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**Plus** – your pictures from the VBC Club Show in November  
– and the Pied Show of Great Britain Schedule and Entry form!

**NOTE** : the final date for submission of articles for publication in the September 2003 edition of the Variegated Post is *1<sup>st</sup> September 2003*  
Anything received after this date will not be able to be included in that issue.

*The Cover Drawing was provided by Eric Peake from an original drawing which was sold at the Budgerigar Society Convention in Scarborough in 1995.*

**Ad - mathie**

**THE VARIEGATED BUDGERIGAR CLUB**  
**Founded : 1969**  
**Associate Member of the Budgerigar Society**  
**Affiliated to the N.C.A.**

<b>President</b>	:	Mr G. Norris
<b>President Elect</b>	:	Mr D. Mathie
<b>Chairman</b>	:	Mr W.Green.
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	:	Mr G.Capes.
<b>General Secretary,:</b>		Mr I. Fielding
<b>Minutes Secretary</b>		16 Pilkington Road, Southport.
<b>Editor/ Slide Show Controller</b>		Merseyside. PR8 6PD Tel 01704 548327
<b>Patronage Secretary:</b>		Mrs P.Fielding Address & Tel.No as above.
<b>Subscriptions Secretary:</b>		Mr A.W.Taylor 3 Green Park Drive, Maghull, Liverpool. L31 8EN Tel: 0151 526 0866
<b>Treasurer :</b>		Mr E. Simister 15 Langdale Ave. Croston. Lancashire. 01772 600610
<b>Trophy Steward :</b>		Mr G.Bradley 8 Ramsey Ave. Farnworth. Bolton. BL4 9RB Tel: 01204 435773
<b>Publicity Officer:</b>		Mr I.Fielding Tel: 01704 548327

Ad – IF/PF

**Officials of the V.B.C. 2002-2003**

**Honorary Life Members.**

Mrs C.Adams, Mr P.Adams, Mr J.Broadhurst, Mr T. Ormerod. Mr D.G.Stiling,

**Life Vice Presidents.**

Mr.G.Al-Nasser, Mr.W.S.Bancroft, Mr.P.Davis, Mr.A.Fullilove, Mr.C.McDowie,  
Mr.F.Punchard.

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Mrs.L.Bancroft, Mr.J.Bird, Mr.J.Bonner, Mr.L.Bradley, Mr G. Capes, Mrs P.Clements  
Mr W.Clements, Mrs. J.Elsmore, Mr. I.Fielding, Mrs P.Fielding, Mr.W.Green,  
Mr W.Green. (Bill), Mr.M.K.Ingham, Mr E. Simister, Mr.G.White.

**Committee.**

Mr R.Clarke, Mrs S.Clarke, Mr D.Stiling,

**N.C.A. Representative.:**

The Budgerigar Society

**Ballot Scrutineers:**

N.C.A.

**Auditors:**

Mrs A.Winwood. Mrs S. McClellan

**Area Group Organisers.**

**Southern Area:**

Mrs.J.Elsmore  
19 Dulverton Rd.  
Ruislip. Middlesex. HA4 9AE  
Tel. 01895 632905

**Scottish Area:**

Mr D.Mathie.  
2 Craigton Gardens.  
Milngavie.  
Glasgow. G62 7AS.  
Tel: 0141 956 1579

**East Midlands:**

Vacant at present time  
Anyone interested to contact the  
General Secretary as soon as possible

**North West Area:**

Vacant at present time  
Anyone interested to contact the  
General Secretary as soon as possible

**North East:**

Vacant at present time  
Anyone interested to contact the  
General Secretary as soon as possible

**Wales**

Vacant at present time  
Anyone interested to contact the  
General Secretary as soon as possible

**Add – Derek Stiling**

## Editorial

*by Ian Fielding.*

Hello again all – I hope you have all had a good Christmas – and may I take the opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year.

