

## A Breed of Influence

Mike Keeble's, book will be published shortly in which he explores the influence of the Shorthorn in other breeds and the challenges and opportunities which lie ahead for the Shorthorn breed. Proceeds from the sale of the book will go towards the World Conference expenses, and we are very grateful to Mr M Foljambe of Osberton Estates, who has very generously sponsored the production of the book.

There are still copies available of "Shorthorns in the Twentieth Century" by J Wood Roberts. So if you are stuck for a birthday present or Fathers day gift let the office know.

## RCG—NEW BULLS

Semen sales are going very well and the recent figures from Dairy Co, available from their web site at <http://62.25.97.246/reports.asp?b=SHO> show the updated proofs of all Shorthorn bulls.

The following bulls, currently available through Red Cattle Genetics, have all come in with positive proofs for £PLI. Drisgol Watzon, Drisgol Madonnas Prince, Nejay Royalty, Churchroyd General Jack, Courtover Patriot, Rodway Prince and Tonelea Chancellor.

I don't think there has ever been a time before that RCG have been able to offer so many positive proven bulls. This is undoubtedly a reflection of the rigorous selection procedure used by RCG directors in selecting suitable bulls and an encouragement to everyone to use other currently available unproven RCG bulls.

Several new bulls including Gelli Ipod Discoverer, Hooton Fair Reflection, Rodway Reuben, and Nejay Amazon, are currently available and three more young bulls Dee Vinnie's Lad, Broadlane Lieutenant and Hooton Foggathorpe Appeal, another 100% bull are having semen collected. There has never been a better selection of superior Shorthorn genetics available through RCG.

Apply to the office for an updated brochure or check the bulls out on the website at [www.shorthorn.co.uk](http://www.shorthorn.co.uk) click on the Red Cattle Genetics logo.

## Dates for your Diary

16/17 Feb	All Breeds Show
8/9 May	Newark & Notts
12/14 May	Balmoral Show
20/22 May	Devon County
22 May	Otley Show
29 May	Heathfield Show
31 May	Northumberland
2/3 June	Staffordshire
2/5 June	Bath & West
10/12 June	Royal Cornwall
10/12 June	South of England
18/20 June	East of England
22/23 June	Cheshire County
23/24 June	Lincoln Show
24/27 June	Royal Highland
27 June	Derby County
2/3 July	Omagh Show

6/10 May Teasdale Tours  
12 June AGM & Judging Day at Ablington Farm.

# SHORTHORN

# JANUARY 2010

## NEWSLETTER

### World Conference

The booking form and updated itinerary are now available online at [www.shorthorn.co.uk](http://www.shorthorn.co.uk) We have started taking bookings already and there has been a lot of interest expressed from overseas. I

hope that some of our UK breeders will join the tour and take the opportunity to meet some of our fellow shorthorn breeders from overseas. You will meet some very interesting people and learn a lot about cattle breeding in other parts of the world. You will also probably see some very interesting parts of the UK which you have not visited before. We have not yet finalised our actual Conference programme of speakers but we already have several very interesting speakers lined up. We are also pleased to have secured the services of Martin Redfearn, National Agricultural Specialist with Barclays Bank as our guest speaker at the closing Gala Dinner.

The host farmers for the tour are going to considerable effort and expense to provide hospitality for the delegates and so it will not be possible for people to just turn up at any of the venues without prior booking and there will be a cost of £25 per person for anybody not on the tour who wants to visit individual herds at the same time as the Conference delegates.

### New Council Member

At the recent Council meeting in November, Mr T Cligg was nominated as member for region 8, replacing Mr T Osborne who wished to step down



### AGM and Judging Day

The AGM and judging day will be held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at Messrs Rawlins, Ablington Farm, Figheldean, Salisbury.

Council try to alternate the venue between North and south so that everyone has a chance to attend the judging day without having to travel too far.

There are plenty of prospective and established judges in the South so let's have a good turnout – there is always something for all of us to learn!



### HERD BOOKS

Volume 155 Births 2008,

Is finally at the printers and should be available shortly

## All Breeds Dairy Show 16/17<sup>th</sup> February 2010

The National Holstein Show has this year expanded to include all the other dairy breeds and has been re branded the National All Breeds Dairy Show.

The initial response from our Shorthorn breeders has been very positive and we are looking at an entry of 25 or more Dairy shorthorns, which for the first year at such short notice is very encouraging.

