

AYRSHIRE NEWS

Welcome.

2019/20 President ~ Michael Howie

Here I am again! Thank you to everyone involved who has continued supporting the various Society committees by staying in their position for considerably more time than expected. While there have not been events or meetings to attend there is always subjects regarding the running of the Society that require their input. We are hopeful that we will soon be able to finally meet in person and discuss agenda items that we have unfortunately had to defer.

As you know the pandemic has impacted our staff, but as we see restrictions easing around the country Alan will be updating his diary with travel plans and will be visiting members when possible. Lesley will return to the office, albeit for a short period, as she will be retiring from her position in 2021. On behalf of the Presidents committee I would like to thank Lesley for her many years of service, and when it's possible to do so we look forward to seeing her to present her with a token of our appreciation.

It is pleasing to see that the All Britain and Ireland Photographic competition had a record number of entries despite the challenges of 2020. Claire, Alan, and Sam have had a successful planning meeting to discuss new competitions, and ways in which we can connect with members, as we are already aware that many events in 2021 will not be taking place.

Having said that we are now seeing current lockdown restrictions eased, and rest assured as soon as we are able to organise a Society event it will be all systems go! Myself, Angie and the rest of the family look forward to welcoming you to Morwick on 18th August to finally finish my extended time as your President and officially hand over the baton to Steve. In the meantime I wish you and your families good health.

HQ Catchup - Claire Kimm

Feedback for the winter newsletter has been positive so we decided to continue with this temporary form of communication in place of a full journal. With this in mind we are including information on classifications and LP awards on the website along with any other relevant news that is sent in. Please encourage club secretaries to send any results from local events to be published on the website.

In January we held a meeting with the Yorkshire hosts of our 2020 postponed annual young breeders' weekend and after some discussion it was decided that we would defer the event to 2022. The date for your diary is Thursday 7th April – Sunday 10th April. Thank you to the hosts for continuing to support this event.

The annual accounts have been signed off by the council and are included within the annual report. Also in the annual report is the notice of AGM which we hope will take place in person rather than virtually. We realise there are agenda items for our council that are difficult to discuss in a virtual setting and are looking forward to meeting in person later in the year. If you have not yet sent me a council nomination for your area please try and coordinate at a club level and get the nomination form to me ASAP.

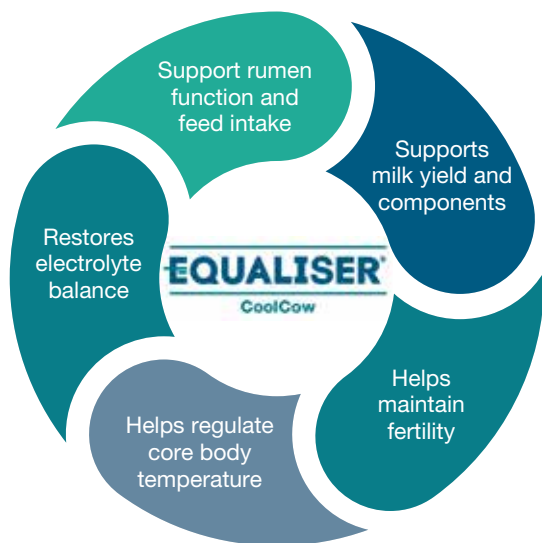
You will see that also enclosed in this package is a Marleycote brochure sent on behalf of Richard Baynes, if any other members would like our assistance in promoting their herd in this way then please get in touch as we can help with all aspects.

At the end of April Lesley will be retiring from her position within the Society. Lesley has been a great help to me and many of you have got to know her over the years. We are hoping that Lesley will be able to come to a Society event later in the year and we can have a glass of well deserved fizz together! Thank you Lesley, and I am sure you will find plenty to do with your time.

As ever if I can help with anything please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Welcome New Members

NEW MEMBERS

Sparsholt College, Westley Lane, Hampshire, Winchester, SO21 2NF
GE & KM Langford, Y Maesydo, Pool Quay, Welshpool, Wales, SY21 9LA
Aberystwyth University, Plas Gogerddan, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 5JJ
Alan Paul, 9 Curragh Road, Maghera, BT46 5ER
D&W Patton, 157 Mouilla Road, Newtownards, BT23 8RL
Brian Yates & Son, East Logan, Castle Douglas, DG7 1NX
Steven Kellett, Whitehouse Farm, Slaley, Hexham, Northumberland, NE47 0AN

JUNIOR

Joseph Pullin, Hollyhill. Thatcham Ponds, Stowe, Buckingham, MK18 5LH

MEMBERSHIP

Adult Members	623
Junior	316
Total	939

Wanted!

On behalf of David Dickie - does any member have a spare set of the very first ten journals produced. David is missing these and would like to complete his collection. Please contact the society office if you can help.

