

# THE BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY 2015 CONVENTION

STOKE ON TRENT  
5TH – 7TH JUNE 2015



BY  
GHALIB AL-NASSER



- 1 The Packed Lecture Room
- 2 Tom & Andrew Luke with BS President Bev Hutt – "Introducing a New Variety into an Established Stud"

- 3 BS President Bev Hutt with Guest Speaker Phil Reaney
- 4 Wayne & Richard Bowker – "Our Time in Budgies So Far"
- 5 Eric Peake presented on "Budgie Reminiscences – Years of Progress"

What a great celebration the Budgerigar Society had for its **90th Anniversary** at the Best Western Moat House Hotel at **Stoke on Trent** when it held its own 10th World Convention. And like all previous Conventions this one had its own flavour to it. All credit goes to the organising committee consisting of Maurice Roberts, Ghalib Al-Nasser, Grant Findlay, Terry and Linda Jukes and John Cosby, together with the great help given by members of South Cheshire BS and North Staffordshire BS who pulled out all the stops to make this Convention a memorable one for all who attended.

No Convention ever held in the past would have been complete without an international gathering and with the World Budgerigar Organisation (WBO) having been invited by the Budgerigar Society to hold its annual meeting on the Friday morning of the Convention; it ensured that delegates from Belgium, Canada, Eire, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Italy, New Zealand, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and USA would join their fellow British fanciers in this great celebration; and what a super impression they received.

Gerd Bleicher, Chairman of the WBO, who has attended all previous Conventions since 1975, similar to Bev Hutt, Eric Peake and I, all made positive comments about the event.

## Opening Ceremony

The official start was at 2.00pm on the Friday when fanciers, from all of the 10 area societies and overseas, gathered in the Ballroom for the official opening ceremony conducted by our President Beverley Hutt, affectionately known to us all as Bev. She said she hoped that everyone present over the Convention weekend has a really enjoyable time renewing acquaintances and making new friends as she has done at all the Conventions she had attended. She hoped that the lectures would be informative and educational and that it was up to all attendees to create a great atmosphere at all the social events. Bev thanked those for making the effort in attending on the Friday afternoon, welcomed

the international visitors and then declared Convention 2015 open.

The lectures started with Tom and Andrew Luke on Friday afternoon and the title of their presentation was **Introducing a New Variety into an Established Stud**. With the aid of a power point presentation they gave the audience the history of how they started and the bloodlines that had influenced their stud over the years. They explained the influence of the Lacewing variety they imported from South Africa back in 2008.

The second session on the Friday was taken by Richard and Wayne Bowker with their **Our Time in Budgies So Far** presentation. This was down to earth, showing the two brothers with their father John; how they started in the hobby from a humble beginning back in 2003 until the present day and reaching great highs in the hobby. With the aid of a power point presentation they showed the birds that have influenced their stud and current winners.

## Entertainment from Eric Peake

Friday evening was an entertainment night with Eric Peake, who is no stranger to Convention lectures as he has done this job on several occasions in the past. Eric gave a presentation on his **Budgie Reminiscences – Years of Progress** showing us birds of the past and how we have advanced over the years to the current birds. The second part of Eric's presentation was **Laughter with no tears – My life in birds** and that did bring tears - tears of laughter from the audience.

One feature that was unique to this Convention was the very successful **Stoke Fanciers Sales**. This involved Stoke fanciers selling birds with prices already marked on the cage regardless of the number of birds inside the cage. After allowing an hours viewing the hall was cleared and every interested fancier was given a raffle ticket and after a draw went into the show hall in ticket order and was allowed to buy up to two cages. Everyone appreciated the fairness of this process and left happy with their purchases.

# THE BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY 2015 CONVENTION



6 Terry Jukes – one of the local organisers  
 7 President Bev Hutt with speaker Harry Hockaday  
 8 Show Judge and BS Chairman Maurice Roberts in action

9 The Ladies Forum that kick started the Sunday morning session - Pat Norris, Bev Hutt, Laura Hutt and Janice Al-Nasser  
 10 BS Members Letting Their Hair Down at the Dinner Dance

## Saturday Sessions

The Saturday sessions were the busiest with over 200 fanciers attending the three lectures on the day. It kicked off with Alan Marchant of the well known partnership of Huxley and Marchant giving a verbal presentation on **Creating a Budgerigar Stud**. The partnership brought many examples of birds to show the audience and explained how they select pairs and what they aim to achieve with their pairings. They showed some of those magnificent birds known to many as the "4 bar width faces".

Harry Hockaday was the next speaker and his presentation was entitled **Back To Basics**. He showed his current set up and explained his feeding regime and the various vitamins he uses. He described the birds he had before leaving the hobby in 2008 and what he has achieved with his stud since his return plus the influence of outcrosses from certain studs on his current stud.

As in previous Conventions the Budgerigar Society had an international speaker, and on this occasion it was the turn of one of the most currently successful fanciers in the world; Daniel Lutolf, from Switzerland. His presentation was, **My Life with Budgerigars**. Accessing his website for the various parts of his presentation, Daniel gave an insight into his management routine, how he breeds winners and the outcrosses he brings in every year and their influence.

## Sunday and The Ladies Forum

It was **The Ladies Forum** that kick started the Sunday morning session when Bev Hutt, Pat Norris, Janice Al-Nasser and Laura Hutt each gave a presentation on how they started in the fancy, their current set up, the successes that they have achieved both without and with their current partners and what they would like to see happening in the fancy.

