

# SOUTH DEVON HERD BOOK SOCIETY

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PATRON: HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES



## FEBRUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER

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### *Dear Member*

A rather truncated newsletter, this one, as it is written in some haste to be ready to accompany the publishing of the AGM booklet with accounts, and the catalogue.

The first important piece of news is the election by Council of our new Chairman who takes over from Douglas Scott at the AGM. James Eustice, Treglinnick Farm, St Ervan, Wadebridge, Cornwall, has been closely involved with the Society's administration for many years, and, with his wife Margaret, and sons Andrew and John, runs one of the largest pedigree herds of South Devons in Cornwall.

Douglas Scott retires as Chairman after 3 very busy years at the helm, during which time there have been some strong progressive moves made by the Society, and we have seen significant increases in registrations and membership. We should all be very grateful to him for his dedication to the breed and to the Society, and for the positive and fair approach which he takes.

There are strong entries for the Spring Show & Sale – 46 bulls and 19 heifers – and the advertising budget has been increased to allow for this, and for the earlier date. We keep fingers firmly crossed that the Bluetongue situation will not alter before the Sale, to enable all vendors to bring forward their animals.

The AGM will be held the previous evening at the Devon Hotel. We are very pleased to have Richard Camp ready and willing (after a full day's work measuring frame scores in the Livestock Centre) to speak to members about his experiences at HRH the Prince of Wales' Summer School at Highgrove last Summer. I can recommend that it will be a most interesting talk, and I would urge members to come along to this pre-Sale gathering.

Richard's Talk will be followed by the Society's Dinner – menu details are inside. Please send your bookings to the office (reply slip inside). There are a few rooms still available at the hotel which we have block-booked. Please contact the office if you would like a reservation.

We now have hair sampling kits available for DNA sire verification testing, which is now compulsory for all bull registrations. Just to remind you, any bulls registered as pedigree after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008, require a hair sample to be submitted to the office, and the cost of the test is included with the registration charge (£45 plus VAT up to 18 months of age; £72 plus VAT thereafter). A slip for requesting sample kits is attached.

The Society has negotiated a very special offer with Merial, whose services we are using, to DNA test the so-called "back catalogue" of bulls (those registered before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007) at no cost to ourselves, *if submitted before the end of June 2008*. We are very grateful to Merial for assisting us with this significant cost, and it is in all members' interests to therefore request sampling kits for stock bulls and any young bulls registered prior to the end of the year *as soon as possible*.

We continue to watch the bluetongue situation closely, and an update of news is inside. This year is likely to be quite a rocky ride as we await the availability of vaccine – the only form of protection – and we cope with

continuing movement restrictions and enforced changes to events such as sales and shows.

We also continue to hope for action on the TB front, and would encourage breeders to sign up for a licence in those areas where the NBA and NFU have been active in coordinating local groups (contact me or Bill Harper, 01409 271376).

The Society continues to prosper, with a big increase again in registrations last year, and in membership, which will enable us to continue financial incentives for performance recording and herd health schemes, and to increase our promotional budget.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the forthcoming AGM and Sale.

With best wishes

***Caroline***

## **DNA TESTING**

We have now started to receive bull hair samples from you, and you should all have received instructions on how best to ensure the collection of a good amount of DNA material for the laboratory.

DNA is the best means of giving authenticity to breeding records, and the Society follows what some other breeds have habitually been doing for many years.

## **SIRE VERIFICATION**

All pedigree South Devon bulls must now be DNA tested to verify sire. Obviously it will take a few generations to build up an extensive bank of results, and Council have decided that a start should be made as soon as possible. If you would like any help or advice, please give the office a ring. The sooner you take hair samples, the better!

## **MYOSTATIN**

Following the valuable research work undertaken by the Roslin Institute, and which was concluded in 2006, on the effects of the deleted myostatin gene on the development of South Devon cattle and meat quality, Merial are the first to offer a commercial test to genotype for myostatin.

The initial cost of a myostatin test will be £22.50 plus VAT per animal. *However, Merial have very generously agreed to include the “back catalogue” of bulls (ie, those registered as pedigree before 31.12.07) free of charge if hair samples are submitted before the end of June.*

## **POLLING**

We are also planning to do some trial work with Merial on identifying poll genetics, which I hope will be quite exciting for the breed.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

at  
The Devon Hotel, Matford, Exeter  
on  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 5.15 pm

FOLLOWED BY

A TALK GIVEN BY MR RICHARD CAMP, HORSEHILL FARM,  
ASHBURTON, DEVON

about his experiences at the Highgrove Summer School in 2007

# **SOCIETY DINNER at 8 pm**

## **MENU**

*Fruit Juice*  
Or  
*Country Vegetable Soup*

\*\*\*\*\*

*A choice of 2 roasted joints*  
*served with seasonal vegetables & potatoes*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Brandy Snap Basket filled with Exotic Fruits & Crème Fraîche*  
Or  
*Coffee & Mandarin Gâteau*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Freshly brewed Filter Coffee & Mints*

***£25.00 per person***

Please book with the SDHBS office, indicating your choice of starter and dessert

## **RAFFLE**

***A raffle is being organised by Liz and Debbie, to follow the Dinner, and any offers of prizes would be very gratefully accepted.***

***So far, prizes include an SDHBS wheelcover, a bottle of gin, games, chocolates, and whisky tumblers.***

***If you are unable to come to the Dinner, don't despair! You can buy your raffle tickets over the telephone.***

## **WORLD CONGRESS CANADA**

For those of you who have booked to attend all, or part of, the World Congress in Canada this July, you will be pleased to know that there is a partial rebate coming your way, as some of the costs have been reduced.

