



Highland Cattle Club of Wales

Newsletter

Issue 58 – Spring 2016



IN THIS ISSUE:

Female Breeding Cattle Assessment • Member's Profile • Show Report & Results

www.hccw.org

The website is now up and running

Keep up-to-date with the latest:

- Events
- Articles
- Comments
- Adverts



2016
Spring Festival
21st & 22nd May

Highland Cattle Club of Wales

*Christmas
Dinner
2016*



SAVE THE DATE

2016

AGM & Christmas Dinner

Elan Valley Hotel
Rhayader • Powys LD6 5HN

Saturday 3rd December

**VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED
FOR THE HIGHLAND
CATTLE SOCIETY STAND
AT THE ROYAL WELSH SHOW**

The stand not only acts as a welcome watering hole and meeting place for club members but plays an important part in promoting the breed at one of the largest agricultural events in the country.

Some extra help would be appreciated manning the stand over the course of the show.

If you are available please contact the Club Secretary Eleri Hughes:
01492 641 379 eleri368@gmail.com

FEMALE BREEDING CATTLE ASSESSMENT



It was decided at the AGM that the HCCW would offer a grant to all members towards assessments of the breeding female highland cows in their fold.

The committee feel that these assessments are an excellent idea that can only benefit the breed, the Welsh club would be leading the way by introducing these assessments and providing a quantitative method of measuring and documenting a breeding cow's attributes that can be used when buying and selling stock, and also when breeding and improving lines.

THE COMMITTEE NOW OFFER ALL PAID UP HCCW MEMBERS THE SUM OF £40 TOWARDS ASSESSMENT

The inspection costs are £40 (plus VAT) for the visit to include the assessment of 10 animals. Should the member choose to have any more than this number of cows assessed, the member will pay for this themselves. Costs per animal after the first ten is £4 per animal up to 20 animals and £2 per animal thereafter. These assessments are for breeding animals only, all female cows need to have calved at least once.

THIS WILL BE A ONCE ONLY OFFER AND WILL END 31st MARCH 2017

Only registered highland breeding cow assessments will be reimbursed by the club and those cows assessed must be in the ownership of the member claiming the grant. Invoices will need to show eartag numbers of the cows assessed.

The assessor will invoice the individual fold for the total amount and the member should then send in a copy of the full invoice to claim reimbursement of up to £40.

There is a condition attached to this offer that all assessment information and scoring is made public afterwards so individuals need to be aware that the inspector will send copies of the assessment results to Becky Rowlands (HCCW chair) to be retained in a database by the club.

The inspector is Jim Barber, from Cheshire, who as mentioned in Geoff's article has assessed cattle all over the world, various different breeds, so he is independent, unbiased and very experienced. To arrange an assessment please **contact Jim Barber on 07973 307 687** and make arrangements at both your convenience, Jim tries to book a few herds in the same area to keep costs down.

After the assessment has taken place, and payment has been made, please then send in a copy of the full invoice, showing eartag numbers, with your bank details (sort code and account number) to James Williamson (HCCW treasurer) for reimbursement via bank transfer.

We, as a committee, hope that you will decide to take up this offer, for the benefit of the breed and for us all as breeders.

Should you have any questions regarding this offer please contact Eleri Hughes – *Secretary*

MEMBER'S PROFILE

How much do you know about other Club Members?

Fold name: Reilth Top
Owners names: James Williamson and Jacky Harrison
Location: Bishops Moat, Bishops Castle, Shropshire – land between 1100 and 1400 ft above sea level

How did you get into Highlands?

