

# Newsletter No. 103

## Autumn 2015



**Dual purpose Red Polls**

# **WOLDSMAN RED POLLS**

**S.G. PRESCOTT & SONS**

**WOLD HOUSE LUND DRIFFIELD E YORKS YO25 9TW**

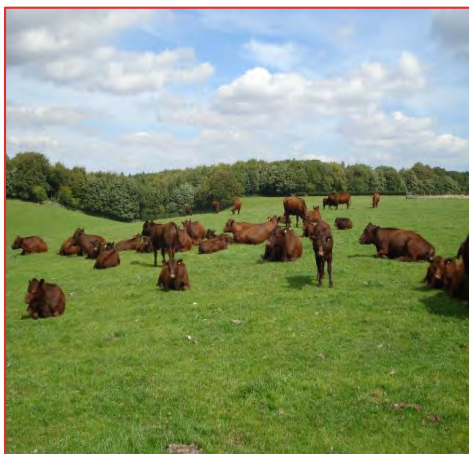
**Founded 1953**

All females are home bred and registered with the Society

Health status: Tuberculosis, Brucellosis tested.

No animal we have bred has ever had BSE.

**‘Would you like contented animals like these? Contact us!’**



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.

Andrew & Office:

Tel: 01377 217232

Ben:

Tel: 07855 041632

Stephen:

Tel: 01964 550229

Fax: 01377 271813

Mob: 07985 745990

Email: [prescott.andrew@btconnect.com](mailto:prescott.andrew@btconnect.com) Email: [ysgprescott@btinternet.com](mailto:ysgprescott@btinternet.com)

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

# **The Red Poll Cattle Society**

*Established 1888*

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Chelmsford,  
Essex CM1 2SW

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secretary@redpoll.co.uk  
www.redpoll.org

## **Newsletter No. 103 Autumn 2015**

President: Mrs T.J. Booker  
President Elect: S. Phelps  
Chairman: A.L. Barratt  
Secretary: R.J. Bowler  
Treasurer: Mrs T.J. Booker

Charity Registration No. 213132  
Company Registration No. 27159

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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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 M1 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](http://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 Winifreds Eliza, third to J R Williams's Pinguis Emily 14<sup>th</sup> with fourth place going to Moreton Fiona 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, second Pinguis Caroline 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 2<sup>nd</sup>

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"

# HEPWORTH RED POLLS



**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](mailto:richardsjbrookes@gmail.com)**

## Word Search—Herd prefixes

H O L Y O A K E G N H L L I I L D E B E N Z H P U  
 F N Y M S V J F I A S A N R W B N W T N U A N L F  
 E X O S I B P G L Q N V B T A T T O N O B O D Y S  
 T N P T E G Q B K H W C N C A L E V A L S A C G V  
 A K W L T H H A R F R M A K J D O R S E A H A W K  
 N V W Q F O C A E L A L G S I B W V E A V N Z C Q  
 B S M Z L Q N T G G O O E R T H U U Z I R H G E S  
 R A G X U D U T K J F C O I K L O U A A S N H Y A  
 D L L I A N J N W U J H R E G L E K C B H V Y N B  
 Y B A B A R N H Q B D G G U I P O F S K O V A U B  
 F C D C Z O G Q V N E F E Y W I F N I S P J Q E O  
 L N M C Z Y O V W J K Y S K B F V W G E E E W K T  
 I P E O Q A C K Z E L A H S H W E R N E L U X E S  
 Q M R X S L C X F R R M V U B L O U J A N D B V I  
 W F G O J U W M S J E R O E S C Z S M V S D S O E  
 Z E I N E A S T O N D V W D V L T H Z C A T A W P  
 I H L B T Q M K B P E X D P O N O T P O D V O L I  
 S L L C Y A B N K J E O A J K H O O L D W K U D E  
 X D N M P W R B I R D B R O O K G N N D R P O X C  
 M X V H G E E R V V B W P J H M A A D E N L L T M  
 K N E F D R W B M B C X F C C A L W Z N U S W S V  
 E Y W E E V A L E G A C Y V G W G M B H N V V M K  
 S M P M O S D I W U T D R T O I Z T K A N E S E V  
 B N S J I H H Y G I N K X B G I P N T M N M O X G  
 D I A N D R E W F R E D E R I C K Q F U Y G M O W