For all of you who start to breed early in the year may your nest boxes are filled with full eggs – or youngsters, I've heard some breeders find their birds thriving and others struggling – a standard tale at this time of the year.

Well – back to the VBC – we seem to be holding our own as the largest Specialist Club in the fancy and I hope that we continue to thrive.

As you will see in this issue of the magazine – the committee and I would like to encourage you all to come to the AGM and Pied Show in April in Coventry. The day starts with the birds being Judged by our President – Gren Norris – after which a buffet Lunch will be served – then the Meeting – which is pleasantly short in time – but the most important one in the clubs calendar.

I have taken the liberty of including the agenda for the meeting and would be pleased if items for inclusion could be sent in by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003.

Also you will see some more interesting articles on the “Pieds” – including one from a friend in the USA Gordon Davies – who has some very interesting discussions on the Pied varieties. I hope you enjoy these

Have any of you visited the VBC website – this is at [www.variegatedbc.co.uk](http://www.variegatedbc.co.uk), at the time of going to press, we have had a good number of visitors – but obviously would like feedback as to what you – the members would like to see on it.

Please e-mail with your comments! *I.fielding@blueyonder.co.uk*

Yours

*Ian Fielding.*





# Dates for Your Diary

## Committee Meetings in 2002/2003

*Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> 2003 – 13<sup>th</sup> Coventry Scout Hall, Parkville Highway, Coventry.*

10.00am until 12.30pm

*(Prior to A.G.M at 1.00pm)*

## **V.B.C. - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2003**

*Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> 2003*

Starts 1.00pm (usually 1-1½ hours)

*13<sup>th</sup> Coventry Scout Hall, Parkville Highway, Coventry*

*Lunch will be available from 12.30pm*

### **Also Pied Show of Great Britain**

The be held on the morning of the AGM – Judge G. Norris

Schedules and details in February 2003 Varigated Post

Will non-committee members requiring lunch please let the

General Secretary know 1 week prior to the AGM to allow for extra refreshments.

**Please try to attend – This is the only time when members can voice their feelings about society issues;  
whether good or bad.**

