Dual purpose Red Polls
WOLDSMAN RED POLLS
S.G. PRESCOTT & SONS
WOLD HOUSE LUND DRIFFIELD E YORKS YO25 9TW

Founded 1953

All females are home bred and registered with the Society
Health status: Tuberculosis, Brucellosis tested.
No animal we have bred has ever had BSE.

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Herd size: 100 suckler cows, easy calving, all male calves left entire, sold as
beef @ 15-18 months of age @ 550-600kgs or for breeding.
All young bulls weighed regularly & we are achieving gains of 1.7kg per day up
to 365 days of age (own records).
Young cows, in calf and maiden heifers usually for sale.

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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

The Red Poll Cattle Society
Established 1888

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Autumn 2015

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The East of England
SMITHFIELD FESTIVAL 2015

The 2015 show will take place at the East of England Showground, Peterborough Thursday 26th & Friday 27th November 2015. Come and support the Red Poll classes.
Editors Report
This is the second newsletter since Helen Arthan stepped down and I must apologise for not thanking her in the last one. She has edited this Red Poll newsletter for the last seven years with such dedication and always having deadlines looming when she is so busy with everything else she does. This newsletter is an important part of the RPCS as every member gets one and can see what other members are doing as well as passing on important information from the Council. Helen has kept the information up to date with relevant articles from varied sources. Let’s hope we can continue to follow her example.

Thoughts and comments
If you have any anecdotes or something you would like to share that other members might find interesting we would love to hear from you. It doesn’t have to be a whole article, although that is always welcome, but a few lines to put a point of view or pass on something interesting. Diana Flack is starting us off this time.

Sally

Never since the change over from the mainly milking side to beef has the opportunity been so positive over other breeds as it is today. At present there are no better cows for breeding continental cross beef than Red Polls. I just cannot find enough cows and heifers to satisfy my customers’ demands. I would like to give some advice and warnings.

Firstly it is imperative to register your heifers, even if they are not going to pedigree herds, as in some cases the nature reserves will only buy registered stock.

Also if beef is going to be marketed under the description of Red Poll we must be able to prove it.

I strongly advise all members to be ahead and self-test for BVD.

All large herds should be FABBL registered ie Farm Assured. With all that in mind: go on enjoying your cattle!

Diana Flack

Membership Subscriptions as from 1st January 2016

Registering: £40 by direct debit or card via the website
£50 by any other payment
Associate: £20 by direct debit or card via the website
£25 by any other payment
Overseas: £30 in sterling
Life Registering Member: £750
Life Associate Member: £300
Life Overseas Member: £500
Secretary’s Report

There are five new members for election at this meeting, the same as last year. There are 398 members – 408 at this meeting last year. There has also been one resignation.

Since the last meeting I have sent out 19 information packs to persons enquiring about the Society, the majority of these coming from enquiries at the Livestock Event. Quentin Edwards is doing a good job in Dorset/Wiltshire as 4 of these have come from persons he has sold cattle to, although as yet only one has joined the Society.

Semen sales continue to be very steady with 47 being sold since the last meeting, 40 of which came as the result of the semen offer at the Livestock Event.

Heifer registrations are coming in steadily with 153 so far. This time last year I had had 283! I'm sure they will come in but it begins to get worrying when so few are coming forward. These are from 45 breeders, 60 last year.

Bull registrations so far this year are 23. Since the last meeting there have been 6, these have had scores of: 164, 176, 171, 178, 180 & 179. Myostatin status for these have been: 1 x MO, 4 x MI and 1 x M2. The M2 bull at Paul Wilmott's is by Uggeshall Ultimate who is also M2 so it isn't surprising.

Since the last meeting I have been to the Field Day at Lagan Farms, Dorset, which was very successful. I then went on to Cornwall/Devon for a few days holiday during which I called in to see 5 members down there. I had a last minute call to go to judge at the Nantwich show. I thought the quality and numbers of cattle there were excellent, the breed had the largest numbers there by some distance so a big thank you must go to Helen Langley for putting us forward. I have also had the pleasure of judging the Native & Rare Breeds section at the Mid Somerset show. Susan Tanner and John Davies had some very nice animals there. I made one of their cows Champion. I have also had the pleasure of judging the Midland Herd Competition. 17 breeders visited, excellent animals and herds viewed. It really is important to get around and about in visiting members, they all without exception, like to show their cattle off, everybody is so enthusiastic, it is a pleasure to visit.

