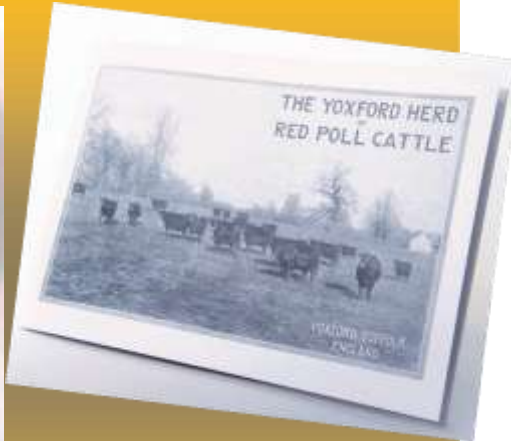


# Newsletter No. 104

## Spring 2016

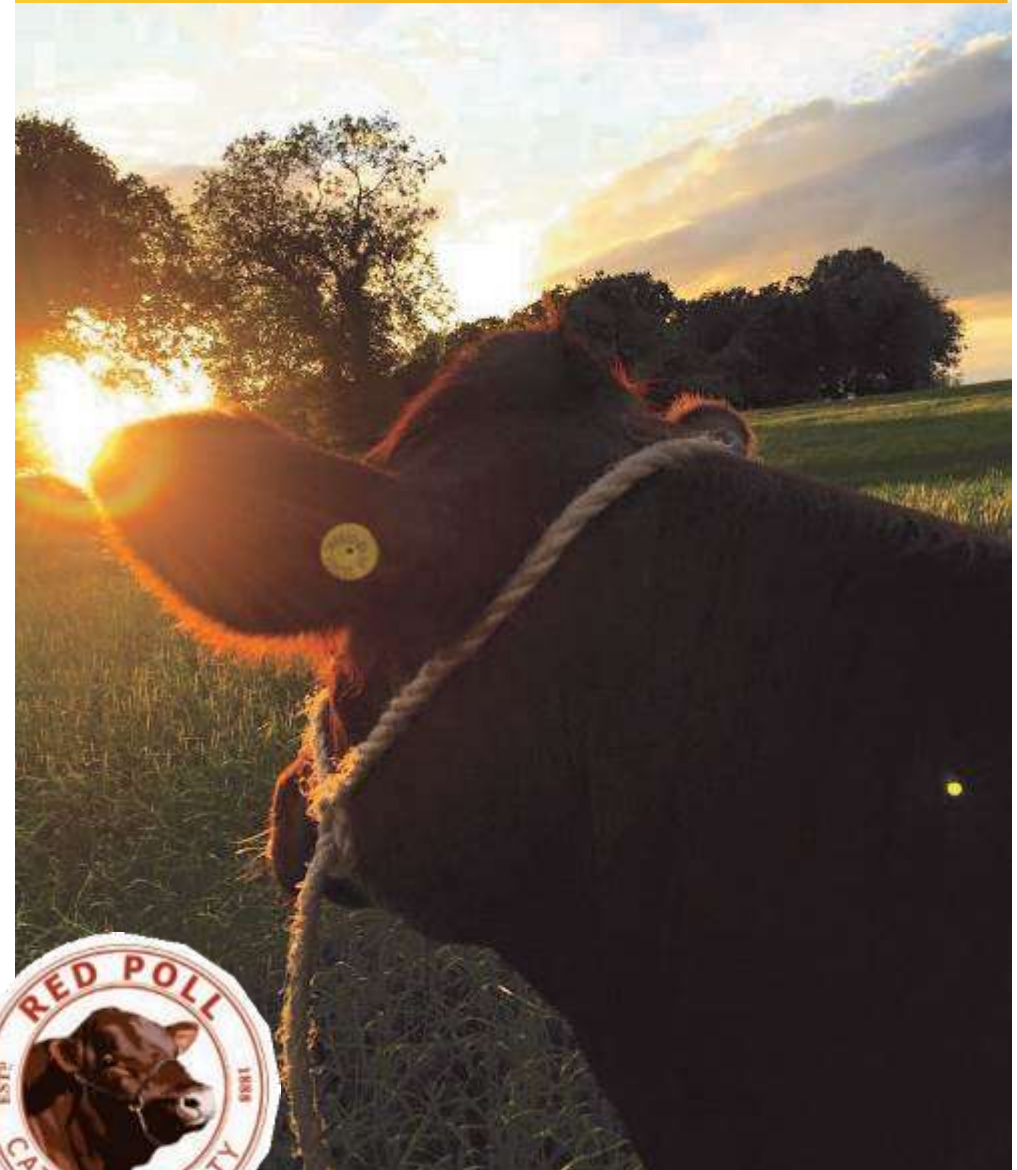


Red Poll merchandise available  
from the website



By Susanne Bowler

All the designs are available from The Red Poll Cattle Society  
[redpoll.org](http://redpoll.org)—01245 600032—[secretary@redpoll.co.uk](mailto:secretary@redpoll.co.uk)



Dual purpose Red Polls

# WOLDSMAN RED POLLS

S.G. PRESCOTT & SONS

WOLD HOUSE LUND DRIFFIELD E YORKS YO25 9TW

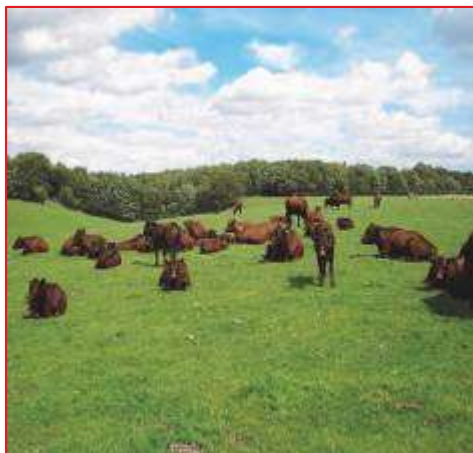
**Founded 1953**

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)

## Fedw Stig 26877



*Sire: Fedw Tomos*

*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](mailto:jrw2@btinternet.com)

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

# 2016 Youngstock Show

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May

Judge: Mr R Smith

Judging to commence at 11am sharp

## CLASS

- 1 Bull born in 2014
- 2 Bull born in 2015
- 3 Heifer born between 1<sup>st</sup> January & 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014
- 4 Heifer born between 1<sup>st</sup> July & 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014
- 5 Heifer born between 1<sup>st</sup> January & 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015
- 6 Heifer born between 1<sup>st</sup> July & 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015

## SPECIAL:- CHAMPION AND RESERVE

- 7 Pair born in 2014
- 8 Pair born in 2015
- 9 Potential primestock animal (purebred Steer or Heifer) born in 2015
- 10 Young handler under 14 on day of show
- 11 Young handler over 14 on day of show

**ENTRY FEES:** £10.00 per entry Classes 1 to 9  
£5 per entry Classes 10 & 11

**PRIZE MONEY:** 1<sup>st</sup> £20, 2<sup>nd</sup> £10, 3<sup>rd</sup> £5 in Classes 1 to 9

**Payment at time of entry please, cheques payable to RPCS**

A trophy will be presented to the champion animal, with the championship rosette and £30. The reserve animal will receive a rosette and £15.

The Red Poll Cattle Society reserve the right to amalgamate or divide classes as they deem suitable.

All animals must be on the showground by 9am on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May.

Please remember to bring all relevant Defra paperwork including bTB pre-movement certificates if you are in a 12 monthly testing area, passports etc.

One bale of straw per exhibit will be provided and the Society will also refund entry fees for each animal forward on the day.

Please remember that we have to do some clearing up of the straw used in order to keep the venue as inexpensive as possible. The society would be grateful if all exhibitors would muck out their pens down to the loading dock before they leave.

**ENJOY YOUR DAY!**

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

## The Red Poll Cattle Society

*Established 1888*

1 Nabbot Road  
Chelmsford,  
Essex CM1 2SW

01245 600032  
secretary@redpoll.co.uk  
www.redpoll.org

Newsletter No. 104  
Spring 2016

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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### Year Letter

The year letter for 2016 registrations is G

### 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.

### Tour Incl usion:

Roundtrip transportation via Croswell's VIP deluxe motor coach  
Twenty-four (24) nights hotel accommodation  
Twenty-four (24) breakfasts, twenty-one (21) lunches, twenty-one (21) dinners  
All sightseeing and admissions listed above  
All taxes and gratuities on included meals and lodging  
A bottle of water each morning  
All luggage handling  
Tour escort

### Tour Cost Per Pers on:

\$5000.00 Double Occupancy \$7000.00 Single Occupancy

\$1000 Initial Payment due by January 1, 2017

Final Payment due by March 1, 2017

*\*Tour Based on 30 paid passengers per motorcoach. Price will increase without 30 paid passengers per motorcoach*

### Payment Poli cies

All Credit Card Payments will be charged a 3% processing fee.