The finale was left to Phil Reaney with his **Atom Bombs and Dynamite** presentation. Phil, with his great knowledge on genetics and style of presentation explained how the Yellow and Buff theory operates on type of feather, Line breeding, Inbreeding and Outcross theory. Phil then compared his lines of birds that he calls Dynamite type birds and Atomic type birds and how, by mixing them together, he has achieved his current successful Dyna-mic Line.

No Convention would be complete without a show and a full report of the show appears elsewhere in this publication. However, on this occasion the show also incorporated the **WBO World Championship Show** which ensured that birds from other countries were present.

It may be interesting for our members to appreciate how sometimes certain fanciers will go out of their way to support an event without considering time and expense to get there.

Take for example Dino Pocecco from Italy who collected the Italian team (from 6 fanciers) and boarded a train from Milan to Paris on Tuesday to do a seven hour journey. He stayed the night in Paris then caught another train on Wednesday from Paris to Calais to meet with his friend Carlos Ramôa. Carlos flew with the Portuguese team from Porto to Brussels on Wednesday, hired a car and travelled to Calais to pick up Dino, then crossed to Dover, staying the Wednesday night near Toddington Service Station. From here they continued their journey to Stoke-on-Trent on Thursday. The teams went back with a Best of Colour for Carlos (Clearbody) and Best Colour Budgerigar. I take my hat off to them for their dedication and I also extend sincere thanks to the local fanciers who provided show cages for the European fanciers.

## Gala Dinner

When it came to the Saturday Gala Dinner in the Ballroom what a wonderful night it was. The hotel staff were just great throughout the

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11 Daniel Lutolf, from Switzerland presented, "My Life with Budgerigars"



12 Bev Hutt presents a thank you to Linda Jukes



14 BS Chairman Maurice Roberts with Gren Norris, who was recognised for his long service to the General Council from 1991 to April 2015



13 Gerd Bleicher WBO Chairman and BS President Bev Hutt



15 Alan Marchant talking about Creating a Budgerigar Stud



Ghalib Al-Nasser introducing one of the Guest Speakers

weekend and were exceptionally helpful to all of the 160 fanciers and partners who attended. The meal was great and the entertainment was great too with the cabaret by a Robbie Williams tribute act, followed by a Disco.

The toast to The Budgerigar Society was proposed by Gerd Bleicher, WBO Chairman and Life member of the BS, who paid great tribute to the Society for its achievements over 90 years since its formation on 6th February 1925 and the lead that it has taken in forming standards, shows, guidelines etc. Gerd also referred to how important it is to have the social side of the hobby as well as breeding and showing, and how this little bird has brought friendship between fanciers all over the world. He looked forward to the Society celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2025.

Our President Bev Hutt responded by thanking Gerd for his kind words and said that she met Gerd for the first time at the 1975 Convention and how dedicated he has been to the hobby and to his society in Germany.

Our Chairman Maurice Roberts then made a special presentation to Gren Norris, on behalf of the B.S., for his long service to the General Council from 1991 to April 2015 when he retired from the Council.

## Closing Ceremony

Every event has a start, middle and an end and this Convention ended on the Sunday at 2.00pm in the Earl of Granville Room. After all the presentations made to the show winners Bev, in her closing ceremony speech had this to say, "Well, Conventions come and Conventions go, and the 3-day Stoke on Trent Convention went all too quickly. I have been fortunate to attend all the conventions since Harrogate in 1975 and the Stoke Convention held in the quality surroundings of The Best Western Moat House Hotel situated in the city of Stoke-on-Trent

famous for its heritage, the pottery industry and culture, set the scene and also assisted with the attendance. I feel it was the best attended so far, from the speakers' quality lectures to the Gala Dinner and it was wonderful to see them full to capacity."

"The hard working Convention team was made up of Ghalib Al-Nasser, John Cosby, Grant Findlay, Terry and Linda Jukes and Maurice Roberts. It would be very remiss of me to fail to mention that local fanciers Terry and Linda Jukes, put worked hard both before and over the course of the weekend to make it the success it was. I should also like to thank the local fanciers who assisted Alan and Gina Adams and John Cosby with the show, everything ran so smoothly. It was wonderful to see so many friends and fanciers over the course of the weekend."

"The WBO held their annual meeting on the Friday, this allowed the delegates to attend and be part of this wonderful event put on by The Budgerigar Society who cater for all aspects of keeping and exhibiting Budgerigars."

"As with all things, everything must come to an end, but as with all the Conventions, I have some wonderful memories and made some new friends and caught up with some old ones".

## Ghalib Recollects

We all take with us our own wonderful memories about this Convention and for me it will be rather personal on how I started and ended with Conventions. At the 1975 Harrogate Convention, I attended as a mere shy novice fancier who no-one knew, meeting another shy novice fancier from Cornwall by the name of Maurice Roberts that no one knew either and now at this Convention we were both on the organising Convention Committee holding senior offices within the BS. How time flies and I hope that we will both still be around to attend the centenary Convention in 2025.



