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NOTE : the final date for submission of articles for publication in the March 2005 edition of the Variegated Post is ***15th February 2005***
Anything received after this date may not be able to be included in that issue.

The Colour Cover Drawing was provided by Eric Peake from an original drawing which was donated to the VBC in 2000.

Advert - eric

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

President : Mrs S. Clarke
President Elect : Mr D. Mathie
Chairman : Mr W.Green.
Vice Chairman : Mr G.Capes.

General Secretary,: Mr I. Fielding
Minutes Secretary 16 Pilkington Road, Southport.
Editor/ Slide Show Controller Merseyside. PR8 6PD
Publicity Officer Tel 01704 548327
Email i.fielding@blueyonder.co.uk

Patronage Secretary: Mrs P.Fielding
Address & Tel.No as above.
Email p.fielding@blueyonder.co.uk

Subscriptions Secretary: Mr A.W.Taylor
3 Green Park Drive,
Maghull, Liverpool. L31 8EN
Tel: 0151 526 0866
Email alanwtaylor@blueyonder.co.uk

Treasurer : Mr E. Simister
15 Langdale Ave.
Croston.
Lancashire.
01772 600610

Trophy Steward : Vacant at Present time

Officials of the V.B.C. 2004-2005

Honorary Life Members.

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

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Mr W.Green. (Bill), Mr.M.K.Ingham, Mr G. Norris, Mr E. Simister, Mr.G.White.

Committee.

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

Ballot Scrutineers:

The Parrot Society.

Auditors:

Mr W.H. Pearce, Mrs J. Pearce

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

North West Area:

Anyone interested to contact the

North East:

General Secretary as soon as possible

Wales

Advert Fielding

Editorial

by Ian Fielding.

Dear Members,

I hope the season has gone well and that your birds have done well on the show bench. Admittedly the numbers of birds being shown has diminished this year – but hopefully fancier will be pleased that there hasn't really been any problems and that 2005 will be a Revitalised year with the shows coming back up in numbers, with renewed vigour.

The VBC ourselves have managed to stay pretty solvent as a club, and we hope that many fanciers who have not rejoined will do so at Doncaster in readiness for 2005. All of you should have received your VBC Yearbook/Handbook back in May this year, it would be nice to hear from members exactly what they thought – and I you found it a useful addition to the publications that we produce. Please send me your comments.

As Editor I am still trying to obtain some new articles as ever – I especially wanted some on the Frosted Pied's – but so far not received any from fanciers who said they would send me something ☹.

As ever we will have our Society Stand at the BS Club Show – which is also our own Club Show – and this means that our Trophies will again be on display an up for grabs – please ensure that if you won any at the 2002 Show that you return these in a clean condition.

If you have anything – good or bad to say about the society – I would like to have your comments – all will be aired in the magazine and hopefully will get some comments.

I look forward to hearing from you all,

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

Yours

Ian Fielding.

VBC Club Show
Held in Conjunction with the BS Club Show

At the Dome,

Doncaster,

November 13/14th 2004

Please come along,
Support this event,
Attend the VBC Stand – pay your
Subscriptions, meet Pied Breeders
and See What Excellent Birds will be on
Show

Please remember to bring along your
Trophies won in 2002

Dates for Your Diary

Committee Meetings in 2004/2005

Sunday April 10th 2005 – Loddington Village Hall. Northants

Directions in February Variegated Post.

10.00am until 12.30pm

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

V.B.C. - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2005

Sunday April 10th 2005

Starts 1.00pm (usually 1-1½ hours)

Loddington Village Hall. Northants

Lunch will be available from 12.30pm

Also Pied Show of Great Britain

The be held on the morning of the AGM – Judge S. Clarke

Schedules and details in February 2005 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.**

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 £4.50 incl P&P in the UK, and £5.50 (10 euros) incl P&P rest of world.

