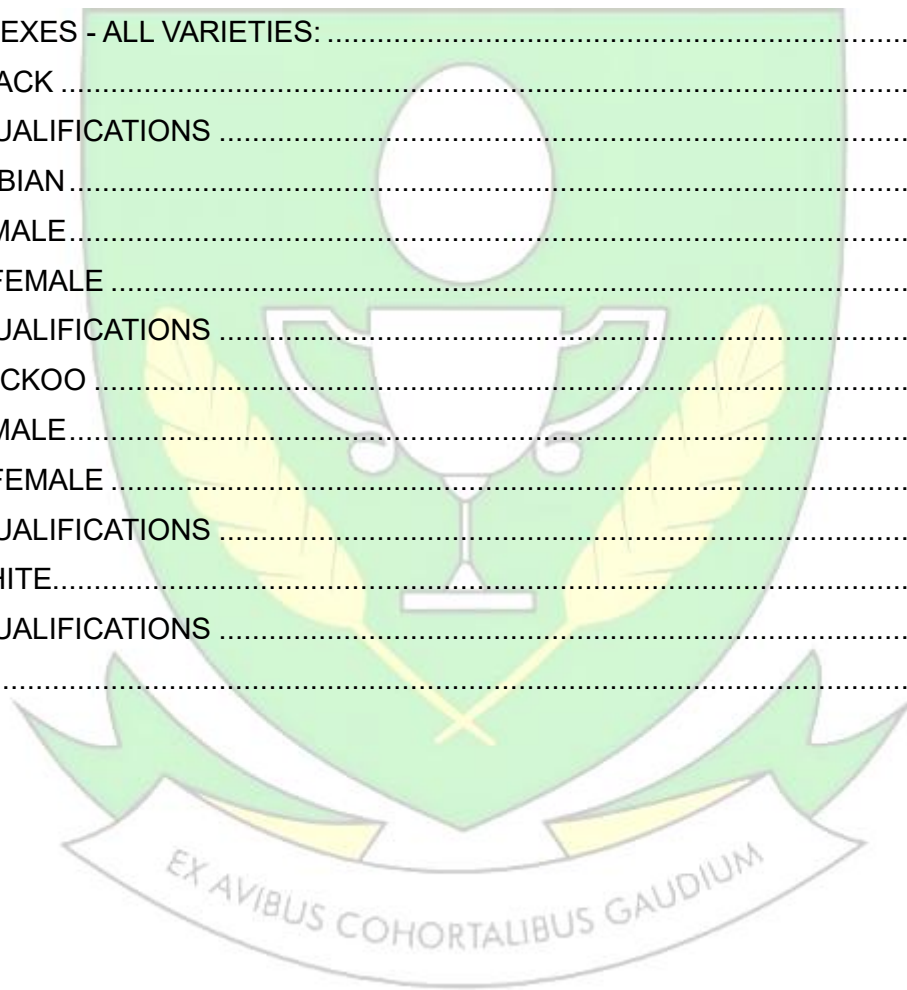

MECHELNER

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ORIGIN:	Belgium
CLASSIFICATION:	Heavy breed: Soft feather
EGG COLOUR:	Tinted (Sitters)
MASSES:	
LARGE FOWL:	
Cock:	3.5 kg min
Hen:	2.8 kg min
BANTAMS:	
Male:	1.5 kg max
Female:	1.3 kg max

The breed originated in approximately 1850 in the vicinity of Mechelen, Belgium and consists of cuckoo coloured land fowl which were mated with different Asiatic breeds.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

THE MALE

General shape and carriage:	Large and graceful, showing length of back and a deep breastbone.
Body:	Wide, deep and well-rounded from the back to the front.
Head:	Head of strong quality, but should not be coarse; slight development of gullet or dewlap not to disqualify, but such development is undesirable; face smooth without any wrinkles.
Comb:	Comb single and small in size, evenly serrated with five to six serrations. It should be straight and erect, and fitting close to the head and fine in texture.
Beak:	Beak, medium length and strong, slightly curved at the front.
Wattles:	Medium size and fine in texture, without any folds or wrinkles.
Ear-lobes:	Oblong and of medium size, fine in texture.
Eyes:	Eyes prominent, full, round and bright.
Neck:	Medium length, gracefully curved and well covered with hackle of medium length reaching the shoulders.
Back and saddle:	Flat between the shoulders, wide over the entire length of the body and carried horizontally. The saddle should be broad and rounded without too prominent a slope to the tail. The saddle hackle should be full and broad, of medium length and well connected with the tail coverts.
Breast:	Broad, full, deep, well rounded, carried well forward to accentuate the length of body.