Best in Show and  
Best Champion -  
John Rogers -  
Grey Green cock

© Mick Freakley



Best Intermediate -  
Dean Jukes -  
Spangle Grey cock

© Mick Freakley



John Rogers – Best in Show



© Simon Devaney

Dean Jukes – Best Intermediate



© Simon Devaney

No Budgerigar Society Convention will be complete without a show and this was one with a difference as it incorporated the 3rd WBO World Championship Show; with fanciers from four countries participating alongside our British exhibitors. They were Maarten Heylen from Belgium, Martin Stiegmaier from Germany, Giancarlo Carretti, Corinne Castellano, Antonio Cuccurese, Susi Leutri, Dino Pocecco and Roberto Sabattini from Italy, Gongalo Pinto, Carlos Ramôa, Jose Ramôa and Rui Teixeira from Portugal. There were also 24 Colour Budgerigars entered at the show.

The show received a total entry of 352 from 46 exhibitors with 277 birds benched for our President Bev Hutt, Roy Aplin, Bob Allen and Maurice Roberts to judge.

Top honour went to John Rogers who benched a stylish Grey Green cock of quality and balance and staged in good condition to win best champion and eventually the supreme award of Best in Show. John also

benched a quality Yellowface Grey hen with good blow to win the Best Opposite Sex in Show. Alan and Gina Adams were second in the champion section with a Yellowface Cobalt cock of quality and style. Tom and Andrew Luke were third with their quality Skyblue cock of good style and balance.

An outstanding Spangle Grey cock with good head quality benched by Dean Jukes was the winner of the intermediate section and also won the SBBA award for Best Spangle in Show. Jim and Carol Huxley were second with a quality Double Factor Spangle cock followed by their Grey cock in third position.

### Novice Section

A quality Grey cock benched by Ady Lovack was the winner in the novice section. The bird possessed all the good qualities to make him a certificate winner with good size, clean cap and nice directional

Best Novice -  
Ady Lovack -  
Grey cock

© Mick Freakley



Best Beginner -  
Jody & Darryl  
Faram - Skyblue  
cock

© Mick Freakley



Ady Lovack – Best Novice



© Simon Devaney



Jody and Darryl Faram –  
Best Beginner Award

© Simon Devaney

feathering. Ady also filled second and third positions with a Light Green cock of good size and deportment and a Grey Green cock of quality.

Jody and Darryl Faram were the winners in the beginner section with a coarse feathered skyblue cock of good size and width of face. Alan Wood was second with his certificate winning Double Factor Spangle Yellow cock which was a long smart bird with good feathering on top. A Grey Green cock of Mark Milton benched in good condition and good blow was third.

Callum Wood had a field day in the junior section winning the first three positions. His Grey cock was the section winner; a bird of quality that will take him well into the beginner section in the future. His Yellowface Skyblue cock was second to be followed by a Dominant Pied Cobalt cock in third position.

There were two Pairs and the winner was Tom and Andrew Luke with a nice Pair of Lacewing Opaline Yellows followed by Dean Jukes' Yellowface Cinnamon Skyblues.

The best Team went to John Cosby with three pairs of Whitewing Skyblues and he won second place with 6 Recessive Pied Grey Green cocks.

There were 24 birds benched in the Colour Budgerigar section and the winner was a Light Green cock benched by the Italian fancier Corinne Castellano.

### Major Awards:

Best in Show	John Rogers	Grey Green cock
Best Opposite Sex	John Rogers	Yellowface Grey hen
Best Champion	John Rogers	Grey Green cock
Best Intermediate	Dean Jukes	Spangle Grey cock
Best Novice	Ady Lovack	Grey cock
Best Beginner	Jody & Darryl Faram	Skyblue cock
Best Junior	Callum Wood	Grey cock
Best Colour Budgerigar	Corinne Castellano	Light Green cock (Italy)

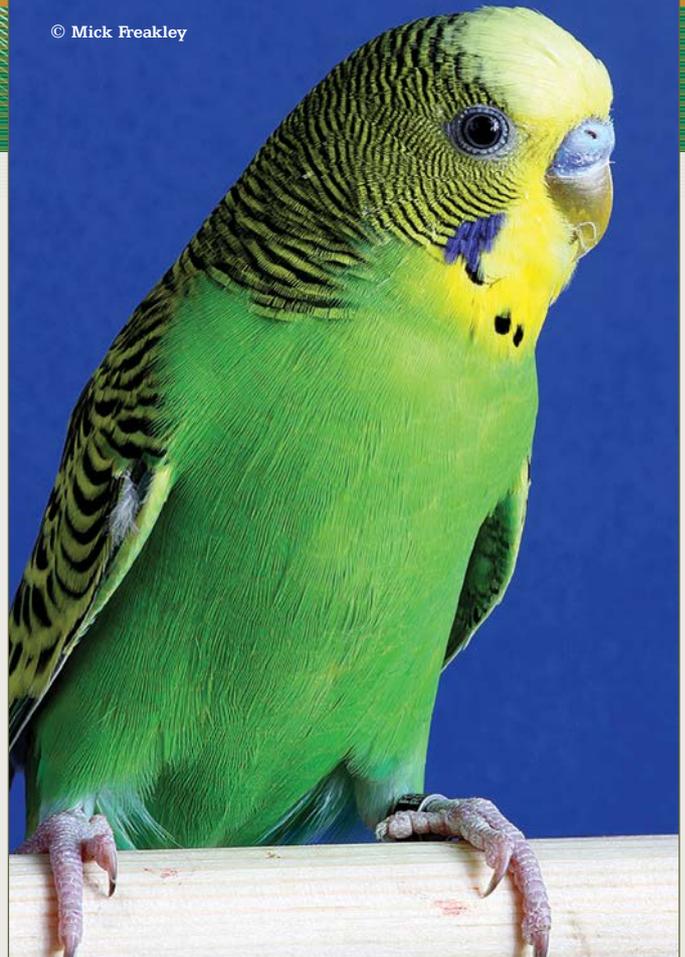
Best Junior -  
Callum Wood -  
Grey cock

