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Winter 2017



Newsletter No. 109

WOLDSMAN RED POLLS

S.G. PRESCOTT & SONS

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Young cows, in calf and maiden heifers usually for sale.

Andrew & Office:

Ben:

Stephen:

Tel: 01377 217232

Tel: 07855 041632

Tel: 01964 550229

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cows in fact only receive silage and mineral buckets, however it has to be said the silage is very good quality. All winter feed is on an ad-lib basis, the only criteria being the troughs and feed areas are basically cleaned up by morning. Since the introduction of the Red Poll cows, a noticeable reduction in the volume of silage required per cow has been seen compared to the continentals. Continental

cross cows weigh between 750–800Kg whereas the continental cross Red Poll cows are 600–650Kg and the pure Red Polls 500–600Kg. Wintering costs are considerably lower, stocking density's higher and the finished cattle are still falling into the preferred carcass weight for Woodheads therefore showing there isn't the need for large suckler cows. The majority of the cross bred cattle are sold to Woodheads within the weight range 340–420Kg dwt. Red Poll steers are sold according to finish between 18–24mths, either to Woodheads or to local independent butchers. Last year saw the cross bred cattle grade: -U 10%, R 80% and O+ 10%, all within fat class 3- 4L

The Red Poll steers grade at: 60% R with 40% O+, the majority of these being in fat class 4L with a few going into 4H.

The majority of the calves are weaned in November, the aim being for them to be at least 50% of their mothers' weight, in fact last year they were nearer 60%, this year's calves look excellent as well and are well on target.

The farm runs seven bulls, four pedigree Red Polls and three Pedigree Blondes. As numbers have built up it is now the practice to mate only the best Red Poll cows pure, about 50, together with all the replacement heifers, the rest going to the Blondes. However as stated a very large majority of the cross bred cows are Red Poll crosses. Culling rate is limited at present as the aim is to increase the cow numbers to 250, however when this has been achieved the aim will be to cull 10% of the herd per year. Replacement heifers have a target dlwg of 0.8Kg/day be it pure or cross bred. This will give a bulling weight of 380Kg at 15–16mths of age. If this isn't achieved then they go into the finishing yards. Once target numbers have been reached it is hoped that there will be pedigree heifers for sale. The same rules apply to temperament for heifers as it does for cows, any showing any issues are put into the finishing yards.

Red Poll bulls are selected not only on conformation but more importantly on there EBV figures, the last two coming from the Kemerton Herd of Adrian Darby.

Herd health is seen as very important for the future. No more store cattle are being purchased. The herd has achieved BVD free status, is fully screened to Johnnes with blood testing for IBR and Leptospirosis being undertaken at the present time.

Mark says he is very pleased he bumped into Diana back in 2007, he is extremely pleased with the Red Poll and says he is looking forward to the future with a positive frame of mind.



Mark Martin

Partner in Martin Holdings, Long Lawford, Rugby. Council member for five years, Chairman of the Human Resources Committee and member of the Breeding Committee.

The farm consists of 700 acres, being a mix of owned and tenanted. The majority of the farm is down to grass however about 150 acres are into arable for the production of cereals for feeding to the livestock. The grass is a mixture of permanent pasture and leys which produce forage, be it summer grazing or silage for winter, for the farms 650 mule ewes, mated to Suffolk tups, and over 600 head of cattle. The cattle comprise of approximately 180 suckler cows, these being roughly 50–50 split between commercial cross bred cows and Pedigree Red Polls. The other cattle are all associated youngstock.

The farm originally started rearing 250 purchased dairy cross calves, reared on a bucket system plus purchased store cattle from various sources. The calves were in the main continental cross cattle from local dairy farms. All these cattle were finished at two–three years of age. However in the mid 80s, mainly due to the BSE outbreak and the farm having at the time some excellent heifers around it was decided to start a small suckler herd. Also due the BSE situation access to local calves become more difficult so more store cattle were purchased, these however made a far poorer financial return and with the BSE and increasingly bTB tracings becoming more prevalent it was decided to increase the suckler cow numbers to somewhere near to 200 continental cross cows. In the late 90s The Rugby Western Relief Road cut through the farm which resulted in smaller fields with public access running through many of them. Over the years the incidences of issues with the continental cows and the public were increasing on other farms, so the farm undertook a risk analysis exercise which concluded that the farm couldn't continue to run continental cows in conjunction with public access sites. A native breed was researched, it was now 2007 when Mark & Gill came across Diana Flack at the Royal Show. Later that year Diana phoned Mark to say that four in-calf cows, with calves at foot, were on their way from Clive Wills' Frensdale Herd in Cornwall, this was the start of the Lawford Herd of Red Polls.

The following year Mark went on a country wide tour purchasing a large number of yearling cattle, both heifers and steers, from a variety of breeders. Over the years these cattle have bred to where the herd is today. The commercial cattle are still continental crosses but have a high percentage of Red Poll blood in them which has resulted in animals with a far better temperament which are acceptable to the public sites. Any animal which shows any temperamental issues is culled be it cross bred or pure.

All cattle are housed in the winter in a variety of buildings at a number of sites. The land is far too wet to consider out-wintering. Straw for bedding is sourced from local farmers but distance travelled is increasing all the time as Rugby is spreading at a rapid rate. The cattle are predominately April - May calving however some seem to spill over in the summer and even into the autumn, as Mark says, any calf is better than no calf. The sheep enterprise complements the cattle with regards to keeping the grassland in first class condition and in spreading out the work throughout the year which means that the farm staff are fully employed. Staffing consists of Mark & Gill together with two full time and one part time employee with seasonal staff as required especially at lambing time. Lambing takes place late February/March with lambs sold when finished throughout the summer or as tail end stores in November. All lambs are sold through Rugby Farmers' Mart liveweight, 90% go finished.

As previously stated all stock are grazed in the summer. Winter feeding consists mainly of silage with some cereals and protein balancer fed to the finishing cattle. Stock feed potatoes are also fed to the finishing cattle if and when available. The

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

The Red Poll Cattle Society

Established 1888



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Chairman: J. R. Williams
Secretary: R. J. Bowler
Treasurer: Mrs T. J. Booker



Dual purpose Red Polls

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Year Letter

The year letter for 2018 registrations is I

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.

