

# For beginners - How does the show season work?

When you join a club you pay a club membership fee, which allows you to enter your birds in club shows. Most clubs have monthly meetings and shows for competitions between club members. These shows are run differently by each club and you cannot accrue "**Exhibitor points**" at these shows.

The clubs are all affiliated with the Budgerigar Council of Victoria. (BCV)

Once you have joined a club, you can also pay a BCV membership fee. If you order rings from the BCV, you automatically have to pay this fee and become a member. So you are in fact a member of both the club and BCV.

## **Membership period.**

These club & BCV memberships are for a Calendar Year. The rings are also issued for a Calendar Year. The show season and "**Exhibitor Points**" system is calculated during the Calendar Year.

## **Levels of competition.**

There are four levels of Exhibitor. The starting section is Beginner, then Intermediate, then Open and finally Champion. The Rules explain the exact method of calculating the **Exhibitor Points** required to move up from one section to the other. Members should read these rules and become familiar with them.

## **Diploma & UBC shows.**

Each club usually hold one "Diploma show" per year. Some clubs also run a separate "UBC (Unbroken Cap) show". These shows have to be approved by the BCV and operate under the rules of the BCV. One "Diploma" for the best Young Bird in show is issued to each club per year. These are fiercely competed for by exhibitors.

These Diploma & UBC shows are open to all BCV registered members from any club. They are managed with the four sections. In other words, if you are a Beginner, you enter your birds in that section, and only compete against other Beginner birds. Likewise, for the other sections.

Within your Section, there are usually classes for Young birds and Adult birds. Some also have UBC.

**Exhibitor points** are given to the winners of each of these sections, and the overall winners in the show. This encourages people to go to shows and compete.

## **To explain the age thing:**

A UBC is a Juvenile, it hasn't gone through puberty, Usually anywhere between 4 – 10 weeks old. As soon as the bird starts to have its first moult, and get pin feathers or develop an iris, then it is too old to be shown as a UBC.

As stated earlier, the rings are issued on a Calendar year basis: So if you have the current years ring on a bird, it can be shown as a young bird as soon as it has completed its first moult. It stays a Young bird and can be shown as such up until the 30<sup>th</sup> December the year after the issue year. IE: a bird with a 2016 ring will be a young bird until 30<sup>th</sup> December 2017. Then it becomes an Adult, and can be shown as such for as many years as you like.

### **Major BCV Shield shows.**

The BCV, holds three Major Shield shows per year. All of the clubs are invited to enter a team to compete against each other for the Shield. These shows are the Adult bird completion in March, the Young Bird in May and the UBC competition in September.

Each club normally holds a club competition to pick their team of 3 birds in each of the 28 colour varieties a few days prior to the Shield competition. No **Exhibitor points** are available at these pre-selection shows.

At the Shield competition all of the 3 birds from each club in each Variety (if 20 clubs enter 3 birds there could be 60 birds in the class) are benched and judged down to 30. There are no exhibitor class distinction, all birds are in together Beginner – Champion. There are “Club Points” for these birds allocated to calculate the winning club.

However the birds that come 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> each receive **Exhibitor points**.

The main / major show out of these three Shield Competitions is the Young bird, as the team of 3 birds for the **National competition**, which is usually held one week later, is selected from the winners in each colour class. These birds can only be from the previous calendar year.

At the **National competition**, each of the seven state/zones enters three birds in each colour class. There are “State Points” for these birds allocated to calculate the winning state.

The winning birds 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> each receive **Exhibitor points**.

Each State hosts a National Competition once every seven years. The next Victorian National will be 2019.

*I hope this explains it all in simple terms.*