



Highland Cattle Club of Wales Newsletter

Issue 47 - Spring 2011



www.hccw.org.uk

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Spring Show and Sale of Pedigree and Unregistered Highland Cattle

(to be held under the auspices of
The Highland Cattle Society)

CHELFORD

AGRICULTURAL CENTRE
Chelford, Macclesfield, SK11 9AX

SATURDAY 30TH APRIL 2011

Show at 9.00 am, Sale at 11.00 am

Contact: Frank Marshall Auctioneers
01625 861122

gwyn.williams@frankmarshall.co.uk

Welcome to the following new members:

Geraint & Eleri Hughes (Ucheldir Fold)

Bryn Pyll Farm, Trefriw, Conwy, LL27 0JP

01492 641379

geraint.hughes@yahoo.co.uk

John Hawksworth (Tan Drwfwl Fold)

Tan Drwfwl, Nasareth, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL54 6DU

01286 881174

John.Hawksworth@hotmail.com

Richard Lee (Trawsnant Fold)

Trawsnant, Rhosfach, Clynderwen, Pembrokeshire, SA66 7QP

07966 298722

rlagriservices@btinternet.com

Front and back cover photos courtesy of Becky Rowlands

Photos pages 7 and 9 courtesy of Annie May

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of HCCW

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR



As you can see if you are reading a paper copy of this newsletter, it has not been printed in colour. This was a reluctant but necessary decision forced on us by rising costs of production. However, the electronic version of the newsletter is in full colour, and can be emailed to you or found on the HCCW website at www.hccw.org.uk. There will continue to be three copies of the newsletter each year *for as long as we have information to put in it!* Please, please put pen to paper

and let us have your ideas, reports of shows, cattle you have seen, questions you would like answered, in fact, anything to do with Highlands. If you can send in a photo or two as well, we would be grateful.

The club are hoping to hold a social on Saturday evening at the Smallholders Festival in May: details are elsewhere in the newsletter. If you can come please do, we would love to see you.

The committee have decided on a change of venue for the Christmas Dinner this year, so it will be on Saturday 3rd December at the New Inn, Newbridge on Wye, just north of Builth Wells. There is a large function room, so we are hoping to have music and possibly dancing, and there is accommodation as well. More details will follow later.

Changes in policy are likely to have a profound effect on agriculture in general, and the club is starting to become involved in the consultation procedure. HCCW have commented upon the proposed increase in abattoir charges and the effect it will have on the small slaughterhouse and beef producer. This particular consultation has met with almost universal opposition: it will be interesting to see what happens. Another current consultation concerns the new EU agricultural policy. If you have an interest in the direction farming is being taken and would like to take part (reading an 83 page document cures insomnia if nothing else) let me know.

Thank you all for your support during 2010.

Looking forward to a successful year,

Dates for your diary

Keep your eyes open for more details of these and other happenings!

Join us at the Smallholders Show in Builth Wells on Saturday 21st May. The club are having a get together at 5.30pm, so if you're at the show, come and join us on the stand..... For the first time there are show classes this year. If you would like to show and haven't done it before, we have some hints and tips and also a buddy system starting up, contact any member of the committee and they will put you in touch with someone in your area who shows and will be pleased to help.

The Hardham Highlanders Open Day will take place on Saturday 10th September. They are near Pulborough in Sussex, so the HCCW committee is considering arranging a bus and accommodation for a couple of nights if enough of us want to go. Sandy and Rob Tedbury have built up their fold considerably over the last few years and also farm a commercial herd.

Annie and Geoff invite us to The May on Sunday 25th September. The May is an organic fold in the hills of Ceredigion, ideal country for the highlander and they thrive on it. Annie and Geoff started HCCW and are always happy to share their experience and expertise, so do come and see the May, it's fascinating! More details will follow later.

2010 AGM

At our annual meeting in December we said a sad goodbye to Annie May, who decided to stand down from the committee after years of service (makes her sound like a washing machine, sorry, Annie!). As I'm sure you are aware, Annie and Geoff started HCCW and made it work so that the rest of us have a useful network of experience and knowledge to call upon. Geoff remains on the committee as show coordinator, for which we are very grateful, and we wish Annie a happy "retirement", although we'll doubtless be calling on her at sometime!