## Directions to the A.G.M. Venue.

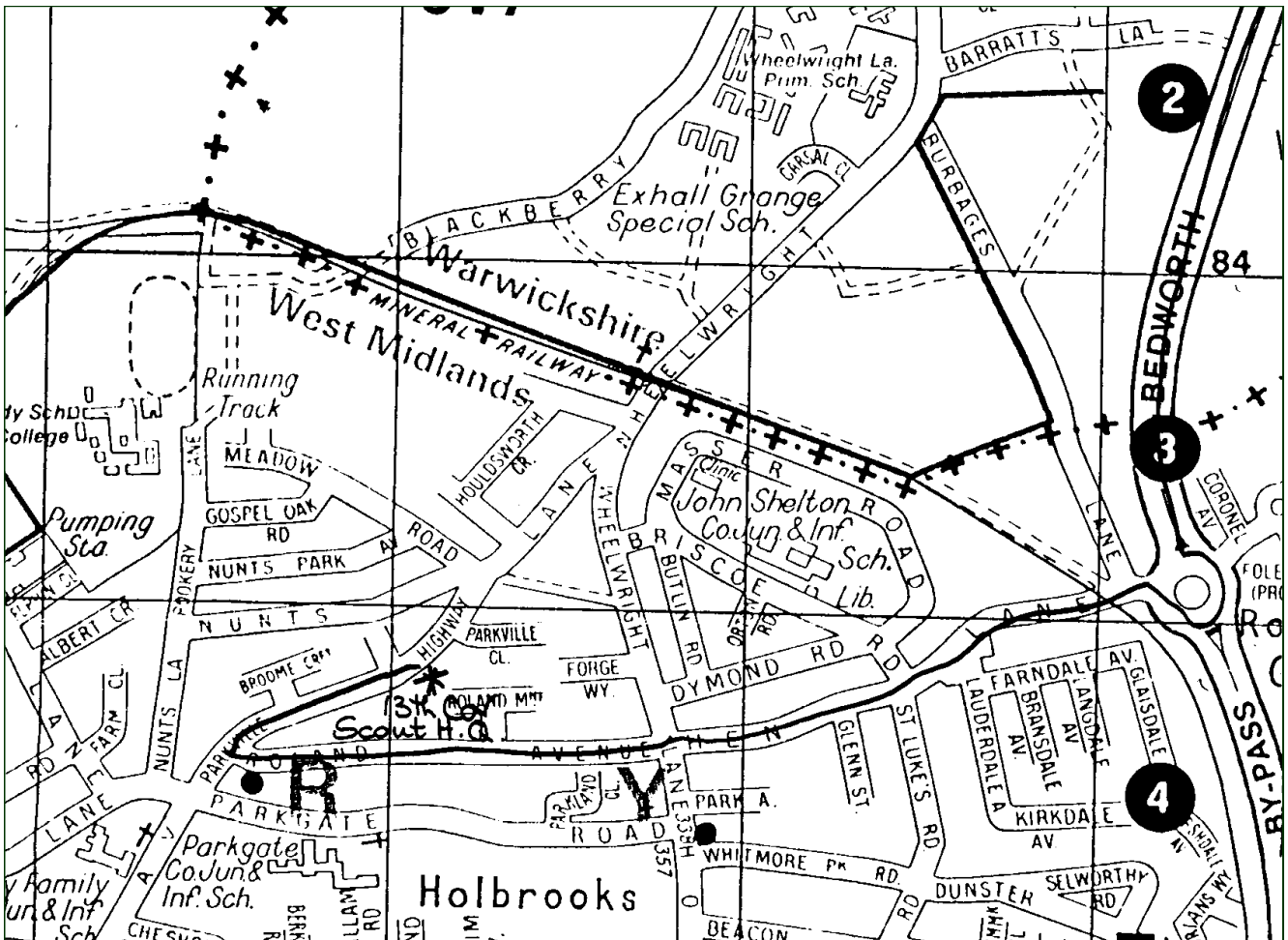
From the M6, Junction 3 – follow the Bedworth Bypass towards Coventry.

Turn right at the first roundabout, passing under the railway bridge into Hen Lane.

At the Traffic Lights continue straight over into Roland Avenue.

At the “T” junction turn right into Parkville Highway – A garage is situated on the right.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Coventry Scout Headquarters is on the right at the end of the older houses.



## Agenda for the 2003 Annual General Meeting of the Variegated Budgerigar Club

The Chairman asks the President to formally open the Meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence
2. President's Address.
3. Minutes of the AGM held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2002 – as per 2002 Year Book
4. Matters Arising.
5. To receive the Annual Reports from:
  - a) General Secretary
  - b) Auditors
  - c) Treasurer. Submit Accounts.
  - d) Subscription Secretaries
  - e) Patronage Secretary.
  - f) Editor/Slide Show Controller
  - g) Press Officer
  - h) Area Group Organisers
6. Correspondence.
7. Election of Officers & Committee

Mr Gren Norris to present the Chain of Office to the New President Mr D. Mathie

<u>Position</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
President	Douglas Mathie		
President Elect	Sue Clarke	Rod Clarke	Ian Fielding
Chairman	Bill Green		
Vice-Chairman	Geoff Capes		
General Secretary	Ian Fielding		
Minutes Secretary	Ian Fielding		
Treasurer	Eric Simister		
Subscriptions Secretary	Alan Taylor		
Patronage Secretary	Pat Fielding		
Editor	Ian Fielding		
Slide Show Controller	Ian Fielding		
Press Officer	Ian Fielding		
Trophy Steward	G.Bradley		
Auditors	Mrs Winwood		
	Mrs McClelland		
Honorary Life Members	Mr P. & Mrs C. Adams		
	Mr D.G.Stiling		
	Mr T.Ormerod		
	Mr J. Broadhurst		
Life Vice-Presidents	Mr.G.Al-Nasser, Mr.W.S.Bancroft, Mr.P.Davis, Mr.A.Fullilove, Mr.C.McDowie, Mr.F.Punchard.		
Vice-Presidents	Mrs.L.Bancroft, Mr.J.Bird,		