You should hear directly from the Tour operators, but if not, please let Caroline know.

The final payment date has been extended to 28<sup>th</sup> March and, if you have not already completed a registration form you are requested to do so (by Rebecca Penner, [rpenner@tpi.ca](mailto:rpenner@tpi.ca)).

## **HERD BOOKS**

The most recent edition of the Herd Book containing all pedigree registrations administered during 2005 and 2006 has now been published. Those who pre-ordered should, by now, have received their copy. We do have a few spares, and orders will be taken on a first come, first served, basis.

We also have spare copies of the previous Herd Book, for registrations in 2003 and 2004.

## **SIRE SUMMARY**

The Sire Summary published as part of the January BLUP evaluation is available upon request from the office.

## **BLUETONGUE UPDATE**

A number of meetings are being held around the country, organised by the NFU, NSA and NBA, to discuss bluetongue. If you have the opportunity to go to one of these meetings I would encourage you to do so – they are very informative.

The “Vector Free Period” continues to be in place, and we pray that it stays for as long as possible. However, if you have plans to sell or move pedigree stock it would be advisable to do so sooner rather than later if you are within the Protection or Surveillance Zone (subject, of course, to a negative test for the disease).

The Surveillance Zone has moved twice in the last week, following positive tests in the South-East and Cambridgeshire, and now encompasses parts of Dorset and Somerset. However, the “powers that be” tell us that these are “old” infections, and there is no reason to suggest that there has been recent midge activity.

Many of you have contacted your vets to place orders for vaccine as and when it becomes available. Some will have been told that the vets have no plan to order vaccine at the moment – *but please insist that your name is recorded!* The first supplies of vaccine will be used in the Protection Zone. As more vaccine becomes available we are told that the Protection Zone will be rolled out further and further. Under EU law it is not legal to use vaccine outside a Protection Zone, one reason being to reduce the chances of a black market being created for the vaccine.

A new general licence has just been issued to permit animals sold at a dedicated slaughter sale within the Protection or Surveillance Zone to move to slaughter in an area free of bluetongue restrictions in England.

For members with internet access, the [www.warmwell.com](http://www.warmwell.com) website is an excellent source of information about the disease, and is kept very up to date.

## **CATTLE HEALTH SCHEMES**

The Society’s financial incentive to encourage breeders to know the health status of their herds, and to join CHeCS cattle health schemes, is to continue for the foreseeable future.

If you are a member of either the SAC’s Premium Cattle Health Scheme, or Biobest Herdcare, and you have not already claimed your £5 per pedigree registration credit, please send a copy of your certificate to Debbie.

## **SAD NEWS**

We commiserate with Malcolm and Thelma Broome over the loss of their show bull, Welland Valley Hanbury 1, and two cows, as a result of a third party's carelessness with some yew clippings.

Hanbury was a champion bull at many shows, and he was the principal "salesman" at Beef Expo last year.

Fortunately he has left some very promising progeny behind him, which we hope to see both at sales and shows in the future.

## **SPONSORSHIP SOUGHT**

Those of you who knew Robin and Sandra Weston, who ran the Rathgrange herd before they emigrated to France, might be interested to learn that Sandra is planning a charity cycle ride from Budapest to Vienna in aid of the SCOPE charity, raising money for those affected by Cerebral Palsy.

The Westons can be contacted on (00 33) 553 285574, or by e-mail at [saroanje@wanadoo.fr](mailto:saroanje@wanadoo.fr).

## **JOURNAL 2007/8**

Although my time has recently been almost wholly taken up by the Sale and AGM, the Journal will take priority very shortly.

This is, therefore, the final call for articles and advertisements to be included in the next publication.

Of particular importance is to let us know if you have organic status so that your name can be included on a list which is often passed to new enquirers.

## **TB TESTING**

Veterinary sources clearly advise herds faced with a TB test, not to accept the use of the gamma interferon blood test, because of doubts about its accuracy.

## **BEEF BETTER RETURNS PROGRAMME**

The Beef Better Returns Programme is in its second of three years, and you are invited to sign up to receiving, free, a series of informative, easy to read technical manuals, fact sheets and newsletters.

Those signed up to the Programme can also benefit from attending free events such as farm walks, meetings in markets, and selection days in abattoirs.

More information can be obtained from Katie Brian on 07775 884851, or e-mail [katieb@eblex.org.uk](mailto:katieb@eblex.org.uk).