Cattle sales have been steady with a few deals going through and a few in the pipeline.

New Members:
Stephen Wood, 15 North Road, St. Ives, Cambs., PE27 5PR – Registering Member
Jonathan Allnutt, 14 Marina Road, Salisbury, Wilts., SP1 2JN – Associate Member
Andrew Collinswood, Coombs Farm, Adstock Road, Thornborough, Bucks., MK18 2EB – Registering Member
James Abercrombie, 48 Temple Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 1AT – Student Member
Trevor Horsnell, Gorrells Farm, Ingatestone Road, Highwood, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3QS – Registering Member

The new members were elected to membership on the proposition of Mr Jenkins, seconded by Mr Smith with all in favour.

Ray Bowler
The Annual Red Poll Dinner

The annual dinner this year was held at The Tillington Hall Hotel just north of Stafford. Helen and Terry Mancey did a wonderful job organising a great evening with of course delicious Red Poll beef on the menu. We had a wonderful raffle and the Mancey’s had asked Peter Titley to speak after the dinner. He has many years experience with the RBST and gave us an informative insight into his involvement with the Trust and his hopes for the future of endangered native breeds.

There was an array of splendid silverware which was presented to the winners from the National Show, and the winners of the herd competition. The winner of the small herd was Rebecca Charley with The Ruscombe Herd and the winner of the large herd was Mark Martin and family with The Lawford Herd. There are lots of photos of all the winners on the website www.redpoll.org

The next day we all met at Trentham Gardens, which is a wonderful place to visit with a lake and tearooms and plenty of retail shopping for those in a mind.

But we came to see the next stage of their development which is returning conifer wood to a more natural oakland area by grazing Red Polls. So we went on a hunt for cattle in about 100 acres! Up steep slopes high above the motorway with wonderful views as the fog cleared and eventually Terry found the cattle! They very dutifully came to see us and then wandered off to do more grazing! It was a lovely morning out ending up in the tearoom of course.

S Grimwood
POCHIN HERD OF RED POLL

Barkby, Leicester

Founded 2003 and already recognised internationally for the highest quality pedigree stock

National Champion of the Red Poll Herd Competition 2014

Full BVD/LEPTO/Pneumonia vaccination programme

JOHNES disease/TB/BRUCELLOSIS tested

Various breeding stock available for sale; please contact:

Mr Andrew Kirk 0116 269 2694 or
Mr Richard Sanders 01858 410200
Westmorland County Show 2015 - Red Poll Results

Bull any age - age to be taken into consideration
1. Richard & Rachel Clowes - Admergill Duke
2. Simon Temple - Bowland Zeus
3. John Williams - Pinguis Duke
4. Richard & Rachel Clowes - Admergill Elliot
5. Simon Temple - Bowland Ferdinand

Cow in milk or in calf born before 1 Jan 2013
1. Helen & Terry Mancey - Moreton Lady Blythe & Calf
2. Simon Temple - Bowland Yolande

Female born in 2013
1. John Williams - Copperidge Alexa
2. Patricia McLaughlin Marsh House - Winifreds Demelza

Heifer born in 2014
1. Helen & Terry Mancey - Moreton Fiona 3rd
2. Simon Temple - Bowland Ebony
3. Simon Temple - Bowland Evita
4. John Williams - Pinguis Emily 14
5. John Salt - Ridge House Esmeralda

Class 130 Best pair of animals owned by the exhibitor and exhibited above
1. Simon Temple
2. Simon Temple
3. J R Williams
4. Richard & Rachel Clowes

Champion: The Herbert Leeming Trophy - Champion Animal Red Poll Cattle Society Sash
Champion Richard & Rachel Clowes - Admergill Duke
Reserve Helen & Terry Mancey - Moreton Lady Blythe & Calf

Best Exhibitor Bred
Richard & Rachel Clowes - Admergill Duke

Judges Report – David Blunt
It was with great pleasure that I judged at the Westmorland County Show and an added bonus was the bright sunshine on the day after weeks of dullness at home.