	Mr.J.Bonner, Mr.L.Bradley, Mr G. Capes, Mrs P.Clements Mr W.Clements, Mrs. J.Elsmore, Mr. I.Fielding, Mrs P.Fielding, Mr.W.Green, Mr W.Green. (Bill), Mr.M.K.Ingham, Mr.G.White.		
Committee	Standing		
	D. Stiling		
	R. Clarke		
	S. Clarke		
Ballot Scrutineers	NCA		
Area Group Organisers			
Southern	J. Elsmore		
Scottish			
North West			
North East			
Wales			
East Midlands			

8. Subscriptions.
9. Honoraria
10. V.B.C. Yearbook - Comments.
11. Specialist & Rare Varieties Open Show
12. B.S. Show and V.B.C. Club Show 2003
13. V.B.C. Stand - where has it been
14. VBC Website.
15. Roll of Honour
16. Annual General Meeting 2004
17. Committee Meetings 2003 – 2004
18. V.B.C. Member of the Year
19. Any Other Business.

**Please send any items for the Agenda to the Secretary by the**

**6<sup>th</sup> April 2003**

## *New VBC merchandise!*

As you will have read earlier - we now have VBC Mugs!



These are in full colour, with the Club Colour Logo - drawn by Eric Peake - These are available from the General Secretary at a cost of £5.00 incl P&P in the UK, and £6.00 (12 euros) incl P&P rest of world. **Note - These are not Dishwasher Safe**

See a colour picture of these on the VBC Website -

[www.variegatedbc.co.uk](http://www.variegatedbc.co.uk)

We also now have our own **VBC Pied Breeding Registers**, these will take up to 26 Pairs and are colour coded to the UK Colour of Rings for the particular year. These are £1.50 incl P&P.

**See these at the VBC Stand.**

# THE VARIEGATED POST & YEAR BOOK

## ADVERTISING RATES

	All 3 issues	2 issues	1 issue	
FULL PAGE -	£25.00	£17.50		£10.00
HALF PAGE -	£15.00	£10.00		£ 7.50

For your advertisement to appear in the next issue, please send a clear copy of your advertisement together with appropriate fees to the EDITOR as soon as possible.

## IMPORTANT

**CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING THE V.B.C SHOULD BE SENT TO THE CORRECT OFFICIAL CONCERNED.**

**Subscriptions, Orders for VBC Badges, etc.** should be sent to the Subscriptions Secretary : Mr A.W.Taylor. 3 Green Park Drive, Maghull, Liverpool. L31 8EN. Tel: 0151 526 0866

*Note ; Replies and receipts will only be sent directly when an S.A.E. is enclosed - otherwise you will receive them with your next VP.*

**Patronage Enquiries**, should be sent to Mrs P.Fielding, 16 Pilkington Road. Southport. Merseyside. PR8 6PD. Tel:01704 548327.

**Items for the Agenda at the A.G.M. and queries about Society issues :** should be sent to Mr Ian Fielding, 16 Pilkington Road. Southport. Merseyside. PR8 6PD. Tel:01704 548327.

