

# The Cream Legbar Club Handbook



Inaugural Edition  
2013

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# Welcome to the Club!

Dear New Member,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the Cream Legbar Club. We are dedicated to the breed and our goal is to build unity within the poultry community and to encourage and educate those enthusiasts wishing to exhibit, breed and sell this charming bird known for its auto sexing qualities and beautiful blue eggs. If there is anything we can do to assist you or if you have any questions whatsoever please do not hesitate to ask. We invite any thoughts or suggestions you might have to help us improve the Club or our service.

As part of your membership with the Cream Legbar Club, you'll receive a subscription to our Quarterly Newsletter. Please head over to the clubhouse link that was sent in your welcome e-mail for access to previous newsletters and minutes from the quarterly meetings, as well as general and region-specific discussions with other club members.

You can view the [Membership Directory](#) to get in contact with others in your area. In addition there are a few more resources to learn and get in touch with other Cream Legbar enthusiasts- there are extensive discussions on several threads on [www.backyardchickens.com](http://www.backyardchickens.com) as well as a Facebook page for the Cream Legbar Club and another Facebook page started by Cream Legbar breeders in the UK.

In the meantime, there is a great wealth of information found in this handbook, which was created to help educate all the members on what the club and the breed are all about. Enjoy!

Sincerely,  
The Cream Legbar Club

# The Goal of APA Acceptance

**by Heather Barnes**

The Cream Legbar Club is established with an emphasis on Cream Legbars in North America; however, the club is proud to gather members and encourage fanciers of Cream Legbars, worldwide. All poultry breeds are man-made, with many of them owing their heritage to the domestication of Red Jungle Fowl in Asia. The Cream Legbar originated in Great Britain and will be considered part of the English Class in North America.

In England, although records of poultry keeping and cock fighting go back centuries, it was not until 1865 that the British began writing standards to maintain the uniformity of specific breeds. Today, the Poultry Club of Great Britain acts to oversee the British Poultry Standards, which are delineated by specialty Breed Clubs.

Cream Legbars are a composite breed coming from poultry science research at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. In 1929 Professor R.C. Punnett and Mr. M.S. Pease created the first autosexing breed, the Cambar, based on sex-linked barring in chickens. Through research on this sex-linked trait, as well as advancements in knowledge of feather and eggshell color, crests, and combs, the Cream Legbar was created. In 1958 the Poultry Club of Great Britain admitted the Cream Legbar into the British Poultry Standards.

The British Poultry Standards describes the Cream Legbar as an autosexing, cream colored, crested bird, which lays a blue, green or olive egg. To date, in the United States of America, Cream Legbars lay only blue eggs. Additionally, the Cream Legbar is one of three recognized Legbar varieties: gold, silver, and cream.

In North America, the first large-scale showing of poultry was in Boston, Massachusetts in 1849. Principles to standardize poultry evaluation developed in 1873. These principles contain three primary elements still in use today: (1) standard descriptions shall exemplify the breeds of the most useful type; (2) recognize the distinguishing characteristics of these breeds in a

## APA Acceptance, continued

manner that each is unique and not found in any other recognized breed; and (3) color varieties within a breed shall carry a distinctive color or color pattern. The American Standard of Perfection was begun in 1905.

The Cream Legbar Club recognizes the British Poultry Standards, Sixth Edition, as the most current, accurate, and only written standard for the Cream Legbar. As the importation of Cream Legbars dictates the need for a standard in North America, the admission of the Cream Legbar breed into the American Standard of Perfection is a primary goal of the Cream Legbar Club.

The American Poultry Association, Inc. sets a process for breed recognition. To better inform members and create the ability within the Cream Legbar Club to achieve recognition of the Cream Legbar in North America, this process is outlined below (for exact language, please refer to the American Standard of Perfection, 2010).

The process for Admission into the American Standard of Perfection (SOP) includes a deposit for cost of placing text into the SOP (refundable if not achieved) and the following paperwork:

1. A petition sent to the Secretary of the American Poultry Association, Inc., which includes the breed name, Cream Legbar, and a standard for its shape, color, and weight, written in the language and format of the American Standard of Perfection.
2. Affidavits of five or more breeders accompanying the petition. These individuals attest that the Cream Legbar breeds true and is consistent as seen during five or more years of breeding. The criteria for a standard breed is evaluated as not less than fifty percent of all resulting offspring being reasonably true in type, color, size, and comb.
3. Certificates indicating showing of the breed for two years, and having at least two specimens for cocks, hens, cockerels, and pullets at a show with a licensed APA judge.

## APA Acceptance, continued

After petition, licensed APA judges involved in the certified showing of the Cream Legbars are contacted for confidential opinion of the quality and uniformity of the breed. The petition is then referred to the Committee of Standards who sets a qualifying meet at a designated, prominent, APA-judged show. This meet must have a minimum of fifty Cream Legbars, with five or more exhibitors in each class of cock, hen, cockerel, and pullet.

After satisfaction that the Cream Legbars have met the above criteria, the APA Committee of Standards may recommend its acceptance to the Board of Directors, who determines final approval. If accepted, the written standard becomes copyrighted property of the APA.



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# Membership Levels

Full Members: \$12 per year (subject to change). Full members have voting privileges, may attend quarterly meetings, receive all club mailings, and may include contact information in the directory. Dues are to be paid by Jan 1. Anyone who joins after June will pay at half the rate for their membership to run through Dec 31.

Associate Members: Free. Associate members receive all club mailings and may view the breeder directory, but don't have voting privileges.

Honorary Members: Given to people who have done something special above and beyond their expected duty for the breed or the club. They will automatically be enrolled as associate but may pay for a membership if desired. In 2013 the Board of Directors approved two Honorary Members: Paul Bradshaw and Walt Leonard for their contributions to the breed and the Club.

Endowment Members: Given to people who have made a significant financial contribution to the club (equalling 20 or more years of dues); they are full members for life.

Charter Members: Given to people who joined the club prior to the first club meeting or helped with the club's formation. Payment is the same as full membership.

*Full members who do not pay their dues will be moved to an associate membership after three attempts at contact and after thirty days have passed. The member may not attend club meetings until payment has been made (unless other arrangements have been worked out with the secretary or treasurer).*

*Charter members keep charter membership when they switch from full to associate and vice versa. If they ask to be removed from the club records and later reinstate their membership, their charter status is lost.*

## Club Meetings

The Cream Legbar Club holds four online general membership meetings per year. Beginning with the fourth quarter of 2013, club meetings will be held at join.me. The moderator will email a code to members, who enter it on the join.me site to join the meeting. You can participate by phone or by typing messages on the screen, either to a single person or the whole group.

You'll receive full instructions on using the site in the meeting announcement email.

Since the service is new and sometimes lost or unreliable, the club provides the ability to pre-vote on issues so that no members votes are lost due to computer glitches, or inability to attend at the scheduled meeting time.



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# Officers

## Curtis Hale, President

Curtis Hale lives west of Austin, Texas with his wife and two daughters . He graduated from the University of Wyoming with degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Spanish. He served a Spanish LDS mission in San Francisco. He is an Eagle Scout and Scout Master, and enjoys running marathons. He breeds Cream Legbars and Black Copper Marans, and keeps Maraduna Basque Hens and Blue Breda.



## Heather Barnes, Vice President

Heather Barnes lives in California. A member of the Club from the beginning, she worked hard on the Draft SOP and brought a scientific background to the work, much to the advantage of the club.