There were a total of six exhibitors of Red Poll cattle at the show, all being brought to me excellent animals. As Champion I chose the winner of the bull class, Richard & Rachel Clowes’s Admergill Duke, an exceptional young bull that caught my eye as soon as he walked into the ring.
My Reserve Champion was Terry & Helen Mancey’s cow in-milk Moreton Lady Blythe, a true example of a Red Poll cow with a good udder and doing her calf extremely well.
Red Poll Review from the Three Counties Show June 2015

I had a most enjoyable morning judging some very good cattle, even if rather damp and murky obscuring the backdrop of the scenic Malvern Hills. It is very pleasing to see that the Red Poll has not only increased in numbers but also in quality. It was a great pleasure for exhibitors and The Judge to have our Lady President, Terina Booker accompanied by her husband Edward, both braving the elements by the ringside for the duration of judging.

In the Bull classes I felt the winner (Appleton Claudius) had the edge over the others as he was very correct in his feet and joints, this is a point I feel very strongly about in bulls if they are to ‘last’. He then went on to become a worthy Champion for Mrs Dawes.

There were some very good females to judge, with the two cows who won their respective classes (Moreton Lady Africa & Hinwick Bracken) being outstanding, they later teamed up to win the Open Dual Purpose Pairs.

One point I would like to make exhibitors aware of, is that in my opinion, extra teats are not acceptable!

The lady judge (Miss J Harvey) for the Dexters and Interbreed Championship had to declare an interest in a bull she had bred and wanted to make Champion, I was invited to referee. I had to agree with her call for the Gloucester cow as Champion, as she was an exceptional animal but reversed her decision to make the Red Poll bull Appleton Claudius Interbreed Reserve Champion.

In the interbreed pairs Moreton Lady Africa & Hinwick Bracken were like two peas in a pod and were very worthy winners. This ended a very enjoyable day judging Red Polls.

Roger Clark August 2015

Registration Fees
Heifer in the Herd Book of year of birth £12
Heifer outside the Herd Book of year of birth £24
Bull £80  Transfer of ownership £10
Please note that the Herd Book closes at the end of January for entries from the preceding year. When you sell a Red Poll, please return the pedigree certificate to the office. The certificate will be sent to the new owner on payment, by the buyer or seller, of the transfer fee.

Advertising in Red Poll News
As a member, you can take a full page advertisement for £25. the rate for non members is £50. Half pages are priced pro rata.
For livestock sales, please contact the Secretary, Ray Bowler, at the office. Steers are always wanted.
Three Counties Show – Rare Breeds Day – 2015

It was very nice to be back at Malvern as this was the very first show I ever showed Red Polls at many moons ago. Apparently Saturday was quite wet but when I arrived on the Sunday it was a beautifully sunny morning – as they say the sun shines on the righteous!

Class 1 – Bull

I gave this to Mrs M V Dawes’s Appleton Claudius, a very fine bull which later went on to be Champion animal.

Class 2 – Maiden heifer

A very strong class of seven. This class, all due respect to the younger members who worked hard to show their animals to their best abilities, would have benefited if more experienced handlers had been involved, and that “bulldogs” and the correct size of halters be used. I gave first place to Blunt Farming’s Abbey Daffodil, a very correct heifer in all aspects, second place went to Mrs P McLaughlin’s Marsh House Winifred’s Eliza, third to J R Williams’s Pinguis Emily 14th with fourth place going to Moreton Fiona 3rd from the Manceys.

Class 3 – Heifer in-calf or in-milk

First place went to Moreton Baby Clarendon, a heifer showing excellent presence and character, second going to Copperidge Alexa, third Abbey Crocus and fourth Hinwick Clementine. A very strong class of animals.

Class 4 – Dry Cow

First and overall Reserve Champion, a very nice cow from the Dawes’s Hinwick Rosa 2nd, second Pinguis Caroline 8th, third Moreton Lady Africa with fourth Bowland XI from the herd of Mr Simon Temple. Once again a very good class of cattle.

Class 5 – Cow in-milk

A very interesting class of cows with calves at foot, they were all fine examples of the breed. I placed Bowland Yolande first with Hinwick Bracken second, Hinwick Buddlia third with Moreton Baby Bluff fourth. Champion – Appleton Claudius, Reserve – Hinwick Rosa 2nd

I thoroughly enjoyed the day, seeing some excellent animals and meeting members again.