When we moved from Oxfordshire in 2009 we bought a property that happened to have 31 acres, a bit too much for two horses. You stand on the top of the hill and look at the glorious 360 degree view and think – we have to do something with this. It's cold, its poor grazing and it's an extra jumper every 100 feet so we will have Highlands, it's obvious isn't it! (We had fallen in love with them in Scotland and looking round the Royal Welsh in 2009, I think it was Robin who was on the stand and said 'I always carry a comb in my back pocket when I visit my cows' – that sold them to Jacky). Of course we knew nothing. Our first two 2 year olds arrived for Jacky's 60th birthday, they promptly escaped. Then – taking advice, we got a senior cow – Princess and were told well 'You have to show her'... so we went to Oswestry and we have gone on from there. We show because it's a social thing to do. Members told us we have to take cows to The Royal Welsh... 'What?' says us... 'No'... yes says everybody else, so two years ago we plucked up courage and took 3. The rest is history! We also thought we would also get a few Badger Faced Welsh Mountain Sheep. They are also well suited to our very high and exposed site. Lamb and calf outside in all weathers.

Do you keep any other breeds of cattle? Any other animals?

We only keep registered Highland Cattle and currently have 4 cows, 4 heifers and 2 steers and 4 calves were born in the last couple of months. We also own a 50% share in a bull that we purchased from Angela and Duncan in 2013. Apart from the sheep (23 ewes, 2 rams and 25 lambs) we also have a couple of Gloucester Old Spot pigs occasionally (we buy them as weaners and fatten them up for the freezer), 2 horses, 2 chickens, 2 dogs and 2 farm cats. We are 'retired' but we still seem to have to squeeze them in amongst everything else. I use the word 'retired' lightly.

How would you describe an animal as typical of your fold?

Hard question this one. We like them to look good, of course, and calf easily and withstand the weather – which they do. We now have the show bug, so we like big hips and some presence and of course like them easy to handle.

When do you usually plan to calve?

February/March/April.

Your facilities?

We have a 2 barns – one is mainly used for storing machinery, feed and the stables and the other for the cattle and sheep when we need to bring them in. We can divide this barn into 5 sections. The crush is in one of the sections.

Do you have any help?

No, just Jacky and myself.

Do you use A.I.? Or own bull?

We use our bull (see above). We usually have him for 3 or 4 months in the summer and then he goes back to his other home (which is a much larger farm with Highlands and Herefords). We AI'd before we got the bull, the advantage being you can try and select the best bull – but who knows what you get – they all come out different!

Do you PD – (If so When)?

Yes our vets PD in October. The first PD (between two gates) was Princess our senior cow. When Lloyd said 'yep she's in calf' – we looked at each other and thought help!

Do you send cattle for meat?

So far we have only sent one cow to the abattoir

Do you eat your own meat?

Yes, and it was delicious

What do you plan to do with your old cows?

So far this has not occurred and we haven't really faced up to this yet. What does everybody else do?

Describe your preparation of your show cows (if applicable)

We are not all that good at preparing the cows, we try and halter them when they are babies and every time they come in for whatever reason we put them on a halter and walk them round once or twice. Then before a show we bring them in about a week before and they may have a couple of baths and some grooming. Last year James was ill and we

enlisted help from Emils and Zane (the Latvians who came to our open day in 2014). Emils took Sara in the 3 year old class at Shropshire show and was put down to the bottom because she had dandruff – needless to say Emils made sure she was thoroughly groomed before she went in the ring at the Royal Welsh!

Do you feed hay, haylage or silage?

Haylage during the winter. We don't give them a whole round bale as we found too much got trodden in – instead we fill Builders Merchant's "dumpy" bags with haylage (one for each cow).

Do you make any?

We have made some hay and haylage but we now have too much stock for our land so we bought it in this last winter.

What concentrates do you feed?

Very little, we feed 18% all round nuts and sugar beet when they come in and are being trained and when we want them to come to us out in the field.

Do you use feed blocks or mineral supplements?

Yes they get a mineral lick.

Which health products do you use and what and routines do you have?

The only health product we use is for external parasites,

which varies according to what the supplier has. We will use this once, maybe twice a year at the most.

