



THE OPTIMUM AVIUM INTERNATIONAL 2016 a flashback

By Adrie Brouwers,
on behalf of the show committee.

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Photos: Optimum Avium
and Hristo Lukanov

The Optimum Avium International show is THE show for gamefowl, longtail- and longcrower breeds. A few years ago I got the idea to organize this event. I knew that many breeders were looking for an event like this. Some people said the effort would be useless as less and less birds were entered in the regular poultry shows. My opinion was different and with the help of a number of enthusiastic and experienced people I accepted the challenge.

Shamo. Photo: Hristo Lukanov.

The first edition, Optimum Avium 2015 was organized in Roosendaal, this in a perfect location, a gymnasium school complex with two spacious sport halls. The results for this first show edition were overwhelming, more than 400 birds were entered for this show. Due to many requests and reactions by breeders and spectators we decided to organize a second edition. This second Optimum Avium International show held on the 16th of January 2016 exceeded all our expectations. More than 540 birds were entered. An unmatched number of breeds were shown, many of them never or very rarely seen on European shows.

A total of 543 entered birds

411 gamefowl, 102 longtail and 30 longcrowers, large and bantam were entered. We as show committee expected more birds than in 2015 but this number was beyond our expectations. However we decided to not stack any of the exhibition cages. A second sports hall was available and added to the show. This sports hall was especially assigned to the longcrower and longtail breeds due to their need of special sized exhibition cages. This decision was more than welcomed by the exhibitors as well as the spectators.

The Optimum Avium Longtail and Longcrower Club had their own separate exhibition place. This also contributed to a very cozy atmosphere.



The bigger hall used for the 2015 edition was completely assigned to gamefowl breeds only. This year we also included Orloff fowl into our gamefowl breed list. In various European countries, the Orloff breed is classified as a gamefowl breed. They proved to be some real eye catchers on our show.

Left: Show Champion of the Asian Longtail class, Onagadori cockbird by J. Bijl. Photo: Hristo Lukanov.

An exhibition with an international character

The excellent promotion, especially by the Aviculture Europe magazine and word by mouth promotion worked as a wild fire. We got more exhibitors and spectators we ever imagined.

80 exhibitors from the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Poland and even Bulgaria entered their birds. They all were very enthusiastic about the event. During talks with them we got the impression that our show was organized already for many years. Many of them are focussing their breeding on the Optimum Avium International show. Very special to hear this!

The Gamefowl Breeds

The quality of the exhibited gamefowl was generally very good. A good variety of gamefowl breeds were on display. Many of them Asian gamefowl breeds. In the large class Shamo's, Malay's, Madagascar Nakednecks, Asil (in three varieties), Tuzo, Yamato-Gunkei, Yakido, Indian Game, Old and Modern English Game and last but not least 37 large Belgian Game (Liege, Bruges and Tirlemont variety). The Shamo class was the top with 72 birds in 10 colour varieties.

Below:

Show Champion large Asian Game was won by Mr. P. van de Broek from Holland with a spangled Asil hen. Photo: Hristo Lukanov.





Left: Mr. J. Kessler from Germany won Show Champion large European Game with a Jubilee Indian Game hen. Photo: Optimum Avium.

Very special were the Madagascar Nakednecks, with their typical naked neck breed feature, the Northern French Game known as "Grand Combattant Du Nord" and the Old English Game. Mr S. Henot from Belgium introduced and exhibited "Limburg Game". So we truly can say that many rare breeds have been exhibited at our show.

Below: Madagascar Naked neck. Photo: Hristo Lukanov.



Below: Old English Game, Oxford. Photo: Hristo Lukanov.





Above: Liege Game. Photo: Optimum Avium.

**Right: Tirlemont Game.
Photo: Optimum Avium.**

**Below: Yamato.
Photo: Hristo Lukanov.**



Nine bantam game breeds were exhibited. The Ko Shamo class excelled with 61 birds in 6 colours. Also Modern English Game bantams, Old English Game bantams, Indian Game bantams, Asil bantams, Shamo bantams, Belgian Game bantams (Liege and Bruges variety) and a few little Tosa Chibi.