## Rinda Myers, Secretary

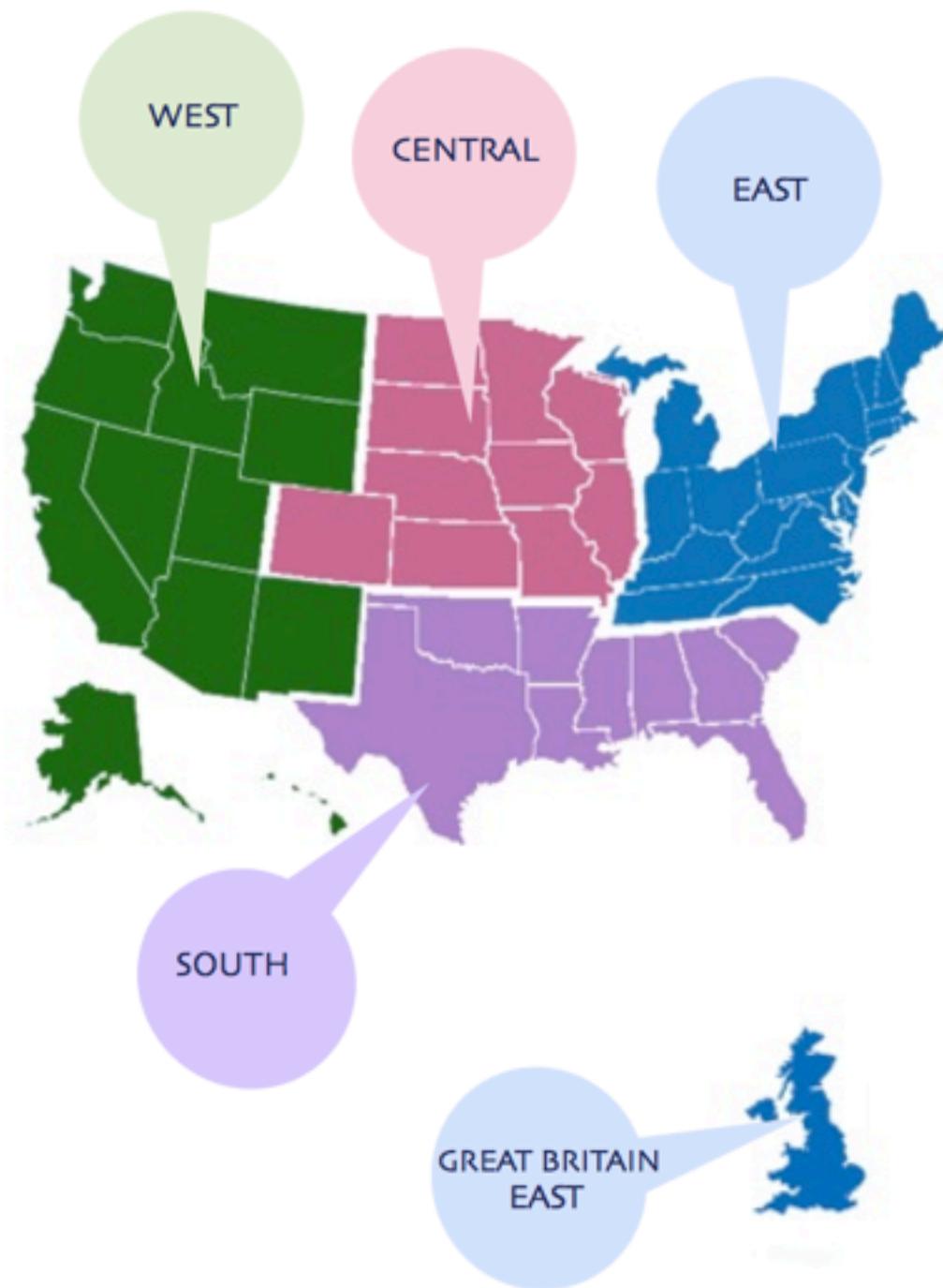
Rinda Myers is a stay-at-home mom who lives in Oklahoma with her husband and four children. The whole family is involved in their honey and honeybee business as well as their Cream Legbars, Black Copper Marans, Ameraucanas, and Isbars.



## Kathy Klein, Treasurer

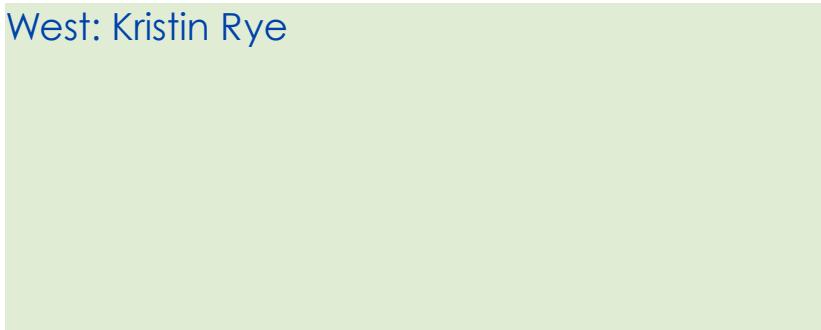
Kathy Klein divides time between Texas ranches near Comstock, Vanderpool and Yorktown, TX. Kathy retired as a Project Manager from PeopleSoft in Pleasanton, CA and will quickly tell you she prefers working with the land and the animals over working with bits and bytes. Kathy got her first two Cream Legbars in 2012 and looks forward to the day that the APA recognizes the breed.

# Regional Map



# Regional Directors

West: Kristin Rye



Central: Emily Evans-Schnee

Emily Evans-Schnee is a homemaker and homeschools her four children. She raises Cream Legbars and Ancona ducks on her family's hobby farm in northeast Kansas.

South: Kestlyn Penley

Kestlyn Penley is a stay at home mom and lives in South Carolina with her husband and three children. She raises Cream Legbars, Barnevelders, and White Silkies.



East: Heather Kreider

Heather Kreider lives in western Ohio and is a stay-at-home mom to five children, ages 15 months to almost 9 years, with baby #6 due in mid-December. She has Cream Legbars, Black Bresse, BBS Silkies; as well as peafowl, Sebastopol geese, and Silver Appleyard ducks. The Legbars are her absolute favorites.

# Constitution

## **Article I - Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Cream Legbar Club. The club is a voluntary association organized for social, educational and recreational purposes and not for profit.

## **Article II – Purpose**

The Cream Legbar is a crested, autosexing, light fowl that carries the blue-egg gene. The purpose of the Cream Legbar Club is to preserve, promote and provide education about this breed.

## **Article III - Structure**

A Board of Directors shall consist of the Club officers and the Regional Directors. Officers of the club will be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Each Region will have one Director.

## **Article IV– Membership**

Membership shall be open to all persons willing to abide by and promote the stated purpose and goals of the Cream Legbar Club. Membership shall be by application and upon payment of annual dues as directed by the Cream Legbar Club Board of Directors. Several Membership levels are established to suit individual circumstances, interest and needs. Only dues-paying Members in good standing may vote. A Member in violation of the club objectives may be removed from Membership by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. The Cream Legbar Club will not tolerate discrimination on the basis of age, gender, race, religion, national origin or sexual orientation.

## **Article V – Dues**

The Cream Legbar Club Board of Directors shall set the amount of club dues annually. Dues shall be prorated for partial year Membership. Club dues, should they be required, will be payable in December and apply to the calendar year January through the following December.

