



WELCOME TO OUR 2024 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Dear Member

Time is flying by, as we find ourselves caught up in the whirlwind of activities spanning from Christmas to the spring sales, and now into the busy lambing and calving season. Reflecting on the recent spring sales, they already feel like distant memories, these sales served as a platform to showcase the emerging talent of the next generation of Galloway breeders and drawing in purchasers who contributed to strong prices for sought-after cattle. Among the highlights of the sale at Castle Douglas were six animals fetching over five figures, with averages showing an increase on the year for both bulls and heifers in calf.

Three bulls sold to 13000gns; - Barquhill Thor from the McCornick Family, Barquhill, Wigtown, Newton Stewart, Glenrath Rocky from new member Glenrath Farms, Langhaugh, Kirkton Manor, Peebles and Alcaraz of Fingland from Dalry based, Jimmy Wallace.

Barquhill Thor: Hailing from the McCornick Family at Barquhill, Wigtown, Newton Stewart, Barquhill Thor stood out as the first son of Bonanza of Nether Cleugh to be sold. This 29-month-old bull, out of Barquhill Polly, caught the eye of Eskdalemuir Forestry Ltd for their 100-cow herd.

Glenrath Rocky: Another highlight was Glenrath Rocky, a Troloss Nimrod son, purchased alongside his dam Diamond 1st of Troloss from Joe Cockburn. This impressive bull found his new home with Jimmy Wallace of Fingland, Dalry.

Alcaraz of Fingland: Adding to the excitement, Alcaraz of Fingland, a Kirkstead Vindicator son, made his mark at the sale, selling to Exmoor Forest Farms in Somerset.

Kirkstead Gattuso: Not to be overlooked, Kirkstead Gattuso, bred by Alan McClymont and Sons, Sam and Oliver, fetched an impressive price of 12,000gns, selling to Robert McTurk of Barlaes.

Kypehill Dutton: A special mention goes to James Campbell of Kypehill, Strathaven, who achieved his best sale to date with Kypehill Dutton. This Troloss Impeccable son, out of Foxglove Zap of Nether Cleugh, impressed both in the ring and on the show circuit, ultimately heading to Barlaes with Robert McTurk.

Blackcraig Blondchen D1308: - Top female price and female champion Blackcraig Blondchen D1308 from John, Ann and Iain Finlay, Blackcraig, Corsock sold for 10000gns. This Barlaes Rivellino daughter and out of Blackcraig Blondchen V485 a Blackcraig Sam daughter was purchased by Willie Maclean, Oban.

The Carlisle Show and Sale also showed quality Galloways were wanted and congratulation to the following:-

Robert McTurk also had a successful day at Carlisle sale, where Barlaes Black Ice 10th, the nearly two-year-old heifer, clinched the titles of Overall and Female Champion. Sired by Troloss Magnum and out of Barlaes Black Ice 2nd, this outstanding bulling heifer found a new home with Mr. R Worrell of Gretna, Dumfries for 3000gns

Whitehill 's success continued: The reserve overall champion and reserve female champion was from Walter Henderson, son Iain and daughter Fiona from Whitehill Farm, Lockerbie, their June 23 born Lady Nancy 929 of Whitehill, is a Titan of Whitehill daughter and out of Lady Nancy 664 of Whitehill. This incalf heifer sold to RJ & DT Harding, Nickies Hill Farm, Walton, Brampton, Cumbria for 1600gns.

The family's best price of the day was 1800gns for Lizzie 924 of Whitehill, another Titan of Whitehill daughter and out of Lizzie 401 of Whitehill, sold in calf to Fury of Whitehill, Lizzie 924 of Whitehill found a new home with WD & R Elliot of Burnfoot of Ewes, based in Langholm. The family also secured the Male championship award for Rambo of Whitehill, this May 2022 born, son of Titan of Whitehill.

Cardona Fergus from new member Robbie Galloway, Cardona, Doune, Perthshire was the reserve male champion and male top price, this 22 month old, Kirkstead Commodore son and out of Blackcraig Blondchen Z798 who was purchased in 2021, sold to R & RE Everitt & Son, Kirkley House Farm, Wolsingham, Bishop Auckland, Country Durham for 2000gns

Full reports on our facebook page and web page - www.gallowaycattlesociety.co.uk

<u>In this newsletter</u>
AGM Notice
Increased Show Grants
Summer Shows
News from Devon & Workshop
Update from Irish Club
Future events

BARQUHILL THOR



GLENRATH ROCKY



ALCARAZ OF FINGLAND





AGM

Notice is hereby given that the Hybrid Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in the Kings Arms Hotel, Castle Douglas on Friday 24th May, 2024 commencing at 1.30pm. Full details are on our Web Site or please contact the office to request a paper copy.

Our Annual Accounts for year ending 31st December, 2023 are now available for download from our Web Site. If you would like to receive a paper copy of the Accounts, again please [contact the office](#).

This meeting is a hybrid meeting - you will be able to attend in person or by Zoom. If you are planning to attend the meeting by Zoom, please register with the office to enable your invite to be emailed to you.