See a colour picture of these on the VBC Website -

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 at the Specialist & Rare Variety Show and the VBC/BS Club Show.

The VBC has gone Computerised!

VBC Slide Show now available on CD-Rom

For those who have seen the VBC Slide Show on loan to societies over the years it has proved to be dated and I find myself difficult to update.

So what we are have done is to scan the original set of slides - add text pages, including breeding expectations etc, update the pictures with ones



from members own Web Sites, and new ones taken on digital camera.

The CD-Roms are available from the general Secretary at a cost of £6.00 including postage and packing. These can be used at Club meetings, or for loan to members and may prove useful to those newcomers to PIEDS who would like to learn more about them

Patronage corner

We are almost through the show season and returns are coming in thick and fast. The postman is staggering up the drive daily with large envelopes containing rosettes, schedules and catalogues. He doesn't need to know anything about birds to know that the show season is back up and running.

There has been quite a few piers benched at shows up and down the country. It is good to see them back on the show bench in reasonable numbers after the no season of 2003.

From a patronage secretary point of view this year has been harder than most. Some clubs for example have lost their experienced show staff. The new inexperienced show staff (and some old experienced hands) has filled in the returns incorrectly. 10% of return forms have not had the society name on the form. I have only known where it has come from because either there is a catalogue in the envelope or in one case a clear postmark.

3% of Societies have allocated VBC patronage to exhibitors that have not nominated VBC. Because there was no club show in 2003 we have had a few members nominate VBC who were not paid up members. Most of these normally pay at the club stand but as there was no show have simply forgot. All these things have made extra work as I have had to write to the Societies and Exhibitors alike to ensure that only paid up VBC members receive awards.

The VBC patronage is now computerised to some extent. All details from the return form are entered on the database. This should make it easier to allocate the VBC trophies for most points in the

dominant and recessive breeders. I can also see at a glance the number of recessive and dominant peds benched in any area etc. It should in time make is simpler to check the gold and silver award cards when they come in for verification and issue of the medals.

Don't forget that when you have collected 20 gold or 20 silver badge award cards you should send them in to claim your Gold or silver medal. When you have claimed both a gold and silver medal your name is engraved on the roll of honour. There is no limit to the number of gold and silver badges you can claim.

I still wish to relinquish the position of Patronage secretary as I am developing my career by doing an advanced diploma. At this time I am not sure how much time I will need to dedicate to this venture which takes precedence over the bird stuff. If there is someone out there who could take over from me please contact the General Secretary or myself on 01704 548327.

Pat Fielding.

VBC Member of the Year 2004

Pat Fielding



Sue Clarke Present the VBC Member of the Year Award to Pat Fielding at the 2004 Specialist & Rare Variety Open Show

At the AGM 2004 held in April this year the member of the Year award was presented to nominated Pat Fielding for her continued work for the Society.

Pat has been Patronage Secretary since 1993 – and has seen a number of changes in her role in that time – with new forms of Patronage allocation etc to fit in with the ever-changing pattern of Budgerigar Shows.

You will find her on the Stand at the VBC Club Show allocating the awards, not really having time to have a proper look round at the birds on the bench.

Being a very active member of the committee and having a demanding work and home life can be very hard to juggle at times – but Pat keeps smiling!