**Items for inclusion in the V.P.** should be sent to the Editor, Ian Fielding, Address and Tel. No. as above.

## **Have you won a lot of these?**



### **Now what do you do??**

**For Every 20 Gold or 20 Silver Badge Award Cards that you have – you will receive an actual Gold or Silver Badge – to claim these simply put the required number of awards in an Envelope and send to the Patronage Secretary.**

**She will then endorse the back of these cards, returning them to you, along with the badge Awards, and keep a note of what you have been issued.**

**Once you have been awarded 1 Gold and 1 Silver Badge then you are qualified to be put on the Roll of Honour, the more times you win Gold and Silver Badge Awards the more times your name will appear on the Roll of Honour!**

**The Roll of Honour is on Display at the AGM, and on the Society Stand at the Club Show and Specialist & Rare Show**

## Patronage 1



## Patronage 2

## *Articles from the NET.*

*I have been involved on a Web-ring or discussion about Budgerigars for quite a while now – and have found Gordon Davies from the USA has some very interesting thoughts on the Pied Varieties. I hope you find these of interest also.*

*Firstly some correspondence between myself and Gordon – and his thoughts on the VBC website – [www.variegatedbc.co.uk](http://www.variegatedbc.co.uk)*

*Hello Ian,*

Thank you for your comments and the opportunity to discuss my favorite subject with another who enjoys the same mutations as I.

A. I enjoyed your web site and was particularly interested in your comments and pictures regarding your experience with the Clearflighted Dominant Pied. Those are very nice pictures of very nice birds.

B. I cannot understand how your judges could make such a terrible error as to think that these birds had any resemblance to Spangle. They are beautiful and clearly Dominant Dutch Pied, prime examples of the Frosted Variety. To consider them as Dominant Australian is even a more gross error.

I have witnessed the very same thing happening here at a special national show.

C. The dark eyed clear should NEVER be placed in the same section as the Recessive Danish Pied. Even though it is indeed a Recessive Pied it is also a Clearflighted Dutch Pied and as such deserves a special section all to itself.

D. A while ago I prepared an article on this special Clearflighted Dutch Pied variety for our ABS publication. I will redo the article and then send it on to you for your interest and pleasure.

E. Last December I visited with Ghalib and Janice during my very short visit to the UK. I was able to arrange for some imports from John Evans and others which I hope will be doing better as they become acclimated to the breeding conditions here in Florida.

Thank you for the exchange,

Gordon Davis

Here are some of his replies to questions – I hope you find them useful and interesting.

Re:The Pied Budgerigars-Australian Dominant, Dutch Clearflight, and Danish Recessive

A. There are two forms of Dominant Pied. Australian Dominant Pied and Clearflighted Dutch Pied.

B. The Australian Dominant Pied is autosomal dominant and will reproduce 100% single factor DP when in double factor form or fifty per cent (500 per 1,000 statistically) when in single factor form. The single factor is a much more descriptive bird as the pied features become less impressive when exhibited in double factor form.

C. The Clearflighted Dutch Pied is the most difficult of all budgerigars to breed to perfection as the six characteristics which make it a dominant pied appear to lie on six separate chromosomes or at least are quite different sets of genes. The six separate features that determine the quality of a clearflighted pied (CF) are the following: Eye Color, Breast Color, Primary Wing Flights, Primary Tail Flights, Wing Grizzling, and Intrusion of Body Color. (The frosted form of this mutation is considered by most budgerigar enthusiasts to be the ULTIMATE in color budgerigars.)

D. The Recessive Danish Pied (Harlequin) is autosomal recessive and is quite distinguishable from the dominant forms in that this pied bird always has a solid black eye and pinkish colored legs and feet. The males are usually lighter in color than the females. It is quite a challenge to acquire adequate throat spots for this recessive mutation.

E. Australian Dominant Pieds should never be mixed or crossed with CF or RP birds. Such a cross becomes a real devastation to successive breeding.

F. CF piers and RP piers when bred together produce quite a different colored bird, the Dark Eyed Clear. This bird, genetically, is a Clearflighted Dutch Pied Recessive Danish Pied, a beautiful clear yellow (GREEN), Yellow Face White (BLUE), or white (BLUE) budgerigar. This mutation also has the clear black eye and pinkish legs and feet of the RP.

G. Piers are very interesting budgerigars to enjoy and await your contribution for the perfection of their breeding. Please come aboard.

