**Secretary Blog - 30th June 2022**

Well, here we are at the halfway point of another year – where have all the days and weeks gone? Sadly, as I write this, the virus is rearing its ugly head again with large increases in infected cases making us all live in the hope that the speed at which vaccinations are rolled out will soon overtake the rate at which the virus is accelerating. Yet only this week we have discovered that no matter how much we are vaccinated you just can’t be too careful. On Wednesday, our daughter in law received notification under track and trace in Oxford that she had been in the vicinity of someone who has tested positive - so she and ‘the boy’ are currently isolating at home for 9 days. All of which suggests to me that we still have to proceed with some measure of caution in what we do.

These things said, I do hope that this little intervention from the dining room finds you all fit, well, taking care and in dashed rude health.

The month of June has been a busy one where the highlight was a day in Edinburgh at the Royal Highland Showcase - an event which I had never expected to attend … that is until Tom Tennant telephoned and twisted my arm to become part of the Clydesdale day commentary team alongside Peter Keron. Despite having great misgivings over our ability and qualifications to do this – all completely exacerbated when at the pre shoe zoom training meeting we saw all the other ‘experts’ who had done this thing for donkeys years – we said ‘yes’ and in so doing decided that we would just do our own thing. And despite what anyone thought about the quality of our commentary - we had a ball!!

Unexpectedly because we were originally understood to the contrary, the Clydesdale classes were held in the main ring as usual. At the Members end there was situated for the show a magnificent statue of a Belted Galloway Bull in all its splendour in front of the very majestic looking new members pavilion. Directly opposite our position in the commentary box was the frame of what would usually have been a packed grandstand, but on that day sadly it was an empty shell devoid both of seats and people. The show ground was eerily quiet.

But a good show we had and in the end Judges Eric Johnstone and Jim Ingram could not be separated in finding a champion – and the winner came only after an intervention by Alistair Ferguson as final adjudicator. And for the benefit of those of you who have neither seen nor heard all the results I have added to the end of this wee blog a list of all the winners. Pictures will follow in our summer newsletter which I hope will go to print towards the end of July and will go out to all members in early August along with our annual batch of raffle tickets.

In a year where, once more, merchandise sales will be curtailed and will continue to be a challenge, we do hope that as many of you as possible will respond to the raffle to help raise funds for the ongoing regular work of the Society. Last year the raffle raised over £1,500 after prizes and it would be good to think that we will match this and a bit more in 2021.

But, back to the Showcase just for a moment – and I hope that those of you who watched online enjoyed what you saw, if not what you heard!! RHASS, funded by a grant from the Scottish Government to allow the showcase to go ahead, invested a considerable amount of funding into the streamlining of the event, aided and abetted by the volunteer commentators!

When we arrived at the commentary box, we were confronted with but a computer screen, two microphones and not much more - all of which belied the massive infrastructure of cabling, directing, editing and other activities which went ahead in the control headquarters and on the ground. And as I said Peter and I decided that we would do our own thing, sure in the knowledge that we will never be invited back to do this again - and we had great fun!!

Thank you to those of you who called or emailed to say how much you enjoyed our musings from the commentary box and, for me, it was just great to have Peters professional expertise on hand to describe the more technically specific aspects of the events as they unfolded. I said all along that I would be Peters stooge and his entertainment for the day - something which I achieved quite unexpectedly and spectacularly in the afternoon.

With the old legs becoming just a little weary from all the standing and with the Ridden class in full throttle I decided that it was time to rest my weary limbs on one of the chairs which had been provided. Unfortunately for me the chair I chose was broken but I hadn't noticed that one of its castors was missing. It seemed to balance quite beautifully on its 3 castors – that is until the weight of an overweight secretary added to its somewhat limited load bearing capacity. So much to my surprise, instead of sitting right back and listening to the eloquence of Peters dulcet musings, to coin a phrase, the ruddy thing couped me onto the floor. The consequence - one floor manager and one commentator having to switch off their microphones as they fell about in convulsions of laugher. One way to shut PK up I suppose!!

But I’m sure you’ll all be so pleased to know that no bones were broken and therefore there will be no claim on RHASS for lasting damage to life and limb.

