FROM THE CHAIR

OCTOBER 2006

"BREEDING TIME"

Yes, it is that time of the year, when most of us are pottering around in the breeding room, checking the nest boxes on a regular basis, handling the chicks and pondering whether this might be the big one, the one that is going to do the winning. It is nice to have expectations, which are so vital, in keeping us all motivated, enthusiastic and willing to continue in this wonderful hobby. However, if you are not expecting to breed show winners, CC winners or more importantly improve your stock, then you need to reassess your approach to breeding livestock and contemplate a different strategy.

You may not have achieved a lot on the bench this year, but there is always next year. Nobody can truly predict what he/she can produce from any breeding pair. This is what makes our hobby so interesting. Any one can produce that elusive winner, be it by means of knowledge and sound breeding or be it by a fluke or flash in the pan. Hopefully it was planned and not just a fluke.

Our show dates for 2007 have been finalised and are as follows :

17 February	Free State Rare & Spangle Show
24 February	Gauteng Additional
24 March	Western Cape Rare & Spangle Show
28 April	Eastern Cape Championship
12 May	Free State Championship
26 May	KwaZulu Natal Championship
9 June	Western Cape Championship
23 June	Gauteng Championship
11/12 August	National Championship

You will be notified through the BSSA minutes if there are any changes to the above.

All members are encouraged to attend our shows or send some birds with a co-exhibitor to the shows. At the end of the day this is where we all measure our achievements in the breeding room and also get to know new budgie friends.

We are currently considering doing some amendments and improvements to our current show programme based on recommendations by the sub committee.

The Ring Issue – We from Management will do everything we can to prevent this from becoming an issue. As you all read in the e-mail from the administrator some ring orders might arrive a bit later that expected. We will liaise with the manufacturer on a regular basis in this regard. We realise that using BSSA rings is not first prize, but they are available for our members whose rings might be late.

Members who are willing to write articles are requested to do so and forward them directly to the Editor of the SA Bulletin, John Nel, as we need articles for our next and coming editions.

There are various opinions and information regarding the upliftment of the import/export ban. From all the people I spoke to or corresponded with locally and abroad, there seems to be no definite date, but there might be some hope that it will be soon.

The next issue of The Challenge (Currently, probably the best book available on show budgies) from Gerald Binks is available. Interested members can contact Gerald or alternatively we can try and consolidate paid orders for one delivery to South Africa.

Budgie Greetings

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