Membership Subscriptions as from 1st January 2017

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

Heifer registrations

This is a polite reminder that your 2017 heifer registrations are due by the end of the year, or at least by the end of January 2018. This year's year letter is "H". If those of you who have finished calving could let me have them ASAP that would be much appreciated as it spreads out the work load!

As you know registrations are £12/hd.

Also a reminder that to register heifer calves the dam has to be registered with the Society into your ownership, so if you have purchased any animals of late and haven't transferred them into your ownership you need to do that as well. The fee for this is £10/hd.

Heifer registrations can be done via email, or by downloading a form from the website or you can ring me up and do them over the phone.

If you want any assistance in any matter then please don't hesitate to contact me.

Postage

I'm sorry to bring this to your attention but if you are sending items of post to the office can you please make sure that the correct postage is put on. I am having an increasing number of items that I have to go the main sorting office to collect. This is very time consuming as it is the other side of town, as well as being expensive paying the fees. Many thanks for your co-operation

Ray Bowler

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

Denis Jenkins - 07876 748082 denis.jenkins@tesco.net

Area: Norfolk & North Suffolk.

John Williams - 07860 269044 jrw2@btinternet.com

Area: Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire, Wales and (with the help of Stephen Prescott) the Northern Counties

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.

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



RED POLL

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National Herd Competition

Having judged the National Red Poll show at the Royal Cheshire Show in 2016, I was honoured to be asked to judge the 2017 National Herds competition.

I would say that judging individual animals at a show is completely different to judging a herd competition. My criteria for the ideal herd would be that it would be homologous, by which I mean that a similar type, size, colour and structure etc is desirable for the whole herd. Not easily achieved I admit, but the careful breeder can and is doing this over a period of years.

In August I visited eight herds in four regions of England, and was pleased to find this level of commitment and expertise there. At the eight farms I visited, I was met with great courtesy and enthusiasm by the various owners and their families for which I would like to say a big thank you.

The first herd that I visited was the Canfield Bury Herd of Jonathan Clarke in Essex which was in the small herd category. The main herd is grazed on good old pasture along a river, and some of the herd are grazed in the Epping Forest which I did not get a chance to see. The cows were a good even placid bunch with good udders and good feet and the heifer calves were very good to excellent. All the males are castrated and either sold to the factory at 2½ years or sold to regular customers in a box scheme. All the cattle are in very good condition due in part to the availability of brewer's grains all the year round. I did not get to see the stock bull which is shared with another farmer. However it

is intended to purchase another bull which would complement the present herd. This is a well run herd that is not intensive and suits Jonathan's overall farming system.

The next herd I visited was the Hopeham Herd of Sarah and Gerald Barnes in Norfolk which was in the large herd category. Sarah is passionate about the breed and is very involved in showing and breeding, and in fact she showed the Champion and Reserve bulls at this year's National Show. The herd is extensively grazed on various parcels of land and is very well handled and managed. Older cows are generally sold, so the udders and feet were very good overall. All males are kept to slaughter except the bulls that are sold for breeding. About 10 bulls per year are sold in their own farm shop. I was very interested in Sarah's approach to bull selection. The first bull I was shown was Andrew Frederick Viscount, an M1 bull with quite a prominent rear-end though causing no calving difficulties. The aim here is to produce cattle that will grade better in the modern factory grading system.

Other bulls used are Appleton Supreme Duke which is M0 with a more conventional rear-end, and the homebred bull Hopeham Ego M0. By judiciously using these bulls on different lines, improvements can be made to the herd. Overall, a herd with a carefully thought out breeding policy.

The next herd I visited was the Pochin Herd of John Pochin managed by Andrew and Janet Kirk in Leicestershire which was in the large herd category. The main herd is grazed on clover rich pastures in a parkland setting, while some of the heifers are

Secretary's Report—28th October 2017

There are seven new members for election at this meeting, one at this meeting last year, they are five Registering and two Junior. There are 381 members – 367 at this meeting last year. There have been 13 resignations since the previous meeting. This means that there have been 43 new members joining the Society in 2017, 15 in 2016, with 22 resignations. However it is important to remember that 24 of these are College students. There are nine outstanding memberships for 2017 for which Terina has sent out invoices on several occasions. I have tried to contact all of them. In addition to this there are still several members who haven't paid the increased membership fees. They paid their old SO but no balance despite several reminders from Terina. I feel once these members have been chased again we may lose even more members.

Since the last meeting I have sent out 11 information packs to persons enquiring about the Society.

Semen sales are very steady with 30 straws being sold since the last meeting, this makes 305 for the year, there were 136 last year, this hopefully is an encouraging trend.

Five bulls have been inspected since the last meeting, making 19 in total so far this year, down from 26 at this time last year. Two were M0, one x M1 with two others awaiting results. This makes nine x M0, eight x M1 and two as yet unknown for the year. I have inspected eight, John Williams five, Denis Jenkins three with Joy Broughton, Dick Smith and Stephen Prescott one each. The average points score is 166, with the highest being Hopeham Gusto with a score of 185.

As is usual at this time of year registrations are coming in steadily; so far this year 212 females, four of which are grading, 236 last year. This is from 55 breeders, compared to 50 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.

These last few of months have been very busy travelling around the country. I have judged the Eastern Region Herd Competition, been to the Field Day at Prescotts' in Yorkshire, undertaken a two-day mini tour of Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire where I visited eight members, been to a Breeding Committee meeting at Sandringham, a Show & Sale Committee meeting at Brogborough, a meeting in Malvern to discuss arrangement for the 2018 National Show, Southern Region Herd Competition presentation near Newbury, the Eastern Region Herd Competition presentation at Great Canfield, the Judges Standardisation day near Norwich together with several visits to local members in Essex and South Suffolk.

I have to report on the Probationary Judges. Everyone who was a Probationer has now passed their Probationary period which needs ratifying at this meeting. They are David Hunt and Simon Phelps. Anthea and Jeff Daw, Heather Taylor and Paul Grainger have asked to go onto the Probationary Judges list for next year.

Cattle sales continue to be steady with a few small deals being done, there is plenty of stock available, all of which are advertised on the website. Terry and Helen Mancey had a good Reduction sale at Leek Market in September. Joy Broughton has been very pro-active in trying to move cattle, particularly bulls, around in the past few months.

As I said this time last year if there is anything 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.

