

SOUTH DEVON HERD BOOK SOCIETY

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PATRON: HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES



MAY 2009 NEWSLETTER

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Dear Member,

Another successful Midland Club Sale has been and gone, with some good results particularly for females. Details are inside. The Truro Club and the Tan House dispersal Sales are imminent (and will have passed by the time this is published and posted), to be soon followed by the South Devon Cattle Breeders Club, and Carlisle Sales. So far this spring we have seen a continuing strong demand for the breed.

The Shows are starting, and if you need promotional leaflets for particular events please ask the office in good time. The Society will have a stand at Devon County, Royal Cornwall, the Royal, Great Yorkshire and Royal Welsh Shows – please come and visit if you can, and support the other shows where we have South Devon classes wherever possible. The showground is one of our shop-windows, and a good recruiting opportunity.

Beef Expo at Carlisle is also upon us, and we look forward to a good commercial audience. In the past this event has usually been our most important annual promotional forum. Thanks to all those who have helped put the Society's display of cattle together, and to all those who have offered help on the stand.

The Journal has been published and is available for members to collect at those shows where we have a stand, or from the office if convenient. If we don't see you during the coming weeks, your copy will be posted to you in July.

During the Summer there will be two Society Open Days for members and guests – one in Wiltshire and one in Leicestershire. In addition there will be a Farm Walk in Hampshire for members of Region 4 (and anyone else who wishes to go). Please use the reply slips at the back of the newsletter to let us know your interest.

An article written by Douglas Scott about applying knowledge of myostatin status in a breeding herd is sound advice, and the Society would encourage you to test your bulls to know whether they carry the loosely-termed “double-muscling” gene.

Some good news to report – our congratulations go to Tim and Lara Roberts on the birth of their new baby son; and to Olliver and Alison Rounsevell who have recently welcomed a new baby girl to the family. Hopefully both little ones have some good strong South Devon genetics to come into play in later years!

The David Phillips Memorial Competition is open to younger members, and sons/daughters of members/members’ employees. Please ask the office for Exhibitor cards in good time before shows – see inside for details.

We look forward to seeing many of you in the coming weeks at shows, sales, and Open Days!

With best wishes

Caroline

MIDLAND CLUB SALE **Stratford upon Avon, Saturday 2nd May**

Judge: Mrs Anne Tully, Waddeton, Brixham, Devon
Auctioneers: Mr John Wakeham & Mr Mark Bromell, Messrs Kivells

Another good well-organised sale for the Club and for the breed, with prices topping 5600 guineas for 14 bulls sold (an average price of £2,850). Female averages were up again, with 21 halter-broken 2-year olds making an average of £1,862. Thanks to the Club (in particular Pat Rickett), and to Kivells for running such a successful sale.

However, we need to be paying attention to the frame scores of the bulls which, apart from a few, were generally notably weaker than the Exeter Sale, and also taking note of the Inspector’s comments in order to make sure our buyers are getting really good value for money.

For the first time, Mr Duncan Findlay, MRCVS, Society Inspector at Exeter and Bristol, was invited to carry out the veterinary inspections at Stratford. This is a good step towards further standardising the quality of animals forward, so that we can assure potential buyers of a typical good breed standard.

THE SHOW

Bulls

Class 1a

1 st	Portman Burtley Est Co	PORTMAN BURTLEY TRUSTY
2 nd	M E & T E Broome	WELLAND VALLEY HANBURY 10
3 rd	T H E Laity	Z POLKINGHORNE ICE MAN
4 th	C Page	COTON BASHFUL

Class 1b

1 st	W H D Scott	GROVE WELLINGTON 51
2 nd	A R Lee	LUMBYLAW MAGNUS 17
3 rd	A R Lee	LUMBYLAW MAGNUS 15
4 th	M E & T E Broome	WELLAND VALLEY TOBIAS 7

Class 1c

1 st	J P Harrison	BRAFFERTON STARBUSTER WRIGHT
2 nd	M E & T E Broome	WELLAND VALLEY EXPLORER 8
3 rd	Mr & Mrs M Rushbrooke	BRETTLES SAS HERMES
4 th	W H Sandford	X HAUGHTON SAS ILLYA 2

Females

Class 3 – Heifers born in 2007

1 st	Northwick Estate	NORTHWICK TULIP 13
2 nd	Mr & Mrs J R Hadley	KNIGHTCOTE LUCY 26
3 rd	D Nixey	CHILTERN & HADDENHAM CORNFLAKE 1
4 th	M E & T E Broome	WELLAND VALLEY LUCY 2

