



Highland Cattle Club of Wales Newsletter

Issue 45 - Summer 2010



www.hccw.org.uk

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of HCCW

CONTENTS

2. A Word From the Chair
4. News
5. Llan Fold Visit
6. Gilden Vale Open Day
8. Show Reports:
 - i. Aberystwyth Show
 9. ii. Royal Bath & West Show
 11. iii. Royal Highland Show
12. Virtual Visit to...
13. Gallery
14. Sales and Wants
16. Diary Dates
- Committee Addresses

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Firstly I would like to welcome Dafydd Morgans to the committee. As an experienced farmer and Welsh speaker he is a valuable asset to us and he also possesses what I think is called “presence”, along with lots of new ideas. He has been co-opted on for now: we hope he likes us and agrees to stand at the AGM. (If anyone else would like to have a go at being a committee member please let me or Mo know during the next few months.)

Continued on next page...

The HCCW display at the Smallholders’ in May



Cover photo: Aberystwyth Show (courtesy of Mike Redwick-Jones)

...continued from page 2

This has been a good year so far: the Smallholder and Garden Festival was a triumph for Becky, Annie and Mo when the stand won first prize. Live exhibits make a difference too, and the Gilden Vale beasts were beautifully turned out. Thanks to all who helped, including Olwen and Julian Ford, I hope it was fun and worth all the work!

The Gilden Vale Open Day at the end of May was very well attended and highly successful. Careful thought and planning had gone into the day so that people could drop in and out at any time, seeing the things that interested them most. As it happened, folks were keen to take everything in despite the rain. I think even the fencing men had a visit or two from those with wet weather gear! Thanks to Angela and Duncan for being such welcoming hosts.

Now we are over halfway through the year the serious showing season has begun and we are looking forward to the Royal Welsh Show. I am told that over forty Highland cattle are due to attend this year, so it will be well worth the effort of getting to Builth to see them. As usual judging will be on the Monday morning, so Good Luck, everyone!

Olwen and Julian Ford have kindly invited the club to their Llan Fold on August Bank Holiday Sunday, so I hope to see other members there: we can camp as well if we wish, and make a weekend of it. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

Apparently there are still a few places left for the Gathering in Scotland at the end of September, and it should be worth attending, especially the dinner at Stirling Castle on Wednesday 29th September. At £100 per person for the four days, including seminars, fold visits, a civic reception and the dinner, it represents extremely good value. The fold visits include the Pollok, Woodneuk and Cladich, and are an opportunity to see the work of Scottish folds at first hand. I'm sure a lot of information and expertise will be in the air as well!

The Club Annual General Meeting and Christmas Dinner will be held at the Stockman's in the Showground at Builth, on 4th December, the Saturday after the Christmas Fair. It will be roast beef with all the trimmings; please come and support your club and meet other members.

It's a good start to the festive season!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. J.', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

St Mellons Agricultural Show has introduced classes for Highland Cattle for the first time this year. There will be six separate classes and the organisers are keen to see as many Highland Cattle as possible. The closing date for entries is 31st July. Please try to get along to support this event if you can. The show will be held on Saturday 7th August at Tredegar House, Newport, Gwent. For further information contact Karen Meakin on 01495 755267.

The Midlands and Southern Highland Cattle Club are holding a show on 7th August at Blakesley in Northamptonshire. The closing date for entries is 23rd July; the entry fee for non members is £10 but £4 of this will be refunded on the day. For further information contact Ruth Thompson on 01327 871201.

The Highland Cattle Society's **Southern Autumn Show & Sale** of pedigree and commercial Highland Cattle will be held at Worcester Livestock Market on Saturday 30th October. For further information contact McCartneys the auctioneers on 01905 769770, worcester@mccartneys.co.uk, www.mccartneys.co.uk.

Welcome to the following new members:

Jeremy Cartwright from Talybont near Aberystwyth

David Edwell from Llanllyfni near Caernarfon

Both Jeremy and David have been busy buying stock and establishing their folds, and we look forward to seeing them at a club event soon.

ADVANCE NOTICE - Reserve this date for your diary!