Vivian Caust

From Audrey, Viv’s wife: When the commentator was speaking about the virtues of the Red Poll and saying about its dual-purpose qualities with good milk yields and very good beef, a lady in the crowd was heard to remark “I don’t know about the beef on the animals but that judge looks as if he could do with a good steak himself”
Stock for sale including three in calf heifers:

1 x by Pochin Fernie-James M0
2 x by Fedw Melchior M0

Enquiries welcome – please contact Richard Brookes at
The Poplars, Hepworth, Suffolk
Tel: 01359 252 241
Mob: 07940 547 180
Email: richardsjbrookes@gmail.com
Word Search—Herd prefixes

Abbotts
Birdbrook
Canute
Coxon
Easton
Holyoak
Levalsa
Nobodys
Rede
Sadwrn
Tatton

Admergill
Dodds
Deben
Edern
Longendale
Nuan
Rushton
Coddenham
Seahawk
Georges
Tarr

Zelah
Ismere
Llia
Castlefields
Bowland
Legacy
Wern
Andrewfrederick
Caela
Royal
Notton
Large Herds (The Bridgham Perpetual Challenge Trophy)
1st – Lavenham Brook – Lady Getty
2nd – Hopeham Herd – Sarah Barnes
3rd – Appleton Herd – Tony Barratt

Small Herds (The Appleton Plaque)
1st – St Mary’s Herd – Craig Smith
2nd – Ladler Herd – James Rea
3rd – Hepworth Herd – Richard Brookes

Youngstock (The Heathgate Cup)
1st – Seahawk Herd – Ed Turner
2nd – Hopeham Herd – Sarah Barnes
3rd – St Mary’s Herd – Craig Smith

Overall (The Mr & Mrs Nicolas Thompson Silver Tray)
Champion – Lavenham Brook
Reserve Champion – St Mary’s

Registered Bull
1st – Woodbastwick Rocket EB93 – The Countess of Euston (The Andrew Fredrick Shield)
2nd – Appleton Supreme Duke EB95 – Sarah Barnes
3rd – Hepworth Rocket 27153 – Richard Brookes

Home bred Cow (The Countess of Euston Perpetual Rose Bowl)
1st – Hopeham Alula 182023 – Sarah Barnes
2nd – St Mary’s Bailey 183656 – Craig Smith
3rd – Hepworth Tansy 180341 – Richard Brookes

Home bred 2013 born heifer (The Booker Salver)
1st – Ladlers Digitalis 184030 – James Rea
2nd – Hepworth Viola 184668 – Richard Brookes
3rd – Heathgate Clover – 183253 – Denis Jenkins

Progeny Group (The Raimsmere Jug)
1st – Onenfawr Prince group in the Lavenham Brook Herd of Lady Getty
2nd – Canute Cromwell group in the St Mary’s Herd of Craig Smith
3rd – Lavenham Sir Lancelot group in the Appleton Herd of Tony Barratt

Three Related Females (The Hopeham Tankard)
1st – Hopeham Alula 182023, Essence 184846, Fabulous 185659 – Sarah Barnes
2nd – Appleton Brighteyes 3rd 183237, Ladlers Carol 183298, Ladlers Daisy 184023 – James Rea
3rd – Lavenham Hawthorn 180779, Lavenham May Queen 182487, Lavenham Brook Mayflower 185607 – Lady Getty
Steer (The Suffolk Food Hall Tankard)
1st – Lavenham Brook – Lady Getty
2nd – Ladlers – James Rea
3rd – Capel Manor – Capel Manor College

Suckling Calf (The Foxearth Plate)
1st – Hopeham – Sarah Barnes
2nd – Seahawk – Ed Turner
3rd – St Mary’s – Craig Smith

R. J. Bowler on behalf of Terry Mancey
25th September 2015
2015 Herd Competition – Northern Area Results
Judge Mr. A. Heath (Ted)

Large Herd
Champion: Plemondstowe
Reserve: Bowland

Small Herd
Champion: Diamond B
Reserve: Eaves

Best Bull
Champion: Pinguis Duke
Reserve: Hinwick Zodiac (Weeton)

