

THE BRAHMA CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

President

Andrew Rathbone
"Carcolla"
Bathurst NSW. 2794

Ph 02 6337 3840

Secretary

Carol Abuid
PO Box 100
Maldon Vic. 3463

Ph/Fax 03 5476 2758

Email:

brahma@telstra.easymail.com.au

August 2001

Issue 5



Founded 2/7/2000

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What a weekend for Brahma exhibitors and attending members! A successful show for the Brahma Club. A two day effort for some, but for the Victorian contingent, Carol and Khris Abuid, Bryan Jon and Brendan O'Leary, it had involved the start of the fourth day. Many thanks to those four on arriving early, to setup our section of the pavilion alongside the Belgians and Faverolles.

For members present at our show, it was a chance to exchange ideas and theories on Brahma breeding and management. Even for members not exhibiting, it was a great opportunity to check the birds on show, gather information and maybe make some purchases to enhance their breeding programs. A good representation of all the colour classes in both large and bantam that were catalogued in the schedule. A very serious concern is that one variety, the black, has no colour standard in The Australian Poultry Standards, even though it has been exhibited over the past two years in large and bantam classes. A submission will have to be made to The Australian poultry standards Committee through the Australian Poultry exhibitors Council to include this colour in the Brahma Standards.

While on the subject of colour, a very lively debate was had at our AGM on Show Day. One of our members, Lance Hicks, has put forward discussion on changing the name of all The Brahma varieties in the Australian Poultry Standards, as he feels they incorrectly describe the colour of the fowl. This was not a proposal, but is meant for further discussion, so members are invited to write down their views and send them to Carol.

Another topic brought up at the AGM was of Vulture Hocks. The Australian standards states: **“Hocks amply covered with soft rounded feathers, or with quill feathers, provided they are accompanied with proportionately heavy shank and foot feathering. Shank feather profuse, standing well out from legs and toes, extending under the hock feathers and to the extremity of the middle and outer toes. Profuse leg and foot feathering, without vulture hocks being desirable. Toes four, straight and spreading.”** The members were unanimous in their opinion that vulture hocks should be discouraged and that when judged it should be considered less desirable than a fowl without vulture hocks. The members also emphasised that it should not be a disqualification, as a major proportion of the birds on show that day, had in fact, varying degrees of vulture hocks.

A more important aspect to note is the fact that white legs is considered a serious defect **BUT** under the interpretation of the Standards for judges, breeders and exhibitors (Australian Poultry Standards) Shanks and Feet section; Part 26 **“ Legcolour: Foreign colour to that described for breed and variety”**. Part 23 in the same section also states **“Four toed breeds: more or less than four toes”** this would also include the presence of a toenail. So before we get to confused on the issue of vulture hocks, we have to address the problems of missing toenails and part toes (a problem I have occasionally seen in Pekins and d'Uccle Belgians) and to eliminate white legs (this may be an ongoing problem as other breeds of fowls are being used to enhance our Brahmas) which are considered a disqualification in The Australian Poultry Standards.

Much appreciation to all our show supporters for prizes and trophies, helpers and stewards on the day and for those who assisted in the canteen, which was run by The Belgian Bantam Club. A special Thank you to Bruce Pattinson for his time and energy in officiating as judge on the day.

A personal thank you goes to Brendan O'Leary and Bryan Jon for helping me unload the 122 Show and Sale birds I brought on Saturday. (49 Show Brahmas, 27 Show Belgians and 44 sale birds) And also for their assistance in helping load up what I had left (49 birds) on Sunday afternoon. That afternoon heralded the end of my involvement in breeding and developing the Gold Brahma Bantam as they were dispersed, in their entirety, to Kory Chapman. I wish Kory well in taking them on further. This decision was prompted purely on time constraints brought about by roster changes in my job. Hopefully it will give me more time to concentrate on the Brahma Large Fowls in the varieties of Light, Gold, Buff and Dark.

The hatching season is upon us again with most members sorting out breeding pens and starting up incubators, to check out any gremlins that may have moved in since they were turned off. I wish all poultry fanciers smooth sailing in these frantic, and yet sometimes, rewarding times.

Best Wishes,
Andrew.

