



## Club Newsletter LION LOPS UK

Edition 14  
June 2013

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So, here we are, half way through 2013. I trust you have all had a good Spring with lots of litters in your sheds ready for the Young Stock shows and as replacements for those rabbits you have chosen to retire from showing.

Since our last Newsletter we have had two very successful stock shows. Doncaster on March 3rd and Essex Champs on 21st April. The results and members points are included later on but once again one of our newer members shone - Well Done Ady Ley! I was in his shed very recently and I have to say, his Rosette Wall does not look like that of a 'newcomer'

Thankfully we have had several new people join our Club so that we can continue to enjoy a healthy membership - but of course we can always do with more members, so when people show an interest in your beautiful rabbits, please remember to tell them all about our friendly club and encourage them to join too.

I am aiming to have a few regular features, namely 'Meet The Judge' and 'Members Profile' This edition, I have persuaded people to do their 'bit' but obviously I cant do this alone , so, anyone who would like to contribute, please feel free to drop me an e-mail. If you have heard a 'name' but dont know who they are, let's find out! I would appreciate any new ideas for inclusion, as I have said before, this is YOUR newsletter, so lets have YOUR ideas!

If you recall, in our last edition, I mentioned that Jane Bramley had presented Cinnamon to the BRC. we have had it acknowledged that they have accepted it as a recognised colour and it will be official as of July.

### MEMBERS PROFILE

Hello, my name is Becca Oakley (Wrixel Stud) and I am based in Hampshire. I first got into Lion Lops on a bit of a whim..I was travelling up to Andover and popped into Debs at Barrow Bunnies and picked a lovely DM REW buck that my Dad had bought me as a birthday present. I started showing him and he did me very proud. He has many wins to his name including a BiS LLUK. I paired him to a beautiful smoke doe from Chintastic Stud and bred my first homebred winner. It kind of went from there! Now, 18 months on I have exceeded anything I thought



possible, have done a lot of winning with rabbits I have bred myself and am striving to continue with what is now a pleasing stud of LionLops, mainly REW (where my heart lies) but still have the odd coloured here and there. I couldn't imagine being without a LionLop and would like to thank the breeders, who have become lifelong friends, in helping me get where I am today x

### TRIUMPH ON HIS FIRST TIME OUT!

My name is Sarah Burt from Ryan Rabbit Stud. I am based in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. I have been breeding Mini Lops for five years and decided about 12 months ago to build a stud of Lion Lops, travelling all over the country to enable me to get the best foundation stock available. Before I started showing the Lion Lops I wanted to be completely happy with my stock and the breed and so have only been showing for a few months. However, on Sunday 24th March I went to Ramsey St. Mary show, a local show that I felt would give my rabbits the experience they needed before entering them in bigger shows later in the year. One rabbit I took was Bruno, a sable buck. It was his first time out and he handled really well, so much so that he won his class and then, much to my surprise and delight went on to win Best Lop! When they then brought all the winners out to judge Best in Show I thought that we had done very well so far but there was no way that I would go any further against the competition. My heart was in my mouth as they called 3rd BiS, a Continental Giant, 2nd BiS, a Sable Netherland Dwarf and then BiS.....THE LION LOP! I couldn't believe it, I was so thrilled! Having not been showing for very long and only ever having shown mini lops before, I was so proud. It has given me the confidence to move on to bigger shows such as Essex Champs. I am now really happy with the stock I am producing and feel that 2013 is my year for the Lion Lops...

**Sarah Burt of Ryan Rabbit Stud**

**Breeder and Exhibitor of**

**Mini Lops & Mini Lion Lops**

**For more information**

**contact me on :-**

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### MEET THE JUDGE

This Edition...Alison Fletcher

Hi, I have been asked to write this so that the minority of you who don't know (or have not heard) me by now, can get to do so! I live in the Midlands and have been showing rabbits all my life, thanks to growing up in a rabbit breeding family. From the age of five I showed Netherland Dwarfs, I then went on to Himalayas and Rex. How did I get into Lion Lops? Well, that was a slip up a few years ago. I was taking the entries for a show and mentioned that I would like to see a Siamese Smoke, as that is my favourite colour in all breeds. By the end of the day, Jane Bramley (shocked that I wanted one) ensured that I went home with my first Lion Lop. I have had quite a few since then and the plan is that, hopefully when Ashleigh, my daughter, is five, it will be her turn to show them too.

**Alison Fletcher**





SHOW	VENUE	DATE	JUDGE
YSS	Emley	3rd Aug.	Phil Batey
Adult Supporting S.S	Emley	3rd Aug.	Phil Batey
Summer SS	Coventry	1st Sept.	Heather Childs
Autumn SS	London Champs	12th Oct.	Glen Hodson
AA SS	Gloucester	3rd Nov.	Andrew Lipski

### RESULTS FROM DONCASTER March 3rd 2013

**Best in Show**  
**Jane Bramley - Blue B/Fly U/5**



**Best Junior**  
**Wiggy Stud - Blk Otter Adult**

### RESULTS FROM ESSEX CHAMPS April 21st 2013

**Best in Show**  
**Ady Ley- Blk Otter Adult**



**Best Junior**  
**Tendele Stud - Orange Adult**

#### **MEMBERS POINTS**

**Jane Bramley 12**

**Ady Ley 12**

**Butterfly Stud 3**

**Lynne Lapish 2**

#### **JUNIOR POINTS**

**Tendele Stud 4**

**Wiggy Stud 4**

***KEEP MOVING FORWARD******By Jack Albans-Marriott***

“We all have to start somewhere, love” no points for guessing who this phrase came from. This works well for newer fanciers (‘newbies’). We’ve all been new to the fancy, some still think of themselves as novices. I know I do, and I’ve had Lion Lops for 6 years! The truth is however long someone has been in the fancy, they have felt how any ‘newbie’ does, they’ve been through the same troubles a ‘newbie’ may face and they’re still at it, so you aren’t doing anything wrong.