Young Stock
Champion: Oaklands
Reserve: Woldsman

Best Cow
Champion: Bowland Yolande
Reserve: Chorlton Lane Thyme

Best Heifer
Champion: Diamond B Dakota
Reserve: Woldsman Dalby

Three Related Females
Champion: Bowland
Reserve: Woldsman

Best Steer
Champion: Plemondstowe
Reserve: Riddings

Best Suckling Calf
Champion: Pinguis
Reserve: Eaves

Progeny Group
Champion: Oaklands, (Beasthorpe Winston)
Reserve: Eaves (Tatton Spartan)

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Steers, heifers and young bulls always wanted

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♦ Red Poll cattle required for clients
♦ Whole Herds or individual animals
♦ All breeds also brokered
♦ Help and advice given with valuations and transport

Selection of Red Poll cows and Shorthorn x calves sold this summer. Seahawk herd.

Contact Diana Flack or James Quinn on 01485 578 500 anytime

Agents for Seaquim Elite. Seaweed meal used by many breeders
Southern Area Herd Competition – Results 2015

Overall
Champion: The Ruscombe Herd of Rebecca Charley.
Reserve: The Lagan Herd of Ron Clarke.

Large Herd
1. The Lagan Herd of Ron Clarke.
2. The Kemerton Herd of Adrian Darby.
3. The Abbeyvale Herd of Roger Thomas

Small Herd
1. The Ruscombe Herd of Rebecca Charley.
2. The Wellshead Herd of The Earl of Huntingdon.
3. The Hurst Herd of Akiko Newing.

Young Stock - born in 2014/15
1. The Wellshead Herd of The Earl of Huntingdon.
2. The Abbeyvale Herd of Roger Thomas.
3. The Lagan Herd of Ron Clarke.

Registered Stock Bull
1. Woldsman Young Man 27076 - owned by Rebecca Charley, Ruscombe herd.
3. Woldsman Brigadier 27176 - owned by Roger Thomas, Abbeyvale herd.

Best Home Bred Cow - having had at least three calves
2. Kemerton Bundaberg 182747 – Adrian Darby.

Best Home Bred Heifer born in 2013
1. Kemerton Damask 184438 - Adrian Darby.
2. Ruscombe Celandine 184705 – Rebecca Charley.

Progeny Group by the same Sire
1. Kemerton Athlone 27122 – in the herd of Adrian Darby, Kemerton herd.
2. East Beere Yardley 27039 – in the herd of Ron Clarke, Lagan herd.

Three Related females via Dam

Best Steer
1. Steer from the Ruscombe herd, Rebecca Charley.
2. Steer from the Cools herd of Quentin & Maggie Edwards.

Best Suckling Calf
1. Mendip Florentine, Susan Tanner & John Davies, Mendip herd.
2. Calf 600194, Roger Thomas, Abbeyvale herd.

Judge – Denis Jenkins
26 members attended the presentation, held at Ruscombe Farm, Ruscombe, Stoud, by kind permission of Rebecca & Richard Spyee (Charley). The Ruscombe herd had been awarded as Overall Winner for the Southern area by Judge Denis Jenkins – you can read Denis’s report elsewhere in the Newsletter.

The day began with tea/coffee and cakes. This was followed by an introduction to the farm and herd by Rebecca. Following on was a short walk to view this first class herd, it consists of only 10 cows but what cows, everyone is of the quality that all of us aspire to. This year’s calves looked well as did the herd sire Woldsman Young Man. A short walk then followed to view the steers and maiden heifers. Once again these were of an excellent type and uniformity. The steers looked particularly impressive.

All the cattle are reared on the Grass Pasture Fed regime, no concentrates are fed, grass in the summer and hay / silage in the winter. If the weather is kind the cattle stay outside all the time, however can be housed if necessary.

Lunch the followed, an outstanding Sunday Roast of as you would expect home grown Red Poll. Following lunch the presentations were made by Denis.

It was great to see such a good turnout of members, particularly those who we don’t see very often. A very big thank you to the Spyvee family for their first class hospitality.

Ray Bowler
Judges Standardisation Day 2015

Sunday October 4th 2015 saw the majority of the Society Judges plus partners meet at the Hunt family farm, Watergate Farm, Hockcliffe, Leighton Buzzard. This was to hold the Society’s annual Judges Standardisation day. What a glorious day it was, with the sun shining and birds singing, well the turkeys were making whatever noise turkeys make. The day started with morning tea, coffee and cake. Once the refreshments were over two bulls were paraded, the Hunt family’s Nobody’s Orange Chilli, and Abbey Caesar, who had been kindly taken for the day by David Blunt.

