



HCCW

www.hccw.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION

Issue 39 April 2008. Editor: Annie May Email: info@theyorganicfarms.co.uk. Telephone 01570 423 080



Calving Time

Now, gather round. We need to start as we mean to go on. How are we going to handle these humans?

Please submit photos of your beasts to grace the front page of the Newsletter. It will give your Fold a boost and I can't keep featuring our cattle!

Annie

EDITORIAL

Not a huge Newsletter this issue because there is only one event to report. But a lot has been going on and the summer issue will contain news of shows, demonstrations and events to gladden your hearts!

Is Big Brother Watching us?

HCCW staged it's 10th big event on the 29th March. Over the nine years that the Club has been in existence it has offered an average of two events a year; some years many more. The majority of these events have had an element of training and information dissemination. The ethos of the Club has always been to support breeders throughout Wales; and although this philosophy has sometimes been corrupted by the occasion rogue element, the principle has been maintained. For Committee members the Club comes first and the individual Fold comes second when on Club business.

The HCCW Training that took place at the end of March was delivered by two of the most experienced and charismatic cattle handlers and breeders in the Highland Cattle Society. This meant that present at the event were no less than 3 panel judges with over 70 years of experience between them. Moreover, no-one gave outright advice, they offered a very well informed opinion.

One could be forgiven for thinking that it looked as if the Highland Cattle Society felt that any advice that these three gave may not be sound when they it sent a field officer to check up on the proceedings.

We are a little Club, I'd like to think that we do things well and events cost a lot of money and effort to stage. So of course we were delighted when we heard that HCS would sponsor up to two Training events a year for regional Clubs; with matched funding up to a maximum of £500.00. What we did not know was that in order to obtain the promised sponsorship HCCW (and one supposes other Clubs) had to pay half the travel expenses of a Field Officer. As there was not suitable officer available nearby the designated officer came, with his wife, from some 250 miles away to watch the even better than usual excellent Training delivery and wonderful social get-together.

I don't know about you, but as a small Club that boxes far above its weight in terms of promoting the breed and supporting novice and experienced breeders alike, this kind of bossy paternalism tends to stick in the craw. I'd love to

know when bad advice lead to litigation and if this was the reason that Council had made this rather loopy decision.

To make this a condition for obtaining help when every event promotes the breed and supports the Society, is to pull the rug out from under the feet of the few loyal allies the Society had.

A letter is on its way to Council to this effect from a very cross Yours Truly!

Annie

Committee Matters

The Committee met to plan the activities for the coming year and to discuss the appointment of the new office bearers. We bade a sad "Goodbye to Ken and Brenda Roberts who are selling up to move to North Wales nearer their family. They are still members of HCCW though and we hope to keep in touch with them. Annie May formally stood down as Chair and Geoff Spawton took over. He and Annie both emphasised that their time at the helm of HCCW should come to an end as soon as possible to give the Club some new perspective. The committee is delighted that Liz McCombe has agreed to take up the challenge of the Vice chairmanship. Geoff and Annie have promised to support and help for as long as she needs them. We'd like to extend a big Welcome to Charles and Mo Morgan. We are fortunate that Mo has consented to take over the job of Secretary and Charles, a consummate ideas man, has already boosted the profile of HCCW because of his wide network at PONT.

Dates for your Diary

- 3 Counties Malvern 13th 15th June
- Ceredigion County Show 14th June
- August Fold visit picnic at Martin and Mandy Tomkins new Fold followed by a tour of Cannon Farm and it's spectacular scenery
- Lampeter Show 8th August
- Cardigan Show 30 July
- Christmas Dinner December 6th 2008

Cattle Handling Training Event

Liz McCombe

The spring event at The May

on Saturday, 29th March, was a real treat. The weather may have been wet and cold, but the warmth Liz Shaw brought to her subject more than made up for it. Liz spoke about handling young stock whilst giving a practical demonstration, getting them used to the halter and putting it on within moments.