PRESIDENT OF VICE

(Vice President)

Hi All Brahma Breeders,

I hope everyone arrived home safe and well, with all their Brahma's. Khris, Carol, Brendan and myself left about 7pm after cleaning up with Andrew, Don, Kory, David, Tom Ron and Irene. We said our good-byes and sent Irene on up the road, with her dickie headlight. I hope she made it. (She did, and Thank you to David, Tom and Don for following her to her destination at Gosford to ensure that she did. Ed) We were finally on our way home. As with our trip up, the one home had lots of fun, laughter and discussion on Brahma's of course, mixed with a good dose of jokes, coffee and a severe case of abuse to two very stupid motorists. (Idiots locking their vehicles at the bowsers while they went to the Restaurant. You couldn't fill up Ed) I spy and well stirred by our driver Khris. We dropped Brendan off at Wodonga, where his partner Catherine met us with some lovely cakes. Thank you Catherine, they were lovely. We continued on and had a snooze by the side of the road and finally arrived at Khris and Carols at 9.30 Monday morning. Coffee, bacon and eggs and a good stretch then I bid Khris and Carol farewell and headed for Hallston in Sth Gippsland. Home at last at 3pm on Monday. The birds were really happy to be out of the boxes and into the garden, to scratch around, eat and drink.

It was great to meet everybody and say hello and have a chat about Brahmas. Congratulations to all the winners and to all who entered Brahmas in the Show. A special Thank you to our secretary Carol for all the hard work in putting our show together, so on behalf of all our members a big Thank you. Thank you to Khris as he also is a great help in putting our newsletter together and all the work he does.

Congratulations to Andrew and Don for helping put Brahmas back as one of the Great poultry breeds and as a club we will go on to perfect the Dark Brahma and the other colours later on down the track. I was lucky to sell a pair of Light Brahma to people in Singapore for poultry exhibition. After two weeks in Singapore they were then sent to Malaysia for breeding. I wonder what will become of them, all of these things and the people you meet make poultry lots of fun.

May this breeding season produce a lots more Brahma and new members and spring is just around the corner.

Bye for now.

Bryan

PATRONS REPORT

Due to space constraints this issue there will be no Patrons Report and the photos from the Show will appear in the next issue. If members have any photos, whether they be from the show or simply of your birds at home, please send them down. If you want them returned please let us know, so that we can scan them and return them promptly otherwise they will go into a club collection. This is just another way for us and future members can see the advances of the Brahmas in Australia.

Khris

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to our new members. It is very good to be in this position for another year.

Thank you to everyone who voted for me again. Congratulations to Andrew, Khris and Bryan for your positions as listed in the Annual report further on.

Well the first year was certainly a learning time for me. I must say that being a Show Secretary as well was indeed an extra learning experience. I made some mistakes over the weekend, but I'm sure I will learn from this as do we all at times.

Unfortunately, I took very ill on the Saturday, which tendered to carry on to the Sunday, although not as bad thankfully. But due to this I seemed to forget to cover some of the items in our AGM. Not taking complete notes on the entire meeting. I do apologise for this, thankfully most of the notes have now been put to paper as actual as possible. If I have made any mistakes, perhaps the members who were present will let me know please.

Over the weekend there were ideas swapped. If you have done this perhaps you could write in to the newsletter with these ideas or such. If you want a different section added to the newsletter, contact me, and we will do our utmost to do this. Ron Smith came up with an idea of running a vet's corner with ideas besides the **AXE**, and has started the ball rolling this issue. If other members have ideas or remedies that they use just remember this, other members may not know them, so please send them in.

One very important issue we all need to look at is, addressing The Brahma Standards as in the Australian Standards, to ensure that they are what we as a club can breed to with any suggested alterations being proposed to be sent to APEC for consideration. As a lot of members are going into other colours, other than the Light and Dark, we would like to have these colours listed as well.

If we do this now, it will be a big step for the Club, especially for the juniors who, hopefully, will still be working with these great birds even when we have passed on. So we must make sure the future of The Australian Brahma is here to stay. We all know that this is going to be years of hard-dedicated work, proving these colours. At least we have started.

Another topic I would like to put forward, is ways of getting sponsorship for our shows. Also donations of items for next years raffle at the next Annual Show. If everyone just think about this please don't leave it to long, as we all know time fly's these days.