Much discussion followed about the various points of the bulls from stature, length, muscling, locomotion, head, neck, topline, tailhead setting, teat placement and scrotum/testicle shape. Following this an excellent group of 4 cows with calves at foot were paraded for us, once again much discussion ensued which was both interesting and stimulating to all concerned.

Four in-calf heifers followed with much the same type of discussion forthcoming. These were followed by four maiden heifers. The main point of discussion here was the fact that the youngest animal had a degree of white on her underline, mostly on her udder but it was running along her belly as well.

Everyone present had the opportunity to give their views on all classes, everybody joined in with some being more prominent than others, no bad thing though as it provoked excellent debate. We will never agree entirely as we all have our preferences but by the end of the morning the consensus was that we were all basically looking for the same type of animal which must comply with breed standards.

An excellent shepherd’s pie lunch was provided by Sally, with an even better apple and blackberry crumble for afters. After lunch there was a debate about the importance of writing a report for the Society and the importance of being prepared to give your reasons to exhibitors and, if requested by the show, reasons to the general public using the ring commentator’s microphone.

There was then time for David to take us around their turkey enterprise and their sheep unit. Both were very interesting.

Finally a big thank you to David, Sally, John and Anna for hosting the event and to all the judges for coming and participating in the day.

Ray Bowler
Merits of using older proven bulls (the pros and cons)

At a recent Breeding Committee meeting this subject was brought up and I would like to pass thoughts onto the membership.

The average herd size for Red Poll herds is around the 25 breeding female mark which means that in most herds once a bull has been used for two to three years he may need to be moved on. In larger herds it may be possible to keep another bull for use on heifers but the cost of running two bulls is excessive for small herds.

Having myself judged two separate regions for the herd competition and speaking to other judges we are very aware that there are a large number of very good bulls around which are proven and may be backed up with Signet figures which could benefit moving to other herds. The added advantage is that their progeny can be examined and visually assessed. Some bulls may be particularly advantageous for growth and beef production and others may be better for breeding replacement heifers.

From my own 2014 inspection of the eastern region herd competition there were at least ten very good bulls which could be recommended. Breeders looking for a replacement bull should consider speaking to their Regional Field Officer who could include the recent judge’s opinion in their advice.

In the past various diseases have been passed on by bulls moving around and of course herd health must be of prime consideration. This must include blood testing prior to moving. The closed herd is the ultimate in respect of herd health and is a valid reason for the use of AI. The Society is committed to sourcing a comprehensive bank of semen from recorded bulls.

In summary we would advise breeders to use some of these older, proven bulls which have good records. It would be a real shame to lose some of these excellent bulls before their time. There is no guarantee with young unproven bulls.

Photographs of two such bulls from my 2014 visits, Pochin Ferniehill and Castlefields Spud are shown below.

Dick Smith
Herd Competition 2015
Midlands area report Judge – Ray Bowler

This is the final area of the country for me to be judge for and I have to say it has been the most difficult, all the herds, without exception have been of a very high standard, some excellent animals have been seen but I can only have one winner in each class.

There were 17 herds that entered, 5 large and 12 small.

I would like to say how much I enjoyed the three days, I said it was a difficult task to complete but it was made that much easier by the hospitality shown, a big thank you to everyone who made me so welcome and supplied me with coffee & cake! Also an even bigger thank you to Joy for arranging everything and on keeping me on schedule, I have to say it all worked like a dream. In total I travelled 742 miles, which just out of interest is about half the distance it takes to cover the Southern & Northern areas!