© Mick Freakley



Best Colour Budgerigar -  
Corinne Castellano (Italy) -  
Light Green cock

© Mick Freakley



Callum Wood - Best Junior



© Simon Devaney

Best Opposite Sex -  
John Rogers -  
Yellowface Grey hen

© Mick Freakley



### Best of Colour Awards:

Light Green	A. Lovack	Whitewing	B. Taylor
Dark Green	A & G Adams	Crest	A & G Adams
Skyblue	T & A Luke	Spangle Green	J. Grubb
Dark Blue	T & A Luke	Spangle Blue	D. Jukes
Grey Green	J. Rogers	D.F. Spangle	A. Wood
Grey	A. Lovack	Dominant Pied	A & G Adams
Opaline Green	J & D Faram	Recessive Pied	T & A Luke
Opaline Blue	T & A Luke	Yellowface	A & G Adams
Cinnamon Green	R. Watts	Rare Variety	S & R Clarke
Cinnamon Blue	T & L Jukes	Clearbody	C. Ramôa (Portugal)
Opaline Cinnamon	R. Warrender	A.O.C.	T & A Luke
Lutino	R. Watts	Pair	T & A Luke
Albino	R. Watts	Team	J. Cosby
Yellow-wing	M & D Walker	Colour Budgerigar	Corinne Castellano (Italy)



## STOKE ON TRENT



The Packed  
Lecture Room

5TH - 7TH JUNE, 2015



The BS Convention Committee would like to thank everyone involved in making this one of the best ever Conventions the Society has held. The weekend went like clockwork thanks to the Best Western Moat House staff, the help received from the local Clubs - North Staffs BS and South Cheshire BS and the many other helpers involved.

The Gala Dinner was a great success and the Raffle raised £450.35. Thanks to the ladies who sold the tickets, those who donated prizes and the entertainers Mike Andrews (Robbie Williams) and the DJ for an excellent night that was enjoyed by all. Gerd Bleicher the Chairman of the World Budgerigar Organisation proposed the toast to the Society and our President Beverley Hutt responded. Peter Hutchinson was MC for the evening and although he took ill on the night he is thankfully fit again and we thank him for his help in organising an excellent event.

The Coach Trip to the Pottery and Trentham Gardens was enjoyed by the partners not attending the lectures and thanks to Mrs Copeland, Mrs Janet Huxley and Miss Stephanie Huxley for ensuring all had a great time.

The lectures were extremely well received and our speakers Tom & Andrew Luke, Richard & Wayne Bowker, Eric Peake, Alan Marchant & Chris Huxley, Harry Hockaday, Daniel Lutolf, Janice Al-Nasser, Beverley Hutt, Laura Hutt, Pat Norris and Phil Reaney are all thanked for taking the time to prepare and deliver such brilliant educational and informative lectures from which those attending took away so much.

The Convention Show attracted a good entry for the time of year and all

CC winners were admired for their quality. Our thanks to John Cosby, Alan & Gina Adams and their team for running such a successful event and our Judges Beverley Hutt, Bob Allen, Roy Aplin and Maurice Roberts. It was great to see birds being shown from many European countries as well. Thanks also to Mick Freakley who photographed the winning birds in his usual professional way.

The weekend Raffle raised £968.75 and thanks are due to Rod & Sue Clarke who manned the stand all weekend, also to those who donated the three birds, Chris Huxley & Alan Marchant, Richard & Michael Miller and Paul & Nikki Stannard, together with Steve Jones of Country Wide Seed who provided the top prize in the General Raffle of vouchers for 10 bags of seed and the others who donated prizes.

Thanks also to Maggie Findlay for helping Grant and Mat on the BS Stand all weekend and to our other Trade Stands who were present, Roy & Lucy Aplin and David Vandeppeer of Aviary Hygiene.

The local Clubs gave all those staying both Friday & Saturday night at the headquarters hotel a gift of a lovely glass that had been made locally which was a super touch.

This Convention would not have been such a success without the attendance of members and on the Saturday over 300 were there, including a coach from the Northern BS, members from each Area Society and many fanciers from overseas which gave the weekend a tremendous atmosphere. We thank you all for your support of the Convention and the Budgerigar Society.



Dear Grant,

**Re: 2015 BS Convention 2015**

What a great day for the Northern BS – a bus trip subsidised by the NBS social fund and organised by Adrian Richards to go to the 2015 BS Convention. We had an early start but made good time travelling to Stoke-on-Trent, where we were warmly greeted by Terry Jukes. The Great Western hotel where the convention was being held was bouncing with budgie people. It was great to see so many at the convention and it was obvious everyone was going to enjoy themselves and they did.

It was wonderful to see so many people attending the lectures and the room which was used was packed and more chairs had to be brought in, what a fantastic sight. I have to say the lectures were first class and very professional.