Show Champion of the bantam Asian Game class was a white Ko Shamo from the Brouwers Team. Mr. R. Piro from Belgium won Show Champion in the European Game bantam class with a golden duckwing Liege Game bantam.

The other Belgian game bantams showed a good quality too.



**Left: Bruges Game bantam.
Below: Liege Game bantam.
Photo's: Optimum Avium.**



Regarding the Old English Game bantams, 40 entries in total. These were of very good quality. The best one was exhibited by Mr. D. Rüppel from Germany (the organizer of the German Open Champion Show) showing a brassy back Old English Game bantam cockbird.



**Left: Old English Game cockbird. (A real old one!) Below: Orloff cockbird.
Photos: Optimum Avium.**



For the first time also Orloff large fowl and bantam were exhibited here.

Mr. E. Lenaerts from Belgium showed large and bantam Orloffs. He showed a red spangled hen, good for 96 points. Mr. J van Vessem from Holland showed a white Orloff cockbird. Totally 17 Orloffs were exhibited. We truly hope more fanciers of this breed will find their way to Roosendaal.

**Right: Orloff bantam cockerel.
Photo: Hristo Lukanov.**



Left: Judge Ferdinand van der Wal with steward Benno Crezee (also a judge).



**Right: Judges Klaas van de Hoek and Wim Voskamp.
Below: The German judge Josef Hartsberger and steward Wim Meijer (also a judge). Here they are assessing a Totenko.**





Above: Judge Klaas van der Hoek.
Right: Judge Johan Albada.



Left: Judge Mario Griekspoor.
All photos of the judges are by
Optimum Avium.



The longtail and longcrower breeds

The longtail breeds really got into the spotlights. Mrs. Wanda Zwart and Mrs. Berta van der Meer from the Dutch Longcrower and Longtail Breed Club, the OASLL, were very satisfied with the number and variety of the entered birds. As the longtail and longcrower breeds were exhibited in a separate room, there was also place to decorate the hall with some Asian-style decoration elements and paintings. The breeders, some of them meeting up the first time face to face exchanged information in a very cozy atmosphere.

The following breeds were exhibited: Minohiki, Ohiki, Onagadori, Phoenix, Schijndelaar, Shokoku, Satsumadori (a longtail gamefowl breed), Sumatra and Yokohama. These were truly eye catchers with their lush and long plumage.

A silver-partridge coloured Onagadori bred by Mr. J. Bijl from Holland was the cherry on the cake. This bird was shown sitting on a meters high pole. (See *photo page 2*) This bird also became Show Champion of the Asian Longtail class. Mr. J. Vandewalle from Belgium won Show Champion in the European Longtail class with a red saddled Yokohama bantam cockbird.

Left: A white Onagadori.
Photo: Optimum Avium.

The Schijndelaar, a Dutch breed created in the village of Schijndel (province Noord Brabant) was shown by its creator Mr. R. Kaasenbrood, also from Schijndel. This beautiful breed presented itself very well between all other, mostly Asian breeds.

Below: One of Mr. Kaasenbrood's white Schijndelaars won Reserve-Champion.
Photo: Hristo Lukanov.



Below: Minohiki cockerel.
Photo: Hristo Lukanov.



Right: Sumatra cockerel.
Photo: Hristo Lukanov.

The second best longtail bantam a silver-partridge coloured Ohiki cockbird shown by mr. I. Meester. This little breed showing a lush, full and curvy tail was exhibited in two colours, partridge and silver-partridge. The most remarkable breed in that exhibition room was a pair of Vietnamese Ga Dong Tao. These birds were exhibited by Mr. S. Roszkowski from Poland. These birds have extremely thick legs. That thick that these cannot be marked with a leg ring tag.



Below: Shôkoku cockbird and hen.
Photo: Hristo Lukanov.



The crowing competition was organized at the centre (not accessible for spectators) of the gymnasium complex. The longcrows were placed in special designed pens, four in a row with microphones in front of it. Behind windows a jury of four people measured not only the length of a crow but also the quality of it. Different from the 2015 edition also the exterior of the birds was judged. This was also part of the overall judgment. The following longcrower breeds have been entered: Denizli Horozu, Kosovo Drenica, Koeyoshi, Totenko and Tomaru. In an authentic cage placed on a high wooden structure, an Indonesian Ayam Ketawa was exhibited. This breed has a unique feature, instead of crowing it laughs!



