



# BELTED GALLOWAY CATTLE SOCIETY

Secretary Ian J.R. Sutherland

Rock Midstead, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 2TH

Tel. 07891 245870 Fax 01665 579326

Email info@beltedgalloways.co.uk www.beltedgalloways.co.uk

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## COUNCIL WRAPS UP THE GREAT DEBATE

Everyone will be aware that for some time a debate has been taking place about breed standards in the Belted Galloway, particularly with reference to markings. There are many different views on the matter, and Council is grateful to all those who contributed their opinions. A special meeting of the breed standards sub-committee was held in December, and the members of the sub-committee were circulated with every letter or email the Society received, as well as some historical documents on the subject which are still relevant today. The sub-committee thoroughly explored all the views and options and made several proposals to Council, which has the ultimate responsibility of setting standards.

Council met on 30<sup>th</sup> January, and, armed with the sub-committee's report, dealt with all the issues one by one, taking a vote on each so that no-one can be in any doubt that its decisions were arrived at in a fair a constitutional manner. The breed standards have been amended accordingly and will be published in detail in the Annual News this spring. In the meantime, however, here is a brief resume of Council's decisions:-

- 1) The appendix system will be retained in its present form, i.e. "AA", "A" and "B", followed by full pedigree registration.
- 2) The following animals will be eligible for registration in the "AA" appendix: Females which have white hair on their foot below the dew claw or white horn on the hoof (as per existing rules); Females which have a registered pedigree Black, Dun or Red Galloway parent (as per existing rules); Females which have a broken belt (new rule).
- 3) In order to be eligible for registration in the next appendix ("A") the female progeny of an "AA" must not be mis-marked (as per existing rules).
- 4) All females which are registered in the "AA" appendix will have a suffix added to their herd book number to identify the reason for them being in the appendix - (WF) for white foot, (BL) for Black Galloway parent and (IB) for incomplete belt. These suffixes will appear forever on pedigree certificates, in herd books and on the Grassroots database, so that breeders who wish to "steer clear" of such breeding will be able to identify them.
- 5) The standards for Belted Galloway bulls will remain the same (i.e. must have two fully registered pedigree Belted Galloway parents, must have complete belt, must have no white hair anywhere outside the belt or white on the hoof). The question of spots in the belt was discussed and it was agreed that bulls must have no spots of coloured hair on the top or sides of the belt. Spots of pigmented skin would be permissible, providing the hair growing out of them is white.
- 6) Finally, Council decided that, in order to continue the drive for improved standards, bulls will in future be inspected for locomotion, correct feet and temperament in addition to the standards on markings.

The amended rules will take effect from **1<sup>st</sup> March** and will be publicised in full detail in the forthcoming Annual News.

## TRANSFERS

The rules of the Society state that when an animal changes ownership it is the responsibility of the new owner to inform the Secretary and to return the pedigree certificate for re-issue. If this is not done the animal will remain in the wrong ownership on the database. Until recently this was not a major problem, although it led to many inaccuracies in the records. However, since the Society decided to allow online access by members to the Grassroots database there has been a flood of enquiries to the office asking why so many of their cattle don't appear on their record.

There are two reasons for this - firstly, under the old computer system changes of ownership were recorded on the back of the pedigree certificate, but not on the database, hence on the computer the animal remained attributed to its original breeder. Secondly, many transfers have simply not been reported to the Society, leading to the same effect. Most of the historical cases have now been corrected, which leaves the ones where the Society has not been informed at the time of transfer.

Council is keen to tidy up the records, particularly in view of the fact that members now have access to the database.

**It has decided that all animals born since the start of the new Grassroots system on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010 should be in the correct ownership on the database, and if they are not the transfer fee of £6.00 including V.A.T. will be payable before any actions can be carried out such as registering their progeny.**

## ANNUAL NEWS

This year's Annual News is being compiled now, and you will see from the enclosed flyer that contributions and members' adverts are most welcome. This year we plan to publish a map with the location of members' farms and a list of their contact details for a small fee. If you have stock to sell this will be very useful. The map listing will be free to members who have also taken out an advert of their own. In addition Council has decided that adverts from outside organisations will be accepted, so if you know of any suppliers or other interested parties who would like to take an advert in our magazine, which has a circulation of 700, please let the Secretary know.