2021 Diary Dates

13th - 15th July Great Yorkshire Show
5th August AGM & Council Meeting Garstang
18th - 19th Judging Seminar & herd visits, Morwick / Marleycote (please register interest with the office)
15th September UK Dairy Day & National Ayrshire Show
17th November Agriscot
9th December Royal Ulster Winter Fair

2022

7th - 10th April Young Breeders Weekend, York
9th - 12th May Annual Conference, Rookery Hall, Cheshire

LP100 COWS

Cows that have achieved LP100 status from 01-03-20 to 28-02-21

We have had six cows reach this outstanding milestone in the last twelve months of which the first three cows are from the Whitecroft herd of Messrs J D & B F Broadley & Sons.

Whitecroft Miss Brown 5 EX93 5E by McCormick Nelson. Miss Brown 5 has completed her 100 tonnes in nine lactations. She is out of a VG Plum-Bottom Tridents Lot tracing back to Alistair Cochrane's Muirhouse herd. She has also bred Whitecroft Miss Brown 9 EX91 5E who has in turn has been awarded LP60 status.

Whitecroft Brown Girl 7 EX94 8E by Greenlane Marshall Brown Girl 7 has achieved her LP100 award in her twelfth lactation. She is out of a VG 88 home bred cow by Whitecroft Murphy. Brown Girl 7 has bred two VG daughters and the family goes back to the Brown Girls from Morwick.

Whitecroft Myra 28 EX94 7E by Hunnington Mandella. Myra 28 has reached her LP100 award in her eleventh lactation and is out of a Horseclose Fortune Seeker dam. She has bred an EX93 4E daughter by Hilltown Oblique and the family goes back to a purchase made in the Wheatrig Dispersal sale in 1989.

Barr Kiss 5 EX95 7E by Barr Regent, owned by Richard Danforth. Kiss 5 has completed her 100 tonnes in eleven lactations with very high fat and protein % . She has bred two VG and two EX daughters in the Moathouse herd since being purchased in the Barr Dispersal Sale.

Tontine Conn Stella EX90 by Shady Walnut Conn, owned by Ian & Sam Hutchinson. Conn Stella has been a consistent high producing cow and has reached this achievement in nine lactations with a production index over 120 for seven of her lactations. She has also bred two EX & one VG daughter and the family originates from a purchase from the Rosedale Herd.

Ryecroft Rajah Dusky EX90 by Ryecroft Rajah, owned by M/S D & K Haworth. Rajah Dusky has achieved this award in nine lactations with a PLI of 285 and has followed in her mother's footsteps, Myerscough Dusky 57 VG87, who reached LP100 in eleven lactations.

VIDEO STOCK JUDGING COMPETITION

We would like to thank our vice president Steve Bailey & family for coming up with this fun competition.

The judge is George Templeton from Knowe Ayrshires in Scotland and Cattle Services have sponsored the prize.

The competition is open to all, not just members of the Society so please share away. Results must be emailed to the society office society@ayrshirescs.org by 30th April 2021

The link to view the video is on the home page of the website, www.ayrshirescs.org

DERBYSHIRE HERDS COMPETITION RESULTS 2020

YOUNGSTOCK COMPETITION JUDGED BY RICK MOORE

Class 1 Best Overall Youngstock

1. Whitecroft
2. Bigginvale
3. Tessvale

Class 2 Best Individual Heifer

1. Whitecroft Nellie 84 by Whitecroft Dr Foster
2. Bradnop Miss Norma 11 by West Mossziel Modern Reality
3. Bigginvale White Julia 77 by Haresfoot Panache

Best Three In Calf Heifers

1. Tessvale Nigh 32&33 by Bigginvale Destination and Tessvale Easter 36 by Whitecroft Dr Foster

2. Whitecroft Barbara 90 by Whitecroft Dr Foster
- Whitecroft Nellie 84 by Whitecroft Dr Foster
- Whitecroft Nellie 86 by Cuthill Towers Buster

3. Bigginvale Peg 93 by Ravenhill Victory
- Bigginvale Buttermilk 115 by Haresfoot Panache
- Bigginvale Cherryshine 144 by Lyner Oblique Focus

HERD COMPETITION JUDGED BY STEVE BAILEY

Class 1 Herd Production and Inspection

1. Whitecroft
2. Heydale
3. Bigginvale

Inspection Only

1. Whitecroft
2. Bigginvale
3. Heydale and Alkmonon

Class 2 Cow In Milk

1. Whitecroft Nellie 64
2. Beltonville Nova 24
3. Heydale Ovoid 365

Class 3 Dry Cow

1. Bradnop Sandie 3
2. Whitecroft Nellie 54
3. Cubley Triclo Bess

Class 4 Best Bull

1. Alkmonon - Swaites Dermott
2. Heydale White Willow
3. Alkmonon- Biddesden Hector

Class 5 Best Three Heifers

1. Bigginvale Myrtle, Needy Mary, East Buttermilk All Hiltown Oblique
2. Bradnop Estelle 37, Valerie 4, Goldengirl 13
3. Alkmonon Burdette Amy, Admiral Babs, Rubicom Kanvas

