FROM THE CHAIR

MAY 2006

"AN INFORMED MEMBER IS A HAPPY MEMBER"

I have had very positive feedback on "From the Chair". The main comment was that the ordinary members felt more informed of happenings within our hobby. More communication at club level can still improve further on the information stream to your members. Some clubs have their own newsletters, others have regular talks discussing birds, budgie video's / DVD presentations or mini club shows. These have proved to be a winning recipe in some clubs, and can be combined with an ordinary club meeting. This might just be the drawing card to attract your members to your meetings, and can be fitted into a 20 or 30 minutes timeslot after your meeting.

Knowledgeable club members on a subject or even a member from another club can present a lecture on a topic.

Clubs are therefore urged to implement a way of ongoing communication to their club members be it by a newsletter, a telephone call or even an e-mail. This will make your members feel part of your club.

It can be seen from the recent précis of clubs that some clubs have various activities to stimulate their members.

Some clubs had an increase in membership during 2005. Numerous other clubs recruited new members. Is your club one of them? I am of the opinion that the recruitment of new members can be a standard agenda point at club level. Over the last 2 years only 30 odd members joined BSSA per year. We currently have 17 clubs. (An average of almost 2 new members per club)

If each club can recruit 3 new members and retain their current members we can gain 51 new members. I personally do not think this is unachievable even for a small club.

I recently visited the beautiful KZN province on invitation of Durban Budgerigar Club. Day one was spent doing aviary visits to some of the local breeders, where I saw some very good birds. Day two was mainly allocated to formalities. Lionel Sydenham represented Pietermaritzburg Budgerigar Club on the day. We had a very constructive meeting followed by an enjoyable braai at the house of Brad Kirkbride.

A very good suggestion that came out was that the judges committee must look into

the possibility of a question session for all to attend, referring to specific birds on the show. This can also maybe be combined with a colour class on the show being judged by an officiating judge, explaining each placement of all birds, as an informative session for newcomers to learn from. Another alternative might be for Novices to bring bought birds to be assessed and placed by a judge, also only as an informative session. DBC's proposal will be forwarded to the Judges Committee for consideration.

Our shows are in full swing, with only the KZN and Western Cape Championship shows left. I would like to congratulate all the various winners at the recent Eastern Cape and Free State Championship shows. There still seems to be a drop in entries. Any proposals or possible reasons for this can be forwarded to me. Is it the venue, the judges, enough points, poor prizes etc. Please support the remainder of the shows left on our show calendar. It is here where you evaluate your birds, meet old friends and have a budgie chat with new budgie friends. If you cannot attend yourself, please send your birds with a friend who is attending.

All BSSA members are urged to attend this year's National which is the main event on our show calendar. The show will be hosted in Vereeniging which for some reason always attracts a lot of entries. I am in discussion with the hosting clubs of the National on a regular basis. Not to distract from any previous National shows held, but I am of the opinion that this year's National promises to be "One of the Best".

Two local and three International judges from three different continents have been invited to judge our National.

Hosting clubs are requested to send each member a catalogue. I had numerous calls from various people mentioning that they did not receive a brochure for a show. Hosting clubs must take into consideration that not all members have access to e-mail and the internet. Receiving an invitation to enter for a show makes it that bit more personal. You can't win the Lotto if you don't buy a ticket. The same applies for entries. We can't expect to draw big numbers to our shows if we do not invite our members.

A Novice from the Free State suggested that we award a certificate for the top 5 exhibitors with the most points per section each year. I think it is a good idea and will present it at our next management committee meeting. These are the kind of inputs we would like to receive, especially from our Novice breeders. For some it might just be yet another certificate, but for newcomers to our hobby it might just be what is needed to light the spark that will keep him or her active for years to come.

Sale points of birds. BSSA will be putting regular ads in the Avizandum mentioning the regional reps names and contact details. The area reps have volunteered to refer the interested member of the public to any member that has birds available. Members with birds are therefore requested to inform your area rep if you have any birds available (even small numbers). Please only supply **healthy, young and problem free birds** as there is no worse first impression for our hobby than to buy non breeding birds.

We are happy to announce that we received the source code for the Show program for running our shows. The source code will be tested by our IT committee. The source code will enable us to do amendments.

Members are requested to send us constructive articles for the bulletin as we would like to build up a database of articles to choose from. Any negative issues can be addressed to your local club, which can forward them to MC for attention. The lack of enough articles has been delaying the publication of some of the issues of our bulletin. Your articles might therefore not be published with the very next issue, but may be selected for a future issue. Send us your articles, tips, thoughts, or even questions.

BSSA have negotiated via our PRO subcommittee to give BSSA and Show Budgies in general much needed exposure in the National Avizandum magazine. Small ads have been placed for the last couple of months. All interested non members are referred to the various BSSA affiliated clubs in their area. Our PRO even had a call from a budgie fancier in Namibia requiring birds and the possible formation of a Society in Namibia. BSSA will liaise with the individuals in an effort to assist them with the formation of a Society of their own.

We will be selecting articles published in our own bulletin for publication in the Avizandum.

As I mentioned in the previous "From the Chair" that I am busy with negotiations with "Essentials for Birds". They have agreed to give BSSA a rebate on all products sold through BSSA. The member will still pay the same for the product, but if the members supply BSSA with a copy of their invoice, we (BSSA) can claim a percentage back that will be used to pay for BSSA projects such as the Advizandum adds. Members can still place their orders directly but are requested to fax a copy of their purchase to BSSA at fax 011-412 3793.

Various local breeders have had success with their products.
Interested members can contact Pat Nadauld Tel : 011-954 0106 Cell : 084 507 6648
E-mail : essentials4birds@telkomsa.net

News from abroad.
Two new societies namely Brazil and Pakistan have joined the World Budgerigar Organisation (WBO) wrapping up a membership on all 6 continents.

The next WBO meeting will be held in Southport, England on the 9 June 2006.

Budgerigar Rare and Specialised Exhibitors of Australia (BRASEA) will sponsor some of the rarer varieties with prizes at our National.

As you may all know by now, Gerald Binks will be publishing a second issue of his book known as "The Challenge". The contact details of Gerald were minuted in the

March 2006 minutes of MC meeting, for any interested member wanting to advertise. BSSA has decided to take a small add in The Challenge.

The Judges panel are considering the new WBO ideal. South Africa must cast their vote before 1 June 2006 if we accept or reject the proposed Ideal.

Apparently the April issue of "From the Chair" was not received by all due to the size of the mail due to the attached photos. Please let me know if I must forward it to anyone again.

In conclusion I would like to thank everyone that gave inputs regarding numerous aspects of our hobby, be it by e-mail or telephonically. Official matters must still be send via your club, but other inputs can be send directly to me.

Budgie greetings

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