

SOUTH DEVON HERD BOOK SOCIETY

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PATRON: HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES



DECEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

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Dear Member

This is the final newsletter in what has been a pretty dreadful year for many members – few will have been untouched by the catalogue of problems hurled at the industry in 2007, from floods to disease to vastly inflated feed prices. The road towards the horizon still looks bumpy, with TB hitting hard in some areas, and continuing to spread, and with Bluetongue restrictions preventing normal trade across the country.

But there have been some positives this year: the “best ever” Spring Sale with total clearance, a new record price, and a significantly higher bull price; a very buoyant Midland Club Sale; some strong classes at shows, including a reserve place in the Native Group at the Royal Welsh; and the first live export to continental Europe in the offing.

The Breed is definitely “going places”, despite all the problems which are frustratingly beyond our control, and the Society’s finances are healthy as we go into a new year.

This has led to Council's decision to continue with financial incentives to encourage performance recording and herd health schemes; and also to bring in a new requirement for DNA testing of registered bulls which will be partly financed by the Society in 2008. Further details inside.

From "The Office", Liz, Debbie and I wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year, and much-improved circumstances in 2008!

Caroline

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

In order to replace those Council representatives who are due to retire at the next AGM, in March 2008, elections will be held as follows:

Region 1 (Cornwall)	2 vacancies
Region 2 (Devon)	2 vacancies
Region 3 (Wessex)	1 vacancy
Region 4 (South & South East)	1 vacancy
Region 5 (East Midlands & Eastern Counties)	1 vacancy

Nominations are therefore invited from those regions, for any full or life member. If more nominations are received than there are vacancies, a postal ballot will be held within the applicable Region.

Please return the nomination form included with this newsletter **by Friday 11th January**.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE 1ST JANUARY 2008

At their recent meeting Council agreed that membership subscriptions should not be raised in the next financial year, despite the fact that there has been no increase in five years. Council hopes that this small gesture to the membership whilst the industry is facing particular difficulties will be a help.

Debbie will send out subscription invoices early in the New Year.

PEDIGREE REGISTRATIONS

Pedigree registration charges were last increased in 2005, and Council have decided that it is not an appropriate time to raise female charges for the next financial year. Again, it is hoped that this small financial gesture will be a help to members.

During 2007, Council have been in discussion about the use of DNA to verify and authenticate sire parentage of animals within the breed. The use of DNA to determine breed and parentage is increasingly a part of the pedigree sector, and the Society is some way behind other breeds in adopting a policy which would not only reassure the breeder, and authenticate the Herd Book, but it would also provide a useful traceability tool for retail schemes.

At their recent meeting Council concluded their discussions by adopting a policy of compulsory DNA testing of bulls being registered as pedigree.

This will be made as easy as possible for breeders by the office receiving hair samples from the breeder, despatching batches to the laboratory, and accumulating data. The sire verification will be made available to the breeder and other enquirers as appropriate, as is the pedigree information now.

The cost of male registrations will therefore increase to £45 (from £27) plus VAT from 1st January 2008, to include the cost of DNA sire verification. In order to help with a breeder's decision as to whether to register bulls, Council have also agreed that the first age level will increase from 15 months to 18 months of age. Bulls registered over 18 months of age will incur a higher charge (as normal) of £72 (from £55) plus VAT, to include the cost of DNA sire verification.

Obviously as time goes by, data will build up through generations, and will give a very good level of accuracy – all useful in promoting the breed as professional and progressive.

There is, of course, a large bank of stock bulls and registered bulls which will also need to be DNA-ed, and it has been agreed that this should be at the cost of the Society *provided that hair samples are sent in to the office during 2008.*

In the next newsletter I will give details about how to collect hair samples from your stock bulls. It is in your interests to collect these as soon as possible, just in case anything untoward happens, and certainly to qualify for the free sire test. It could be 18 months from now that you might wish to register a young bull sired by your stock bull, which you may no longer have at that point.

