



**Whitebred** Newsletter  
August  
2013

# Shorthorn

*WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME  
TO ALL NEW MEMBERS THIS  
YEAR*

*TO ALL MEMBERS  
YOUR NEWS AND VIEWS ARE  
IMPORTANT TO US . ARTICLES  
FOR OUR CHRISTMAS NEWSLET-  
TER SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER  
WILL BE VERY WELCOME*

*PLEASE CONTACT JANE  
AT THE OFFICE*

*T: 01434 240 435*

*E: [whitebredshorthorn@gmail.com](mailto:whitebredshorthorn@gmail.com)*

## ***STOP PRESS!***

*Visit to Dumfries House Farm*

*10th September 11am for 11.30am  
The visit to the farm and Morrison's  
herd of Rothesay Whitebred Shorthorn  
will take about one and a half hours.  
There is then the option to take lunch  
in the café, followed by a visit to Dum-  
fries House or just look around.*

*For refreshments, it would be great to  
have an idea of numbers before hand  
Please let the Association secretary  
know if you wish to attend.*

*T: 01434 240 435*

*E: [whitebredshorthorn@gmail.com](mailto:whitebredshorthorn@gmail.com)*

*Directions on page 4*

*Look forward to seeing you there!*



## *CHAIRMAN'S REPORT*

As I write in early August we have just finished silage. The crop is less than usual due to the bad spring, it being too dry in June or to the fields not being over the water-logging of last year. Will these weather inflicted problems never end?

The survey carried out by the Association earlier this year has yielded some interesting information, the results of which are published elsewhere in the newsletter (page 8).

The Blue Grey group had a promotional stand at the Royal Highland Show, which I attended on the Friday. The stand was busy on all four days with many people expressing interest in breeding females. On the stand was a 9 year old Blue Grey cow with an exceptional 4 month old Charolais cross calf which left visitors to the stand in no doubt as to the potential of the Whitebred cross suckler cow. Many thanks to Willie Porter for supplying the cow and calf and to all the people who helped on the stand. Later I spent 3 days at the Great Yorkshire Show and while the foot fall was not as great as at the Highland, most were interested as to where and when cattle could be bought. The message finally seems to be getting through that the Whitebred Cross cow will suit many farming systems and we must keep our cattle at the forefront of peoples minds.

It has also come to my attention that three Whitebred Shorthorn bulls have been exported to Germany and though there may not be a large trade with the Continent it is good news all the same and we wish then every success.

I hope this reaches you all well and please remember that I will be happy to help with any queries.

Yours

Tom Robinson

### *DATES FOR YOUR DIARY*

Tuesday 10th September Visit to Dumfries House farm 11am for 11.30 am

Friday 1st November Borderway Agri-Expo, Carlisle Mart

Friday 8th November Whitebred Shorthorn sale at Carlisle Mart

Friday 8th November Association Council meeting at 2pm H&H Carlisle Mart

### *SECRETARIES NOTES*

Thank you for your support over my first few months with you. I hope you will find the survey from non- members interesting and useful. Please use the information to promote our breed. If you would like some breed information leaflets for this purpose please contact the office.

Whitebred Shorthorn cattle at Dumfries House are an exciting development over the past year in raising the profile of our breed with the general public. Morrison's Supermarket support of the Whitebred Shorthorn & Whitebred crosses through the premium scheme presents an important and exciting opportunity for the breed. I look forward to meeting many of you at Dumfries House on Tuesday 10th September.

Best Wishes

Jane

## *AN ALTERNATIVE TO A BULL - USING AI*

**I**t can be tricky to find a bull that is sufficiently unrelated to your cows, or you may find yourself with some heifers that you don't want to put back to their sire, in which case it is well worth considering using Artificial Insemination.

The Rare Breeds Survival Trust has semen from five bulls on general sale through the AI company Genus and it is relatively simple to order straws –just call Genus on 0870 1622000

or email [jwilliams@genusbreeding.co.uk](mailto:jwilliams@genusbreeding.co.uk) with the name of the bull, the breed and the number of straws you require. You will also need to give them your Genus Account number, or if you do not have an account, the invoice address and the address where the cattle are kept. Genus have a network of technicians around the

country but not every area is covered so it is worth phoning them to check they operate in your area.

The cost is £10 per straw including VAT plus a consignment fee of £5. Many people order two straws per cow, and serve the cow twice 12 hours apart.

The bulls available are listed below, if you need advice on which bull would be most suitable for your cows or heifers then do contact Jane Wilson, Secretary of the Whitebred Shorthorn Association, who will be able to help you select the least related bulls. She will also be able to put you in touch with other members who have used AI for more help and advice.