Later in the day we were allowed to view the birds which had been judged. The birds were of a high class and it was nice to see the miniature variety on display.

I must add here that one of our members Ady Lovack who had shown, won certificates for Green series and Grey series and Certificate of Merit for Novice Any age. This is terrific to go down to the heartland of budgie breeders and come away with two certificates, this is certainly some achievement. Also hearty congratulations to Prof. Tim Lovel who did well in the Clearwing section.

On the way home we visited Ray Warrender and there we saw some wonderful birds, thanks to Ray for allowing us to call as he had been busy working at the convention. This just finished a wonderful day out.

Many thanks to the BS and the hard working members who put on such a wonderful weekend.

*Yours sincerely, Bruce Ross, Northern BS*



Dear Grant,

**Re: 2015 BS Convention and WBO meeting in Stoke-on-Trent**

I want to say thank you to the Budgerigar Society for the kind invitation to hold the 2015 WBO meeting of the delegates on the occasion of the BS Convention weekend in Stoke-on-Trent.

My thank you is also on behalf of all the WBO-delegates that were present and who all enjoyed the meeting, the lectures and the gala dinner on Saturday night.

The event was an excellent location for our meeting and I am sure that everyone returned home with many wonderful memories.

Very best regards and all good wishes for the future of the BS

*Gerd Bleicher, WBO Chairman*



**Re: 2015 BS Convention 2015** Dear Grant,

A group of fanciers from The Budgerigar Society of Ireland who attended the convention would like to thank the organisers and fanciers at Stoke on Trent for a superb four days and the wide variety of talks with plenty of interesting questions from the audiences, and a great show of quality exhibition budgerigars. It was also an opportunity to meet with old friends and to make some new ones, with plenty of chat and banter.

I heard the day out for non-budgerigar fanciers with a visit to the museum and finishing the day off with a visit to Trentham Gardens with plenty of shopping was also most enjoyable.

We have attended a number of conventions over the years and always look forward to the next one.

*Kind Regards, Joe & Bernie Nevin, Exhibition Budgerigar Society of Ireland*

## BACK TO BASICS - HARRY



**F**undamentally, the more room you have the better and just because you have plenty of room you do not have to fill it.

Another important factor in this hobby is that there is no right way of doing things. My advice would be to breed the birds how you want to breed them and select those things that suit you.

I have two birdrooms, each 20 feet by 15 feet and used 30 breeding cages this season – producing 190 chicks. However, I am about to move home and my new birdroom will be 28 feet by 16 feet and I will use 50 breeding cages.

My inside flights are tiled and in the baby flight I use plastic perching as this is easy to clean. The only wood in the flight is a piece of apple tree attached to the wall for the youngsters to climb on and peck at. There is wooden perching in the adult flight. I really take care when advancing the babies from the breeding cages. First they go into a stock cage and once I am content with their progress they are moved to a

nursery flight and then to a baby flight. To minimise stress I always try and move them in batches as their pecking order will already be established.

### Breeding Cages

I use all-wire breeding cages measuring 16" x 16" x 23" with nest boxes of 8" x 8" x 10". Wire cages are not everyone's choice and some just don't like the way they look but they work for me. One thing that I like is that they can be moved around as cages become vacant which means breeding pairs can be close to each other rather than isolated as they can become with wooden cages.

I also use small nest boxes as heat is essential in early life to promote growth which a small box helps with. This also means that the cock bird spends more time out of the box because there is very little room inside. So when the hen comes out of the box he is really pleased to see her and so fertility improves.

# HOCKADAY (H & D HOCKADAY)



### Captions

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1    | Harry Hockaday with BS President, Bev Hutt (Photo Terry A Tuxford) |
| 2    | The Impressive Hockaday Birdroom                                   |
| 3    | All-wire Breeding Cages  |
| 4    | The Baby Flight  |
| 5    | Main Adult Flight  |
| 6,7  | Dietary supplements  |
| 8    | Main feed items  |
| 9-12 | Softfood Mix   |

My birds are fed on a simple 50:50 seed mix plus a bowl of jap millet and red millet sprays – wild budgerigar eat seed when it is still green – our seed which has been dried is effectively over-ripe and some of the goodness is lost and so supplements are important. In conjunction with this I do not provide cuttlefish or grit to my birds. Cuttlefish is a really inefficient way to provide calcium, especially as there is liquid calcium now available. As for grit, once again I can provide minerals and trace elements via diet supplements – the birds might like it but they don't need it. In fact I have not provided grit for 20 years.

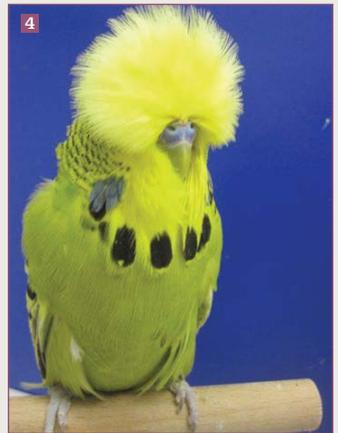
### Saving Seed

Have you noticed that you provide your breeding pairs with a bowl of seed and then regularly you blow out the husk and then top up the bowl with fresh seed? Progressively the dust from the seed falls to the bottom of the bowl and the seed at the bottom gets wasted. To avoid

this waste I sieve the seed from the dust and then feed the saved seed in the flights.