TRURO SOUTH DEVON CATTLE CLUB

Philip Hambly has asked me to mention that there is a small stock of fine bone china plates commemorating the Club's Diamond Anniversary, now available for sale at £16.

The plates were specially commissioned, and show a South Devon scene of a bull and cows with calves by the lakeside. If you are interested, please contact Philip, telephone 01503 220385 (evenings).

CLUB HERD COMPETITION

Judges: Richard Rowe & John Irish

OVERALL POSITION

		Bulls	Cows	Youngstock	Total
		/75	/500	/425	/1000
1 st	T H E Laity	70	430	410	910
2 nd	H Lello	64	424	405	893
3 rd	A L Pascoe	64	420	393	877
=4 th	D T & W E Trewin	66	410	398	874
=4 th	F & J Rowe	59	420	395	874
6 th	J R Bastard & Son	61.5	417	391	869.5
7 th	M A & C Sandbach & Son	58	423	385	866
8 th	D J Thomas & Son	60	412	390	862
9 th	W P & S L Harper	57	415	388	860
10 th	S J & S M Ward	62	405	380	847
11 th	P Pollard	62	412	372	846
12 th	P A & A F Hambly	61	400	375	836
13 th	P J & R J Draper	63	400	371	834

BULL POINTS

1 st	T H E Laity	AI WOODHAYES ILLYA	70
2 nd	H Lello	JUNIPER CORNELIAN	67
3 rd	F & J Rowe	TREGONDALE KING COLE	66
=4 th	S J & S M Ward	TREVASSACK TRUSTY 13	65
=4 th	D T & W E Trewin	JUNIPER ECLIPSE	65
=6 th	A L Pascoe	LUMBYLAW TSAR 49	64
=6 th	D J Thomas & Son	TREGUDDICK LANDMARK 31	64
=8 th	S J & S M Ward	TREWINT HENRY JUNIOR 2	63
=8 th	J R Bastard & Son	GODWORTHY EXCALIBUR 50	63
=8 th	P J & R J Draper	COLCHARTON DEMETRIUS 3	63
=11 th	P Pollard	TREVASSACK TROOPER 13	62
=11 th	W P & S L Harper	TREWINT JAFFA	62
=13 th	P A & A F Hambly	TREWINT JAFFA 5	61
=13 th	H Lello	ERME ABEL	61
=15 th	J R Bastard & Son	TREWINT JETHRO	60
=15 th	F & J Rowe	KESTLE HORATIO 6	60
=17 th	S J & S M Ward	SEXTON SUPREME 2	59
=17 th	M A & C Sandbach & Son	CHAVID WARRIOR	59
=17 th	D J Thomas & Son	WELLAND VALLEY ADMIRAL	59
20 th	M A & C Sandbach & Son	KESTLE HANNIBAL	57
21 st	D J Thomas & Son	OXEY GENERAL	56
=22 nd	F & J Rowe	LETHYTEP CONSORT	52
=22 nd	W P & S L Harper	BEDFORD HADRIAN 12	52

Best South Devon Herd (Tregonhayne Trophy)

1 st	T H E Laity
2 nd	H Lello
3 rd	A L Pascoe

Best Herd of Cows (Woodley Trophy)

1 st	T H E Laity
2 nd	H Lello
3 rd	M A & C Sandbach & Son

Best Stock Bull (H S Thomas Cup)

1 st	T H E Laity
2 nd	H Lello
3 rd	F & J Rowe

Best Youngstock (Douglas Dunstan Cup)

1 st	T H E Laity
2 nd	H Lello
3 rd	D T & W E Trewin

Best Heifer (Waddeton Cup)

1 st	F & J Rowe
2 nd	W P & S L Harper
3 rd	M A & C Sandbach & Son

Best Cow (Keith Rundle Cup)

- 1st H Lello
- 2nd T H E Laity
- 3rd F & J Rowe

Best 4 Steers (H D Bassett Memorial Cup)