Thank you to everyone who helped me out on the weekend. It was very much appreciated, without your help things would have been disastrous for sure and an extra Special Thanks to the members who stayed behind and helped clean up the Poultry shed, knowing they all had long drives ahead of them.

Until our next newsletter may you all keep well and have a good breeding year.

Regards

Carol

Unfortunately the Hans Schippers article has been held over till the next issue due to space or lack thereof.

THANK YOU

Letters of Thanks will be going to all our sponsors, for without them we would not have had the show we did. I would urge all members to support those businesses who were kind enough to support us for our show. Also thanks to our members who were kind enough to donate sponsorship, which all went to make our Inaugural Show a great success.

Richmond Produce and Pet Supplies
Turners Produce Pty Ltd
Sultana's Discount
Bellsouth Retail Sales
Australasian Poultry (Megg Miller)

Richmond NSW
 Glendenning NSW
 Schofields NSW
 Narre Warren VIC
 Seymour VIC
 All Course Mix
 Pellets
 Grain Mix
 Poster and Book
 12 Mths Sub.
 To Australasian Poultry
 Inaugural Perpetual Trophy & miniature
 Trophies

Jerry Followes and Bryan Jon
Andrew Rathbone

And Special thanks to our junior member, **Michael Mills** and his **Mum** for chasing the NSW Commercial sponsors and for their own sponsorship of Wheat.

TREASURER'S REPORT

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------|-----------|
| Opening Balance | | \$219.00 |
| Deposits | | |
| Memberships | | \$116.00 |
| Membership and Show monies | | \$361.50 |
| Expenditure | | |
| Maldon Newsagency | | \$ 16.60 |
| Australia Post | | \$ 13.65 |
| Shoestring Market | | \$ 38.00 |
| Crazy Prices | | \$ 9.98 |
| Computer Sashes | | \$ 96.98 |
| | Balance | \$521.29 |
| Outstanding Cheques | | |
| Midland Poultry Club | | \$ 15.00 |
| | Balance | \$ 506.29 |

Breakdown of Show Monies

| | | |
|--|--|----------|
| Show Entries | | \$138.00 |
| Monies from Raffle | | \$ 43.50 |
| Monies from Commission of sales (So far) | | \$ 10.00 |
| Monies raised for WA sponsorship | | \$ 15.00 |
| Monies from Donations | | \$116.00 |
| Membership monies | | \$125.00 |

AGM

Presidents Report

It doesn't seem like twelve months have passed, since eleven Brahma exhibitors at The Brahma Feature show at Castle Hill on Sunday 2nd July 2000, established The Brahma Club of Australia. Since that historic day membership numbers have trebled with an ongoing response from our website and advertising in Australasian Poultry through the Club Directory section.

Inquiries have been from backyard poultry enthusiasts looking for a different but Majestic Fowl, to Poultry fanciers looking for another breed to show. To new Poultry breeders who have never seen Brahma's personally, I have received inquiries and sales from Queensland, NSW, Victoria and Western Australia, with other club members experiencing similar activity.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all the membership to Thank our secretary Carol for her tireless effort and enthusiasm over the past twelve months and also her work in organising this show.

The position of secretary is a difficult and thankless task in which the membership will have to share, if we are going to remain a successful force in the future. On this note I feel our clubs main goals in promoting Brahma's are:

- Organising an Annual Club Show backed by the majority of the membership.
- Disseminating information between club members and to prospective members and backyard fanciers
- An active membership that is supportive and helpful to the club and its Secretary.
- To discourage personal differences, selfishness and politics that would be detrimental in promoting the brahma fowl.

Finally I would like to thank all the exhibitors at our first Brahma club show, for their efforts in bringing quality show birds along today. A very Special thanks goes to our supporters and donators of prizes and awards to make this a successful and memorable show.

Secretary's Report

As was stated at the meeting, I did not fulfill a report as I simply ran out of time. I do apologise for this and hopefully it won't happen next year.

Not much had changed since the last newsletter was printed as far as my role went. My time was kept quite busy preparing everything for the show, never having had to do this role before, I can say it sure was a busy role (no complaints either) just a new experience for me.

Until my next report for the newsletter, I wish everyone good health and a good breeding season.

Carol

Treasurers Report

As was stated, I simply didn't get one printed out. I did manage to get a printout from the bank as to where we stood financially. We had a balance of \$43.80 at the 29/5/01, if we took out the donation of \$50 we would have been in the red.

