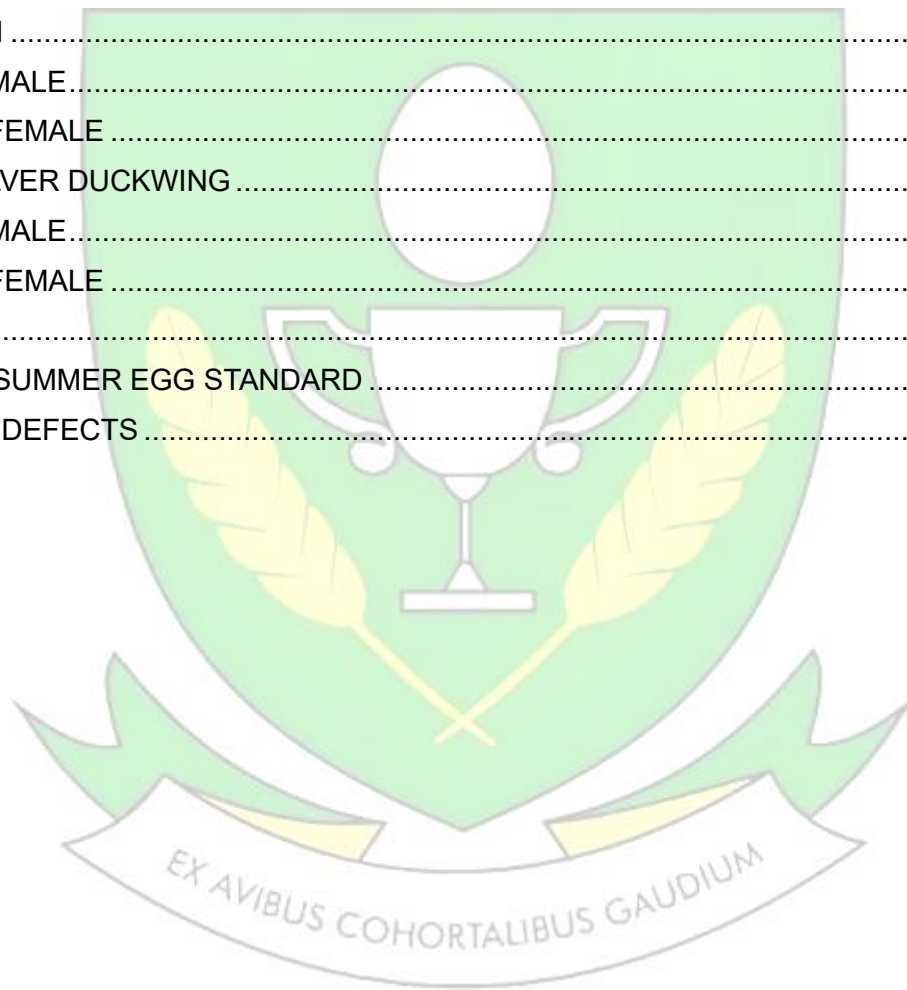

WELSUMMER

Table of Contents

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS	2
THE MALE	2
THE FEMALE	3
SERIOUS DEFECTS - DISQUALIFICATIONS	3
COLOUR	3
BROWN	4
THE MALE	4
THE FEMALE	4
THE SILVER DUCKWING	4
THE MALE	4
THE FEMALE	4
BANTAMS	5
THE WELSUMMER EGG STANDARD	5
SERIOUS DEFECTS	6





ORIGIN:	Holland
CLASSIFICATION:	Light breed: Soft feather
EGG COLOUR:	Brown to deep brown (Non-Sitters)
MASSES:	
LARGE FOWL:	
Cock:	3.2 kg
Cockerel:	2.7 kg
Hen:	2.7 kg
Pullet:	2.3 kg
BANTAMS:	
Male:	1020 g
Female:	790 g

Named after the village of Welsum, this Dutch breed has in its make-up such breeds as the Partridge Cochin, Partridge Wyandotte and Partridge Leghorn, and still later the Barnevelder and the Rhode Island Red. In 1928, stock was imported into England from Holland, in particular for its large brown egg, which remains its special feature, some products being mottled with brown spots. It has distinctive markings and colour and although comes into the light breed category, it has good body size. It enters the medium sized class in the country of origin. Judges and breeders must work to a standard that values indications of productiveness, so that laying merits can be combined with beauty.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

THE MALE

Carriage:	Upright, alert and active.
Type:	Body well built along constitutional lines. Back: broad and long. Breast: full, well rounded and broad. Wings moderately long, carried closely to the sides. Tail: fairly large and full, carried high, but not squirrel. Abdomen: long, deep and wide.

Head: Symmetrical, well balanced, of fine quality without coarseness, excesses or exaggeration. Skull: refined, especially at back. Beak: strong, short and deep. Eyes: keen in expression, bold, full, highly placed in skull and standing out prominently when viewed from the front or back; pupils large and free from defective shape. Comb: single, of medium size, firm, upright, free from any twists or excess around nostrils, clear of nostrils, and of fine silky texture, five to seven broad and even serrations, the back following closely but not touching the line of the skull and neck. Face: smooth, open and of silky texture, free from wrinkles or surfeit of flesh and without overhanging eyebrows. Ear-lobes: small and almond shaped. Wattles: medium size, fine and silky texture and close together.

Neck: Fairly long, slender at top but finishing with abundant hackle.