Class 6 Mother And 2 Daughters

1. Whitecroft Brown Girl 7, 20&2
2. Whitecroft Myra 28
3. Bigginvale Mark Marie 4, 11 & 13

Class 7 Six By One Bull

1. Alkmonon by Winsome
2. Whitecroft by Furtardo
3. Bigginvale by Devas Maverick

Class 8 Best Cow On Production & Inspection

1. Whitecroft Bella 35
2. Whitecroft Nellie 50
3. Heydale Ovoid 339

Whitecroft Ayrchires



IMAGES: JESSICA MILLER

Dam
WHITECROFT MYRA 28 EX94(7)
By Hunnington Mandella pictured @ 13/09
calved for the 12th time
Current Lifetime Yield 107,236kgs

Daughter
WHITECROFT MYRA 30 EX93(4)
By Hiltown Oblique Pictured @ 6 calves
Average 5 completed lacts 9,228kg

Grand Daughter
WHITECROFT MYRA 36
By Rosehill Real McCoy Calved @ 2yrs 11days
Projected Yield 7,631kg

CHAMPION HERD
DERBYSHIRE HERDS COMPETITION 2020

All Enquiries Welcome
J D & B F BROADLEY & SONS
Brundcliffe Farm, Hartington, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 0BA
John 01298 84382 / 07792 631351 Michael 01298 84964 / 07495 541199
Andrew 01298 687134 / 07855 642856 email andrew@brundcliffe.eclipse.co.uk

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021

Ayrshire Breed Manager Alan Timbrell shares his thoughts.

Hi everyone, hope you are all well and looking forward to a more open and inclusive 2021 than we have had in 2020. Last year was very trying for all concerned, and I must say a big thank you to Claire for holding the fort while Lesley and I were put on part-time furlough because of COVID-19. Although there was only one show last year we had a record entry in the All Britain and Ireland Photographic Competition, and I must say the standard of photos forward was outstanding. Congratulations to all the winners and a big thank you to all who entered.

We would like to remind members to contact Claire or me if you sell bulls or females to

fellow breeders, or perhaps potential new members, and include a list of said animals so we can change their ownership, which makes the registering of their offspring much easier for their new owners.

Subject to council approval we will be changing the process for DNA sampling of dams of bulls for registration purposes. The proposal is that we will stop using hair samples and move to a genomic tissue sample of dams and their sons which will be processed by Cogent, the costs are still to be finalised. This will help us speed up our % reliability of the Ayrshire Genomic base and help streamline admin in the office. At this point we would encourage all breeders to take samples as soon as the bulls are born to eliminate any issues further in the registration process. As soon as the Council is able to meet this, and other agenda items, will be discussed.

The Breed Heritage committee has met several times over the

last few months (via zoom) and the meetings have gone very well. We now have quite a few matings in progress, and more being added all the time. If you feel you have an animal which Breed Heritage should be looking at then please give me a call. In late 2020

Peter Drummond stepped down as chairman of Breed Heritage, however he will continue to be a committee member. The committee would like to thank him for all he did as chairman, and it was decided by the committee to appoint Michael Broadley to the Chair - which he agreed to.

We will be holding a judging seminar later this year at Michael & Angie Howie's Morwick herd in Northumberland and I hope all qualified judges will be able to attend and anybody else who is interested in gaining qualification to our judges' panel.

It is hoped that again this year we will run our farm Friday visits and we urge anyone who didn't see last year's visits to go to the Society website and trail back through the news items to last summer and you will see all the herds which took part. I am sure there are many more herds out there of interest to the members, so when your cows are outside please start sending your videos in. Please can you keep them to around five to ten minutes long and WhatsApp them to Claire or me for uploading.

I would like to remind you that we have the facility on the website to advertise events or interesting news items. Please submit these using the online website form, if you need any assistance then please give us a call, we are here to help.



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FARM FEATURE

LIVING THE DREAM

Chris and Connie Creeper for pedigree.

For Chris the dream of owning top Ayrshire genetics started at an early age, when he first showed Glyngarth Bluechip Minnesota at Liskeard show in the early 1990s. From there Chris was always interested in showing, and breeding, good Ayrshire cows that could help him fulfil his dream of farming in his

own right. After Graham and Sandra, Chris's parents, decided to disperse their Ayrshire herd, it was Graham who decided to retain a couple of cows so if Chris wanted to have his own herd, he would have some good genetics to start with. The main family retained was the Melody family which originated from Drointon.

After finishing his education Chris was able to gain employment with Willsbro Holsteins in Cornwall, and the Wills family were very helpful to Chris in helping build a small Ayrshire herd that was milked alongside the 1000 Holsteins at Pawton Dairy. At this time Chris purchased probably the best heifer money could buy, by this I mean he met Connie who was the calf rearer at Pawton Dairy, and this started a mutual love of good cows.

In 2014 Chris and Connie were fortunate to land the tenancy of Waterford Farm, Musbury in Devon. The farm was 65 acres in total and they started milking with thirteen cows at the first milking and now six years later the farm totals 190 acres and they are milking 120 cows, not all Ayrshires but a mixture of Ayrshires, Holsteins & Jerseys.

Chris and Connie and their two daughters, Sophie and Summer, are such a great team and they enjoy farming together with some great Ayrshire cow families. The families that are at Tristar are

Jemimas from Gargus, Melodys from Drointon, Sybils from Syke, Gucci from Palmyra in the USA, Perfectors & Pledges from Forever Schoon in Canada, Blissfulls from their nearest Ayrshire neighbour - East Church, Julips from Hilltown and last, but not least, the Punchs (going back to Killoch) from Sandyford.