### For Motorcoach Tour O nly:

**Cancellation Protection** is available to you for \$200.00 per person. Cancellations with **Cancellation Protection** will be guaranteed a full refund up to the day before the tour departure. Cancellation Protection allows a refund on any unused portion of a tour due to illness or emergency while on the tour.

### Cancellation without Cancellation Protection

Cancellations prior to 60 days before tour departure qualify for a full refund. Cancellations 59 days or less before tour departure qualify for a refund minus a \$100 per person administration fee and any non-refundable fees paid out on your behalf.

### PLEASE NO TE:

You must exchange foreign currency before you depart your country or at a United States airport, such as New York, Chicago, or Los Angeles. (not the Dayton airport)

- June 8: Depart for Peoria, Illinois. for two night stay. Host McMarshall Farms. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.
- June 9: Host Mc Marshall Farms and Caterpillar Company. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.
- June 10: Depart for Kansas City. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.
- June 11: Host visit, Womelsdorf Red Poll Cattle. Depart for Wichita, Kansas. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included
- June 12: Host visit, Wiese Farms. Overnight this evening near Joplin, Missouri. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.
- June 13: Travel to St Louis, Missouri area for a two night stay. Breakfast Lunch and Dinner included.
- June 14: Tour Anheuser Busch Company, Clydesdales and Purina Research Farm. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.
- June 15: Host visit, Kyle & Alyson Young, Simpsonville, Kentucky. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included. Overnight near Louisville, KY.
- June 16: Host, Mike Reed Family at Mammoth Caves. Depart for Nashville for a two night stay. Tickets included for the Grand Ole Opry this evening. Breakfast, Lunch included. Dinner on your own.
- June 17: Host visit, Belyew's Red Poll Cattle, Big Sandy, TN. Breakfast and Lunch included. Return to Nashville to enjoy Dinner on your own.
- June 18: Depart for Asheville, NC with a stop at the Appalachia Museum. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.
- June 19: Tour Biltmore Estates and then travel to Winston Salem, North Carolina for three night stay. Breakfast, Dinner included. Lunch will be on your own today.
- June 20: Host visit, Carson Farms, Statesville, North Carolina. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.
- June 21: Host visit, Wilkshire Burlington, North Carolina. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.
- June 22: Depart for the Gallipolis area for tonight's overnight stay. Lunch will be on your own at Tamarack, West Virginia. Breakfast and Dinner included.
- June 23: Host visit, Paul Dorrance Family, Chillicothe, Ohio before returning to Troy, OH. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.
- June 24: Host visits, Mardan Acres, St. Henry, Ohio; Stonebrook Farm, Troy Ohio. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.
- June 25: Junior Red Poll Association Show Miami County Fair Ground. 12:00 noon return to hotel. Hotel has shuttle to airport. Breakfast included.

### **Micks anecdote**

For several years Penny and I exhibited a Red Poll at the Hatfield Park Country Show (now sadly discontinued). We were usually in the company of Joy Broughton with a South Devon, and Ted Neal with a Dexter. Joe public came from a wide area, most looked and passed on, some were more interested and asked questions. The reactions of one elderly lady spring to mind. She spotted the Red Poll and her face lit up. —Red Polls!! she exclaimed —I thought they'd all gone. It turned that on leaving school in the forties she went to work for the Sherriff Brothers on their farm at Lemsford near Welwyn. One year the show organised something different and gathered together as many red native breeds as they could, so we rubbed shoulders with Lincoln Reds, Sussex, and Longhorns etc. A fortysomething Londoner appeared, read the guff on the side of the pen and said —Where do they get their name from?! —Because they are red and polled! . —What's polled mean?! —Born without horns! I said —Only bulls have horns anyway! he said. —Cows do too. I answered, but he would not have it. I took him down the line and showed him a Longhorn Cow, —That's a bull! he said. I drew his attention to an udder, —You don't get that tackle on a bull! I said. I received a grunt and a shake of the head and he moved away.

As they say, there are none so blind etc etc.

*Regards Mick.*

### **New Members for Election**

*7<sup>th</sup> November 2015*

D&S Tompkins, Boames Farm, Boames Lane, Enborne, Newbury, Berks, RG20 0JT.

J&L Underwood, Rollsmead, Wyke Road, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4NG. Lord Deben, Winston Grange, Via Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 6LE.

*9<sup>th</sup> January 2016*

Allison Allen, Marsh Farm, Thorpe-next-Haddiscoe, Norwich, Norfolk, NR14 6PY.

Anthony Kirk, Underwood Hill Farm, Main Road, Underwood, Notts., NG16 5HG.

Jim Funston, Ringers Farm, North Common, Hepworth, Bury St Edmunds, IP22 2PR.

### **Calling all members.**

Do you have any photographs of any of the bulls that are currently available through AI? They may be old photos of the older bulls or up-to-date ones. The Society is in the process of putting a new semen leaflet together and require some images of the various bulls. Please send to the Society Office or email if you have the images electronically—secretary@redpoll.co.uk

## SECRETARY'S REPORTS

### 7<sup>th</sup> November 2015

There are three new members for election at this meeting, four at this meeting last year, all are registering. There are 400 members – 408 at this meeting last year. There has been one resignation since the previous meeting. This means that there have been 18 new members joining the Society in 2015, with six resignations. There are 27 outstanding memberships for 2015 for which Terina has sent out invoices on several occasions.

Since the last meeting I have sent out 20 information packs to persons enquiring about the Society.

Semen sales are very steady with only

13 straws being sold since the last meeting, this makes 313 for the year, exactly the same as last year. I have had the list of semen through from the RBST stating what Red Poll semen they have in store. It makes interesting reading. They have semen from 15 bulls but only from four bulls for sale, the rest is being kept in their semen bank. The bulls they have semen available for are: Sandilands Romeo, Mistley Linking Licias, Wheatfields Duke Nigel & Underhills Horatio.

One bull has been inspected since the last meeting, making 25 in total so far this year. I carried out the inspection at Cools Farm whilst I was there attending a CLA event, he was an M0 and scored 171 points.

This makes 12 x M0, 12 x M1 and 1 x M2 for the year, the M2 being Demonsdale Dudley at Paul Willmot's in Derbyshire. It isn't a surprise that he was an M2 as he is by Uggeshall Ultimate who was also M2. I have inspected 12, Dick Smith 4, Stephen Prescott 3, Rosemary Philipson-Stow 2, with Denis Jenkins, Joy Broughton, Terry Mancey & Tony Barratt doing 1 each.

As is usual at this time of year registrations are coming in steadily; so

far this year 239 females, 15 of which are grading, 283 last year. This is from 50 breeders, 60 last year. It appears that members are leaving it later and later in the year to register their animals, I really have to start chasing from now on, it was a struggle last year to get as many registrations as we did, I feel it is going to be even harder this year.

It has to be said that I have had a quiet time visiting members, since the last meeting, mainly due to the costs associated travelling costs. If fact I haven't been anywhere except the following: CLA Farm walk at Quentin Edwards's – had some very positive enquiries, I hope some of them come to something.

The Eastern are HC presentation at Lavenham, the Southern Area HC presentation at Stroud, the Judges Standardisation day at Hockcliffe and the Annual Dinner in Stafford.

I spent a fair amount of time organizing the engraving, new plinths and insurance valuations of the National Show Trophies which have now been awarded. They looked really impressive and something the Society should be proud of, the persistence of getting the RASE trophies back has paid off handsomely.

Cattle sales continue to be steady with a few small deals being done, there is plenty of stock available but no buyers coming forward to me.

As I said this time last year if there is any else that you would like me to report on in future reports then please let me know as I feel this report consists of all the same things, just with different statistics.

### 9<sup>th</sup> January 2016

There are four new members for election at this meeting, six at this meeting last year, three are registering, one Associate. There are 383 members – 386 at this meeting last year. There

Welcome World Red Poll Breeders,

Excitement for the FIFTEENTH INTERNATIONAL RED POLL CONGRESS AND TOUR in the USA in 2017 is starting to build and we, the American Red Poll Association, extend an invitation to all Red Poll breeders to come to the USA and see our cattle and our country. The tour schedule is as follows. It is 25 days and will encompass Red Poll cattle in differing US management styles, agriculture, historical places ranging from Appalachian settlements to the Biltmore Estate, entertainment from baseball to the famous Budweiser Clydesdales, as well as relaxation to visit and discuss the day's happenings. Also included is the payment procedure and the registration forms. We request one for each person attending. Any questions contact Melissa at Croswell Tours or Dan or Mary Jo Schmiesing at mardanacres@gmail.com.

## WORLD RED POLL CONGRESS

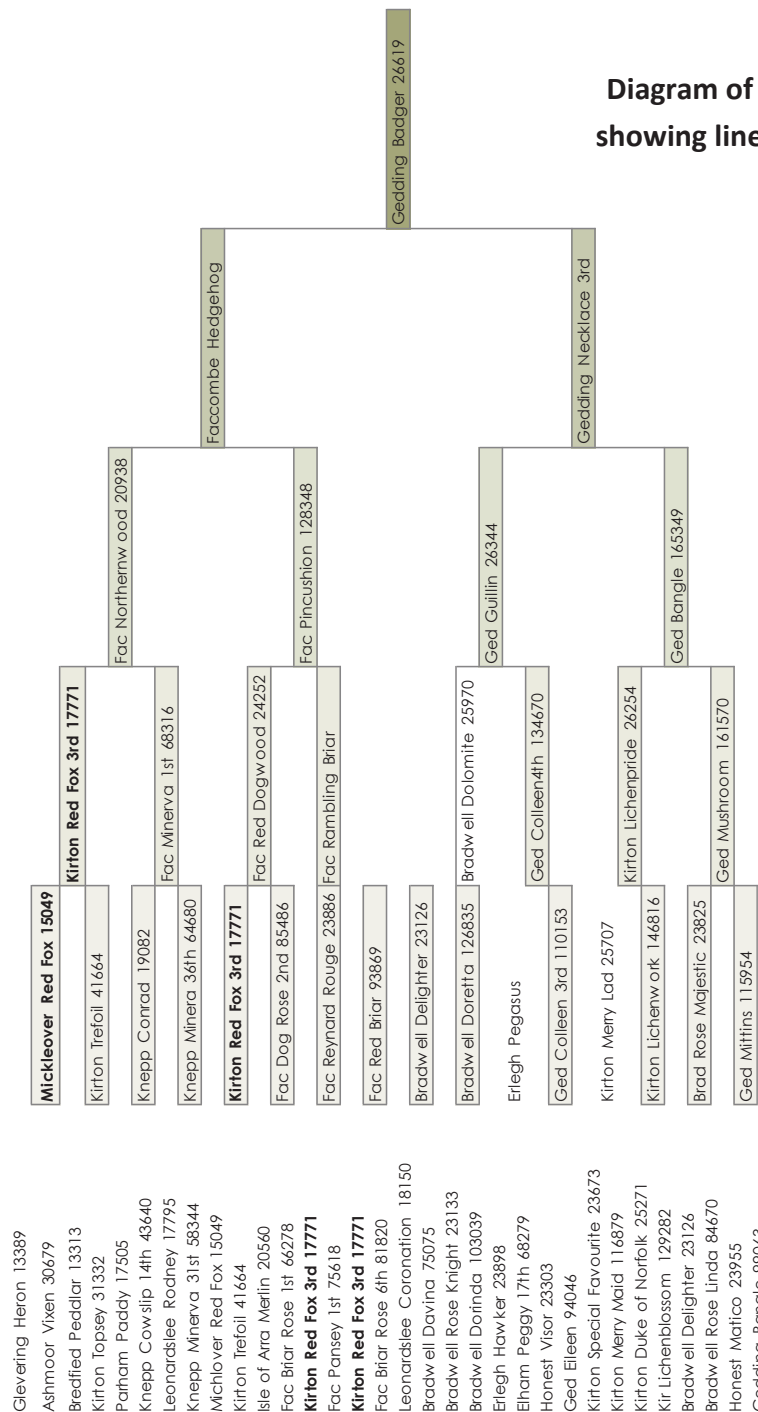
June 1-25, 2017

Tour Number G39010

25 Days – 24 Nights – 66 Meals

Revised 2/1/2016

- June 1: 5pm: Depart for Versailles Winery from Comfort Inn Troy Ohio for "Meet and Greet Dinner"
- June 2: Depart Comfort Inn, Troy for Indiana. Host visits: Jackson Farms; Spegal's Red Polls. Harness racing and casino. Two night stay in Anderson Indiana;. Breakfast, Lunch included. Dinner on your own.
- June 3: Host visit: Shuter Sunset Farms, Frankton, Indiana. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.
- June 4: Depart Anderson, Indiana for Host visit at Carl's Red Poll en-route to Shipshewana, Indiana for a two night stay. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.
- June 5: Amish tour including lunch. Then, dinner and show at Blue Gate Theatre. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.
- June 6: Depart for West Lafayette, Indiana for a two night stay. Host visit, Mickey Parks truck farm and Red Poll Herd. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.
- June 7: Congress at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.



have been three resignations, and two reported deaths since the previous meeting. This means that there have been 22 new members joining the Society in 2015. Very disappointingly though there are 17 outstanding memberships for 2015 so their membership has been cancelled. They have all had several reminders about their subscription fees, 13 were Registering, 3 Associate and 1 Overseas. The composition of the membership now stands at: Registering: 254, Registering Life: 39, Associate / Associate Life: 65, Overseas/Overseas Life: 8, Junior/Student: 17.

Since the last meeting I have sent out nine information packs to persons enquiring about the Society. Semen sales were 29 straws sold since the last meeting, this makes 342 for the year, 313 last year. 87 straws of Onenfawr Prince, 50 of Bowland Vincentio and 44 of Bowland Zeus were the best sellers. Roger Beecroft & Charles Drake both had 50 straws of semen making them the members buying the most.

Two bulls have been inspected since the last meeting, making 27 in total for the year. I carried out an inspection at Tony Barratt's whilst I was there attending a meeting, I scored him 180 points, one of the best young bulls I have seen this year, his Myostatin status is a yet un-known but I imagine it will be an M0. The other was the Champion animal at the Smithfield Festival, owned by Richard Brookes, he was inspected by the Judge Andrew Kirk, and scored 177 points, he is M0. This makes 14 x M0, 12 x M1 and 1 x M2 for the year, I have inspected 13, Dick Smith 4, Stephen Prescott 3, Rosemary Philipson-Stow 2, with Denis Jenkins, Joy Broughton, Terry Mancey, Tony Barratt & Andrew Kirk carrying out 1 each.

As I reported at the last meeting heifer registrations are very slow coming in. Looking back at my report last year I said exactly the same but it is even worse this year. So far I have had 464 full pedigree and 32 grading, last year's figures were 531 and 54 respectively. This is from 98 breeders. There are 42 breeders who haven't as yet registered any animals. I think it will be difficult to get as many animals registered as in the past, a worrying trend, still I'll get on the phone this coming week to do some real chasing.

Since the last meeting I have visited a few local members in Essex and Suffolk, attended a meeting at the Cheshire Show Offices with Joy & Helen Mancey regarding the National Show for 2016, been to the Project Group meeting at Ravenstone, a meeting with Tony Barratt at Sandringham and to the Smithfield Festival at Peterborough. There must be reservations about the latter event as it wasn't well attended by the farming community. We had a reasonable entry for our Calf Show classes, congratulations to Richard Brookes for exhibiting the Champion Hepworth Tarragon. There is a meeting at Peterborough in February regarding the future of the event to which myself, Joy and Denis will attend.

I have been asked to report on Probationary Judges. Helen Arthan & Thomas Blunt have both attended one show and been to two standardization days, both have appointments to shadow in 2016. David Hunt has applied to become a Judge. He has attended one standardization day and has an appointment to shadow in 2016.

Cattle sales continue to be steady with a few small deals being done, there is plenty of stock available but no buyers coming forward to me.

*Ray Bowler*



## Red Poll Calf Show at East of England Smithfield Festival 2015

This is an excellent show to go to. You can see all the very best stock under one roof on a wet and cold winter's day and still keep dry and warm! Red Poll had a good show of cattle. This is the first show of the showing season 2016 although held in November 2015, some of the cattle were learners in the ring but come next spring I expect these cattle will be all the better with the experience and will be stars in the ring.

I judged three bull classes Richard Brookes in the first two classes achieved first place in both classes – Hepworth Tarragon and Hepworth Salix, both young bulls. Tarragon a very fine young bull which later went on to be overall champion of all classes.

In the last bull class born after April 2015, Denis Jenkins' bull Heathgate Frank won first in this class. If Frank continues to grow and develop he has a very good future and I expect to see this bull around the show rings in 2016 with a red rosette on his halter!

The Hunt family gained first prize in the heifer class 1/01/15 to 31/03/15 with Watergate Holly. This was the best heifer at the show in all classes however she had white patches on her udder and time will tell how this develops. Holly had a fantastic presence in the ring and was an excellent all round animal in tip top condition—she went on to be reserve champion in a very close final!

The Heifer born after 01/04/2015 class winner was Bowland Flame owned by Simon Temple. A nice young calf lacked a bit of presence on the day but I found it difficult to find faults with her and she will grow into a very good addition in the Bowland herd.

The overall champion Hepworth Tarragon a very good young bull bit high on the tail head but walked well with a good show presence in the ring. This bull will grow into being a good sire and we hope produce some good progeny which will progress the Red Poll breed. Congratulations to Richard Brookes.

I would encourage exhibitors to have your cattle out on the halter well before hand so they are prepared for the show rings as it quite daunting for them and we want to show the breed off to everyone else in a positive way.

Thanks to everybody at the East of England show for their support, I thoroughly enjoyed the day and saw some excellent stock and met some members.

Andrew Kirk

### Membership Subscriptions as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016

Registering:	£50
Associate:	£25
Overseas:	£30 in sterling
Life Registering Member:	£750
Life Associate Member:	£300
Life Overseas Member:	£500

offspring have done much to help the herd and have been useful in the show ring. Her daughters have averaged over 1,000 gallons. *Monica 3 RM*, the cow that won many awards, averaged 13,505lbs with nine calves and a life yield of 57 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> tons..



*Gaddisby Edward* was the first bull I owned that left his mark on the herd. Alas, in those days, I did not realise the value of an old proven bull so I parted with him.

No special bull came into the herd again until I had the great fortune to be able to buy as a yearling *Kirton Red Fox 3rd*. 17771 who became the first RM Bull. He was later to prove outstanding. I believed that in this bull I had all I wanted.

I then did much line breeding or inbreeding as you like to call it, with *Red Fox*'s sons, grandsons, and great grandsons with good results on all females, no matter how near the relationship. For the last two years I have used only descendants of the old bull.

Semen is stored with Hampshire Cattle Breeders Association from *Facombe Northerwood*, who was destroyed last year a few days under 20 years old, and *Facombe Red Monarch*, who lived until 18 years of age.

### AI Bull

I sold *Facombe Reynard Rouge* to the Milk Marketing Board, reserving the right to have him back if I wished to. When I asked for him, I was told he had lately been destroyed due to being too heavily in demand. I won't mention here my feelings but will say I bought from the MMB all his semen which they held.

A grandson of *Kirton Red Fox 3rd*, *F Cactus 2*, a show bull and improver on which I put great value, unfortunately damaged his back and had to be destroyed. My present bull, *F Michael*, is a son of *Cactus 2*. I want to breed another stock bull out of one of my old cows but they seem to run to heifer calves.

I have never aimed for or tried to produce –high yields!. If a cow gives me say six to twelve calves and averages 9,000lbs at about 4% BF, I am sure this must pay me better than aiming at three or four lactations of 12,000lbs and over. Very seldom does one of my old ladies grade much under £70, due to their dual-purpose quality.

(See pedigree diagram overleaf)



*The breeding of cattle has always fascinated me to the point where some would say with regard to Red Poll breeding and pedigrees I am obsessed.*

*Looking back on Red Poll pedigrees, one finds a certain amount of line or inbreeding. Sceptics say that line breeding is when you do it on purpose and in breeding is when the same thing happens by accident. Whatever the opinion it is a tool of breeding which is used and which is highlighted in the following article about the highly regarded Facombe Herd from a 1960s Red Poll News (review). It has relevance as the bull Gedding Badger is still on the AI semen list with a modern day beef value of RP22 which is reasonable, and he was sired by Facombe Hedgehog.*

*The bull Kirton Red Fox 3rd (17771) was widely used in the Facombe Herd. The sire of Gedding Badger features Kirton Red Fox 3rd as Grand Sire, Great Grand Sire and Great Great Grand Sire twice.*

## THE FACCOMBE HERD

### Fine Example of Dual-Purpose Breeding

What a lot I have learned about the true value of Red Poll cattle since 1922 when my husband and I decided to start a herd, not because we knew anything about them, but we thought they would look nice in the park beside the drive to Frandswell Manor, Rugby, where we lived until 1936, when we moved to Facombe.

We wrote to Mr Clark, then Secretary of the Society, saying we wanted to buy 20 or 30 heifers, and how could we procure these. Eventually the heifers arrived and we went to see them, but what a waste of time! As soon as they saw us they jumped the fences and disappeared into the blue! That ended our first efforts and the lot went to the butcher.

We still wanted our Red Poll herd and realised we had been unlucky. My husband persuaded me to take over the management and formation of a herd. And he built some very good quarters for them. I had been a farmer's daughter all my life, and as most Irish girls in those days I had to work. I started milking when I was six years old and used to go with my father, Lord Clarina, weekly in the winter to see weighed 100 stall-fed bullock.

### Best Buy

For a year I went to many shows and sales and at the Ipswich Auction Sale I decided to buy an old culled cow being sold by Mr Hargraves, for which I paid £40. All said –Why? and Mr Hargraves said I was a fool. My only reply was –My children will all be home for Christmas and I want a near calving cow. This cow was *Norton Davy, HI*. She was about the best buy I ever made and about half my herd have always been HI family and descendants of my madness. Next, at a dispersal sale, I bought *Culford Decoration N.6* for £70.

### Foundation Cows

These two cows were the foundation of my herd. Very few bought-in females have entered the herd. The only one I paid ridiculous money for (no names) was Champion at the Royal and then brought abortion into my herd. She was always known as –Zoe's indiscretion. As I have said, few females have been bought into the herd but at the dispersal sale of my sister-in-law, The Hon. Mrs Schreiber, I purchased a heifer calf *Marlesford Monica*, who went on to win three RMs. She averaged 10,600 lbs with nine calves and had a certificate for 40 tons of milk. Her daughters and their

## THE IMPORTANCE OF CATTLE HEALTH SCHEMES

### What is Cattle Health Certification Standards (CHeCS)?

CHeCS is the self-regulatory body for cattle health schemes in the UK and Ireland. It is a non-trading organisation established by the cattle industry for the control and eradication of individual diseases, using a set of standards to which all members must adhere.

Health schemes, such as Biobest's –HiHealth Herdcare are designed to reduce losses from disease, increase profitability and health of the herd by preventing the entry of major infectious diseases and by controlling and eradicating infectious agents when they are present within the herd. Firstly testing is carried out to assess the health status of your herd, steps are then taken to improve the health status using disease reduction strategies (vaccination, biosecurity, eradication) and finally maintaining the health status by regular monitoring.

The major infectious diseases included in the health scheme are: Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD), Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR), Leptospirosis, Johnes's and more recently Neospora.

### What are the benefits of belonging to a health scheme?

A cattle health scheme enables you to control and eliminate disease from your herd. This will reduce animal losses such as mortality and abortions, increase productivity and increase the sale value of breeding animals because they can be accredited as 'disease free'.

**Animal Health:** By identifying the diseases on your farm and taking measures to control and eradicate these, your animals will be healthier. Many of the infectious diseases present on UK farms cause a degree of immunosuppression, this leads to livestock being less able to fight other pathogens they may encounter. Accredited herds are therefore at lower risk of pneumonia, scours and other illness.

**Financial gain:** Disease represents a huge cost to both the UK cattle industry and individual herds. Controlling and eradicating disease will show a very noticeable reduction in annual losses. These costs are seen in slightly different ways for each specific disease and are not always directly noticed; but in general these include ill health, reduced fertility, increased vet costs and individual animal losses. For example, it is known that in just 10 years, uncontrolled BVD in a 100 cow suckler herd can cost at least £45,000 to the farm (<http://www.checs.co.uk/why-get-involved/>). Reduced growth rates as a result of disease can have an effect on key live weights preventing you from achieving targets such as the average 200 day calf weight of 160 kg that Red Polls would be averaging at.

**Trading:** Buying and selling cattle from herds that are known to be disease free is becoming ever more important. Herds that are members of health schemes are less inclined to purchase cattle from non-health scheme herds, as it puts them at risk of introducing diseases they have worked so hard to eradicate. As a vet I also would deter a farmer from looking to buy animals from herds whose animals are of unknown disease status. Herds belonging to health schemes are able to provide an owner's declaration of health status, this gives buyers the confidence that they are not buying in disease. Farmers that hold accredited free

status will pay a premium on cattle in order to maintain their status and therefore getting on board with a health scheme can allow you to get improved sale prices. **Shows:** Showing cattle is a large part of owning pedigree animals, however every time we take an animal to a show, whether we belong to a cattle health scheme or not, we are at risk of picking up diseases. The more herds that become members of a health scheme, the less of a risk showing becomes. Belonging to a health scheme provides you with a strategy to keep your herd protected from disease during the show season, allowing you to have peace of mind that you are not bringing disease back home with you on your return.

**Legislation:** Many European countries including members of the United Kingdom (Scotland and Ireland) have taken steps to eradicate infectious diseases. Scotland achieved official free status of TB in 2009 and are well on their way to eradicating BVD, followed closely behind by Northern Ireland. I believe sometime in the future England will also look to become free of diseases such as BVD, this is unlikely to come without legislations of testing and culling your animals and in my opinion it is better to be ahead of the game in this regard.

#### **A bit about the individual diseases**

**BVD:** BVD virus affects reproduction in the cow (abortion and poor fertility), detrimentally affects the unborn calf, contributes to pneumonia and other diseases in young stock by reducing their ability to fight off disease, and in addition can cause severe diarrhoea. The most important effect is during pregnancy, the virus can cause abortion of the foetus, or cause calf deformities. If the cow is infected during the first third of the pregnancy, the calf may become persistently infected with the virus (a 'PI' calf). The PI calf will then shed the virus into the environment throughout its life subjecting the rest of the herd to the disease. On occasion the BVD can develop into a severe fatal disease called mucosal disease which inevitably leads to death shortly after the onset. Eradicating BVD involves firstly testing animals to determine herd prevalence, if exposure has occurred, to locate the PI (s) if there is one and cull these. In order to maintain disease free status a combination of vaccination (in some circumstances) along with strict biosecurity procedures are upheld.

**IBR:** IBR virus causes a severe respiratory disease and or reproductive failure (abortion and poor fertility) and inflammation of genitalia. Once an animal has been infected, it remains a carrier for life, with periods of stress (such as movement, starting a bull in work or housing) triggering shedding of virus. The virus is spread via the respiratory tract and eye secretions, and also through semen. Prevalence of IBR within the herd is revealed through testing of all cattle over one year of age. Vaccination is possible in eradication with the marker vaccine and strict biosecurity is a must to prevent the disease entering the herd.

**Johne's:** Is a bacterial disease that affects the intestines of the animal, it damages the intestinal wall which leads to chronic wasting of the animal it infects. The characteristic presentation of Johne's is a cow losing condition, scouring and will eventually lead to death (not always presented in this way). Unfortunately there is no cure to this disease. Young calves are the most susceptible and the majority of cases of Johne's are contracted in the first few weeks of life; however due to the long incubation period of the disease cattle do not normally show signs of Johne's

2006 saw a farm for rent on the Sandringham Estate advertised, we applied and were successful. This major change saw us also change the name of the herd to Appleton. Here the herd has developed and grown with the most notable recognition being the winning of the first National Herd Competition in the modern era. We have also tried to show our cattle as much as time will allow and winning the breed championship at The Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Shows gave us great pleasure.

We keep a wide range of bulls to ensure a broad genetic base as bull sales are a very important part of our business. The bulls that have probably had the biggest impact on the herd are:

Woldsman General a son of Soal Adjutant, Woldsman Emirate a son of Woldsman Adam, Bridgham Barney a son of Sandilands Romeo, Mepshall Perseus a son of Honest Martian, Castlefields Spud a son of Foxearth Claret.

Stockbulls currently in use in the herd include Boseley Brigand a son of Mistley Linking Licias, Castlefields Applepippin a son of Lowland Applepippin, Andrew Frederick Viscount a son of Eurmbra Gladstone, Appleton Romulus a son of Pettistree Badger who was by Gedding Badger out of a Eurimbla Gladstone sired cow, Appleton Poseidon a son of Mepshall Perseus, Appleton King Raedwald a son of Hepworth Harrier with inline breeding to Datchworth Concorde, Dryffin Edwin a son of Lordship Universal, Barchams Brians Boy a son of Hallingbury Paddy.



# RED POLL

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having had 23 calves. She calved every 11 months without fail and also had three sets of twins. One of the twins Beasthorpe Flapper 3rd produced Beasthorpe Captain Kirk who went on to be breed champion for Gerrard Farmer at the Royal Show.

I developed a multi-suckling system which I consider very good. I only purchased calves from one dairy farm and these were all Charolais Freisian crosses and all heifers which were reared on the Red Poll cows with their own calf. This kept unwanted bugs down to a minimum with all the bought in calves only coming from one farm. The reared crossbred heifers were put to the Red Poll bull at 15 months to calve at two years old. As soon as they calved the calf was transferred to a Red Poll foster mother/multi-suckler and the crossbred heifer kept on straw, minerals and water for about two weeks to dry up. They were then fattened up and sold for beef at about two and a half years making a good fat price and having produced me a calf for the system further reducing the number of bought in calves needed and thereby also further reducing the risk of disease. This system was working well until BSE struck allowing the supermarkets the chance to lower prices and make producing beef unprofitable. I would not sell my beloved cows so I changed to single suckling. I still consider my multi-suckling system worked well and was until BSE profitable. Pre BSE I used to sell my Red Poll bulls in York Market at around £1.30 per kg liveweight. After BSE the price fell below £1 per kg and it took over 10 years before prices returned to the former levels.

In my haste to explain about the cows I have not covered where they were kept. My first property was a bungalow with about one acre and some old buildings. There were two grass paddocks adjoining which I was able to rent along with others in the local area. After some years I purchased West Moor Farm, Caistor a derelict Victorian cottage (3 walls and ½ a roof) with 15 acres. In the next two years I restored the cottage built a shed designed for multi-suckling and bought a further 15 acres adjoining. The land was poor blow away sand which had been neglected for years. The big advantage was the proximity of Cherry Valley which was at that time the biggest duck farm in the world and which was happy to give away as much muck manure as I wanted. Within three years I managed to change the very nature of the soil, from blow away sand to a much darker almost peaty structure which was capable of growing great crops of fodder beet and grass.

After a routine visit two young vets fell in love with our home and made me an offer which could not be refused for the cottage and original 15 acres. I used the money to buy Beasthorpe House, a period country residence with 50 acres complete with wood and small lake. It was from Beasthorpe that the herd was originally named. Happy years were spent there and the herd expanded with further land rented in the area. I assumed that we would live and thrive for the rest of our working lives but had not allowed for divorce. I kept my herd intact and managed to rent grassland and buildings under the Belmont Television mast on top of the Lincolnshire Wolds. I also retained the scattered fields I had previously rented.

The ownership of the Land and Estate Agency business had been sold to the Leeds Building Society in 1989, they were excellent people with whom we worked well. When the Halifax took over the Leeds, most of the former partners decided to leave but I was persuaded to stay. This was a decision I later regretted as their too heavy middle management systems were always doomed to failure. In 2004 I decided to reverse my career roles and become a full time farmer and part time auctioneer, the part of the original job I had always enjoyed the most. This was when I met my wonderful wife Ann who is my rock in all things.

until later in life. The major route of transmission of the bacteria is via the faecal-oral route. The estimated cost of having Johne's on a 100 cow beef unit is £1600 annually.

**Leptospirosis:** This bacterial disease as well as affecting cattle can also infect humans (zoonotic). In cattle it can cause abortion, still births, poor fertility, weak calves, and acute illness in adult cows.