SHOW GRANTS

With a bustling calendar of both local and national shows on the horizon, the Finance Committee has made the decision to enhance the show grants for two prominent events: the Royal Highland and Great Yorkshire Shows. Exhibitors will now receive £100 for up to three animals per exhibitor, doubling the previous grant amount.

Additionally, the Trustees have extended their support to an Irish Show through show grants. The chosen show for 2024 is the Ballymoney Show, where the Galloway breed will be showcased as the featured breed.

The Society supports members exhibiting at the following events with the following show grants:-

The Society will award £50 per animal up to a maximum of £150 to members exhibiting at the following shows:- Ballymoney Show, Livescot & English Winter Fair. The Royal Highland and Great Yorkshire shows £100 per animals up to a maximum of £300. If a Galloway wins the Overall Native prize at the Livescot, and or English Winter Fair the Society will present £250 to the winner.

Also £50 to any member who is traveling more than 250 miles one way to a show. Please contact the office to submit your claim.

All show grants will be credited to members accounts and a credit note issued.

And please don't forget about the 2024 HERD OF THE YEAR COMPETITION.

Don't forget to submit your show results to the office! Even if there isn't a specific Galloway section at the show, points will still be awarded for placements in the Any Other Breed category. We'll be awarding points for 1st to 5th place, as well as for Champion and Reserve. Please send us your placings and any photos you have—we'd love to feature them in the Journal.

A big thank you to David and Debs Heath for sponsoring the £100 New Exhibitors Award once again, which will be given to exhibitors who haven't shown at the last three shows, and who gain the most points at both the Royal Highland and Great Yorkshire Shows.





2024 Summer Events



Summer Events

NBA Beef Event – Saturday 27th April, 2024 North West Auctions, J36, Rural Auction Centre, Crooklands - Free Admission. Exhibition Stand and Galloway bulling heifers kindly loaned by David and Rosemarie Cornthwaite.

Balmoral Show – 15th to 18th May- exhibition stand – please visit the stand to inquire more about the breed and tea/coffee and cake.

Ballymoney Show - Friday 31st May and Saturday 1st June - The Galloway breed is the Show's featured breed -judge Mr Scott McKinnon - please visit the stand hosted by the Irish Club

Balleymena Show - Saturday 15th June - Stand hosted by the Irish club

Royal Highland Show – 22nd June to 25th June, exhibition stand – An ideal place to watch the Galloway judging, please visit the stand to inquire more about the breed and tea/coffee and cake. Free admission ticket for anyone who would like to help on the stand, please contact the office.

Tavistock Sale – Tuesday, 2nd July.

Omagh Show Friday 5th July and Saturday 6th July - Stand hosted by the Irish Club

Great Yorkshire Show - 11th to 14th July – Breed Society "Office", hosted by David and Debs Heath.

Dumfries Show – 3rd August - exhibition stand – please visit the stand for tea/coffee and cake, and to watch the judging.

Plum Show - Saturday 3rd August - Stand hosted by the Irish Club

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE

NEXT Event - Balmoral Show 15th to 18th May



Galloway Cattle Club of Ireland - Update by John Smyth

The Galloway Cattle Club of Ireland is now up and running with Chairman John Smyth and Secretary Cathy O'Hara working together along with Committee Members to promote and organize events in both north and south of the country. Over the winter months, John and Committee Members have attended meetings to enhance the awareness of Galloways to Government bodies and below are some of the points that have been discussed;-

One of the stated objectives of the Galloway Cattle Club of Ireland (formed in 2023) was to lobby / partner with relevant regional Government departments to promote Galloways in Ireland. This objective has been put into action in responding to the Northern Ireland Assembly's new "Future Agricultural Policy for Northern Ireland".

This new DAERA Policy Framework aims to chart the way forward for an agricultural policy which better meets Northern Ireland's needs. As such, a range of policy areas are being developed to achieve four key outcomes - increased productivity, environmental sustainability, improved resilience and an effective functioning supply chain.

To date an overriding focus has been given to securing efficiency improvements, particularly in the rollout of a Beef Carbon Reduction Scheme. This will see farmers incentivised to reduce:-

1. The age at first calving to a target of 29 months over a 4-year implementation period; and
2. The age of slaughter to 26 months over a 4-year implementation period.

This one size fits all approach to livestock production risks marginalising native breeds working in low input livestock systems - which favour a 36month first calving, 30 month slaughter pattern.

The club has formed a group of likeminded organisations - The Belted Galloway Cattle Society; The Rare Breeds Survival Trust; The Dexter Society and The Nature Friendly Farming Network (NI Group) to add weight to a constructive response to the policy.

The agreed position is to ask DAERA to consider the following:

- Recognise the potential of low input livestock systems and native breeds as important elements in delivering genuine productivity, resilience and sustainability, while ensuring they are not negatively impacted by current or future policies.
 - Identify, support and capitalise on opportunities to create new markets and robust supply chains for ethically produced beef to include the development of a new beef product classification.
- Deliver a well-funded and fit for purpose Farming with Nature scheme which adequately recognises and rewards low input livestock systems for the delivery of public goods.
- Explore alternative strategies aimed at reducing slaughter age and age at first calving rather than headage payments.
- Ensure that the ruminant livestock genetics programme effectively accommodates for native and traditional breeds, rather than focusing solely on narrow productivity metrics.