***From Dan S – in response to above:***

Thank you for your description of the peds. I would never presume to question your expertise-especially with regard to the clearflighted ped of which I know you have raised more than anyone in the states. So may you could clarify a few points. I too have found that the clearflighted is a composite of several factors, i.e., the head spot, clearflights, clear tail feathers, the chest color or extension of the bib into the chest sometimes following around the neck and referred to as a collar, and the grizzling or intrusion of body color into the wing.

Questions: (1) Dr. Travnicek who also specialized in clearflights often referred to the frosting in the wing. Is this frosting the same as what was once referred to as grizzling? My first Dutch peds in the mid 60s had this grizzling.

(2) Do you believe that all Dutch peds carry the various factors but keep them hidden in some form? The reason I ask this is that many of my peds do not show the various factors until they begin to age. Moreover, birds showing nothing more than a head spot will at time produce fully marked peds.

(3) Do you believe the Dutch or clearflighted ped to be the same mutation as the one often described in the British publications? It seems the British describes this bird as a normal looking bird with clear flights and tail feathers and a head spot.

Personally I have never seen such a marked bird. All of the Dutch-clearflighted peds I have seen, besides those which may show only a head spot, have somebody intrusion into the wing. The best marked peds I have raised have some recessive ped in their background though they may or may not be split for recessive ped.

Thanks again.

Dan S.

***From Gordon in reply:***

Hello Dan,

So good to have your reply to my material on the PIED. My simple response was very active in promoting interest as I have heard from three very interesting respondents including my favorite contemporary, Dan Scholtes.

I am responding to all three and will send you copies of my responses for your amusement and interest.

A. Your first question relates to the matter of frosting on the clearflighted Dutch dominant pied. This frosting, when exhibited in full bloom form, produces the most exciting of all the budgerigar mutations. During the recent New Orleans Show it was my pleasure to spend some time with Bob Travnicek and to discuss the gentle points of the clearflight and their breeding. Trav is still serving as custodian for some of these special birds with the help of Vic Lasalle. They are well on their way to regain and produce more of these beautiful mutations.

The matter of frosting and its sources is still not real clear to me. Clearflights with FROSTING have come forth in my aviary on very rare occasions. Such birds were usually split for Recessive Danish Pied and often were double factor clearflights as well. Our good friend, Crawford Maddux, who has probably produced more good clearflights than all of us together has made the point that FROSTED CLEARFLIGHTS ARE ALSO OPALINE IN MOST cases when frosted well.

All clearflights have some grizzling on the wing. This appears to be the most distinguishing feature of the clearflight. Even those that lack the head spot, a disqualifying requirement for the variety, have this wide border grizzling of the wings. Even those that lack the clear primaries in the wing and tail have the wide margins of color on the wings. It does not appear to me that grizzling and frosting are the same; the grizzling is more of a pattern for wing coloration while frosting is more of a complete special coloration of most all feathers including the grizzled wings. The head, the body, and the rump.

B. It has for some time appeared to me that all clearflights possess the genes for all five of the factors (head spot, body color, wing grizzling, primary wings, and primary tails. However, I do believe that the genes for these features, although they may lie recessive and hidden, probably lie on more than one chromosome. As you suggest, the birds with the least desirable markings often produce young much better than themselves, and those that are better marked often produce less than themselves.

However, the clearflighted along with the recessive Danish are the sources of our beautiful snow white and lemon yellow dark eyed clears. Apparently here the genes necessary for this transformation of color patterns are present in hidden form to produce such a rare mutation.

C. Since both ABS and BAA have accepted and adopted the Colour Standards, 1998, Pages 23 and 24, we should be breeding a bird with solid color on the breast, body, and rump. As with you, I, too, have never seen an exhibition quality clearflight without some patches of variegation on the body and breast. However, I have seen a good many small non-exhibition pet quality pied birds with such specific marking.