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

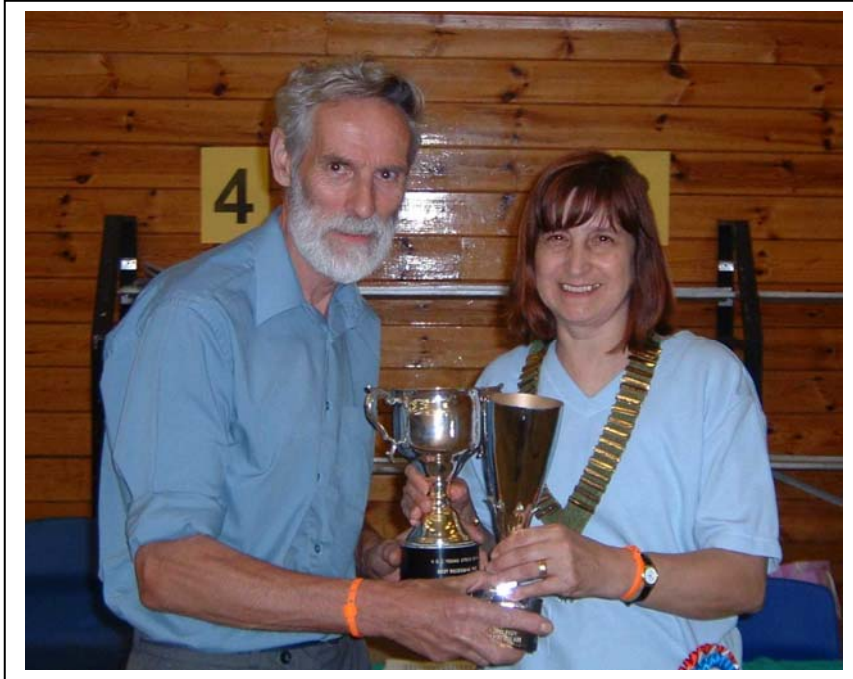
Note ; Replies and receipts will only be sent directly when an S.A.E. is enclosed - otherwise you will receive them with your next VP.

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.

Specialist & Rares 2004



Jim Rowe won Best Recessive Pied Any Age – He received his trophy from Our President Sue Clarke

Les Martin of the L&P Martin Partnership receives his trophies for Best Pied, Best Dominant Pied Any Age from Sue Clarke





Mike Mitchinson receives his trophies for Best Recessive Pied, Young Bird, Best Dark Eyed Clear, Best Dark Eyede Clear A/A and Y/B from Sue Clarke

Mike Handley receives his trophy from Sue Clarke for the Best Dominant Pied Young Bird



Other Winners included:
W & H Bien, for Best Intermediate Recessive Pied A/A & Y/B
C & D Jones for Best Dominant Pied Y/B
J. Mitchell for Best Novice Dominant Pied A/A & Y/B
S. Hedges for Best Novice Recessive Pied A/A

The Open Show.

By Pat Fielding

*The day for entries has come at last,
Entries pour in thick and fast,
The telephone rings – it never stops,
No time to visit the local shops.*

*The birds are entered in a book
No one but me gets to look
Oh no the label printers jammed,
I'll have to write them all by hand.*

*Wednesday night arrives at last,
The telephone deadline has just past,
Labels are done and posted out,
I don't know what I worried about.*

*On Saturday night some birds come in,
Staging going up – what a din,
The absentees are all deleted,
Soon the booking in will be completed.*

*Everyone walked across mats at the door,
For Biosecurity we can't do more,
The staging has been given a really good scrub,
A virus won't dare invade this club*

*The judges arrive at half past nine,
Of the show manager there is no sign,
The show secretary has just gone nutty,
Found the show manager with a bacon butty.*

*The results of the judging are coming through,
For the show office there's lots to do,
Lots of forms for the secretary to complete,
For each of the societies there is a sheet.*

*Rings are checked for the BS,
With cleaned hands? Of course - yes!
Rosettes are placed upon the cages,
This job alone seems to take for ages.*

*We are ready now to open the doors,
first a quick sweep of the floor,
The exhibitors rush to see the best,
Pushing and shoving in their quest.*

*Cups presented and the trophy book signed,
Everyone's milling around but they don't mind,
Catching up on news like fanciers do
The winner of the raffle is twenty two*

*Its now late afternoon on the day of the show,
Everyone's patiently waiting to go,
The birds they need to be booked out,
"lift your birds" the show manager has just shout.*

*The hall is empty and quiet at last,
Our open show is now in the past
We've done really well to get through the day
Our only hope we've made the show pay!*

BLAST FROM THE PAST

The following two articles I found in old editions of the Variegated Post. It would be quite interesting if the breeders of today were to comment on the words of the breeders of the past. Lets us know your comments so that we can use them in future Variegated Posts

Pat F

This Article I found in a Variegated Post issued in July 1976. I found it quite true and interesting. I hope you do too

MAKING THE GRADE.

by Alf Ormerod.