I deposited \$116.00 on the 25/6/01 to make sure that there would be enough money, hopefully, if it were needed on the 1st July. That gave us a total of \$159.80

I will give a full report in the next newsletter, as to where we stand financially.

Carol

Correspondence

A letter was received from the Midland Junction Poultry society of WA. Requesting sponsorship from the Brahma club for the Brahma entries. It was decided to send the hat around for donations and a total of \$15 was raised.

Newcastle Poultry wrote also asking for sponsorship. Given that we had not ordered our sashes at that time the Executive decided that they would get an extra sash for them to present to the winning Brahma.

It was tabled that the club should look at making our own standards regarding naming of colours and variety. It was carried on to General business for further discussions

Minutes of Inaugural AGM

Taken as read.

Business Arising from Minutes

Nil.

General Business

- Newsletter Carol requested that a lot more input had to be made by members if the newsletter was to be continued. Some topics to be covered were to be a Vets Corner (How to fix some sick birds other than the axe). Also how best to prepare your birds for showing, particularly from those members who have been exhibiting for years, as we have a lot of newcomers, particularly juniors who need this help.
- It was suggested that we use the same judge for at least 2 – 3 years in a row, so that they would be able to gauge whether we are moving forward or backward, with our breeding.
It was unanimously agreed and passed.
- It was discussed about the possibility of moving from Castle Hill Poultry Pavilion to the Wyong Poultry Club. All of this will depend on what happens with the Belgian Bantam Club and the Castle Hill Ag. Society. They will let us know as soon as they know.

- Raising of Membership dues. It was put to everyone present, the need to raise them due to the extra costs of the GST on materials like paper ink etc. All agreed to have them rise, so the new fees for July 2002 – July 2003 will now be Full members \$15 and Juniors \$7.
- Vulture Hocks. In the discussions on colour and Standards the subject of Vulture Hocks came up and it was agreed that while they are a defect they are not a disqualification. All agreed that the aim was to try to breed them out, but that it was very hard.
- The big discussion on the Subject of colours and the naming of such. It became a very confused topic with quite a few members trying to talk over each other, making a reasonable discussion almost impossible. But at least we came away with some ideas, and all members are asked to put their ideas in writing
As time was running out very fast we deferred this subject to be continued in the newsletter so PLEASE put pen to paper and put forward your ideas.

Nomination of Judge for 2002

As mentioned earlier re using the same judge for 2 – 3 years, this years judge, Bruce Pattinson was asked if he would be agreeable to judge for the club again next year. He will.

Election of Club Members

Megg Miller stepped into the chair at this stage, to chair the election of Office bearers.

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Patron | Khris Abuid | Nom. A Rathbone | 2 nd . D Jones |
| President | Andrew Rathbone | Nom. K Chapman | 2 nd C Abuid |
| Vice President | Bryan Jon | Nom. C Abuid | 2 nd K Abuid |
| Sec. / Treas. | Carol Abuid | Nom. R Smith | 2 nd D Jones |

As there were no other nominations all members were elected unanimously.

The meeting then closed quickly to do the Annual Show Awards.

HANDY HINTS

For the chook off colour, off its feed, or recovering from injury. Mix waste bread with 1 teaspoon of sugar and milk. You will be surprised how the chook in most cases will sustain itself and return to normal grain mixtures.

Hard boil the eggs, mix with crumble and feed as an extra tit bit to condition the chooks being prepared for breeding or showing.

The handy hints in this issue are supplied by Ron Smith. If you have any handy hints please send them in so that all can give them a go.

ANNUAL SHOW RESULTS

Results of the First Annual show held on 1/7/2001 at the Castle Hill Showgrounds.