Class 4 – Heifers born in 2008

1 st	J P Harrison	BRAFFERTON BUTTERCUP 57
2 nd	Mr & Mrs M Rushbrooke	BRETTLES SAS BLUEBELL 15
3 rd	Mr & Mrs J R Hadley	KNIGHTCOTE DOLLY MAY 38

Championships

Hollygate Trophy (primestock)

J P Harrison BRAFFERTON REBECCA

Cholwells Cup (heifers born in 2008)

J P Harrison BRAFFERTON BUTTERCUP 57

David Phillips Memorial Trophy (heifers born in 2007)

Northwick Estate NORTHWICK TULIP 13

Thomas Brayne Trophy (champion bull)

W H D Scott GROVE WELLINGTON 51

Championship Rosette (overall champion)

W H D Scott GROVE WELLINGTON 51

THE SALE

BULLS

Vendor	Name	Purchaser	Gns
EG&CE James	Glancollen Morgan	L Kent-Smith & Son, East Down, Barnstaple, Devon	1800
T G Davies	Al Monkton Hadrian	P N Burden, Friningham, Detling, Maidstone, Kent	2500
T H E Laity	Z Polkinghorne Ice Man	J B Fentem & Sons, Manor Fm, Alsop-en-le-Dale, Derbys	3000
C Page	Coton Bashful	L Lane, Glebe Farm, Broughton Atley, Leics	2000
ME&TE Broome	Welland Valley Hanbury 10	A R Lee, Lumbylaw, Alnwick, Northumberland	2900
Portman Burtley	Portman Burtley Trusty	JR Bastard&Son, Bedfords, Tregada, Launceston, Cornwall	3000
WJWright & Son	Oxey Conquest 17	J R Wadland, Poplars Fm, Williams Scot, Banbury, Oxon	1300
Portman Burtley	Portman Burtley Cavalier 5	Box Farm Partners, Fernham Dean, Andover, Hants	2200
ME&TE Broome	Welland Valley Tobias 7	GD Stephenson&Son, Londesborough Wold Fm, Market Wheaton	2500
A R Lee	Lumbylaw Magnus 15	C R Harris, 2 Sand Pit Cottage, Thurlastone, Leics	2700
A R Lee	Lumbylaw Magnus 17	AR&S Prince, 3 Grange Rd, Cuddington, Northwich, Cheshire	4500
ME&TE Broome	Welland Valley Prince 1	C Hanton, Kings Close Fm, North Burlingham, Norfolk	2000
W H D Scott	Grove Wellington 51	W A Bowley & Son, Westfield Fm, Earl Shilton, Leics	5600
ME&TE Broome	Welland Valley Explorer 8	Zodiac Farms Ltd, Great Bathampton Fm, Wylye, Wilts	2000

14 bulls sold, average 2714 gns=£2850

HALTER BROKEN HEIFERS BORN IN 2007

Vendor	Name	Purchaser	Gns
J P Harrison	Brafferton Daisy	R Edwards, Mousenatch Fm, Kingsland, Leominster, Herefordshire	1850
Northwick Est	Northwick Tulip 13	A Baird, Lower Fm, Todenham Manor, Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos	2600
C Page	Coton Jane 4	MJH & Sons Ltd, Herons Green Fm, Compton Martin, Avon	1400
Northwick Est	Northwick Eija 39	A Baird, Lower Fm, Todenham Manor, Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos	2800
Mr&MrsJRHadley	Z Knightcote Anthea 42	NMD Ltd, Overy Farm House, Quidenham, Norfolk	2850
R A Ford	Goffe Cave Kitty 16	A Baird, Lower Fm, Todenham Manor, Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos	1900
C Page	Coton Venus 6	A Davis, Gro, Dolanog, Trallwng, Powys, Wales	2050
ME&TE Broome	Welland Valley Ursa 11	TR&PD Baker, Mill Fm, Gilmorton, Lutterworth, Leics	1500
C Page	Coton Nancy 3	MJH & Sons Ltd, Herons Green Fm, Compton Martin, Avon	1500
Mr&MrsJRHadley	Knightcote Lucy 26	A Baird, Lower Fm, Todenham Manor, Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos	2050
C Page	Coton Pansy 3	D Holt, Dane Spring Fm, Bower Heath Lane, Harpenden, Herts	1500
C Page	Coton Zephyr 5	MJH & Sons Ltd, Herons Green Fm, Compton Martin, Avon	1200
C Page	Z Coton Venus 7	R Edwards, Mousenatch Fm, Kingsland, Leominster, Herefordshire	2000
D Nixey	Chiltern & Haddenham Molly 1/07	TR&PD Baker, Mill Fm, Gilmorton, Lutterworth, Leics	1500
M & M Rushbrooke	Brettles SAS Primrose 22	A Foulds, The Estate, Elveden, Thetford, Norfolk	1400
JGWilliams & Son	Hopton Dolly 35	D Holt, Dane Spring Fm, Bower Heath Lane, Harpenden, Herts	2000
C Page	Coton Prudence 1	MJH & Sons Ltd, Herons Green Fm, Compton Martin, Avon	1250
ME&TE Broome	Welland Valley Lucy 2	A Baird, Lower Fm, Todenham Manor, Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos	1800
JGWilliams & Son	Hopton Mayflower 7	CNStevens & Sons, Sowbrook Fm, Dale Abbey, Derbyshire	1250
JGWilliams & Son	Hopton Rose 5	K Finch, Filbert Lodge Fm, Yelvertoft Rd, Crick, Northants	1250
D Nixey	Chiltern & Haddenham Cornflake 1/07	TR&PD Baker, Mill Fm, Gilmorton, Lutterworth, Leics	1600

