

TO: FUR & FEATHER

FROM: JIM BLANCHARD (Secretary, London Championship Show)

Here are my 2021 London 'ramblings' - for the July edition of Fur & Feather.

LONDON 2021

By the time it came for me to present the latest London ramblings I had hoped that the prospects of a return to more normality would be looking so much more likely. But as I have to bear in mind F & F deadline I am writing this before Boris's next announcement date and it appears the figures and variants are not as good as they were, but at least the vaccine seems to be doing its job – whatever is thrown at it. Although the London isn't until October, early deadlines for different aspects of the event have to be taken into account and it is with that in mind that it appears the date is fast approaching as the different items need ticking off the 'to do' list. Because we are still in strange times, and we are having to be mindful of decisions being taken that we have no control over, the important thing to remember is we have to be adaptable. One aspect that has arisen recently is that it became apparent we cannot hand on heart be 100% certain that conditions will be such that the show will go ahead – although it really does look more certain than it did before the vaccination program came into being – and so we have to be careful about ordering items that are dated, such as badges, rosettes, President's trophy etc. With this in mind we will be using the phrase *51st. London Championship Show* instead of 2021 on the badges or full dates on other items. Obviously, this way if the very worst happened and we were not able to stage it this year we could use the items whenever. Sadly we do not want to contemplate such a thing happening but we have to be realistic after all the highs and lows we have had to endure since March 2020.

PRESIDENT'S TROPHY

I am very pleased to say that our Life President, Pat Gaskin has once again given a suitably engraved (as above) tray for the BIS winner to keep. I know from the comments of previous winners the President's trophy is very much appreciated as a lasting memento of the special day it was won. As most of the mature fanciers will know Pat was one of the driving forces in setting up the London in 1969 following the demise of the Dairy Show which was held in London. Her interest and enthusiasm for the London has been maintained over the years and we are very pleased it continues to be so.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

The schedule will appear in September's edition of Fur & Feather, but to keep everyone informed here is some early information. The managers agreed to carry forward the 2020 changes to this year, which will mean the **Castor Rex** will once again have their own section after being moved into the AOC Rex section for a while following their recent improved entries. Unfortunately for the opposite reasons the classification for the **Silvers** has been changed. In recent years there has been separate Buck and Doe adult and u/5 classes for the Grey, Fawn and Brown/Blue but recent entries do not justify this classification so there will still be adult and u/5 classes but each colour will be Buck OR Doe. Separate adult and U/5 classes for Blue, Lilac, Black Fox and Blue Otter in the **Netherland Dwarf** section have been added. The final schedule change concerns a newly accepted colour of an existing Rare Variety breed – namely the **Marten Sussex** which will have its own adult and u/5 classes, whilst the current Sussex classes will become Sussex AOC

MINI REX

With the cancellation of both 5 star shows – London in October 2020 and Bradford in January 2021 - since the new BRC ruling in February 2020 concerning the Mini Rex classification, this London will be the first opportunity to see the new classification in action. The changes were that the Mini Rex would no longer have a Best Of Breed certificate awarded and the Mini Rex section would no longer be part of the London's schedule. Instead the Mini Rex will be part of the current classification which has previously been for Standards only. For each colour of Rex that have their own classes the following will apply - straight classes will be STANDARD BUCK ADULT, STANDARD BUCK U/5, STANDARD DOE ADULT, STANDARD DOE U/5, MINI BUCK/DOE ADULT, MINI BUCK/DOE U/5. The duplicate classes will be for BOTH Standards AND Minis and will be BUCK/DOE ADULT, BUCK/DOE U/5, LONDON MEMBERS ANY AGE, JUNIOR ANY AGE, CHALLENGE ANY AGE. Obviously the winner of the Challenge class will be the best of that particular colour which will be either a Standard OR a Mini and will be the one going on to Victory Row. Regarding those colours that are in the AOC Section there will be ADULT BUCK/DOE and U/5 BUCK/DOE (as in the current schedule) for both STANDARDS and MINIS and the duplicates within the AOC section will be as above. There will be separate CCs for best Standard and best Mini for all colours. Previously all the colours of Minis were Buck/Doe and we have left them as such with the new schedule. If support means they can be split in the future, then it is something that can be looked at. Hopefully I have made it clear.

SPECIALS – TEN chances to win £100

Recently I have been contacted by a long serving supporter who regularly comes up with novel ideas to try and 'drum up' support and interest in the London. The latest idea is that there will be **TEN** chances of winning **£100**. I couldn't put the details concerning the idea better than that which was in the letter, so here is the relevant information taken from the letter received:-

You will all have made your entries and paid your admission, enjoyed the show but you never got a card! Never mind, at the show losers can even be winners.

When Jim knows the total number of rabbits entered he will let me know and then I shall get a non fancier to pick 10 Lucky Pen numbers. They will probably wonder what it is all about. These 10 Lucky Pen numbers I will send in a sealed envelope to Jim, who will announce the results on the Sunday afternoon. Each of the 10 Lucky Pen numbers will receive £100, so good luck to you all.

What a wonderful gesture and really shows the good side of the fancy. 'Thank you' doesn't really seem adequate for such a kind and generous gift.

2021 MEMBERSHIP

Recently I have had a few phone calls re. 2021 membership. Obviously with the lack of shows, and so the chances of seeing fellow fanciers being non existent no memberships have been sold as yet. Also another month should give us all more chance to see just what the Covid situation is, so by the time the next lot of 'ramblings' are due I should be able to give everyone the details of the latest membership package

More general news will be in next month's ramblings when hopefully things will be looking even better than when you read this.

Jim Blanchard