Ray Bowler

Northern Region Herd Competition Results 2017

Overall and large herd winners

The Woldsman Herd S G Prescott and Sons

Small herd winners

The Tatton Herd Cheshire County Council



<i>Youngstock</i>	1. The Woldsman Herd 2. The Longdendale Herd 3. The Tatton Herd
<i>Stud Bull</i>	1. Kemerton Alderman seen in the Woldsman Herd 2. Nobodys Orange Diablo seen in the Fellrigg Herd 3. Chorlton Lane Fella seen in the Chorlton Lane Herd
<i>Senior Cow</i>	1. '886' The Woldsman Herd 2. TattonViolet The Tatton Herd 3. Chorlton LaneThyme The Chorlton Lane Herd
<i>Junior Cow</i>	1. '401141' The Woldsman Herd 2. Chorlton Lane Chrystal The Chorlton Lane Herd 3. Pear Tree Sherry The Pear Tree Herd
<i>2015 Heifer</i>	1. Pinguis Emily 15 th The Pinguis Herd 2. '501303' The Woldsman Herd 3. Chorlton Lane Fanilla The Chorlton Lane Herd
<i>Progeny group</i>	1. Lowpark Apple Pippin Clover/Clara/Dahlia seen in the Tatton Herd 2. Moreton Percy Africa/Clarendon/Diredawa seen in the Moreton Herd 3. Woldsman Yarris 237/238/243 seen in the Longendale Herd
<i>3 Related Females</i>	1. Lady Selina/Lady Africa/Lady Blythe—The Moreton Herd 2. Tulip/Yvie/Dahlia The Tatton Herd 3. Rosalind/Catherine/Gayle The Fellrigg Herd
<i>Cross Bred Dairy Cow in milk</i>	1. '9090' The Longendale Herd
<i>Best Steer</i>	1. The Chorlton Lane Herd Helen Arthan 2. The Oaklands Herd John and Helen Langley 3. The Fellrigg Herd Roy Gillham
<i>Best Suckling Calf</i>	1. The Pinguis Herd John Williams 2. The Chorlton Lane Herd Helen Arthan 3. The Woldman Herd S G Prescott and Sons

Northern Area Herd Competition

What a treat it is to view herds of Red Polls in their own environment, in their comfort zone. It's such a different task to judging in the show ring when some of the animals would clearly rather be somewhere else! It is also so refreshing to visit those who are passionate about their animals, knowing them all by sight and able to reel off all sorts of facts and figures about their breeding without a piece of paper to hand, and that is not exclusive to those with a very small outfit!

My three day journey ended in south-east Yorkshire at the home of the Woldsman Herd where the Red Poll Cattle Society was having the annual Field Day. The Prescott family hospitality is perhaps legendary, as are their cattle, the only large herd to enter the competition and therefore winners of that category by default but what a herd of cattle they are, such powerful animals and comfortable overall winners of the Northern area competition. The small herd category was a very tight competition with very little to pick between the top three herds, for all sorts of reasons. Had there been an award for the herd with the best udders it would without question have gone to Helen and Terry Mancy's Moreton Herd. Such well attached and correct udders right across the board. I was impressed too with Helen Arthan's Chorlton Lane Herd, this herd is most definitely on the up with a good year in the show ring as well. My small herd winner and reserve overall was the Tatton Herd, run under the control of Cheshire County Council. This herd, although quite small, impressed me a great deal, it had that almost indescribable 'feel' to it. My type of cows, with such shape and size and a very enthusiastic host in Sam to show me round and clearly this is another herd moving forward with ambitious plans for the future.

In the individual bull and cow classes the Woldsman Herd rather swept the board, but their careful selection of stud bulls should be a lesson to us all. 'Always breed your own cows and always sell your own bulls' as my father used to say! I have never yet been tempted to even consider using any bulls I have bred myself, always trying to broaden my genetic base. There are some fantastic bulls out there, especially some of the older ones and they are often quite a cheap way to bring about an improvement in your herd with the added bonus that you can often see what these older bulls are breeding like by viewing their daughters.

John Williams' 2015 born heifer, Emily 15th easily won her class. What a stunning animal she is, I came close to making her breed champion at the Three Counties Show in June and she has lost none of her quality in between times, such strength style and colour. The groups were harder to decide upon, there was very little between them. My Progeny group winners, three daughters by Lowpark Apple Pippin in the Tatton Herd were very classy and correct and a good basis for any herd. Likewise the Three related females group went to three ladies in the Moreton Herd, such quality animals. Mark Cheetham's cross bred dairy heifer was the only entry in this class but a real quality animal and no pure bred dairy animals entered is rather a sign of the times!

I saw some excellent steers, all being grass reared and mature animals, yet another strength of our breed is their ability to mature in this way with 24 to 30 months seemingly the common age for being fit. Helen Arthan's steer was near a perfect example of how it should be done. Once again the suckling calf class was very strong and the winner could easily have been any of the three that were placed but all John Williams' cattle seem to have that deep rich colour to them and when you are trying to make that final decision and nit picking it is very hard to ignore.

All in all a very enjoyable experience with thanks to all of you who plied me with tea and cake, I only wish there was more time to enjoy your company and talk about these wonderful cattle.

Denis Jenkins

Marketing our beef

Meeting other Red Poll breeders is extremely worthwhile and not all the chat needs to be about the finer points of breeding. There is interesting information to be gained about how we all market our beef and most interestingly for how much. Now I write this in a spirit of transparency really to spark a response from as many as possible to gauge how we all do it. Sharing knowledge with as many as possible may enable us to learn new ways and hopefully earn a bit more by it. I am more concerned here about the pricing of beef boxes as any sale to the consumer must pay more than anything else. Now there are several ways of doing this I am sure but the most simple must be supplying a 10kg box which contains a complete selection of the more common cuts. Obviously one gets a bit left over but if you are slaughtering a 550kg beast you could get 300kgs on the hook and 150kgs in your boxes, with more than likely enough for the deepfreeze left over for you.

Now asking other members what they charge seems to settle somewhere between £10 and £12/kg so basically £100 to £120 per box and grossing between £1500 and £1800 per beast (plus what you keep). Slaughter and vacuum packing could be somewhere between £300 and £500. So we get a much better return than ABP or your friendly butcher. Now I have gone a bit further and looked at butchers' pricing mainly for online sales and costing out a sample of representative boxes that we have sold in the past and it appears that the figure per kilo comes to £15 to £16. If you were organic for instance the online supplier might want £19/kg.