We also bade farewell to Judith Holland, our club Treasurer. Judith managed the financial affairs of the club efficiently and apparently effortlessly for several years. Sadly demands upon her time meant that she couldn't continue on the committee. She will be much missed, and we wish her and David all the best in the future.

For the time being, Mike McCombe will act as temporary treasurer, keeping the books and accounts, but will not be part of the committee.

Dafydd Morgans agreed to join us last summer, and has been invaluable at shows where his larger than life presence makes a huge impact on the punters. He also has some excellent ideas for the club and is a useful source of hints and tips on cattle generally.

Welcome to Olwen Ford and Angela Handley, our new members, both "doers" who bring energy and ideas to the committee. The committee is now quite spread out round Wales and is fairly representative of the club membership.

Special thanks go to Mo Morgan, who as Secretary does so much unsung work for HCCW, including organising and editing the newsletter, stands for shows, writing to new and prospective members. There is much more to her job than this, but basically she makes sure the club functions smoothly and it wouldn't work without her.

So, upwards and onwards to another year – may the new committee all enjoy themselves and not work too hard!

Royal Welsh Show July 18th - 21st

The Highland Cattle Society will again have a stand at the Royal Welsh Show this year. HCS is cutting back on its presence at shows and is only attending two south of the border this season.

So, I know you have probably switched off by now because you think I'm only going to ask for money from you, *but not this time!*

HCCW are looking for sponsors for the stand, and if you know of any business connected with cattle that might welcome some publicity at RWAS, *on a stand conveniently close to the show ring that gets a lot of visitors, including the media*, please let Liz or Mo know. It need not be a huge investment but could gain the advertiser valuable publicity.

EVENTS

A social get together at the Smallholders' Show

When: Saturday, 21st May
Where: Highland cattle stand @ 5.30pm
With: Food, drink, even some dancing

We thought it would be nice to have a social evening: an opportunity to meet other members, exchange stories and generally chat. Come along and have a laugh amongst friends. Contribution of a plate of food from each of us would be brilliant. Bring your own drinks.



If you could let Becky know if you are thinking of attending to give an idea of numbers that would be fantastic.
Ring 07971 638727 or email becky@silverlinning.orangehome.co.uk

A visit to West Sussex

Sandy and Rob Tedbury have kindly invited everyone to their fold in Pulborough, West Sussex, on Saturday 10th September. They have about 30 breeding Highland cows, plus a sizeable commercial herd, and at one point Rob did have five Highland bulls. It should be an interesting visit: theirs is a fairly new fold and they show over most of the South of England.

As it is some distance, especially for HCCW members from central and west Wales, the committee thought that if there was enough interest we could hire transport and make an outing of it. The idea is to collect people from one or two meeting points on Friday and spend Saturday at the Tedbury's, returning home on Sunday. Overnight stays will be in Travel Lodges or equivalent. If there are not enough of us for a bus, we can at least share cars to cut costs.

If you are interested in attending, please can you send your name/s to Liz by June 1st.

The May Fold Visit

Sunday 25th September ~ Cellan, Lampeter, Ceredigion

The May Organic Farms is a collection of small farms and conservation land comprising some 540 acres that we manage under an organic regime. The unusual mainstay of these is a fold of Highland Cattle. Highland cattle are commonly seen as either a Smallholder's animal or, if in large numbers, for the very wealthy; although this perception is changing now. The terrain is very harsh and is divided between wet and boggy ground and mountain. The Fold comprises around 50 head of cattle at present.

The Fold visit will include a round trip by flat bed trailer to visit the various grazing areas and a look at the new Beef Shorthorn enterprise. If it's fine we will be able to picnic from the trailer. If it's wet lunch will be served in the big barn back at the farm and afterwards there will be a talk/entertainment of some kind to doze gently while you digest your lunch!