(Ray gave a very full report which we don’t have room for here, but is in full on the website and well worth a read. Editor.)
Herd Competition 2015 – Midlands Area  Results

Large Herds (5 herds)
1st – Lawford Herd - Martin Holdings
2nd – Pochin Herd - A.J.P. Pochin
3rd – Ironstone Herd – Alan Hewson

Small Herds (11 herds)
1st – Watergate Herd – The Hunt Family
2nd – Nobodys Herd – Joy Broughton & Trevor Jones
3rd – Shuttleworth Herd – Shuttleworth College

Youngstock
1st – Lawford Herd
2nd – Watergate Herd
3rd – Pochin Herd

Overall
Champion - Watergate Herd
Reserve Champion – Lawford Herd

Registered Bull
1st – Nobodys Orange Chilli – The Hunt Family
2nd – Pochin Ferryhill – Jane & Guy Lambourne
3rd – Kemerton Yallop – R.H. Stephenson & Son

Home bred Cow
1st – Lyndale X Pippa
2nd – Watergate Dewdrop
3rd – Nobodys Orange Breeze

Home bred 2013 born heifer
1st – Pochin Janetstown
2nd – Nobodys Gypsy
3rd – Watergate Foxglove

Progeny Group
1st – Lyndale X Pippa, X Polly, X Twinkle (Kemerton Sligo)
2nd – Watergate Foxglove, Florence, Emma (Sandilands Romeo)
3rd – Ockley Brook Canna, Coco, Clover (Woldsman Young Man)

3 Related Females
1st – Nobodys Allspice, Ecstasy, Fennel
2nd – Watergate Amber, Erin, Gertrude
3rd – Ironstone Suzanne, Suzanne 4th, Suzanne 5th

Steer
1st – No 300006 – Mark Spicer
2nd – No 300021 – The Hunt family
3rd – No 400007 – Will & Gemma Kirby

Suckling Calf
1st – Steer calf No 200025 – Mick Trundle
2nd – Steer calf No 700056 – R.H. Stephenson & Son
3rd - Steer calf No 200003 – Mark Spicer

Registered Dairy Cow
1st – Ironstone Susanne 4th
2nd – Ironstone Della

Cross bred Dairy Cow
1st – FB76, Katie 19th, The Kirk Brothers (Red Poll X Holstein Friesian)
2nd – Tag No 700503, Tiger, Alan Hewson (Red Poll X Holstein / Jersey)

R. J. Bowler, 18/08/15
TB, or not TB: That is the Question

We farm in north Suffolk and keep a herd of Red Polls and a much smaller herd of Dexters, all of which spend the summer scattered about on rented grazing and are in-wintered on two farms either end of the village where we live.

We are fortunate enough to be in a four year testing area for TB, but at our routine test in March this year one of our Dexters tested positive, resulting in the imposition of a total movement ban on both farms. The ill-fated animal was a home-bred, 23 month old heifer and had never been more than 4 miles from the farm, but had aborted a few weeks prior to the test. Without any communication from the APHA, she was collected from Hepworth, Suffolk, and taken to Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, for slaughter with no opportunity for a retest, despite our protestations. She was post mortem negative, but movement restrictions continued whilst tissue culture tests were completed.

We had a 60-day test at the end of May with all cattle on both farms being tested and all proving clear. The tissue culture result came through shortly after this and was also negative which in my opinion meant that she was a false positive and that we had never actually had TB. However, the authorities took a different view, and when I tried to persuade them to lift our movement restrictions, their response (referring to post mortem and culture tests) was that “of course the tests are not 100% accurate”! Our case vet, who was only appointed after the “reactor” had been slaughtered, also told us that the routine skin test is not always reliable but advised against asking for blood testing as this throws up too many false positives. Other vets have also confirmed this view. So, our movement restrictions continued, and were finally lifted in early August, after another clear 60-day test at the end of July. We are not quite out of the woods yet as we still have to pre-movement test anything going off the farm, except for slaughter, until we have had another clear whole herd test which cannot be before March 2016.

Our experiences over the last few months have greatly deepened the sympathy which we already held for all those who keep cattle in the areas where TB is rife and where these problems have to be dealt with every day for months or even years on end. Our troubles have been miniscule compared to theirs! It is extremely worrying that the whole future of the British cattle industry depends on a testing regime which is both antiquated and known to be inaccurate and unreliable. It is also questionable whether the current protocols, which are religiously adhered to by the authorities, are well enough thought out to defeat this disease which has blighted our industry for so long. For example, it is of great concern that in 4-year testing
areas, stock being reared purely for beef are not routinely tested. These cattle may have been brought in from other areas, and may or may not have been pre-movement tested but will not necessarily be tested again in their lifetime although they could be infecting cattle and wildlife in the surrounding area. I also suspect that the whole testing programme is geographically far too random and systematic testing across wider areas would be much more effective.