Now I am sure many of you will think well we know all this already but my reason for working through it all is to ask all of us if in fact we are either not charging enough or are just happy providing an extremely well/low priced

and delicious product. Maybe we can all charge a little more when you think our currency is weak having dropped 15/20% in the last 15 months, food inflation is up over 2% in August according to the papers and RPI 2.8%. We are not only selling a meat product but we are marketing a native breed exhibiting excellent marbling, invariably grass fed which has been reared on the farm of origin in a natural environment with high welfare standards and conditions which mean that it is at its peak for the consumer. We so often hide our light under a bushel in farming in this country, let's be proud of what we produce and get paid the right price for it.

I hope this may open up a forum of discussion, as said an exchange of opportunities and ideas where we all can learn from each other.

John Reading – East Knoyle Herd

If you have anything published in a newspaper or magazine about you, your herd or what you do PLEASE let me know—as well as continuing to send me:

- ◆ articles
- ◆ points of interest
- ◆ news items
- ◆ amusing/interesting pictures
- ◆ regional tales
- ◆ handy tips or advice

My email address for your contributions for
The Red Poll Newsletter is
sally.g53@live.com

or you can phone 07780964978

Many thanks,
Sally

Herd Competition 2017 - Eastern Region Report

First of all I would like to thank everyone for taking part in the competition, it is an honour and privilege to look around the herds, and to see a wide range of management conditions that the cattle are being reared and managed in. David Hunt joined me this year as he is in his final stages of becoming a Society Judge and wanted some experience of judging a Herd Competition. I would like to thank everyone for their hospitality whilst visiting and also your enthusiasm for the breed.

There were seven large and six small herds to visit over the three days of judging. I'll not go thorough each herd independently but identify winning herds and animals as appropriate.

In the Large Herd category we found our winning herd in Sarah and Gerald Barnes' Hopeham Herd. This herd comprises approximately 40 cows, however has been reduced of late due to a change in farming practices. The herd is spring calving with all cows housed in the winter and then turned out once calved in March/April. Bull calves are left entire and are finished at 15/16mths of age being retailed mainly through Farm Gate sales. Heifers are reared either as replacements of for sale as breeding animals. Some bulls are kept for breeding either for home use or for sale. During the summer the cattle graze on a variety of environmental sites spread over a fairly large area of Norfolk. They are grouped according to which bull is to be used, usually in groups of 10 –15 cows and calves with heifers in smaller groups according to the requirements of the grazing sites. The cattle are of an overall type, with good deep bodies, excellent udders walking on sound legs and feet and with a uniform rich red colour. The herd is passionately managed with attention to detail in all aspects of their management.

In second place we placed the Bulcamp Herd of Simon Roberts. This herd of 30 cows is a really impressive herd of large framed, deep red cattle with excellent udders and very uniform well grown calves. The cattle graze the Blythburg Marshes in summer being out-wintered on the sandy higher ground in winter. These cattle work hard for their living but look excellent and a real credit to Simon. It was a pity we didn't see any of the replacement heifers as they were away, however we did see an impressive herd of 2016 born steers. A bit more information about the cattle would have been useful.

In third place we placed the Lavenham Brook Herd of Lady Getty. Farm Manager Chris Thomas showed us around. There are some impressive cattle there however we felt that the herd was in a state of transition having purchased the Heathpatch Herd in the spring to virtually double the number of breeding cows to 60 head. Once everything has been sorted out I'm sure this herd will get back to the force that it once was. Cattle are housed in the winter in a very impressive range of buildings, summer being spent at grass in a variety of fields. Cattle calve all the year round however steps are being taken to compact this into the spring which has resulted in some over-fit cattle and cows suckling 8/9 month old heifer calves still running with bulls. Natural service and AI are used in the herd, in fact this was the only herd we saw who was using AI.

Other herds in the Large Herd category were: The Ladlers Herd of James Rea, the Grafton Herd of Lady Euston, the Seahawk Herd of Ed Turner and Sally Grimwood and the Loudham Herd of Dr. Mike Lynch.

We found the Small Herds category harder to judge, however in the end the decision was:

Northern Region Herd Competition Presentation Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire – 12th November 2017



On a cold sunny autumn day 26 members had the pleasure to visit the Tatton Herd of Cheshire East Council. The herd were the winners of the Small Herds Competition not only in the north but nationally as well. We were welcomed by Jayne Chapman and Sam Walton who outlined the day. Commencing with tea, coffee and cake Jayne then talked about the Home Farm at Tatton and how a large investment was being made to increase the visitor attraction which already has had over 100,000 visitors through the gate this year.

Sam then gave a short history of the herd before we all boarded the tractor and trailer for the short journey out into the park to view the herd. The herd consist of 15 animals which looked superb in the fantastic autumn sunshine, albeit with a very cold wind blowing. The cattle are quality cattle with a great colour. They were very quiet and allowed everyone to get a good close up view of them, it was a pleasure to view them.

We then went on a tour of the magnificent park with over 1000 acres of public access. There are over 500 breeding deer in the park consisting of both Red and Fallow species.

It was then lunch time and we went to the Garden Rooms for an excellent Roast Beef Sunday lunch followed by apple pie and custard. Thank you to John and Helen Langley for providing the beef.

There then followed the presentations carried out by Denis Jenkins who had judged the competition. Denis gave a full explanation as to why he had awarded the winners. The Woldsman Herd of the Prescott Family were the Large and Overall Herd winners.

A thoroughly enjoyable day – thank you to Tatton for hosting.

Ray Bowler

awarding the Overall title to the Pochin Herd. The herd is very uniform in type, colour and size and to my mind a very classic Red Poll herd, and managed with great skill and with a sense of serenity. I am awarding the Reserve Overall to the Hopeham Herd where I could apply the same criteria.

In the Small Herds competition, I am awarding the title to the Tatton Herd which contains stock of very high standard, and is enthusiastically managed by Sam, and in the runner up category I am awarding it to the Boames Herd which again contains some very classic stock even though it

is a new herd, it impressed me as this could be a herd for the future.