Making the grade, of course, means your climb from "beginner to champion. Plenty of scope, yes but there are snags in it, one cannot always do justice to a subject which concerns one's self, I never exhibited as a beginner, as in my early days we had only novice and champion and it was a big jump, but as a boy I had great help from some good old fanciers who led me up the right paths and I followed their advice, a thing that appears to be lacking today in a lot of our beginners who know it all after say twelve months in the hobby, I am still learning after even forty years practice and I am still a good listener to other points of view, I am pleased to say that I mated my first pairs of exhibition stock to my own ideas and it paid off, maybe I was lucky but I advise beginners now to buy matched pairs from fanciers who consistently win in breeders classes, then you are part way there.

It is often said that there is plenty of room at the top, it is well to think so, when breeding and showing budgerigars, but I sometimes wonder if this is true, fanciers who are there have not climbed to the top easily and this of course is applicable to all hobbies.

I am always on the look out for new stock to breed into my own budgies rather than resort to very close inbreeding but I do believe in judiciousness in my breeding and I have often said that fanciers who are near the top are inclined, sometimes to prevaricate a little, when it comes to inbreeding. Good hens are essential but they are difficult to purchase, as anyone near the top knows the value of good hens, it is a mistake to think that by paying a big price for a cock from a well known stud one can get good youngsters when one pairs it to a second rate hen. If one wishes to succeed with budgies or any other form of livestock for that matter, a ruthless policy is essential. Birds that do not come up to expectations should be disposed of, in fact I will go further and say that if birds transmit serious faults to their youngsters they should not be used in the breeding programme. Selling classes at shows should not be used for the disposal of birds that will not breed etc., as beginners that are unfortunate enough to purchase these birds will soon get disheartened and consequently drop out of the hobby and it will certainly not enhance the reputation of the breeder,

Personally I do not think there is anything new or different in breeding budgerigars as compared with other types of livestock, the principles are the same, genes and chromosomes do not worry me to -any great extent. I do not wish to be disrespectful to those who have delved deeply into the scientific aspect of our hobby and often discuss genes and chromosomes, but I do feel that common sense is more important than theory.

Like does not always beget like, the fancier who has built up a good strain has taken many years to get it established and has a more solid foundation than he who choose his birds haphazardly and mates merely on face value

Although I have found the hobby fascinating and budgies no less difficult to breed than other forms of top class livestock it is by no means free from worry, such as why one's best birds always seem the **first** to die when one has to lose any and why some hens scatter their eggs or will not feed the "babies and also

why some hens will accept eggs or young from different nests while others will immediately distinguish them and throw them out. Hens, like people, are temperamental, and while one cannot afford to discard a very good one because of its idiosyncrasies I feel the fewer of these we breed from the better and partners must be chosen from a flawless behavior line. It is also a mistake to set too *high* a target for a breeding season and push the pairs beyond normal limits either in the breeding cage or on the show bench, to do so is like trying to burn a candle at both ends.

Success is sweet. I do not believe in giving my fellow exhibitors a start if I can help it, and I try to get my birds in such a condition that they will invite the judges to have a good look at them. It is no use sending birds to a show if they are going to scratch on the floor like acrobats. I make my birds comfortable at home, many birds are born to win, and to reveal a good stance and composure, but others not so inclined can be greatly improved if tackled early enough and persevered with, but if they do not respond to friendly treatment they are not worth showing,

A controversy has been taking place for some time regarding the size shape and stance of the winning birds, but I honestly believe this to be in many cases, "sour grapes". I exhibit birds I think will win, I am partial to a big one rather than a small one, I like a bird with medium spots, of good shape and well positioned on a clean mask. The bird I prefer has to be elegant and remind one of a well dressed lady of character, I do not like a bird that is slim, heavy behind or flat headed. Whatever our differences of opinion, I think we must all agree on one point, we heartily recommend any beginner to join and enjoy the hobby of breeding budgerigars.