I find it quite amazing that with all the technological advances we have seen over the last 50 years, we still don’t have a TB test that gives quick results and is 100% accurate, or indeed a cattle vaccine that is fully effective and has marking characteristics. Will we ever defeat the disease without either or both of these? If a lot more common sense prevailed throughout the approach to TB eradication, and if more pragmatic decisions were made according to individual circumstances, progress might be more rapid. This is probably all wishful thinking but perhaps we can live in hope!

Richard Brookes
October 2015

Nantwich Show Results 2015

Heifer born in 2014 ( 6 forward )

1st Pinguis Emily 14th John Williams
2nd Moreton Fiona 3rd Terry & Helen Mancey
3rd Oaklands Bonnie Helen Langley
4th Oaklands Dinky Helen Langley

Heifer born in 2013 ( 3 forward )

1st Moreton Baby Drury Terry & Helen Mancey
2nd Marsh House Winifred’s Demelza Pat McLaughlin
3rd Copperidge Alexa John Williams

Cow ( 5 forward )

1st Moreton Lady Blyth Terry & Helen Mancey
2nd Pear Tree Sherry Alan Bickerton
3rd Chorlton Lane Zappy Helen Arthan
4th Pinguis Emily 10th John Williams

Bull ( 2 forward )

1st Pinguis Duke John Williams
2nd Hopeham Bobstar Helen Arthan

Champion Female – Moreton Lady Blyth
Reserve Female – Moreton Baby Drury
Champion & Reserve Male – Moreton Baby Drury
Overall Champion – Moreton Lady Blyth
Reserve – Pinguis Duke
Dear members,

SAGEinKENYA

My name is Ruth Barnes and I am writing to ask you all something special. This year I went to Kenya with my parents to help with the work of SAGEinKENYA. Whilst we were visiting Tatro Primary School, mummy (Sarah Barnes) noticed that the head teacher had a 10 year plan of 10 items on his office wall. A couple were crossed off but item number six was two cows. Mother, being a bit nosey, asked why the school wanted two cows. The answer was simple, he wanted to give his youngest children milk. You see, Tatro School is in a rural area of Kenya and the families are very poor. Gabriel, the headmaster, feeds his pupils otherwise they are too hungry to learn. The school is thankfully on a vast plot of land so Gabriel already grows maize and beans and also farms fish to feed the pupils.

Mum and I put our thinking caps on; being farmers we wanted to help. A few emails later to James Brooks (a Red Poll breeder in Kenya) and we had confirmation that he could supply us with two in-calf Red Poll heifers at a cost of £1,250.00. His farm manager comes from the Siaya region, where the school is, so he knows the cattle will be well suited to the area.

So here guys is where you come in!

I wondered if you would like to donate money towards getting Tatro School their cows - Red Poll cows!

The charities of which mum and dad are trustees are happy to administrate the financial side and will keep monthly contact with the cattle. The school has plenty of year-round grazing for the cattle and mum and dad have said they will underwrite any vet and med costs.

To donate please send cheques made out to SAGEinKENYA to our address, Hall Farm, Tasburgh, Norwich, NR15 1NA. Or you can transfer money to the SAGEinKENYA bank account: 52108163 sort code: 60-07-47 with the reference RED POLL PROJECT.

If you pay by transfer can you let me know please so I can keep an eye on who has donated. I’d like to be able to thank you! If you let us know that you are a tax payer we can also gift aid the money to boost the funds.

Many thanks

Ruth Barnes

PS. If you want to know more about SAGEinKENYA check out the website, sageinkenya.co.uk
Fedw Stig 26877

Sire: Fedw Thomos Dam: Fedw Crag
Born: 26:2:2002
Weight: June 2003 606kg January 2009 1150kg

Semen Available for UK & Export

Bulls for Hire

J.R. Williams
Pinguis Herd of Red Poll Cattle

2 Sleaford, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire TF6 6HQ
Tel: 01952 254203
Email: jrw2@btinternet.com

www.pinguisherdrd.com
The new 2016 calendar is now available at only £5 + p&p (£1.20p). Cards as above and below available from the website.

The Red Poll Collection

By Susanne Bowler

All the designs are available from The Red Poll Society redpoll.org - 01245 600032 - secretary@redpoll.co.uk