21 halter broken 2007-born heifers sold, average 1774 gns = £1862

HALTER BROKEN HEIFERS BORN IN 2008

Vendor	Name	Purchaser	Gns
J P Harrison	Brafferton Annabelle 4	J Townley & Son, Manor Lodge, Whilton, Daventry, Northants	1200
ME&TE Broome	Welland Valley Doris 14	J Townley & Son, Manor Lodge, Whilton, Daventry, Northants	1200
J P Harrison	Brafferton Buttercup 57	J Townley & Son, Manor Lodge, Whilton, Daventry, Northants	1600
Mr&MrsJRHadley	Knightcote Dolly May 38	MJH & Sons Ltd, Herons Green Fm, Compton Martin, Avon	1350
M & M Rushbrooke	Brettles SAS Bluebell 15	C Hanton, Kings Close Fm, North Burlingham, Norfolk	1700
Mr&MrsJRHadley	Z Knightcote Lorna 44	R Edwards, Mousenatch Fm, Kingsland, Leominster, Herefordshire	2000
M & M Rushbrooke	Brettles SAS Gypsy Queen 4	J Townley & Son, Manor Lodge, Whilton, Daventry, Northants	1250

7 halter broken 2008-born heifers sold, average 1471 gns = £1545

NON HALTER BROKEN FEMALES BORN BEFORE 2007

Vendor	Name	Purchaser	Gns
Mrs M Pratt	Severn Valley Dainty & calf	P N Hodges, Buttermilk Hall Fm, Oving, Aylesbury, Bucks	2200
J P Harrison	Z Brafferton Doris 31 & calf	G Probert, Great Bottom Fm, Penrhos, Monmouthshire	2000
C Page	Coton Izzy 7	MJH & Sons Ltd, Herons Green Fm, Compton Martin, Avon	1200
P F Pratt	Woodgreen Hermia	P N Hodges, Buttermilk Hall Fm, Oving, Aylesbury, Bucks	1500
P F Pratt	Woodgreen Daisy 11	M Cooke, Great Avercombe, Bishops Nympton, Devon	1600
P F Pratt	Woodgreen Pride 9	M Cooke, Great Avercombe, Bishops Nympton, Devon	1350