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## *From the Secretary*

Once again the A.G.M. and sale at Castle Douglas proved a memorable occasion. The new venue for the A.G.M. and the annual dinner seems to have been generally well received – two or three minor improvements have been suggested, and these will be taken up with Threave Gardens. The show was ably judged by Jane Smith, who had a large entry to contend with and did a great job. Once again the sale proved that Belties are very much in demand, and with a consortium of buyers setting another record price for one of Helen Hamilton's bulls, there was plenty to talk about.

Another thing in the sale which was also the subject of much discussion was a couple of fully registered heifers which were sold in the main section of the sale and which had white on their feet. Many people commented on this and the Society has looked into how this came about. The first heifer with white on two feet was the result of a mix up at the time of registration and should have been registered in the AA appendix. It has subsequently been re-registered as an appendix animal and both vendor and buyer informed. The second heifer, which had a small white patch on one foot, was correctly registered as a full pedigree. However, since registration it had encountered some barbed wire which had torn the skin on the foot. When the hair grew back on the scar it was without pigment, i.e. white. This has been independently verified to the satisfaction of the Society, so its registration still stands.

A couple of housekeeping points – firstly, the online access to the Society's Grassroots system is proving increasingly popular, with more and more birth notifications and registrations being conducted online. However, despite the welcome opportunity to carry out paperless transactions with the Society it remains important that a likeness of the calf be submitted when applying for a registration. This can either be a photo of both sides of the animal or a sketch similar to the old form which can be scanned and emailed. Unfortunately many breeders are omitting to send a likeness, so we are going to have to insist that this is done, otherwise registration cannot be processed.

Secondly, in a similar vein, many members are keen to take advantage of paperless payments to the Society in the form of direct debit, standing orders or B.A.C.S. payments, and the Society is grateful to all those of you who have embraced this method. However, it is very important to ensure that a meaningful reference is attached to the transaction otherwise we don't know who to attribute the payment to. This happens a few times every year, and it is almost impossible to work out who the payments are from. Please check your direct payments and make sure the reference either has your own name (as opposed to a trading name the Society doesn't know) or, preferably, your member number.

## **CATTLE FOR SALE**

**The Society maintains a listing of cattle for sale or wanted on its website [www.beltedgalloways.co.uk](http://www.beltedgalloways.co.uk)**

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| <b>Belties for sale – Carlisle Mart</b>            | 4 homebred heifers from the Stonehouse herd entered for Carlisle Galloway sale on 1 <sup>st</sup> March. Contact Mrs. E. Richardson 01539 625118   |
| <b>Belted heifers for sale – Devon</b>             | Fifteen heifers for sale from Dartmoor. Sire Mochrum Lochinvar. Contact Charles Godfrey. 07786 061094 <a href="mailto:charleswgodfrey@msn.com">charleswgodfrey@msn.com</a>                           |
| <b>Dun Belted bull – Perthshire</b>                | Ballindean Sandy. Sire Mochrum Laird. Good, strong bull. Contact Diana Rettie 01828 686337   |
| <b>Belted heifers – Worcestershire</b>             | Top quality, homebred heifers with show potential. Various ages. Contact Deborah Powell 01886 812377 <a href="mailto:deborahpowell111@btinternet.com">deborahpowell111@btinternet.com</a>            |
| <b>Young bulls – Kirkcudbright</b>                 | Quiet to handle, high health status, excellent pedigrees. Semen also available. Contact John & Sandra Corrie 01557 820232 <a href="mailto:j.corrie126@btinternet.com">j.corrie126@btinternet.com</a> |
| <b>Belted bull for sale – Lancashire</b>           | High health status, 19 months old. Contact Malcolm Handley 01200 446279 <a href="mailto:marty.croasdale@btinternet.com">marty.croasdale@btinternet.com</a>   |
| <b>Belted cows for sale – Invernesshire</b>        | Two Kinrea cows – regular breeders, good condition. One black, one dun. Contact Neil MacLeod on 01463 741488   |
| <b>Belted &amp; White heifers – Northumberland</b> | Good selection of both breeds. Various ages. Bulling or with calf at foot. Contact Tim Oliver 07885 203066 <a href="mailto:oliveeastfarm@btinternet.com">oliveeastfarm@btinternet.com</a>            |
| <b>Young Belted bulls – Dumfriesshire</b>          | Young bulls ready for work from the Polbae herd. Contact Richard Wilson <a href="mailto:raw12b@hotmail.com">raw12b@hotmail.com</a> or 07919 185272   |
| <b>Belted bull – Somerset</b>                      | 4 years old, proven breeder, easy calving. Contact Mrs. J. Look 07855 531902   |