

## Marsh Daisy Breeder's Group

Hello everyone and thank you for reading the first of what will hopefully be a regular column in the newsletter. Thanks also to the RPS for giving us this opportunity to get our news and chat out to a wider audience.

The Breeder's Group was set up over two years ago, with the overall aim of helping RPS members to increase the number of good quality Marsh Daisies available by giving all breeders access to the standard as well as (often much needed!) help with interpreting it. Since the group's inception we have attracted a lot of interest and at the latest count are now up to 46 members.

We have our own website - [www.marshdaisy.org.uk](http://www.marshdaisy.org.uk) - which as well as the breed standard contains a wealth of information about the origins of the Daisy, a collection of various articles dating from the 1920s and 1930s which were originally published in the old Feathered World yearbooks, photos (current and historical) of the various colours, a 'For Sale and Wanted' section, details of our last Daisy census and contact information for anyone who would like to get in touch with us.

We also have our own internet forum very kindly hosted by Everything-Poultry. Our small forum is a sub-section of their much larger forum and we can be found in the 'Rare Breed Chat' area. This is where most of our discussions, debates, sharing our photos and lamenting our lack of progress (or maybe that's just me!) take place.

Well, that's the progress report and the good news, now for the not-so-good news:

One fairly big problem we are facing is the current lack of contribution from most members. The Group is intended to be an 'all-hands-on-deck' type of affair, with everyone participating in forum discussions and submitting photos of their birds for appraisal. With some of us not attending poultry shows at all and most of us being spread far and wide across the country, the forum really is the best way for us to share news and keep up with each other's developments, so if you haven't already joined, please think about doing so now. For a link to the forum, just go to our website and click on 'Contact us' in the left hand menu.

As one of our founder members lamented recently, "We had hoped that setting up the Breeders Group would have helped us identify the best and most consistent stock around but it just doesn't seem to have happened." There is a general feeling that we are merely marking time and what we desperately need now in order for real progress to be made is for all members to make a big effort to be just a little bit more active in the Group.

We will be holding another census in August/ September this year but it would be advantageous to both the breed and the Group if members could please take the time before then to give us a progress report with photos of their birds and some basic information about where they sourced their stock and which birds from what lines tend to produce the most consistently correct offspring.

Recent forum discussions (by the few members who do participate regularly) have brought to light again the big problem with lack of clarity of various parts of the breed standard, and also an apparent lack of agreement amongst breeders as to how some phrases are best interpreted. Certain descriptions are ambiguous and these really need to be dissected, discussed and decided upon **as a**

**group.** There is no point in us all working diligently within our own flocks to produce birds that breed true, unless they also look the same as everyone else's birds as well!

Membership of the Breeder's group and access to the forum are both FREE, although we do encourage all members to join the RPS. So if you already keep Marsh Daisies or are perhaps interested in learning more about them please get in touch. You don't have to be a member of the Group to participate in forum discussions, so whether or not you are a Daisy fanatic, if you have any knowledge or information that might be of help to us please do take the time to stop by as you will be assured of a very warm welcome!

Noanie Heffron. AKA Gypsy07 on the forum. 😊