This Article was found in a Variegated Post issued January 1978.

Colour in Dominant Pieds – by Cyril Rogers

Over the last few years there have been many more poorly coloured Dominant Pies both in the Green and Blue series seen at the shows and flying in breeders aviaries. By poorly coloured I mean birds that are mainly white or yellow with only 5 - 10% dark markings instead of the required 50%. I have been asked to give an opinion as to why these birds are appearing in the nests of pairings matched to produce Dominant Pies.

To give an answer to this problem, the history of this mutation since it appeared in Great Britain has to be examined. When Australian Dominant Pies were first being bred here little was known of their hereditary behaviour beyond the fact they were thought to be Dominant and consequently in an endeavour to improve the colour they were paired to many of the existing colour mutations. This resulted in a large number of Dominant Pies being "split" for various other colours and having a host of different modifiers in their genetical makeup. For a time this mixture did produce quite reasonably coloured Dominant Pies of good type until it seems the presence of the Recessive Pied character began to make its presence felt. It would appear that the Recessive Pied colour pattern began to show in the plumage of the Dominant Pies giving birds with much less dark areas than required, incomplete sets of throat spots and broken cheek flashes.

It is a well known fact by continually pairing Recessive Pies together many of their young are extremely lightly marked particularly cock birds. If such specimens have been introduced into Dominant Pied strains this lightly marked pattern invariably shows itself in some of the Dominant Pies produced. This lack of dark colouring can also arise by mating pairs of Dominant Pies and particularly so if the birds used show extra large clear areas on chest and underparts.

The introduction of the Continental Clear-flighted character into Dominant Pied strains can also have the effect of producing the undesirable lightly marked birds. Such crosses were made some years ago in the hope of getting Normal eyed Clears because the Dark-eyed Clears came from the crossing of

Clear-flights and Recessive Pieds. Unfortunately this did not happen and the colour quality of many of the resulting birds is often very poor. Coming from this combination are many birds that are practically pure white or pure yellow showing just a small patch of colour on rump and a few undulations on back of head and an odd dark tick or two on the wings. The use of Dominant Pieds that show too few markings (including body colour), broken cheek flashes or have incomplete sets of throat spots, should be avoided if good coloured exhibition type Dominant Pieds are required, I know it is often said that some of the young from such birds will be good and so they will but the unfortunate thing is that the good coloured birds can pass on the bad colour characters which can spread quickly through a strain.

I think that the breeding results collated over the past decade or so points strongly to the fact that the most satisfactory pairings to breed good coloured Dominant Pieds are pure Normals to selected Dominant Pieds. The Dominant Pieds used should conform as closely as possible to the standard of perfection as laid down by the Budgerigar Society. It is wise to avoid using any Dominant Pieds that show defects in their colour pattern. In addition any Normals used should be as pure as possible and free from carrying other colour characters in their genetical make up. By avoiding as much as possible the use of Grey or Grey Green specimens the brightness of the colour of the dominant pied will be maintained and improved, Experimental breeders will of course produce Dominant Pieds in great variety but for exhibition purposes the normal coloured forms of the Dominant Pieds are always best for brightness of overall colouring.

Variegated Budgerigar Club.

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

Membership Fees:	Single	£7.00
	Partnerships	£10.00
	Husband & Wife	£9.00
	Senior Citizen	£5.00
	Disabled Members	£5.00
	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.

Club Badge £1.25 Plus Postage

Please enclose an S.A.E. at all times. 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

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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