Annie May



Oban Bull Show & Sale and Society AGM

13th & 14th February 2011

By Liz McCombe

There were 43 bulls forward at the sale this year, 23 of them were two year olds. All bulls were frame scored this year prior to the sale. The Champion was Eoin Mhor 3rd of Mottistone, bred and sold by Mr Michael Poland and purchased by Jim McConachie for 6,000 guineas. The champion senior heifer, Lady 35th of Callachally, sold for 3,000 guineas, the champion three year old heifer was withdrawn but the reserve, a three year old heifer, Capleadh Glaschu 3rd of Craigowmill, also sold for 3,000 guineas. There was lively interest from abroad, with beasts selling to Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Belgium and Finland. A full report, with average prices, may be found on the HCS website: www.highlandcattlesociety.com/shows_sales/show_results.aspx

At the AGM various matters were considered. The constitution will be changed in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Commission. The next Gathering will be held in New Zealand in November 2014. There was some debate about the efficiency of the bull scoring: members felt that rib eye scanning would be more accurate. Two workshops explaining the Sygnet method of performance recording cattle, one in Stirling and one south of the border, probably in Yorkshire. Keep an eye on the website for more news.

Four new members of Council were elected: Alan Blackburn, Jim McConachie, Iain Mackay and Ginny Stacey Marks.

Registering Your Calves

By Liz McCombe

Not all HCCW members have cattle, and not all of those who have animals breed them, but if you have breeding cattle you *do* need to join the Highland Cattle Society to be able to register your heifer calves or notify your bull calves and obtain any premium on them when you sell them. The dam and the sire also have to be registered, so it is worth checking when you buy as there is a transfer fee for change of ownership and a new pedigree certificate will be issued to the new owner.

Non registered cattle cause problems when they are sold on, as they cannot be bred as pure Highland unless they have a pedigree certificate. Cattle cannot go to a pedigree sale unless they have a certificate.



Registering is best done as soon as possible after birth, as it becomes progressively more expensive after the first year. Registering a female at five months costs only £12 + VAT @ 20%: registering her when she is over four years old costs £100 + VAT @20%.

Joining and fold name registration fees are added to the initial subscription. For this year until 30th November they are as follows:

Annual (VAT at 5.7%)	£68.84	£73.00
Joining Fee (VAT at 20%)	£15.00	£18.00
Fold Name Registration Fee (VAT 20%)	£10.00	£12.00

In addition to the subscription, each animal should be registered – it is an expensive business!

Animal Registration Fees

Female (up to 6months) £14.40 (£12 + £2.40 vat)

Female (6mths to 12mths) £21.60 (£18.00 + £3.60 vat)

Birth Notifications

Male £3.60 (£3.00 + 60p vat)

Please note bulls cannot be registered until 14mths, they must be DNA tested

Male (2yrs and over) £144.00 (£120.00 + £24.00 vat)

Transfer Fee Transfer Registration £36.00 (£30.00 + £6.00 vat)

For all cattle transfers/registrations/birth notifications (or any herdbook related enquiry) the enquiries number is: 01786 446800, or email: info@highlandcattlesociety.com

NB A full list of fees and categories may be found at
www.highlandcattlesociety.com/society/database.aspx

NB It is assumed for this guide that your animal has been haltered previously.

Thinking of showing: Get an idea from visiting shows, asking questions. Start off with a local show get yourself into it gently. Ring your nearest committee member and ask them to put you in touch with someone who shows and is willing to let you see them prepare their animals.

Which animal to show: There are always fellow breeders that can help you decide or just use your own opinion and go for it. We all have our own likes and dislikes. There is plenty of advice and knowledge, you keep learning as you go along. You can choose bits from everyone and make them work for you.

TB testing for shows: The one day open air shows don't need a TB test. The housed one day shows need a TB test. Any show of more than one day needs a TB test. This gives you an idea.