6 non halter broken females born before 2007 sold, average 1642 gns = £1724

NON HALTER BROKEN HEIFERS BORN IN 2007

Vendor	Name	Purchaser	Gns
Heath Farms	Woodbastwick Coltsfoot 11	W A Bowley & Sons, Westfield Fm, Earl Shilton, Leics	1400
Heath Farms	Woodbastwick Belle 23 (T)	A Foulds, The Estate, Elveden, Thetford, Norfolk	1200
Heath Farms	Woodbastwick Prudence 29	NMD Ltd, Overy Farm House, Quidenham, Norfolk	1300
Heath Farms	Woodbastwick Belle 24	A Foulds, The Estate, Elveden, Thetford, Norfolk	1500
Heath Farms	Woodbastwick Hopeful 14	A Foulds, The Estate, Elveden, Thetford, Norfolk	1400
Heath Farms	Woodbastwick Doris 45	A Foulds, The Estate, Elveden, Thetford, Norfolk	1800
NP Foster & Prtnrs	Fosmac Echo (T)	A Foulds, The Estate, Elveden, Thetford, Norfolk	1150
NP Foster & Prtnrs	Fosmac Eliza	C N Stevens & Sons, Sowbrook Fm, Dale Abbey, Derbyshire	1600
NP Foster & Prtnrs	Fosmac Euterpe	MJH & Sons Ltd, Herons Green Fm, Compton Martin, Avon	1150
NP Foster & Prtnrs	Fosmac Empress	J White, Rightsideup, Harborough Rd, Stoke Albany, Leics	1100
J R Bastard & Son	Tregada Saffron 21	C N Stevens & Sons, Sowbrook Fm, Dale Abbey, Derbyshire	2000
J R Bastard & Son	Tregada Sue Ellen 9	J G Williams & Son, Upper House Fm, Hopton Castle, Salop	1700
J R Bastard & Son	Tregada Holly 37	J G Williams & Son, Upper House Fm, Hopton Castle, Salop	1800
J R Bastard & Son	Tregada Fiona 12	W A Bowley & Sons, Westfield Fm, Earl Shilton, Leics	1800
RJ&SE Whitcombe	Hawkley Dairymaid 27	A Foulds, The Estate, Elveden, Thetford, Norfolk	1500
RJ&SE Whitcombe	Hawkley Kitty 5	A Davis, Gro, Dolanog, Trallwng, Powys, Wales	1550
Mrs M Pratt	Severn Valley Maygirl	Saywards Ltd, Brooklyn House, Whilton Kocks, Northants	1250
WJ Wright&Son	Oxey Kitty 7 (RA) (B)	A Foulds, The Estate, Elveden, Thetford, Norfolk	1500
P F Pratt	Woodgreen Darkie 2	Saywards Ltd, Brooklyn House, Whilton Kocks, Northants	1250
P F Pratt	Woodgreen Cherry 3	M Cooke, Great Avercombe, Bishops Nympton, Devon	1250
P F Pratt	Woodgreen Mary	NMD Ltd, Overy Farm House, Quidenham, Norfolk	1350
P F Pratt	Woodgreen Buttercup 8	M Cooke, Great Avercombe, Bishops Nympton, Devon	1150
P F Pratt	Woodgreen Tiny	Saywards Ltd, Brooklyn House, Whilton Kocks, Northants	1150
M&M Rushbrooke	Brettles SAS Primrose 23	A Foulds, The Estate, Elveden, Thetford, Norfolk	1050
M&M Rushbrooke	Brettles SAS Gypsy Queen 2	Hull Farm, Turncole Farm, Southminster, Essex	1000

25 non halter broken 2007-born heifers sold, average 1396 gns = £1466

PRIMESTOCK

Vendor	Name	Purchaser	Gns
J P Harrison	Brafferton Rebecca	G Gray Farms Ltd, Grange Fm, Bredon, Tewkesbury, Glos	1700
J P Harrison	Brafferton Rosie	G Gray Farms Ltd, Grange Fm, Bredon, Tewkesbury, Glos	1300

2 primestock sold, average 1500 gns = £1575

DISPERSAL OF THE WORMSLEY HERD

Name	Purchaser	Gns
Juniper Bonus & calf	E J Paynter, Tregarrick, Merrymeet, Liskeard, Cornwall	1200
Juniper Dagmar & calf	R A J Hopkins, North Field House Fm, Cotes Batch, Lutterworth, Leics	1700
Juniper Duet & calf	C N Stevens & Sons, Sowbrook Fm, Dale Abbey, Ilkeston, Derbyshire	1950
Chiltern & Haddenham Castle Kitty 4 & calf	R A J Hopkins, North Field House Fm, Cotes Batch, Lutterworth, Leics	1800
Chiltern & Haddenham Cathy 8 & calf	W & J McCurdie, Bondon Fm, Birdurying, Rugby, Warwicks	1900
Chiltern & Haddenham Doris 4 & calf	R A J Hopkins, North Field House Fm, Cotes Batch, Lutterworth, Leics	1600
Wormsley Columbine & calf	MJH & Sons Ltd, Herons Green Fm, Compton Martin, Avon	1800
Aldbourn Chase Sally 1 & calf	G Gray Farms Ltd, Grange Fm, Bredon, Tewkesbury, Glos	1650
Aldbourn Chase Doris of 2006 & calf	G Gray Farms Ltd, Grange Fm, Bredon, Tewkesbury, Glos	1550

