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NEWS

STEVE'S SUCCESS WITH SEBASTOPOL GOOSE

A Sebastopol Goose owned by Steve Dace has won the Best in Show award at the British Waterfowl Association event in Solihull.

Steve, from Stockport, is relatively new to waterfowl and has only been showing geese since his debut attempt at last year's National Show.

He keeps and breeds Sebastopols but had never attended an all-waterfowl show before the BWA show. He was duly elated when his bird was placed on Championship Row by judge Marcus Walker.

Steve's bird had to complete two steps – winning Best Sebastopol and Best Heavy Goose or Gander (a Chinese Gander also went to Championship Row). After progressing to



Steve Dace's winning Sebastopol Goose at the BWA Show

the third stage, the bird was up against the category winners of the other classes... but finally emerged as the winner.

Waterfowl galore at sale

Grant Brereton reports from the Graham Hicks Retirement Sale at Oswestry in Shropshire

To anyone who doesn't know Graham Hicks, he's been the underpinning of the waterfowl section at the large poultry shows for decades. He would enter teams of 200 or more birds and win many prizes, but for years now, he's given the rosettes back to the respective breed clubs rather than taking them home - a most commendable approach.

Hicks Waterfowl World was one of (if not the) largest collection of waterfowl in Europe and Graham's stock was second to none.

Graham decided to retire last year, and has just held a major retirement sale of his stock. You really had to be there to witness the quality and variety of the 1,300 or more birds for auction. Not only were the standardised duck and goose breeds of a very high quality and



Keith Burgess with his new runner duck

in thriving condition, but Graham also showcased his efforts in new colours of certain varieties, particularly the Pekin ducks, in which he had created new colours after five years of judicious breeding. These were a magnificent sight.

Some impressive prices were reached, including £500 for a pair of Embden geese, £480 for a pair of grey Steinbacher geese, £470 for a pair of Toulouse geese, £280 for a pair of Trout Indian runner ducks, £120 for a pair of white miniature crested ducks, and £100 for a pair of butterscotch Call ducks.

The overwhelming (although not surprising) price of £1,500 was achieved for the much talked about black and white Muscovy drake that has won many prizes for Graham, including the prestigious award of 'Best Waterfowl' at the National and Federation shows of 2011. This bird was bought by a syndicate whose aim was to give the bird back to Graham. He was duly overcome by the gesture! Happy retirement Graham.



The Superstar Muscovy which fetched £1,500

IN BRIEF

250 CLASSES ON SHOW AT WELSH WINTER FAIR

There are more than 100 breeds and varieties of poultry in Britain and lots more worldwide – and many of them can be seen at the poultry show at this month's Royal Welsh Winter Fair.

More than 250 classes and special awards have been scheduled for the event on the second day of the two-day fair on November 26 and 27 on the showground at Llanelwedd, Builth Wells.

The poultry show includes a waterfowl section organised in conjunction with the British Waterfowl Association. There is a junior section too, with competitors judged on the quality of their exhibit, their knowledge of the bird they are showing, its preparation and their handling skills.

MORE: www.rwas.co.uk

WINTER CLASSICS

The Federation Show - one of two 'winter classic' poultry events - takes place at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, on December 15 and 16. This comes four weeks after the National Show - which was due to be held on November 17 and 18 at Stoneleigh.

The 'Fed' is a great social event, with rows of top quality stock, many trade stands, a large sale section, cafes, bars and restaurants.

LETTERS

Email: editorial.csh@archant.co.uk

I agree wholeheartedly with Andy Cawthray in his observations about the design and claims of various chicken houses (*Ruffled Feathers*, November issue). One point I would like to make is this: Why do companies that one would think should know about chicken house design continue to sell houses with very basic design flaws? This particularly concerns the relationship between roosting bars and nest box height.

Great article in a great magazine!

Keith Eggington, by email