- 1st D J Thomas & Son
- 2nd D T & W E Trewin
- 3rd J R Bastard & Son

Best 4 Bulls under 12 months of age (Lawson Turpie Cup)

- 1st W P & S L Harper

Best 4 Heifers (born before 01.01.05) (Caerhayes Cup)

- 1st F & J Rowe
- 2nd J R Bastard & Son
- 3rd D J Thomas & Son

Best 4 Heifers (born after 01.01.05) (Manning Cup)

- 1st D T & W E Trewin
- 2nd F & J Rowe
- 3rd A L Pascoe

Best Family Group (Lloyds Bank Shield)

- 1st W P & S L Harper
- 2nd H Lello
- 3rd S J & S M Ward

Best Herd 20 cows or under (Rundle Cup)

- 1st A L Pascoe
- 2nd D T & W E Trewin
- 3rd P Pollard

Best Pair of Steers (20 cows or under herd) (Hamilton & Margaret Pearce Shield)

- 1st P A & A F Hambly
- 2nd D T & W E Trewin
- 3rd A L Pascoe

Best Pair of Heifers (20 cows or under herd) (Glen & Margaret Bryant Shield)

- 1st D T & W E Trewin
- 2nd A L Pascoe
- 3rd P A & A F Hambly

Best Pair of Calves born after 01.01.06 (20 cows or under herd)

- 1st A L Pascoe
- 2nd P A & A F Hambly
- 3rd P Draper

Best calves sired by a non South Devon bull

- 1st S J & S M Ward
- 2nd W P & S L Harper
- 3rd A L Pascoe

Hendra Cup (best herd not having previously won Hendra Cup or Tregonhayne Trophy)

T H E Laity

MLC Beef Recording Cup (highest average QBI on highest 10 selected animals born in 2006)

=1st Highgate Farm Partnership

=1st P S Rowe

3rd J C & E M Ridout

Western Morning News Cup (most points at Royal Cornwall Show 2007)

1st Highgate Farm Partnership

=2nd D J Thomas & Son

=2nd W P & S L Harper

Mole Valley Farmers Rose Bowl (most points at all summer shows 2007)

1st T W C Trudgeon

2nd Highgate Farm Partnership

=3rd A L Pascoe

=3rd M A Sandbach & Son

Steve Hoskin Silver Medal (junior handler at summer shows)

1st Reuben Thomas

2nd Aaron Quinn

=3rd Nathaniel Thomas

=3rd Sophie Northcott

JOURNAL 2007/8

The Journal is going full colour for next year! It has been in the same format for over ten years, and it's time for a facelift.

The advertising rates have been reviewed, with a slight increase to black and white, and spot colour rates, and a big reduction in full colour rates for Society members. This is to encourage as much colour as possible, not just in features and photographs, but also in members' advertisements.

Existing advertisers will receive a letter (hopefully before Christmas, depending on the postal service) giving the new rates and offering advertising space accordingly.

Regional committees are also being invited to identify one new herd within their area upon which a feature might be written for inclusion in the Journal – depicting the reasons why the herd has selected the breed, and their first experiences.

Please would you submit any other articles by the middle of January, if possible.

PERFORMANCE RECORDING & HERD HEALTH **INCENTIVE SCHEMES**

Council have agreed to continue both Financial Incentive Schemes to encourage members to performance record, and to join either the Biobest or SAC health schemes.

PERFORMANCE RECORDING

For new recording herds, a year's free herd charge (£120 to members). The "per cow" charge includes the first 5 cows free of charge, and the remainder at £3 per cow.

HERD HEALTH

For herds which can demonstrate that they are members of either the SAC's Premium Cattle Health Scheme, or Biobest Herdcare, and are including Johnnes Disease as one of the diseases to tackle, there is a £5 credit against all registrations. For new members to Biobest there is a further discount of £30 against the first year's membership fee.

MERCHANDISE NEWS

WEBSITE

Prices, both normal and discounted, are now available on the website, www.sdhbs.org.uk

WHEELCOVERS

All the available stock has now been sold, but if you would like to place your name on a waiting list in the office, as soon as a minimum number has been reached another "run" will be made.