Legs and feet: Thighs to show clear of body without loss of breast. Shanks: medium length, medium bone and well set apart, free from feathers and with soft pliable sinews, free from coarseness. Toes: four, long, straight and well spread out. Back toe to follow in straight line; free from feathers between toes.

Plumage: Tight, silky and waxy, free from excess or coarseness, silky at abdomen and free from bagginess at thighs.

Handling: Compact, firm and neat bone throughout.

THE FEMALE

The general characteristics are similar to those of the male, allowing for the natural sexual differences. Handling pelvic bones fine and pliable; abdomen pliable, flesh and skin of fine texture and free from coarseness; plumage sleek, abdomen capacious, but well supported by long breast bone and not drooping; general handling of a fit, keen layer.

SERIOUS DEFECTS - DISQUALIFICATIONS

Comb other than single or with side sprigs. White in lobe. Feather on legs, hocks or between toes. Other than four toes. Striping in neck hackle or saddle of males. Absolutely black or whole red breast in the male. Salmon breast in the female (except duckwing). Legs other than yellow. Badly crooked or duck toes. Any body deformity. Coarseness, beefiness and anything which interferes with the productiveness and general utility of the breed.

COLOUR

In both sexes and colours:

Beak: Yellow or horn.

Eyes: Red.

Comb, ear-lobes, face and wattles: Bright red.

Legs and feet: Yellow.

Under-colour: Dark slate grey.

BROWN

THE MALE

Plumage: Head and neck rich golden brown. Hackles: rich golden brown as uniform as possible, free from black striping, yet under parts (out of sight) may show a little striping at present. Back, shoulder coverts and wing bow: bright red-brown. Wing coverts: black with green sheen forming a broad bar across (a little brown peppering at present permissible); primaries (out of sight when wing is closed): inner web black, outer web brown; secondaries: outer web brown, inner web black with brown peppering. Main tail: black with beetle green sheen; coverts: upper black, lower black edged with brown. Breast: black with red mottling. Abdominal and thigh fluff: black and red mottled.

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Head: golden brown. Hackle: golden brown or copper, the lower feathers with black striping and golden shaft. Breast: rich chestnut red going well down to the lower parts. Back and wing bow: reddish brown, each feather stippled or peppered with black specks, i.e. partridge marking, shaft of feather showing lighter and very distinct. Wing, bar: chestnut brown; primaries: inner web black, outer brown; secondaries: outer web brown, coarsely stippled with black; inner web black, slightly peppered with brown. Abdomen and thighs: brown with grey shading. Tail: black, outer feathers pencilled with brown.

THE SILVER DUCKWING

THE MALE

Plumage: Head, neck and hackles: white. Breast: black with white mottling. Back, shoulder coverts and wingbow: white. Wing primaries: flight feathers, inner web black, outer web white; secondaries: outer web white, inner web black, with white peppering, coverts: black with green sheen forming a broad bar across primaries. Main tail: black with beetle green sheen; coverts: upper black, lower black edged with white. Abdominal and thigh fluff: black with white mottling.

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Head and skull: silvery white. Hackle: silvery white and lower feathers with black striping, and white shaft. Breast: salmon red or robin red. Back and wing bow: silvery grey, each feather stippled or peppered with black specks i.e. partridge marking, shaft of feather showing light and very distinct. Wing bar: silvery grey; primaries: inner web black, outer web white; secondaries: outer web white, coarsely stippled with black, inner web black slightly peppered with white. Abdomen and thighs: silvery grey. Tail: black outer feathers pencilled with white.

BANTAMS

Welsummer bantams are to be miniatures of the large fowl and so the standard for large applies.

SCALE OF POINTS	
General type	20
Handling, size, and indications of productiveness	30
Head	10
Legs and feet	10
Colour	20
Condition	10
TOTAL	100

THE WELSUMMER EGG STANDARD

The brown egg preceded the Welsummer breed. Various farmers' fowl around the village of Welsum laid large dark brown eggs. It was from these mongrel flocks that the Welsummer was developed and standardised. It must be the aim of every serious Welsummer breeder to perpetuate the laying qualities and brown egg capabilities of the breed. Relative to their size, Welsummers lay large eggs; large fowl sometimes over 85g and bantams over 55g in weight.

- Colour:** A rich deep red-brown, as dark as possible. The pigment to be evenly distributed over the whole surface. Some products can be speckled, mottled and bloched.
- Shape:** Egg-shaped. The top containing the air space, domed. The bottom less so and more pointed with ample girth.
- Size:** Exhibition eggs should be of good size. Large fowl eggs weighing not less than 70g and bantams not more than 50g.
- Shell texture:** Matt, smooth and free from ridges, pimples or porosity. Glossy eggs can be produced, but the matt egg preferred.
- Appearance and bloom:** Fresh, clean, with new-laid bloom and with minimal nest marks and scratches.

SCALE OF POINTS	
Colour	25
Shape	25
Size	20
Shell texture	20
Appearance and bloom	10
TOTAL	100

SERIOUS DEFECTS

Pale colour. Poor shape: spherical, narrow or equally domed at both ends. Small size. Uneven shell texture: ridges, calcareous pimples or roughness at either end. Very glossy or thin and porous shell. Excessive nest marks or scratches. Dirty or stained. Anything interfering with hatchability. Staleness. When more than one egg forms a single exhibit, they should match and be similar in all respects: failure to do so constitutes a serious defect.