## **Article VI– Permanent Committees and Other Positions**

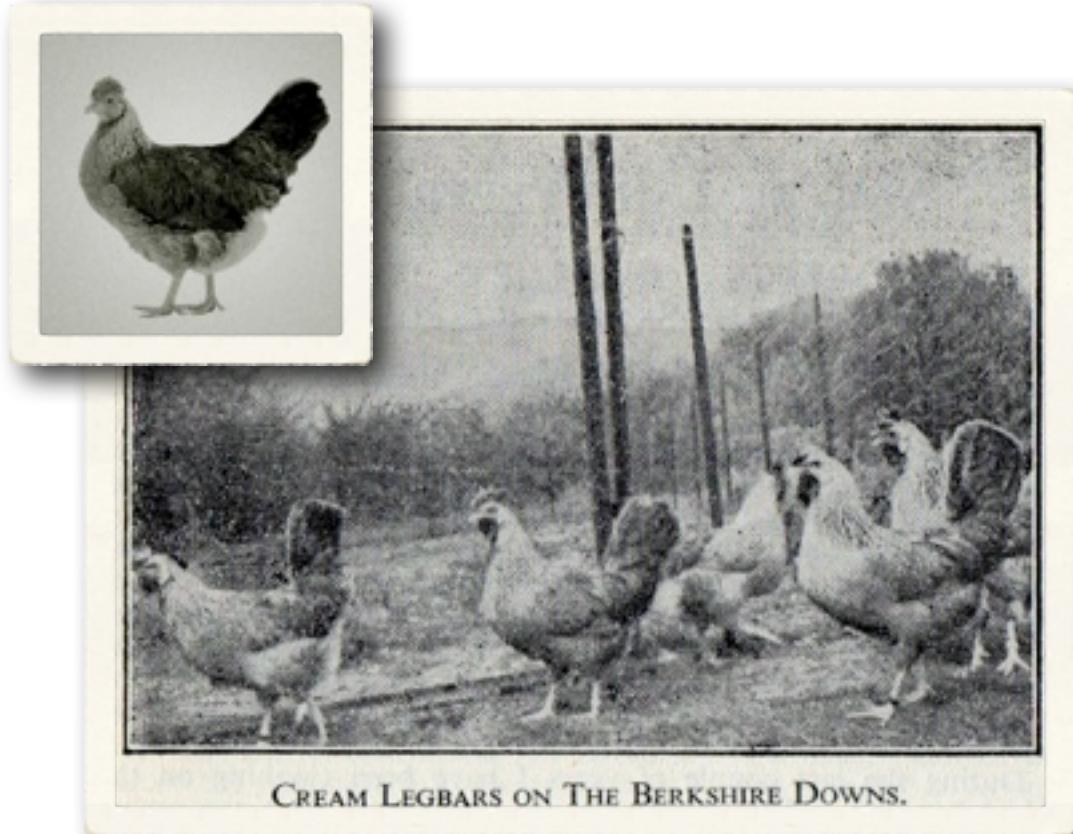
The Board of Directors will organize committees and other positions as needed for the business of the Club. Committee assignments are voluntary. All Cream Legbar enthusiasts, hobbyists and fanciers are eligible to participate on Club committees. Committee participation is on a volunteer basis.

## Constitution, continued

### Article VII- Process for Amending Constitution

Proposals for amendment shall be submitted in writing to the club Secretary. The Board of Directors shall determine if the proposed amendment will go forward and provide the means of notifying the club Members with information about alternatives and obtaining votes regarding amendment. The results of the vote will be distributed to all club Members in the club newsletter or in a separate mailing as the Board deems appropriate.

The Constitution of the Cream Legbar Club may then be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Membership present at a meeting that includes a Constitution revision in the business section of the agenda for that meeting. The Board of Directors may also call a meeting specifically for the purpose of amending the Constitution.



*Above left: modern hen, copyright Dirt Farmer. All rights reserved.*

*Right: vintage picture, courtesy Curtis Hale.*

# By-laws

## **Article I - Mission**

The club is established to achieve the club purpose and improve the Cream Legbar breed. Goals to achieve the Mission include:

- Promote friendship, goodwill, cooperation, sportsmanship and social networking among Cream Legbar fanciers in the development, breeding, husbandry and advancement of the breed
- Encourage education, knowledge, and exhibition of the Cream Legbar chicken, under an APA approved standard
- Support breeding Cream Legbars to align with the Standard of Perfection and maintain autosexing, blue egg laying, and crested characteristics, as well as the health and productivity of the breed.
- Explore new technology, such as an owners, breeders and/or pedigree database, to enhance the promotion and preservation of Cream Legbars and identify availability of stock
- Serve as a resource for both the Cream Legbar hobbyist and the general public to obtain recent and accurate information about Cream Legbars, as well as a repository to track the history of the Cream Legbar breed.

## **Article II – Club Officers**

### ***Section 1: Offices***

The officers of the Cream Legbar Club shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer and a Director for each Region.

### ***Section 2: Terms and Term Limits***

Officers shall be elected to a two-year term. Officer terms will be staggered to prevent a complete turnover of club officers in any single year. Terms of office shall be limited to two consecutive terms.

### ***Section 3: Office Vacancy***

If a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice President shall assume the office of President. An interim Vice President shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. Any other vacancy that arises between elections, the

## By-laws, continued

Board of Directors will appoint a club Member to finish the remaining term of the vacated office.

### **Section 4: Requirements for Officers**

In order to hold an office, an individual must be a dues-paying club Member in good standing. Acceptance of any office is an acknowledgement on the part of the incumbent that s/he is willing and able to carry out the duties of the office.

### **Section 5: Resignation**

Any Member may resign his/her position by providing notice in writing to the Board of Directors. If necessary, removal from office may be accomplished by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Any person with funds or equipment that belongs to the club shall make provision to return these to make a smooth and orderly transition to his or her successor. In the event that the club is disbanded, all money and assets shall be donated to the charity designated by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall work with the Board of Directors to prepare an annual budget for the Cream Legbar Club. The Treasurer shall file any paperwork or forms needed by the IRS.

### **Section 6: Duties of Officers**

1. The President shall preside over all meetings, and act as chairman of the Board of Directors. The President shall decide all questions of order, sign all official/legal documents adopted by the club, call special meetings, appoint committees to accomplish Club business and fulfill all other duties pertaining to the office of the President. S/he shall see that the Constitution and By-laws are enforced and that all officers shall fulfill their duties.
2. The Vice President shall assume all the duties of the President in his/her absence and assist Officers and the Board of Directors in accomplishment of Club goals.
3. The Secretary shall keep minutes for all meetings of the Cream Legbar Club, including meetings of the Board of Directors. Minutes from the secretary shall constitute the official record of the business of the club. All recording, notification and correspondence activity will be the responsibility of the Secretary. In addition, the Secretary will be responsible for the club history and will maintain records such as

## By-laws, continued

release forms for use of photos, artwork and articles that appear in the club publications and website.

4. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all financial transactions of the club, and shall maintain all financial records, accept and deposit all monies and pay all club expenses and purchases. The Treasurer shall prepare a treasurer's report for every meeting of the club and participate in an annual audit of the club financial activity. The Treasurer shall work to make a smooth and orderly transition to his or her successor. In the event that the club is disbanded, all money and assets shall be donated to the charity designated by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall work with the Board of Directors to prepare an annual budget for the Cream Legbar Club. The Treasurer shall file any paperwork or forms needed by the IRS.

5. The Regional Directors shall represent all club Members of their region at the Board of Directors meeting and coordinate activity within their region. Regional Directors shall represent the Cream Legbar Club at poultry shows in the region when possible. Regional Directors are not expected to attend every show but if possible will attend one or more each year and have a table/booth to register new Members and educate about the breed. Each Regional Director shall make a quarterly report about club activities in their Region.

6. The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected Officers and the Regional Directors. The Board of Directors shall meet to advance the club business on an 'as needed' basis. The President may invite, to the Board meeting, any person(s) that s/he feels will aid the Board in accomplishing the business of the club. Any guest to the Board of Directors will not have voting rights at the meeting unless the guest is also a Member in good standing of the club and the Board has previously designated that the guest's vote will be accepted by the Board. Decisions for club business may be made by the Board based on consensus or a majority vote.

### **Article III - Communication**

Communication with the Membership at large shall be via email or other electronic means. A Cream Legbar Club newsletter shall be sent to Members each quarter.