In winter, depending where they are they get fed haylage once or twice a day. Twice if they are on a field with no grass (the steep bank with broom, gorse, bracken) or once in the morning if there is a bit of grass on the field.

What equipment do you have?

For shelter on the top fields, we just have some hedging. In the steep field there is conifer patch of woodland where they will shelter sometimes. We don't have a field shelter, weighing scales, a fancy handling system, (just the crush), creep feeder, or even hay racks (haylage just goes on the ground – we are limited where we are allowed to put this because of our environmental scheme. We do have a loader tractor for moving the large round haylage bales, a grass harrow and a topper and of an ATV with a trailer mainly used for taking the feed out into the fields.

What breeding records do you keep?

Their pedigree is recorded on the Highland Cattle database and of course we keep the normal herd record book.

Which cattle jobs do you like the most / least?

The dreaded TB test and foot trimming.

Any Highland highlights?

Below is an article that appeared in a local paper.

ROYALTY CROWNED AT THE ROYAL WELSH

On Monday 20th July 2015 Princess Analena the 1st of Reilth Top was crowned Supreme Highland Champion at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show. When interviewed after the event Princess Analena explained how she came to claim such high honours. She said it was due to her breeding, her mother being Princess Ruadth 4th of Killochries and father Flannchadh of Moorside, and of course her impeccable manners. (She has apologised for accidentally treading on one member of her staff on the following day). She explained she is trying to ensure her sisters; Princess Brae of Reilth Top, Princess Duana Beag of Reilth Top and Princess Erica of Reilth Top also have the same impeccable manners. Princess Brae has already helped Owen Watkins of Reilth Farm to become the junior handler champion at Oswestry Show in 2014.

She would also like to thank her chef, housekeepers and escorts at Reilth Top for their wonderful care and attention she has had over the past three years, her hairdressers (of which there has been many), her doctor who took care of her when she tore her lip and her friends and neighbours, such as David Griffiths for insisting she came in for a day or two when she was born in the snow (her eartag does end in 001 and so her owners didn't really know what to do!)

She encloses a picture of her crowning ceremony and state procession. She hopes she will present the nation with more Princesses and Princes over the next few years.



SHOW REPORTS & RESULTS

Nefyn Show 2016

On 2nd May, Mayday bank holiday, Sioe Nefyn happened. The rain was torrential and horizontal as Julian, Olwen and Llinos Ford arrived from LLanfrothen to brave the day with Cassie and Valentino, her bull calf. Becky and Eirian Rowlands were next to arrive from LLanbrynmair with Carristiona and her calf. Geraint and Eleri Hughes, Trefriw arrived much later, having taken the scenic route and also missed the early appalling weather, with their full sibling heifers Sionnach and Searlaid. Hugh Hoather was our judge for the day, all the way from Cheshire.



Thankfully the gods were smiling by the time judging was taking place. First in were the heifers with Geraint leading Searlaid, the yearling, and Eleri in charge of Sionnach the two-year-old. They were placed in size order, the two year old was admired and the judge said she had potential for doing well in the future and during the coming show season.



Next came cows and calves with Becky leading her 8-year-old cow, Carristiona, with month old male calf at heel, followed by Llinos leading her first calf heifer, Cassie, with her 9-week old bull calf at heel. The majesty and presence of the mature animal took the red rosette, with the younger animal came second.



The bull class had one entry, Valentino, Cassie's calf sired by Alasdair 4th of Woodneuk (AI). Although young he was a worthy winner showing good shape, type and size.

Best in breed was taken by the cow and calf. Hugh Hoather then suggested a group of three, and two were formed. The group of larger beasts took this, but not before Becky's and Llinos' cow had endeavoured to poke each other.

Altogether an enjoyable and hot, by the end, day was had.

Olwen Ford



Julian thoroughly enjoying the show – he may still be there!