Probably the most well-known cow Chris and Connie have on the farm is the recently scored EX97 6E Gargus Jemima 3, by Palmyra Tristar Reality. She has just calved her eighth calf, a heifer by Changue Stadium, and has averaged 9200kgs 4.4 fat and 3.1 pro in seven lactations. Chris is very thankful to his father Graham who, against Chris's wishes, bought Jemima 3 off the late Michael Bilkey as a calf, she was shown very successfully at calf shows in 2011 and was Honourable Mention at the National Calf Show that year. She has bred two VG daughters and has two VG granddaughters,

including Crayola Bigtime Jemima VG85, and has sons working in the East Church and Butterbesley herds. She has also been made Champion of the eight year old and over class in the 2020 Ayrshire Photographic competition.

When you look around the Tristar herd you see a number of outstanding individuals from really strong cow families such as Tristar Gentleman Melody VG87, in calf to Cuthill Towers Buster, and her Dam was Glyngarth Talent

Melody VG 87 who traces back to Drointon Melody 37 EX. There is also Sandyford Real Punchy ET EX92,

another Palmyra Tristar Reality daughter, who was purchased for 1600gns at the Sandyford reduction sale in 2016. She has an outstanding West Mossgiel Class Talent daughter, Tristar Class Punchy, who calved in the summer of 2020 and scored VG87 2yr.



Tristar Platinum



Glyngarth Potter Sybil EX93 3E

Real Punchy has another very stylish daughter by Rosehill Manderville and is also the winner of the 6-7-year-olds class in the 2020 Ayrshire Photographic Competition.

The family with the biggest number of animals at Tristar is the Sybils that trace back to the Syke herd of the Templeton's in Scotland. They have been a very consistent breeding family for them, Glyngarth Potter Sybil EX93 3E, a daughter of Chris's father Graham's original purchase, who is a granddaughter of the 2000 World Conference Ayrshire Champion Syke Indianhead Sybil EX, and has been probably the standout breeding cow with 3 EX/VG offspring so far and two more in the pipeline.



Waterford Farm

Chris and Connie have never been afraid to invest in quality stock when finances allow, and with that in mind they purchased embryos from Palmyra and Forever Schoon with great success. One of the embryos purchased, from Forever Schoon Perfecta, was the sire Tristar Platinum, sold through Cogent Breeding, and he has some really nice daughters around the UK and abroad. Chris and Connie's

dream is to take a team of Ayrshires to the

National Ayrshire Show at Telford and show against the best in the UK. They have come a long way since 2014, and in their words it's only been possible because of the support they had on the way from friends, and especially their family, who always step into help when things are needed to be done.

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KEEP COWS COOL & CYCLING

Karen Wright & Dr. Philip Ingram,
Cargill's Ruminant Technical Manager Reports.



TECHNICAL
ARTICLE

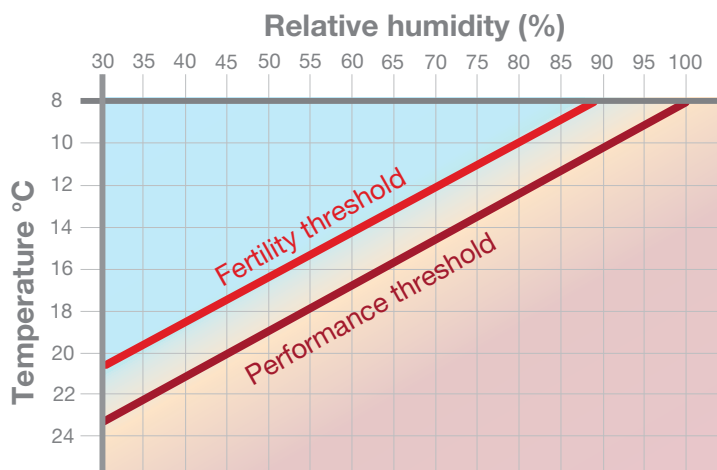
Mitigating heat stress is key to maintaining herd fertility and performance

Heat stress in dairy cows is not just a 'summer' issue, or one restricted to 'hot' countries. And it's not just high temperatures that cause problems. A combination of temperature and humidity means that our herds can experience heat stress at relatively low temperatures.

Fluctuating temperatures can also contribute – a situation that is fairly typical of UK conditions where variations of 10°C from one day to another are not uncommon. "Although UK temperatures are not typically extreme, we do see significant swings in temperature and humidity, even within one week," says Cargill's ruminant technical manager Philip Ingram. "This can have a significant impact on herd fertility and productivity.

"For dairy cattle, the classic threshold at which heat stress affects performance is often quoted to be a temperature-humidity index (THI) of 68, which, in the UK, would be 22°C. However recent research has highlighted that fertility can be affected at a THI of 57 which would typically be about 14°C," he adds. The thresholds are shown on Figure 1.