Saturday 4th December 2010

**Highland Cattle Club of Wales
AGM and Christmas Dinner**

AGM 6.30pm

Dinner 7.30 for 8.00pm

**At Neuadd Henllan (The Stockman's Accommodation)
The Royal Welsh Showground, Llanellwedd,
Builth Wells, Powys, LD2 3TA**

Olwen and Julian Ford invite you to

A Day at Llan Fold

Sunday 29th August 2010

Llan Fold is an organic sheep and cattle farm with some land at sea-level and some hill land

- 11.00 Arrival and coffee
- 11.30 Farm Walk
- 12.00 Trip to upper levels to see stores and eat picnic lunch
- 14.00 Mr Bruce Lawson to speak and answer questions about Premium Health Scheme
- 16.00 Departure

Bring your own picnic lunch - Overnight camping possible

Booking essential via Olwen and Julian:

Llan Farm
Llanfrothen
Penrhyndeudraeth
Gwynedd
LL48 6DU

Tel: 01766 770399

Email: julian.llanfarm@btinternet.com

Directions:

Travelling from the A55 north coast road leave at the Bangor turning and take the road to Caernarfon turn on to the A4085 through Beddgelert, and follow it towards Penrhyndeudraeth and turn left in Garreg Llanfrothen on to the B4410 and travel approximately 1.0 mile and a sign will be placed at the entrance

Travelling from the south go to Penrhyndeudraeth and turn on to the A4085 towards Beddgelert and turn right in Garreg Llanfrothen on to the B4410 and travel approximately 1.0 mile and a sign will be placed at the entrance

Everyone I have spoken to has agreed that Angela and Duncan Handley's open day at Gilden Vale Fold was a huge success, from the foot trimming to the butchery demonstration.

Angus MacGillivray and Tom Thomson came from Scotland to give hints and tips on showing and judging with Robin Chilton and Jim Ayers. A range of Gilden Vale beasts were available for demonstration purposes, and people gathered for coffee in the barn before going outside to watch Jim Ayers doing his excellent impression of "How not to.....show, lead, or control your cattle, especially in front of a judge!". This was followed by a serious look at showing and judging when various points were raised to illustrate how beast and leader can be best presented in the ring. These sessions are always interesting when there are several experts around to give valuable advice. It's useful to be able to draw on a few different ideas when one is out in a dark field in mid winter trying to sort out a beast with a problem!



Jim gets ready for his "turn"!

As the weather worsened, more folk came into the barn, where a butchery demonstration was getting under way. A beast, previously broken down into four quarters, was cut by a master butcher through the day. The skill involved in knowing when and where to cut to get the best from the meat was a revelation to most people watching, even those who reckon to have an interest in these things. The audience were absolutely fascinated and only the call to a magnificent lunch interrupted them.

The foot trimmer and a couple of fencing men outside had the worst of the weather, but I gather a few people did manage to get down and see the fencing, and those who saw the foot trimming found it absorbing. There was certainly plenty to do and no one had time to get bored!

Thank you to everyone, audience and helpers, who turned up – it was a long way for many, but I don't think they were disappointed. Many thanks to Angie and Duncan for the hard work they put into organising the day, especially the wonderful lunch and constant refreshments.



The butcher explains his art



*The foot trimmer
at work*

*Photos courtesy of
Judith Holland*

SHOW REPORTS

Aberystwyth Show - Saturday 12th June

Report by Annie May

It's the show season again and your roving reporter attended the Aberystwyth Show. The weather was perfect and there were six Highland cattle on show; four from the Celyn Fold and two from The May Fold. There is no class for Highlanders at the Aberystwyth Show, so we were all enrolled in the Any Other Native Beef Breed class. However, it happened that Highlanders were the only Any Other Native Beef Breed. The judge was excellent, taking time to look at each animal and assess its merits. When interviewed he said "it was very nice to have such a lovely show of Highlanders and as it was just one breed it made my job much easier."

Both Folds had welcome help from HCCW members; Olwen and Julian Ford in attendance on the Celyn Fold and Mike Redwick-Jones for The May. All performed very well indeed when they showed unfamiliar cattle. And it has to be said, the cattle performed very well when they were shown by unfamiliar humans.

Photos courtesy of Mike Redwick-Jones



To the Bath & West on a sunny Friday evening ready for showing on Saturday. It was the first time Highland classes had been held, and we were hoping for a good turnout. Fourteen entries duly appeared: Sandy and Robert Tedbury and Jane and Robin Whitehouse brought 10 beasts between them (a real sight to behold coming off the lorry). Annie and Terry Perkins brought Gracie and the big black bull, Joss and we took a couple of heiferlumps. Eric and Josie Barr were also there to help Annie and Terry show.

As we settled in and did our final prep, it became apparent that not only were we the largest group of Saturday exhibitors, we were also managing to enjoy ourselves. The sun was hot and the judging seemed to pass very quickly, although I wasn't in the ring on the dangly end of the halter where it was probably different!