Abbots  
 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)*

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Lavenham Brook – Lady Getty
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Hopeham Herd – Sarah Barnes
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Appleton Herd – Tony Barratt

*Small Herds (The Appleton Plaque)*

- 1<sup>st</sup> – St Mary's Herd – Craig Smith
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ladler Herd – James Rea
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Hepworth Herd – Richard Brookes

*Youngstock (The Heathgate Cup)*

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Seahawk Herd – Ed Turner
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Hopeham Herd – Sarah Barnes
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – St Mary's Herd – Craig Smith

*Overall (The Mr & Mrs Nicolas Thompson Silver Tray)*

Champion – Lavenham Brook

Reserve Champion – St Mary's

*Registered Bull*

1<sup>st</sup> – Woodbastwick Rocket EB93 – The Countess of Euston (*The Andrew Fredrick Shield*)

2<sup>nd</sup> – Appleton Supreme Duke EB95 – Sarah Barnes

3<sup>rd</sup> – Hepworth Rocket 27153 – Richard Brookes

*Home bred Cow (The Countess of Euston Perpetual Rose Bowl)*

1<sup>st</sup> – Hopeham Alula 182023 – Sarah Barnes

2<sup>nd</sup> – St Mary's Bailey 183656 – Craig Smith

3<sup>rd</sup> – Hepworth Tansy 180341 – Richard Brookes

*Home bred 2013 born heifer (The Booker Salver)*

1<sup>st</sup> – Ladlers Digitalis 184030 – James Rea

2<sup>nd</sup> – Hepworth Viola 184668 – Richard Brookes

3<sup>rd</sup> – Heathgate Clover – 183253 – Denis Jenkins

*Progeny Group (The Raimsmere Jug)*

1<sup>st</sup> – Onenfawr Prince group in the Lavenham Brook Herd of Lady Getty

2<sup>nd</sup> – Canute Cromwell group in the St Mary's Herd of Craig Smith

3<sup>rd</sup> – Lavenham Sir Lancelot group in the Appleton Herd of Tony Barratt

*Three Related Females (The Hopeham Tankard)*

1<sup>st</sup> – Hopeham Alula 182023, Essence 184846, Fabulous 185659 – Sarah Barnes

2<sup>nd</sup> – Appleton Brighteyes 3<sup>rd</sup> 183237, Ladlers Carol 183298, Ladlers Daisy 184023 – James Rea

3<sup>rd</sup> – Lavenham Hawthorn 180779, Lavenham May Queen 182487, Lavenham Brook Mayflower 185607 – Lady Getty

*Steer (The Suffolk Food Hall Tankard)*

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Lavenham Brook – Lady Getty  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Ladlers – James Rea  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Capel Manor – Capel Manor College

*Suckling Calf (The Foxearth Plate)*

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Hopeham – Sarah Barnes  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Seahawk – Ed Turner  
3<sup>rd</sup> – St Mary's – Craig Smith

*R. J. Bowler on behalf of Terry Mancey  
25<sup>th</sup> September 2015*



*Best Bull*



*Large Herd and overall winner*



*Best Steer*



*Suckling Calf*



*Best Young Stock*



*Best Cow*

## 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)



# RED POLL

Steers, heifers and young bulls  
always wanted

Paul Rackham Ltd

Manor Farm, Bridgham, Norwich NR16 2RX

01953 717176

## D.F.Q.

- ◆ 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
2. Nobodys Earl 27192 – owned by Akiko Newing
3. Woldsman Brigadier 27176 - owned by Roger Thomas, Abbeyvale herd

### *Best Home Bred Cow - having had at least three calves*

1. Lagan Olwyn 15261B – Ron Clarke
2. Kemerton Bundaberg 182747 – Adrian Darby
3. Abbeyvale Carnation C14502 – Roger Thomas