Figure 1 THI threshold for cow fertility and performance



Trials carried out on more than 20,000 dairy cattle in Germany showed that when temperatures exceed this modest threshold of THI 57 (14°C at 60% relative humidity) oestrus behaviour changes, fewer cows are seen bulling and the number of services falls. And conception rates start to fall from THI 65, equivalent to 20°C at 60% relative humidity. "So by the time the temperature reaches 22°C in the UK, fertility will have suffered significantly with 20% of eligible cows slipping a breeding cycle," says Dr Ingram.

"And the effects of heat stress conditions - on both fertility and production – may not be seen until temperatures may have dropped to more normal levels," he adds. "The delayed response means that that producers don't then associate a drop in performance with the hot spell. "So by

the time producers see more obvious signs of heat stress, such as cows huddled together in cooler areas of buildings or shady spots out at grazing, milk yields may have dropped and fertility can be affected – by this stage the damage has already been done."

Multifactorial

Mitigating heat stress is multifactorial, requiring a combination of environmental control, farm management and, as we now see, diet can have an impact. Cow diets can play a part in preparing the cow to cope with summer conditions. Recent research has found that specialised rumen buffers can reduce the effects and help to protect performance.

Cargill has had success with its specialised rumen buffer Equaliser CoolCow. This is a blend of internal cooling elements and buffering agents, which help to maintain feed intake, milk production and fertility. It's a powder that can be added to the TMR or compound feed at a rate of between 100g and 150g per cow per day, from May to the end of September, to ensure cover throughout the summer. "It helps to regulate core body temperature by hydrating the cow at the cellular level, and by restoring the electrolyte balance," adds Dr Ingram. "And it contains fast-acting, long-lasting buffering agents that support rumen function and help to maintain feed intake."

Work on UK farms has shown that seasonal feed management using this rumen buffer is best introduced ahead of potential risk periods to prepare the cow. "It's a case of preparing to protect; getting cows ready to cope with warmer, more humid conditions." In UK trials, pregnancy rate among cows fed the supplemented ration was higher, resulting in an average reduction in days to conception of 17 days compared to the control group. Results also showed the product has also helped to maintain milk fat when compared to the control group with fat-and-protein corrected milk yield 1.5kg higher, on average, during the trial's highest THI weeks. "And farmers adjusting cow diets and using the buffer are reporting more active cows that don't hold back from the robotic milker or from the feed face, are encouraging," adds Dr Ingram. "These comments support performance and help herds keep on track through the summer months."

Heat-Stress Facts

- Conservative estimates put the damages of heat stress – through lost milk, decreased fertility and less efficient use of feed – at between £40 and £85 a cow in a typical UK year.
- Cows are 'thermo neutral' between -15°C and +15°C and begin to experience heat stress at temperature above 15°C
- Good ventilation and providing shade and plenty of access to drinking water are key to combating heat stress
- Installing sprinkler systems and cooling fans, ideally in the collecting yard, can help to reduce heat stress. Dry cows can also have access to that area after cows have been milked
- Careful ration formulation can also help to keep cows cool. Macro-nutrient balance is key and incorporating a buffer, such as Equaliser CoolCow, can also help to maintain intakes, reproductive performance and milk yield, as well as keeping cows cooler and more comfortable.

Beechmount

MAGIC MIKE A2A2

BRIERYSIDE MAGIC X EX92 HARESFOOT PANACHE X EX92
BEECHMOUNT TRISTAN X EX90 LARGYVALE DERRY X
EX92 MCCORNICK NELSON X EX92 BALLYCLAN FIRST COMMAND



IMAGE JANE STEEL

DAM – BEECHMOUNT MARIE GIRL 11 EX92
3RD LACTATION 9,995KG, 4.07% FAT, 3.5% PROTEIN, 287 DAYS

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CATTLE SERVICES NEWS

Sam Wake updates with the latest from Cattle Services.



CATTLE SERVICES NEWS

As we move in to Spring 2021, the latest lockdown news will hopefully give us all a brighter outlook on the world. Moving forward, there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel and the possibility that life may turn back to some sort of normality. Let's keep our fingers crossed that shows and Society events will happen in the late Summer / Autumn, which will give us all a much needed lift and something to look forward to.

'Why don't we put more bulls onto centre?' The answer is that we would love to offer you more bulls, but the reality is that there are not enough bulls being registered that are AI worthy. Unfortunately, the ones that we think are suitable often fail to get through their tests - each bull has a lot of hoops to jump through before it even reaches the AI centre. These tests include the following: BVD, IBR, Lepto and Johne's to name just a few. The tests are also carried out on the bull's dam and if that is not possible, then a selection of her cohorts are tested. Before a bull reaches stud, it will have two sets of these tests and once in the centre, more tests are carried out whilst the bull is in a quarantine barn for 30 days before they go onto the collection barns. Other things to consider are that

Across the UK sales have continued to remain very strong, with our bulls available in Sexed Ultra 4m selling particularly well with a positive increase of 20% on last year's figures. Pam Ayrs Hawaiian, Sandyford Time Lord, Brieryside Hail and Biddesden Hector have all sold very well and it has been great to hear fantastic reports on great calves being born from these sires. Internationally, interest remains high for UK genetics - already in 2021, we have had interest from (and sold straws to) the following countries: Australia, Canada, Finland, New Zealand, Russia and South Africa.