Aldbourne Chase Antic 4 & calf	G Gray Farms Ltd, Grange Fm, Bredon, Tewkesbury, Glos	1650
Aldbourne Chase Flame 24 & calf	G Gray Farms Ltd, Grange Fm, Bredon, Tewkesbury, Glos	1400
Aldbourne Chase Corngirl 29 & calf	MJH & Sons Ltd, Herons Green Fm, Compton Martin, Avon	1250
Aldbourne Chase Buttercup 43 & calf	C N Stevens & Sons, Sowbrook Fm, Dale Abbey, Ilkeston, Derbyshire	1950
Aldbourne Chase Primrosa 22 & calf	G Gray Farms Ltd, Grange Fm, Bredon, Tewkesbury, Glos	1750
Aldbourne Chase Iris 23 & calf	R A J Hopkins, North Field House Fm, Cotes Batch, Lutterworth, Leics	1450
Aldbourne Chase Dora 41 & calf	W & J McCurdie, Bondon Fm, Birdurying, Rugby, Warwicks	1950
Portman Burtley Cavalier 3	S Carpenter, 1 Lickhill Rd North, Stourport on Severn, Worcs	2800

FRAME SCORE MEASUREMENTS

SCROTAL CIRCUMFERENCE (cm)

Age (mths)	No	Range	Avg	Pass size
14-20	3	34-38	36	33
21-30	20	37-41	38	35
31+	2	37-42	39.5	36

HEIGHT AT WITHERS (cm)

Age (mths)	No	Range	Avg
14-20	3	133-139	136
21-30	20	134-148	142
31+	2	141-147	144

HEIGHT AT RUMP (cm)

Age (mths)	No	Range	Avg
14-20	3	138-145	141.5
21-30	20	137-157	148
31+	2	150-151	150.5

LENGTH (cm)

Age (mths)	No	Withers to pins		Hooks to pins	
		Range	Avg	Range	Avg
14-20	3	128-141	133	54-65	58
21-30	20	129-150	143	49-62	58
31+	2	141-149	145	60-62	61

RUMP WIDTH (cm)

Age (mths)	No	Range	Avg
14-20	3	56-59	57
21-30	20	57-67	63
31+	2	67-68	67.5

WEIGHT (kg)

Age (mths)	No	Range	Avg
14-20	3	668-750	704
21-30	20	667-1027	888
31+	2	1002-1066	1034

SHOULDER WIDTH (cm)

Age (mths)	No	Range	Avg
14-20	3	56-61	58
21-30	20	54-70	64
31+	2	65-69	67

Half the bulls scored band E or below for weight for age. The highest frame score achieved by any bull was out of a maximum 27, and the lowest was 10.

INSPECTION REPORT

The inspection rejected two bulls for testicle size and one heifer for lameness. The Inspector wanted it noted that he can only reject on veterinary grounds, but that several animals lacked width and size, along with condition and breed type.

Inspector: Mr Duncan Findlay, MRCVS, The Vale Veterinary Group, Cullompton, Devon

FORTHCOMING SALES

CARLISLE SPRING PEDIGREE SALE

Borderway Mart, Carlisle
Friday 22nd May

7 bulls, 19 females
cattle will be shown

Judge: Mr Richard Ford, Goffe Cave herd, Thorpe Langton, Market
Harborough, Leics

catalogues from
Harrison & Hetherington, tel: 01228 640924
e-mail: info@borderway.com

SOUTH DEVON CATTLE BREEDERS CLUB
SPRING SALE

Exeter Livestock Market
Friday 29th May
following main store sale at 10.00 am

Judging begins at 9.00 am by Mr Prydderch Rees, Crickhowell,
Powys, Wales

Catalogues: Mr Peter Farnsworth
Messrs Rendells, Exeter Market Auctioneers, Tel: 01392 276668

DISPERSAL OF THE FLETE HERD

upon instructions from Mr A J B Mildmay-White, Flete Farms
Partnership

TUESDAY 14th JULY 2009
AT SOUTH BATTISBOROUGH FARM
HOLBETON, PLYMOUTH, PL8 1JX

100 Spring Calvers with calves at foot,
30 Autumn Calvers and approximately 50 female followers,
plus bulling Angus cross heifers

Auctioneer: Mr John Wakeham, Messrs Kivells, Hallworthy
Tel: 01840 26126

A tremendous opportunity to acquire stock from this herd, which
is run as a closed organic operation, for both specialist breeders
and new foundation herds.

REMINDER FOR MEMBERS OF REGION 7 **(The North, Scotland & N Ireland)**

A review has recently been made of Council representation in the Regions, to assess whether any proportional changes might be desirable.

The conclusion reached by the Executive and by Council was that Region 7 might be considered to be under-represented in comparison with other regions.

Members within that region are requested to voice their opinion on the matter to the Breed Secretary and, in particular,

- Do you consider it necessary or desirable to have a third representative from the Region on Council?

Please would you reply by **Friday 5th June**, so that further consideration to the matter may be given by the Executive Committee.

