

HCCW
The Highland Cattle Club
of Wales
www.hccw.org.uk
NEWSLETTER

SHOW EDITION

Issue 40 August 2008. Editor: Annie May Email:
annie@themay.co.uk

Telephone 01570 423 080



A tired but happy Becky Russell Wins Royal Welsh Breed Champion

Frangag Millcent 2nd of The May



EDITORIAL

The show season has been greatly affected by the Bluertongue ban and the weather. After last year it would have been nice if it had been sunny and dry but on the whole it's been one of the wettest summers on record.

And yet the Royal Welsh week upheld the old Welsh saying that you should always stay in Wales during the Show because the weather stays fine. It is the tradition for the Welsh farming community to don its best bib and tucker and take its annual holiday at Llanellwedd. And one can't blame them. The Royal Welsh showground and its many attractions, not to mention the friendly and helpful people who manage the show, is hard to beat.

This year as you will see from the report, there was an HCS presence in the shape of the splendid Hazel McFazdean, HCS secretary and complete breath of fresh air, who was a power house of support, entertainment and welcome to all who visited the marquee.

The Cardigan Show simply poured with rain and it was all we could do to take our animals round without getting blown away!

Conversely, the Lampeter Show is always known for the rain that falls on the proceedings. But this year it benefited from a little window of good weather. The Show Committee changed the date to the 8th of August and perhaps that had something to do with the clement weather throughout the day.

*

In all the shows the dearth of livestock was very obvious. The Royal Welsh, famed for being the biggest livestock show in Europe was still a magnificent spectacle in the Grand Parade. But the variety and numbers were missing. The Lampeter show, from where we were standing was, extremely good in terms of livestock. Nevertheless, we missed the Gilden Vale cattle who would have pushed the numbers up considerably.

Liz McCombe reports from the Chepstow Show where she and Mike heroically braved more rain!

With regard to the rest of the year's activities: A number of new members joined the Club at the Shows and so it seemed like a good idea to offer an event that brought existing breeders and new breeders together in a sociable and convivial way. (see page 7)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- ➔ **The Smallholders' and Garden Festival**
- ➔ **The Royal Welsh Show**
- ➔ **The Lampeter Show**
- ➔ **Interview with Bethan Lloyd McTimoney**
- Chiropractor**
- ➔ **The Chepstow Show**
- ➔ **Classified Ads**
- ➔ **Committee Address book**
- ➔ **Dates for your Diary**

Smallholders' and Garden Festival

On Saturday 17th May, this year's Smallholder's and Garden Festival was quieter than of late. This was partly to do with the atrocious weather; but mainly to do with Bluetongue. Builth Wells is just outside the Zone.

The Cattle shed was nearly empty compared to the glorious years when it had been home to up to

eleven breeds. There were only two breeds of cattle: the Welsh Black and the Highlanders!



The public meets the new Vice Chair, Liz McCombe (centre)

As you know the cattle are judged in the pens; and so Dai Ormond's very beautiful but very traditional Highland beasts had not a chance against

the massively beefy Welsh Black animals when judged by a big commercial beef farmer. However, Dai, unlike the Welsh Black breeder, was surrounded by people for almost all the time that the show was open.

The Stand looked very good indeed with all 4 of the visually stunning Society pull-ups, one or other of the six HCCW volunteers to talk to the public and colourful Society information brochures. There was nothing there to beat this class act.

Nevertheless, for three out of the 4 years that the cattle information stands have been judged, the Welsh Blacks have won. This year they won again!

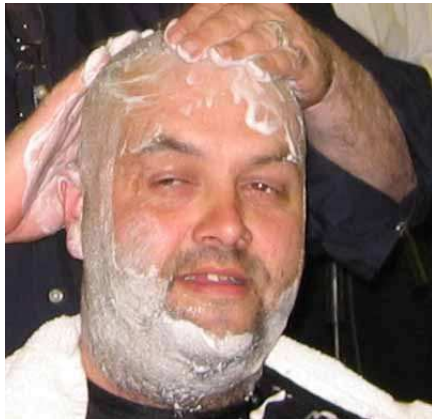
Winning means media coverage for the breed, so it is of great importance. But one can't help feeling that perhaps it wasn't just the Bluetongue ban that encouraged many of the competitors to stay away, but because there was little incentive to compete!

