



BRITISH

BLONDE NEWS

WWW.BRITISHBLONDESOCIETY.CO.UK

APRIL 2017

New Year... New Look....

Over the next few months the Society will under go a number of changes to help improve our image and give us a more professional and modern look. In return this will start to make our breed stand out for all the right reasons.

We have listened the forum and have taken your views on board. We hope to develop a number of new ideas over the coming months, these include this new look newsletter, promotional flyers and an up-to-date, easy to use website. We have also edited our logo slightly to try and bring a fresher appearance to it. This small change will allow us to continue to use up old stock such as letter headed paper rather than wasting them. New Logos for members use will be available via the new website or by contacting the office email.

Council Updates...

This year we had five members nominated for council as there were five seats available there was no need of an election. We would like to welcome Kate Shenton from the Bridge herd and Stuart Mycock from the Whitepeak herd, who are our new council members. Alistair Martin, David Knight and James Weightman will return to council for a further term.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Pip Rogers who retired after a three year term as chairman for his time and commitment to the society.

At our recent council meeting in March, Willie McElroy was elected to take the position of society chairman and Alistair Martin as our vice chairman. For those who don't know Willie there is a brief summary of his background inside this newsletter.

Facebook - The official Facebook page is **British Blondes**



Find us on
Facebook

Watch out for exciting competitions which will appear on our Facebook in the coming weeks.

Email: secretary@britishblondesociety.co.uk

New members...

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members

Wendy Dodimead - Australia

G&J Armstrong - Enniskillen

J&D Murphy - Dungannon

A.Potts - Co. Down

"To fear change is to fear being challenged.

To fear being challenged is to fear growth and new possibilities.

- T y Howard

In This Issue

- Updates from the office
- Scrotal Measurement to Increase
- Bulls top at 8000gns at Carlisle



NEWS AND UPDATES FROM THE OFFICE

Young Show Stars: This will take place at the Three Counties, Malvern in August. If there is anyone that would like to represent the Blonde society, please contact Caroline in the office.

Herd health: In line with other societies, members wishing to sell at society sales will need to be a member of a health scheme; this will be put in place from **October 2018**. However there are a number of health schemes available but Biobest has offered an introductory discounted rate of £30 +VAT instead of £75 +VAT. This will allow members their 1st year full membership (testing for BVD, IBR, Johne's and leptospirosis). Vouchers are available by contacting the office.



2017 Journals: The Journals will be available at Worcester sale on Saturday 22nd April. If you would like to take your own issue or your clubs boxes on the day, please let the office know beforehand so that this can be arranged, as it will save postage.

Office hours: Kate: Monday – Wednesday 10am – 4pm
Caroline works 4.5 days a week where needed. If you cannot contact her in the office please either leave a message or call her mobile 07725 052527.

Newsletters:

The newsletter will be emailed to members for whom we have email contacts, it will also be on the website. If you would like a hard copy printed and posted please contact the office and we are more than happy to send you a copy.



EBV's Explained:

The North East Blonde club are having a talk by James Weightman about the value of EBV's at The Anchor Inn, Whixley, YO26 8AG. This will include how EBV's work for James and what he is doing to achieve long-term figures. There will also be a power point presentation, courtesy of AHDB.

Everyone is welcome to join us; 8pm start on the 2nd of May 2017. If you would like a meal before the meeting, there is a very good carvery with plenty of choice @ £9 per person, which we would definitely recommend!

To get an idea of numbers please contact the club secretary Jessica on 07704 654793 to confirm your attendance.

New Society Chairman

It's an honour to be elected as the new chairman of your society and for those of you who don't know me here's a brief summary of myself. My parents and I formed the Ivaniskey herd in 1996 which has given us many successes over the years. I joined council in 2010 and although there have been many ups and downs, I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience getting to know everyone and the running of the society. I have been an active member of my regional club from a very young age and believe through this and showing cattle I have gained good knowledge of our breed.



Over the years I have been involved in many clubs and societies, some of these include, being a Council member of The Royal Ulster Agricultural Society, Young Breeders chairman, and involvement with the Young Farmers organisation, where I also worked for a number of years as a development officer. For the past five years I have been employed by AI Services NI (Ltd).

I believe the next few years are going to be challenging for us as a breed, but together we must brace the changes in order to help bring our breed to the fore. Therefore I ask you to support your society and these changes which I believe we need to make to see this happen. We as breeders should ask ourselves the question, do we have something we believe in? If yes, then we must work together to promote our breed and look at the changes as positive ones and together we will build a demand for our breed.

I look forward to meeting many of you during the year and I hope that 2017 is a successful year for you and the breed.