ALDBOURNE CHASE OPEN DAY

By kind invitation of Mr Brian Kingham

**The Aldbourne Chase Herd
Kingham Farms, Snap Farm, Woodsend, Aldbourne, Marlborough,
Wiltshire, SN8 2NP**

**MONDAY 15TH JUNE
starting at 11 am**

Anyone who has already had the chance to visit Snap Farm will know what a rewarding day out this will be. As well as seeing the cattle and the farm, there will be a demonstration of how to prepare animals for showing, given by experienced showman, Mr Richard Davies (winning stockman at 2008 Royal Smithfield Show; leader of Aldbourne Chase Audrey 46, Breed Champion, and winner of the Queen Mother's Cup)

FARM WALK AT BERRY GROVE FARM

By kind invitation of Robert & Sophie Whitcombe to join a group of
New Zealand visitors to see

The Hawkley Herd
Berry Grove Farm
Hawkley Road, Liss, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU33 6JP

SUNDAY 14TH JUNE
starting with refreshments at 12.30 pm

This is an opportunity particularly for members in Region 4, their guests,
and other Society members from further afield to meet together to see the
Hawkley herd, which is run as an organic business.

The herd is Performance Recorded, a member of Biobest Herdcare, and
also a member of the SAS Breeding Group .

Current herd sires are Z Sexton General 2 and Z Arncliffe Desai.

WELLAND VALLEY OPEN DAY

By kind invitation of Malcolm & Thelma Broome

The Welland Valley Herd
Manor Farm, Thorpe Langton, Market Harborough, Leicestershire,
LE16 7TS

THURSDAY 2ND JULY
beginning at 1.30 pm

A great opportunity to see one of our biggest herds, in beautiful lush
Leicestershire pastureland

DAVID PHILLIPS MEMORIAL COMPETITION

This newly revised Competition will be distinct from the Lloyd & Whyte Young Handler Competition, and will encourage involvement in a multitude of different shows where South Devon classes are held.

The Competition will run in any one calendar year, and Summer shows with individual South Devon classes will qualify for the Competition. A minimum of two shows must be entered. There will be no maximum number of shows, and the two highest-scoring shows will count towards the final points.

Members, and relatives or employees of members, aged between 16 and 25 on the dates of their first and last shows will be eligible to enter the Competition. Cattle shown need not be the property of the Exhibitor, but must be prepared at the Show by the Exhibitor.

Entrants and exhibitors are invited to apply for Young Exhibitor cards from the SDHBS office in good time before shows are held, which must be handed to the South Devon judge of the classes *before judging begins*. The entrant should identify in which class he/she should be judged.

The judge will mark the Exhibitor with points out of ten, in each of three sections: Exhibitor's personal presentation; presentation of the animal; competence in handling the animal. The judge will be encouraged to ask pertinent questions of the entrants.

The judge will be responsible for returning the completed cards to the SDHBS office as soon as possible after the show, and in any case by 31st December.

The Young Exhibitor's two highest scoring shows will count towards the winning prize of £200, and a Trophy to be retained for one year will be presented at the AGM following the year in which the cattle were shown. In the event of a tie, the prize money will be shared equally among the winners.

The Competition may be held for as many years as the David Phillips Memorial Fund allows. It may not be won by any one individual more than once.

ASSISTANT STOCKMAN WANTED

ALDBOURNE CHASE HERD

Pedigree South Devon herd
Commercial Aberdeen Angus herd
Expanding to 1000 head including followers

Excellent opportunity for the right applicant
Includes 3-bedroom house

Send CV to David Armstrong, 1 Snap Farm Cottages, Woodsend,
Aldbourn, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 2NP,
or telephone 07786 543381

DNA SERVICES – REDUCED CHARGES

Please would you be aware that the ONLY test included in the cost of pedigree male registration (£45 plus VAT up to 18 months) is sire verification. The registration fee does not include a test for myostatin or the beef profile.

The cost of testing for myostatin and the Igenity beef profile (incorporating scores for a range of traits such as tenderness, marbling, fat thickness, etc) is now combined to give an overall reduced cost of £22.50 plus VAT (previously it would have cost £39.50 plus VAT).

If you wish to register a bull as pedigree you are required to accompany the request with a hair sample for DNA sire verification.

Merial's laboratory have had a problem in extracting DNA from several hair samples recently received. Please would you follow the procedure below when collecting hair for DNA analysis:

- Pull (do not cut) hair from tail switch, not tail head
- Make sure hair is free of fecal material and dirt. Roots must be clearly visible. Approx 20 to 30 hair roots are needed
- Write the animal's ID number on the collector provided by the office (or on the envelope if no collector used)

If you would like instructions with pictures to demonstrate the technique of collecting a hair sample please ask Liz or Debbie.