Finally I would like to thank again all the herd owners who welcomed myself and my wife Jean to their homes, and to thank Ray and the Red Poll Council who in their wisdom invited me to be this year's judge.

Ernest Mackey

Editors note:

Ernest Mackey is a farmer in Co. Wicklow, Eire and imported Red Poll cattle from the Society about ten years ago. He also farms Aubrach cattle and is heavily involved with that Society.

2017 National Herd Competition - Results

Large Herd

- [1] John Pochin c/o Andrew Kirk—Pochin Herd
- [2] Sarah & Gerald Barnes—Hopeham Herd

Small Herd

- [1] Cheshire East Council, Tatton Park c/o Sam Walton—Tatton
- [2] David Tompkins—Boams

Overall Herd

- 1] John Pochin c/o Andrew Kirk—Pochin

Reserve

Sarah and Gerald Barnes—Hopeham

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Winning herd, The Little Canfield Herd of Jonathan Clarke. The herd comprises 18 breeding cows, spring calving they graze the water meadows of the River Can at home together with sharing the grazing rights in Hatfield Forest with James Rea's Laders Herd and Tim Hazlem's Parkgate Herd. In winter they are housed in a variety of purpose built or converted buildings.

The cattle at home really impressed with their uniformity in colour, conformation and general condition, they looked a real herd in the environment they thrive in. A group of Nobodys Orange Diablo sired in-calf heifers were outstanding. The cattle in the forest also looked excellent. They comprised a few in-calf cows and Jan/Feb born suckling calves, replacement yearling heifers and steers of various ages. Steers are finished for sale to a variety of local outlets and in

on-farm box sales. We felt that the herd was managed simply but in a very effective way.

In second place we placed the Hepworth Herd of Richard and Mary Brookes. Comprising 14 cows with associated youngstock, this is a herd of well grown, good conformation cattle grazing a variety of sites in the local area. Heifers are reared for sale as breeding stock usually as in-calf heifers. Some bull calves are left entire and reared as breeding bulls with the remainder sold as finished cattle to a variety of local outlets, or as stores if the market is there. The cattle looked well but just lacked the uniformity of the winning herd.

In third place we placed the Heathgate Herd of Denis Jenkins. Again an excellent herd of cattle, out-wintered on the Breckland, summer grazing comprising of a variety of environmental



sites, these cattle look the part, however once more we thought that although the cattle looked well, with some excellent individuals, they didn't quite have the herd uniformity that the winning herd had. Comprising of 18 calved cows, with the usual associated youngstock, this is a commercially managed herd with no frills management. Heifers are retained as replacements or for sale as breeding animals. Some young bulls are reared for breeding, however the majority of the male calves are castrated and sold as weaned stores.

Other herds in the Small Herds category were: The Capel Manor Herd of Capel Manor College, managed by Paul Grainger, the St. Mary's Herd of Craig Smith and the Thornage Herd of Camphill Communities, managed by Philip Culley.

The Overall herd prize was an even more difficult decision however in the end we went for the Canfield Bury Herd due to their uniformity, their quality and the outstanding group of in-calf heifers. I'm just going to highlight a few of the individual classes.

Stock Bull

First we placed Bulcamp Ibycus, this five year old bull was seen in the Loudham Herd having been recently purchased from Simon Roberts. What an outstanding example of the breed, he just stood out with his masculinity, his presence, his character and his overall excellent conformation. He is out of a homebred Bulcamp cow, his sire being Uggeshall Zinger.

Second we placed the 2013 born Fellrigg Danny in the Canfield Bury Herd. He was bred in Yorkshire by Roy Gillham out of a Bowland cow and sired by Lordship Zebedee he was swapped two years ago by Jonathan for Nobodys Orange Diablo. As already stated Diablo had left some impressive cattle in the Canfield Bury Herd and looking at Danny's youngstock his will be no different. Third place we gave to the

senior herd sire in the Grafton Herd, Pochin Fernie-James. This eight year old bull was purchased this spring from Richard Brookes having been previously purchased by Richard as a young bull from John Pochin in 2010, having been used extensively in the Hepworth Herd for many years. He is a very impressive mature bull, with length, excellent topline and rump.

Senior Cow

First place we gave to 7th calver Bulcamp Electria. This 10 year old Onenfawr Prince daughter is everything that a senior cow should be. Deep bodied, excellent topline, walking on good legs and feet, with a well attached udder and in ideal condition she is what we should all be working towards.

Second place was awarded to the Fedw Tomos sired 5th calver Hopeham Alula. Once more an outstanding cow just beaten by the seniority of the winner. Third place we gave to 7th calver Thornage Maybel. Her sire is Beasthorpe Zeus. Once more a very impressive cow, close to calving with her 8th she was perhaps carrying a little too much condition which placed her just below the other two, however what a cow.

Junior Cow

First place was awarded to Heathgate Clover. This 2nd calving Bridgham Lancelot daughter has an impressive show record which still comes through. She is an excellent example of the breed with no faults, it must be a pleasure to own such a cow.

Second place we awarded to the 3rd calver, Kemerton Sligo sired Canfield Bury Red Rosie. Once more a very impressive cow with no faults just beaten by an outstanding animal. Third was the Brundish Colonel sired Hopeham Clarbelle. Again nothing wrong with this animal but on the day she was perhaps not such a deep red colour. When judging these classes it is so difficult as by the definition of the competition they aren't

Herd Competition Southern Region – Results 2017

Large Herd

John Reading – East Knoyle
Roger Thomas - Abbeyvale
Quentin and Maggie Edwards - Cools

Small Herd

David Tompkins - Boames
The Earl of Huntingdon - Wellshead
Rebecca Charley - Ruscombe

Overall

Champion – John Reading – East Knoyle

Youngstock

John Reading – East Knoyle
David Tompkins - Boames
The Earl of Huntingdon - Wellshead

Registered Stock Bull

Woldsman Brigadier - Roger Thomas, Abbeyvale

2. Appleton Barratt - The Earl of Huntingdon, Wellshead
3. Appleton King Edward – John Reading, East Knoyle

Senior Cow

Boseley Blakberry 23rd – Simon Phelps
Kemerton Aranda – Adrian Darby
Ruscombe Woodsia – Rebecca Charley

Junior Cow

Wellshead Ebba – The Earl of Huntingdon
Abbeyvale Gentian – Roger Thomas
Cools Carrie – Quentin and Maggie Edwards

