



BELTED GALLOWAY CATTLE SOCIETY

Secretary Ian J.R. Sutherland

4, Rock Midstead, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 2TH

Tel. 07891 245870

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

SUMMER
2014



OPEN DAY SHOWCASES WHITE GALLOWAYS

NEWSLETTER

The Society's Vice Chairman, Tim Oliver (who has been nominated to become chairman at this year's A.G.M.) has kindly agreed to stage an open day at his farm near Haltwhistle in Northumberland. Low House Farm is situated close to the A69 and is typical of the type of marginal land which both Belties and White Galloways excel at utilising. Tim is a keen breeder of White Galloways as well as Belties, and he places a great deal of importance on breeding for carcass quality, as he also runs a farm shop and butchery in nearby Ponteland which is supplied from his own farm. A committed large scale livestock farmer, the cattle at Low House and the other family unit at Great Whittington have to pay their way and Tim is passionate about the qualities of the White Galloway and the Beltie, which allow them to convert poor quality grazing into top quality beef. The Open day will take place on **Saturday 23rd August** and members and friends are very welcome to come and see both the White Galloways and their Beltie cousins. A flyer accompanies this newsletter, and we should be very grateful if you could let the Secretary know that you will be attending in order to help with catering.



ROYAL VISITOR

H.R.H. THE COUNTESS OF WESSEX VISITED THE JUDGING RING DURING THE GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW AND DISCUSSED THE FINER POINTS OF BELTIES WITH JUDGE ROGER ROBSON (left)

HERD OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

Many breeds stage a herd of the year competition, and it has been proposed that the Belted Galloways ought to have one too. Council has decided to place this idea on the agenda as a point for discussion at the A.G.M. in October. Some members felt that in order to run the competition efficiently a regional structure would be necessary so that initial stages could be judged by region with, for example, the top herds in each region going through to a final which would be judged by a "national panel". If you have any views or ideas please contact the Secretary

SALES NEWS

Herd health - Members will be aware that for some time now the Society has been deliberating how best to promote the very important issue of herd health. Council is keen not to impose compulsory herd health standards on all our breeders, but it nevertheless feels that it ought to take a lead in gently encouraging breeders to raise standards of herd health. The ultimate aim will be to have all cattle entered for official Society sales meeting certain minimum health standards, and as a beginning it has been decided that **all bulls entered for the spring sales in 2015 must have been vaccinated for BVD.** Further reminders of this requirement will be issued so that vendors can plan accordingly.

A.I. certificates - Females entered for Society sales which have been served by A.I. will henceforth be required to be accompanied by the relevant A.I. certificate. Breeders will be aware that females sold as being in calf are already required to have a P.D. certificate with them.

South West sale - The Society was very disappointed that its south west sale fixture did not proceed as planned this year, but it is still determined to provide breeders in the south with an official sale next spring. Plans will be laid this autumn, and breeders in the south are invited to contact the secretary with their views on venues, etc.

NEWS FROM COUNCIL

The Society's Council has met in May and July and in two very busy meetings a number of initiatives were discussed:-

Birth notification fees – Council has decided to extend the current arrangement for notification fees online to include paper notifications. This means that the birth notification fee of £6.00 (inc. V.A.T.) will only be payable if a certificate is requested. In other words all notifications where a certificate is not required will be free of charge. It is hoped that this will encourage a higher level of reporting as the information gathered from birth notifications is extremely useful. **The new rule will come into effect from 1st January 2015**

Sketching of calves on registration forms – in a bid to simplify the registration process Council has decided that it should not be necessary to sketch females on the registration form. Similarly, with online registrations it should not be necessary to submit photos or other likenesses. Instead registration forms both on paper and online will include a declaration which the breeder must tick to confirm that the animal meets the breed standards. This will not affect bulls, which are all inspected before registration. **Breeders should be aware that the Society reserves the right to inspect females if it considers it to be appropriate, and any females which do not conform to the breed standards will either be re-registered in the appendix or de-registered completely.** Council will look at a re-designed form and announce its introduction in the autumn.

Bull inspections – As well as the bull inspector examining a bull it is also important to have sight of his dam so as to confirm that she also conforms to the breed standards. Accordingly, with immediate effect, bull inspectors will now ask to see a bull's dam if this is feasible.

Transfers – several instances have recently occurred where a breeder has received a transfer invoice for an animal he or she no longer owns. This happens because at the time the animal was sold neither the vendor nor the buyer informed the Society of the change in ownership, which means the system still thinks the original breeder owns the animal. If the animal is then sold a second or subsequent time the system will raise a transfer fee and send it to the original breeder. Thus it is essential that all transfers (even to non members) are reported to the Secretary promptly. ***Reminder* It is now the responsibility of the vendor to pay the transfer fee.**

Interbreed competitions – Council heard of some controversial decisions which had been taken at the major shows with regard to choosing the teams for interbreed competitions. For clarification it was pointed out that it is the responsibility of breed societies to choose the teams for these events, and the most important thing is to choose a team which will have the best chance of performing well. In some instances this could mean leaving out animals which had done very well in their individual classes in order to achieve a well-matched team. However, Council agreed that this could be hard on some exhibitors whose cattle had performed well but were subsequently left out of the teams. In the interests of fairness it was suggested that in future potential teams should be brought out to the ring in a "trial run" so that breeders could see exactly how the animals looked when side by side.

NEW GOODIES FOR THE MERCHANDISE LIST!

We are always keen to try out new things for members to wear, eat or otherwise utilise, and a couple of new arrivals are now available. Following many enquiries we have commissioned a Beltie umbrella in time for the weather deteriorating (*left*). It will look at home on the high street or the golf course, so contact the secretary to get yours now. Only £15.00 each.

Chocolate is always a desirable item, and we have teamed up with an Inverness company called The Chocolate Place, who have produced Belgian chocolate Belties. They come in two sizes – a single large one or a pack of eight small ones. Both are priced at £3.50 each.

YEARBOOK COMING!

The Secretary wishes to apologise for the late arrival of this year's edition of the yearbook. It is at the printers now. We are building on the well-received changes introduced in last year's edition, and this one will have even more useful reference information in it. It has made the whole process more time-consuming, however, which has led to delays in its production, as the volume will be considerably bigger. The lesson learned is to start earlier, and as soon as this year's edition is published work will begin on the 2015 edition!



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The Society's annual general meeting will be held at Threave Gardens Visitor Centre, Castle Douglas on Thursday, 23rd October, to be followed by the annual dinner at the same venue. The next day the Society's prestigious sale will take place at Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas.