

# **RED POLL NEWS**



**Newsletter No. 98**  
**Spring 2014**

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dianaflack@btconnect.com**

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## THE 14<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL RED POLLS CONGRESS AUSTRALIA

2014



### RED POLLS *Making A Difference* 21 OCT - 11 NOV 2014

Booking Forms: December 2012

Registration Deadline: 21 August 2014

Indicative Cost: A provisional indication of the cost of the tour is \$6499.00 including internal flights. Sponsorship is being sought to reduce this.

#### ENQUIRIES TO:

Kim McNeill

Sunbwer Holidays

Phone: 039 687 7233 Email: [conferences.aot.com.au](mailto:conferences.aot.com.au)

[www.redpoll.org.au](http://www.redpoll.org.au)



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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](mailto:secretary@redpoll.co.uk) [www.redpoll.org](http://www.redpoll.org)

## **Newsletter No. 98 Spring 2014**

**President: Mrs D. Flack**  
**President Elect: J. R. Williams**  
**Chairman: A. L. Barratt**  
**Secretary: R. J. Bowler**  
**Secretary to Council: Mrs T. J. Booker**  
**Treasurer: Mrs T. J. Booker**

Charity Registration No. 213132  
Company Registration No. 27159



## **Editorial**

As she comes to the end of her term as President, many thanks are due to Diana Flack for encouraging and supporting members, as indeed she has always done and no doubt will continue to do, in particular thanks are due to her for arranging social events which are so important in bringing the Society's members together and which always have the future of Red Polls as their focus. Organising these events is a major undertaking, especially the President's Calf Show. Thank you very much, Diana. Incidentally, while searching the web today, I found a super YouTube video of Diana talking about Red Polls in connection with the Ardeley Herd.

Talking about the internet, there are now two Facebook pages for Red Polls: a new one, Red Poll Cattle, and Red Poll Cattle Society, and plans are afoot for a new website.

Last year a new show was held in August, the Stoneleigh Country & Livestock Show. Red Poll cattle were on exhibit there but there were no cattle classes. This year the Society is holding a National Show at the event. So far, we will be the only cattle society with classes there, so this is a fine opportunity to wow the public with our beautiful red cattle. Given that many shows have have closed, for example, the East of England Livestock Show and Hatfield Show, it is impressive that this new show is a success.

My apologies to Richard Brookes whose Hepworth herd was the overall winner in the East Anglian Herd Competition. The presentation of awards for this competition and a farm walk took place at Hepworth. I had got this information quite wrong in the Autumn 2013 edition of Red Poll News when reporting the results.

*Helen Arthan*

## **Dates for Your Diary**

5 April: AGM at Stoneleigh

5 May: RPCS Show and Sale, Rugby Farmers Mart, Stoneleigh

17 May: RPCS Youngstock Show at Stoneleigh

22 May: Beef Expo, Hexham

2-3 July: Livestock Event, NEC

20 July: Field Day with the Kirton Herd in Ipswich

16-17 August: National RPCS Show at Stoneleigh Country Show

## **Chairman's Report**

Yet again the weather has been the dominant topic this winter with our thoughts with the farmers and others in parts of the south and south west.

We held a very successful and well organised training day in Suffolk with an excellent attendance including a refreshing amount of younger people who were all enthusiastic and keen to learn. Getting new members is essential; when they are young as well, they are even more important. A follow up event is already planned to keep the momentum going.

The Society is in the process of having a new web site produced which will incorporate a whole host of new features and bring us fully up to date in this area. My thanks go to the Publicity and Promotion Committee for all their efforts in this line and also for developing new banners and other promotional material for use at County Shows and the major national livestock events which we hope to attend with impact this year.

*Tony Barratt*

**RED POLL  
STEERS, HEIFERS AND YOUNG BULLS  
ALWAYS WANTED**

**Paul Rackham Ltd  
Manor Farm, Bridgham,  
Norwich, NR16 2RX  
01953 717176**

## **Secretary's Report – 22nd February 2014**

As you will be aware I had a rather devastating event just before Christmas with being burgled. Together with personal items, the Society's laptop was also taken, together with backups stored downstairs on memory sticks. Luckily the Grassroots information backup is sent to Terina at the end of each month so at least we haven't lost all that data. Backups are now sent to the "cloud" every night so all information is safe. Thank you to those of you who have sent me files back so that a lot of the information that was lost has been recovered.

I didn't do any visits between the last meeting and the New Year because, as you know there was doubt about my continued employment with the Society. With this now hopefully resolved, normal service will be resumed.

At the end of October a very successful Annual dinner was held at Staverton Lodge with a farm visit to Mark & Gill Martin's on the Sunday, both of which were excellent. The annual National Herd Competition results were announced at the dinner by Judge Tony Barratt. The overall winner was Nick Thomson's Lavenham herd which also won the Large Herd trophy; the Small Herd trophy was won by Terry & Helen Mancey's Moreton herd. Trophies were presented by our President Diana Flack. In Nick Thomson's absence, his Farm Manager, Denise Thomas, accepted the awards.

At the end of January the Eastern region held a stock selection and stockmanship for showing workshop at Brook Hall Farms. This was once again an excellent event with over 40 members attending. Thanks must go to Simon Gibson, Manager at Brook Hall, for hosting the event and to Denis Jenkins, Eastern Area Field Officer for organizing it. A follow up event is being organized at the end of April, the host this time being Sarah Barnes.

There are 16 new members up for election today, 9 registering, 1 life registering, 3 associate & 3 junior. This means that membership stands at 397 (386 at this time last year). The total number of new members for 2013 was 31, 33 in 2012.

There were 4 unpaid subscriptions last year, down from 17 the previous year, who despite having been reminded on at least 3 occasions and having made no contact subsequently have been removed (1 overseas, 2 associate & 1 junior). There were 9 resignations at the end of the year (6 registering, 2 associate, & 1 overseas) meaning that membership is slightly up.

The make-up of the membership is: 267 registering, 37 registering life, 55 associate, 11 associate life, 9 overseas, 13 junior & 5 student.



Since the last Council meeting 15 information packs have been posted out (14 last year).

So far for the 2013 Herdbook there have been 41 bull registrations (46 last year), 822 pedigree females (764 last year), and 132 grading females (149 last year). This makes the total female registrations so far 954 (913 last year). These are from 144 breeders (138 last year). There is only another week before the registration cut off for the 2013 Herdbook. I don't envisage many more to come in although I know of at least 2 members who have promised me their registrations before the end of the month.

Out of interest the top 6 sires, registering-wise, are: Seahawk Yukon – 34, Appleton Spartacus – 25, Underhills Arch Duke - 23, Red House Rocket – 20, Kemerton Alderman – 17 and Seahawk Zeus – also 17.

I have to say that once again I have been quite pro-active in getting cattle registered and have chased some, visited others and generally kept pestering!

Out of interest, I have just received the latest printout from BCMS which gives the numbers of animals registered as alive with them as on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014.

Red Polls numbers are:

Pure bred

England: 6182 females, 2414 males

Scotland: 55 females, 7 males,

Wales: 199 females, 40 males

Totals: 8897 cattle

Cross breeds

England: 1409 females, 707 males

Scotland: 109 females, 30 males

Wales: 96 females, 40 males.

Totals: 2391 cattle

Semen sales were again disappointing last year with only 445 straws distributed, including 100 Castlefields Nu Duke that were free of charge, 50 Nu Duke exported to Australia & 50 to New Zealand. 70 straws were bought by Charles Drake, Petworth, West Sussex, by a long way our biggest AI user. Various adverts have been put in the press but all to no avail, not a single enquiry. Just out of interest, 63 animals that have been registered in 2013 have been sired through AI (65 last year). Top 4 bulls being Fedw Tomos – 10, Bowland Vicentio – 8, Onenfawr Prince – 8 and Bowland Zeus – 7.

The sales aspect of the job has been very slow and difficult with very few deals being done throughout the winter period. One new member, Daphne Bye, has been buying stock, she now has 52 cows & heifers which have been purchased through a variety of sources. Steers are still wanted and are commanding a steady trade for those who have them. However, virtually all are going through privately. I'm hoping things will pick up in the spring. Diana has sold 16 animals to a prospective new member in Scotland, the cattle sold coming from Pochin's.

*Ray Bowler*

## **Council Meeting Dates for 2014**

Council meetings have been arranged for the following dates:

\* 5<sup>th</sup> April 2014 before the AGM at 2.00pm

\* 28<sup>th</sup> June 2014

\* 11<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Meetings are normally held at 11.00am in the Jersey Pavilion, 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LZ.

## **Year Letter**

The year letter for 2014 registrations is E.

## **Subscriptions**

These became due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and are as follows:

Annual Registering £35

Annual Associate £20

Annual Overseas £30

Annual Junior £5

Annual Student £8

Life Registering £500

Life Associate £250

Life Overseas £250

If you would like to pay by standing order, please contact the office for the necessary form.

Please consider using Gift Aid if you are a UK tax payer. A Gift Aid declaration increases the amount the Society receives from your subscription. Declaration forms for Gift Aid are available from the office.

## **Registration & Transfer Fees**

Heifer in the Herd Book of year of birth	£10
Heifer outside the Herd Book of year of birth	£20
Bull	£80
Transfer of ownership	£10

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 of the transfer fee.

## **Bull Semen**

List 1 (members)	£12.50
List 1 (non members)	£17.50
List 2	£32

The lists are published in the Herd Book and on the website. Please contact the office for further details.

## **Breed Data**

To encourage the collection of breed data, which is so important in promoting Red Poll cattle, the Society offers the following subsidies.

### **Signet Subsidy**

The Society offers an annual subsidy of £125 to members who join the Signet Beef Recording Scheme. The subsidy is paid on production of a paid Signet invoice. Please contact the office for details.

### **Milk Recording Subsidy**

The Society offers an annual subsidy of £125 to members who undertake milk recording with NMR. Please contact the office for details.

## **Advertising on the Website**

To advertise your Red Poll products on the website,  
please contact Sarah Barnes on 01508 470413 or [sarah@gpbarnes.net](mailto:sarah@gpbarnes.net)

For livestock sales, please contact the Secretary, Ray Bowler, at the office.  
Steers are always wanted.

Ads are posted on the website for a month.  
They may be renewed after this time.

## **Welcome to our New Members**

The following new members were elected at the Council meeting on 22nd February 2014. We welcome them to the Society and look forward to meeting them at events in the year ahead.

**John Salt**, High Ridge Farm, Hollington, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, ST10 4HH – Registering Member

**Philip & Roz Hill**, Acorn Smallholding, Wood Lane, English Frankton, Ellesmere, Shropshire, SY12 0JX – Registering Member

**Chris Williams**, Eastwick Manor, Eastwick, Hertfordshire, CM20 2QY – Registering Member

**Daphne Bye**, Waterloo Farm, Homersfield, Harleston, Norfolk, IP20 0EX – Registering Member

**Naomi Gibson**, 3 Osborne Cottages, Wenhaston, Suffolk, IP19 9HJ – Junior Member

**Michael Neilson**, Windyknowle, Annan, Dumfriesshire, DG12 5LN – Registering Member

**Barry Sheldrake**, Alder Carr Farm, Creting St. Mary, Suffolk, IP6 8LX – Registering Member

**Sarah Shephard**, Pond Farm, Cookley, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 0LR – Registering Member

**Ben Prescott**, Vicarage Farm, Lund, Driffield, E.Yorks, YO25 9TW – Registering Life Member

**Oscar Smith**, 17 Braeford Close, Hellesdon, Norwich, NR6 5EZ – Registering Member

**Tony Rea**, Cold Harbour Farm, High Cross Lane West, Little Canfield, Dunmow, Essex, CM6 1TE – Associate Member

**Teresa Wright**, Dairy Cottage, Heath Farm, Wenhaston, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 9BX – Associate Member

**Rosie Fuller**, Dairy Cottage, Heath Farm, Wenhaston, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 9BX – Junior Member

**Lara Cakebread**, 3 Riches Close, Tasburgh, Norwich, NR15 1NX – Junior Member

**Mark Riley**, 32 Quilp Drive, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 4YA – Associate Member

**Steven Gay**, Greenstead Hall, Greenstead Green, Halstead, Essex, CO9 1QN – Registering Member

## **A Note from our President**

I have been involved with Red Polls for sixty eight years from so many different angles. I still believe they are the most sensible breed of cattle and the most underrated.

In the beginning the breed was about 98% milking with the bull calves kept as steers. Others just milked and sold the calves for bucket rearing and then they were sold on again as stores, spoiling the steers and getting them a bad name with the local East Anglian dealers and graziers.

The herds on estates and large arable farms were looked after better and their owners found that they made wonderful baby beef which used to do so well at Smithfield and other beef shows.

Red Poll cattle have very valuable tasty and tender meat which so many modern producers are finding does well in farm shops and eating houses. At this present time, the meat is winning major prizes over pure beef breeds in Australia.

Since the change from milk to beef I find it rather annoying that many breeders are doing really well and making money with their suckled steers or bull beef but fail to share the information to get some good facts and figures across to promote the breed.

I could give all my personal reasons for keeping Red Polls but this is not the place.

I have enjoyed my term as President and would like to thank the members for their friendship and support. Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

*Diana Flack*

### **The President's Country Supper**

22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2014 at 5pm at

The Ffolkes Arms, Hillington, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE31 6BJ

Diana Flack: My Life with Red Polls

Guest Speaker, Michael Pollitt, Agricultural Editor of the Eastern Daily Press

Film show on early Red Poll herds and the work of the Society

Carvery Supper at 7pm, £12.50

Bookings to Terina Booker



## **Diarrhoea in New-Born Calves**

For many suckler herds, spring is calving time and the new crop of calves will bring their own set of challenges. Newly born calves face many challenges in their first three weeks of life – one of the most serious (and common) is diarrhoea.

### **Calf Diarrhoea (“Scour”)**

Scouring calves are common to most cattle farmers. Diarrhoea in young animals can be devastating, with progression from vigorous calf, to recumbency and death being at times rapid, so prompt treatment in all cases is essential.

The major causes of diarrhoea in young calves are:

- Viruses : rotavirus, coronavirus
- Bacteria : ETEC (*E.coli*), Salmonella
- Protozoan (parasite) : Cryptosporidium

Studies have shown the most common of these are rotavirus and cryptosporidium, with ETEC (*E.coli*) being relatively rare, causing less than 5% of cases. As vets, we are often asked what the cause of a particular scour is with a view to a specific cure. However, probably more important is addressing the factors which allow calves to contract the disease initially (prevention really is better than cure!)

### **Hygiene**

Cleanliness in the calving pen is paramount. Calving cows repeatedly in the same pen without cleaning out, or at least adding a good layer of clean, dry straw between occupants, is asking for problems. Outdoor calving is better still, with cows being moved to the maternity field a few days prior to calving. Ideally, a few days after calving, the cow and calf should be moved to a “nursery” field.

Hygiene should extend to calving equipment as well: ropes and calving aids (“calf pullers”) should be thoroughly cleaned after each use. Anybody assisting a calving should also wash hands and arms thoroughly, or wear arm-length gloves. Calf housing should be clean and dry. Ventilation should be good, but without draughts. (Remember to get down to calf level to check the air quality –

ventilation close to the ground, below the level of hurdles, bales and low walls, may be significantly different from the air you are breathing five or six-feet above).

One area of hygiene often neglected is that of the dam – faeces encased teats are not a great place for a new-born calf to suckle!

### **Colostrum Intake**

Six pints in six hours!! The first six hours are key as the ability of the calf's intestine to absorb the large antibody molecules decreases quickly. Aim to ensure a colostrum intake of 3 litres (six pints) in the first six hours. It is worth keeping a stock of frozen colostrum in two litre containers ready to give to any calves you suspect may not have suckled enough. Ideally, milk this store of colostrum from your own cows; it will contain antibodies against the diseases present on your farm. There is currently much concern over the spread of Johne's disease in cattle through the sharing of colostrum – again, a good reason for using colostrum from your own cows (ideally of known Johne's status). Vaccines such as Rotavec afford protection to the calf (via the vaccinated cow's colostrum) against rotavirus, coronavirus and ETEC (E.coli).

### **Treatment**

Diarrhoea generally kills calves due to fluid loss. The massive quantities of fluid lost by a scouring calf causes dehydration and shock. This leads to an electrolyte imbalance and a serious condition known as metabolic acidosis. The key to treatment is therefore fluid replacement therapy.

Generally, if the calf is still standing, then oral fluids should be given. If the calf will still suck, they should be given from a bucket/bottle and teat, if not then a suitable calf stomach tube feeder should be used. If the calf is collapsed, you should call your vet immediately so that intravenous fluids can be given.

The World Health Organisation described oral rehydration-fluid therapy (ORT) as the most significant medical advance of the 20<sup>th</sup>

century. There are a number of ORT products available for calves (e.g. Lactade, Effydral, Glutalyte), as powders, tablets or gels to add to water or milk. Generally, in my opinion, and regardless of instructions that come with the product, it is better to give multiple, small quantities of fluid (little and often). Additionally, watering down milk may affect the calf's ability to clot and digest the milk, therefore I would recommend alternating ORT and milk feeds.

Traditionally, milk has been withheld from scouring calves, as it will often worsen scouring. However, starving the gut of nutrients will impair the body's ability to repair the gut and possibly lead to further damage. Therefore, as long as the fluid loss associated with diarrhoea is being addressed (through ORT) then milk should continue to be fed. Studies have shown that the amount and consistency of scour is a poor indicator of the likely progress of the disease. The most important assessment you can make of your calf is, "Is he happy?" If at any point the calf becomes depressed and recumbent, then veterinary help should be sought.

### **Antibiotics?**

As the majority of calf scours are caused by viruses and protozoal parasites, then antibiotics will not be of any benefit in the majority of cases. They should be reserved for cases suspected to be caused by ETEC (*E.coli*) or Salmonella. In light of concerns regarding the development of antibiotic resistance, the practice of routinely giving newly born calves antibiotics should be **actively discouraged**.

### **Summary**

- Hygiene – minimise the calf's exposure to pathogens
- Colostrum – 6 pints in 6 hours
- Oral fluid therapy – little and often
- Demeanour – depressed/recumbent – call the vet!

*Gareth Parry BVSc MRCVS*

*Hampton Veterinary Group, Malpas, Cheshire.*

## **Show List 2014**

A “Best Red Poll” rosette is available for local shows with rare, minority or native breeds classes. Please contact the office for details. The following shows have specific Red Poll classes:

### **Red Poll Cattle Society Youngstock Show, Stoneleigh , 17<sup>th</sup> May**

Contact: RPCS 01245 600032 secretary@redpoll.co.uk or Joy Broughton 07961 428431

### **Suffolk Show, 28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> May**

Contact: Elizabeth Payne 01473 707115 liz.payne@suffolkshow.co.uk

### **Royal Three Counties Show, 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> June & National Rare & Minority Breeds Show on 15<sup>th</sup>**

Contact: Fiona Parker 01684 584900 fionap@threecounties.co.uk

### **Cheshire County Show, 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> June**

Contact: N. Evans 01565 650200 www.cheshirecountyshow.org.uk

### **Royal Norfolk Show, 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> June**

Contact: Mary Wright 01603 731965 mary@royalnorfolkshow.co.uk

### **Stoneleigh Country & Livestock Show, 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> August**

Contact: Sarah Beveridge 01295 788924

enquiries@stoneleighcountryshow.com

### **Westmorland County Show, 11<sup>th</sup> September**

Contact: 015395 67804 manager@westmorland.org.uk

www.westmorlandshow.co.uk

### **East of England Smithfield Festival, 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> December (calf classes)**

Contact: 01733 234451 livestock@eastofengland.org.uk

www.eoesmithfield.co.uk

## **Breed Promotion**

The Society stand will be at the following major events:

**Beef Expo**, Hexham Mart Centre, 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Organised by the National Beef Association, the theme for 2014 is “British Beef Feeding our Nation.”

**Livestock Event**, NEC, Birmingham, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> July, organised by the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers Events Ltd.

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## **THE NATIONAL RED POLL CATTLE SOCIETY SHOW**

The Society will be hosting the first national show this year at the Stoneleigh Country and Livestock Show, to be held on Saturday and Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

We are hoping that we will have sufficient entries to allocate cattle to 6 classes. Should we have more entries, more classes will be provided. We already have sponsorship for two classes. If you feel that you can support a class (£100 per class), please contact Terry Mancey.

The classes proposed are as follows:-

- Heifer under 22 months on the first day of the show.
- Heifer over 22 months on the first day of the show, to be in calf or having calved under three years.
- Cow - in milk, any age.
- Cow - dry, any age.
- Bull over two years on the first day of the show.
- Bull under two years on the first day of the show.
- Champion Female
- Champion Male
- Overall Champion
- Novice handler class. Open to **ANYONE**, including young handlers, not having competed in Red Poll classes since 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011. You can bring along your own animal and receive help and advice from the many experienced handlers who will be in attendance. The animal does not have to be entered in the other classes, but why not have a go!





# 3<sup>rd</sup> NATIONAL SALE

On Behalf Of The

## RED POLL CATTLE SOCIETY

### Monday 5th May 2014

To be held within  
The Cattle Market  
National Agricultural Centre  
Stoneleigh Park  
Kenilworth CV8 2RG

Contact the Auctioneers  
Tom Wrench 07774 723758  
Office 02476 697731  
Email: [nicola@rugbyfarmersmart.com](mailto:nicola@rugbyfarmersmart.com)  
Web: [www.rugbyfarmersmart.com](http://www.rugbyfarmersmart.com)

# ***Bowland Red Polls***

Established 1990

## **FOR SALE**

at The Red Poll Sale  
Stoneleigh 5<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
**BOWLAND ZEUS**



This Internationally renowned Bull is for sale as he is coming round to his daughters. He has a very good temperament. He produces reasonably sized, active and quick growing calves. His EBVs for Growth, Muscle Depth and Beef Value are all in the **top 2%** of the Breed. His semen has been exported to Australia and New Zealand.

For more details please contact:

### **Simon Temple**

Stockabank Farm, Quernmore, Lancaster. LA2 9EN

Telephone: 01524 37695

Email: [simon\\_temple@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:simon_temple@hotmail.co.uk)

## East of England Smithfield Festival, 6th December 2013



***Stephen Williams with the Champion Red Poll Calf, Pinguis Duke, at the East of England Smithfield Festival 2013. Duke was sired by Kemerton Zetland, out of Marsh House Xandra, both prize-winning cattle,***

### **East of England Smithfield Festival Calf Show – Judges Report**

I had the honour of being asked to judge the Red Poll calf classes at the Smithfield Festival for 2013. There was a promising entry of 25, however, on the day, only 14 were forward which was a little disappointing. Only one 2012 born bull was forward, Abbey Caesar, show by David Blunt. This bull has promise, he is upstanding, long with a good presence. It was disappointing he had no opposition though.

*continued on page 22*

## **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**

Pinguish 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)**



# Photographic Competition

## Your chance to shine

THE SOCIETY INVITE YOU TO SEND YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS IN FOR A SOCIETY  
CHRISTMAS CARD AND CALENDAR. THIS WILL BE FOR 2014 / 2015

THE WINNERS WILL HAVE THE HONOUR OF SEEING THEIR WORK IN PRINT.

A SPECIAL AWARD WILL BE GIVEN TO THE BEST ENTRY BY A JUNIOR  
MEMBER.

ELECTRONIC ENTRIES TO [SECRETARY@REDPOLL.CO.UK](mailto:SECRETARY@REDPOLL.CO.UK)

ENTRIES WILL CLOSE ON MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> 2014.





The class of bulls born after April 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 saw four forward. Two excellent young bulls with Pinguis Duke, owned by John Williams and shown by John's son Stephen, getting the nod over Heathgate Duke, owned by Denis Jenkins. Pinguis Duke has excellent all around conformation. I particularly liked his topline, hindquarters with muscle going right down to his hock, his depth of body and with a good strong correct locomotion, made him my class winner. Heathgate Duke, again has first class all around characteristics, but on the day I thought he just lacked a bit of presence. 3<sup>rd</sup> in the class was another Pinguis youngster, Pinguis Duncan, a young bull not in the same class as the first two followed by Brook Hall Bramfield Ollie, a youngster who to be fair was lacking in a bit of condition, he also didn't walk well.

The 2012 born heifer class only saw two entries, my 1<sup>st</sup> place going to Brook Hall Electra, owned by Brook Hall Farms and shown by Naomi Gibson, daughter of Farm Manager Simon Gibson. Electra got the nod over Chorlton Lane Christobel, owned and exhibited by Helen Arthan, mainly because of her better set legs meaning she walked better. Both were high in the tail head with a resulting poor topline.

January to March born 2013 heifers saw my winner being Chorlton Lane Diamond. She won over Abbey Daphne because she walked better and had a better body. Diamond was a little fatty over the tail head and pin bones but nothing too serious at this stage of her life. 3<sup>rd</sup> in class was another Chorlton Lane heifer, Chorlton Lane Damask Rose. She lacked a bit of size compared to the others but I'm sure she will grow on.

The class for heifers born after April 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 saw four entries. Winner of this class was the very correct Nobody's Gypsy, owned and shown by Joy Broughton. She showed presence and character together with good depth of body, she walked on well placed legs. The other two heifers in this class were from the Heathgate herd, Delilah and Duchess. Two first class animals with Duchess being in my opinion the best of the three forward conformation wise, however, she has a white patch where her udder and underline meet. I know we allow white on the udder but I felt it was more on her belly, only time will tell as she develops. She also had a couple of supernumerary teats, which is a fault, therefore, I placed Delilah 2<sup>nd</sup> with Duchess 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Overall Champion went to Pinguis Duke with the senior bull Abbey Caesar in reserve. If Duke continues to grow and develop as he has so far he has a tremendous future within the breed, it was an easy decision to make him my

champion.

Can I thank everyone who exhibited but can I make a plea to everyone to try to support the event in the future. It is a showcase event, it is an ideal opportunity to show off our cattle, it's up to the Society membership to support it. It was good to see one new exhibitor at the event and to see some junior members showing the cattle, well done to Stephen and Naomi, especially Naomi as it was her first time in the show ring.

*Ray Bowler*

**Bull Calf born on or between 1st September and 31st December 2012**

1<sup>st</sup> Abbey Caesar (D. Blunt)

**Bull Calf born on or between 1st January 2013 and 31st March 2013**

No entries

**Bull Calf born on after 1st April 2013**

1<sup>st</sup> Pinguis Duke (J. R. Williams)

2<sup>nd</sup> Heathgate Duke (Heathgate Livestock)

3<sup>rd</sup> Pinguis Duncan (J. R. Williams)

**Heifer Calf born on or between 1st September and 31st December 2012**

1<sup>st</sup> Brook Hall Electra (Brook Hall Farms)

2<sup>nd</sup> Chorlton Lane Christobel (H. R. Arthan)

**Heifer Calf born on or between 1st January 2013 and 31st March 2013**

1<sup>st</sup> Chorlton Lane Diamond (H. R. Arthan)

2<sup>nd</sup> Abbey Daphne (D. Blunt)

3<sup>rd</sup> Chorlton Lane Damask Rose (H. R. Arthan)

**Heifer Calf born on or after 1st April 2013**

1<sup>st</sup> Nobody's Gypsy (Ms J. Broughton)

2<sup>nd</sup> Heathgate Delilah (Heathgate Livestock)

3<sup>rd</sup> Heathgate Duchess (Heathgate Livestock)

**Champion:** Pinguis Duke

**Reserve Champion:** Abbey Caesar

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	Full Page	Half Page
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Non Members	£50	£25

This newsletter reaches about 400 members.  
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## **Farms visited June - September 2013**

June 6<sup>th</sup> – Tim Hazlem joined me today for my trip into Suffolk. Brook Hall Farms, Halesworth was the first call of the day where we met with the new Farm Manager, Simon Gibson. He had recently taken delivery of a young bull, Seahawk Belenus, which needed inspecting. This is a very good young bull which hopefully will do the herd a power of good. The herd consists of 40 cows which graze marshes in the summer, housed in the winter. All offspring have been sold as weaned calves or stores in the past but an envisaged change of policy will see some of them retained for finishing and to increase the herd.

Next call was to new member Robert Jellicoe, Halesworth. Robert has a small holding on which he keeps sheep and poultry. He has had a neighbour graze some of the holding in the past but has decided to have his own cattle. He has always liked the Red Poll so has bought some heifers from Brook Hall Farms which are just down the road. He hasn't any housing for the winter and the ground will be too wet to out-winter the cattle so the heifers will be for sale in the autumn.

A few miles away is the Suffolk herd of Ian & Pippa Stennett. They have recently bought a young bull from Gerrad Farmer which needed inspecting, Croftback Casterbridge. A promising young bull, he will need to grow somewhat to prove his full potential. The herd consists of 12 quality cows plus youngstock and I must say they looked superb in a picturesque landscape setting.

We called in to see Richard Brookes, Hepworth. Tim is going to borrow Richard's bull, Hepworth Rocket, so it was an ideal opportunity to view him. Richard asked if we would look at his cattle and give our views as to which he should take to the Norfolk show. Unbelievably, we came to the same conclusions, not at all bad for cattle breeders! Of particular interest were the calves that Richard had reared on his automatic milk feeding machine. These were pure bred Red Polls coming from the dairy herd of Oliver Hudson. There were 18 of them. I can't think of anywhere else in the country where this number of Red Poll calves can be seen on a system like this. The calves look well; it will be interesting to see how they progress through the summer.

17<sup>th</sup> June – A 5.00am start saw me on the farm of Jeff Harrison, Sutton-on-the-Hill, Derbyshire at 8.00am. The early start was required as Jeff has a contracting business and silage making was in full swing, however, breakfast is important! Jeff has had problems in the past with getting his

cows in calf using AI so last year he bought a bull, Bridgham Dapper, who has solved all the problems. Twenty-five cows are on farm at present, these having been increased with the purchase of several animals from Peter Websdale. Whilst there I carried out the transfers and took details of heifer registrations which will increase the Cropper herd once more. I also inspected an excellent young bull, Cropper Cameron. His sire is Bridgham Luke 2<sup>nd</sup>, his dam being a Hurst cow which was bought in-calf. I think this young man will have a tremendous future in the herd and possibly the breed in general.

Next call was to Sandra Hopley's Bluebell herd at Tixall in Staffordshire. Sandra and her partner, David Dobbin, have recently purchased the farm there and have only recently moved in. The herd was established last year and now consists of over 50 Red Poll cows. Bulls, Bowland Yorrick & Appleton Artorius, were also purchased; their offspring look well with Yorrick's looking particularly impressive. They have various other native breeds of cows on the farm with total numbers in excess of 100. With moving to the new farm, they have decided to commence milking as all the facilities were in place. Thirty Friesian & Jersey heifers have been purchased; they intend to increase the number of dairy cows to 75 in the future. They are going to milk some of the Red Poll heifers that are due to calve in the late summer so it will be interesting to see how they milk.

I then travelled to Bunbury, Cheshire to visit the Oaklands herd of Helen Langley. This newly established herd is certainly a herd to watch in the future. Some excellent animals have been purchased with the recently purchased bull, Hopeham Bobstar, the latest asset. Six heifers have also been purchased from the Hopeham herd of Sarah Barnes, these are by Fletcher's Griffon. A new purpose-built shed has recently been erected which will provide first class winter accommodation and handling facilities, all of which will be of tremendous help in the management of this excellent herd.

The reason for my visit up north was not only in visiting the herds mentioned but in attending the Cheshire show which was on the following 2 days.

On my way back to Chelmsford on the 20<sup>th</sup>, I diverted slightly to visit the farm of Marc Heading, Chatteris, Cambridge. Marc has been a member for a few years but hasn't transferred or registered any stock. The herd consists of 12 cows and a bull, Hepworth Kite, plus associated youngstock. I have to say the herd had some impressive individuals, the calves looking

particularly good. Whilst I was there I sorted out all the transfers and registrations.

27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> June – Norfolk Show. Report previously in the newsletter

4<sup>th</sup> July – Essex County Council, Hadleigh Country Park, Southend. Essex County Council have secured funding for a 6 year grazing project for conservation areas around the county. Following a SWOT analysis, the Red Polls came out on top. At present the herd consists of 12 cows and calves but it is envisaged that the herd will increase to 30 cows over the next few months. [Postscript: 23<sup>rd</sup> September, they have recently taken delivery of 10 heifers from Tony Barratt.] We talked about the overall management of the herd and the need for a decent bull. Lavenham Sir Gawain has subsequently been placed there, on loan for the time being. This is an excellent project which will not only be beneficial to the environment but also to the Red Poll breed as it will get the cattle into the public eye, very much as Epping & Hatfield Forests are doing.

Talking of Hatfield Forest, I then went to see James Rea, Jonathan Clarke & Tim Hazlem. We had a general discussion about how things were going and putting a plan in place for the purchase of steers next spring. I had a tour around the stock which look excellent in the forest surroundings, albeit once they have been found! James's cattle are running with Lavenham Sir Lancelot at present; he really does look impressive. This year's calves are by Hurstmead Vodka; they also look excellent animals for the future.

8<sup>th</sup> July – Today I spent the day in Sandringham with Tony Barratt, not only viewing the Appleton herd but also catching up with various Society related issues. After spending the night with Tony & Ann, I went to visit John Hare who farms just down the road in Docking. The Summerfield herd was formed last year with 18 heifers being purchased from Tony. They have recently started to calve and are the basis of an excellent herd of cattle.

Next call was to new members Alex & Alice Paterson, Worstead. Last year they purchased several cattle from Alex's cousin Alistair's Gumleaf herd. They also purchased a bull from the Pochin herd, Pochin Glaston. The first crop of calves have been born under the Lynfield prefix, once more the foundations have been laid for a first class herd; whilst there I carried out the transfers and registrations that were required.

11<sup>th</sup> July – Today saw me in Sussex visiting Andrew & Daniel Tyler. They have a small herd of cattle which haven't bred for a couple of years as they haven't sourced a bull. Nothing has been registered either. We discussed this and I came away with registrations and have arranged for them to



borrow Akiko Newing's bull. Daniel has taken over the responsibility for the cattle and is keen to proceed with the pedigree aspect of them.

Following on from there, I went a few miles up the road to visit prospective new member Terry Watcham. At present he has Dexters but is looking for a breed to put some more size into his cattle while retaining ease of management: he has another full time business so the cattle are really a hobby and have to fit in. He is considering other native breeds as well so time will tell if he has Red Polls.

On returning through Kent I called in to see Akiko Newing. The Hurst herd of cattle comprises 12 cows of the highest quality. Calves have been sold as weanlings for the past few years with Mark Martin having bought them for the past 2 years, an arrangement both are happy to continue with. Heifers from the herd are now calving into the Lawford herd and are looking excellent. The herd sire, Canute Orange Bombadier, looks particularly impressive, one of the best bulls around.

21<sup>st</sup> July – Society field day, Richard & Rachael Clowes, Lancashire. Report previously in the newsletter.

1<sup>st</sup> August – Judging Rare & Native cattle, New Forest Show, Hampshire.

4<sup>th</sup> August – Judging at Weylands Show, Norfolk, Red Polls & Native cattle.

5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> August – Judging Northern Area Herd Competition. Report previously in the newsletter.

8<sup>th</sup> September – Judging Rare & Native cattle, Dorset Show, Dorchester.

22<sup>nd</sup> September – Today I met Joy Broughton at Avenue Farms, Buckingham. We inspected two young bulls, Castlefields Acorn & King Dick; not the biggest bulls but very well put together. They are of dairy breeding from high yielding dams. We had a general look around the suckler & dairy cows there.

From there we went to visit Mervin Loggin at Hinton-in-the-Hedges, Bucks. Mervin is a relatively new member to the Society and has built up a herd of 20 cows plus youngstock. The majority of the cows have been purchased from Avenue Farms. The cattle looked very well with some very good calves sired by Hinwick Zulu on the ground.

I then took Joy home to Blakesley, Northants. Walking around the Canute & Nobody herds I saw some exceptional cattle, they certainly are a pleasure to look at. At the same time, the South Devon herd competition judges were walking around viewing the Canute herd of South Devons. These are also impressive cattle. I was particularly interested to hear their views on the

cattle: I also got the impression that they were impressed with the Red Polls. 26th September – Today I visited 4 local members. New member, Liz Burbridge, Lambourne End, purchased 6 in-calf heifers from Ed Turner in the spring. They are now calving and Liz is looking for a bull to hire. I arranged for her to hire Canute Duke from John Latham. The herd looked excellent and will be one to watch in the future. Just down the road from there is the Lambourne End Outdoor Educational centre. They have had Red Polls for several years; I started their herd with cattle from Writtle College in 2004. Their bull, Beasthorpe Barney, was purchased at the same time from Tony Barratt and has been a fixture ever since. Heifers have been sold to a number of London City farms and other breeders over the years. The centre provides a fantastic environment for school parties, disadvantaged children and adults and other social groups to get hands on experience with a wide range of livestock; together with a wide range of outdoor activities being delivered, it certainly is an exciting place to look around. The main reason for my visit was to discuss the purchase of a couple of heifers as the cows are now getting rather old and they don't want to move Barney on as he has become part of the furniture so to speak.

I next visited Les Gunnell in Chigwell. Another new member, Les also purchased some in-calf heifers from Ed Turner. Les's main claim to fame is that his daughter is Olympic gold medalist Sally Gunnell. The Gunnell's have kept cattle for years but as he is, as he says, maturing in years and he wants something easier to look after and handle. Seeing the Red Polls of Roger Beecroft in Epping Forest, he has decided to try them. Up to now he is pleased with them. He also requires a bull so I arranged for Lavenham Sir Gawain to be taken there from Essex County Council.

Last call of the day was to another new member, Alan Parkhurst. Alan has kept Dexters for years but wants to have some larger carcasses to sell so is crossing them with the Red Poll. He has also purchased some Red Poll cows from Lavenham. In the future Alan is going to phase out the Dexters and concentrate on the Red Polls.

28th September – Judging Native cattle at Gransden Show, Bedfordshire.

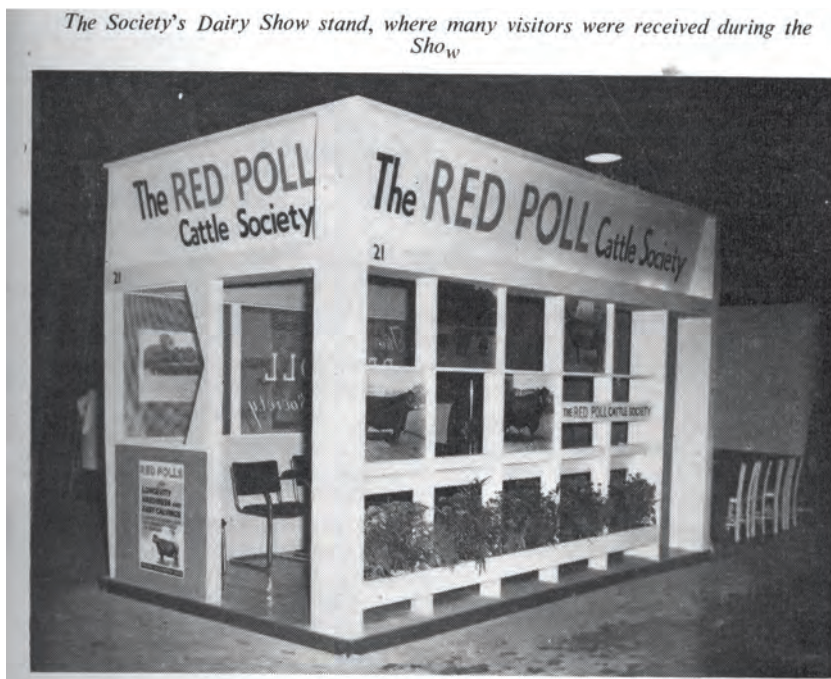
29th September – Attending Southern Area Herd Competition presentation at Sheila & Ron Clarke's Lagan herd, Dorset. Report previously in the newsletter.

30th September – Visits to members in Cornwall which I will report on in a future newsletter.

*Ray Bowler*

### **From the Archives, Red Poll Review, Winter 1953-54**

The Society will have a stand at the Livestock Event this year, 2014. The Livestock Event includes the National Dairy Show. The Red Poll Review of Winter 1953-54 shows the Society's stand at the Dairy Show in 1953.



The Field Day this year sees the Society visiting the Kirton Herd, courtesy of the Paul family. The Red Poll Review, as the newsletter was previously called, regularly carried advertisements for the Kirton Herd. This herd was established in 1899 and a 1959 Review shows it comprising 700 head of cattle. Sadly, the herd was dispersed in the late sixties to make way for Friesians but in 2004 a new Red Poll herd was started. The reproductions on the next two pages show an advertisement for the Kirton Herd in the Red Poll Review, 60 years ago.

Page 32 shows two of Mr Stuart Paul's winners at the 1953 Dairy Show in the inspection and milking trials.

Page 33 shows the 1954 Breeding Policy. The Council Report stated that it "has not been changed since 1947 ... no important changes were found necessary but it has been brought up-to-date in certain minor respects."

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# Breeding Policy for Red Polls

## Chief Factors in Milk and Beef Production

THIS Breeding Policy is published as a guide in a similar manner to the breed Standard Description, but it also deals with matters that cannot be included in the Standard Description. It is hoped that the breeding policy may lead to greater uniformity in the aims and policies of individual breeders.

The cardinal aim is to keep the essential combination of milk and beef prominently to the fore. A chief factor in the attainment of this aim in any herd rests with the bull. The bull should be well grown and of such type and breeding as to qualify for a beef licence, yet have good milk records in his breeding. To provide evidence of such qualifications it is suggested that breeders secure beef licences for their bulls and provide the necessary milk records certificates for the milk yields of the *dam* and the *sire's dam*, to show that a Dairy Licence could have been obtained.

### Rearing of Young Stock

Adequate nutrition of young stock is an essential for satisfactory results. Stock that have been stunted at an early age never recover and can never have a satisfactory frame. On the other hand, over-feeding of young stock is liable to cause barrenness and 'shy' breeding.

### Age of First Breeding

Heifers should be sufficiently well grown to avoid stunting with their first calf, otherwise they cannot have a satisfactory frame to produce a carcass. Putting them to the bull at 20 to 24 months is normally satisfactory.

### Frequency of Calving

No beef animal is considered worthy

of breeding that does not calve regularly every twelve months. Many breeders of purely dairy cattle view this period as ideal, though some aim at a longer interval. To conform with the dual-purpose aim Red Poll breeders must consider 12 months as the desirable interval between calvings.

### Udders

The udder of a milk producing cow is of vital importance, and every endeavour should be made to breed for good udders. Attention should be paid to the placing of the rudimentary teats on the bull, which should be neat and placed squarely clear of the scrotum. Attention should be paid particularly to the udder of the bull's DAM, the bull's sisters, and as many female relatives in his progeny as it is possible to inspect.

### Standards for Milk and Beef

- (a) No excess of milk can compensate for lack of capacity to carry flesh and vice versa.
- (b) A female which does not in normal circumstances give the following yields as a minimum in the first 305 days of her lactation with corresponding increases for longer periods cannot be classed as dual-purpose:  
1st Calf, 5,000 pounds; 2nd Calf, 6,000 pounds; 3rd Calf, 7,000 pounds.
- (c) Every Red Poll calf should be potentially capable of being fed with a view to providing animals that will grow into healthy beasts to make carcasses of the very highest standard of beef.

### Health and Long Life

The value of a true dual-purpose cow that maintains health and production over an exceptionally long period of regular breeding cannot be overstressed, because she passes on her valuable properties to so many calves.

Every effort must be made to maintain the Society's standards in accordance with the economic factors which vary from time to time.

## 2014 Native Breeds Carcass Competition

Complexities in assessing the many variables of beef means that competitions often disproportionately favour a certain breed or rearing system. However, Suffolk Food Hall has teamed up with Bramfield Meats to run a native breeds competition that will assess carcasses from hoof to plate; with a healthy £750 of prize money.

Charlie Mills, Manager of Bramfield Meats, stressed that it is imperative that “judging must focus on the conformation and the eating qualities, from both the retail butcher and consumer perceptions.” To be eligible to enter the following criteria must be met:

- Out of pure bred, native (British) beef breeds
- Steer or heifer (not bull beef)
- East Anglian born and reared

Oliver Paul, one of the Suffolk Food Hall Directors, outlined the process:

- Limited to ten entries, so prompt reservation is advisable. One entry per producer.
- One class only; all carcasses judged together, comparatively.
- Animals need to be delivered to Lamberts or Blakes in the week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> April 2014.
- Carcass will be purchased by Bramfield Meats (unless other specific arrangements are made) at the market price of all cattle based on Farmers Weekly Grid system.
- One Pistola cut hind quarter from each winning beast to be displayed in the EBLEX chilled trailer at the Suffolk Show '14. One sirloin steak from each wing rib will be cut for plain cooking in the test taste.
- Judging will be by a panel (see below), with up to ten points available from each judge, for the three qualities.
- Carcass qualities are:
  - on the hoof* (live assessment to verify entities, MLC assessment of fat as well as conformation)
  - on the hook* (butcher's yield, marbling, grain of meat, primal proportions)
  - on the plate* (eatability, flavour, succulence, tenderness)
- The final quality will be judged in the afternoon of Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May '14 at Suffolk Food Hall. All entries are entitled to a Beef Celebration Supper (one free ticket per entry, that evening, for prize giving (further tickets available at £25pp for three course set menu).
- Breed, sex and breeder will not be revealed to judges until the final presentations.
- Formal presentation at the Suffolk Show '14.

### Prize money

First prize	£500
Second prize	£200
Third prize	£50

### Judging Panel

- Anna Hill (BBC Farming Today), Charlie Mills (Bramfield Meats), Gerard King (butcher), and a noted chef (tbc) (judge's decision is final)

**For further information see [www.suffolkfoodhall.co.uk/competition](http://www.suffolkfoodhall.co.uk/competition)**

**Oliver Paul 07958 946 211  
[oliver@suffolkfoodhall.co.uk](mailto:oliver@suffolkfoodhall.co.uk)**



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