really lucky and won a Special Award for the section or higher you got a Rosette. Prize money was scarce and it was more of an honour to get a ticket than to get a cash prize. All the Specialist Clubs had various prizes for their individual sections.

However there was a Trophy Stand that was full of Cups for the privilege of having a Champion breed.

The fees were £5 per entry for those who paid the £9 Show Patron fee. Otherwise it was £6 per entry.

That's approx. \$10 per entry for us. But the hall was £15,000 for 4 days so you can see there wasn't much left over for prize money. So it was certainly very different from New Zealand's Shows.

I have to thank Chris Parker for looking after me for the weekend, to the Federation for being great hosts and to 5 special people who made the whole weekend so enjoyable: Paul Kerfoot, Amand Asselin, Jacques Schweisguth, Philippe Wilson and Lee Grant.



*A Partridge Wyandotte Cockerel.*



*A trio of White Silkie Bantams.*



*At the end of each row of exhibits a Specialist Club would have a stand. The one shown here is for the Asian Hardfeathered section.*