The Great Shave

On Saturday night, as usual, the Highland Cattle lot wined and dined at a long table in the exhibition area and then repaired to watch Dafydd Morgan and Geoff Spawton lose their beards in the Great Shave Off at the Stockman's Restaurant and Bar to a packed audience.

George Vella, friend of Dafydd and a professional barber ably abetted by daughter, Charlie, shaved the two with a cut throat razor.

Dafydd opted for the full shave and the genial man we know as Dafydd Morgans emerged as a sinister gang boss! The Shave raised in excess of £1,700 for the Welsh Air Ambulance; a very worth while cause for all of who live in remote rural areas. (Photo on page 5) Well done boys!



The Smallholders' and Garden Festival is for the small hobby farmer. However, much of the animal and stand judging is done by big commercial farmers. Moreover, many conservation bodies make it a point of sending site wardens to the Show to talk to breeders about the suitability of their animals for conservation grazing. This market is has been on the increase for some years. Now a few enlightened conservationists (our own Charles Morgan was one of the first) have recognised the value of raising meat from conservation grazers;

and, even here in Wales where the Welsh Black reigns, Highlanders top the bill in this regard. The Festival is now such a big event that, with over 20,000 visitors, it constitutes an excellent shop window for a breed that has something for everyone.



You hold him down and force feed him that yoghurt drink and I'll shove this ice cream up his nose

RWAS

It was pure luxury at the RWAS this year because of the Bluetongue ban. Even the Welsh Black's three bull classes had only one bull in two of them. For us, in the Highland Cattle lines, we lost Duncan and Angela Handley's usual 5 Highlanders and they were much missed. This was only marginally mitigated by the fact that there were now 5 stalls free so that each of the competing beasts had a whole stall to itself and were quartered in the infinitely more luxurious front shed, complete with fans and wide alley ways, where the big breeds are usually housed.

As usual we were joined by Willie and Maggie Thompson, who come down every year to cheer us on and for Maggie to spend ten hours on Wednesday sitting watching the Welsh Pony and Cobs. Maggie's been doing this for over 40 years and is not about to give up now!

Highland Cattle Society had a presence at the Show for the first time the. Hazel McFadzean and Annette were joined by Liz and Mike McCombe, Duncan and Angela Handley (in mufti), Willie and Maggie Thompson, John and Sue Ievers, Marie Carson and Dafydd Morgans to welcome the public. The merchandise was of an exceptional quality and the welcome was warm and generous. Liz did her usual magic with cake and Hazel was everywhere with a camera and encouragement.

Those of us who showed cattle were grateful for the support that we got from "the team in the tent" both in terms of hospitality, refuge, refreshment and help with handling extra beasts. A big Thanks to Hazel and Annette, Liz and Mike, Angela and

Duncan, Marie, John and Sue and Dafydd, Willie and Maggie

Results:

Bull any age:

Mrs A.C. Spawton. RORY DUBH 1ST OF THE MAY bred by Exhibitor

Cow any age with calf at foot: Mrs A.C. Spawton FRANGAG MILLICENT 1ST OF THE MAY bred by exhibitor

Heifer born on or between 1st January 2005 and 31st December 2005

1. Becky & Huw Russell & Rowlands FRANGAG MILLICENT 2ND OF THE MAY bred by Annie and Geoff Spawton.
2. Mrs A.C. Spawton CORREAMAN 1ST OF THE MAY bred by exhibitor

Heifer born on or between 1st January 2006 and 31st December 2006

1. Becky & Huw Russell & Rowlands LADY MDONNA 3RD OF THE MAY bred by Annie and Geoff Spawton.
2. CORREAMAN 1ST OF THE MAY bred by exhibitor

Heifer born on or between 1st January 2007 and 31st December 2007

1. Mrs A.C. Spawton BARAVALLA OIGHREAG 1ST OF THE MAY bred by exhibitor
2. Becky & Huw Russell & Rowlands LADY MADONNA 3RD OF THE CELYN bred by exhibitor. Sire Orag Mor 1st of The May, Dam Lady 1st of The May.

Breed Champion:

Becky & Huw Russell & Rowlands FRANGAG MILLICENT 2ND OF THE MAY bred by Annie and Geoff Spawton.