Beeline Rock Jasmin
Daughter of Beeline Santa Rock

Throughout this year, we aim to release some more interesting sires for you; the first one is Beechmount Magic Mike. Magic Mike is bred from the fantastic Beechmount Marie Girl 11 who is classified EX92. She has a superb list of show winnings, alongside a pedigree that has her four closest dams averaging over 91 points on their classification. Magic Mike is sired by another exciting sire - Brieryside Magic - and is available in both conventional and Sexed Ultra 4m straws. If he is a bull that interests you, then please contact me.



Cuthill Towers Buster Rhay
Daughter of Cuthill Towers Buster

Unfortunately, we will not have any proven sires to add to the Cattle Services portfolio this Spring. With the impact of Covid 19, classifiers have not been able to get onto farms so the three sires that we currently have on the lift program (Beeline Santa Rock, Cuthill Towers Buster and Ravenhill Victory) will not gain type proofs this time. However, we do expect them both to get full type proofs in the August proof run, and early reports on the daughters calving in from these bulls have been very promising.



Heydale Summertime
Daughter of Ravenhill Victory

a bull has to stand on a TB free farm (some studs want farms to be clear of this disease for two years prior to a bull entering a centre), and if a bull is born on a farm that is under a TB restriction, said bull can never go onto a collection centre, even if the farm moves to being a clear TB farm, this is because the bull is still deemed to be dirty so can never enter a stud.

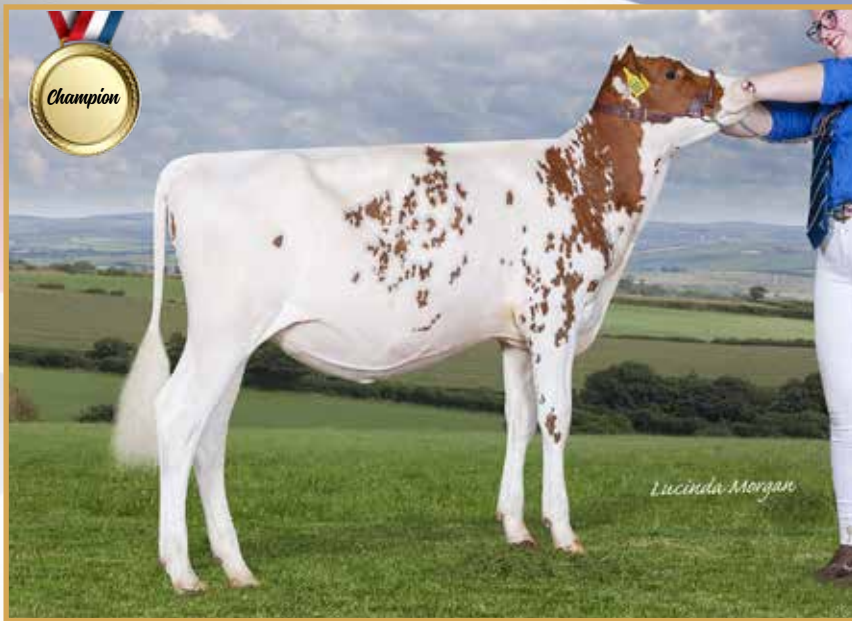
Some final points to take into account: if you have a bull calf born that you feel is good enough for collection, it is important that the calf is kept on its own and that you do not vaccinate the calf. If possible, feed the calf on powdered colostrum that you know is free from disease. If all these tests come off, the next step is collection. Some bulls collect really well when others do not, so it is all very much a game of luck and good fortune. I hope that gives you all a quick overview of what has to happen for a bull to produce straws of semen.

I also wanted to update you all on who is currently on the Cattle Services committee: Arthur Lawrie is the Chairman with Michael Broadley as Vice Chairman; Claire Hunter is the secretary and the remaining two directors are John Watson and David Christophers. Other people who are involved are Claire Kimm, Alan Timbrell, the Ayrshire Cattle Society President - Michael Howie - and Vice President - Steve Bailey. All decisions are made by the committee who are involved in the meetings.

As always, please keep up to date with everything that is going on by checking on the website www.ayrshirescs.org and Facebook pages.