FOR SALE

Registered Highland Yearling Heifer



Annag Maili of Ucheldir

UK710458 200015

DOB 04/06/15

Well handled, friendly and quiet heifer. Known as Mali. Out of our Glenkinglass cow Annag and our bull Molach Ruadh of Thaggnam. Annag (her mother) has shown successfully at a number of shows. Mali was shown as a calf with her mother last year and consequently has been on the halter and led, petted and stroked plenty.

The fold is used to rough grazing and all year round outdoor living here in Snowdonia.

Offers around £400

Contact Geraint 07802 258 306
or Eleri: eleri368@gmail.com

HIGHLAND BULL FOR SALE



Molach Ruadh of Thaggnam

UK546757 300004

4-year-old bull DOB 29/1/12

Well handled, friendly, gentle bull. Ideal for novice breeders and beginners. Bred in Scotland by Alun Garton, from hardy show bloodlines, has been used to rough grazing and all year round outdoor living in Snowdonia. Bought as a yearling and used immediately so we now have his daughters coming up ready for breeding. Offspring have all been good sized solid beasts and have been shown successfully.

Offers around £1,000 considered

Contact Geraint 07802258306
or Eleri: eleri368@gmail.com

FOR SALE

Registered Highland Yearling Heifer



Sorcha Samradh of Ucheldir

UK710458 300016

DOB 25/07/15

Summer born heifer, friendly, quiet and well handled. Known as Haf. Mother is large, rangy cow from old bloodlines. Sire is our bull Molach Ruadh of Thaggnam.

The fold is used to rough grazing and all year round outdoor living here in Snowdonia.

Offers around £300

Contact Geraint 07802 258 306
or Eleri: eleri368@gmail.com

HIGHLAND BULL FOR SALE

Five year old black bull looking for a good home. Reluctantly for sale due to herd dispersal. **Moc of Mynydd Du** (UK741989200140), bred by The May Fold with good Scottish ancestry (out of a Brucefield cow). A nice quiet chap, easy to handle and would be ideal for a small or novice fold. Hardy and used to living out on rough grazing at the foot of the Brecon Beacons. Offspring can be seen.

£900 for a prompt sale to a good home



Mynydd Du Fold has been a member of the Premium Cattle Health Scheme since 2010, holding full Elite Herd health status since 2013 (membership recently lapsed due to herd dispersal), has been a closed herd since 2012, has never tested positive for TB and is Soil Association certified organic.

A number of pure bred steers also for sale. Two three year olds (black/dun), a two year old (black) and a yearling (black).

All bucket trained and easy to handle.

Any reasonable offers considered.

Contact Mo & Charles Morgan
Mynydd Du Fold, Carmarthenshire
mo@phonecoop.coop Tel: 01550 740 206



Royal Welsh Show – get together

As usual there will be a buffet dinner at the Royal Welsh Show
on the evening of **Monday 18th July**

The dinner takes place in the Highland Cattle Society marquee and all members and
their families and friends are very welcome

£13.50 for adults and £6.75 for children 12 and under

Please put the date in your diary now

FOLD VISIT

By kind Invitation of:

Mr & Mrs William Davies
Waunlwyd Farm
Ystradowen
Upper Cwmtwrch
Swansea
SA9 2XX

Saturday
17th September
2016

Further details will be supplied later

2016 SHOW DIARY

Those in bold have Highland Cattle Classes

Spring Festival	21-22 May
www.rwas.wales/spring-festival/	
Shropshire County Show	28 May
www.shropshirecountyshow.com	
Aberystwyth Show	11 June
www.sioeaberystwyth.com	
Three Counties Show	17-19 June
www.threecounties.co.uk	
Royal Welsh Show	18-21 July
www.rwas.wales/royal-welsh-show/	
Oswestry Show	6 August
www.oswestryshow.co.uk/	
Lampeter Show	14 August
www.lampetershow.co.uk/	
Meirionnyddd County Show	31 August
www.sioesir.co.uk	