MAJOR OVERALL AWARDS

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Champion Bird of Show | Andrew Rathbone |
| Best Opposite Sex | Bruce Raines |
| Best large Brahma | Andrew Rathbone |
| Best Bantam Brahma | Bruce Raines |
| Best Junior | Levi Burns |

OTHER MAJOR AWARDS

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Best Standard Light Brahma | Andrew Rathbone |
| Best Standard Dark Brahma | Andrew Rathbone |
| Best standard Buff Brahma | Andrew Rathbone |
| Best Standard Gold Brahma | Andrew Rathbone |
| Best Standard Black Brahma | Andrew Rathbone |
| Best Standard AOC Brahma | Bryan Jon |
| Best standard Brahma Pair | Andrew Rathbone |
| Best Bantam Light Brahma | Bruce Raines |
| Best Bantam Dark Brahma | Don Jones |
| Best Bantam Buff Brahma | K&C Abuid |
| Best Bantam Gold Brahma | Andrew Rathbone |
| Best Bantam Black Brahma | D&T Saunders |
| Best Bantam AOC Brahma | D&T Saunders |
| Best Bantam Brahma Pair | K&C Abuid |

There were 9 members who exhibited on the day, two of these were juniors.

The total number of birds benched including pairs was 152. I feel that was quite a good effort on all those members who exhibited. Now can we beat this record next year, lets hope so. It does look great seeing so many Brahma altogether.

Judges Report

It was an extremely impressive display of birds that confronted me at Castle Hill Showgrounds on Sunday. It is a credit to the club and it's executive that such a display is now possible. Two years ago I would have dismissed the idea of such a quality display in those numbers.

The large fowl were strong in both the Light and the Darks, and the darks, in particular, have come a long way. The Large Light Brahma are probably still the best in type of the Standard birds with the darks closer than even a year ago. Some points of interest here were the numbers of birds with missing toes or parts of toes. It seemed to be on the birds

with the most footfeather. Of all the Lights around ten had some foot deformity. A judge will consider birds with missing toenails or perhaps even a third of a toe but not more. This will need to be watched. The birds with strong footfeather most often had vulture hocks and there is a fine line to be trod here as well. While the Standard says it is undesirable so are birds with no middle toe feather. I know this is an issue that the club is working on. Another minor problem is lack of foot and eye colour. This is easily addressed.

The large darks are very good in type and while they still have some comb problems both the numbers and the Standard was impressive. The size and bulk are definitely improving with the male birds quite good. Colour is still an issue and the variety of colour variations were evident walking along the pens. To me this is not as important as type but will eventually need to be addressed so the birds are more consistent. This will help in the breeding, as the progeny will be more predictable.

The other colours on display still have a way to go in type and consistency of colour but the winning birds were on the right track and were rewarded for type. Comb, eyes and footfeather all need improvement and most of these colours are where the other colours were a few years back. The most obvious problem was in the blacks with the leg colour. Only a couple of the birds had yellow legs or partially yellow legs. Yellow legs can be achieved in Wyandottes and Leghorns so it is possible and needs time.

The bantam Lights were probably the strongest classes and they still tend to be the most consistent classes in quality, partially due to the time and effort put into them over the years. The winning bird was of excellent type and showed himself well. While he had some ticking on the back this was not enough to overcome the birds qualities. To maintain this quality and big classes the club may wish to look at fourths or highly commended cards as some good birds went unrewarded while in the off colours carded birds were of lesser quality. Combs, heads and footfeather and colour were consistently good.

The darks were better than their larger cousins, and the general quality through the classes was again strong. Colour again was a bit varied but more consistent than in the larger darks. These have improved since last year and some serious effort has been put into the breeding and preparation. Some of the females were a bit small but it may have been late breeding.

Other colours were very mixed. Some birds shown still looked like Pekins or feather legged Wyandottes, and are a year or two off being shown as true Brahma. These colours need the same energy as the Lights got four – five years ago. I hope that they get it as some of them are on the way.

A final word on preparation. Some of the birds were filthy and their feet were encrusted with faeces. Judges understand it can be hard to keep birds clean, but there is a difference between dirty and uncleaned at all. Dirty birds don't give the bird an equal chance. Take fewer birds and clean them well is a hint.

Again it was a pleasure to be invited to judge and I look forward to seeing the progress members make at next year's show.

Bruce Pattinson

Monday 2nd July 2001

BRAHMA COLOURS

For the members who were not able to make it to the AGM, there was some discussion on the naming of colours for the Brahma. Unfortunately time was a bit short, so it was decided that members could put their ideas on paper and we would print them in the newsletter so that everyone had a chance to consider, and have more input in the next newsletter.

There are members who believe that we should only concentrate on the two main colours being Light and Dark. But it needs to be considered by all, that some members prefer other colours, and either way the main object at the moment is to stabilise the type, whether it be Light, Dark, Black Blue or whatever.