## **RESPONSIBILITY AND COST SHARING FOR ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE: DEFRA workshops for Animal Keepers**

We are all aware of the gaping hole in DEFRA's finances, and their need for urgency to implement a cost-sharing policy to negate more of their responsibilities.

It may just be "going through the motions" before deciding they will proceed anyway, but DEFRA is holding 'independently facilitated' workshops around the country to talk about proposed changes to animal health and welfare – how it might be funded, and how decisions could be organised under shared responsibility.

To quote DEFRA: "DEFRA is consulting (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/ahw-nextsteps/index.htm>) on

how animal health and welfare may operate in the future under shared industry/government funding and decision-making. The public purse spends £400 million per year on Animal Health and Welfare, which increases substantially when disease outbreaks occur. The cost to the farming industry is also considerable, yet currently those affected have no decision-making powers over these policies. Your views are needed to help develop and shape this important area, which may change how decisions about control and funding of animal disease are made in England, and more widely.”

The free workshops will run from 10 am to 4 pm, with refreshments and lunch, and are being held on and at the following dates and venues:

Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Exeter
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Reading
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Bristol
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Stourport-on-Severn
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Tunbridge Wells
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Stoke-on-Trent
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> February	Duxford, Cambridgeshire
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Nottingham
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	York
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Lancaster
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Carlisle
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Newcastle

Places are limited, so you need to book a place as soon as possible, by telephoning 0207 238 5758.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

### **FULL**

**Region 2** Christopher Northey, The Smithy, Ivybridge Rd, Ermington, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0LG Prefix: SMITHY  
Mr & Mrs Nick Lee, Uppincott Farm, Shobrooke, Crediton, Devon, EX17 1BE Prefix: UPPINCOTTERS  
S M Smerdon & Son, Barnsley, Rew Rd, Ashburton, Devon, TQ13 7EJ Prefix: BARNSELY  
Mr J S Camp, Gerston Farm, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 7RY Prefix: GERSTON

- Region 3** Mr S A & Mrs S V Lloyd, Decoy Farm, Henley, Langport, Somerset, TA10 9AY Prefix: DECOY PARK
- Region 4** H & S Nesfield, Rosemary's Cottage, Paley Farm, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 7LX
- Region 5** Christine Hanton, Kings Close Farm, South Walsham Rd, North Burlingham, Norwich, Norfolk, NR13 4EJ Prefix: CHIPDEN  
L J Cunnington, Church Farm, Pentney, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE32 1JW Prefix: CHILVERLEA  
Mr & Mrs J Cutting, White Lodge Farm, Barham, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP6 0PU Prefix: GIPPING
- Region 6** Mr & Mrs M Turan, Belcote, Mearse Lane, Belbroughton, Worcestershire, DY9 9YE Prefix: AJEMO  
Mr A Davies, Gro, Dolanog, Trallwng, Powys, Wales, SY21 0LW Prefix: GRO
- Region 7** Mr & Mrs Colin Davis, Horseclose Farm, Hallaton, Leics, LE16 8UH  
Mr Richard Weston, 88 Manor Rd, Desford, Leics, LE9 9JS Prefix: FISHERSBROOK  
Mr Julian White, 1 Debdale Lane, Harborough Rd, Stoke Albany, Market Harborough, Leics Prefix: BROADWOOD  
Mr J Lockett, Broad Moss Farm, Heaton, Rushton Spencer, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 0SR  
C T Land, Mines Farm, Snelston, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 2DN Prefix: SNELSTON  
Mr D & Mrs E Barlow, Gap Farm, Warslow, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 0JG Prefix: WARSLOW

## INTRODUCTORY

- Region 2** P E Torr, c/o E Tucker, Brewery Meadow, Ashburton, Devon, TQ13 7DG Introduced by Mr & Mrs R Smaridge

## RETIRING

- Region 1** G F Lakeham, Orchard Bungalow, Tredrossel, Torpoint, Cornwall, PL11 3DZ

## RESIGNING

- Region 1** H K Pearce, Townsend House, Polruan-by-Fowey, Cornwall, PL23 1QH
- Region 2** Mrs S Read, Picketts Farmhouse, South Brewham, Bruton, Somerset, BA10 0LP
- Region 5** C H F Ransom & Partners, Church Farm, Idbury, Chipping Norton, Oxon, OX7 6RU  
J Howlett, Perry Manor Farm, Buckingham Rd, Edgcott, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP18 0TR
- Region 7** James McAleer & Son, Damhead, Nisbett St, Chapelhall, Airdrie, ML6 8RJ  
Mr & Mrs A Bell, Clifton Farm, Southwick, Dumfries, DG2 8AR  
T C M Frost, Brack-a-Broom, Peel, Isle of Man, IM5 2AP  
Mr & Mrs J A Davison, Hawthorn Farm, Wiston Lordship, Selby, Yorks

# REPLY SLIPS

## DNA HAIR SAMPLING KITS

Please send me ..... (number) of kits (one per bull)  
for DNA analysis (sire verification)

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## AGM DINNER

Please reserve ..... (number) of places for the AGM  
Dinner.

My choice\* of Starter .....

My choice\* of Dessert .....

\* see page 5

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NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

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