## By-laws, continued

### Article IV – Membership

Membership shall be open to all persons willing to abide by and promote the stated mission and goals of the Cream Legbar Club. A Membership application form is used as a method to gather complete and accurate information for the Membership rolls. There will be no outside use of information provided in Membership application forms. Member information and privacy will be protected to the degree that the Member selects. To be a voting Member the Member shall pay dues. Only Members in good standing may vote. Delinquency of sixty (60) days in payment of dues or any other obligation to the club shall result in the delinquent Member's removal from the Full Membership roll. Membership will be reinstated on payment of current year dues and/or obligations as required. The club will launch with the following Membership categories:

1. **Associate Member** - Membership category open to anyone with interest in the Cream Legbar breed. The individual will receive news updates and the quarterly newsletter. Meeting minutes of the quarterly club meetings will be sent to this Membership category, but Associate Members will not be expected to attend the club meetings as they are established online. This Membership category is open to youth, seniors, people with limited budgets or casual interest in the breed and the club and does not pay club dues.
2. **Full Member** - Membership category for Members who will hold office, vote and participate in the full activity of the club. Club Committee Chairpersons and Club Officers will be chosen from this group. A Full Member will be considered a Member in good standing providing dues are current.
3. **Honorary Member** - Membership category to recognize those who have made major contributions to the Cream Legbar breed, to the club, and to the poultry industry. This category will accept nominations from all Members to be voted upon by the Board of Directors. Honorary Members will not pay dues. An Honorary Member may become a Full Member and retain both Honorary and Full Member status.
4. **Endowment Member** - Membership category for individuals who have made a major financial contribution to the club. The Endowment Member may be in other Membership categories as well.

## By-laws, continued

5. **Charter Member** - Membership for those Members who joined the club in the first wave of club enrollment - who help(ed) to form the club and endured the bumps in the early formation.

The President and the Board of Directors may establish an advisory panel of experts in various areas that will promote the club welfare, and consult the advisory panel on an as needed basis. A quorum of the Board of Directors shall be required to conduct club business. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of Board Members.

### Article V - Dues

The Board of Directors shall determine the amount of dues on an annual basis to align with the club's proposed budget. Dues shall be paid in December to apply to the following calendar year. Active Members with dues not paid by January 31 shall receive an email reminder from the club and if that Member's dues are not paid by the end of February the Member will move from Full to Associate Member status. Dues will be prorated.

### Article VI - Club Meetings

General Meetings shall be held quarterly online. An agenda will be distributed a minimum of one week before the scheduled meeting, with minutes available within one week following the meeting. Any items requiring a vote of the Members shall be handled in the quarterly meetings, or in meetings called specifically to accomplish club business.

### Article VII – Process for Amending By-laws

Proposals for amendment shall be submitted in writing to the club Secretary. The Board of Directors shall review the proposed amendment and will provide the means of notifying the club Members, providing information about alternatives and obtaining votes regarding amendment. The results of the vote will be distributed to all club Members in the club newsletter or in a separate mailing as the Board deems appropriate.

The By-laws of the Cream Legbar Club may be amended by a majority vote of the Membership present at any meeting that includes By-laws revision in the business section of the agenda for that meeting. The Board of Directors may also call a meeting specifically for the purpose of amending the By-laws.

# Draft Standard of Perfection: Male

## Shape, Male

**Comb:** Single; large, fine in texture, straight and upright, deeply and evenly serrated with six distinct points, extending well over the back of the head and following, without touching, the line of the head, free from side spikes, thumbmarks or twists.

**Beak:** Stout, point clear of the front of the comb, slightly curved.

**Face:** Smooth, skin fine in texture.

**Eyes:** Large, bright, and prominent. Round in appearance.

**Wattles:** Moderately long, thin, uniform in size, well rounded, free from folds or wrinkles. Skin soft.

**Ear-lobes:** Large, elongated oval, pendant, smooth and free from folds, equally matched in size and shape.

**Crest:** Small, well back from the eyes with narrow feathers falling off the back of the head to below the blade of the comb.

**Head:** Medium size, symmetrical, well balanced, and of fine quality.

**Neck:** Long and well covered with hackle feathers.

**Back:** Moderately broad at the shoulders, narrowing slightly toward the tail, long in length, flat, sloping slightly to the tail.

Saddle feathers—Abundant, long, and filling well in front of the tail.

**Tail:** Moderately full, carried at an angle of forty-five degrees above horizontal.

Main tail—feathers broad and overlapping.

Sickles—long and well curved.

Lesser Sickles and Coverts—long, of good width, nicely curved and abundant.

**Wings:** Large and carried close to the body without dropping.

**Breast:** Prominent, well-rounded, carried forward and upright.

**Body and Fluff:** Body moderately long, sloping to the tail, broad in front tapering slightly to the rear. Keel is of good length, following the line of the back. Feathers moderately long and close to the body.

Fluff—medium in length, moderately full.

**Legs and Toes:** Legs moderately long, straight when viewed from the front. Thighs are medium length. Shanks round, strong, and free from feathers.

Toes—four, long, straight, and well-spread.

## Draft SOP Male, continued

### Color, Male

**Comb, Face and Wattles:** Bright red.

**Beak:** Yellow.

**Eyes:** Reddish bay.

**Ear-lobes:** Enamel white.

**Head:** Plumage, cream and gray.

**Crest:** Cream and gray, some chestnut permissible.

**Neck:**      Hackle—cream, sparsely barred with gray.  
                  Shoulder—cream, barred with dark gray, some chestnut permissible.

Front of neck—same as breast.

**Wings:** Fronts and Bows—dark gray, faintly barred, some chestnut permissible.

Coverts—gray, barred, tipped in cream.

Primaries—dark gray, faintly barred, some white permissible.

Secondaries—dark gray, more clearly barred.

**Back:** Cream, barred with dark gray, some chestnut permissible.

Saddle—cream, barred with dark gray, edged in cream.

**Tail:**      Main Tail—gray, evenly barred.

Sickle and Coverts—light gray, barred, some white feathers permissible.

**Breast:** Dark gray, evenly barred, well defined outline.

**Legs and Toes:** Yellow.

**Under-Color of All Sections:** Silver-gray.



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## Draft SOP Male, continued



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# Draft Standard of Perfection: Female

## Shape, Female

**Comb:** Single; large, fine in texture, erect or first point to stand erect and the remainder of the comb dropping gracefully to the side without obscuring the eyes, deeply and evenly serrated having six distinct points.

**Beak:** Stout, point clear of the front of the comb, slightly curved.

**Face:** Smooth, skin fine in texture.

**Eyes:** Large, bright, and prominent. Round in appearance.

**Wattles:** Medium in length, thin, uniform in size, well-rounded, free from folds or wrinkles. Skin soft.

**Ear-lobes:** Medium, elongated oval, pendant, smooth and free from folds, equally matched in size and shape.

**Crest:** Medium, affixed at the forefront of the skull on both sides of the base of the comb and running length of comb.

Rising well in front so as not to obstruct the eyes, with feathers narrow and falling off the back of the head to below the blade of the comb.

**Head:** Medium size, symmetrical, well balanced, and of fine quality.

**Neck:** Long and well covered with hackle feathers.

**Back:** Moderately broad at the shoulders, long, with an even slope to the tail. Feathers moderately broad and of sufficient length to carry well up to tail.

**Tail:** Moderately long, carried at an angle of thirty-five degrees above horizontal.

Main tail—feathers broad and overlapping.

Coverts—broad and abundant, extending well onto main tail.

**Wings:** Large and carried close to the body without dropping.

**Breast:** Prominent, well-rounded, carried forward and upright

**Body and Fluff:** Body moderately long, sloping to the tail, broad in front tapering slightly to the rear. Keel is of good length, following the line of the back. Feathers moderately long and close to the body.

Fluff—medium in length, moderately full.

**Legs and Toes:** Legs moderately long, straight when viewed from the front. Thighs are medium length. Shanks round, strong, and free from feathers.

Toes—four, long, straight, and well-spread.