**Ruth Dalton**  
**Northern Field Officer, RBST**

<b>Name of Bull</b>	<b>SIRE Name &amp; Registration No.</b>	<b>Dam Name &amp; Registration No.</b>
Corrie Reiver HB No 11759	Wester Hero HB No 11289	Corrie Marilyn HB No 05524
Longley Talisman Hb No 11790	Raeburnfoot Victor HB No 11829	Murtholm Twinkle 7 <sup>th</sup> HB No 05632
Murtholm Parky HB No 11592	Park Winston HB No 11436	Murtholm Twinkle HB No 05214
Spoutbank Gay Gordon HB No 11621	Allensgreen Ivan HB No 11488	Park Jaine 9 <sup>th</sup> HB No 05577
Torr Comet HB No 11963	High Creoch Bombadier HB No 11792	Barlure Buttercup HB No 05576

It would also be helpful to know of any other bulls available by AI  
Please let the Office know. It helps to keep these records .



**BREED ANALYSIS 2007 -2012**  
*Animals Registered with the Association*  
 Figures taken from Grassroots Systems Data

				Members	Non Members	Total Breeders
		Males	Females			
01/01/2007	31/12/2007	35	44	23	2	25
01/01/2008	31/12/2008	43	47	21	3	24
01/01/2009	31/12/2009	41	35	24	2	26
01/01/2010	31/12/2010	42	42	21	1	22
01/01/2011	31/12/2011	59	50	20	2	22
01/01/2012	31/12/2012	43	67	24	2	26

***Directions to Morrison's Farm at Dumfries House, KA18 2NJ***

NB The Farm is not in Dumfriesshire but in Ayrshire.

A Satnav will get you to the area but depending on make can lead you to one of several farms in the vicinity. The Farm is situated off the B7036 between Ochiltree and Auchinleck.

**If travelling from the south**

Either come up the M74 and off at Junc. 12 or up the A76 both will lead you into Cumnock. From Cumnock take the A76 to Auchinleck.

In Auchinleck turn left at the traffic lights towards Ochiltree, just as you come out the village you pass under a flyover turn immediately left sign posted Dumfries House.

Follow this track down and the Farm sits in on your right hand side.

**If Travelling from Glasgow**

Take the A77 south and come off on to the A76 (the Dumfries turn off).

Through Mauchline

At the roundabout (The Templeton Roundabout) as you enter Auchinleck take the 1<sup>st</sup> exit into the village.

As soon as you are over the roundabout turn immediately right.

Over a hump backed bridge (with traffic lights) to T junction.

Turn right under the fly over.

Turn immediately left down the track sign posted Dumfries House

Follow the track down and the Farm sits in on your right hand side.

**Andrew Robinson**  
**Farm manager**

## ***BEN LEDI WHITEBRED SHORTHORNS***

**N**ovember 2011 saw the arrival of the first Whitebred Shorthorns for the new Ben Ledi herd at Gartchonzie Farm, Callander, Perthshire. Gartchonzie Farm lies to the west of Callander, with stunning views to the north and Ben Ledi.

Females were bought from several long established herds after considerable time and effort visiting most of the remaining herds and identifying suitable animals. Once identified, animals were subjected to health screening with the requirement that they test clear for Johne's, BVD, IBR and Leptospirosis. Only "clean" animals were then purchased.

The stock bull is Blackburn Grafter, a Lochdochart Nemo son out of a Milnholm cow. He was selected for his wonderful temperament, length and excellent deep fleshing. His first crop of calves are looking very promising. Artificial Insemination has also been used this year with three of the best cows now confirmed in calf to a 1979 bull, Wolfhills

Chieftain. These semen straws were found after an extensive search of vets and AI practitioners in the north and west of Scotland. Their collection on the Islands of Islay and Tiree proved to be mini holidays due to the travel distance and ferry time involved.

The main market for Whitebred Shorthorn bulls in North and West Scotland is to Highland Cattle Folds for use crossing with their heifers and the cows that are not being bred pure. In the early years of the Whitebred Shorthorn Association there were 6 pure Whitebred Shorthorn herds in Argyll and the islands supplying this need. The Whitebred Shorthorn delivers a superb first cross female when mated to the Highland cow. These heifers are increasingly in demand as a hardy, long lived and milky suckler cow. The male calves show a 50+ kilo weight advantage at weaning over pure Highland calves and in the region of £200 cash advantage.



The Highland Cattle Society has a very good health status with many of the Folds having elite health status. The availability of crossing sires matching this status is highly attractive to them, especially if they can view them within relatively easy travelling distance. Gartchonzie Farm is an ideal location in that it has no farming neighbours (Health Scheme) and is also notorious for ticks and the diseases they carry! Stock for sale will have high levels of immunity to tick borne diseases.