2015 born Heifer

Abbeyvale Felicia – Roger Thomas
Wellshead Greta – The Earl of Huntingdon
Mendip Florentine – Susan Tanner and John Davies

Progeny Group

Appleton King Edward – John Reading, East Knoyle
Appleton Barratt – The Earl of Huntingdon, Wellshead
Woldsman Young Man – Rebecca Charley, Ruscombe

Three Related Females

The Earl of Huntingdon – Wellshead
Brenda, Emma, Isabelle
Roger Thomas – Abbeyvale Gentian, Gloxinia, Hebe
Susan Tanner and John Davies – Mendip Chocolate Box, Goody, East Beere Xolome

Steer

Cools No 292 - Quentin and Maggie Edwards
Mendip Finley 1 – Susan Tanner and John Davies
Ruscombe No 100 – Rebecca Charley

Suckling Calf

Wellhead No 70 – The Earl of Huntingdon
Boames Harmony – David Tompkins
Kemerton No 976 – Adrian Darby

I very much enjoyed judging the Southern Area Herd Competition, and we did well not to get a huge soaking! There is a very diverse range of herds and animals in the region and that has made judging them not difficult but has made me scratch my head more than once. You are all to be congratulated as the cattle were a pleasure to walk around.

My winning herd is John Reading's East Knoyle Herd, a lovely even herd with a young bull stamping his calves and good deep cows who are a credit to the breed.

The Small Herd winner is David Tompkins's Boames Herd which is not long established but he has chosen their foundation stock well.

Thanks to all who entered and if you aren't on the podium this time please have another go next year, this is a great competition and can only get better.

Joy Broughton

Southern Region – Presentation day report

The sunshine decided to join us for the Southern Region Herd presentation. We gathered for welcome coffee at the farm of David Tompkins, Newbury, winner of the Small Herds category. David's son, Simon, gave us an informative talk of the creation of the Boames Herd and its development to date, starting only a couple of years ago with five heifers from the Wellshead Herd and five cows from the Wherry Herd. We strolled down to the fields, David's cattle are very friendly and soon mingled amongst us, not concerned by a group of humans - I'm not sure who was inspecting who!

We then drove in convoy to the Earl of Huntingdon's farm at Kingsclere. Here we were made very welcome and enjoyed a delicious beef stew for lunch, Red Poll of course, followed by cheeses with apple juice from the estate trees for those not imbibing in the excellent wine provided.

After lunch our Secretary Ray, and this year's judge Joy, awarded the certificates and trophies for the various categories in this year's competition. It

was announced that the Large Herd winner was Caddy & Reading's East Knoyle Herd.

All refreshed and formalities over, we climbed aboard our transport to view the Earl's Wellshead Herd. A converted railway carriage drawn by tractor took us cross country with a commentary by Brian Coventry who manages the cattle, not only about the herd but also management of the whole estate to which he is Manager.

The cattle here were not so welcome to see us, they looked very fine as they cantered around and provided us with a bit of exercise after lunch to see them!

Many thanks to the Tompkins family and to the Earl of Huntingdon, ladies who cooked lunch and Brian for their hospitality. Hopefully next year there will be more entries made in plenty of time to placate our secretary!

It is very interesting to observe and compare notes with other Red Poll breeders and exciting to gain a reward.

Sandy Davies



standing next to each other as they would be in the show ring.

2015 born Heifer

Hopeham Fairest we placed first in this class. Sired by Sedgefield Braisworth she is an animal full of potential. Well grown and in-calf for spring calving she looked impressive in all aspects.

Second we awarded to Ladlers Flora. Again another well grown in-calf heifer with no faults she is sired by Lavenham Sir Lancelot, perhaps a little paler in colour than some.

Third was one of the group of outstanding in-calf heifers sired by Nobodys Orange Diablo in the Canfield Bury Herd, Canfield Bury Ginger. To be honest there were five animals that you could have chosen any one from. Of note in this class was Capel Manor Florence, a Heathgate Duke daughter she also looked very impressive in the Capel Manor Herd but as we only award three certificates she just missed out.

Looking at the heifers everyone who entered the competition has some excellent animals, it all bodes very well for the future of the breed.

Some excellent 2017 born calves were seen with everyone having several impressive animals around, however we had to make a decision and on the day decided on the Ladlers Bull calf No 87 as first, Bulcamp heifer calf No 159 second, with Hopeham Bull calf No 311 as third.

As previously stated it was a pleasure for myself and David to be shown around the

herds, there are some excellent cattle out there which very few from the Society ever see. The Herd Competition is a brilliant way of this being addressed, it also gives you the chance of comparing your herd with others and for showcasing what you are doing, there are some very impressive herds out there doing a fantastic job for the industry and environment using a fantastic versatile breed, long may it continue.

Ray Bowler/David Hunt



Small and Overall Herd Winner Jonathan Clarke and David Hunt

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Midlands Region – Herd Competition report 2017

I was very pleased this year to be asked to judge the Midlands region. With a lot of herds and cattle to judge this task took quite a few days to cover. I must say I was impressed with all the herds, and they were a credit to all their breeders and the breed.

All the herds were working very well with a variety of schemes. I was also impressed with the herds crossing with other breeds both native and continental. With this area having a large number of entries both in the large and small herds the final decision came down to the similarity of the herd with females, the bull, the progeny, leg placement, the walking, and the neatness of the udder. Taking all this into consideration the final decision came down to the large herd winner being the Pochin herd of John Pochin with the Canute herd of Alec Foster in second place. The small herd winner was the Abbey herd of David and Lis Blunt with the Watergate herd of the Hunt family in second place.

The individual classes were difficult to separate. The bulls were all very good examples of the breed, as were the cow classes, it was very nice to see the large number of tidy udders. The dairy crossbreds were also very difficult to separate, all showing excellent dairy attributes.

With the youngstock all I can say we look forward to seeing a number of very good adult cattle in the future which will be a credit to the breed.

John Williams

Midland Region – Presentation day report 2017

I enter the competition for the small herd every year, the highlight for me being the herd visit at the end. My favourite cow, well they are all my favourites, but the first one purchased, was a Pochin cow, so imagine my delight when the winner of the herd competition was the Pochin herd. This was a herd visit I did not want to miss.

Everyone arrived for tea and biscuits, while we gathered we talked, we then all piled into two shoot trailers and were taken round the farm. The conversation within the trailers continued, with frequent stops to look at the cows in each field.

Both bulls, Nobody's Grand Duke, and Royal Roseman, both gracefully accepted the arrival of so many people wandering round their girls.

We were taken back to the arrival point to more, hot drinks and a wonderful choice of Shepherds pie or Cottage pie, compliments to the chefs as not many could produce the quality, quantity and a choice in a grain shed. Apple pie and cream followed.

Unfortunately I had to rush off straight after the presentations, so I missed the further socialising, but I didn't miss the announcement of the two new classes for next year, which I for one am excited about as at last I will have a class other than the small herd that I can enter. These are for a cross bred calf and cross bred finished steer.

Natasha Fountain



Herd Competition Midlands Region – Results 2017

Large Herd

John Pochin - Pochin
Alec Foster - Canute
Martin Holdings - Lawford

Small Herd

David and Lis Blunt - Abbey
The Hunt Family - Watergate
Joy Broughton - Nobodys
Shuttleworth College – Shuttleworth

Overall

Champion – John Pochin - Pochin

Youngstock

John Pochin - Pochin
The Hunt Family - Watergate
Martin Holdings - Lawford

Registered Stock Bull

Nobodys Grand Duke – John Pochin (Sire: Seahawk Yukon)
Creting Zeus – Joy Broughton (Sire: Kemerton Trickster)
Kemerton Earl Gray – Martin Holdings (Sire: Kemerton Athlone)

Senior Cow

Nobodys Orange Breeze – Joy Broughton (Sire: Canute Orange County)
Canute Valentine – Alec Foster (Sire: Canute Orange County)
Pochin Foxton – John Pochin (Sire: Weylands Ferry)

Junior Cow

Pochin Janet-Town – John Pochin (Sire: Grafton Lucky Jim)
Canute Faith – Alec Foster (Sire: Seahawk Yukon)
Nobodys Fennel – Joy Broughton (Sire: Foxearth Duke)

2015 born Heifer

Canute Hester – Alec Foster (Sire: Seahawk Yukon)
Pochin Liss – John Pochin (Sire: Royal Roseman)
Watergate Henrietta – The Hunt Family (Sire: Nobodys Orange Chilli)

Progeny Group

Nobodys Orange Chilli – The Hunt Family, Watergate
Royal Roseman – John Pochin, Pochin
Kirtan Retailer – The Hunt Family, Watergate

3 Related Females

John Pochin – Pochin
Alec Foster – Canute
Peter Bowman – Everdon

Steer

Horninghold – Will Kirby
Pochin – John Pochin
Everdon – Peter Bowman

Suckling Calf

Nobodys Kingdom – Joy Broughton
Calf No 433 – John Pochin
Horninghold Snowdrop – Will Kirby

Dairy Cow

Ironstone

Cross bred Dairy Cow

Victor– Kirk Bros
Ironstone

Judge: John Williams

Herd Competition Eastern Region – Results 2017

Large Herd

Sarah Barnes – Hopeham
Simon Roberts – Bulcamp
Lady Getty – Lavenham Brook
Ladlers – James Rea

Small Herd

Jonathan Clarke – Canfield Bury
Richard Brookes – Hepworth
Denis Jenkins – Heathgate
Capel Manor College – Capel Manor

Overall

Champion – Jonathan Clarke, Canfield Bury

Registered Stock Bull

Bulcamp Ibycus – Dr. Mike Lynch,
Loudham Hall (Sire: Uggeshall Zinger)
Fellrigg Danny – Jonathan Clarke (Sire: Lordship Zebedee)
Pochin Fernie-James – Euston Estate (Sire: Weylands Ferry)
Bridgham Lancelot – Denis Jenkins (Sire: Uggeshall Warrior)

Senior Cow

Bulcamp Electria – Simon Roberts (Sire: Onenfawr Prince)
Hopeham Alula – Sarah Barnes (Sire: Fedw Tomos)
Thornage Maybel – Camphill
Communities (Sire: Beasthorpe Zeus)
Hepworth Willow – Richard Brookes (Sire: Coddensham Merlin)

Junior Cow

Heathgate Clover – Denis Jenkins (Sire: Bridgham Lancelot)
Canfield Bury Red Rosie – Jonathan Clarke (Sire: Kemerton Sligo)
Hopeham Claribell – Sarah Barnes (Sire: Brundish Colonel)
Hepworth Kerria – Richard Brookes (Sire: Fedw Melchior)

2015 born Heifer

Hopeham Fairest – Sarah Barnes (Sire: Sedgfield Braisworth)
Ladlers Flora – James Rea (Sire: Lavenham Sir Lancelot)
Canfield Bury Ginger – Jonathan Clarke (Sire: Nobodys Orange Diablo)
Capel Manor Florence – Capel Manor College (Sire: Heathgate Duke)

Youngstock

Sarah Barnes – Hopeham
James Rea – Ladlers
Richard Brookes – Hepworth
Denis Jenkins – Heathgate

Progeny Group

Nobodys Orange Diablo – Jonathan Clarke, Canfield Bury Bobby, Tricia & Ginger
Bridgham Lancelot – Denis Jenkins, Heathgate Clover, Freda & Grainne
Pochin Fernie-James – Richard Brookes, Hepworth Yvette, Camomile & Delphinium
Andrew Fredrick Viscount – Sarah Barnes, Hopeham Glitz, Glamour & Garnet

Three Related Females

Richard Brookes – Hepworth Tansy, Japonica & Mulberry
(Sires: Coddensham Merlin, Pochin Fernie-James, Pochin Fernie-James)
Lady Getty – Lavenham Tuppence, Kirstie & Lavenham Brook Primrose (Sires: Lavenham Sir Lancelot, Onenfawr Prince, Lavenham Sir Caradoc)
Sarah Barnes – Hopeham Aruna, Boudicca & Holban Nigella
Sires(Onenfawr Prince, Brundish Colonel, Pinpur Intercontinental)
Denis Jenkins - Heathgate Clover, Grannie & East Beere Zita
(Sires: Bridgham Lancelot, Bridgham Lancelot, Woldsman Leonard)