## Draft SOP Female, continued

### Color, Female

**Comb, Face, and Wattles:** Bright red.

**Beak:** Yellow.

**Eyes:** Reddish bay.

**Ear-lobes:** Enamel white.

**Head:** Plumage, cream and gray.

**Crest:** Cream and gray, some chestnut permissible.

**Neck:** Hackle—cream, softly barred gray.

Front of neck—salmon.

**Wings:** Fronts, Bows and Coverts—silver-gray, faintly barred.

Primaries—gray, peppered.

Secondaries—gray, very faintly barred.

**Back:** Gray, softly barred.

**Tail:** Main Tail and Coverts—silver-gray, faintly barred.

**Breast:** Salmon, well defined in outline.

**Body and Fluff:** Silver-gray, indistinctly barred.

**Legs and Toes:** Yellow.

**Under-Color of All Sections:** Silver-gray.



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## Draft SOP Female, continued



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# The Cream Legbar Club's History of the Breed

**by Curtis Hale**

Research by Kestlyn Penley, Anne Norman, and Curtis Hale

## Chapter 1: Contributors to the Creation of the Cream Legbar

The creation of the Cream Legbar centered around three men: Clarence Elliott, R.C. Punnett, and Michael Pease. Clarence Elliott<sup>1</sup> was a British Horticulturist. In 1927 he traveled to South America on an expedition to collect exotic plants and animals. His return to England in 1928 brought a ship full of animals that largely ended up in the London Zoo. A small group of blue egg laying chickens from Chile was given to R.C. Punnett, who was the director of the Cambridge University Breeding Program.

The Cambridge University Breeding Program was established by an endowment from an anonymous donor believed to be former Prime Minister Arthur Balfour.<sup>2</sup> It specified that the director of the program would be the Arthur Balfour, Professor of Genetics, whose position would be appointed by the current Prime Minister of Great Britain, making them the head of national genetic research.

Punnett was an innovative geneticist and was appointed to be the first Arthur Balfour Professor of Genetics. His research was well planned out and methodical. While simple in logic, his observations were detailed and well documented. The Cream Legbar is often portrayed as a whimsical breed created for amusement, but the work of Punnett was not for leisure or diversion. Punnett was a tenured biology professor applying sound science to ground breaking genetics, funded to improve livestock quality available to British farmers and to increase their profitability. This was an era before 10,000-hens commercial laying facilities came about, so his work was focused on the smaller traditional poultry farming of his day.

Michael Pease worked alongside Punnett as a member of the Cambridge University Breeding Program. In addition to working on the Legbar breed,

## History of the Breed, continued

Punnett and Pease published papers from their research on the inheritance of feathering on the feet of chickens,<sup>3</sup> the inheritance of size in chickens,<sup>4</sup> the inheritance of five toes in chickens,<sup>5</sup> links between broodiness and egg color in chickens,<sup>6</sup> the inheritance of the henny feather pattern on cockerels,<sup>7</sup> the genetics of the walnut, breda, and other comb types;<sup>8</sup> pied plumage,<sup>9</sup> the recessive black gene in chickens,<sup>10</sup> and others as well. After Punnett's retirement Pease carried on much of the research started by Punnett.<sup>11</sup> Although the majority of their research appears to be based on chickens, they also studied rabbits, ducks, and other livestock.

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1. "Clarence Elliott", Cream Legbar Working Group, K. Penley, 2012.
2. "Arthur Balfour Professor of Genetics", Wikipedia, available online: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur\\_Balfour\\_Professor\\_of\\_Genetics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Balfour_Professor_of_Genetics), Last modified 30 Oct 2012.
3. "Genetic Studies in Poultry I. Inheritance of leg-feathering". Punnett R.C. and Bailey P.G. 1918, *Journal of Genetics*. Volume 7, Number 3, pp. 203-213.
5. "Genetic studies in poultry VII. Notes on Polydactyly." R. C. Punnett and M. S. Pease. 1929, *Journal of Genetics*. Volume 21, 341-366.
6. "Genetic Studies in Poultry. II. Inheritance of Egg-Colour and Broodiness." R.C. Punnett and Major P.G. Bailey. *Journal of Genetics*. Vol. 10, No. 4, pp. 277-292 (December, 1920).
7. "Genetic studies in poultry III. Hen-Feathered cocks." R. C. Punnett and P. G. Bailey 1921. *Journal of Genetics* Volume 11, Number 1, 37-57.
8. "A suggestion as to the Nature of 'Walnut' Comb in Fowls." Bateson, W and R.C. Punnett. 1905. *Proceedings of the Cambridge Philosophical Society*, 13: pp. 165-168.
9. Genetic studies in poultry. V. On a case of pied plumage. R. C. Punnett and M. S. Pease. 1927. *Journal of Genetics*. Volume 18, Number 2, pp. 207-218.
10. "Genetic studies in poultry XIII. Recessive Black." R. C. Punnett. 1957. *Journal of Genetics*. Volume 55, Number 3, pp. 562-569. full paper
11. *Sex-linkage in Poultry Breeding*, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Michael Pease, 1954.

## History of the Breed, continued

### Chapter 2: The Cambridge Auto-sexing Chicken Breeds

Punnett and Pease's signature work at the Cambridge University Breeding Program was the genetics of sex-linked genes in poultry and a series of auto-sexing breeds of chickens which included the Legbar, Rhodebar, Brussbar, Dorbar and others.

Punnett discovered the auto-sexing ability of chickens while studying different types of barring patterns in chickens.<sup>1</sup> He set up a series of crosses placing the autosomal barring of the Gold Campine on top of the sex-linked Cuckoo barring of the Plymouth Rock to form a new breed called the Cambar. The resulting breed had distinct male and female markings and colors, which would breed true every generation.

Punnett's scientifically trained mind, that was taught to search for an economical advantage from every discovery, was quick to see that auto-sexing breeds could make poultry more profitably by eliminating the need for professional vent checkers for new born chicks. At the same time he was eager to increase the 95% accuracy of vent sexing to 100% with auto-sexing breeds, and eliminate the need to keep two separate flocks to create sex-linked hybrids. He learned that any pure breed with the sex-linked cuckoo barring on top of a brown variety bird would be auto-sexing. After completing the Cambar in 1920 he spent the rest of his career developing nearly a dozen auto-sexing breeds. These breed came to be known as the Cambridge breeds and consisted of the Dorbar from the Dorking and Barred Plymouth Rock, the Brussbar from the Brown Sussex and the Barred Plymouth Rock, the Rhodebar from Rhode Island Red and Barred Plymouth Rock, etc.<sup>1</sup>

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1. *Sex-linkage in Poultry Breeding*, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Michael Pease, 1954.