### *Best Home Bred Heifer born in 2013*

1. Kemerton Damask 184438 - Adrian Darby
2. Ruscombe Celandine 184705 – Rebecca Charley
3. Wellshead Desiree 183881 – The Earl of Huntingdon

### *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
3. Coddenham Merlin 26978 – in the herd of The Earl of Huntingdon, Wellshead herd

### *Three Related females via Dam*

1. Lagan Osborne 15282B, Tilly 15940C & Witchampton 16079C – Ron Clarke, Lagan herd
2. Abbeyvale Carnation C14502, Dolichos 179397 & Datura 184108 – Roger Thomas, Abbeyvale herd
3. Wellshead, Adele 181866, Eglantine 184670 & Felicity 185389 - The Earl of Huntingdon, Wellshead herd

### *Best Steer*

1. Steer from the Ruscombe herd, Rebecca Charley
2. Steer from the Cools herd of Quentin & Maggie Edwards
3. Steer from the Mendip herd of Susan Tanner & John Davies

### *Best Suckling Calf*

1. Mendip Florentine, Susan Tanner & John Davies, Mendip herd
2. Calf 600194, Roger Thomas, Abbeyvale herd
3. Calf 500839, Ron Clarke, Lagan herd

*Judge – Denis Jenkins*



## Southern Area Herd Competition - Presentation day 11<sup>th</sup> October 2015

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 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 Spyee family for their first class hospitality.

*Ray Bowler*



*Rebecca, Isaac,  
Matilda, Richard,  
Denis and yours  
truly in the  
background.*

## Judges Standardisation Day 2015

Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

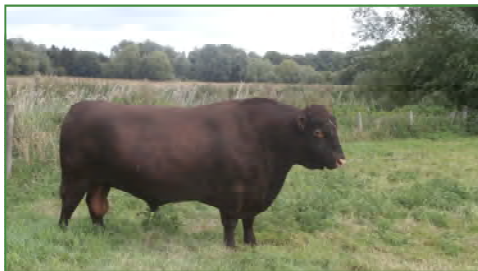
From my own 2014 inspection of the eastern region herd competition there were at least ten very good bulls which could be recommended. Breeders looking for a replacement bull should consider speaking to their Regional Field Officer who could include the recent judge's opinion in their advice.

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.)*



*Lyndale X Pippa - First placed cow*



*Cattle in the Lawford Herd*



*2014 born heifers in the Lawford Herd*



*Nobodys Orange Chilli – In the Watergate herd. First placed bull*



*Cattle in the Watergate herd – Watergate Dewdrop and March 2015 born calf*



*Pochin Janetstown – First placed heifer*



*First placed Steer No 300006 – In the Spartacus herd*



*First placed Calf No 200025 – In the Mepshall herd*



*Ironstone Susanne 4<sup>th</sup> – First placed Dairy cow*

## **Herd Competition 2015 – Midlands Area Results**

### *Large Herds (5 herds)*

1<sup>st</sup> – Lawford Herd - Martin Holdings

2<sup>nd</sup> – Pochin Herd - A.J.P. Pochin

3<sup>rd</sup> – Ironstone Herd – Alan Hewson

### *Small Herds (11 herds)*

1<sup>st</sup> – Watergate Herd – The Hunt Family

2<sup>nd</sup> – Nobodys Herd – Joy Broughton & Trevor Jones

3<sup>rd</sup> – Shuttleworth Herd – Shuttleworth College

### *Youngstock*

1<sup>st</sup> – Lawford Herd

2<sup>nd</sup> – Watergate Herd

3<sup>rd</sup> – Pochin Herd

### *Overall*

Champion - Watergate Herd

Reserve Champion – Lawford Herd

### *Registered Bull*

1<sup>st</sup> – Nobodys Orange Chilli – The Hunt Family

2<sup>nd</sup> – Pochin Ferryhill – Jane & Guy Lambourne

3<sup>rd</sup> – Kemerton Yallop – R.H. Stephenson & Son

### *Home bred Cow*

1<sup>st</sup> – Lyndale X Pippa

2<sup>nd</sup> – Watergate Dewdrop

3<sup>rd</sup> – Nobodys Orange Breeze

### *Home bred 2013 born heifer*

1<sup>st</sup> – Pochin Janetstown

2<sup>nd</sup> – Nobodys Gypsy

3<sup>rd</sup> – Watergate Foxglove

### *Progeny Group*

1<sup>st</sup> – Lyndale X Pippa, X Polly, X Twinkle (Kemerton Sligo)