Reserve Breed Champion:

Mrs A.C. Spawton BARAVALLA OIGHREAG 1ST OF THE MAY bred by exhibitor



Becky Russell with class winner LADY MADONNA 3RD OF THE MAY



Martin Tomkins of Border Software presenting Geoff Spawton and BARAVALLA OIGHREAG 1ST OF THE MAY with the HCCW cup donated by Border Software



Becky Russell with her Champion FRANGAG MILLICENT 2ND OF THE MAY. Judge, Malcom Moy on the left.



RWAS gallery Pictures taken by Martin Tomkins

➡ Becky Russell and Annie May relax after the 2 year old class



Championship line up: L to R Frangag Millicent 2nd of The May; Baravalla Oighreag 1st of The May; Rory Dubh 1st of The May



Champion female line up: Frangag Millicent 1st of The May, Frangag Millicent 2nd of The May, Lady Madonna 3rd of The May; Baravalla Oighreag 1st of The May



Team of 5: Geoff Spawton; Maggie Thompson; Becky Russell; Annette; Duncan Handley



Dafydd Morgans and Geoff Spawton present the cheque for £1740.00 raised on behalf of the Air ambulance at this year's Smallholders' Show (see page 3)

Liz McCombe
REPORTS ON THE CHEPSTOW SHOW
2008

Fired by Liz Shaw's enthusiasm when she came to demonstrate handling and showing your cattle at The May in April, we loaded up two beasts for the Chepstow Show. They had been washed, blow dried and back combed as well as possible in the wind and we hoped the rain would hold off, at least until after judging at 10 am. Sadly, on arrival we found they had suffered a bad attack of nerves and our pristine pair were filthy! In the rain there was no hope of returning them to their former glory, so we wiped them down, thanked heavens we hadn't put the hair spray on before leaving home and waited for the judge. Liz was right: the lively chat and banter between livestock handlers almost made one forget the downpour. Our beasts seemed to enjoy themselves although they looked a bit surprised when a Dexter heifer escaped her handlers and took shelter between

them. Gradually other cattle "not used to being outside in this" were taken home to recover, but our two remained in the lines, exciting comment and posing for pictures with small children, grandparents and at least one pony. We definitely came first in the most visited/photographed stall class, and some people came back more than once. All in all, our first open show was a day to remember, and Fioled's prize was the icing on the cake. Next stop Usk, with lots of towels and a large flask of coffee!

Bethan Lloyd

An interview with a **McTimoney Chiropractor**

Bethan's work was a revelation. She came to treat a cow who we thought had put her hip out of joint. But Bethan soon had the old girl walking again! She manipulated and massaged Fanny for over an hour. The old cow loved it. You could see

her visibly relaxing. Bethan recommended that we exercise Fanny twice a day and pulled on her tail to straighten her out once or twice a day as well. She would be back to check progress in a month.

Our ground has not a single flat bit and we were worried that Fanny might not be able to negotiate the steep, ridged fields so we kept her in to exercise her.

But within three weeks she was out on the hill once more!



You can see how steep the fields are from this photograph! ←



climbing hills with that endearing dogged persistence that Highland cows can exhibit and followed by her big black calf, Millie.

Watched intently by one or two chums Fanny underwent her second treatment. She submitted to having her leg raised and manipulated while standing on a sloop at the top of the farm munching grass. She wasn't even on a halter by now!



Since then Fanny has improved dramatically. From being barely able to walk she can now break into a canter in order to follow her calf; and she gets about the steep fields with ease.

Bethan was so impressive that I wanted to know more so I asked her for an interview:

1. Is it usual for McTimoney Chiropractors to treat cattle?

Not usually, but we are trained to treat all animals, it's just the demand for treating cattle isn't usually there. Horses probably take up about 80 – 90% of my work.

2. Was Fanny the first one you treated?

Yes Fanny is the first cow that I've ever treated (other animals consist of Donkey, Alpaca and cat)

1. I see you treat dogs too; how do cows differ from Horses – or dogs?

The skeletal system is basically the same for all of the animals – its just generally the size of the bones and the muscle groups surrounding them that can be different, as horses tend to have more muscle covering the vertebrae (Thoracics and Lumbers). However, the general principle of manipulation is the same, whereby when you assess and subsequently treat, you're looking for misalignment of the bone either laterally left or right or dorsally or ventrally.

2. When did you start your practice?

In 2003, when I qualified in March of that year.

3. Where did you study? At the McTimoney College of Chiropractic – in Abingdon, Oxford. However much of the course took place at Moreton Morrell Agricultural College in Warwick.

