

## Young Member Workshops

The Aberdeen Angus Cattle Society organize a series of workshops throughout the year for young members to learn more about handling clipping and showing cattle.

They have very kindly opened up their workshops to any of our young members who want to participate and there is a leaflet giving details of the scheme included with this newsletter. It is an ideal opportunity to learn some of the important aspects of the care, handling and presentation techniques concerned with showing cattle.

These workshops are enjoyable as well as instructive and I would urge any of our younger members to register and participate. It does not matter if the animals they are practicing on are not Shorthorns as the same skills and techniques apply to all breeds.

## Employment Wanted

We have received the following email. If anyone is interested please reply direct.

Hi,  
My name is Loren Schwartz. I am Australian who is seeking a sea change. I was born and bred on the land. I have been working in agriculture all my life in mainly livestock and cropping fields. I was wondering if you knew of anyone seeking a hard working Aussie?

I would prefer the beef industry. The reason I'm writing to you is because my family have bred shorthorns here in Australia for many years and am interested in the bred.

If you could give me some contacts that would be great.

Thanx for your time

Loren Schwartz  
"Yolandra"  
Biniguy  
NSW 2399 Australia

Mobile: 0428549212

## Oil Painting for sale

Mr JP Hill of Wiltshire, has for sale a large original oil painting in a wooden frame of the Shorthorn bull "HERCULES 1890" whose registration number is reputed to be 54424.

Interested ? Contact him on 01793 764300



# MAY 2010 NEWSLETTER



## World Conference

Plans for the 13<sup>th</sup> World Shorthorn Conference here in the UK are well under way and we are delighted with the response from both overseas and domestic delegates. We have well over 100 delegates booked in for various parts of the tours and Conference starting at the Royal Highland Show on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July.

The Royal Highland Show organizers have been very supportive of our Conference and we are very grateful to them for their help in ensuring we have an excellent turnout of Shorthorns at the show. We have a total number of 170 Shorthorns, beef and dairy, and I don't think there will be many of you who will be able to remember a larger display of Shorthorn cattle at any show.

**To All Exhibitors -** You will be aware that stalling at the Royal Highland show is limited and there is a waiting list in operation for some breeds. If you do not intend using your full allocation of stalls please notify the Royal Highland show as soon as possible so that the spare stalls can be re-allocated. The Royal Highland Show have been very helpful to us and we must return that consideration. Any empty stalls at the show will be viewed very unfavourably and will not help in the future.

**Please help them to help us!**

The Gala Dinner and trophy presentation on the Friday night will be great event with over 200 people at the dinner. There will be a limited number of tickets available for the dinner at £50 per ticket on a

## Health Pen Cards

At a recent Directors meeting the Directors reviewed the use of Health Pen Cards at Society sales and unanimously agreed to continue with the Health testing scheme for Society Sales.

The Directors re iterated the point that **it is the vendor's responsibility to check that the pen card is correct and if the vendor's vet is asked to do the tests they must be given a copy of the Society's testing requirements which is included with the entry forms or can be downloaded from the Society website or obtained from the office.**

**If the correct tests have not been carried out the animal will not be allowed to be sold.**

first come first served basis. If you would like tickets please let the office know.

The closing gala dinner for the World Conference will take place at the Alveston Manor Hotel, Stratford upon Avon on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July following the actual Conference. The guest speaker at this dinner will be Mr Martin Redfearn, National Agricultural Specialist, Barclays Bank and the evening will conclude with entertainment provided by "Big Agenda" Tickets are available for this event at a cost of £35 per ticket from the Shorthorn office.

### Showing Uniform

The Directors have been keen to improve the standard of presentation of both cattle and handlers at shows, and a short piece on showing protocol was included in the last journal.

At the Royal Highland show we will have delegates from around the world looking at how we show our cattle so it is more important than ever that all handlers are smartly attired.

Please ensure all handlers wear a shirt with a collar and tie (preferably Beef Shorthorn Society tie – available from the Society!), a plain white coat without advertising logos, trousers rather than jeans and shoes not wellingtons (unless of course the heavens open) and please **NO** mobile phones, chewing gum or cigarettes in the show ring.

Let's put on a show to be proud of.

### Calf Show – Agri Expo, Carlisle Auction Mart 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010

We are hoping to have classes for Beef Shorthorn calves at this year's Agri Expo event at Carlisle auction Mart on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

We are looking at a class for calves born 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 and a class for 2010 born calves.

We are also hoping to have a young handlers' class. The final details are not available yet but as this is a new event for Beef Shorthorns please bear the date in mind. It will be an ideal opportunity to get some of our young members involved.

### FORTHCOMING SALES

**CHELFORD 7 JUNE**

**PERTH BULL SALES  
(STIRLING) 18 OCT**

**CHELFORD 6 NOV**

**SKIPTON 10 NOV**

**EAST OF ENGLAND  
13 NOV**

### New Beef Shorthorn Sale Venue

A Beef Shorthorn Society Sale will be held at Craven Cattle Marts Ltd. Skipton on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

This is a new venue and the sale replaces the Autumn sale previously held at Thirsk.

The market at Skipton is a large modern complex with excellent facilities and hopefully we will have the cattle to match!

### The year letter for 2010 is "D"

### Carlisle Beef Shorthorns command strong trade to 3,700gns

Beef Shorthorns met a strong demand at the society's special spring sale at Carlisle's Borderway Mart on Friday 21 May, where prices followed the prizes.



Annanwater Blair

The supreme champion bull, Annanwater Blair, topped the trade at 3,700gns while the leading priced female and reserve supreme was Lowther Magic 190, which made 2,500gns.

Averages:

5 bulls £3,003.00

14 served and/or maiden  
heifers £1,422.75

2 cows £1,890.00

9 Ballard Herd draft £1,435.00

A full sale report can be viewed on the website at [www.shorthorn.co.uk](http://www.shorthorn.co.uk)

### DNA testing

There is a lot of research being done at the moment on DNA testing for gene markers for specific traits and these could well be a useful breeding tool in the future.

It is also important for future reference to have a gene profile for the breed.

Following a meeting with Pfizer Animal Genetics the Directors also agreed at the last meeting that all new service sires will have to be DNA tested from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012.

As this information will benefit the breed the cost of this test will be met by the Society. The DNA sample will also be retained so that any future testing requirements for gene markers can be taken from the same sample. If gene marker technology becomes commercially viable in the future, as we are assured it will be, the member will then be able to use this stored sample to do further tests.

This technology will help to provide unequivocal traceability and parentage verification which will further enhance the integrity of the breed.

Details of sample requirements will be provided in due course.

### Birth Weights

Since the provision of birth weigh tapes we have noticed a considerable increase in the number of birth weights received and recorded.

This extra information is very important in building up information on birth weights and calving difficulties and gives a good indication of the breed trends in birth weights.

Weigh tape figures are accepted as actual weights and used for recording purposes, whereas estimated birth weights are not used so please keep using the tapes and submitting the information on the registration form.