Wings:	Of medium size, well folded, nicely formed and carried closely and almost horizontally to the body. The fronts well surrounded by breast feathers and the ends almost hidden by the saddle hackle. The wing bow should be nicely curved with the primary and secondary feathers broad.
Shoulders:	Wide.
Tail:	Short, carried almost horizontally; saddle hackle short and should not cover the tail coverts; tail coverts should be rather short and well connected to the tail sickles and saddle hackle; tail sickles should be rather short and when viewed from the back carried slightly open in the shape of a upside down V.
Abdomen:	Broad, deep, well filled and fluffy.
Thighs:	Long, strong and well fleshed; fully feathered.
Legs and feet:	Of medium length, strong and rather wide apart, with close fitting scales. Medium feathered down the outside but as free as possible from any stiff quills (vulture hocks). Toes, four in number, straight, strong and well spread. The toes on the outside should be medium feathered.
Plumage:	Fairly profuse but close and free from any unnecessary fluff.

THE FEMALE

The general characteristics of the female are similar to those of the male, allowing for the natural sexual differences.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Other than four toes. Dark beak, except for the black. Total absence of leg feather. White in ear-lobes. Lack of weight.

COLOUR

BOTH SEXES - ALL VARIETIES:

Eyes:	Orange to red
Beak:	White or horn colour (dark in the black variety).
Comb, face, wattles and ear-lobes:	Brilliant red.
Shanks and feet:	White (dark in the black variety).
Skin and flesh:	White.

THE BLACK

In both sexes:

Plumage:	Black, with a beetle-green sheen throughout, except for the undercolour which should be a dull black. Points should be deducted for the presence of any small discoloured mottles, and a slightly light coloured fluff.
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DISQUALIFICATIONS

A total lack of gloss. Any entirely discoloured feather. Strong violet or purple tint. Any white or red in plumage. Yellow skin. Yellow or willow in legs or feet.

COLUMBIAN

THE MALE

- Neck:** Plumage other than hackle, white. Hackle and web white with a solid lustrous greenish black stripe extending from the fluff down the middle of each feather. The black stripe running parallel with the edges of the feather, tapering to a point near its extremity, should be entirely surrounded by a clearly defined white margin and finishing with a decidedly white point. Under-colour white, bluish white or slate.
- Wings:** Wing bows white, except fronts which may be partly black. The primaries black with white edging of the lower edge of the lower web. The lower portion of the lower web of the secondaries should be white sufficient enough to secure a white wing bay. The white extending around ends of feathers and lacing upper portion of upper web, this colour growing wider in the shorter secondaries, the five next to the body being white on surface when wing is folded, remainder of each secondary black.
- Back:** Surface colour white, between the shoulders and under the cape black and white, saddle white. Under-colour either white, bluish white or slate.
- Tail:** Black, the curling feathers underneath, white or black and white, sickles and tail coverts, lustrous greenish black, lesser tail coverts greenish black, edged with white.
- Breast:** Surface and under-colour, white, under-colour at junction with body, white, bluish white or slate.
- Body and fluff:** Body, white, except under wings where it may be white, bluish white or slate. Fluff white, under-colour white or bluish white.
- Legs and toes:** Thighs, surface colour, white, under-colour white or bluish white.

THE FEMALE

The colour of the hen is similar to that of the cock except for:

- Head:** Plumage white.
- Tail:** Black, except the top two feathers which are edged with white, tail coverts black, edged with white.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Ear-lobes more than one-quarter permanent white or yellow. One or more entire black or brown feathers on surface of back. White in the sickles. Insufficient marking in the neck hackle of the male and female. Dark spots or mossiness in the surface of back or saddle. Yellow skin.

THE CUCKOO

THE MALE

Each feather on a dark bluish grey or greyish black ground colour. Grey to whitish-grey, each feather is striped across with parallel dark grey or black stripes. The stripes are approximately the same width and spread over the whole length of the feather ending with a dark grey or black point. Stripes wider than that of Barred Plymouth Rocks are permissible. The colour, seen as a whole, gives a bluish appearance to the fowl. The under-colour is white to whitish-grey in the cocks and grey in the hens.

THE FEMALE

The markings of the female is in general similar to that of the male, but the stripes of the hens are less uniform, slightly narrower and darker than those of the cocks. The undercolour is light.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Colour too dark or too light. Any entirely discoloured feather. One or more entirely black feathers. Yellow or a reddish brown tinge in the hackles. Yellow skin.

THE WHITE

In both sexes: Web, fluff and shafts in all sections a pure, lustrous snow-white. Points should be deducted for slightly visible black ticking.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Any yellow or straw tinge. Any partly or entirely discoloured feather. Yellow skin.

BANTAMS

Mechelner bantams should be miniatures of their large fowl counterparts and the same standard, points, colour and defects are applicable.

SCALE OF POINTS

Head: Comb 4, wattles and ear-lobes 2, eyes 2, skull and face 2, beak 2.	12
Colour	20
Type and flatness between shoulders	25
Size	18
Condition	10
Legs and feet	8
Shanks and feet feathering	7
TOTAL	100