Remember, when The Australian Standards were produced, there was no Brahma Club, so we need to get everything right, to be able to put our suggested alterations (if any) to APEC, so that they can be in the next printing of the Standards. (ED)

.....

At the Brahma Club of Australia's AGM, an argument was put forward by a member to change the names of the Brahma varieties in The Australian Poultry Standards as they did not describe the actual colour of the bird in that variety. The new colours that were stated have not been seen on an Australian show bench let alone been seen at all. It is actually a name change of varieties and not a question of colour, I feel.

Lance stated that the variety of Buff was confusing as it follows the colour of the Wyandotte variety, Buff Columbian, and so should be altered to say just that. The Brahma variety of Light would then become contradictory, and therefore change to Columbian. Lance doesn't believe the Brahma variety of Dark is appropriate either and should follow the Wyandotte variety of Silver pencilled, being more descriptive. This however would only satisfy the colour of the female and would be an incorrect description for the male. Should another variety be included to facilitate the Male; say Silver Duckwing.

Lance also had trouble understanding the Brahma variety of Gold. He discounted the change to partridge as it may be confusing and suggested Gold Pencilled. This then, I feel, would facilitate another variety, The Black Breasted Red, to accommodate the male to ensure correctness.

Most of the members at the AGM felt that it was a drastic step to make, just to accommodate colours that may crop up in the future. Changing the names of all the Brahma varieties seems ridiculous just to facilitate the easy variety description of future and unknown varieties.

Deleting the names of the Light and Dark Brahma varieties, I feel would be akin to changing the name of the Brahma. These varieties have been part of Brahma history since their development in the 1800's. To change their name would be like changing history.

A more immediate challenge confronting members would be to lobby to The Australian Poultry Exhibitors Council to include the variety of Black, to secure it into the next Poultry Standard and to allow judges to accept it as a variety. The Blacks in both the standard and bantam form were sports from the development of the Dark variety, and deserves a place in our brahma family.

Other varieties that have been exhibited in AOC classes (Bantams only) are the Blue Buff and the Blue. Another variety seen in the standard AOC class is the Birchen. One colour that has been exhibited in the bantam AOC class, which is a sport of the bantam Darks, has not yet been properly described or identified. It is the female counterpart of a hidden Black Red gene created in the development of the Dark Bantam, which follows the game colour of a Red Wheaten.

Whatever colour an individual wishes to breed or create, it is their prerogative, which makes for a diverse and interesting mix of ideas. However, when these ideas adversely impact on the majority, it leads to anarchy and the breakdown of a group. I move the status quo prevail.



Colours in the Brahma – Some Suggestions

The issue of colour was a hot topic at the AGM, and due to the time constraints it was not readily resolved. The suggestion that the colours in the Standard for the Brahma's names be changed was a sound one that warrants investigation. The idea of a Standard is clarity and the current colour names do not give that. Thus it is difficult to explain to young members simply what the colour should be. It is OK for us 'oldies' to say "it should be like a Columbian Wyandottes" but this doesn't help much if you don't know what that is. This is where the Standard falls down and the club can help.

My suggestion would be that we decide on what the names of the colours and variations should be called, adopt them and write our own colour Standard and submit this as a suggestion to the Australian Poultry Standard for the reprint. This would be a lot of work, but would give the club some room to add colours and standardise them so people knew what type and qualities to breed to. Without a Standard there can be no consistency and the bird cannot be judged fairly or adequately.

I have some concerns that in the 'race' to breed colours that type is lost, but that is a question for individual breeders. As a judge I need a Standard to judge to and if the club members feel the need to have more colours then let's do it properly. They can be standardised by the club and the colours submitted to APEC after the time requirements have been met for a new variety or colour. The club then has the ability to create new colours in a criteria based way rather than ad hoc. A decision would also have to be made about the schedule for the show as whether to include these colours separately or in AOC.

If the club takes the lead in this, then we have the control in our own hands. It would seem reasonable that we do work in this area as no one other group is as well qualified in this area for our breed. The club should use its expertise and the knowledge of its members. This would then benefit the breed and the fancy as a whole.



Suggestions for Brahma Identification

Leave Light Brahma as is, as it is known worldwide by this name.
Leave dark Brahma as is, as it is known worldwide by this name.

