

CANADIAN INDIAN FANTAIL CLUB

This bulletin is being sent out after the 2013 show season has come to a conclusion. Club shows included Woodstock in November, Belleville in January and Sarnia in February. You will find the Belleville and Sarnia show results enclosed. As well there is a financial report from Floriano (which is extremely important and very welcomed), a presidents report, a letter from Paul Montieth, a genetics article again provided to me from Bill Albers (we have to convert him as well!),etc.

We try to make the bulletin informative in different ways throughout the year but this bulletin is REALLY different! This bulletin signals the start of a new era for the club. It is unprecedented to see the progress being made right now in the club and the breed. 2013 is going to be remembered as a watershed year for the club and 2014 is going to mark the start of a new, amazing era for the CIFIC. I have been part of this club for 25 years. I saw the club start out with good intentions but not enough birds, however the quality, to go around. The club grew because of the work of the members and the cooperation that existed among those members. I saw the club expand and the quality of the birds rise year after year. I saw the club be pulled apart and almost destroyed because of the greed and selfishness of a few vocal members. I saw the club survive and tread water for a few years....now I can without a bit of hesitation say that I am watching this club leap forward like never before! In 2013 I saw enthusiasm and camaraderie return to our club. I saw very good young birds return to the showroom. I saw breeders of other breeds noticing our club at shows. I saw breeders of other pigeon breeds learn about and purchase Indian Fantails and become new members of our club. UNBELIEVABLE is the only way to describe what is happening in the club right now.

There are many factors that are contributing to the growth in our club but the single most important factor is the cooperation that exists between our members. It is hard to foster enthusiasm and growth without the existing membership of the club working together, without egos, to help out the new members of the club to purchase quality birds, borrow quality birds, learn about the birds from the long term breeders, and just generally feel welcomed into the club. All of our members are doing just this and deserve a huge THANK YOU for their generosity and for putting the club before their own desires.

There are many things to cover in this bulletin so here goes;

1-There is an Indian Fantail Forum on the web. It is free for any breeders of Indians to participate in as long as they are positive influences on the site. Many of our members are now regular participants on the site. If you are not logged into the site yet simply contact me, give me an email address and I can arrange to have you invited onto the site. How much or little you become involved in the discussions is entirely up to you but I promise you will increase your knowledge and meet many of the top breeders in the world.

2-One of the main breeders of Indian Fantails in Western Canada is Givo Hassko. Givo administers the American Indian Fantail Club (IFCA) website and has offered to set up and administer a new site for our Canadian club. We cannot say thank you enough for the undertaking of putting together a brand new site for all of the members of the club. We will all have a responsibility to help Givo with information, pictures and any other items that will be useful for the site. Remember, Givo will need help in getting material, he has offered to put it on the site for the benefit of the club and its members. When you have time try to drop him a note thanking him. Givo is also going to be looking for some more top quality birds as well to help promote Indians out west so keep that in mind during your breeding this year.

3-Paul Montieth and I talked after the Sarnia show. He was interested in acquiring some Indian Fantails and becoming a member of the club. To say that I was enthusiastic in trying to help him is a bit of an understatement. To make a long story short Paul now has 10 pairs of birds from Rick Leimann on the second floor of his barn!!! Wow!!! I have seen most of the birds and can say that I don't think any of us were ever able to start with as many quality birds from a single family as Paul is working with. He will instantly become a mainstay for the club. Of course you all know that Paul owns and is

the editor of the Feather Fancier (which I am sure we all belong to). Writing and promotion is second nature to Paul and he has already come forward with a number of ideas to help grow the club and breed. I have to say that the main attraction Paul had to the birds was actually the members of the club. He saw enthusiasm and forward thinking in the club and that is what convinced him to chose Indians as his breed. So again the club members are responsible for moving the club forward and deserve thanks.

4-Virtually every member of the club is working with a few or a lot of new birds this year, much of that thanks to the generosity of Rick Leimann. Rick made the commitment to attending the Sarnia show and brought many birds with him to the show, as well as birds to be sold at the elite auction that was advertised as part of the show. The auction birds mainly went home with club members and a portion of the proceeds went to the club. I had already purchased birds from Rick that came to the Sarnia show and many of the other club members had arranged to purchase birds from Rick either before or during the show. The infusion of new blood that is in everybodys breeding pens is essential if we are going to move the birds farther along in meeting the new standard. Rick deserves a huge THANK YOU for his work with the Canadian breeders.

5-All of the new members of the club are starting breeding programs this year with birds that have a chance of immediately competing in the shows. The existing members that have made that possible deserve thanks as well. Again, a case of club members working for the good of the club. Joe Bell especially deserves thanks for making good birds available to club members.

6-At the annual meeting we discussed the idea of some type of co-operation with the IFCA for our shows. Since then I have talked to Doc Larson and then Harvey Addengast, who is likely to be the next president of the IFCA. There is lots of interest south of the border for making the 2 clubs work together for the benefit of all. John and Emerson Black have promoted that on their numerous trips to American shows in the last few years and have really started the ball rolling. The idea at present is to have both the Woodstock and Sarnia shows also be IFCA sanctioned shows in a new district. Details to be worked out but the ball is gathering speed! We may end up having a district 7 for Eastern Canada and a district 8 for Western Canada. You could still choose to just support the CIFC or you could also join the IFCA and accumulate master breeder points at these 2 shows. Anyway, things to think about and bring to our members in the future but it is all positive, partly because the breeders south of the border are sitting up and taking notice of the many positive vibes going forward in Canada.

