



Whitebred

Newsletter
Spring
2014

Shorthorn

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

*TO ALL MEMBERS
YOUR NEWS AND VIEWS ARE
IMPORTANT TO US. ARTICLES
AND PHOTOGRAPHS FOR OUR
NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE VERY
WELCOME*

*PLEASE CONTACT JANE
AT THE OFFICE*

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*Views and comments expressed in the
newsletter are not necessarily those of
the Editor or the Council.*

Herd Book Archive

*Do you have spare Herd
Books?*

*To complete a second set of
Herd Books in the archive it
would be excellent if these
missing books could be found.*

They are 13, 21, 22 & 23.

Please contact the secretary

Tel: 01434 240435

Rosie Mitchinson

*Prior to the sale of
Whitebred Shorthorn cattle on
Friday 28th February
There will be a presentation to
Rosie for her outstanding
contribution to the Association
over 37 years
It would be excellent to see you
all there.*



Rothsay Snow Holly the first calf born at Dumfries House

WHITEBRED SHORTHORN SALE 8TH NOVEMBER 2013

AUCTIONEERS REPORT

A top call of 2,000gns was achieved at the Carlisle Autumn show and sale of Whitebred Shorthorn Cattle, held on behalf of members of the Whitebred Shorthorn Association. Claiming the top price was a homebred bull shown by Newcastleton breeder Gordon Jackson. Blackburn Corker, an April 2012 born son of Lochdochart Nemo and out of a Murtholm Premier bred daughter, joins the Ottercops herd belonging to TJ Robinson of Kirkwhelpington.

Following at 1,500gns was a trio of bulls. First entry to the sale ring secured the first price tag, Byers Hall Vantage shown by HL Whitfield & Son of Haltwhistle. Vantage, sired by Parton Vantage and bred from the herds Queen family, he was knocked down to Messrs Beaty of Windermere.

Tremycin Spartan shown by G & F McIntyre of Thornhill sold for the next 1,500gn price. Sired by Lochdochart Tom and out of a Parton Powerpack bred daughter, Spartan was sold to D Moffat & Sons of Moffat.

A sole entry from G Bell & Co of Langholm also sold for 1,500gns., Bloch Hew, a June 2012 born son of Park William and out of a homebred mother by Bloch Farneyshields Trevor, caught the interest of A Murray & Sons, Hexham.

In the female section, the leading price was 1,700gns for a maiden heifer shown by R & M Fergusson of Castle Douglas. Barleas White Heather 13th, sired by High Creoch Fan fare, was sold to Messrs Wallace of Farney Shields, Ninebanks.

Following at 1,600gns was another maiden heifer offered by Keith Laurie of Brampton. Corrie Ruby 12th, sired by Burnedge Knight, was purchased by RHS Shaw MBE of Borgue.

Also from the Corrie consignment was a heifer selling for 1,400gns. Corrie Ruby 13th a daughter of Corrie Flint sold for 1,400gns going to S Patterson of Crossthaite.



Averages:
4 Bulls £1706.20,
6 Females £1382.50.

*Photo by H&H : Blackburn
Corker and Gordon Jackson*

SHOW REPORT 08 NOVEMBER 2013

Judge: Mr I C Robinson

Bull Class 1

1st Corrie Herald (12212)

Sire: Burnedge Knight (11674)

Dam: Corrie Marilyn 25th (06206)

2nd Byers Hall Vantage (12162)

Sire: Parton Vantage (12031)

Dam: Byers Hall Queen 7th (06149)

3rd Corrie Mercury (12214)

Sire: Burnedge Knight (11674)

Dam: Corrie Marilyn 18th (06001)

Breeder

Mr Keith Laurie

Messrs J T Whitfield

Mr Keith Laurie

Bull Class 2

1st Blackburn Corker (12234)

Sire: Lochdochart Nemo (11937)

Dam: Blackburn Ivory (05938)

Mr G Jackson

2nd Parton Reaper (12240)

Sire: Torr Comet (11963)

Dam: Parton Penelope 44 (06102)

Messrs Hewson

3rd Barlaes Kinsman (12218)

Sire: High Creoch Fanfare (12041)

Dam: Barlaes Royal Heather 7th (06049)

Mrs Fergusson

Female Class

1st Corrie Ruby 12th (06391)

Sire: Burnedge Knight (11674)

Dam: Corrie Ruby 2nd (06003)

Mr Keith Laurie

2nd Barlaes White Heather 13th (06353)

Sire: High Creoch Fanfare (12041)

Dam: Barlaes White Heather 3rd (05831)

Mrs Fergusson

3rd Corrie Ruby 13th (06392)

Sire: Corrie Flint (12064)

Dam: Corrie Ruby 8th (06209)

Mr Keith Laurie

Supreme Champion & Champion Male : Blackburn Corker

Reserve Male: Parton Reaper

Champion Female: Corrie Ruby 12th

Reserve: Barlaes White Heather 13th



Dumfries House Visit

Some thirty five people attended the visit to Dumfries house in September in good weather. Andrew Loftus showed us around the farm and the set up for cattle. We saw the bulls kept including Longley Quartz (next page lower photo). A short walk across the fields to the cows and calves. The cows and calves seemed quite happy to have us all there.