4. Did you have to do lots of hands-on work before you began to practice?

Not from the sense of manipulation, but yes with animals. I've always been crazy about animals, my parents have many funny stories about my attachment to animals growing up, so its not surprising I've ended up working with them now.

5. Where did you get your experience?

Initially my experience was gained from the college itself – by way of practical days and any kind friends and family that let me practice on their animals getting used to the feel of where things were/are. Its very awkward when training as you have no insurance due to not having the qualification – a bit of chicken and the egg.

6. I think you said that you majored on something like animal behaviour, what aspects did you study?

I completed a BSc in Animal Science, this covered a really wide range of subjects: animal nutrition, welfare, animal care (Small and large animals), behaviour etc so that gave me really good grounding for the manipulation course later on.

7. You make the work look very easy, but from the photos I've got it is obvious that you are very balanced physically when you treat a big animal. How much is strength and how much is technique?

I'm afraid that the physical side is mainly for show, most the treatment is technique. Lifting the

feet/legs is probably the most physically demanding part of the job, especially when I was treating fanny, as she was less used to being handling (compared to a horse) and lifting her feet isn't an every day requirement, as it would be for a horse. The treatment also looks physically demanding due to the amount of massage work I do, but the treatment can be completed without this, making it much less physical, but I feel the massage enhances the treatment and makes it more effective - and the animals (generally) seem to enjoy it!

8. When we are anxious about the way an animal is behaving – walking or holding itself - what should we be looking for and is there anything that we should we do?

Generally I think that you should look for any kind of behaviour that is out of character, we all generally know our animals, so when they change ask your self why – animals generally change their behaviour due a physical problem. So if an animal is more subdued than normal, is it because it doesn't want to move and then you should ask why.

Below are some indications to look out for.

Indications in animals vary and most owners will recognise when their animal is in pain, or showing signs of distress.

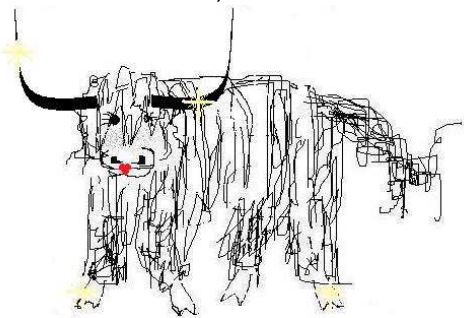
General Indications can include:

- Lameness after a fall or accident where alternative causes have been ruled out
- Uncharacteristic changes in behaviour, performance or temperament
- Limb-dragging or odd, irregular action
- Recurrence of symptoms previously successfully treated by manipulation
- Absence of any resolution of the problem using conventional methods
- Rehabilitation after acute trauma for horses, dogs and cats

Thanks Bethan, and we hope that you'll come and talk to HCCW sometime next year.

HETTIE

Is this what they call show Condition?



**DATES FOR YOUR 2008 DIARY:
October 25th HCCW Forum**

Venue: Near Lampeter

£8.00 per person for the day

Booking is essential as places are limited; to secure a place please send your confirmation and £8.00 to: Annie May (organiser) (address in Committee address book on page10)

A Forum and Social Day to help new breeders to meet more established breeders to exchange experience and information. This will be a very informal event with the emphasis on getting to know each other or meeting up with old friends.

11.00 Start time: (tea/coffee and registration)

11.30 Forum

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Discussion and Social

16.00 Tea and depart

**HCCW Christmas Dinner
6th December 2008**

As last year's Christmas dinner met with so much approval, the Club's annual AGM and Christmas Dinner will be at Nuadd Henllan (the Stockman's Accommodation) Llanelwedd RWAS Builtth Wells again.

We are hoping once more to offer Highland Beef with all the trimmings and a choice of starters and sweets. You can bring your own drinks of whatever sort and there is overnight accommodation with an excellent breakfast in the morning. Why not make a weekend of it? Dietary preferences are catered for and children's portions on offer.

Booking is essential for this event as places are limited. A booking form will be sent out nearer the time.

LAMPETER SHOW

The day was bright and sunny as Dafydd Morgans and the Spawtons competed at the Lampeter Show. Once again, as at the RWAS we were struggling to find competitors because of the Bluetongue ban.