A meeting with the new Minister for Agriculture (Andrew Muir) has been requested to discuss our proposal and we are awaiting his response.

**Please contact John Smyth - New Email
irishclubchair@gallowaycattlesociety.co.uk**



Independent review of protected site management on Dartmoor & Cattle Dressing Workshop

Independent review of protected site management on Dartmoor by David Fursdon

In early autumn, our members on Dartmoor reached out to the Society, seeking assistance in their efforts to uphold sustainable farming practices on their cherished Dartmoor landscape. Over the years, various factors have shaped and transformed their environment, including the introduction of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), agri-environmental schemes, and designation as Environmentally Sensitive Areas. Additionally, shifts in support mechanisms from Europe have necessitated adaptation.

Amidst these changes, a growing awareness of the rich biodiversity present on Dartmoor, including its diverse array of wildlife, birds, and insects, has emerged. Recognizing the urgent need to address pressing environmental challenges. David Fursdon's forward emphasized the importance of taking proactive steps, he underscored the significance of responding to the climate emergency and the concerning decline in biodiversity.

The Chairman's words serve as a rallying call for action, emphasizing the critical need for radical and immediate changes in the management of Dartmoor.

It is clear that the well-being of both the environment and the farming community depends on proactive and collaborative efforts to navigate these challenges and ensure a sustainable future for Dartmoor and its inhabitants. To understand the conflicts of our breeders farming on Dartmoor , please read the review:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-protected-site-management-on-dartmoor/independent-review-of-protected-site-management-on-dartmoor>



GALLOWAY CATTLE SOCIETY CATTLE DRESSING WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 13TH JANUARY, 2024

The Galloway Cattle Society proudly conducted its inaugural Cattle Dressing Workshop at Balgray, Lockerbie, graciously hosted by David and Rosemarie Cornthwaite. The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of nearly 50 members and friends, all engaged in a hands-on learning experience under the guidance of the esteemed Galloway legend, Mr. Dennis Gall.

The comprehensive workshop delved into essential skills, with Mr. Dennis Gall leading participants through the intricate processes of washing, drying, clipping, dressing, and showcasing Galloways for shows and sales. Renowned for his expertise, Dennis shared valuable insights at each stage, providing a thorough understanding of preparing Galloways to the highest standards.

Participants were organized into teams, collectively grooming a total of 14 Galloways to experience the complete preparation process as if gearing up for a show or sale. The practical nature of the workshop allowed attendees to acquire hands-on experience, benefiting from the mentorship of seasoned professionals. A special highlight of the event was the opportunity for younger participants to present their groomed cattle in front of noted Galloway breeder Mr. Jim Ross. Mr. Ross generously shared his wealth of knowledge, imparting insights into the finer points of showmanship to enhance the skills and confidence of the participants.

Galloway young breeder Innes Common, " I would just like to say that I really enjoyed the workshop and I learned a lot from it like how to clip Galloways properly. Also with leading the heifers around has given me more confidence in the show and sale ring and the food was great " .

The success of the inaugural Cattle Dressing Workshop represents a significant milestone for The Galloway Cattle Society, underscoring its dedication to fostering education and hands-on learning experiences within the Galloway community. The Society extends heartfelt gratitude to David and Rosemarie Cornthwaite for their generous permission, extra efforts in hosting the workshop at Balgray and feeding everyone. Special thanks are also extended to Dennis Gall, John Graham, Jim & Doug Ross, Scott McKinnon for their expertise, and Jason and Ramsay McKinnel and Iain Finlay for their contributions before the event. The Society is appreciative of its sponsors, including Wallets Marts, Nith Valley Constructions Ltd, Show Time Supplies, and Solway Agricultural Ltd. The Society also extends sincere thanks to all participants who made the event such a success and enjoyable occasion.





Upcoming Events and Keeping In Touch

Upcoming Events

Following the success of our Cattle Clipping workshop at Balgray, hosted by David and Rosemarie Cornthwaite in early January, the Society is eager to build on this event. We're planning to organize a similar event later in the year, along with some social gatherings.

We welcome all interested parties, regardless of age, to get in touch. You can contact us via mobile, social media, or simply speak to me at one of the upcoming shows. We look forward to hearing from you!



Please do keep in touch, let us know if you have any news to share and keep an eye on the Galloway Cattle Society Facebook page and the Galloway Beef Facebook page. Please like and share the posts, to ensure everyone continues to see our posts. A reminder too that we are happy to post out Journals to anyone interested in the breed, if you'd like a copy do let us know. Also please ensure we have your newest email address, please email to the address below.

I look forward to hearing from you either by email - info@gallowaycattlesociety.co.uk , landline 01556 502753, mobile 07760623985 or by Facebook messenger.