CALENDARS

I am sure that there is a very large archive of South Devon photographs out there amongst the membership which would provide some excellent material for a calendar. The last time this newsletter called for seasonal photographs it fell largely upon "deaf ears"!

So this time, the Breed Promotion Committee have decided to give an incentive to you all in the form of a competition. The best three for each season (Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter) will be put together into a calendar for 2009, with a closing date of 31st August 2008. Eric Beard, our Sale photographer, will be asked to judge the shortlist of 12 photographs, and the winner will receive a selection of merchandise.

Why not spend a few of these dark winter evenings sorting through some photographs, to share with the rest of us? The theme can be your own choice.

PEDIGREE REGISTRATIONS & TB

Recently published figures from DEFRA show a significant rise in the number of TB incidents since last year – 16% higher. Nearly 20,000 cattle have been slaughtered in 2007, 20% higher than 2006; and the number of herds under restriction has risen by 13%.

The South-West continues to be the worst affected area, with a 21% increase in incidents and an 18% increase in the number of cattle slaughtered. But other areas are also worsening – in west Wales, for example, cases rose by 52% with 21% more cattle being slaughtered.

We all sympathise with the sheer frustration and distress caused by the spread of the disease, and would urge you to protect the value of your cattle as best you can by keeping up to date with your pedigree registrations. The cost of registration is far less than the difference in valuation between a commercial and a pedigree animal, and we are very happy to help with the paperwork to get you started if you have not registered before, or not for a while.

It is interesting to note that, of the 509 full members in the Society (ie those with the right to register cattle), only 309 have registered animals in the past 12 months.

If you are unfortunate enough to be hit by TB, it will clearly pay you financially to have your records up to date. Please give Caroline a call if you need further persuasion!

The NBA's TB committee, with Bill Harper as Chairman, and the NFU are active in lobbying the government to take measures to tackle the disease, and at least one group in a large "hotspot" area have readied themselves to submit licences to clear badgers as soon as they are permitted to do so. It takes quite a bit of coordination and determination to get sufficient numbers of farmers together to commit to such a programme, but without a drive from government, it might be the only way. If you are in a hotspot area, with hard boundaries (for example, a motorway or river), and are interested in having a measure of control over the spread of this disease, then please speak either to Caroline or Bill Harper (01409 271376). There are indications that the government might look favourably on another eight areas of the country, where there are concentrated problems, being isolated as badger clearing zones.

But things cannot move forward until there is a ministerial decision on badgers, which might come in the New Year.

UPDATE ON FMD AND BLUETONGUE RESTRICTIONS

By the end of the year, assuming there are no further cases of FMD, the country will regain its FMD-free status, to allow a resumption of exports and across-country trade.

However, restrictions are still very much in force for Bluetongue, which effectively divide the country into two areas, which is causing great disruption to trade. Despite heavy lobbying of the Government it has been made very clear that there will be no change to the boundaries of the zone unless there are further outbreaks.

To date there have been 65 reported incidents, and things have quietened down now with the colder weather. (There was a confirmed case in Yorkshire at the end of last week, which was a cow imported from Germany – great biosecurity – but DEFRA have said this will not move the boundaries of the zones as the disease is not seen to be "circulating"). However experience in northern Europe show that in the second season of the disease it is far more virulent with more severe clinical symptoms, and a much wider spread. Currently the "stakeholders group" is working with DEFRA and the EU to determine a "vector free period", ie a time when in theory there are no midges in circulation, and

during which protocols might be put in place to allow movements from Surveillance or Protection Zones to clear zones, of high value stock. It is difficult to understand how the criteria for this vector free period (lower temperatures) can be the same across the whole of the affected area in northern Europe!

The only means of control is vaccination, and the only probably means of eradication is compulsory vaccination, a policy which the government is currently unwilling to adopt.

The Society continues to lobby on your behalf to protect the breed as effectively as possible. If you are particularly concerned, please write to your MP and ask for those concerns to be taken forward.