A question that I get asked about a lot is

UNDER 12 MONTHS



Winner Rosehill Panache Whiskey
WRC & JE Christophers & Son



2nd Blydale Famous Sea Lily
E & O Wake and E T Tomlinson & Son



3rd Halmyre Urr Blossom
C & N Davidson

All Britain & Ireland

PHOTOGRAPHIC AWARDS

12 – 18 MONTHS



Winner Cuthill Towers Buster Rae
A & S Lawrie



2nd Sandyford Clolord Donella
E T Tomlinson & Son



3rd Sandyford Snowlord Clover
E T Tomlinson & Son

18 – 24 MONTHS



Winner Holmeswood Drunken Bella
Andrew Rimmer



2nd Butterbesley Lieu Hilary
Robert & Anita Cornish



3rd Sandyford Triple T Fable
E T Tomlinson & Son, Toi Toi & A Timbrell

2020 RESULTS

Kindly Sponsored by



2 YEARS IN MILK



Winner Millford Maple Lark
Millie Tomlinson & Alan Timbrell



2nd Tristar Gentleman Melody 2
C & C Creeper



3rd Cuthill Towers Vital Miss Blondie
A & S Lawrie

3 YEARS IN MILK



Winner Sandyford Triclo Diamond
E T Tomlinson & Son



2nd Cuthill Towers Modern Clover
A & S Lawrie



3rd East Church Realisation Eclipse
Mark Evans

All Britain & Ireland

PHOTOGRAPHIC AWARDS

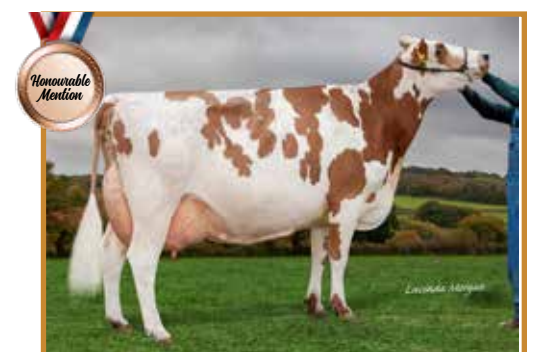
4 YEARS IN MILK



Winner Sandyford Supreme Fable 2
E T Tomlinson & Son



2nd Marleycote Georgette 6
Richard Baynes



3rd Sandyford Triclo Bella 2
E T Tomlinson & Son

5 YEARS IN MILK



Winner Sandyford Dark Hester 2
E T Tomlinson & Son



2nd Tristar Burdette Gucci
C & C Creeper



3rd Sandyford Provider Marsala
E T Tomlinson & Son

2020 RESULTS

Kindly Sponsored by



6 & 7 YEARS IN MILK



Winner Sandyford Real Punchy
C & C Creeper



2nd Brieryside Oblique Cherry
G Lawrie & Sons



3rd Sandyford Dark Fable
E T Tomlinson & Son, Toi Toi & A Timbrell

All Britain & Ireland

PHOTOGRAPHIC AWARDS

8 YEARS & OVER IN MILK



Winner Gargus Jemima 3
C & C Creeper



2nd Troutbeck Burdette Jess 3
Frank & Margaret Mattinson & Sons



3rd Hunnington Fragy 12
Lisa & Chris Window

RED AND WHITE HEIFER



Winner Logan Shania Red

Brian Yates & Son



2nd Marleycote Patricia 29
Richard Baynes



3rd Eastford Jordy Kiwi Red
Brian Yates & Son

2020 RESULTS

Kindly Sponsored by



RED AND WHITE COW



Winner Hunnington Fragy 16

Lisa & Chris Window



2nd Sandyford Absolute Clover
E T Tomlinson Son



3rd Cuthill Towers Addiction Peony
A & S Lawrie

AMATEUR



Winner Willhome Challenger Amanda
Stuart Williams



2nd Middle Jessie EMJ
Linda Batty



3rd Cuthill Towers Harrys Miss Blondie
James Lawrie

SCENIC SHOT

A NEW CLASS introduced for 2020 was the scenic shot. We have not included the images for these as the space we have does not do them justice. Linda's is on the front page of this newsletter, look out for 2nd and 1st place as they will be appearing on future publications.

Champion - Amy Armstrong, Plaskett | Reserve Champion - James Seedall, Jamara | Hon Mention - Linda Batty, Willowfields

A DIFFERENT WAY OF MILKING

We have asked three Society members who have made the progression from milking in parlours to setting up robotic milking units to answer a few questions to give you an understanding of the pros and cons of robotic milking.

Andrew Struthers - Glenmuir Herd, Matthew Needham - Bradnop Herd and Ian Hutchinson - Tontine Herd have kindly agreed to give us some insight into their robotic milking experience.

**BREEDER
FEATURE**



Andrew Struthers Fullwood Merlin robot

Q1 - What size is your farm, how many cows do you milk and what labour on the farm do you have?

Andrew: We have 225 acres with some further rented ground for 650 breeding ewes and we milk 110 cows with one part time worker.

Matthew: We farm 151 acres with 120 cows with mostly family labour plus one part time man two days per week.

Ian: We have two farm steads totaling 290 acres, 50 acres of which is rented. We milk 140 cows with myself, my son and one self-employed part time farm labourer.

Q2 - What was your milking facility like before you installed your robots?

Andrew: We milked through a six a side swing over parlour that took us three hours per milking.

Matthew: Cows were milked through a 11/22 herringbone parlour in need of major investment.

Ian: A 10/10 herringbone parlour. It took three hours on a morning and two hours at night to milk.

Q3 - What was the main reason you selected robots and not a parlour?

Andrew: Our main reason was the flexibility that robots gives you, the fact that you don't need to be there for set milking times means you can continue on with another job and finish it while knowing that 99% of the cows are milked and fine, and you only have to deal with the fresh ones or problem ones. Another reason would be the labour problem to go three times a day milking through a parlour.

