



JANUARY 2016



BELTIE NEWS

NEW ADDRESS

Please note the Secretary has moved house, and the office now has a new address. All mail should be directed to this address with immediate effect. Details as follows:-

FLAT 2, 6, MARINE, ROAD, ALNMOUTH, NORTHUMBERLAND, NE66 2RP

Telephone and email remain the same:-

07891 245870

info@baltedgalloways.co.uk

JANUARY MAILING

You may recall that in the autumn newsletter there was a report on Council's meeting in July at which decisions were taken to tighten up the Society's finances. The level of outstanding invoices is now so high that it is causing concern not only to Council but also to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, to whom we are accountable. The newsletter said that any member with invoices 90 or more days overdue will have their membership placed on hold in January until the **whole** of their outstanding balance is settled. That gave members at least two months to settle their accounts or to query them. Accordingly, some of you will be receiving a letter with this mailing indicating that your membership is now on hold, which means that you cannot access the Society's online services and the Secretary will not carry out any work for you until you either pay your account or contact him to query it.

ANIMAL DATABASE

The other item most of you will be receiving with this newsletter is a list of animals the Society believes you have in your herd. We are asking you to check over the list and report any inaccuracies to the Secretary. This would include anything which hasn't been reported already - animals you have bought or sold, as well as deaths, births, etc. The reason for this census is that the database contains inaccuracies, mainly because of transfers which have not been reported. This means that many animals are in the wrong ownership on the database and members can't find them when they are searching for them on Grassroots. The Society will in future carry out a census on a regular basis. For the current one Council has decided to give everyone **three months to return the animal list with any alterations**. After that period we will not carry out registrations for offspring of any dams which are found to be in the wrong ownership unless a transfer fee is paid immediately. The only exception to this will be an amnesty for transfers carried out before the current transfer rules came into force on 1st July 2013. Please take this opportunity to help us to tidy up the database for the benefit of everyone. Going forward registrations will not be carried out for any calves whose dam is not recorded as belonging to the applicant, unless transfer fees are paid for the dams. These should be paid by the vendor, but if this doesn't happen the owner will have to pick up the bill before calves can be registered.

ANNUAL YEARBOOK

Work is beginning on putting the Annual Yearbook together, and there is still time to get your material included. As usual all contributions are welcome, be they articles, news from your farm or travels further afield, photos or anything else you may have. The other thing we are asking is for more adverts. Many members take an advert every year, and this is good value, as the book will be seen by around 600 breeders and interested people. As you will know, the vast majority of cattle sales in our breed take place privately, so if you'll have stock to sell this year why not put yourself before your market? In the past adverts tended to be only from breeders, but we have widened the net to include all sorts of ancillary businesses. So, if your vet or feed merchant might take an advert why not approach them – heaven knows, they are making enough out of you! If we had only a couple of dozen more full page adverts the book would be self-financing, so please see what you can do.

WORLD GALLOWAY CONFERENCE

Plans are well in hand for what is shaping up to be a huge event when the Galloway Cattle Society and ourselves play host to delegates from all over the world for the bi-annual conference which will be based this August in Gretna. We have taken over the 100 bedroom Gretna Hall hotel for the week and the rooms have been fully booked for some time, with enquiries still coming in. It looks as though our initial estimate of 200 delegates could be somewhat conservative! The event begins on Friday 5th August with registration for the delegates and a welcome dinner then on Saturday 6th everyone will visit Dumfries Show. Both Galloway societies have pushed the boat out for this day, and the show authorities have been most helpful in accommodating us. The Belted Galloways will make use of the occasion to revive our National Show, which has been held only once before at the Great Yorkshire Show (see below). There will also be classes for White Galloways and there will be Riggitt Galloways on show too. On Sunday 7th August the actual World Conference will take place at the hotel, with delegations from all over the world giving reports on their progress and the issues before them. The rest of the event (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) will be given over to herd visits, attractions and entertainment with the delegates dispersing on Thursday 11th August.

NATIONAL SHOW REVIVED

This August sees the Belted Galloway National Show being revived after a long hiatus. A special effort has been made to lay on a great show to co-incide with the visit of the World Galloway Conference to Dumfries Show on Saturday, August 6th. Council members have taken charge of deciding on classes, and in an unusual departure a special class will be held for “veteran” cows. This will be open to older cows only and is designed to demonstrate to the large number of potential breeders who will be watching the show the legendary longevity of the Belted Galloway. This increases its profitability compared to other breeds by reducing herd depreciation and the need for a high proportion of replacement stock. Two of the special trophies rescued from the dispersal auction of the Royal Agricultural Society of England will be used for the National Show. Going forward, the intention is to hold the National Show on a regular basis and to move it around the country, thereby giving the maximum number of members the opportunity to take part.

WELCOME TO NORTH OF ENGLAND BREEDERS GROUP

The final piece of the jigsaw fell into place in the autumn with the inaugural meeting of the North of England Belted Galloway Breeders Group. The whole of the U.K. and Ireland is now covered by regional breeders groups and the benefit of these clubs is already apparent. The other groups in Ireland, Scotland, the Midlands, and the South of England and Wales have already organised popular events and have mounted exhibits at local and regional shows, often winning awards for their efforts. The benefits to the breed in terms of promotion and interest from new breeders are self-evident, and members have had an enjoyable time mixing social functions with “business”. Once all the regions are properly settled in there are plans to institute a national herd competition. This would have been prohibitively expensive to organise centrally, but now that we have a regional structure it should be possible to have regional heats with the winners of each region taking part in a national final. The magnificent Knockbrenn trophy, also rescued from the R.A.S.E. sale, has been saved for the herd competition and there will be great anticipation over who will be the first to pick it up. In the meantime, keep an eye on our website for regional events coming up, or contact your regional secretary for more information:-

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Scotland	Gayle Glendinning	07745 555201	scottish@beltedgalloways.co.uk
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Southern England & Wales	Alison Bunning	01398 351165	alison.bunning@btinternet.com