SOUTH DEVON BEEF IN THE ORKNEYS

Nearly four years ago, at the 2004 Spring Show & Sale, David & Caroline Smallridge sold Ludbrook Rufus to Jim Slater, from Millquoy Stenness, in the Orkneys for 3,300 guineas.

A son of the bull was recently judged second in the Light Steer Class of the Orkney's carcass competition. The steer was 20 months old, and weighed 313.8 kg deadweight. It sold for 355p, total value £1113.99.

I am told that the judge was a Devon based butcher who also bought the carcass, and would have been prepared to pay twice the value had there been more competition!

SUCKLED CALF SALE, NEWTON ABBOT, NOVEMBER

Rendells' annual show & sale of suckled calves brought rewards for South Devon breeders recently.

Simon Booty of Poundsgate won the "Three Suckled Steer Calves of any Pure Breed" class, with Colin Pearse in second place.

The Crossbred suckled calf group was won by Mr & Mrs B Quantick, with three Limousin x South Devon steers.

WANTED

BEARDED COLLIE PUPPY

Pure or crossbred
Bitch or dog
For a pet, not to work
Bounce and temperament crucial!

Please let Caroline know if you can help

BEEF BETTER RETURNS PROGRAMME

EBLEX have recently launched their latest technical leaflet – Farm Herd Health Planning. This gives some sensible advice on how to improve financial returns by planning for herd health, and it considers tackling “management” diseases (such as calf scour, mastitis, lameness), as well as infectious diseases (those addressed by the CHeCS schemes which are being promoted by the Society).

The leaflet looks at four steps to reduce disease costs:

- 1 Recording herd performance – from calving, to growth, yield, and losses
- 2 Implementing change and improving performance
- 3 Better biosecurity
- 4 Measuring success

The full range of EBLEX’s Beef Better Returns Programme publications is available *free*, and is a good source of helpful tips.

Manuals

Choosing bulls to breed for Better Returns
Beef selection and handling for Better Returns
Improving cattle handling for Better Returns
Feeding suckler cows and calves for Better Returns

Other publications and material

Herd notebook

Better returns from cull cows

More profitable beef from grass

Bull health and fertility, before and after purchase

Car stickers and beer mats

You can request any of this material from EBLEX Beef BRP, Graphic House, Ferrars Road, Huntingdon, PE29 3EE, e-mail brp@eblex.org.uk, telephone 0870 2418829.

BRITISH CATTLE BREEDERS CONFERENCE

21ST – 23RD JANUARY 2008

**HAWKSTONE PARK HOTEL, WESTON-UNDER-REDCASTLE,
SHREWSBURY**

“Back to British, Back to Breeding, Back to Making Money”

Monday 21st

Meeting of the Pedigree Beef Societies Group

A workshop on the future of UK indices – “Robust Cows”

Livestock and Genetics Export Workshop – BLG

Tuesday 22nd – BEEF DAY

“Reinventing Dairy Beef” – *Mr K Bevan, SAC*

“Beef Production in Brazil – Threat or Opportunity” – *Profesor J F P Lobato, Associate Professor of Beef Production Systems, University of Rio Grande do Sul*

“Native Breeds – is it time for a revival?” – *Mr D Sinclair, John Lewis Partnership*

“Making Money from AI Beef” – *Mr S Marsh, Harpers Adams University*

“Lessons for beef breeders – the economics of genetic improvement in poultry” – *Dr S Avendano, Aviagen, Newbridge, Midlothian*

“Debate – ‘ This Club believes we should breed beef composites’” – *Mr R Fuller, Mr R McHattie, Mr M Powley, Mr R Oates*

“Making Money using genetic markers” – *Mr C Warkup, Genesis Faraday*

“EBVs may come and EBVs may go but DNA is forever” – *Dr D Pullar, MLC*

“Farmers Weekly Beef Farmer of the Year” – *Mr B Brooks*

There are some very interesting and relevant presentations to be given, and the Conference is also an excellent opportunity to “network”!