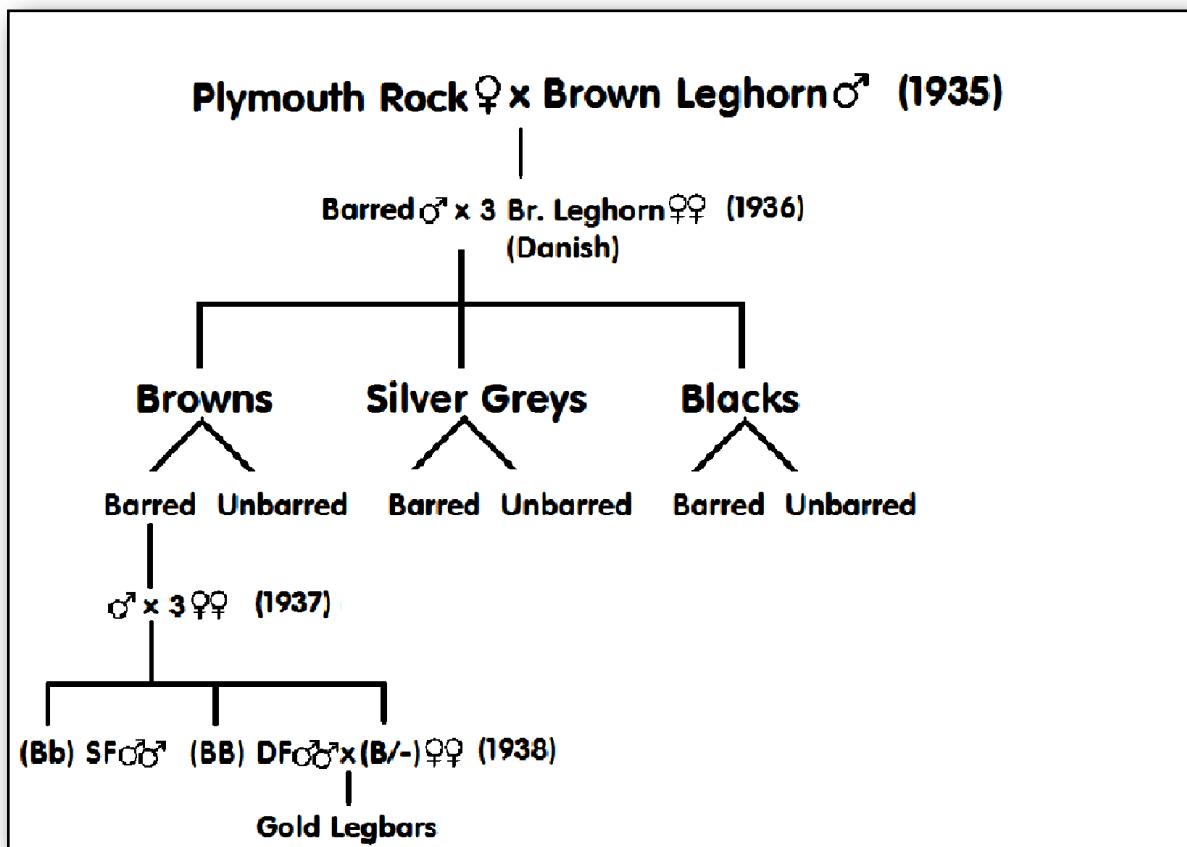
### Chapter 3: The Creation of the GOLD Legbar

Although the auto-sexing feature of the Cambar was advantageous in some ways, the original strains of the breed were not productive layers and therefore did not offer the economical advantage needed by the farmers of that time. Thus Punnett's second auto-sexing breed replaced the Gold

## History of the Breed, continued

Campine with a Brown Leghorn to create a new breed that was both productive in laying and auto-sexing.<sup>1</sup> In 1935 he imported a Barred Plymouth Rock Hen from Canada and mated it with a Brown Leghorn cock. In 1936 a cockerel from that crossing was mated with three Brown Leghorns that had been hatched in 1935 from eggs imported from Denmark. The Danish line was imported because they were more productive and hardier than the Brown Leghorn lines available in the UK. Silver, Black, and non-barred birds were culled from that crossing and from the remaining brown barred birds, a cockerel and three hens were selected and mated in 1937. The pullets and double barred cockerels from that cross made the first generation of true Legbars.

1. "Genetic Study in Poultry, The Legbar" , *Journal of Genetics*, R.C. Punnett, 1948.



**Figure 1: Original Crosses to Form the Gold Legbar.**

## History of the Breed, continued



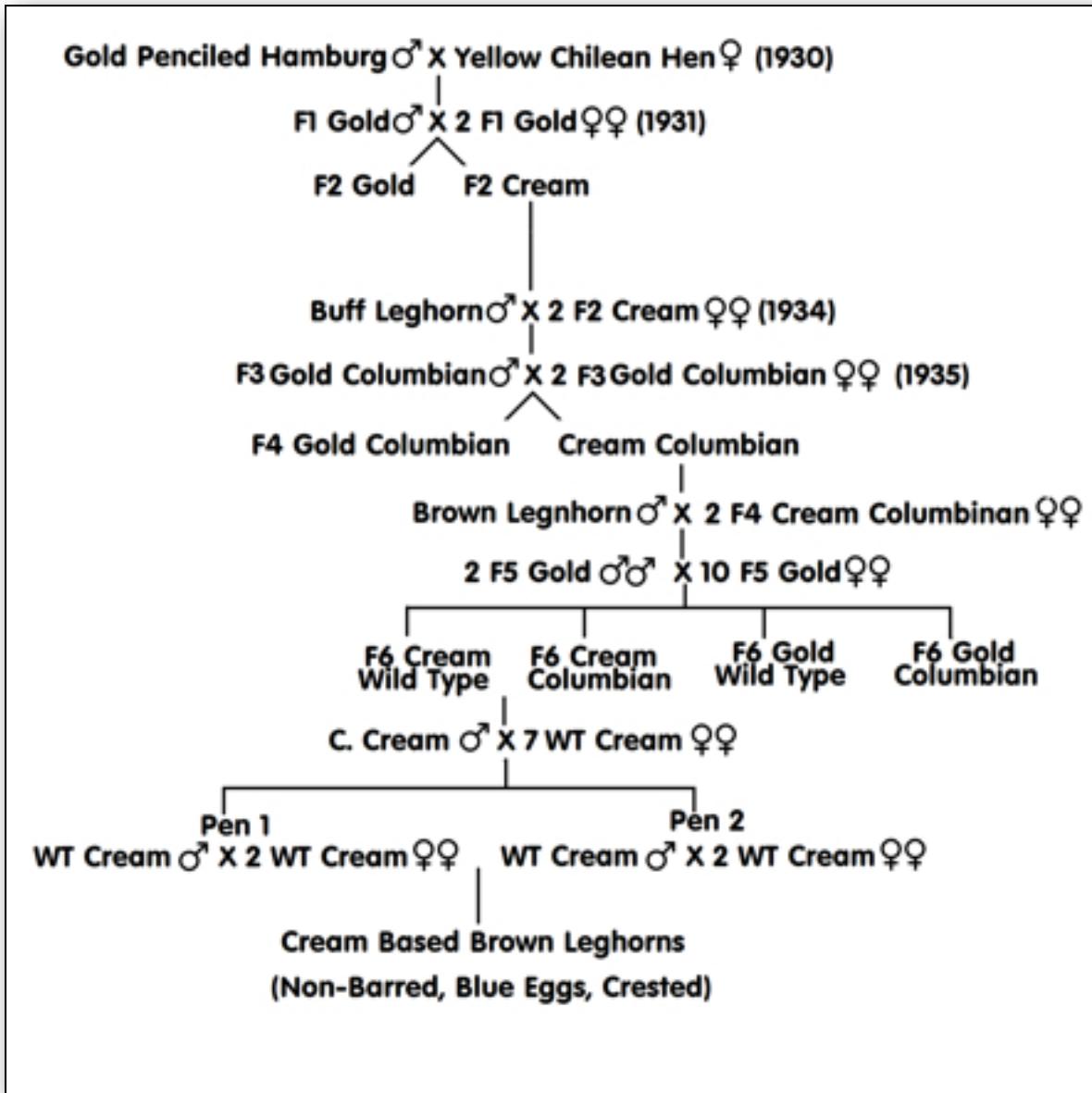
**Reginald Crundall Punnett**

### Chapter 4: The Creation of the Cream Legbar

In the summer of 1930 R.C. Punnett received three hens from Clarence Elliot, who brought them back home to England from Chile, at the end of his expedition to South America.<sup>1</sup> One hen died shortly after it was given to Punnett. Both remaining hens laid blue eggs. It was late in the season so Punnett was only able to successfully breed one of the hens which he crossed with a Gold Penciled Hamburg cock. The Chilean Hen was a light yellowish-brown color and was crested.<sup>2</sup> The cross resulted in five cockerels and two pullets of gold color with irregular penciling. In 1931 the two pullets were

mated to one of their brothers. The brother-sister crossing produced both gold birds and birds with pale creamy ground color. Although Punnett's main interest was blue egg genetics, he followed up on the creamy ground color in 1934 by crossing two of the cream colored hens with a Buff Leghorn cock. All of the offspring from those crosses were gold, but in 1935 two of the resulting cockerels and seven of the resulting pullets were crossed resulting in 113 gold offspring and 45 cream offspring. In 1936 the lightest cream birds were paired resulting in all cream with the exception of one bird. In 1936 a Brown Leghorn cock was also crossed with two of the cream colored Cream X Buff Legbars offspring resulting in 172 gold offspring and 52 cream offspring. This work established Cream as a new color in the UK that had never before been formally noted or recorded. Punnett's study of the Cream gene also involved crosses with Rhode Island Reds. All of the cream colored birds in these experiments were called Creams. They retained cresting and blue eggs from the yellow Chilean Hen and the Cream gene which was likely from the Gold Penciled Hamburg cock.