Sandy's heifer with calf at foot, Anna Barra of Gray Brae won the Cow/Heifer in calf or milk class and the championship: Annie's bull Joss Dubh of Bausley Hill was reserve. Jane Whitehouse won the Maiden Heifer Class with Fleur of Eckington and was second with Princess Raquel of Mercaston. Judge Robin Chilton said that the classes were very good, and the maiden heifer entries were extremely close. Full results are below.

There was loads of room in the shed and the staff were friendly and very helpful. Security was good and although it was a long way to go - we were the closest at 2 hours, all agreed it was worth it. We are contemplating asking whether we can stay over on the Saturday night and come back on Sunday morning when it's quiet, as the A37 isn't the easiest route to negotiate, especially when you're towing! I hope that if we can keep up the attendance we'll be asked to the main show in a few years. It would be nice to get technical questions rather than the "Oh dear, do you eat them?" and "I thought two little boys would look good on my back lawn, do they fight?" Saturday variety.

Thanks are due to everyone who came. Sandy and Jane bringing 10 beasts was amazing and it is thanks to them that we made such an impression.

Continued over the page...

Annie and Terry managed to get a small baby, a young child and two beasts ready for a weekend away and arrive early after a hot drive across country. I am told that lists are the key, but I suspect determination is also a necessity! B&W were delighted that so many booked *and* turned up on the day. They also seemed impressed that we knew each other and got on well together, to the extent of helping each other out with animals and babysitting. Oliver George is only just over a month old, and he was so good!



Results Bath & West Show, Saturday 5th June

Champion	Anna Barra Of Gray Brae	Tedbury, Mrs S
Res Champ	Joss Dubh Of Bausley Hill	Perkins, L T & A M

HIGHLAND BULL

1 st	Joss Dubh Of Bausley Hill	Perkins, L T & A M
2 nd	Carlos Of Hardham	Tedbury, Mrs S

HIGHLAND COW OR HEIFER, in milk or in calf

1 st	Anna Barra Of Gray Brae	Tedbury, Mrs S
2 nd	Petronnella Of Craycombe	Tedbury, Mrs S

HIGHLAND MAIDEN HEIFER

1 st	Fleur Of Eckintgon	Whitehouse, Mrs J
2 nd	Princess Raquel Of Mercaston	Whitehouse, Mrs J
3 rd	Proiseag Of Great House	McCombe, Mr Michael
4 th	Braoch Cas Fhionn Of Ardbhan	Tedbury, Mrs S

There was another chance to see Robin Chilton in action, this time judging at the Highland Show, on Thursday 24th June. We arrived early with plenty of time to get good places by the show ring and whiled away time whilst the judge was “stuck in traffic” watching the HCS marquee opposite filling with people. Most classes were well supported: there were fifteen entries for the two year old heifers. The beasts were very well turned out, and from the sidelines it looked as though every entry was being carefully weighed up before any final decision was made. Judging took up the morning, in the afternoon there was time to meet old (and new) friends, look round the show and relax in the sunshine before the barbeque in the evening. All in all, a very good day!



Judge Robin Chilton makes his final choice- Ban Righ of Mottistone

Ban Righ of Mottistone, dob 5/2/2008, was the Champion, and Adham 2nd of Lagg, dob 12/5/2008, was reserve.

We can all look forward to the real Fold visit to Julian and Olwen Ford's Llan Fold on the 29th August. Meanwhile, your roving reporter got a brief description from the two of them while having a picnic lunch at the Aberystwyth Show.

Llan Fold's land goes from sea level to around 500 feet and is predominantly peat based. Olwen described the flooding that regularly occurs on the lowland section due to tidal activity. To get the animals up to the higher ground they walk them the half mile or so.

The Llan Fold has about ten Highland beasts but Olwen, who is the farmer of the pair, also has belted Galloways, Welsh Blacks and Aberdeen X Welsh Blacks. Julian is an electrician because, as he said, there always has to be another wage earner on farms these days. Unless, that is, farmers own more than one farm or are immensely wealthy. I think we can all agree with that!

Olwen got their first Highlander as a birthday present for Julian's 40th Birthday. It was a heifer calf from Beksdale Fold in the Cumbrian High Fells. She had been born up on the Fells during the Foot and Mouth epidemic and had not come down until she was nine months old. So she was unused to humans. Nevertheless, Julian and Olwen soon trained her, but it is Olwen's contention that that late introduction to humans probably affected her behaviour. Quiet as she is, she is quite not as at home with humans as the others.