Dafydd came away with the 3 year old rosette and the Championship with his black 4 year old bull that he bought in Oban last year. A splendid beast, and The May snapped up the yearling rosette, the two year old; the cow with calf at foot, and little Baravalla Oigrheag 1st got the Reserve breed champion rosette

CLASSIFIED ADS

Next copy date November 20th 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

Any page size you want, just let me know.

Take advantage of this free facility to sell your cattle!



For Sale

One 1998 Red Cow in calf, well bred from May Fold.

One four year old Black Cow in calf
A number of this year's calves. heifers, bulls, and steers.

Contact

Dai Ormond on 07831 111896

or

Waterwynch@btinternet.com

www.waterwynch.com

HIGHLANDS FOR SALE.

TWO 5 YEAR OLD STEERS – RED.

TWO 1 YEAR OLD STEERS – WHITE.

Contact Paul on 01685 881209

(Mid Glamorgan).

FREE USE OF GOOD BULL

Young yellow bull. Very calm (appreciates a scratch) and will follow a bucket anywhere!

Excellent bloodlines – sire Coinneach of Cim (George) and grandsire Toisiche Mor of Torloisk. Sired 4 cracking bull calves from 4 cows last year.

Free to borrow from November to March.

We will pay first TB test and can deliver and pick up over reasonable distance.

Please call Mike or Stella Whyte on 01948 710302 (Wem SY4 5NP) after 4pm and weekends.

FOR SALE

THE MAY FOLD

Breeding you can Trust

RORY DUBH 1ST of The May

- ✦ Out of Molag 1st of The May and Sired by Gille Dubh 5th of Killochries. Rory's mother, Molag, is one of our quietest cows and Rory has inherited her temperament. He was at the Royal Welsh Show in July and was much admired by the judge and the public for his robust conformation and his tranquil temperament. Quality black bulls are in very short supply and this one, with his amenable nature, is ideal for a new or novice breeder.

AN UISEAG 3RD OF CRAIGOWMILL

- ✦ 8 year old Cow with very stout black bull calf at foot (hidden in the long grass). Consistently produces quality offspring. From Leachy bloodlines which are our favourites.

MAGDHEAN DHUBH 13TH OF BALINOE

- ✦ 6 year old Black cow with black heifer calf at foot and in calf to Gille Dubh 5th of Killochries. Magdhean comes from 5 generations of black breeding on both sides of her pedigree.

Contact:

Geoff Spawton

Telephone: 01570 423 080

Email: geoff@themay.co.uk

www.themay.co.uk





COMMITTEE ADDRESS BOOK

Howard Dare (Treasurer)

Bryn Hebog
Brechfa
Carmarthen
Telephone 01267 202 291
Email: howard.dare@tiscali.co.uk



Annie May (Newsletter)

Geoff Spawton (Chair)

Gilfachwen
Cellan
Lampeter
SA48 8HL
Telephone: 01570 423080
Email: info@themayorganifarms.co.uk



For Sale

Five cows, various ages with calves at foot.
Two cows, one yellow, one red, DoB 97 and 94.

Bull, Lasgaire Ruadh of Millerston, red, DoB
08/03/2002. Reliable and working

Two 2 year old bulls, one yellow, one red/yellow
Two yearling bulls, yellow

Two 2 year old heifers, yellow

Near Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan
Contact: Howard Jones 07976 668217

Liz McCombe (Vice Chair)

Great House Farm
Earlswood
Chepstow
NP16 6AT
01291 652957
Email: lizmccombe@btinternet.com



Dai Ormond

Waterwynch
Red Roses
Carmarthen



*

**Two registered highland heifers for sale, ready
September. Also highland cow with steer calf at
foot-has been running with highland bull
Tel 01443 411137 mobile 07784871502**

Mo Morgan (Club Secretary)

Charles Morgan

Wenallt
Llabduesant
Llangadog
Carmarthen
SA19 9TP
01550 740206
E-mail: mo@phoncoop@coop

(Pictures pending)

Post Script

The following were sent after the newsletter was put to bed but really needed to be included!

“Fioled won her second in the native breed heifer (any age) class. Guess what breed the winner was - no prizes! She was a very beautiful pedigree Welsh Black, though, with a very friendly owner, whose short coat (heifer's, not owner's) looked lovely and glossy in the rain. Being white, Fi stood like a dripping ghostly gruffalo next to her, but at least she didn't mind the weather. Chepstow hasn't had Highlanders before, so we had rarity value!”

Liz McCombe

For Annette please add the surname Redpath throughout.