

DUTCH ROSECOMB BANTAM BREEDERS

VISITING DISTRICT SHOW AND BREEDERS OF
THE "STER" MEEUWEN IN BELGIUM.



*Text and photos: Adri, of
Partnership Goorden-
Hermesen.*

On Thursday December 8th Gerrie Goorden and I left the Netherlands and headed to Meeuwen in Belgium, where the district show was held at the 40th Exhibition of the Small Animal Club 'The Star'. At 19.00 hours, we arrived at Willy Toonen and together with him and a car full of Rosecomb bantams and other animals (Brahma, Rhinelander and Barbary Doves) of the members of Willy's Club, we continued on our way.

After an hour we arrived at Meeuwen, where we first fetched the key of the cottage where we would stay, and then quickly drove to the hall of the Equestrian Centre to pen the birds. There was a warm welcome and we were hospitably received by the exhibition secretary Jos Reyskens and his wife. All birds were once more groomed and then put in the cages. We had another cup of coffee with the Belgian fanciers, and, of course, also a glass of Belgian beer, and then we returned to the cottage. After settling in we drank another glass to the happy ending, and that it would be a good judging.

9 December dawned, we all felt a bit excited. After breakfast, we discussed the schedule. Gerrie and Willy suggested going to the hall around 11.00 o'clock. Perhaps Judge Roger Struyf would be there, and we could have a cup of coffee together, but alas, he had been there, but had left again. The busy man had another judging to do.

The Rosecomb bantams had not yet been evaluated. Thus we decided to admire the other birds, including the Brahmans, Rhinelanders and Barbary Doves of fellow breeders from the Netherlands. Their judge's reports were already hanging on the cages, with very positive results, even awarded 'outstanding' – 96 points!

Our southern neighbours were very hospitable, inviting us to have lunch with them. Around 14:00 we went back to the cottage. The afternoon would be spent on a visit to the Belgian Rosecomb Bantam breeder Martin Hermans.

Martin Hermans has a large yard at his house, with very nice coops, housing white, black and lavender Rosecomb bantams. We were warmly welcomed by Martin and his wife Lies; she breeds Seramas. After coffee and cake, the chickens were admired until dark, when we went back inside where Lies had prepared a lovely dinner for us. How welcoming they all are!

Yes, time was running fast, so off we went to the opening of the exhibition.

The catalogue of the show of 'De Ster' was not yet ready when we arrived. We had to wait until the show opened.

46 Rosecomb Bantams had been entered in 11 colours and they had done well; one of the black pullets was awarded 'Excellent' with the maximum grade of 97 points, and a black cockerel was 'Best male bantam in Show'. The cockerel was Gerrie's and the pullet with 97 points was mine.





Left: The Champion Rosecomb bantam was a black pullet with 97 points, by Partnership Goorden - Hermesen.

Below: Partnership Goorden- Hermesen also won the Best Rosecomb bantam male. With 96 points this bird won also 'Best male bantam in Show'.

A beautiful buff-black columbia pullet of Jos Reyskens won 3rd with 96 points and a white-black columbia of Willy Toonen won 4th with 96 points. Different from in Holland, all Rosecoms are judged as a Class. So no separate classes for various colours.

Below, left:
The buff-black columbia pullet of Jos Reyskens.
Below, right: The white-black columbia pullet of Willy Toonen.



Later that night, Mr. Bardoel and Mr. Cuppen, two members of Willy's Club (Pels en Pluim - Mill), also arrived. Mister Cuppen had entered a very nice Barbary dove and won 'Best in Show Ornamental Bird'. A good performance has been put down by the Dutch!

Before we left for the cottage we raised a special toast together with the Belgian fanciers, to celebrate these fantastic results, beyond our expectations.



On Saturday morning we started slowly and visited the family Reyskens.

What beautiful coops Jos has, his chickens have ample space.

Below: We were warmly welcomed by the family and Miss Jannie, the beagle.

Jos breeds the Rose-combs in several colour varieties: buff-columbia, millefleur and lemon-millefleur.

**Below:
The buff-black columbia
Rosecomb bantams of
Jos.**





Above: The bantams of Jos (pictured right) are viewed with admiration.

Right: Millefleur and lemon-millefleur Rosecomb bantams.



Saturday we spent at the stables, the atmosphere was great and we stayed till late. And we rose late Sunday morning. After cleaning and packing we went back to the Equestrian Centre, to attend the presenting of the Awards to the winners. At 18.00 o'clock we headed back home.





Left:
Show secretary
Jos Reyskens,
awarding the
prize to Adri of
the Partnership
Goorden-
Hermesen.

It was a pleasant
and successful
weekend. Our
thanks go to all
the friendly
people of our
neighbouring

country. All of us had a really great time at the exhibition and in the cottage.
Jos, you have put on a good show together with your fellow club members of 'De
Ster'. Thank you, everyone, for your kindness and hospitality!



Dick Oostlander, secretary of the Dutch Rosecomb Bantam Club, photo taken at the Young Birds Day 2011 which took place in a garden centre.

More photos of Rosecomb bantams and the show in Meeuwen, can be viewed on the website of the Dutch Rosecomb Bantam Club

<http://www.nederlandsejavaclub.nl/>