Steer

Capel Manor – Capel Manor College
Seahawk – Ed Turner
Thornage - Camphill Communities
Lavenham – Lady Getty

Suckling Calf

Ladlers Bull calf No 87 – James Rea
Bulcamp Heifer calf No 159 - Simon Roberts
Hopeham Bull calf No 311 – Sarah Barnes
Heathgate Bull calf No 38 – Denis Jenkins

Ray Bowler/David Hunt



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Next across the Downs to the herd of John Reading in Wiltshire, which was in the large herd category. This is a medium sized herd which was purchased in its entirety from another breeder eight years ago. The farm is certified organic, and the herd is grazed on an excellent three year sward of large white clover, Italian ryegrass and Timothy. The herd is medium sized in very good condition with good legs and tight udders, though some of the cows are a bit sharp in the shoulder and somewhat lacking at the rear end. The bull used is an Appleton bull, Appleton King Edward M0 and is leaving some very nice heifers. It is intended to cull some of the lesser cows and breed a steer that will grade better in the factory, though John would be careful not to purchase an M1 bull as he is keen to have an easily managed, easy calving herd with minimum maintenance.

Next back up to Milton Keynes to the Abbey Herd of David and Lis Blunt, which was in the small herd category. This is a small well run herd grazed in a parkland setting. Udders

and feet are very good, through some of the older cows are being culled. The younger cows and maiden heifers coming on are of excellent quality which has resulted in many successes in the show ring. The herd is docile and well handled except for one young cow which was a bit "heady". The present stock bull is a 2/3 year old Appleton bull which is leaving some very good young stock. All steers are sold at the local mart at 8/9 months, except for one sold in a local box scheme. As David has a full time job outside farming it is essential that the herd remains easy calving and easily maintained and of medium size.

As all the herds were regional winners, the standard here was obviously very high and therefore difficult to separate. However decisions have to be made, so I resorted to my heart and my gut rather my head!

For me, two herds kept coming to mind; the Pochin Herd and the Hopeham Herd. Both herds have very uniform stock and a sound breeding policy, but in a marginal call I am

grazed on another farm that would not be of the same high standard of pasture. This is a herd with a very even type of cow of deep red colour, very good in the udder and with sound feet. Overall size would be bigger than average which would be expected with the type of pasture. The bulls used are Nobodys Grand Duke M0 with some excellent young heifers in the herd, and Royal Roseman M1, a mixture judiciously used to produce future heifers and steers which are sold to the factory at 2½ years and mostly grading R.

The next herd on the agenda was the Woldsman Herd of Stephen and Yvonne Prescott and family in Yorkshire which was in the large herd category. This a very large herd which is spread over a large farm mainly devoted to tillage and consequently graze pasture that is not suitable for the plough. Having said that, the pasture quality was good with an average PH of 7. This is an old established herd, where again cows are bigger than average which would be due to good conditions. A very docile herd with good feet and tight udders, due to a strict culling policy. There were some very good young heifers and the in-calf heifers were excellent. All bulls used are M0 as Stephen does not want any calving problems and is looking for herd longevity. Present sires include Appleton Merlin, Nobodys Empire and Kemerton Alderman. All males are left entire and if not sold for breeding, are finished at 16 months on a home grown ration of wheat and bean. This is a herd that is lovingly managed, but possibly too large and spread out for easy management.

After a good drive across the Pennines, the next herd visited was the Tatton Herd of Cheshire East Council

managed by Sam Walton which was in the small herd category. This a small, very old established herd grazed on very good pasture in a parkland setting. Cows are kept out all winter and fed on straw and calved down in April/May in a tight calving period. This is a very relaxed uniform herd of even size and colour with good feet and very tight udders even on the older cows. The bull used here is Bowland Zeus which was hired from Simon Temple and is leaving good even calves of good conformation. All males are castrated and sold in late autumn at the local mart at average prices. It is intended to bring the steers to beef and sell it in the farm shop on the estate where there would be a demand. Even though this is a small herd and therefore run more easily, it is managed with great efficiency and enthusiasm.

Next down south to the Boames Herd of David Tompkins in Berkshire, which was in the small herd category. This is a newly established herd purchased from a neighbour 2 years ago. The cows are medium sized which is what David wants and are a very even bunch, coloured deep red, very docile with great depth. Heifer calves at foot were excellent. The herd is grazed on newly established pasture and are not in any way overstocked. The bull used here is Appleton Barratt which is borrowed from another breeder and is leaving good progeny. The question of finishing the males has not arisen yet, though it would be hoped to sell to local butchers in the future. We discussed the pros and cons of buying a bull for such a small herd in the future and would agree that if the present arrangement ceases, a good young bull should be purchased with care. Overall, a small herd with great potential.

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The Annual Red Poll Dinner



The Red Poll beef was supplied by Jeremy Thickitt of Emmerdale Farm from cattle he had bought from Loudham

Hall as well as some of his own. Jeremy shared the entertaining tale of how he came into farming and grew his business.

There were plenty of lovely raffle prizes and a wonderful donation of a short break cottage holiday for two in Derbyshire from Carolyn Wilson which was auctioned by Tony Barratt. Tony also auctioned two pictures that had been donated.

This year the dinner was held at The Ufford Park Hotel near Woodbridge in Suffolk. With seventy people attending it was a good turn out and we filled the beautifully set out reception room nicely.



The trophies for the herd competition were presented by the President, Richard Smith.

The Bledisloe Trophy was presented to Denis Jenkins by Stephen Prescott.



The Farm Visit on Sunday 5th November



Two herds local to the dinner venue were visited on the Sunday. The Seahawk Herd owned by Edward Turner and Sally Grimwood and the Toodley Herd owned by Adrian and Janet Samson. These both shared marsh grazing at Thorpeness owned by the RSPB. Both herds had crossbreed calves as the Seahawk Herd had used a Shorthorn bull on some cows and the Toodley

Herd used a Saler bull. The cows were still predominantly Red Poll as these had been found to be the most successful for crossing.

The cows and calves were quiet and well behaved even with nearly fifty people coming to see them!

Several people made the most of being right next to the sea and went for a paddle.

After coffee at the marsh the visitors headed to Emmerdale Farm Shop at Darsham where Jeremy Thickitt showed them his fattening yard and butchery.

Lunch was served in the village hall before everyone headed for home.