My softfood consists largely of vegetables such as fennel, sweet corn, carrot, broccoli, mangetout etc. I do not use any egg-food for fear of the birds consuming any that has spilt and gone bad. However, I do use chick crumb in place of the egg-food – important to use the non-medicated – and also Just Thrive'n'gloss for protein,

In my view, one of the most underrated items is the water that we provide our birds. Basically I do not trust the water that comes from our taps. The consistency in quality can vary from day to day depending on what chemicals the water treatment plant has added. To ensure a consistent quality I only feed bottled water. In the past I used to get birds with green vents from time to time – now this is a thing of the past.



**D**aniel's introduction to budgerigars began in 1980, "It is a very intense hobby that became a very important part of my life," he said, "The rest of my time is devoted to my family; Daniela and our two daughters, Rubina and Neve."

I started budgerigar breeding at the age of 11, which was more a coincidence than planned. A classmate showed me his budgerigars which caught my interest. Some months later, relatives of my mother gave me a pair of budgerigars as a present – against the will of my parents. From this pair I was able to breed youngsters, in an old shoe box.

That early success intensified my interest even more. In 1986 I met Heinrich Ott, who was one of the top Swiss budgerigar breeders at that time. From him I purchased my first really good show budgerigars. The Ott birds had an excellent background and came from the very best English bloodlines, mainly from Ormerod and Sadler. After some years we became good friends as we still are today. Budgerigars from the studs of Emil Schweizer and Janos Pece followed. Janos won the prize for the Best Bird in Switzerland twice and I had the lucky chance to get two brothers of this bird. Janos Pece birds originated from Hans Ruosh and he in turn got his from Joseph Speck who very well known in those times. The birds from Joseph Speck were based on the famous studs of Sadler, Ormerod, Finney, Moffat, Lane G Son and Mrs. Moss. The combination of Ott birds, which had very large feathers and the very fine and elegant Pece birds took me a big step forward.

### Football Coach

Since those early days quality birds from other UK, European and South African breeders have been introduced to develop today's stud. I am now 45 year's old, a former maths teacher and a current football coach.

Of course I am interested in the quality aspects of budgerigars but I am also fascinated by their social behaviour. What I think is important is that our birds need interesting things to do such as pieces of wood to peck and climb on and things to play with. Because of this social aspect it is also important to allow them to live together – young and old, hens and cocks. This teaches them the social behaviour expected while living in a colony.

I also think the ability to fly is really important but through selection many studs find themselves with ground-dwellers rather than birds with flight. My pair selection these days has an emphasis on selecting feather combinations that will promote flight. I also prefer my birds to select their own mates and I have noticed that they often choose partners of a different colour and with complimentary feather structure. I have had great success with this.

I am still working with birds containing my early bloodlines. Until 1996 I only had birds from Switzerland. After 1996 I got birds from Ralph Jenne, Richard Kuhr, Joe Mannes, Kurt Vogt, Bernd Stegeman and Reihhard Molketin. In 2005 I brought in birds from Pat de Beer that did really good for me. More recently I brought in birds from the UK with background of John Wilson bloodlines. These birds were rather small, but have a wonderful blow to the head. I also work with Kurt

## Captions

1-9 A selection of Super Budgerigars from the Lutolf Stud

10 Daniel Lutolf with BS President, Bev Hutt. Photos by Terry A Tuxford 11 Daniel Lutolf presents

# AT THE 2015 BS CONVENTION



Vogt and Bruno Steffen of Switzerland. Mike Ball, Willie Dokter and Andreas Conrades also became breeder friends and they work with my bloodline and we regularly exchange birds.

## Famous For Two Things

Today, my stud is famous for two things:

1. Directional feathering
2. Extreme birds with long tail and wing

Breeding super birds is like doing a jigsaw puzzle – it is a matter of finding the pieces that fit. You need to have a vision of where you want to go and what you need to do to achieve this. If you see a new feature that you like you have to try to fix it. I started with a Opaline Cinnamon Grey Green hen that had a “different” face and that pairing eventually changed the whole look of my stud. In my opinion, birds with long tails and long flights can be very useful but you have to control – just like you do with flecking.

As mentioned, all my birds fly in the main flights together; barheads, young birds, adult cocks and hens so the young birds experience the behaviour of the adults, like mating and soon learn what to do. If the sexes are kept separate, when the young birds go into the breeding cages they have much more to learn. This wastes time and is the cause of many infertile eggs.

I feed the same diet all year round, so there are no changes in the diet. I cut the vent feathers; I do not pull them out but just cut them short, not back to skin level.

Again, when pairing up I like to let the birds select their own partners whenever possible. When I see two birds paired up in the aviary, I place them in show cages to assess them for compatibility. If all appears fine I have a look at their pedigrees and if they are not too closely related I put them down to breed. Where possible I never put best to best as the results are often disappointing and then two really good birds are wasted.

## No Close Breeding

The closest I pair my birds is cousins. I don't close breed as this brings with it too many problems – particularly feather problems. It may work for a few years, but eventually you will have problems. I also pair an old partner with a young one.

Pair selection is probably the most important aspect of the hobby. I see many breeders that sell the wrong birds. They just look at the visual quality and not the pedigree and so they lose exactly what they need. I always bring in new blood so as not to get too closely related birds. If I can buy a super bird I do, but they don't have to be top quality because I outcross and then cross back again. If the chicks are poor they go unless they are from a super pair.