The bacteria are present in the reproductive tract and kidneys being shed in the urine. Infected urine can pass into streams and other water sources indirectly infecting cattle when out on pasture. Vaccination may prevent some clinical disease but will not prevent the herd becoming infected. Biosecurity is crucial in preventing this disease.

**Neospora:** Neosporosis is a disease caused by the protozoa Neospora Caninum. Neospora causes abortion in cattle and less commonly neurological disease in calves. The life cycle of the protozoa requires dogs and foxes to be completed. Prevention of the disease therefore relies largely on dog and fox control.

Disease	How to achieve accreditation
BVD	A check test is carried out on 5 calves from each separately managed group (aged 9-18 months). A second check test is carried out 12 months later. Accredited status is obtained if all results are negative (vaccination still possible with accreditation).
Johne's	Subject to herd history, two or three herd tests are carried out on all animals aged 2 years and older at intervals of 12 months. Accreditation status level is obtained if all results are negative.
IBR	Two herd tests are carried out at an interval of between four weeks and twelve months. All animals aged 12 months and older, plus non-homebred younger animals must be sampled. Accredited status is obtained if all results are negative (vaccination still possible with accreditation).
Leptospirosis	Two herd tests are carried out at an interval of between 5 and 12 months. All animals aged over 24 months plus any stock aged 12 to 24 months that are intended for breeding must be tested. Accredited status is obtained if all results are negative.

### How to achieve accreditation?

#### What to do now?

If, like many other members of the Red Poll Society, you would also like to find out the disease status of your herd and take steps to improve the health and profitability of your animals, your local vet should be able to provide you with all the information you may need to get going with this. The CHecs website also has a wealth of documentation on the Ts and Cs of accreditation. We at Westpoint Farm Vets work in partnership with Biobest Laboratories, and support the use of their —HiHealth Herdcarell scheme.





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(incorporating Beasthorpe Herd)

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**Contact: Tony Barratt – 07545 394821, 01485 541440**

## Red Poll Cows for Tatro School

A big thank you to all those that have kindly given towards this project, I am really pleased to report that we have raised enough money for one animal so far. Gabrielle the head teacher of Tatro School is so very grateful. The children pictured are Tatro pupils, they too are very excited and the younger children will benefit from Red Poll milk!

We have been in contact with James Brooks and he has ear marked two heifers for us. One with her first calf at foot and in calf again, she is being milked and giving 15kgs a day, the other is in calf with her first. James the SAGEinKENYA co-ordinator in Kenya has been in contact with James Brooks' farm manager to make sure that all will be in place and ready for the arrival of the Red Polls at the School.



*Asante, Ruth*

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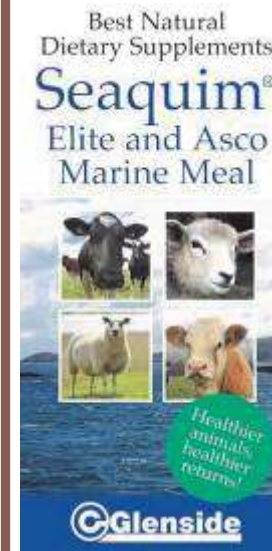
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## The Council

*The Society is run by an elected Council which meets six times per year. In addition to these meetings there are several Committees which meet on a regular basis to make recommendations which are taken to Council. These are Breeding, Finance, Bye-laws, Human Resources, Shows and Sales, Publicity and Promotion.*

*The Council consists of 18 members, President, President Elect, Retiring President and Vice-Presidents. Council members are elected for a three year term. This can be repeated three times therefore making a possible nine year term of office after which there must be a break of one year before standing for Council again.*

*The Council appoint a Chairman and Vice-Chairman on an annual basis at the first Council meeting following the AGM. The Council have a Treasurer and Secretary, the Secretary being a salaried position. The Council members come from all walks of life with a joint passion for Red Poll cattle. Over the next few newsletters we will include a little about the members starting this time with our Chairman, Tony Barratt.*



I was born in the small Lincolnshire village of Ormsby-by-Spital, the most famous son of which is Bernie Taupin who writes the lyrics for Elton John's songs and whom I grew up with in idyllic rural surroundings. I was not lucky enough to be born into a farming family but both my grandfathers had worked on the land and my father initially trained as a gamekeeper, was conscripted in the war as a Bevan Boy and after became involved with land drainage. From my earliest years I was farm and particularly cow mad. An old couple in the village milked Red Polls and did a milk

round. I spent many hours as a child with these cows and a love was born.

When I left school I became a rural practice Auctioneer and Estate Agent and in my spare time a livestock keeper. For some reason I liked the idea of multiple suckling but initially could not find any Red Polls. My first cow was a polled British Friesian which I bought from an old school friend Michael Davenport who now has some Red Polls in his milking herd of Holsteins. From there I then purchased some Meusse Rhine Issel, one of which we milked for the house and one we multi – suckled.

I went to the Royal Show with farming friends and spotted the Red Polls and in particular Woldsman Adam. I was soon in conversation with Stephen Prescott and the rest, as they say, is history. I thought Woldsman Adam to be a wonderful bull and a visit to the Woldsman Herd soon followed. Stephen would never sell Adam who was an outstanding sire and in his herd for 15 years. I initially purchased Woldsman General who was by the same sire – Soal Adjutant, I used him on the MRI cows but soon realised pure bred Red Polls were the breed for me. I found a cow from the Capps Flapper family for sale locally. I then returned to Woldsman to buy four second calvers. The MRI's were phased out and five in calf heifers were purchased from Giles Crisp's Uggeshall Herd. They were all by Capps Blaze another Soal Adjutant son and in calf to Woldsman Greenmantle an Adam son. From those first ten cows most of my cow families were founded with many descendants still in the Herd. The Flapper cow died the year we moved to Sandringham at the age of 19 years

## Cheshire County Show 2015

The Red Poll classes I judged at this years' show in June while not very numerous in animals forward the standard of cattle was good with no 'poor' animal in any of the classes.

The winner of the heifer class under 22 months was Oaklands Bonnie – a very attractive heifer - who was closely followed by Moreton Fiona 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Heifer in-calf class was won by Moreton Baby Drury with second and third being two typical Red Poll heifers the property of Alan Bickerton.

The cow or heifer in-milk was won by Moreton Lady Blythe – a lovely quality cow belonging to Terry Mancey – closely followed by Helen Arthan's Chorlton Lane Crystal and Helen Langley's Oaklands Pendleton. It was encouraging to see such a good class of in-milk cows and heifers.

There was only one Bull forward – Helen Langley's Hopeham Bobstar. To me he was carrying too much condition which rather affected the way he walked.

Breed Champion was won by Moreton Lady Blythe – a really typical Red Poll cow with Hopeham Bobstar reserve.

I was fortunate to have as the probationer judge, the very pleasant and knowledgeable Thomas Blunt. He will be a valuable addition to the Judges Panel.

*Rosemary Philipson-Stow  
August 2015*

## Cheshire show 2015

I was fortunate enough to be asked to act as probationary judge for this year's Cheshire Show along side Miss Rosemary Philipson Stowe. The whole experience was extremely worthwhile and beneficial. To shadow such an experienced judge meant I learnt a great deal from the whole experience which I will utilise in the future. However for those of you wishing to go to the Red Poll National show next year I would recommend allowing plenty of time for traffic as it very nearly caught me out moving four miles in 50 minutes!

*Tom Blunt*



## POCHIN HERD OF RED POLL

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Mr Andrew Kirk 0116 269 2694 or

Mr Richard Sanders 01858 410200

## Get The Breed Out There



**T**wo months to go and the show season starts, hopefully those of you who usually come out showing will be doing so this year again, also hoping to see some new faces out there with animals in the ring.

It all starts on 9th MAY with the **YOUNGSTOCK SHOW** at Rugby Farmers Mart, Stoneleigh, nr Coventry. Schedules and entry forms are with this newsletter. The Youngstock Show is a great place to start your Youngsters—human and bovine, as the penning and ring are very secure and there are no huge crowds (more's the pity!)

**SUFFOLK SHOW** on 1st & 2nd JUNE is next, brilliant show in the heartland of the breed.

**ROYAL THREE COUNTIES** on 17th, 18th, & 19th JUNE follows, under the Malvern hills. This is another great show, where you get two bites of the cherry, with classes on the Saturday and Rare Breed classes on the Sunday.

Hot on the heels of the three counties, on the 22nd & 23rd JUNE comes the **NATIONAL SHOW** which this year is being held within the **CHESHIRE SHOW** at Tabley, Knutsford.