**Left: The laughing Indonesian Ayam Ketawa.
Photo: Hristo Lukanov.**

Below: Johan van der Meer, husband of Berta van der Meer, helper with the crowing competition. Photo: Optimum Avium.

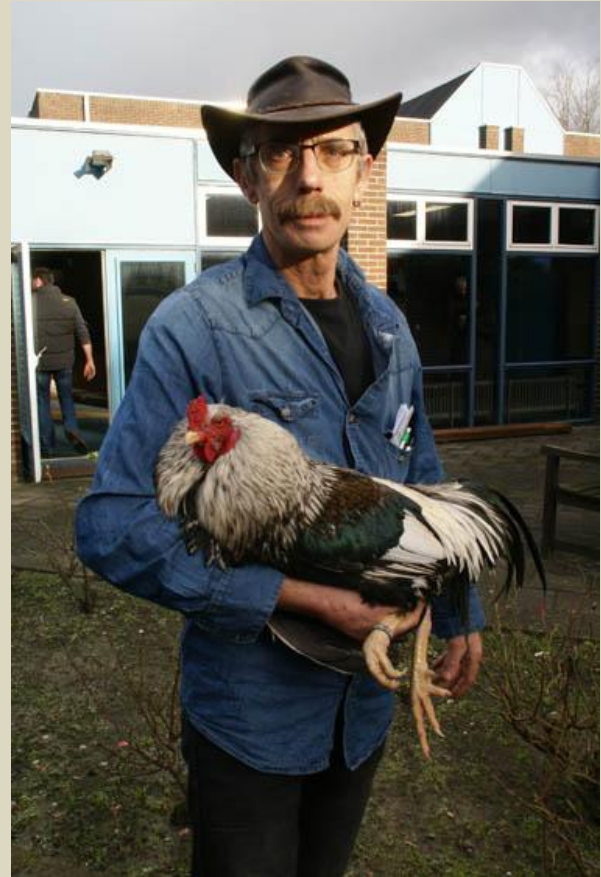
Best Longcrown in Show was won by Mr. L. van Looveren from Belgium with a Tomaru. Second best was Mr. J.C. Periquet from France with a Denizli Horozu. The crower competition was visited by many spectators which were also very impressed.

Below: Denizli cockbird. Photo: Hristo Lukanov.



**Below, left: Jittokko cockbird.
Photos: Hristo Lukanov.**

**Below: Tomaru rooster.
Photo: Optimum Avium.**





**Left: Jan Floor, husband of Wanda Zwart. Another valued helper in the longcrower competition.
Photo: Optimum Avium.**

**Below: Bergische Kräher rooster.
Photo: Optimum Avium.**



**Above: Koeyoshi rooster.
Left: Totenko rooster.
Photos: Optimum Avium.**

OPTIMUM AVIUM INTERNATIONAL 2017

As we had 45% more exhibitors and 35% more spectators we can say that under European breeders there is a clear need for this kind of exhibition and interest in these special poultry breeds. Due to this the committee has decided to organize a 3rd edition of the Optimum Avium International show. It will be organized on **Saturday the 14th of**

January 2017 again on the same location in Roosendaal (Holland). This edition will see a few changes. Judging is done according the European poultry standard. This means that no bird will be excluded from a predicate. Breeds not mentioned in the European standard will be placed in the AOC and VK (= free class) class. All entered birds without any exception are competing for the prizes mentioned in the show schedule. Maybe you win even one of the very special designed Optimum Avium trophies !

We really hope that our upcoming 2017 edition will see more exhibitors and visitors. Our PR machine is already up and running. Show schedules can be downloaded from our Optimum Avium website at www.optimumavium.com or on our [Facebook](#) page (click *Files*) or on request sent by regular post.

We hope to see you on Saturday the 14th of January 2017 on our 3rd edition Optimum Avium International show.

*On behalf of the show committee, yours sincerely
Adrie Brouwers (Show President).*



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