



BELTED GALLOWAY CATTLE SOCIETY

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WINTER
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NEWSPLETTER



ANNUAL YEARBOOK

Last year saw the Society's annual magazine published in a new format, which was very well received. In addition to the usual interesting mix of articles, results and information we included a complete list of registrations for the past year so that the yearbook doubled as a herd book – something the Society has not published *en masse* for a number of years. The aim is to make the yearbook an indispensable reference book for all things relating to Belted and White Galloways. Continuing the theme this year's edition will contain a list of members and contact details, but it should be stressed that the list will only include those members who have given their permission for this information to be published. The book is due to go off to the printers by the end of March, so if you have any snippets for inclusion please get them off to the Secretary as soon as possible. In particular we are looking for more adverts this year, as these help to defray the cost of publication. If you know of any businesses or ancillary trades which would be interested in advertising with us please let the Secretary know. For full details of the yearbook please see the enclosed flyer.

NEW SPRING SALE FIXTURE

Following consultations with breeders and buyers in the south west of the country the Society has decided to try a new venue for its sale in the south west. The most important message coming out of the discussions was that the sale is regarded as an essential fixture and should not be discontinued, however most people were relaxed about the actual venue. In view of the highly successful inaugural spring sale held at Carlisle last year the Society has asked Harrison and Hetherington to organise this year's spring sale in the south west. The venue will be **Bristol Sales Centre** and the date has been set for **Saturday 31st May**. Schedules will be sent out as usual, and if anyone has any queries please contact Harrison and Hetherington on 01228 406230 or the Secretary.

Meanwhile the Society's other spring sale will go ahead once again at **Carlisle** on **Saturday 17th May**. Details can be obtained from H & H or the Secretary.

HERD HEALTH DEBATE

Animal health is a vitally important aspect of our business, and one which no breeder can afford to ignore. Not only is it of fundamental importance to every herd, but legislation is increasingly being used as a means to impose standards where none previously existed, as with B.V.D. in Scotland. Breed Societies have a part to play in this issue by encouraging breeders wherever possible to embrace voluntary animal health schemes. As things stand there is a wide variation in the policies of breed societies, ranging from those which impose compulsory health standards on every member to others which have no policy and make no requirements of their members. At the moment the Belted Galloway Society falls into the latter category, however Council has been looking at this issue and has concluded that the time is right to introduce a policy on herd health. The Society is well placed to encourage higher health standards within the breed, the benefit being that members will not be left behind in the event of future legislation being introduced. It would be inappropriate and heavy-handed to introduce compulsory accreditation throughout the Society at this time, however Council felt that by setting standards for participation in core events such as official sales then a "trickle down effect" would take place which would encourage all members to think about this important issue. Consultations will take place this year with a view to introducing minimum health standards at Society events and news of developments will be published on the Society's website and in future newsletters.

From the Secretary

A.G.M. Once again a very successful annual general meeting and annual dinner were held at Threave Gardens in Castle Douglas last October on the evening before the Society's prestigious sale at Wallets Marts. Over 60 members attended the A.G.M. – at around 10% of the membership not a bad turnout. As usual some robust discussions took place on a variety of issues which is exactly how it should be. Members' views are essential to the running of the Society and every opportunity to receive them is welcome indeed. The Society continues in good heart, with membership increasing by over 10% year on year and turnover at record levels. We must not take this expansion for granted, however, and it is important that we use this opportunity to place our breed in a secure position for future generations.

FINANCES. On the subject of finances it was noted that, while expansion brings with it financial security, there is also the risk that attention to detail suffers as workload increases. One manifestation of this is the undue level of outstanding invoices to members which leave a hole in the Society's cash flow. Council has discussed this, as a result of which we now issue an invoice when registrations and other actions are processed, but don't release the certificates until the invoice has been paid. This still leaves a large amount of unpaid invoices outstanding, and some of you will have received a reminder with this newsletter asking for payment. Please settle your accounts promptly, or contact me if you have a query about the statement. If payments are delayed it is unfair on the members who pay promptly and may result in fees having to increase unnecessarily.

GREMLINS. I must apologise to members who have been trying to contact the Society by email recently. There have been a couple of issues with the email software which I have had to call on the assistance of the server to rectify, and as I write I can receive messages again but not send any. Hopefully this will be sorted out by the time you receive this newsletter, but in the meantime please feel free to telephone anytime.

SALES. Many members expressed disappointment that quite a few of the entries for last October's sale at Castle Douglas were not forward on the day, which some felt spoiled the sale somewhat. Council has taken up the recommendation of the sale sub-committee that from now on a charge of £50 per head will be payable along with the entry form. If the animal is forward at the sale £35 of this will be refunded, the remainder being kept as the entry fee. Exceptions will be made for valid reasons if accompanied by a suitable letter.