## History of the Breed, continued



**Figure 2: Original Crosses to Form the Crested, Blue Egg Laying, Cream Based Brown Leghorns**

## History of the Breed, continued

A short time later Michael Pease, who had taken over the breeding of Gold Legbars, made a cross of his own that would lead to the second discovery of cream plumage. In 1939 he crossed a White Leghorn cockerel, from the Cheshire College of Agriculture at Reaseheath, with some of the breeding program's Gold Legbar pullets in an effort to increase egg production in the Legbars. This produced white and off-white offspring. An off-white hen was bred back to the Gold Legbar cock producing 69 white and 49 colored chickens. Some of the colored chicks had the correct cream Legbar markings. Brother-sister matings were selected within the correctly marked offspring which produced three-fourths gold plumage and one-fourth cream plumage. Later testing pointed to the Reaseheath cockerel as the source of the Cream gene.

Punnett retired in 1940 and left Cambridge University, but continued to conduct genetic research in his home laboratories for many years until they were destroyed by fire.

After he retired Punnett learned of Pease's cream discovery. To see if the cream color in the Legbars was the same gene in Punnett's Creams, test matings were conducted between Punnett's Creams with Pease's Cream colored Legbars. Their offspring proved cream colors in both lines were from the same gene. The offspring resulting from the fusion of the two cream lines were selected for crests to distinguish them from Silver Legbars, blue egg laying ability, and clear markings for the auto-sexing feature. Punnett introduced these Crested Cream Legbars to the world at the London Dairy Show in 1947.

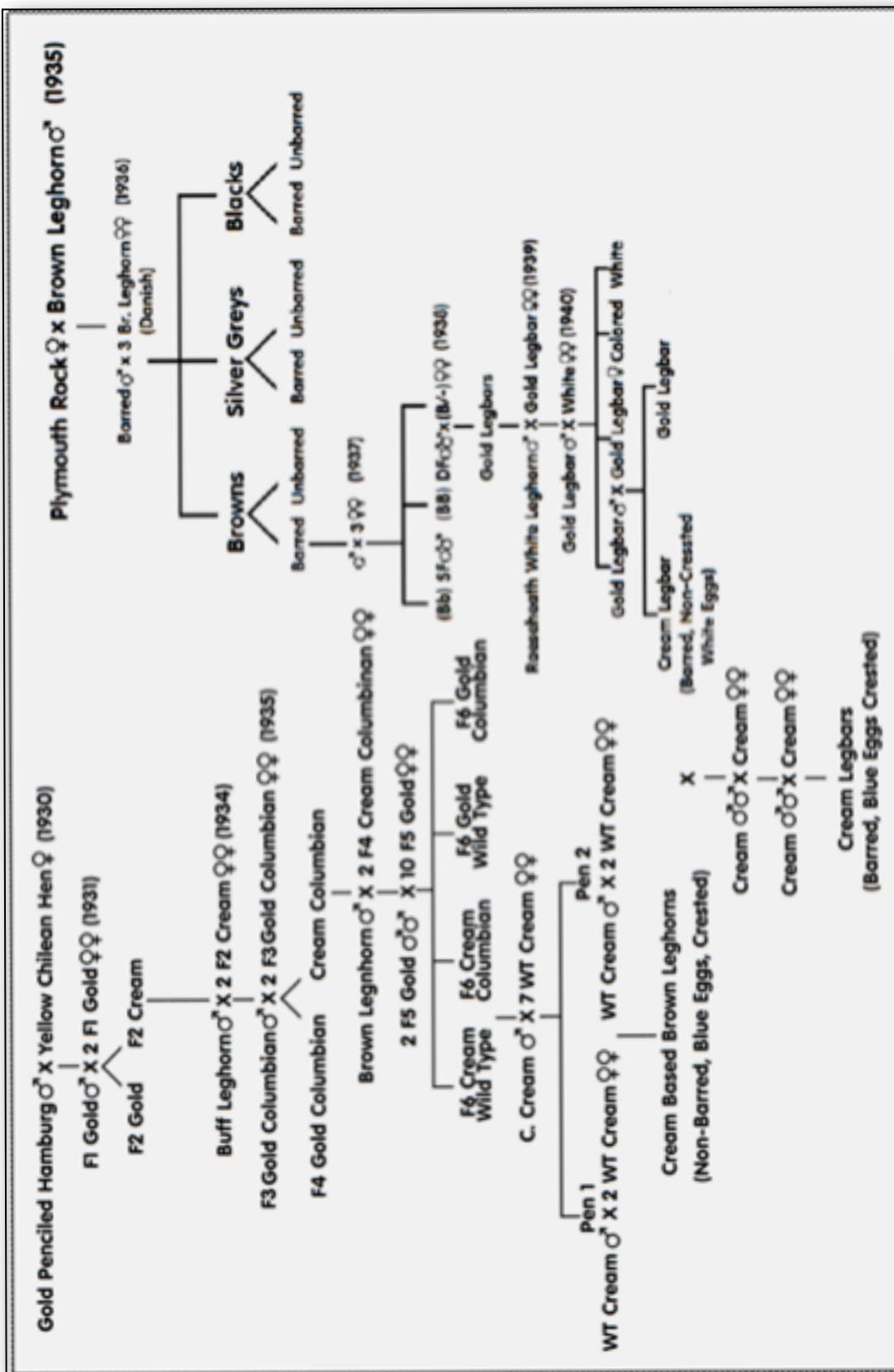
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1 "Genetic Study in Poultry, The Blue Egg", *Journal of Genetics*, R.C. Punnett, 1933.

2 "Genetic Study in Poultry, Cream Plumage" , *Journal of Genetics*, R.C. Punnett, 1946(?).

3 "1948 Auto-sexing Annual", *Auto-sexing Poultry Association of Great Britain*, Michael Pease, 1948, pp 6-7.

## History of the Breed, continued



**Figure 3: Original Crosses to Create the Cream Legbar**

## History of the Breed, continued

### Standardization of the Cream Legbar Breed

The Cream Legbar received a written standard from the Poultry Club of Great Britain in 1958. It takes about 5 years to get a breed approved and Punnett would have been in his 70's when the process started. Due to age, Punnett may not have had much involvement in the written standard for the breed. Michael Pease is credited for the Cream Legbar breed but it should be noted that Punnett was still the President of the Poultry Club of Great Britain when the Cream Legbar was accepted into the Poultry Club of Great Britain. Punnett lived on until 1967.

### APPENDIX A Clarence Elliott (1881 – 1969)

**by Kestlyn Penley**

Clarence Elliott was a British horticulturist renowned for his work with alpine plants, and owner of Six Hills Nursery.<sup>2</sup> He loved planning rock gardens and collecting plant specimens from abroad for both study and pleasure. From 1902 until 1905, Elliott studied growing fruit in South Africa with Rivers of Sawbridgeworth and Backhouse of York. Elliott then established his nursery near Stevenage upon his return to England, naming it after six burial hills in the area. With the exception of one trip to the Falklands for plant samples, he did no more exploring until the 1920's when he journeyed to South America with William Balfour Garlay.