For more information, please contact Lesley Lewin, British Cattle Breeders Club, Lake Villa, Bradworthy, Holsworthy, Devon, EX22 7SQ, tel: 01409 241579, e-mail: lesley.lewin@cattlebreeders.org.uk

DIARY

January	15th Executive Committee meeting, Westpoint 21st BCBC Conference starts
February	7th Council meeting 21st Breed Improvement meeting
March	25th AGM, Devon Hotel, Exeter 26th Spring Show & Sale, Exeter
April	8th Breed Promotion meeting 15th Annual meeting, Region 1 22nd Council meeting
May	3rd Midland Club Sale, Stratford 21st Beef Expo, Perth
July	2nd Start of World Congress, Canada
September	8th Judges Seminar, Wells Folly, Moreton in Marsh 9th Council meeting 17th Beef & Growing Cattle South West, Hatherleigh
October	7th Autumn Show & Sale, Bristol

NEW MEMBERS

FULL

Region 5 Messrs J Townley & Son, Manor Lodge, Manor Lane, Whilton, Daventry, Northants, NN11 2UH

RETIRING

Region 2 Mrs R B Stone, Dunley, Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 9PW Prefix: HITHERDOWN

Major A H V Gillmore, Broadley Farm, Diptford, Totnes,
Devon, TQ9 7NJ Prefix: GABRIEL

Region 7 Mr R & Mrs S Weston, Le Bois de Guinot, 24620 Marquay,
France

RESIGNING

Region 5 Mrs B E Phillips, Waitawhiti, Penmaen, Swansea, South
Wales, SA3 2HL Prefix: NEURO

CATTLE FOR SALE

BlueTongue Restricted Zones

BULLS

Northwick Centurion 6 D A Ashcroft Tel: 07966 511868
UK321645 700164 Hampshire – Region 4
Born 13/02/2003

Chavid Matrix D A Ashcroft Tel: 07966 511868
UK281439 500635 Hampshire – Region 4
Born 30/09/2005

Hopton J G Williams & Sons Tel: 01547 530319
UK303529 700437 Shropshire – Region 6
Born 07/06/2006

18 month old bull P F Pratt Tel: 01299 822025
Worcestershire – Region 6

Selection of young bulls D A Ashcroft Tel: 07966 511868
Hampshire – Region 4

FEMALES

In-calf heifers, due Feb D A Ashcroft Tel: 07966 511868
Hampshire – Region 4

**3 in-calf heifers to
polled bull** S Frederick Tel: 01892 870926
Kent – Region 4

BlueTongue Free Zone

BULLS

Z Billington Pastiche 24 G K & M A Garrett & Son Tel: 01837 54348
UKHW0449-00130 Devon – Region 2
Born 02/04/1996
(possible exchange, with adjustments)

Highgate Rocket 3 UK383244 600259 Born 06/04/2004	J C & E M Ridout Cornwall – Region 1	Tel: 07970 880831
Beals Zodiac 2 UK380465 400215 Born 19/12/2005	M H Coumbe & Son Cornwall – Region 1	Tel: 01579 370374
Brafferton Starbuster 6 UK122117 200124 Born 04/01/2006	J P Harrison Yorkshire – Region 7	Tel: 01347 838725
Z Billington Crusader 22 UK371751 600051 Born 10/04/2006	G K & M A Garrett & Son Devon – Region 2	Tel: 01837 54348
Brafferton Starbuster 15 UK122117 500148 Born 29/05/2006	J P Harrison Yorkshire – Region 7	Tel: 01347 838725
3 young bulls	J Andrew Devon – Region 2	Tel: 01271 858213
FEMALES		
10 bulling heifers	M R & R J Rowe Cornwall – Region 1	Tel: 01579 342407
5 yearling heifers	M Stanley-Smith Somerset – Region 3	Tel: 01934 750856



Merry Christmas !

The office will be closed from lunchtime on Christmas Eve until
Wednesday 2nd January