MYOSTATIN FOR THE COMMON MAN AN OFFERING FROM DOUGLAS SCOTT

I love that definition of "experience" quoted by Caroline in her last newsletter: "the ability to recognise a mistake when you make it again".

Like most breeders, I have lots of that kind of experience, but I do try to learn from it! I have been asked by the Breed Improvement Committee to write a few words on why and how one might apply the lessons of myostatin.

Few of us have escaped the problems of having the odd difficult calving resulting from what is technically called "muscular hypertrophy" (double-muscling to most of us!). And it doesn't stop there: the resultant calf, if it survives, is not a good animal – it might make a good fatstock beast, but definitely not a good breeding animal.

With the ability to identify the myostatin status of our breeding animals it is now possible to avoid having any of these problems ever again! The page on myostatin that has appeared in our breed sale catalogues (for Exeter and Stratford) this spring makes clear the nuts and bolts of how it works – and I trust you have read it.

My brief is to show how we can use this information. The important thing is to know the myostatin status of both the male and female for every mating. A bull

with a myostatin status of 1, when used on a female of the same status, can produce the possibility of a muscly calf, but when used on a female which is a 0, there is no possibility of a muscly calf. Likewise a bull who is a 0 will not produce muscly calves from females who are 1 or 0.

I am assuming that no reasonable person (who wants to sleep at night) will want to retain or breed from a bull or female who is a 2. Matings from such a bull or female will produce some muscly calves virtually inevitably.

So how does this work in practice? Personally I believe it is essential to know what we are doing – I will only use a 0 bull on females which are 1; but I am happy to use a 1 bull on 0 females. Indeed it might be highly desirable: some 1 bulls may have other very important characteristics which I want to use in the herd, e.g. they may be polled (even homozygous polled), or they may have some outstanding EBVs for traits which are important to us.

Therefore I make a point of knowing (or paying to find out) the myostatin status of any animals, male and/or female, which I am going to use in the herd, and plan our matings accordingly. Sounds complicated, but it is worth the effort (and expense) – to avoid those bad experiences with difficult calvings or unproductive offspring.

Douglas Scott

HEALTH ISSUES - BLUETONGUE

DEFRA has announced that its remaining stocks of Bluetongue vaccine, in 100ml bottles, will be discounted by 50% in an attempt to encourage uptake and reduce taxpayer liability before the vaccine expires later in the year. Hopefully this discount will be passed on to farmers.

Due to the efforts of those farmers who did vaccinate last year, the disease is not currently circulating in the UK. This is obviously a positive position, but on the downside some farmers are consequently not seeing a need to vaccinate now.

However, the country is still highly exposed to the disease being imported one way or another, so the advice remains as strong as ever – vaccinate to protect.

HEALTH ISSUES – LEPTOSPIROSIS

Leptospirosis infection of cattle is caused by bacteria that localise in the urinary and reproductive tract. In Britain two bacteria from the *Leptospira* group are important, and are collectively known as L.Hardjo. Infected animals become chronic carriers of infection and the organism can be passed on in urine or semen. Transmission from one animal to another may be direct, through close contact, or indirect via areas contaminated with infected urine. Infection may spread in streams and other water sources. Survival of leptospires is prolonged in warm, moist conditions and the organism may persist for months on pasture. Disease therefore most commonly occurs in the spring, autumn, and early winter.

When the disease first enters a herd, there may be obvious illness and an associated drop in milk, but when the disease is established clinical signs in cattle may not be obvious. Testing blood samples taken from animals in the herd will show whether infection is present.

Leptospirosis in a herd can have long-term effects on reproductive efficiency and milk production. Abortions or stillbirths can occur if a cow is infected for the first time during pregnancy, although they may occur many weeks after infection when there is no obvious illness in the cow. Calves from subsequent pregnancies may be born weak and have a poor survival rate.

CHeCS accredited health schemes such as Biobest Herdcare or the Premium Cattle Health Scheme, provide advice as to how to test, tackle, treat, and ultimately eradicate the disease from a herd. The Society gives a financial incentive to members who join one of these schemes and begin by targetting Johnes Disease; this is a discount of £5 per animal when it is pedigree registered, for a period of two years.

COMPENSATION FOR BOVINE TB

Payable during May 2009

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NON PEDIGREE AND PEDIGREE IS HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT – IT IS IN YOUR FINANCIAL INTERESTS TO CHECK THAT YOUR REGISTRATIONS ARE UP TO DATE!