*Ben Ledi Joe 2nd a Blackburn Grafter son*





Above: Some of the Ben Ledi 2013 Calf crop



Above: Yearling Heifers



Above: Two year old heifers.

All photos by Donald Hendry.

The Munro Ben Ledi in the background of photos above

(Animals from non-tick areas are at high risk when exposed to tick with risk of anything from temporary sterility through to fairly sudden death from Louping ill and Redwater).

There are currently 12 Whitebred Shorthorn cows and in-calf heifers at Gartchonzie with animals from many of the well-known herds including, Blackburn, Byers Hall, Lochdochart, Longley and Parton. The aim is to keep the herd at around this number and to try and encourage new breeders through the availability of both bulls and heifers.

A Ben Ledi young bull has been purchased by the monitor farmer in Mull, Mr Iain Mackay. Iain plans to use the bull on two year old Highland heifers, using the easy calving characteristics of the Whitebred Shorthorn to allow calving at three years of age instead of the traditional 4 years of age. He currently uses a Simmental bull on the crossing element of his Highland cows but is finding this takes too much out of some of his cows, causing them to miss a breeding year. He will use the Whitebred Shorthorn to reduce the demand on the cow but at the same time still giving him a very valuable cross calf to sell. It will be very good publicity for our breed.

**Donald Hendry**

## *Whitebred Shorthorn Sale March 2013*

**H**arrison & Hetherington Ltd conducted the spring sale of Registered Whitebred Shorthorn Cattle on behalf of members of the Whitebred Shorthorn Association on Friday 1st March 2013 when 7 bulls and 3 females were forward.

The judge Mr George Bell, Dene Bank, Langholm awarded the Championship to Parton Promotion, a June 2011 bull bred and exhibited by Messrs Hewson, Burgh Head Farm, Burgh By Sands, Carlisle. Sired by Barlaes Dictator and out of a homebred dam, Promotion was sold for 3,000gns and now travels to Cornwall with Mr Cornelius, St. Breward.

Hottbank Regent an April 2011 bull, sired by Blackburn Marshall and bred by

JRF Pattinson, Hott Bank, Bardon Mill, Hexham realised 1,600gns, writing this cheque Messrs Dodd, Low Closegill, Brampton. This was followed at 1,100gns by Hottbank Reiver, a half brother to Regent, who makes his new home with Messrs Taylor, Consett.

In the female section, three heifers from Messrs Fergusson, Barlaes, Dalry, topped with Barlaes Royal Heather 14th, sired by High Creoch Fanfare selling at 1,350gns to Messrs Ions, High Thorneyburn, Falstone. This was followed by two at 1,000gns each, Barlaes Heather Bell 3rd to Messrs Richardson, Carnforth and Heather Bell 4th to Mr Blair, Dalrymple.



Parton Promotion

# *Whitebred Shorthorn Database*

In order to bring the Whitebred Shorthorn database up to date a survey was sent out in May to non-members of the Association, who were on the database as owning registered stock.

The survey included a short questionnaire the results of which are shown in the table below.

Many thanks to all those returning a completed survey form.

<b>Summary Analysis</b>	<b>%</b>
Questionnaires issued	(78) 100%
Questionnaires returned	(30) 38%
<b>What is the bull used for?</b>	
Pure breeding	12%
Cross breeding	88%
<b>What cows were used for cross breeding?</b>	
Galloway	43%
Highland	37%
Others (Belted Galloway, Dexter, Limousin, Saler, Saler x, Welsh Black)	20%
<b>Do you own pure bred unregistered Whitebred Shorthorn?</b>	
Yes	21%
No	79%
<b>Will you buy another bull or heifer?</b>	
Yes	83%
No	17%
<b>Are you interested in breeding pure Whitebred Shorthorn?</b>	
Yes	54%
No	46%
<b>Are you aware of the Morrison's Premium Scheme?</b>	
Yes	58%
No	42%
<b>Are you interested in receiving the survey results?</b>	
Yes	90%
No	10%

In general blue grey steers are sold as stores or fat while heifer calves are kept or sold for breeding purposes. Sales are usually through markets including: Carlisle, Dingwall, Fort William, Hexham, Longtown, Newcastleton and Oban. Crossbred offspring are valued for hardiness, good feed conversion, easy calving, good mothers and excellent commercial value.

The data was collated by Roger Wilson. If you have any queries or comments please email [rogerwilson01@gmail.com](mailto:rogerwilson01@gmail.com)