Before the show: This is best done in a relaxed way allowing plenty of time although most animals get the idea within a few days. Get to know your animal - tie them up safely. Keep an eye on them, maybe give them a hay net to munch on, getting them used to being on the halter. Don't be in a hurry to lead them: tie them to a gate or other solid object so that they can pull against it rather than dragging you all over the place. Combing them and handling them gently all over calms them down beautifully. Talk quietly to them, it boosts their confidence and when they do something that makes you raise your voice they'll know they have done the wrong thing. Have a radio going, plastic bags blowing in the wind, sudden sounds and vehicles passing them to get them used to noise. Tie them higher once they are used to it to get them used to holding their head up. Usual commands are walk on, stand, back, move over, and they soon learn, which makes your life a lot easier.

Equipment needed:

Halters: There are so many out there but a couple of pointers to keep in mind:

Ring halters: These are easier for washing as when wet can be still moved easily.

Non ringed halters: These are better for showing as you have more control as halter stays in place.

Halter length: Important for leading and tying up. Some are too short.
The material: Cotton ones are easier on the hands. Also look better for showing as they can be washed easily. You can also get them in various colours to complement your animal's coat.

Neck straps and lead ropes: These give extra security when the cow's tied up and are often required by the show management.

Buckets: At least one bucket for washing, and couple of buckets for carrying drinking water. Feed buckets: the flexible ones seem to work well. Get your animal used to the bucket, whether you're feeding or washing with it, before the show.

Show box: Handy to keep all the bits and bobs in (brushes, combs, horn oil (baby oil), drawing pins, staples and staple gun, show halters, pen knife and anything else you can think of); they don't need to be expensive ones; also handy as a table to put promotional papers on.

Fold sign: You can make these yourself or get printed ones; canvas or wood. Whatever you like to put on it; photos, information, your contact details to promote your fold.

Fodder: The big shows normally supply straw for bedding but always check. You need to bring your own hay and feed. Some people also take their own water.

Most of all enjoy yourselves and have fun, taking part is the main part of showing - winning is a bonus. Never be afraid to ask for advice.

On top of the above, kindly provided by Becky Rowlands, one of HCCW's most experienced and successful show people, the following personal equipment may be necessary:

White coats, shirt and tie (and trousers rather than jeans for the larger shows).

Stout boots, ideally steel toe capped for those moments when she steps suddenly sideways.

Gloves can make handling easier as well.

Show stick to "place" your animal in front of the judge – you can gently encourage it to move its feet if it decides to stand cross legged. This needs plenty of practice beforehand.

Summer Shows 2011

By Mike McCombe

For your diary, here is a list of shows in and around Wales during the Summer of 2011. Shows which have classes specifically for Highland Cattle are shown in **bold** type. If you're aware of any other shows which ought to be included, please let us know!

Nefyn Annual Show	2nd May
Shropshire County Show	14th-15th May
Smallholders' Show	21st-22nd May
Royal Bath & West Show	1st-4th June
Aberystwyth & Ceredigion County Show	11th June
Three Counties Show	17th-19th June
Royal Highland Show	23rd-26th June
Royal Welsh Show	18th-21st July
Cardigan County Show	27th July
Oswestry Show	6th August
St Mellons Show	6th August
Anglesey Show	9th-10th August
Chepstow Show	13th August
Llanilar Show	13th August
Lampeter Show	TBA
Mid-Somerset Show	21st August
Pembrokeshire Show	16th-18th August
Denbigh & Flint Show	18th August
Monmouth Show	25th August
Usk Show	10th September
Newbury Show	17th-18th September

This list is also available on the club's website at www.hccw.org.uk, from where you can find links to the shows' own websites.

FOR SALE AND WANTED

Advertisements are free to members, so if you have any livestock, equipment, other items or services for sale or wanted, please use this space. Sales and Wants are also listed on the club's website: www.hccw.org.uk. Please send items for the next issue to Mo Morgan by **15th June 2011**.

Cow with calf at foot - Sorcha Solas 3rd of The May (30/04/2001 out of Rory Riabhach 1st of the May and Wyna 18th of Glenquoich); also

Heifer - Ginger Bunny of Mile End (24/03/2008 out of Orragh Feie of Garfield and Sorcha Solas 3rd of The May).

Both are very quiet and good natured.

Please ring Judith and David on 01267 232144 or 07799168539 evenings/weekends for more details.