As we all know, it’s tough starting out, whether you are buying/breeding your first rabbits, or taking those nervous steps into exhibiting rabbits. Problems always arise: sourcing your stock-who do I go to? What colours do I want/go best together? How many do I need? (I’m not going to answer these questions-this is for you to decide). There are other problems such as learning different concepts, what do I do at a show? How do I prepare my rabbits? How do I improve type on my rabbits?

Remember, a hobby is an activity done regularly in one’s spare time for pleasure and enjoyment is it not? So it should be taken seriously, but, not to the extent of becoming a chore.

I’ve learnt over the past few years, showing rabbits isn’t always the best way of measuring how successful you are. It depends what has been entered on the day, condition of your and other rabbits there. One key point to be raised is the judge. Remember, different judges have different opinions and may have different opinions from you, seeing as you have to judge your own stock regularly to ensure you are going in the right direction. It is important not to be down-hearted if your rabbits don’t do as well as you expect on the show table, it takes time to perfect your stock.

I feel, at this point, you must be a successful rabbit breeder, you have come far overcoming the first hurdles faced. The best way to progress, is to draw your own conclusions. It is useful for you to be able to ask someone how they do things, or what they have found, but it pays you more finding out these things for yourself. It not only pays you in experience, but helps you follow instinct if you like; doing what you think is right and learning from your mistakes.

A key player in transitioning from a ‘pet breeder’ to a ‘show breeder’ is patience. I find new fanciers are never willing to wait; it may seem painstakingly boring to be waiting for stock from people or to be able to ‘win’ at a show, but remember, top breeders have been in the fancy many years. You’re working with livestock; nothing will go the way you want it to.

You may be thinking “what’s the point in waiting around then, is that what we’re expected to do? The short answer to this is no. Enjoy your hobby. Winning is a bonus, receiving that BOB, Best Lop or BIS is all well and good, but no fun if you don’t enjoy your day. Get stewarding. Watch judges. Learn. This is invaluable experience that you wouldn’t get anywhere else.

There’s no shame in not always winning. Coming back with 2<sup>nd</sup> and not 1<sup>st</sup> allows you to see why your rabbit didn’t win and what you need to do to ensure 1<sup>st</sup> place next time. Could be down to preparation, or just the type of the rabbit-you then have a good idea of what to improve on for future litters. I feel it gives the passion and drive to push yourself and your rabbits that bit further. If it was an easy hobby, more would stick at it! “The only real failure is the failure to try and the measure of success is the way in which we cope with disappointment”-Judi Dench

My advice for breeding your Lion Lops is that you should make sure the house is built. Some things can be improved upon along the way, but if the type is there, you can’t go far wrong. Obviously on a Lion Lop, the mane is important, it’s what differentiates them from Mini Lops, however, don’t concentrate on breeding the best manes you can, without maintaining type. Mane can be added in with one mating. Type can take numerous generations to perfect again. As far as colour goes, work with what comes out! Use compatible colours together, but there’s no point trying to breed the pretty colours and forget that actually, you do well at a show for how well the rabbit fits the standard, not how much it stands out because it’s pink with yellow spots!!

Hope this quote helps you to think about how patient you are and what you do if you aren’t doing as well as you’d like...

"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

[Martin Luther King Jr.](#)

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**TWO OF  
THE  
RABBITS  
THAT JACK  
HAS DONE  
WELL WITH  
SINCE HE  
STARTED  
"MOVING  
FORWARD"**



**One of our members has asked if anyone is interested in the breeding and promoting of Harlequins could get in touch. Anyone who could help or maybe would like to be working with someone to the same ends contact me (Lynne) and I will put you in touch with one another.**

### **Officers & Committee**

#### **President/Chairperson**

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#### **Secretary**

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e-mail: mim.machray@sky.com

**Treasurer:** Garry Richardson

**Asst. Show Secretary:** Betty Webster

#### **Committee:**

Nicky Walters  
Kirstie Kaister  
Sandra Grainger  
Dave Graham  
Anne Hipkiss  
Mel Stirr  
Christine Terry

### *2013/2014*

#### Breeder Panel Judges

Mr P Batey  
Mrs J Bramley  
Mr O Brasier  
Mrs K Caister  
Mrs M Cawdron  
Mrs H Childs  
Mrs A Fletcher  
Mr D Graham  
Ms S Grainger  
Mrs A Hipkiss  
Mr A Hicks  
Mr A Lipski  
Mrs M Machray  
Mrs L Massey-Beeston  
Mrs C Mitcheson  
Mr M Stirr  
Mrs C Terry  
Mrs N Walters  
Mrs R Waring

#### Open Panel Judges

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Mr G Boot  
Mr P Brasier  
Ms H Elliott  
Mr R Everitt  
Mr P W Faint  
Mr S Germany  
Mr G Hodson  
Mr N Jefferis  
Mrs G McKell  
Mr D Medlock  
Ms L Morris  
Miss J Pooke  
Mr G Richardson  
Mrs S Stephen  
Mrs S Tubbs  
Mrs G Webb-Bailey  
Mr R Whincup-Grindey  
Mr S Whincup-Grindey

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