If that's not enough excitement for you, 29th & 30th JUNE sees us back in the Red Poll homeland at **NORFOLK SHOW**, another huge show with loads to see and do.

A bit of a break to catch the breath, (and do some laundry!) before **NANTWICH SHOW** on the 27th JULY, **WAYLAND SHOW** on 7th AUGUST, **WESTMORLAND SHOW** on 8th SEPTEMBER,

So come on, get halters on some of your animals and bring out the best you have and at the same time break some good chunky steers and we'll find some classes for those as well.

For help and advice contact Joy Broughton 01525 288189, 07961428431, zulu623@gmail.com



## The Project Group

The Council has set up the Group to consider long term issues relating to the future of the Red Poll Breed, producing proposals for the Council to consider as to how progress can be made and then implemented. In this the Society has been greatly helped by the offer of a very generous donation from a member to fund the implementation of any decisions resulting from the Group's work.

As you can appreciate this is a wide brief and initially the Group is looking at the following areas. Firstly we need to consider how the promotion of the Red Poll given its known properties can be enhanced. Currently the number of pure bred Red Polls is more or less static although in recent years it has been creeping up. The BCMS figures as at the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 showed 6434 females and 2461 males whilst at the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 there were 6649 females and 2572 males.

Secondly following on from this can the Society market Red Poll beef as a specialist premium brand on the lines of the schemes set up by the Angus, Hereford and Shorthorn breeds. If so how do we do it? At the moment it would seem that most members have little difficulty selling stock. There appears to be quite a wide price variation with R4L finished steers selling at between £3.50/kg and £4.00/kg at 29 months. How can we improve on this? Certainly a few members do better than this.

Thirdly it could be argued that the Society needs to take a more disciplined approach in its functions. Should we have a Breed health plan? Signet or Breedplan are becoming increasingly used in the industry and the Society needs address this. Is there a place for finishing units giving breeders an easy option of selling stores? Would workshops on finishing cattle be helpful? A policy on grading up should also be formulated.

As you can see there is much to do. However a lot could be covered if Red Poll meat could be classified as a Traditional Speciality Guaranteed Product under the EU Protected Food Names scheme. Such products as Stilton Cheese and Cornish Pasties along with Gloucester Old Spot pigs [the only livestock breed in the scheme] are accredited. We believe it worth making another application the first having been made by the Development Society but was, for various reasons, withdrawn. Making an application is no easy task as the bureaucracy is spectacular and in the event of a successful application it can take up to two years to implement. Should we be successful accredited herds could use the scheme for marketing subject to meeting the conditions laid down by the Society in its application and approved by the EU. These would be subject to an annual audit by an independent auditor. The Society would need to ensure how many members would use the Scheme and how the costs would be apportioned. It is worth mentioning that the Gloucester Old Spot's membership has made a considerable impact on the breed. We have had one very helpful meeting with DEFRA and our application will be handled by Sarah Barnes, Sally Grimwood and Terina Booker and will then revert to the Project Group before submission. There are no up front costs.

Lastly the Society needs to increase its registering membership which is vital in meeting our ambitions and long term secure finance. The only way we can do this is by offering a relevant service and value for money. As more stock is being sold into commercial herds we need to make sure we can offer them something of value as currently they see little need to join the Society.

Finally the Project Group considered it needed to know more about the membership and Registering Members will have received a short questionnaire. The response has been excellent and I am most grateful to all those who have replied. If you have yet to reply it would be really helpful if you could do so when you have a moment so we can get a complete picture.

We will keep you in touch with our progress.

*Richard Dawes*

## Southern Area Herd Competition Report

Judging a herd competition is so rewarding especially when coupled with the enthusiasm of the owners and managers of these wonderful cattle of ours. I saw some fantastic examples of the breed and every herd I visited had its own merits, but to win a herd competition takes something rather special, an almost indefinable quality, a feeling perhaps to go alongside what is seen by the eye.

I was primarily looking for good healthy stock, any animal carrying a problem is unlikely to perform at its peak. Content animals perform well too. Good conformation and locomotion are also key ingredients; I have no problems with animals 'in their working clothes', a cow rearing a good strong and well grown calf can be forgiven for being a bit plain but she should never be too fat! Heifers on the other hand should be in peak condition in July, and I could forgive those that are slightly overweight. Our breed is described as medium sized, not small to medium! I like the bulls to stand out and be easily seen amongst their cows.

So to the competition itself. Best suckling calf was Mendip Florentine in the herd belonging to Susan Tanner and John Davies, near Wells in Somerset, a wonderful heifer with such strength. There were some superb grass fed steers to see and my winner was an animal in Rebecca Charley's Ruscombe herd at Stroud, happily grazing amongst the rest of the herd. The 'three related females' class was a tough one to decide, with so many top quality animals on offer. My final choice went to Oberne, Tilly and Witchampton, three ladies from Ron Clarke's Gillingham based Lagan herd. The most spectacular animals I saw were the winning group in the progeny class. I was shown a group of bulling heifers by Kemerton Athlone, in Adrian Darby's Tewksbury based Kemerton herd and they were quite magnificent, enhanced by the area they were in, a very colourful conservation site full of flowers and wild looking forage. It was not too difficult to choose my favourite in the homebred heifer class, Kemerton 400782, one of the progeny group winners.

I have always believed that your cows are the strength of your herd but getting the right female lines in place can be a challenge. The homebred cow class is therefore a very important indicator of the quality of the herd. The pick of some very good cows entered was Ron Clarke's Lagan Olwyn, a wonderful example of the breed. Although the bull is very important, I personally think its less important than the females; you can change your bulls as often as you like! Every now and then the right bull comes along and just fits in so well with the cows, that's the time to keep more daughters! My winning bull was Woldsman Young Man, bred by the Prescott family in Yorkshire and seen running in the Ruscombe herd of Rebecca Charley.

The youngstock class was a tough one to call, with so much good quality youngstock on show. I settled on the youngstock in The Earl of Huntingdon's Wellshead herd, based near Newbury. A new entry in the herd competition and undoubtedly one to look for in the future.



So to the winners. My best small herd goes to Rebecca Charley's Ruscombe herd, and my best large herd to Ron Clarke's Lagan herd. Both of these herds had that little extra something as well as quality cattle. My overall winner was Rebecca's Ruscombe herd and I hope that those of you who came to the presentation lunch and herd visit there in October enjoyed a look around just as much as me, and my thanks go to the Charley family for a very nice relaxing day.

Finally, thank you to all those who entered in the southern area and allowed me to come and see all your wonderful animals, an unforgettable experience.

*Denis Jenkins*

#### **Regional Field Officer Arrangements**

The Society operates a system of Honorary Regional Field Officers, as it has become clear that it is very difficult for one individual to cover the whole country. The system is co-ordinated by our Secretary, Ray Bowler. A list of Regional Field Officers is given below with contact details:

**Ray Bowler** – 01245 600032 / 07906 761206 secretary@redpoll.co.uk  
Area: South Suffolk, Essex, Greater London, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire & Berkshire.

**Joy Broughton** – 07961 428431 zulu623@gmail.com  
Area: Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Oxfordshire, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Lincolnshire

**Terry Mancey** - 07747 776872 terrymaney@btinternet.com  
Area: Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Cheshire, Lancashire, Northumberland, Westmorland & Cumberland.

**Denis Jenkins** - 07876 748082 denis.jenkins@tesco.net  
Area: Norfolk & North Suffolk.

**John Williams** - 07860 269044 jrw2@btinternet.com  
Area: Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire & Wales.

**Simon Phelps** – 07855 345329 simon-phelps@hotmail.co.uk  
Area: Gloucestershire, Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire, Devon & Cornwall.

**John Anderson** - 07833 664121 borenichjohn@gmail.com  
Area: Scotland.

If you wish to buy or sell cattle you should contact Ray Bowler on **01245 600032** or **secretary@redpoll.co.uk**. Ray will pass the details to the relevant Regional Field Officer and arrange for inclusion on the website if you so desire.

If you have any problems or queries please feel free to contact **Tony**

## 14<sup>th</sup> National Show and Sale of Tra ditional and Native Breeds

9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Septe mbe r  
2016

**Online entries at [www.grassroots.co.uk/melton.html](http://www.grassroots.co.uk/melton.html)**

#### Timetable

Participating Societies booked  
and Schedule Proofs checked .....1<sup>st</sup> May

Entries open .....1<sup>st</sup> June

**Barratt** on 07545 394821 tony@sandringham-beefandlamb.co.uk

We hope that you will have the opportunity to meet your Regional Field Officer before too long.