Holstein UK are staging and promoting the event. "The show provides a perfect opportunity to showcase the best of every breed and demonstrate the strengths of our industry. With focus on Breeding, Feeding and Management for Health, Welfare and Productivity, this promises to become a major event in the agricultural calendar. We anticipate a broad attendance, owing to our expansion of the number of breeds participating." As well as the cattle on show there will be trade stands exhibiting all aspects of the dairy industry so it is an event not to be missed.

The show will feature the Burke competition, an interbreed pairs competition for the Burke Trophy, which has been made available for the event by the RASE and the judge for this inaugural inter breed event will be the Dairy Shorthorn judge Mr Seimon Thomas.

The second day will also incorporate an elite sale, organised by auctioneers Norton and Brooksbank, which will include 1 heifer from each of the coloured breeds as well as the Holstein heifers selected for this special sale.

The Shorthorn entry will be Marleycote Fleur 30th from Messrs GG Baynes and Son. She is a very well bred calf from the original Fleur cow EX93, four times Gold Cup winner and has shown great early promise winning her class at the recent all Britain Calf Show – a great prospect for the future and a great advert for the breed in this inaugural coloured breeds elite sale.



## Erratum

The results of the photographic competition sent out to all the exhibitors contained an error. The second prize in class 2 should have read RODWAY SAMANTA 18TH  
Please accept our apologies for this error.

## Genetic Evaluations

There have been some changes made to the genetic evaluations provided by DairyCo which have made a noticeable difference to some proofs in the latest January figures.

Every five years the national average for every trait is recalculated and reset to zero to take account of the genetic progress made. With the January proof run the genetic base was recalculated and reset to the average genetic merit of cows born in 2005. Another improvement added with this proof run is the inclusion of across breed evaluations for sires used in different breed populations.

Whereas in the past the same bull used on Ayrshire, Shorthorn and Holstein cows would only have the figures obtained from Shorthorn matings included in his proof, it has now been made possible to include figures from all the bulls matings which obviously gives the bull a much higher reliability figure. Also a fertility index was

included for the first time for Shorthorns.

In order to give members the opportunity to learn more about the indexes and particularly the new fertility index we have invited

Marco Winters, head of genetic evaluations with DairyCo, to give us a presentation at an open meeting on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 10.00am at the White Lion Hotel, Weston, Cheshire. Marco will explain the new changes and answer questions on anything connected with evaluations. Everyone is invited to attend and we would like to see a good attendance.

Please let the office know if you wish to attend the meeting. The meeting will be preceded the previous evening by the President's dinner .

## President's Dinner

The President's dinner will be held on Wednesday March 3rd at 7.30pm at the White Lion Hotel, Weston, Cheshire CW2 5NA just off junction 16 of the M6. Accommodation is available at the White Lion tel. 01270587011 for those wishing to stay overnight. Please book your tickets with the office

## Royal Highland Show

The Royal Highland Show will be a major shop window for our cattle in 2010 with the World Conference delegates in attendance.

We are expecting a good entry of Dairy Shorthorns with hopefully over 60 cattle forward. The Royal Highland Show have been very supportive of our efforts to increase entries for the World Conference year and have agreed to put on the extra classes we requested. The classes for the 2010 show therefore will be as follows.

Heifer not in calf born after 1<sup>st</sup> June 2008

Heifer in calf and due to calve on or after 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010

Cow in calf having had one or more calvings

Cow in milk having had only one calving

Cow in milk having had two or three calvings

Cow in milk having four or more calvings

The Prize money for the extra classes has been sponsored by BOCM Pauls, we are very grateful to them for their support.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, Council agreed to provide a travel subsidy of 10p/cow/mile (one way with a maximum of £200 per exhibitor) and also to provide some staff to help with washing and bedding the cattle at the show.

On the Friday night the presentation of the trophies will take place at the Gala Dinner of the World Conference and Council have also agreed to offer 1 free ticket to the dinner for each exhibitor, (extra tickets available at £50 per ticket) so we are expecting the best show of Dairy Shorthorns ever seen at the Royal Highland Show.

## Teasdale Tours May 6/10 2010

This year Teasdale Tours visit Shropshire and the surrounding area, staying at the Albrighton Hotel and Spa, Shrewsbury. See enclosed itinerary for information and bookings

## FORTHCOMING SALES

**CHELFORD SPRING 7th June 2010**

**SWCSBA Annual Show & Sale at Sedgemoor**

**Auction Centre, Somerset. Sept 25th**

**CHELFORD AUTUMN 1st Nov**

Please Note: Due to requests from exhibitors for a better sale catalogue, the entry closing date has reverted back to one month before the sale.