Have Buff

 Buff Light Brahma

 Salmon and Blue Salmon (A good colour name for Carols if they breed true)

Or perhaps follow OEG and call them Clay or wheaten Brahma's, remembering there are a host of wheaten shades.

Black should remain as is.

Colour variations when bred could be Black Mottled, Black Laced etc.

My Thoughts on Brahma Colours

My opinion is that we have our Standards and it is only the colours that are of concern. The likes of the Light and dark have been around since they were first found so we should accept them as they are. Probably the one that is really of concern is the Buff and Buff Columbian. There is no provision for someone who wants to breed straight Buff because the Standards state that the Buff is the same as the Wyandottes Buff Columbian. The Blue needs to be thought about, as to whether it is an Andalusion Laced Blue or whether it is a plain uniform blue all over. The, what I call Blue / Buff Columbian which as yet has to be proven, is it the correct way of naming it.

With the Gold Brahma, it's the same as the Partridge Wyandotte. **Question:** Why is it not called Partridge Brahma as in the US, which is predominantly what our Standards follow anyway?

For the younger members, in most breeds they learn of the Columbian pattern fairly early on, if we use that as a basic starting point, except for light and dark we should be pretty right with the naming of colours.

Basically I believe self-colours should be called as they are and if they are of the Columbian pattern then call them that.

As for Vulture Hocks, the Standards already state that they are undesirable. If anything all we need to do is reiterate that they are acceptable BUT undesirable to ensure no judge gets a bit finicky and downgrades good birds for this fault.

This article is only about colour naming, I hope it helps.

After a discussion on colour naming that went astray, I have gone back to the Australian Poultry Standard, and as Andrew and Don discussed, they like the traditional names of Light and dark Brahma. That's OK as it is to the standard overseas as well, but Gold or Partridge is a little bit different. Wyandottes and Cochin are called Partridge so may be we should have a Partridge Brahma. White is White, Black is Black but both have to

have yellow legs. My problem comes with Buff and Buff Columbian. The Australian Standard says Buff Cochin same as buff Wyandotte, one shade of rich Golden Buff, undercolour matching surface colour, then a Buff Columbian is identical to the White Columbian Wyandotte but White being replaced by rich Golden Buff. So we have Buff and Buff Columbian, so any new colours with a Columbian pattern are eg: Blue Columbian, Blue Buff Columbian eg. Carols birds at the show are classed as Columbian.

We should have a rules committee, not to change the colours but just clearly define the colours.

Back to an Age-old Argument on Brahma's

I could think of nothing better than to see five or six hundred Brahma's in a 'Show Spectacular' of all the colours in the world, what a sight.

I personally would like to see all these colours and with their respective names, the only drawback I could see would be that there would only be 2 or 3 of each colour in their class, and so would not get the recognition they deserve. So to overcome this obstacle they would have to be shown in the AOV or AOC classes until they proved themselves in 'maybe a few years'. This is what I had to do with my Lights and Darks over the past 15 – 20 yrs. and indeed, the darks have only 'come good' in the past 5 years. So, in breeding such a small number of coloured birds, could the standard be kept up or would we lose too many new members along the way. If they lost the plot and were disappointed ----- as against breeding in greater quantities like I have to do to strive for better (colour and type). This year I bred about 160 chicks but plan to cull down to 15 – 20 birds (pretty drastic AYE) and note I still haven't perfected them yet if you know what I mean.

Getting back to name changes, I would not like to see any of the old colour names changed eg. Like the Lights, it's only in the last 5 – 10 years that probably only 1 person in 1,000 people even knew or ever heard of Brahma's and now I feel that if we changed Lights to Columbians it would only confuse the public and newcomers alike, as well as enrage the 'Old Timers'.

So I suppose by adding it all up, yes breed as many colours as you can handle and give them appropriate names by the "**Club**" and leaving the old established colours as is.

Hoping this adds a little more light on a worthwhile subject.

HANDY HINTS

Use Clout or Ivomec to rid fowls of unwanted lice, vermin and worms. Using a strong feather or syringe, place a **few drops** on the skin under the wings, Bingo in a couple of days those droopy chooks are bright and happy. **However do not eat the chooks or the eggs for 10 days.**