WANTED - Quantity of Highland cows and heifers to join my commercial spring calving herd in the Preseli Hills.

Anything considered.

Please contact: Richard Lee 07966 298722 or 01437 532276.

FOR SALE: HEIFERS x 3

North Wales/Shropshire Border.

2 Red Heifers: Born March 09

1 Yellow Heifer: Born April 10

Good breeding and temperament.

Contact: Mike Whyte

Tel (H): 01948 710302

Tel (M): 07940 836874

Email: mwhyte@t-e-s.co.uk

For Sale

One red two year old heifer,

one dun and one black

three year old heifers -

from good bloodlines -

pedigree and organic -

further details on request

or at www.wenallt.com

Contact Charles Morgan

Tel: 01550 740206

Email: wenallt@wenallt.com



Selection of Cattle for Sale

**Excellent bloodlines,
temperament and
conformation**

A few yearlings and some weaned calves ready for sale.
Good conformation and some rare and interesting bloodlines.
Quiet and easy to handle.
Most colours.

For more information:

www.themay.co.uk

or

Contact: Geoff Spawton

The May Organic Farms

Gilfachwen

Cellan

Lampeter

SA48 8HL

Telephone: 01570 423 080

Email: geoff@themay.co.uk



Organic cows and heifers for sale

Cows in calf with calves at foot

Phiobaidh of Merryfield in calf to Forbes 1st of The May, with twin heifers at foot Phiobaidh 4th and 5th of Hangingheld born 01/05/2010
Phiobaidh of Hangingheld in calf to Forbes 1st of The May, with heifer at foot Phiobaidh Te Riabhach of Hangingheld born 13/09/2010

Heifers

Phiobaidh 3rd of Hangingheld born 01/06/2009
Bhoidheach of Hangingheld born 21/07/2009
Bhoidheach Geal of Hangingheld born 20/12/2008

Contact: Nell Wilson

Tel: 01544 350 633 or Text: 07534374842 or

Email: hangingheldfarm@btinternet.com

Young Highland Bull For Hire

500002 of Loch Maree, UK184533300021, DOB: 19/03/2009

Contact: Will & Lynda Jones, 01550 750292, Llandoverly, Carmarthenshire

WATERWYNCH - Home of the Rowston Fold

Organic, pure bred stock always available.

Bloodlines include Torloisk, Killochries and The May.

Naturally reared on 250 acres at Marros Mountain, Red Roses, Carmarthenshire. Soil Association certified.

IBR, BVD, Lepto and Johnes accredited.

Enquiries: Dai Ormond: 07831 111896

www.waterwynch.co.uk

Committee Address Book

Liz McCombe (Chair)

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

Howard Dare

Brynhebog, Brechfa
Carmarthen, SA32 7QR
01267 202291
howard_dare@yahoo.co.uk

Dafydd Morgans

Blaengorlech
Gwernogle
Carmarthenshire
SA32 7RT
01267 223253

Olwen Ford

Llan Farm, Llanfrothen
Penrhyndeudraeth
Gwynedd, LL48 6DU
01766 770399

Mo Morgan (Secretary & Newsletter Editor)

Charles Morgan
Wenallt, Llanddeusant
Llangadog, SA19 9TP
01550 740206
mo@phonecoop.coop

Geoff Spawton (Show Co-ordinator)

Gilfachwen, Cellan
Lampeter, SA48 8HL
01570 423080
geoff@themay.co.uk

Becky Rowlands

Pentrecelyn
Llanbrynmair
Powys, SY19 7DZ
07971 638727
becky@silverlinning.orangehome.co.uk

Angela Handley

Quarry Farm
Dorstone
Herefordshire, HR3 6BL
01981 550096



DIARY DATES

- 30th April Chelford Show & Sale (see page 2)
- 21st-22nd May Smallholders' Show
- 21st May Social Get Together (see page 6)
- 18th-21st July Royal Welsh Show
- 10th September Hardham Highlands Open Day
(see page 6)
- 25th September The May Fold Visit (see page 7)
- 3rd December AGM & Christmas Dinner