TRANSFERS Just a brief reminder that the rules for transfers were changed last year. Transfer fees are now payable by the vendor, and these have been increased to £12.00 (including V.A.T.) per head.

ANNUAL NEWS I am sometimes asked whether back copies of the Society's magazine are available. I have a small selection here at the office for the following years:- 1982; 1987; 2000; 2001; 2004 to present. If anyone would like any of these I have some to spare. There will be a small charge to cover costs.

KEEPING IT LOCAL

Many breed societies organise themselves into local set-ups, and there are distinct advantages to this idea. Usually called names such as "Breeders Clubs" or "County branches" these units within the society play an invaluable part in fostering the interests of the breed by promoting it, organising competitions and encouraging youngsters to get involved. It is difficult for a very small society to do this, but in our case there are distinct signs that the Society would benefit from the inception of local or regional groups. Many members will be aware of the tremendous success of the Irish Beltie Breeders Club. Inaugurated by a group of enthusiastic members, the Club has gone from strength to strength and now mounts displays at local and national shows as well as organising well-attended open days for breeders. Council is very keen to encourage this approach throughout the British Isles and is considering setting up a new regional structure which could not only take ownership of localised events, but could also be reflected in the make-up of Council itself. Obviously it would need a committed local membership before anything could happen on the ground, but the Society is growing fast and acquiring some very enthusiastic members all round the country. Successful local events have already been held, such as the open day and workshop at Jane Smith's herd in Monmouthshire and the farm visits last year at the Cairnsmore and Mochrum herds. If you would like to get involved in local activities please contact the secretary or you local Council member:-

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|-----------------|--|
| President | Mr. R.K. Graham, Irelandton, Twynholm, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4PP. 01557 860673 |
| Vice Presidents | Mr. G.B. Sproat, Katrine Bank, Borgue, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4SH. Mr. J.A. Boxall, Dalgrambich Farm, Croy, Inverness, IV2 5PR. 01667 493455 |
| Chairman | Mr. J. A. Corrie, Park House, Tongland, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4NE. 01557 820232 |
| Vice Chairman | Mr. T. Oliver, East Farm, Great Whittington, Newcastle on Tyne, NE19 2HP. 01434 672382 |
| Past Chair | Miss E.J. Wilkinson, Barngarth, Ruthwell, Dumfries, DG1 4NJ. 01387 770020 |
| Retiring 2014 | Mrs. J. Taylor, Brae of Gadgirth, Sundrum, Ayr, KA6 5LB. 01292 591247 Mr. R. Wilson, The Manse, 4, Carsphairn Road, Dalmellington, Ayrshire, KA6 7RE. 01292 551503 Mr. J.A.T. Hodge, Park Farm, Tors Road, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 1QN. 01837 54888 Mrs. C. Fletcher, Barwise Hall, Appleby-in-Westmorland, Cumbria, CA16 6TD. 01768 353430 Mrs. J. Landers, Bargaly Farm, Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire, DG8 7BH. 01671 402179 Mr. I. Marshall, Eastlands, Crockettford, Dumfries & Galloway, DG2 8QH. 01556 690289 Mrs. C. McMillan, Woodhead of Lessnessock, Ochiltree, Ayrshire, KA18 2RR Mr. C. Coaker, Bittleford Farm, Widdecombe on the Moor, Devon, TQ13 7PN Mr. A. Lawson, North Cassingray, Largoward, Fife, KY9 1JD |
| Retire 2015 | Mr. D.M. Bertie, Estate Office, Allanbay Park, Binfield, Berkshire, RG42 5QA Mr. R. Robson, Castlefield, High Head Castle, Ivegill, Carlisle, CA4 0PN. 01697 473559 Mr. D. Dunne, Castlemartin Stud Farm, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare, Ireland. 0035345 481335 Mr. A. Coaker, Sherberton Farm, Princetown, Yelverton, Devon, PL20 6SF Mr. R. Delany, Gaulstown House, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath. Ireland. 00353808 201738 |
| Retire 2016 | Mr. J. McTurk, May Farm, Port William, Dumfries & Galloway, DG8 9RP. 01988 860252 Mr. R. Adams, Shirley Old Park Farm, Rodsley, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 3AP. 01335 330203 Mr. M. Welters, Kernel Rigg Farm, Rowelton, Carlisle, CA6 6JL. 01228 675430 Miss J.A. Cowie, 52, Catherine Street, Gatehouse of Fleet, Castle Douglas, DG7 3JB. 01557 814538 |