Show hens have two rounds of eggs and raise 3 to 4 chicks, if they lay again the eggs are transferred. The cocks breed from October till May or June, if they stay in condition.

I have found that it is usual to have small birds with good head qualities or big birds with small heads. Many times if the birds have good length they don't have the head qualities. The best way to fix this is to put these two types of budgerigar together and slowly improve both length and head. I think now and in the future the most important feature will be directional feather.

## How To Breed Super Budgerigars

During his presentation Daniel Lutolf told the attentive group of fanciers his views on how to breed super budgerigars. This is what he said:

- Breed in numbers – this is helpful as more birds means more super babies.
- Mix the features, feather structure and colours – and families.
- Bring in fresh blood every season – they don't need to be super birds but coming from a top family; most of the birds I bring in come from friends.
- I helped build up a few studs in Europe where I can always get a bird back if necessary.
- Keep your stud young and alive – I sell all my top cocks after two breeding seasons – I don't like to sell super youngsters without breeding with them.
- Use a grey factor in every pair (grey = bigger and stronger birds).
- Use cinnamon and opaline cinnamon for better feather structure.
- If you study the spots and mask of a bird you can see the whole feather structure.
- Breed with smaller hens that are well bred. They will breed more chicks – 12 to 15 from three rounds.
- Big hens don't lay many eggs!
- Never double up on the same fault.
- Don't go too far – all my birds can fly correctly.
- Look for the right proportions in your birds – better to breed with a smaller bird that is well proportioned than a large bird that is not.
- Don't try and breed a best in show. Concentrate on a general overall improvement and the winners will come.
- Make sure the birds sit well on the perch and at the correct angle.
- Study your birds both in the flight and in the breeding cages.
- When looking to buy a bird take a good look in the flight to assess the overall gene pool.
- If you do breed with a bird with a feather problem and the young have the same problem stop breeding with it immediately.
- At the end of the breeding season it is very important that you sell the right birds – many fanciers will sell the wrong birds such as small youngsters from super pairs.

# ALAN MARCHANT OF THE PART



**W**hat I would like to do today is approach this subject from two angles. I will make some anecdotal references to what Chris and I actually did and also bring in my own thoughts on how I would go about trying to achieve a stud of birds today.

First and foremost I would say before you go about purchasing any birds you need to be clear in your own mind what it is you are trying to achieve. This hobby of ours is very flexible and can offer many levels of enjoyment ranging from keeping a few birds for their colour and animation in a garden aviary, right up the scale to being competitive at specialist Budgerigar shows all over the country. I'm assuming most people here today fall into the latter category and that is really the main focus for this talk.

So assuming you have decided that you are going to breed exhibition Budgerigars there are a lot of personal situations only you can make decisions about. For instance how you house your stock and how big an establishment you feel you need (and speaking from personal experience your first cabin is very quickly superseded by one or more bigger versions as the exhibition bug bites). That in itself may be dictated by local situations such as bylaws either limiting how big an establishment you are allowed or simply consideration for your neighbours because let's be honest about it Budgerigar chatter is not very melodic.

### How much time can you allocate?

Probably the most important consideration is how much time you can allocate to your stock to maintain consistent manageable daily routines. This will be the major influence on how many birds you can realistically

keep and look after properly. The temptation is always to go bigger, breed more birds and have strength in numbers to give you a better chance of breeding that elusive best in show bird. It is so easy to get wrapped up in these hobbies becoming almost fanatical in the various aspects, however the last thing you need is family conflict creating bad feeling regarding the amount of time you are spending with the birds. Try and keep your partners happy from the outset.

How much money do you have available for the purchasing of stock and equipping your aviary? There is no doubt that the first year or two is all about spending money to get established and quite often making a lot of mistakes along the way. There is a lot of information out there and ideally you need to find someone who you can visit on a regular basis to act as a mentor, and it does not have to be the guy who is doing all the winning but someone who is a long established stockman and knows the ropes to point you in the right direction.

If you have done the job right, hopefully you will be in the situation after the first two seasons whereby your sales surplus should be at least covering the costs of any outcrosses you are bringing into the stud to make perceived improvements.

### Obtaining Initial Stock

The main issue now is how and where are you going to obtain your initial stock birds and, most important, what are the factors that will influence your decision?

When Chris and I came into the hobby some 35 years ago there were dozens of fanciers in our local area and many more within a 40 to 50 minute drive so we would visit someone every weekend. This is an

# BERSHIP HUXLEY AND MARCHANT



1-6 Example of some of the birds used by Alan Marchant to demonstrate the building block features that can be used to create a stud of exhibition budgerigars

aspect of the hobby that does not happen to anything like the extent it used to. Many people prefer the internet websites which have some obvious advantages of sharing information and ideas instantly with little personal effort involved. There are many photographs and comparisons placed on the various forums which rely more on the ability of the photographer than the reality of the quality of the exhibit. My daughter is a wedding photographer and what she can do with digital editing makes me extremely sceptical and dismissive of anything I have not seen with my own eyes. And you need to bear in mind most fanciers are naturally only selecting their best examples for listing on the web site so it is very easy for the uninitiated to think that all these studs are full of outstanding birds just waiting to be purchased at their convenience.