Willie McElroy



Triple Crown for cattle showing

Three agricultural shows in the midlands are joining forces to stage a new 'Triple Crown' competition for showing cattle.

Hanbury show, Burwarton Show and Moreton show will award the Three shires Trophy to the exhibitor who gains the most points across all three shows.

The new prestigious award, with a £1000 top prize, is sponsored by Moreton-based Nimrod Veterinary products manufacturers of the Selekt cattle rehydration system.



Future Sales

Worcester

Saturday 22nd April

Carlisle

Saturday 13th May

Worcester

Saturday 4th October

Carlisle

Friday 20th October

Scrotal circumference to increase from 2018

Fertility in bulls has become more and more important these days, some will even go as far to say that a bull is half the herd, so it's important that they are able to work effectively. We as a society believe we must do our best to offer buyers re-assurance when buying a Blonde bull and therefore council has reviewed all scrotal measurements of bulls presented through last year's sales and with this in mind we have decided to re-evaluate our scrotal circumference measurements for sales in line with recommendations put to us.

It is proven all over the world that scrotal circumference plays a very important part and there are two main reasons why. Firstly it's a measurement in the terms of how much sperm the bull will produce and how well he will work within the herd. There is a great deal of information available that indicates that bulls with larger scrotal sizes are more likely to be able to get a larger number of animals in calf in a shorter period of time, compared to those with a lower scrotal measurements. The second reason that has been proven is that it's an indicator of how soon a bulls daughters will actually reach sexual maturity. Although recording of onset puberty can be hard to evaluate, there is evidence that there is an established link between these two important factors and will greatly help you evaluate this within your herd. In other words, females that have been sired with bulls with larger testicles tend to be more mature at a younger age and therefore have a better chance of getting in calf at first service, which in the long term should result in more calves produced in a shorter period of time resulting in greater profits for the herd.

As of January 2018, the minimum acceptable thresholds at Blonde society sales is being increased as part of our five year strategic plan to improve breed standards and keep us in line with other breeds, therefore all bulls will have to meet the following requirements:

Up to 2 year old bulls	minimum	30cm
Over 2 year old bulls	minimum	32cm

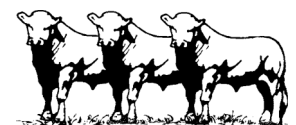
BRITISH BLONDE
Worcester Livestock Mart (WR4 OSQ)
Judging: 8.30am
Sale: 11.00am

The British Blonde Society

36 bulls & 14 females
www.britishblondesociety.co.uk
SPRING SHOW & SALE

SATURDAY 22ND APRIL 2017

We as a society also encourage breeders to semen test bulls prior to sales, which can also give buyers reassurance when purchasing a Blonde bull from your herd.



The overall champion Blonde bull headed the breed society sale at Carlisle, selling for 8,000gns.

May 2015-born Hallfield Lincoln from P. Weightman and Sons, Co Durham, was tapped out as junior champion before being awarded the supreme sash. By Hilltop Hector and out of Hallfield Dizzy, it was bought by Keith Eunson, Orkney.

The reserve junior champion came from the same vendor and was second top price at 5,800gns. A son of Blackwater Ainsley and Hallfield Rhona, Hallfield Lewis was born in May 2015 and is full brother to the 6,500gn Hallfield Destiny. It went home with J. and K. Metcalfe and Son, Richmond.

The July 2015-born heifer Shanvalley Latoya from Savage Bros and Son, Co Down, led the female trade at £3,800. By Abricot and out of Shanvalley Hoshi, it went to W. Hall, Wigtownshire, who also paid £3,600 for another heifer from the same herd. Shanvalley Lacey is by Shanvalley Gonso and is the first daughter of the multi-junior champions shanvally Holla to be offered for sale.



Left: Hallfield Lincoln from P. Weightman and Sons

Below:
Hallfield Lewis sold for 5800gns



Above left: Shanvalley Leman, Senior Champion & Reserve Overall

We are always on the look out for crossbred herds that we can do features on, if you know of any that you think may be suitable please contact the office or any council member with the details.



Contact Us

Give us a call for more information.

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Up coming events

Balmoral Show :10th -13th May

Beef Expo:18th May, Stoneleigh Park.
CV8 2RG

National show 16th – 18th June (WR13 6NW)
Will be held at the Royal Three Counties Show Malvern.
Judging will take place on Friday 16th June. There will be a
presentation dinner on Friday 16th, if you would like to book
tickets for the dinner please call the office. 02476 419058

Royal Highland: 22nd-25th June

Great Yorkshire Show: 11th-13th July

Royal Welsh: 24th-27th July



Some Breeds Promote It...
Blondes Do It.