Paper entries close.....Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July  
On line entries close.....Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August Proofs  
out .....Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August Final  
proofs back.....Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August  
Catalogues to printers .....Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August  
Catalogues delivered .....Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September  
Show and Sale.....9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> September

Melton Mowbray Market  
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Melton Mowbray  
Leicestershire  
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**[libby@grassroots.co.uk](mailto:libby@grassroots.co.uk)**

**Libby at Grassroots 01392 270421**



**14<sup>th</sup> National Show and Sale  
of Traditional and Native Breeds  
9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

Dear All,

It is that time of year again when we start to think about the National Show and Sale of Traditional and Native Breeds at Melton Mowbray Market, and would very much like to invite your breed to participate once again. As you know this is a co-operative venture, held under the auspices of the participating breed societies, and as such we only accept entries for breeds whose societies have adopted Melton as an official event. We provide the venue, arrange the cataloguing and the sale.

The team at Grassroots will once again be providing the facility to do entries 'on line' and will be putting together the catalogues. We are also hoping to introduce the option to pay for entries via the on line entry system this year.

Aided by your speedy proof reading we are able to have the closing dates of Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July for paper entries and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August for online entries. The proofs will go out on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August for each society to check all the details of the stock entered for their breed.

We are delighted to be able to report that the Market is in a period of exciting development and is building a brand new and very impressive cattle building. It will be 'state of the art', light and airy, with the option to create a large inside show ring in the middle of the building. Once fully open we will be able to accommodate haltered and un-haltered sections as required.

Unfortunately this facility will not be open in time for the September Native and Traditional Breeds Sale but we hope to launch the new cattle facilities with a **Native and Traditional Breeds Spring Cattle Sale in May 2017**.

With best wishes

Libby Henson  
Grassroots Systems Ltd, on behalf of Melton Mowbray Market

**Nantwich Show 2016 – Judges Report**

It was a last minute rush up to Cheshire to be the stand in judge for the show due to Tony Barratt having a hospital appointment. The quality of stock forward was excellent, as good as you will see at any show in the country.

In the first class – Heifer born in 2014, six animals were forward. I awarded the red rosette to Pinguis Emily 14<sup>th</sup> shown by Stephen Williams. This March born heifer by Nobodys Eclipse, has an excellent body, topline and walks well on good sound legs and feet. The blue rosette I awarded to Moreton Fiona 3<sup>rd</sup>, a Lowpark Applepippin daughter. Another first class animal but on the day I thought her udder wasn't showing quite the quality of the heifer in first place. Yellow & Green rosettes went to a couple of heifers from the Oaklands herd, these were daughters of Hopeham Bobstar. I'm sure in the future these will develop into first class animals but their age was against them in this instance.

2nd class – Heifer born in 2013, three animals forward. The winner of this class was an excellent in-calf heifer from the Moreton Herd of Terry & Helen Mancey, Moreton Baby Drury. She showed tremendous depth of body, walked on great legs and showed an excellent developing udder. 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to a maiden 2yr old heifer from the Marsh House herd, Marsh House Winifred Demelza. This heifer didn't have the presence of the first but will I'm sure develop in the future. 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to Copperidge Alaxa, due in September, again a first class animal but she was showing far too much condition for my liking showing fatty patches over her tail head.

3<sup>rd</sup> class was a class of four cows with calves at foot. This was a tremendous class with all four cows being of an excellent type. I gave the red rosette to Moreton Lady Blyth, a Knepp Fantastic 2<sup>nd</sup> calver. This cow epitomises for me what a Red Poll cow should look like, she oozes class and quality. Her udder is excellent, she walks on superb legs, has an excellent topline and as I have said oozes class. For the blue rosette I made the call to another Knepp Fantastic 2<sup>nd</sup> calver, this time coming from the Pear Tree herd of Alan Bickerton, Pear Tree Sherry. Once again a tremendous cow but not quite showing the overall quality of the cow in 1<sup>st</sup> place. The yellow rosette went to Chorlton Lane Zappy. This 5<sup>th</sup> calver is just beginning to show her maturity, her udder didn't have the attachment I look for, however she has a tremendous body and walks well.

There were only two bulls forward in class 4. My choice was Pinguis Duke. This 2.5 year old son of Kemerton Zetland has excellent qualities all around, he has length, depth of body, walks well and is generally an excellent young bull. The 2<sup>nd</sup> bull, five year old Hopeham Bobstar is for me a little short in the body and legs. He show an excellent quality of flesh and looked in tremendous condition however, for me, he hasn't the quality of the bull in first place.

For my Overall Champion I tapped out the cow Moreton Lady Blyth, her overall quality just stood out, with the bull Pinguis Duke in Reserve. I would like to congratulate all the exhibitors for turning the cattle out in an excellent condition and for making me and Susanne so welcome in the lines afterwards.

*Ray Bowler*

## RED POLL CATTLE SOCIETY HERD COMPETITION 2015



**Large Herd Winner**  
Mark & Gill Martin, The Lawford Herd



**“Overall Winner”**  
Mark & Gill Martin  
The Lawford Herd

I would like to thank all the owners for spending time showing me their cattle, it was a pleasure to meet them and to see what they are doing.

I decided that I would make the awards on the basis of how owners were using the breed to make money by utilising the Red Poll's inherent characteristics and also how they were using these to make them fit in with their own lives given that some owners, especially the smaller breeders, had other things in their lives such as jobs.

The factors involved are:

The ability to thrive on a lower plane of nutrition than other breeds, this being especially important in the winter.

The marketing of the cattle, selling their meat either direct to the public or to local butchers, the important part of this is the excellent flavour or the meat.

Using the Red Poll to cross with a great variety of other breeds and the excellent results of these is important as it represents another market for the breed.

Ease of management, top of the list being easy calving.

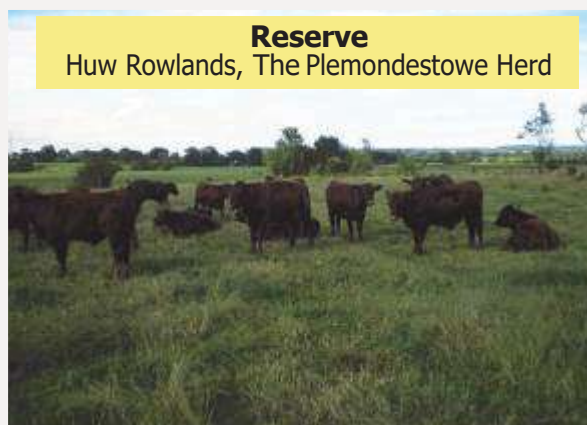
The lack of the necessity for veterinary attention and foot trimming.

Temperament, I was very pleased with the cattle and in particular of the bulls, this is to be encouraged.

I was impressed by the whole range of important ancillary matters, such as cheap forms of grassland improvement including free compost from waste disposal sites and sewage sludge and in the use of free or cheap grazing on a variety of conservation areas. I was also taken by the effort put in by the smaller breeders in having small parcels of land over some distance and the time taken in visiting them.

I do not think it too fanciful to say that I believe that if other producers take a serious look at what the cattle breeders I visited are doing it could really change the face of beef production.

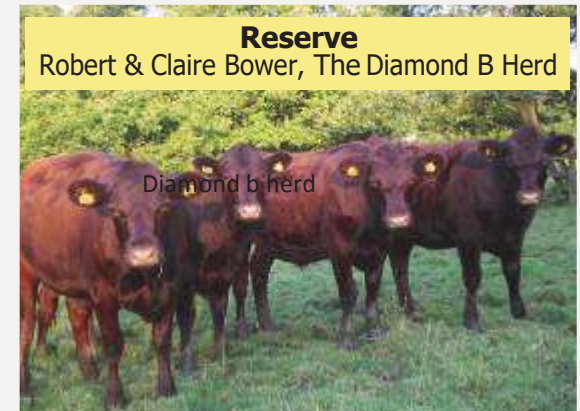
*Philip Ryder-Davies*



**Reserve**  
Huw Rowlands, The Plemondestowe Herd



**Small Herds Winner**  
Rebecca Charley, The Ruscombe Herd



**Reserve**  
Robert & Claire Bower, The Diamond B Herd