So for me there is no substitute for visiting as many aviaries as possible. You will not only make friends but you will be picking up information, witnessing different styles and levels of stockmanship. Most fanciers will gladly show you their better birds and explain what it is in their opinion that sets them apart from the majority of the stud, so you are constantly training your eye to the finer nuances of the exhibition side of the hobby.

Patience is definitely the name of the game before you start to purchase your initial stock. You will find that if you visit several fanciers over a period of time then one of them invariably will have a particular style of bird which will naturally appeal to you more than others. This I would suggest is the stud to base your birds on. They are usually more than happy to explain how they have arrived at where they are within the hobby, hopefully indicating studs that they are

working successfully with which can broaden your range of options when you decide to make your first purchases. And just as important we found that because we were visiting fanciers on a regular basis occasionally, we were able to pick up the odd bird that had only just become available.

### Money Was Extremely Tight

When I first decided to come back into the hobby I had recently bought my own house, had a young family and so money was extremely tight. An Uncle of mine was a very successful Novice breeder with a knack of breeding outstanding hens, which all the Champions within our area wanted to swap him birds for. I spent the first 18 months building an aviary from reclaimed building materials whilst I used to visit my Uncle every weekend and take him on various visits to these established fanciers. It was very similar to serving an enforced apprenticeship. I was chomping at the bit to get some birds in but the fact that I did not have the funds available in the short term did me a big favour because it stopped me from doing any impulse buying. My initial purchases were 3 pairs and 3 odd hens from two local breeders whose birds, although unrelated, knitted well into my uncle's bloodlines. From the outset they bred good numbers of chicks with a reasonable proportion exhibiting the visual qualities evident in both their studs.

That was one of the first lessons I learned in this hobby, generally "you breed what you see".

So now let's assume you've done your homework and put the time in finding where the studs are that you particularly like. The next stage is to pick up all the pieces of the jigsaw that you need to start your stud.

## CREATING A STUD OF BUDGERIGARS

# ALAN MARCHANT OF THE PARTNERSHIP HUXLEY AND MARCHANT



7 Alan Marchant in action  
 8 The large crowd at Alan's presentation  
 9 The Partnership Huxley and Marchant with BS President Bev Hutt



You are highly unlikely to be able to buy the complete bird straight away even if you have unlimited resources for the simple reason any true fancier will tell you these birds are very difficult to produce and the top birds are few and far between and whoever breeds them wants to enjoy them for as long as they can. That's what the hobby is really about after all.

### A General Theme Evident

One of the big advantages you can only obtain from visiting a stud is that you can see for yourself if there is a general theme evident across the whole of the stud for example feather density, spot size, body length etc. You are looking for family traits that are repeatable throughout the stud so the likelihood is that if you breed decent numbers from these birds it is reasonable to expect to breed some good examples that reflect at least the average of the strong feature that you admired in their birds.

Your initial birds will be those that are surplus to the breeders own requirements. They will have picked the birds they feel offer them the best chance of pushing their stud onwards and I have no doubt these are precisely what you are looking for yourself, unfortunately things are not that easy as these birds are generally not for sale. However depending on the breeding success that they have achieved then there may well be some very good examples of the features that you are after but just not on the best balanced of birds. For example there may be a very long bird lacking width across the face or backskull or it is flecked etc. This is where the fancier who has put the effort in and who has

developed an eye for the exhibition side of the hobby comes to the fore.

I have seen many very wealthy people come and go from the fancy over the years having spent tremendous amounts of money trying to buy success but achieving very little along the way because they just have never had the ability to build a stud themselves. They did not have and never were able to develop the eye for pairing birds successfully and could not reproduce the quality of the expensive birds they kept purchasing until eventually they gave up and moved on to some other pastime.

### The Right Balance

You need to understand what makes the right balance for a show bird and ensure that within your aviary you have all of these collective features to work with. The building of your stud is then a matter of pairing your birds each year to maximise their good points and trying to eradicate obvious bad faults. First and foremost you need to breed good numbers of birds to both give you a visual choice and to provide funds for your outcrosses etc. Then you need to set yourself little targets for improvement every breeding season, bringing in outcrosses that excel in a feature you think needs improving and bottoming out your own birds as the general level of quality improves.

It is very rewarding to see your stud develop over the years and no matter what you have achieved within the fancy the challenge is always there to try and push the boundaries of what has been achieved in the development of the Exhibition Budgerigar.

# CLUB SHOW

26th / 27th September

2015

## CLUB SHOW SECURITY

The Club Show Committee would welcome any members who are interested in joining the internal day Security team to contact the Club Show Manager Dave Hislop for details. The work would be in 4 hour shifts and if sufficient people are interested then each volunteer will have to work just one shift. Dave can be contacted on 01253 855894.

## CLUB SHOW BIRD SALES TABLES

The Club Show will provide tables in the Dome area for those members and/or Societies who wish to bring birds for sale (separate to the existing individual Sales Classes). The sales area will be for Budgerigars only and will NOT be restricted to owner bred birds. Please contact the Society Administrator on 01828 633030 for details.



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*Congratulations*

*Mr and Mrs Grant and Maggie Findlay*



It is with great happiness that we report the wedding of Grant & Maggie on Friday 8th May 2015. I am sure that you all will join us in wishing them our best wishes and happiness for years to come. At 59 this was Grant's first Best in Show award! Well done Grant.

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