Matthew: With the purchase of Crabtree Farm to be on one site in 2017. Its buildings and the abreast parlour needed modernising to stay in line with our milk buyer's expectations and it was also becoming harder to find reliable staff; that and the anticipated cost of labour in the future were the deciding factor.

Ian: Principally because the parlour was worn out and my son didn't really want to milk that way.

Q4 - Which make of Robots did you install and why?

Andrew: Fullwood Merlin robots and we liked how easy and simple they were to work and how quiet and smooth they run. With the electric arm they attach quickly and smoothly so the cow or fresh calved heifer never gets worked up or spooked.

Matthew: DeLaval Robot with guided cow flow. We liked the way they worked and the manual milking facility, easy to use software and excellent local service back up.

Ian: We installed two Lely A3s in 2007.

Q5 - Did you have many problems with the install?

Andrew: The install went very smooth as we used the robots as out of parlour feeders for a week prior to start up.

Matthew: It took longer than anticipated, mainly down to us not being ready when the fitter was available, we had to do some corrections to the base for the robots to sit on, otherwise it went ok, all pipework is bespoke so took longer to fit.

Ian: We converted an old indoor silage clamp that connected to the existing cow shed with new cubicles, robot rooms, and office above so for the main part installation was ok as we could use the old parlour without any problems.

Q6 - How long did it take for the cows to settle to the robots?

Andrew: The cows settled very quickly, in less than two weeks, the majority of cows were going through themselves and settled into the new routine.



Matthew Needham alongside his De Laval robot



**Andrew & Aileen Struthers
Glenmuir Herd**



**Matthew Needham
Bradnop Herd**



**Ian Hutchinson
Tontine Herd**

Matthew: It was about a month before all cows were using the robots by themselves and didn't have to be prompted, now most new heifers take around a week, some just a few days. Fresh calved cows are manually milked with the robot for the first day then go straight on to auto.

Ian: I would say about a month or six weeks, but the first week was very demanding as we had to ensure all the cows went through round the clock. Some needed more encouragement than others!

Q7 - Was there things in hindsight you would have done differently leading up to the changeover to robots?

Andrew: If possible, we would have done it quicker as the cows, and ourselves, have not looked back.

Matthew: I would definitely have bought the prefabricated concrete robot bases that are available (West Country Concrete Products) they would have made the install quicker and the drainage around the robots better, and I would have put the out of parlour feeders on a step to facilitate drainage.

Ian: We would have put fewer steps in, but because we converted existing buildings it had varying levels. We feel the steps limit cow traffic around the shed which is important.

Q8 - Has cow health and welfare improved and have the robots improved production levels in your cows?

Andrew: All aspects have improved as the cows are never hefted with milk and are not herded about to get milked. They also go through a footbath every time they go through the robots. Production has increased from averaging around 27 litres per day to currently producing 36 litres. Going from 7600 per lactation to over 10500.

Matthew: Cow health and welfare has improved dramatically, cows are far more relaxed and are able to move around as they choose, it is also easier to pick up early signs of a cow that is off colour as you tend to notice a cow that is perhaps spending more time in the cubicles than it should, use of the software then comes into its own, checking gate passages, feed levels and MDi (Mastitis Detection Index). Production has increased by 1000 kgs at present.

Ian: Yes, in both cases because they are milked more often (i.e. three times a day) and we have more time to spend on them instead of the daily chore of milking. The cows are calmer and the atmosphere in the shed is more relaxed. More recently we have added automatic footbaths to the exit of each robot which has eliminated digital dermatitis.

Q9 - Have the robots made much of a difference in your family life?

Andrew: It has given us more flexibility and is definitely a different way of milking cows.

Matthew: Yes, we now have more flexibility throughout the day and do not have to employ milking staff.

Ian: We now have much more flexibility and it is a shorter working day. One person can manage on a weekend if needs be. If it's silage time you can crack on with that and fit the daily chores around it.

Q10 - If you were to give any advice to people thinking of installing robots what would it be?

Andrew: Don't hesitate in putting them in and try to have plenty space in front of the robots, and if possible try to have that as a slatted area.

Matthew: If possible, view as many different types and layouts as possible to find what will suit you best. Having robots does not mean less work but it does increase flexibility in your day. Make sure floor levels, drains and layout are going to work for you prior to introducing the cows, once they are in the nature of robotic milking makes it very difficult to make changes as the cows can't be excluded to perform alteration works. Oh, and finally, DON'T start up the week before Christmas.

Ian: Really take a good look at other robotic set ups and see what will fit in with your site. Remember that someone has to be on 24/7 call out in case the robot requires assistance and so it is not entirely suitable for a one-person operation. Robotic milking is not an easy option, it requires a high standard of management because you have to look for the problems, they don't come to you. If you graze your cows it's better for the startup of the robots to be around turn in time, not turn out time, so that you don't have worry about grazing during training.



Ian Hutchinson's Lely robot

Wishing Sunshine & Good Health!



*Wishful
Thinking*

TOPPGLEN WISHFUL THINKING-ET, EX-94 3e
3-3 305D 9,186M 6.7% 613F 6.3% 579P
LAST TEST: 57M 5.3%F 3.4%P
Unanimous All-American Aged Cow, 2020

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