She gave a host of hints and tips for managing cattle more easily, and seeing a woman working them proved that success is not dependent on brawn - a plus for those of us reduced to pushing on a recalcitrant back end in a muddy field! I shall not forget the mental image of a Highlander on a long halter careering off only to "flip over" as Liz said they can when brought to a sudden stop from behind. We had the opportunity to practise haltering, and all sizes of people who hadn't touched a beast before had a go at grooming and walking them.



Her enthusiasm for showing has made me see that it is worth doing for the social side alone: winning is a bonus. Liz was ably supported by Ron, from whom she said she had learnt all she knew, and together they answered everyone's questions and discussed highlanders well into the afternoon. Knots have always been a matter for discussion - we have a heifer who can undo almost anything, but the quick release knot Liz showed us has her stumped (for now, anyway).



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grazer

Thank you, Annie and Geoff, for yet again organising a marvellously interesting and informative day out. Our cattle would thank you as well if they could!



Demonstrating that handling is a matter of confidence

How to approach



Classifieds and Announcements

CLASSIFIED ADS

Copy date July 1st 2008

Pictures should be in Jpeg format
300X300px

As I'm not on broadband I'd be grateful if
you could send large files on CD rather
than online

Design your own ad or send it to us to
format for you

Take advantage of this free facility to sell
your cattle!

A chance to advertise at Smallholders and Garden Festival

If anyone would like to place an Advert on the
board at the Smallholders please send your
copy before May 10th 2008

to info@themayorganicfarms.co.uk or to

Annie May
Gilfachwen
Cellan
Lampeter
SA48 8HI

The May Fold



20 years experience breeding show
winners

Bred for traditional conformation and
sound temperament

Organic
First health PCHS test clear

Stock nearly always for sale

Contact: Geoff Spawton
01570 423 080

Email: info@themayorgniacfarms.co.uk

Visit

www.themayorganicfarms.co.uk

If anyone has a good idea for an event or
the energy to organise one please let
either the Chair, the Vice Chair or the
Secretary know!

You don't need to know everything; there
are people out there who can deliver
training, give help and deliver lessons,
courses and classes

You choose!

Events lift the profile of your Fold.
They give you an opportunity to show off
your cattle.

You get a chance to talk about them to
people who are genuinely interested.

And you get to socialise at the same time.

Everyone learns and gets something out of
a well organised event

The Club is here to support you, help you care for your stock,
handle your stock and sell your stock

Plea For Help!

HCCW has grown from a little Club of some 24 members to a Club whose membership now outnumbers many of the more established Clubs in the Society. This kind of service does not just happen. It involves a great deal of work behind the scenes.

You may have noticed that there are a number of new faces on the committee. We are enormously grateful that the new faces have offered their time and energy to run HCCW. But if we are to continue to support Club members it would greatly help if members could lend a hand occasionally.

No need to attend meetings, travel a long way or give up hours of time. Just lend your expertise for a week, a month or even a day!

Expenses paid



If you are willing to help with stuffing envelope for just one event or announcement.



Do you enjoy talking on the 'phone? If so would you help the Club by offering a telephone service for an event? This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know other members in the Club.



Are you computer literate? Have you got time to type and format documents? Can you design posters and flyers?

HCCW has a presence at a number of venues to promote the breed and the Club. The greater our exposure the easier it is for you to sell your cattle. But it needs more than just two people to do this work. If you enjoy talking to the public, showing off your cattle (not showing them but exhibiting them in a pen for the public to admire); let us know.

If you think that you can lend a hand for a day, a week, a month please contact any member of the committee. (Contact details at the end of the Newsletter)



Caption Cmppetition

Just one more try!!

In the last issue I oriented a picture of Willy Thompson Wood neuk asleep in a wheelbarrow for the caption competition. There were no takers. Here's another picture that might inspire you for a last try!

MAIR

COMMITTEE ADDRESS BOOK

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Annie May

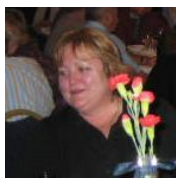
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Dai Ormond

Waterwynch
Red Roses
Pembs



Mo Morgan (Club Secretary)

Charles Morgan