

The Aylesbury Club and the Duck Dinner

The Duck Dinner is held in Aylesbury each year by the Aylesbury Club, which was originally formed in 1810. Its objects then were “good cheer, good humour and good neighbourhood”, and its members met each month on the Friday nearest to the full moon during the period from November to April. Apparently the dining sometimes got out of hand; it is reported that on 21st January, 1832 an inquest was held in respect of one Robert Brazil, who died as a result of choking on stewed beef which he had been “eating voraciously” at Judkins Bakehouse”.

The club continued into the 1950’s; the Bucks Herald recording in September 1954 that the author Sir Compton Mackenzie proposed the toast at the Bulls Head in Aylesbury and that the ducks were provided by the British Oil and Cake Mills demonstration farm at Stoke Mandeville. After this time the club seems to have faded away. However in 1973 Maurice Buckingham, the then Mayor of Aylesbury, reconstituted the club with the same laudable objects, and it is now as strong as ever, although its members are now more temperate.

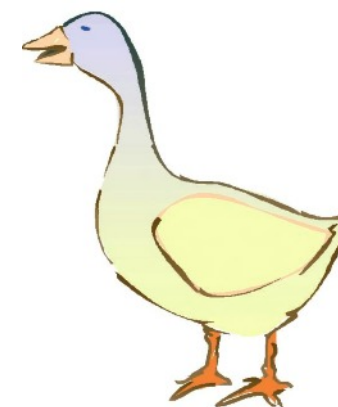
The Club’s only raison d’etre apart from the above objects is to continue the tradition of the annual duck dinner, and the Club and its members hope that all its guests will enjoy tonight’s dinner.

The Aylesbury Duck

A good Exhibition Aylesbury should have a horizontal carriage and a keel which is parallel to the ground. However there are also Utility Aylesbury’s which are more vertical without the keel. The Exhibition Aylesbury should also have a strong head and straight bill which measures about 15-20cm from the top of the head to the tip of the bill. The bill should be pinkish-white in colour as well as long and wide. There should be an almost straight outline from the top of the head to the tip of the bill. All feathers should be white and the legs should be orange in colour. The Aylesbury is a very large duck and was initially bred for table purposes because it is quite a fleshy bird. The drake should be between 4.5-5.4kg and the duck slightly smaller 4.1-5.0kg.

The Aylesbury Club

Good Humour, good cheer and good neighbourhood



Serving the Duck since 1810

DUCK DINNER

Wednesday 28th February, 2007

At

The Aston Hall
The Civic Centre
Aylesbury

President: Brian Ewart T.D.