

Indian Runners at the Poultry Club National

Ninety-five Runners were entered for the National this year, plus four Junior entries and two trios.

Runners are the most difficult breed to exhibit in the ducks for several reasons. Their active behaviour in foraging can spoil condition; they cannot be too closely inbred because they lose size and viability; and cross-breeding can ruin the finer points of the traditional colours. This generally makes whites the healthy, outstanding birds because there is less pressure to inbreed for colour purposes. White is simply a masking colour.

Whites at this year's show were an excellent type (which is 60 points, including 20 for the head/bill/neck). James Rigby's adult drake was a real eye-catcher. Bred from a very successful line, he lost on condition points and scored 96 instead of potential top score of 97. He nevertheless went on to be Reserve Champion Waterfowl. He was closely followed by Charlie Bourke's 2017 male and Mark Rubery's 2017 female (95 points). Thomas Moody's Trouts were also excellent, taking 5 of the 6 top cards: Moody's attention to the colour detail is paying dividends because this colour has been ruined in recent years by the race for size—hence the low scores of 90-92 for several of the other Trout exhibits.

Competition in the Blacks and Chocolates is always fierce. Judith Barnett's female duck was the most elegant, best turned out Chocolate (95 points). Marcel's Worley's dainty Black female gained 96 points because of her excellent green gloss, so much harder to achieve in this breed/colour than in the Black East Indian.

Numbers were disappointingly low in some of the rarer colours such as Cumberland Blue and Silver; but the

desirable Apricot Trouts are doing better, Edward Jones winning Best of Colour in both 2016 and 2017. Fawns were reasonably good, but not outstanding, and it was the same for the Fawn& whites in both pencilled and American. Birds with the pied pattern often tend to revert to a stockier type, making top competition much more difficult.

In classes where the numbers were low, the points system for grading was useful, and for example demonstrated that the females in both the Chocolates and Backs were generally better than the males. Where a judge is dealing with under 100 birds, the points system is workable in parallel with 1,2,3,4 cards, even though time for additional comments is limited.

POULTRY CLUB NATIONAL, Telford, December 1-2, 2017

Entry 95 Runners, plus 4 Junior entries, 2 Trios. Judge: Chris Ashton

Best Indian Runner - James Rigby—White male

Reserve Best Runner - Marcel Worley—Black female

Best Opposite Sex - Marcel Worley—Black Female

White male adult: 1 Dr James Rigby (BOC, BOB), 2 Richard Bett, 3,4 Alfie Worley (7)

White male 2017: 1 Charlie Bourke, 2,3 Mark Rubery, 4 Richard Bett (10)

White female adult: 1, 2 R Bett (3)

White female 2017: 1,2 Mark Rubery, 3Alfie Worley, 4 R Bett (8)

Fawn male: 1,2 Marcel Worley, 3 J Rigby (3)

Fawn female: 1 J Rigby (BOC), 2, 3 M Rubery (6)

Fawn&white male: 1 Tom Buck (BOC), 2 Edward Jones, 3 T&J Soper, 4 C&F Frame (4)

Fawn&white female: 1 C&F Frame (1)

American Fawn&white male: 1 DAT Thomas (1)

American Fawn&White female: 1 DAT Thomas (BOC) (1)

Trout male: 1,3 Thomas Moody (BOC), 2 DAT Thomas, 4 T Buck (8)

Trout female: 1,2,3 Thomas Moody, 4 T Buck (9)

Apricot Trout male: 1 R J Bett, 2 T Buck, 3 Edward Jones (3)

Apricot Trout female: 1 Edward Jones (BOC), 2 D&D Wakeham, 3 T Buck, 4 RJ Bett (4)

Blue Trout male/female: 1 Edward Jones (1)

Black male: 1 Marcel Worley, 2 Judith Barnett, 3 Mayers (5)

Black female: 1,2 MJ Worley (BOC, BOS), 3 Judith Barnett, 4 Mayers (5)

Cumberland Blue male: 1 Mayers (2)

Cumberland Blue male: 1 Mayers (1)

Chocolate male: 1 Judith Barnett, 2 T&J Soper (2)

Chocolate female: 1 Judith Barnett (BOC), 2 T&J Soper, 3 Mayers (4)

Mallard male/female: 1 D&D Wakeham (BOC), 2 M Hicks (2)

Silver male: 1 Alex Logan (BOC) (2)

Silver female: 1 Alex Logan (1)

Non-Standard male/female: 1 T&J Soper (1)

Juvenile Runner, Any Colour (4)

1 C&F Frame (Fawn&White), 2 Alfie Worley (White), 3,4 Finn Tippets (White)

Trio Runners (2)

1,2 Thomas Moody (Trout)

■ Photos (l-r) Best Trout,
Best White and Best Chocolate