NON PEDIGREE BOVINE

Male		Female	
Age	Compensation due	Age	Compensation due
Up to 3 months	212	Up to 3 months	176
Over 3 months up to 6 months	357	Over 3 months up to 6 months	313
Over 6 months Up to 9 months	533	Over 6 months Up to 9 months	438
Over 9 months Up to 12 months	671	Over 9 months Up to 12 months	563
Over 12 months Up to 16 months	744	Over 12 months Up to 16 months	635
Over 16 months Up to 20 months	792	Over 16 months Up to 20 months	701
20 months and over	892	20 months and over	792
Breeding bulls 20 months and over	1281	Calved	1054

PEDIGREE BOVINE

Male		Female	
Age	Compensation due	Age	Compensation due
6 months up to 12 months	*	6 months up to 12 months	1,047
Over 12 months up to 24 months	4,466	Over 12 months up to 24 months	1,540
24 months and over	2,723	24 months and over (not calved)	1,561
		Calved under 36 months	1,422
		Calved 36 months and over	1,528

*Compensation to be determined using individual valuation

TOWERGATE LLOYD & WHYTE **YOUNG HANDLER COMPETITION**

Royal Welsh Show, on Tuesday 21st July at 4.30 pm

Entries are invited from any Society member, from any Region, aged between 16 and 25 years of age on 21st July, as well as sons, daughters, grandsons, granddaughters or employees of members.

The object of the Competition is to identify future stockmen and stockwomen who can demonstrate an ability to prepare and exhibit cattle to a professional standard, and who can also demonstrate basic skills and knowledge of livestock breeding.

At the discretion of the Judge, the Competition may include any or all of the following:

- The preparation of an animal for showing (the animal will be supplied)
- Handling (control and exhibit an animal in a style that displays it in a positive manner, taking into consideration the safety of the handler and others)
- Assessment by placing a class of four animals, with justification, giving reasons using positive and descriptive terminology

The first prize will be a £400 contribution towards a trip abroad to see/assist with South Devon cattle. The winner will also receive a Showing Stick donated by the Society. Second and third prizes will be £50 and £25 respectively, plus a South Devon baseball cap and key-ring.

The winner will undertake to write a report for the Journal.

If you wish to enter please would you complete the form at the back of the newsletter and return it to the Society office by **Friday 10th July.**

If there are fewer than 6 competitors entered by the closing date this Competition will not take place, and competitors will be informed before the Show date.

TIPS TO IMPROVE BREEDING RECORDS

It would help the validity and usefulness of South Devon breeding records if ALL breeders could, at the time of pedigree registration, let us know in the office the following bits of information:

- **Observed service or AI date**
- **Calf weight at birth** (if you have the means to measure it)
- **Calving score** ie:
 - 1 = No assistance
 - 2 = Slight assistance by hand
 - 3 = Assistance by rope, calf puller, etc
 - 4 = Vet assistance, non surgical
 - 5 = Vet assistance, surgical

This information contributes directly to our knowledge about calving ease, and therefore breed development, so please help us extend our records. Spaces are provided on the yellow birth notification sheets (columns 10, 11 & 12).

AND FINALLY

SOME MORE DEFINITIONS:

Global warming a meteorological phenomenon cited to explain the appearance of three consecutive days of fine weather in a British summer

Instruction manual an explanation of how to use something written in a way that is easily understood only by the author

Morris dancer a drinker with a dance problem

Husband (this one is for the ladies!) a person who empties the waste paper bin and believes that he has cleaned the whole house

Paranoia why do you want to know?

Reply Slip

LLOYD & WHYTE YOUNG HANDLER COMPETITION

I wish to enter the 2009 Young Handler Competition to be held on Tuesday 21st July at the Royal Welsh Show

Name

Address

.....

.....

Date of birth

Eligibility criteria (eg daughter of member)

Signed

TO BE RETURNED TO SDHBS BY FRIDAY 10TH JULY

FARM WALK, BERRY GROVE FARM

I wish to attend the Farm Walk and will bring (number) of guests

Name

Address

.....

.....

PLEASE RETURN TO SDHBS BY WEDNESDAY 10TH JUNE

Reply Slip
OPEN DAY, ALDBOURNE CHASE

I wish to attend the Open Day and will bring (number) of guests

Name

Address

.....

.....

PLEASE RETURN TO SDHBS BY WEDNESDAY 10TH JUNE

OPEN DAY, WELLAND VALLEY

I wish to attend the Open Day and will bring (number) of guests

Name

Address

.....

.....

PLEASE RETURN TO SDHBS BY FRIDAY 26TH JUNE