2<sup>nd</sup> – Watergate Foxglove, Florence, Emma (Sandilands Romeo)

3<sup>rd</sup> – Ockley Brook Canna, Coco, Clover (Woldsman Young Man)

### *3 Related Females*

1<sup>st</sup> – Nobodys Allspice, Ecstasy, Fennel

2<sup>nd</sup> – Watergate Amber, Erin, Gertrude

3<sup>rd</sup> – Ironstone Suzanne, Suzanne 4<sup>th</sup>, Suzanne 5<sup>th</sup>

### *Steer*

1<sup>st</sup> – No 300006 – Mark Spicer

2<sup>nd</sup> – No 300021 – The Hunt family

3<sup>rd</sup> – No 400007 – Will & Gemma Kirby

### *Suckling Calf*

1<sup>st</sup> – Steer calf No 200025 – Mick Trundle

2<sup>nd</sup> – Steer calf No 700056 – R.H. Stephenson & Son

3<sup>rd</sup> – Steer calf No 200003 – Mark Spicer

### *Registered Dairy Cow*

1<sup>st</sup> – Ironstone Susanne 4<sup>th</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> – Ironstone Della

### *Cross bred Dairy Cow*

1<sup>st</sup> – FB76, Katie 19<sup>th</sup>, The Kirk Brothers (Red Poll X Holstein Friesian)

2<sup>nd</sup> – 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 )*

- |                 |                 |                                      |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Pinguis Emily   | 14 <sup>th</sup> John Williams       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Moreton Fiona   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Terry & Helen Mancey |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Oaklands Bonnie | Helen Langley                        |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Oaklands Dinky  | Helen Langley                        |

#### *Heifer born in 2013 ( 3 forward )*

- |                 |                        |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Moreton Baby Drury     | Terry & Helen Mancey   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Marsh House Winifred's | Demelza Pat McLaughlin |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Copperidge Alexa       | John Williams          |

#### *Cow ( 5 forward )*

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

#### *Bull ( 2 forward )*

- |                 |                 |               |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Pinguis Duke    | John Williams |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 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](http://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**

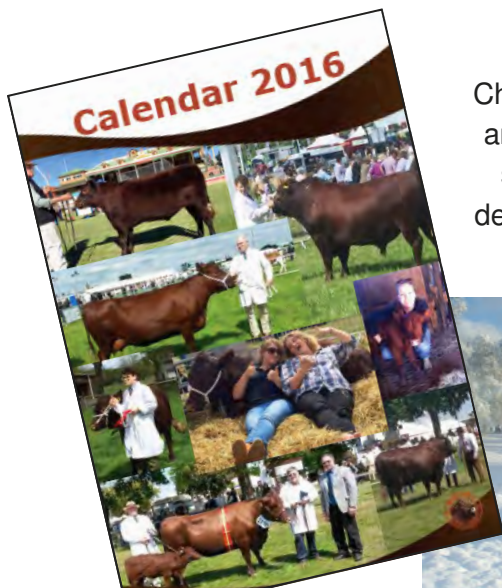
Pinguis Herd of Red Poll Cattle

2 Sleapford, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire TF6 6HQ

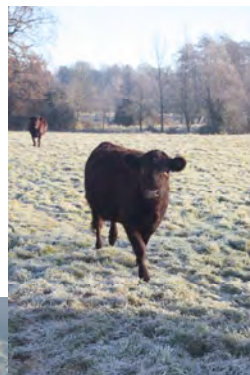
Tel: 01952 254203

Email: jrw2@btinternet.com

**[www.pinguisherd.com](http://www.pinguisherd.com)**



Red Poll  
Christmas cards  
are in packs of  
six assorted  
designs for £5 +  
p&p (75p).



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



By Susanne Bowler

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