7-The bands are going to be distributed by Floriano now in his capacity as treasurer. It makes sense for the funds to be sent directly to him and then he can send the bands out. On that note as well we are going to operate as more of a formal club when it comes to club money. Floriano will be responsible for all club funds. I wont accept any funds to be forwarded to him as it gets far too complicated for me, especially at the shows. For shows the funds for entries will be sent to Floriano ahead of time and the actual entries will be sent to me to work with. I will still be flexible for changing entries at the show but the actual number of entries wont be changed so that it is easier to make the shows enjoyable for all of us.

SHOWS!

Club shows last year moved forward really well. You can read about some of the innovations that were started with the Sarnia show. Those will continue this year and be added to.

-We will present a plaque to the show winner at each show that will have a picture of the show winner mounted on it as soon as the winner is chosen.

-We discussed possible cash awards for top placed birds at the shows. This will continue to evolve and will be dependent upon club funds as well but it is something that has merit. In lieu of a cash award at Sarnia the club instead presented small cash vouchers for the local casino to each of the wives that attended the show. Just to show appreciation for their support and it was well received.

-Entries were in the range of 80 birds last year. This year we expect entries in the range of 150 for Woodstock and Sarnia! Again wow! Sarnia is going to become a National Show for the CIFC and all club shows will be advertised in the Feather Fancier ahead of time to help in promoting the club. Woodstock will be the last weekend of November. Sarnia is going to happen the 14th of February. There is a probability of holding another show in Belleville in January, that will be confirmed later this year. The Sarnia show is going to be judged by John DeCarlo Jr from California. John will be travelling to the show with John Heppner. John DeCarlo is very knowledgeable about Indian Fantails. He has been compared to a young John Heppner and lives on the same property as John Heppner. I am very excited to meet John DeCarlo and have him pass judgement on our birds. I have talked to a couple of very high profile people about judging Woodstock already. No commitments yet but we will keep working on it. There may be the possibility of American involvement in the Sarnia show as well that will be announced as possible.

-At the annual meeting Milt Marshall offered to host a Lawn Show for the club in September. Since that time Rick Leimann has made an offer to the club. Rick would be able to come to Ontario the first week of August with his fiancé, Kay. He wants to stop at Niagara Falls but has offered to put on a show prep clinic. After a few discussions Milt and Joe have agreed that it would be a good opportunity for club members to learn about show prep from one of the masters, anywhere, so the show has been moved. What is likely now is that the club will hold the BBQ / Lawn Show / show prep clinic at my place the first weekend in August. That is a mid point for the membership of the club and gives everybody a chance to drive to the show for the day. Actual date will be confirmed soon. The idea is for any members that are able to attend to bring all birds that they may enter at the upcoming shows. After we hold the actual lawn show Rick will show how he pulls feathers, he will explain his feeding program for growing new perfect feathers and just all other aspects of show prep. We will actually prep all of the birds that are present that day together. Everybody starts from that point evenly and has a chance of getting their birds in top shape for the shows that fall. Every single member of the club would benefit from this! It is really going to be a day to remember; good food; good friendship; lots of learning; wow. What a way to move forward and learn about these birds! Make sure to keep the day free and try to spread the word. There is lots of room here for any other interested breeders that would like to learn about Indian Fantails and experience our club in action. If members want to incorporate an auction at this show we could do that as well.

-Speaking of auctions, both Woodstock and Sarnia will feature their own "elite auction". The auctions will be advertised ahead of time. We want birds in these auctions to be really good birds with the idea that we can build the name of these auctions each year moving forward. A portion of the sale price will go to the club to help raise funds for other programs but the sellers will generally still make more money on the birds since there will be great demand for the birds as we grow the concept.

-With the expected increase in entries coming there are going to be many more classes to compete in this year. We will see how the birds are breeding this year and what is expected in the shows but for sure tailmarks, almonds, recessive reds and yellows, ribbontails all need their own classes. Splitting ashred and blue classes as well. Possibly having a kite class. Another class that would have lots of value would be a splash class for birds that are a mix of white and colour without being recognized as a standard mark. That would give us a reason to purposely breed splash birds, which are really attractive Indians. The AOC class then would not just be a grab bag class but it would be more for rarer colours or patterns that are still being developed. Input from club members is welcome on these classes.

That is all I have to pass on to our members for now! It is a bit of a whirlwind trying to keep all of these things moving forward at the same time. If any of our members want to get involved more than they are right now it would really help to split some items up so they don't get lost in the shuffle. Together our club has a great opportunity going forward to become one of the major show breed clubs in Canada and a destination for Indian Fantail breeders around the world. Lets all continue to work together and see how much fun we can have with this journey!

Good luck in your breeding pens this year,

Mike