In 1927, Elliott and Garlay sailed for Valparaiso, Chili, passing through Hamilton, Havana, Panama, Callao, Arica and Antofagusto on the way. In Coquimbo, they collected as much wild fragrant Glory of the Sun (*Leucocoryne ixioides* 'Lindl') bulbs as they could carry. Before turning south to Temuco and Tierra del Fuego, Elliott and Garlay collected Alstroemeria from Rio Blanco. Making port at Punto Arenas, Elliott and Garlay sailed for home in 1928 with a ship heavy with ornamental plants and what was referred to as an 'arkload' of many animals headed for the London Zoo. These included a Galapagos turtle, a pair of pygmy deer, various birds and

## History of the Breed, continued

giant edible frogs, and a few very special chickens.<sup>1</sup> Elliott became interested in blue egg laying chickens and brought one cockerel and three hens home with him on the ship ride to Stevenage, England. Legend has it that the hungry cockerel ended up cooked in a stewpot due to a misunderstanding between Elliott and the ship's cook. The three hens, most likely Araucanas, survived the journey and were donated to Professor R.C. Punnett for genetic studies at Cambridge. Descendants of these hens were developed into the purebred Cream Legbar and the Old Cotswald Legbar, layers of blue and pastel colored eggs.

Elliott made one last trip to South America from 1929 until 1930 before returning to his botanical studies at home.<sup>2</sup> Elliott's writings include revising C.A. Johns' *Flowers of the Field* (first edition 1907), his series 'In an English Garden' in the *Illustrated London News* between 1951 and 1964, and various classical works on rock gardens. One of the plants named after him is the *Saxifraga umbrosa 'Clarence Elliott'*, a succulent that blooms in May and June. Elliott's family still resides in Stow-on-the-Wold in Gloucestershire.

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1. *History of Blue Eggs 2*, Philip Lee-Woolf.

2. *Botanical Collectors: Latin America*, Elliott Clarence, Lewis C.



cockerel and pullet  
by Anne Norman

# Frequently Asked Questions

by **Kathy Klein**

## **1. Where can I get good quality Cream Legbars?**

A. The first legal Cream Legbars brought to the USA were imported by Greenfire Farms in Florida, and from those original birds, Cream Legbars are distributed throughout the Continental USA and Hawaii. In the UK, one of the club members, Jill Rees, sometimes has stock available, or may know someone who has them.

The Cream Legbar Club provides a membership listing, and full members have contact information so it is possible that you could locate someone in your own state.

If you are getting hatching eggs or chicks, make sure that you have information about the parent birds or parent flock of your eggs or chicks.

For biosecurity reasons many owners/breeders will not allow flock visits; however, they should provide pictures and information about their breeding stock.

In the autumn, some breeders will reduce the size of their flocks to winter-over fewer birds. You may be able to obtain adult Cream Legbars at that time.

My Pet Chicken, Backyard Chickens' (BYC) Buy/Sell/Trade pages, Craigslist, and eBay have hatching eggs at times. Club members sometimes sell through these avenues, and sometimes desirable birds can be obtained. We advise that you do research, both by reading the "DRAFT Standard of Perfection" earlier in this handbook and finding out about breeder reputations and then find a reputable source for your Cream Legbar purchases.

## **2. When does a Cream Legbar pullet begin laying?**

A. As a general rule-of-thumb - a few days after the pullet is 24 weeks old is when the Cream Legbar will begin laying eggs. Some Cream Legbars have started at 20 weeks. For late summer hatches, the Cream Legbar pullet may delay laying until the daylight hours are 14 hours or more. The 24-week mark is used as a guideline.

## FAQs, continued

### **3. What color are the Cream Legbar eggs?**

A. Many Cream Legbars lay an egg that is greenish-blue rather than blue. It is difficult to photograph the egg color and obtain an accurate representation because so many factors, including lighting and background, affect the photographic outcome. A number of Club members have obtained the "[Online Auction Color Chart](#)" (OAC) and reference that for egg coloration. Among common colors mentioned are OAC123, OAC151, and OAC179. Other members identify their egg color as sky blue.

### **4. What is the correct color for a Cream Legbar hen?**

A. Look at the [Club's website](#) and see a picture of the top prize winning hen in Great Britain. Read the "Draft Standard of Perfection" on page 22 to see an explanation.

### **5. What is the correct color for a Cream Legbar rooster?**

A. Some Club members prefer a very light coloration in the male, and others prefer a male with deeper cream color and some chestnut visible. Extremely saturated colors are considered less desirable than the lighter colorations. Read the DRAFT Standard of Perfection to see an explanation.

### **6. Where can I read past issues of the Cream Legbar Club Newsletter?**

A. Look in the Club's Clubhouse in the Cream Legbar Club's Google Group (invitation included with membership) and go to the topic "Publications." All past newsletters are stored in that topic.

### **7. How can I find out what happened at the Club's meeting(s)?**

A. Look in the Club's Clubhouse and go to the topic "Quarterly Meeting Recordings and Minutes". All past meetings are stored in that topic.

### **8. How can I get to the Cream Legbar Club's Clubhouse?**

A. Associate and Full members are welcome in the Clubhouse; you should get access information in the 'Welcome to the Club' letter that the Club secretary sends you. If you don't have this, or if you have any problem with access, please send a message via the 'contact us' button on the website or at the end of this FAQ.

## FAQs, continued

### **9. How can I contribute?**

A. Your enthusiasm for Cream Legbars and support of the Club already make contributions. Here are some added ways to contribute to the success of the breed:

- Raising and breeding Cream Legbars to the Draft Standard of Perfection (SOP) in this handbook, and sharing your results and successes with other members and Cream Legbar breeders helps.
- Keeping accurate records of your flock should be helpful when the time comes to apply for APA membership.
- Being a dues-paying member helps the Club fund activity that will make people familiar with this breed and fund getting Cream Legbars accepted by the American Poultry Association (APA).
- Showing and promoting Cream Legbars in your area, and having a table at shows or meets.
- Participating in Club activities such as serving on a committee or providing your ideas and insights to the Board of Directors are also ways to contribute.

### **10. Why are Cream Legbars expensive?**

A. The Cream Legbar is a rare breed. There are few quality Cream Legbars in the world and the rarity of the breed drives the price up.

### **11. Are Cream Legbars more difficult to hatch/raise/keep than other chickens?**

A. Hatching and raising Cream Legbars is very much like raising other breeds of chickens. People with the most success at hatching have eggs that are fewer than 10 days old.

### **12. What are Cream Legbar roosters like?**

A. In general, Cream Legbar roosters are very good to their hens. The roosters take their job of flock protector very seriously. As with any rooster, the owner should be aware and careful. Among the traits that people raising the breed intend to pass to the future are the good disposition and respect for the hens that most Cream Legbar roosters display.

## FAQs, continued

### **13. What's so special about Cream Legbars?**

A. Because Cream Legbars are autosexing, chicks can be sexed at hatch-time generation after generation. "Blue" eggs are very popular and novel and can even bring in more money to an egg seller than brown or white eggs. Cream Legbars have a crest that gives them a very distinctive appearance. Most Cream Legbar owners like the appearance and disposition of Cream Legbars and consider them a charming and sustainable addition to the backyard flock.

### **14. Are there any Cream Legbar Club members near me?**

You can find an [up-to-date membership list online](#) with locations (when provided) to make finding fellow Cream Legbar enthusiasts easier.

### **15 What if my question isn't listed or I have insights to give or information to share?**

A. Please send your questions, corrections, or additional information for consideration to the club through the "Contact Us" button on the club website or right here:

[Contact us](#)



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The Cream Legbar Club is registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(7) organization, which falls broadly into the category of a social club.

To maintain a tax status that will not require the club to pay income tax, the gross receipts should stay below \$50,000.00 and no more than 35% of the club's income can come from sources other than dues.