At this time my own inventory of clearflighted piers is not of real exhibition quality. It is hoped that the next year will get things back on track for improved quality with more productivity. Hope springs eternal !!!!!

Hope to see you in Denver as we cheer Fred to victory on the bench.  
Gordon

**I hope you have enjoyed this article – and would like comments – either directly to me – or via the Club Website – [www.variegatedbc.co.uk](http://www.variegatedbc.co.uk)**

**Have a look on the web for info on Budgerigars - there are lots of people interested in the same birds as ourselves – and the discussion groups are a great way to share valuable knowledge.**

## FORTY YEARS WITH PIEDS

### They persist in maintaining their presence, says Ken Gray

It was in 1961 after seeing an advert in *Cage Birds*, (as it was then called) that my wife and I purchased our first pair of Danish Pies, a variety that took my eye when I first saw R. A. Vowles' illustrations of them. It was a few years later that they became officially known as Recessive Pies.

Our first Danish Pies were obtained from a fancier in Epping, an exhibitor, who was selling up to go on a world cruise. He was a building contractor and presumably had reached retirement age. I remember wondering at the time whether his sale of birds was intended to finance the venture or just augment his spending money. At that time I thought it was the first objective, but later I realised they were sold at a fair price.

They were a pair of Danish Pied Skyblues, with what I later realised were ideal markings according to the published Standard. The Danish Pies were our third buy. Our initial purchase was a job lot of a dozen Budgerigars the previous year. I had restarted with Budgerigars after a break since 1940 due to the war and its aftermath.

The job lot contained a pair of Yellow-wing Greens and a Yellowface Skyblue cock, my first introduction to both varieties. Reading Watmough's *The Cult of the Budgerigar*, I was intrigued by the description of the Goldenface Rainbow, and we were soon making the journey to Keston in Kent to find out what the well-known bird farm had to offer. The Goldenface Rainbows were our second purchase, preceding the Danish Pies..

We had no intention of showing our birds - we just loved the colour and the markings, both of our Rainbows and Goldenface Rainbows and of our Danish Pies. It was not until the 1970s, after the late Cyril Rogers had persuaded us to exhibit our Goldenface Rainbows at the National Exhibition, that we first showed a pied. It was at the same show at Alexandra Palace. in North London. All pies were at that time exhibited in the Rare and Non-Standardised section.

By that time, after ten or more years of breeding, I had transferred both the violet and the goldenface blue genes to our pies. The lovely Danish Pied Goldenface Violet young cock we showed brought a special mention in the show report in *Cage Birds*. It was rather a small bird, but what lovely colour and markings! Of course, transferring the goldenface genes from our Gf Rainbows meant that we had also transferred the Clearwing gene, so we had doubled up on recessive genes to the detriment of size, although we managed to avoid transferring the light wing markings.

We soon had added Australian Pies to our collection. Some lovely marked birds. We had by then joined Colchester CBS and showed a few of both pied varieties - the first seen there.

I had toyed with the idea of breeding some Dark-Eyed Clears, after talking about them to Cyril Rogers. On one of his visits to our aviary at Tiptree Heath, he had said the he and his wife were going on to visit another fancier in Essex, who was one of only a few breeding the variety.

During a visit to an elderly fancier at Clacton, thirty miles away and only a short distance from where I now live, who had previously purchased some of our Rainbows, I noticed a cock bird with a clear head patch, but otherwise just like a Normal. Could it possibly be a poorly marked Continental Clearflight? I had to find out.

Following the sequence of pairings of Clearflight to Recessive Pied (as they had by that time been renamed), recommended by the experts, we were blessed with our first Dark-Eyed Clear - and a collection of birds obviously possessing the Clearflight gene, some with varying numbers of clear flights. The word 'Continental' was dropped by the BS at about this time.