Their Fold Visit will include the Vet Bruce Lawson who will be talking about Premium Health Schemes among other things. Looks like it's going to be a good day!



Gallery



"Come on you lot, it's really quite comfy!!"
Emma Simpkins kindly sent this picture of her heifer "Amber", demonstrating the ease with which Highlanders can be handled given the right facilities.

Annie May's appropriately named calf, "Adora". This has to be a strong contestant for a cutest calf competition.



This picture caused a lot of interest on the display at the Smallholders' Show. It's not a form of medieval cattle torture, but a mobile roll-over foot-trimming crush. According to Liz McCombe, the cow appeared to fall asleep!

FOR SALE AND WANTED

Advertisements are free to members, so if you have any livestock, equipment, other items or services for sale or wanted, please use this space. Sales and Wants are also listed on the website: www.hccw.org.uk
Please send items for the next issue to Mo Morgan by **15th October 2010**.

Young Highland Bull For Hire

Loch Maree 500002 of Loch Maree
UK184533300021
DOB: 19/03/2009

Contact: Will & Lynda Jones
01550 750292
Llandovery, Carmarthenshire

Black Three Year Old Heifer

A big heifer from good bloodlines (Killochries, The May). Not suitable for showing, but should produce good commercial offspring. Has been running with red bull. Fully **organic**. Reasonably priced. Carmarthenshire.

Charles & Mo Morgan
01550 740206, mo@phonecoop.coop

Steers For Sale

We have four steers for sale - one black, one yellow and two reds. They are ready for the freezer now or just to look pretty! £450 each, just TB tested.

Phone Julian on 01974 282311
(Pontrhydygroes)

Registered Highland Cattle For Sale

4 year old bull (red)
Cow (yellow) approx 5 years old,
with bull calf at foot
Yearling heifer (yellow/red)
Two 2 year old steers

Prices negotiable
Glamorgan

Phone Diana Cann: 07527 564116



Young stock available from October

For Sale From The May Fold

PURE BRED ORGANIC
HIGHLAND STEERS

Used to wet bogland sites in summer and rough mountain foraging in winter. No hay, silage or concentrates or supplements. Prices from £350.00

Telephone 01570 423080



*Shropshire/Welsh border.
4 x yearling heifers for sale (born March 09).
Red and yellow. Good breeding and temperament.*

*Contact Mike Whyte on
01948 710302 or 07940 836874*



TARTAN DRAGON
PEDIGREE HIGHLAND BEEF

Organic approved mineral licks, with or without garlic (to repel flies).
Suitable for cattle and sheep. Soil Association approved.
Available in 20kg or 100kg tubs. For further information
contact Charles or Mo Morgan on 01550 740206,
email mo@phonecoop.coop or visit www.wenallt.com

WATERWYNCH - Home of the Rowston Fold

Organic, pure bred stock always available.
Bloodlines include Torloisk, Killochries and The May.
Naturally reared on 250 acres at Marros Mountain,
Red Roses, Carmarthenshire. Soil Association certified.
IBR, BVD, Lepto and Johnes accredited.

Enquiries: Dai Ormond: 07831 111896

www.waterwynch.co.uk



DIARY DATES

29th August	Llan Fold Visit (see page 5)
30th October	Worcester Show & Sale (see page 4)
4th December	AGM & Christmas Dinner (see page 4)

COMMITTEE ADDRESS BOOK

Liz McCombe (Chair)

Great House Farm
Earlswood
Chepstow, NP16 6AT
01291 652957
lizmccombe@btinternet.com

Mo Morgan (Secretary & Newsletter Editor)

Charles Morgan
Wenallt, Llanddeusant
Llangadog, SA19 9TP
01550 740206
mo@phonecoop.coop

Judith Holland (Treasurer)

Mile End Farm, Trevaughan
Carmarthen, SA31 3QL
01267 232144
dwholland14@hotmail.com

Howard Dare

Brynhebog, Brechfa
Carmarthen, SA32 7QR
01267 202291
howard_dare@yahoo.co.uk

Geoff Spawton

Annie May
Gilfachwen, Cellan
Lampeter, SA48 8HL
01570 423080
annie@themay.co.uk

Dafydd Morgans

Blaengorlech
Gwernogle
Carmarthenshire
SA32 7RT
01267 223253

Becky Russell

Pentrecelyn
Llanbrynmair
Powys, SY19 7DZ
07971 638727
becky@silverlinning.orangehome.co.uk

www.hccw.org.uk

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of HCCW