Our thanks to Andrew Loftus for the farm tour, to Andrew Robinson for finding time away from calving to contribute to our conversations and Claire Robinson for the wonderful refreshments at the end of the morning. Many of the group then spent time taking a tour of Dumfries House and exploring the grounds.



Loch Katrine Whitebred Shorthorns

28th January 2014

In 2009 Forestry Commission (Scotland) formed the Katrine Fold of Highland cattle, with young heifers bought in from mostly West coast sources. There are now eighty young cows plus groups of replacements, split into four mini-folds. The cattle graze on the catchment area of Lochs Katrine and Arklet, which together provide the water supply for Glasgow. The total area of the catchment is approximately nine-thousand hectares of which the cattle presently graze about eight-hundred hectares. The land is owned by Scottish Water, and the Forestry Commission have it on a one-hundred and fifty year lease, with the aim of establishing new native woodland and improving the upland habitats on a landscape scale. The cattle at Loch Katrine graze a variety of habitat at different times of year, helping us to improve the condition of open grassland, broad-leaved woodland, upland heath and areas of raised bog.



Initially one Highland bull was purchased, with a view to producing home-bred heifer replacements. The plan from the start was for 90% of the Highland cows to be crossed with another native breed. The choice of crossing breed was an important one to get right, and several breeds were considered.

Highland cow grazing Molinia grass, with Whitebred Shorthorn cross calf at foot.

The cows work hard at Loch Katrine, grazing low quality forage all year round with very little supplementary feeding and low labour input. This meant that continental bulls were ruled-out from the start as they would likely have caused more calving difficulty and produced calves too demanding for small Highland cows in a low input system. The Whitebred Shorthorn breed was selected for a number of reasons, but particularly because they are easy calving, can be out-wintered, are quiet and easily handled, and they have a good health record. Perhaps just as importantly, they are known for producing high quality first cross heifers which are in great demand due their milking and mothering ability, their longevity, and fertility. In 2010 the first Whitebred Shorthorn bull was purchased to run with a batch of twenty bulling Highland heifers. This bull, Longley Talon who is a son of Blackburn Monty out of a Murtholm Twinkle line, still remains at

Katrine and has produced some fantastic first cross calves over the subsequent 3 years. In 2011 more Whitebred cattle arrived, including a small group of yearling heifers, which now form the basis of the Katrine pure Whitebred Shorthorn herd. Presently there are four mature bulls, five young cows, two homebred yearling bulls, and two homebred yearling heifers. The herd is made-up of animals from several sources including Longley, Blackburn, Parton, and Barlaes.

The Katrine cattle are in the SAC Premium Cattle Health Scheme, and all animals have tested clear of the four major diseases when purchased. Annual tests have since confirmed the entire herd as High Health with 'accredited free' status. This is a very valuable detail for buyers of the first cross females, especially so for one



Whitebred Shorthorn cows grazing in the summer.

buyer in 2012 who wanted a group of high health heifers to be used as embryo recipients.

In 2012 a grazing trial was completed which showed the merits of crossing Highland cows with Whitebred Shorthorn bulls as opposed to breeding pure. Whitebred Shorthorn cross steers were run with pure Highland steers under the same management and feeding regime. On the trial the Whitebred Shorthorn cross steers gained significantly better than the pure Highlands and reached slaughter weights significantly faster and well below the 30 month deadline, whilst also producing a carcass of consistently better grading. The price per kilo for Whitebred cross steers is better too, especially if sold as forward stores. The trial showed that by breeding the Highland cows with Whitebred Shorthorn bulls, instead of Highland, the resulting calf crop would gain an average of 0.15kg more per day between 12months of age and finishing. In addition, any animal that is sired by the Whitebred Shorthorn qualifies for the Morrisons Supermarket 30p/kg premium, making the advantage of cross-breeding with the Whitebred even more distinct.