I must emphasise that size had never been the first consideration with us - the purity of colour and markings rated much higher in our opinion. We had obtained the Clearflight gene, but it had not come from a stud of well-marked or large birds. I do not know whether such a stud actually existed. That did not bother us as I had obtained the gene so as to breed the Dark-Eyed Clears, but it did seem to bother some other people, so we seldom exhibited our birds other than at local shows.

We, or more truthfully I, as I lost my dear wife and partner in the fancy in 1983, worked on the Clearflights to improve their markings and, secondarily, their size. Some did fairly well at the Specialist and Rare Variety Shows, where there are classes for each separate variety and they are not expected to compete directly against massive Dominant Pieds, except for the CC. One of them, a well-marked bird, the next year, actually took best Clearflight at the Rare Variety and Colour BS members' show and seminar, against quite strong competition. That was the year before that society dropped the variety from its list.

Last year. 2001, after 40 years with piers, extending over all four show varieties, my last Dark-Eyed Clear died and I had no piers of any variety left in my aviary. To discontinue breeding piers was a reluctant decision, but I knew that due to age and family reasons (I had remarried some years earlier) I needed to reduce my commitments. Clearwings and Goldenface Rainbows are my first preference, so varieties that were not of direct assistance as outcrosses to them had to go.

That was the end of piers for me - or so I thought.

Last year, 2001, on a visit to Bill Green, who was taking me down to a South Eastern BC meeting where I was due to give the evening's talk, he offered me as a present a Yellowface Mutant I Violet Cobalt cock, surplus to his requirements. He suggested that it would increase the gene pool in my stud. Not being one to look a gift horse in the mouth (or a good budgerigar in the



beak), I gratefully accepted it. He told me that it was split Recessive Pied and that one of its grandfathers was a Harry Bryan bird. How could I refuse such a gift?

This year, despite cutting down my breeding programme drastically, I paired it to a Skyblue hen. After hatching one chick, that hen died. I then paired the cock to the only other Skyblue hen I had. That did better. Of the five chicks bred in the first round, the middle one turned out to be a Recessive Pied. - rather heavily marked, but undoubtedly a Recessive Pied.

From where had the hen inherited its pied gene? A look back through my records showed that the hen had come from a pairing to breed Slates - yes. Slates! Tracing it's ancestry further back I eventually arrived at the Clearflight Cobalt hen of my breeding to which Cyril Rogers had paired the fertile Slate cock of the two he had received from Holland early in 1992. That Clearflight hen would almost certainly have been split Recessive as the Clearflight strain had been used to breed the Dark-Eyed Clears.

So the inheritance of the Recessive Pied gene went back a full ten years and a number of generations. The gene had not left my aviary. It was lurking there all the time.

It was this interesting, but not exactly remarkable, occurrence when mentioned to Bill Green, prompted him to suggest that I write of it to the editor. That, in turn, prompted me to record the above story of my pied experiences of the last 40-odd years. I hope that it has not bored you.

Mr K Gray

## Letter from Australia

# Variegated Budgerigar Club.

- a progressive Society to cater for the real needs of all Breeders and Exhibitors of Pied Budgerigars.

<b>Membership Fees:</b>	Single	£7.00
	Partnerships	£10.00
	Husband & Wife	£9.00
	Senior Citizen	£5.50
	Disabled Members	£5.50
	Juniors	Free – <i>but Juniors must register their intention to be a member with the Subscriptions Secretary each year.</i>

Life Membership 20 times ordinary fee.

Handbooks £3.00 plus postage

Club Badge £1.25 Plus Postage

Please enclose an S.A.E. at all times, except for Handbooks. Please make cheque/P.O./Drafts payable to:

**VARIEGATED BUDGERIGAR CLUB.**

Fees must accompany application to the Subscriptions Secretary:

**Mr A.W. Taylor. 3 Green Park Drive, Maghull, Liverpool. L31 8EN. Tel 0151 526 0866**

=====

### APPLICATION FORM

Please enrol/renew me as a Member of the V.B.C.

for which I enclose £ . p in Sterling only.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

## Notes