In 2013 this work has been expanded upon, by recording the weights of all cattle at Loch Katrine. This is proving to be an extremely valuable exercise as it will help to inform the



selection of both Highland and Whitebred Shorthorn replacements. The 2013 calf crop were weighed at weaning along with the cows, with the Whitebred Shorthorn cross calves an average of 20% heavier than the pure Highlands at this stage. The highland cows average 445kg and calves are averaging ap-

Highland cow with Whitebred Shorthorn cross bullock calf.

proximately 50% dam weight by weaning, giving a calf/cow weight ratio that few other breeds are able to achieve at 200 days without creep feeding. They will be weighed again at 12 months, which should give more insight into the difference in performance post-weaning.



All Highland bulling heifers are now put to a Whitebred Shorthorn bull. This is due in part to the findings above but also due to the ease of calving and the benefits of heifers rearing a first calf with such fantastic hybrid vigour. The docility of the Whitebred Shorthorn breed is outstanding, being very easily han-

Highland cow with Whitebred Shorthorn cross heifer calf.

dled and a pleasure to work with, a trait which the bulls are passing on to their first cross progeny. The first cross heifers are in demand and attract a premium as a result of their known mothering qualities, making them a popular choice for upland suckler herds. As mentioned above any cattle sired by the Whitebred Short-



Highland heifer with first calf at foot.

horn qualify for Morrisons supermarket 30pence/kg premium over base price, which can increase the value of finished steers by up to £90 per head.

Forestry Commission (Scotland) is committed to the agricultural enterprise at Loch Katrine, and is working to support and promote the two native cattle breeds of Highland and Whitebred Shorthorn. It is very encouraging to see, particularly over the past couple of years, that there is growing interest in the breed. Our project continues to support this by promoting the Whitebred Shorthorn both as an animal well suited to conservation grazing and as a commercially viable breed with much to offer to the future of the UK beef industry. We do this through publishing success stories in the press, providing information at our visitor centres, attending agricultural events, hosting school trips and annual student visits from Scottish Agricultural Colleges.

Stewart Hendry

Livestock Manager - Forestry Commission (Scotland)

Tel: 07909 892 500

Email: Stewart.hendry@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

PENDEEN & TRENOW OPEN DAYS

The open farm days at Pendeen on 28th & 29th July attracted 66 people on day one and over 40 on day two. Visitors were shown the conservation grazing being carried out by the Pendeen herd of Whitebred Shorthorn cattle and Dartmoor ponies in Devon. Gerald Babcock is an experienced grazier and advisor on conservation grazing for the environment.

Gerald Babcock works in partnership with neighbour Karen Wall of Trenow Cove Micro dairy. Karen takes the calves off the milkers for rearing by Gerald. Heifers return to the dairy herd in time to become accustomed to the dairy routine before calving.

Karen milks eight cows in the dairy and Gerald Babcock looks after the cows when they are not milking, when they are young, in early pregnancy or "dry" cows who have finished milking for a time. When the cows are away from Trenow they spend their time up on the Penwith Moors where they are used for conservation grazing.



If you want to know more about conservation grazing with Whitebred Shorthorn cattle you can contact Gerald Babcock

Tel: 01736 788382
and

Karen Wall
through the Whitebred Shorthorn Association Secretary

Tel: 01434 240435



BREED ANALYSIS 2007 - 2013

From 1st January to 31st December each year

			by Members	by Non Members	
	Males	Females			Total Breeders
2007	35	44	23	2	25
2008	43	47	21	3	24
2009	41	35	24	2	26
2010	42	42	21	1	22
2011	59	50	20	2	22
2012	43	67	24	2	26
2013	68	72	29	1	30

RBST Watchlist

The Whitebred Shorthorn will remain in Category 1 of the RBST Watchlist. Numbers are described as “Critical” Less that 150 breeding females.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

28th February Spring Show 9am & Sale 10am, Carlisle

28th February Annual General Meeting, H&H Board Room, 1.30pm

3rd May Rare & Native Breed Spring Cattle Sale, Crooklands Mart, Cumbria

(Junction 36 of the M6) website www.nwauctions.co.uk Tel: 0153 95 66200

22nd May BEEF Expo, Hexham Mart.

Farm visit in SW Scotland sponsored by Morrison's. Date to be confirmed

7th November Whitebred Shorthorn Cattle Autumn Show & Sale, Carlisle.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

I wish to apply for membership of the Whitebred Shorthorn Association Ltd

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Postcode..... **Telephone**.....

Email (if applicable)

I would like to use**as the prefix for my herd**
(acceptance of a prefix will be confirmed by the Association)

List of Registered Animals in your Ownership (if applicable)

Signed.....

Date.....

Please include the correct payment of £10.00 for your first year.
Cheques made payable to the Whitebred Shorthorn Association Ltd.

Please send to:
The Secretary's Office, Gibshiel, Tarsset, Hexham, Northumberland NE48 1RR. Tel:
01434 240 435