I hope that the presence of the Royal Highland Showcase sparked some encouragement for everyone – and I know that some of you are venturing to the Great Yorkshire Show later this month. On this theme and in an effort to give us all something to look forward to, this week I have contacted just under 90 shows - the shows which normally affiliate with us for Young Handler and Yearling and 2-year-old foal classes, to try and establish their plans for their shows in 2022.

With the replied received to date I've now started to recreate on our website a calendar of events for shows which are known to be going ahead both in the remainder of 2021 and in 2022 based on the information that these long-suffering show secretaries send on to me. Let's all hope that shows and showing resume to some semblance of normality next year.

And talking of shows I previously reported that we are planning the Winter Fair hopefully to be held on Saturday 13th November at Lanark - and I have little doubt that my attentions will be directed towards arrangements for this show in about a month’s time.

I'd like to thank everyone who sent in photographs for this year’s photograph competition, and this will be judged imminently. I should be in the position to announce the winners in my blog at the end of this month. Meantime, for the rest of this month I’ll be kept gainfully employed both in the draft the aforementioned newsletter and also in the creation of our 2022 calendar, which will be launched hopefully later in August after printing.

So, there we are, another month’s worth of drivel from the dining room and I'm off now to see what the weekend will bring.

For those of you who are making hay and silage and in so doing creating the feed for your horses for the winter ahead I wish you well - and for those of you who have foals on the ground I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience so that I can send out your registration papers before the deadline of 30th September 2021. Remember that this year for reasons out-with our control, DNA results are taking fully 5 weeks to come back to us from the point we post them off.

Meantime – all the very best from the team here in Crieff – including Tumbling Tam reporting in live from the floor of the commentary box at the ‘booze free’ Royal Highland Showcase!

2nd July 2021

**Royal Highland Show – Leading Results**

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| **Horse** | **Owner** |
| **Overall Champion** |  |
| Muirton Spirit | Thomas Clark & Sons |
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| **Reserve Champion** |  |
| Roughlands Majestic Lady | Iain Johnston |
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| **Male Champion** |  |
| Muirton Spirit | Thomas Clark & Sons |
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| **Male Reserve** |  |
| Bandirran Gibbs | Simon & Lyn Rae |
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| **Female Champion and 2021 Cawdor****Cup Winner** |  |
| Roughlands Majestic Lady | Iain Johnstone |
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| **Female Reserve** |  |
| Freedom Believin Love | John Anderson, Ron Brewster, & Helen Carr |
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| **Ridden Champion (HOYs Qualifier)** |  |
| Catherine Hodge (Doura Oakley) |  |
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| **Ridden Reserve** |  |
| J W & M McIntyre (Glenside Matthews Flower of Scotland) |  |
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| **Clydesdale Young Handler Champion** |  |
| Blythe Duncan |  |
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| **Clydesdale Young Handler Reserve** |  |
| William Greenhill |  |
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| **Harness Grooming and Decoration Champion** |  |
| Benny Duncan |  |
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| **Harness Grooming and Decoration Reserve** |  |
| Colina McCulloch |  |
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| **Heavy Horse Turnouts** |  |
|   **Pairs** |  |
| 1. Annette Noble
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| 1. J W & M McIntyre
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| 1. Gawin Holmes
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|  **Open Single Cart Class** |  |
| 1. Annette Noble
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| 1. Alistair McLean
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| 1. Edith Gunn
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| 1. Gawin Holmes
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| 1. Benny Duncan
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| 1. Julia Hyslop
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| **Male Classes (Results in order 1-6)** |  |
| **3-year-old or over stallion or colt** |  |
| MGK Bigtime | Matthew King |
| **2-Year-old colt** |  |
| Muirton SpiritThorn Union Jack | Thomas Clark & SonRobert Sibbald |
| **Yearling Colt** |  |
| Freezlund IcemanLittleward CooperFordelhill MarvelDoura Seal of ApprovalDillars CandymanGersa Sir Murray | J W & M McIntyreMatthew CarrickLorna HumeCharlotte YoungRobert HamiltonMichael & Jacqueline Munro |
| **4-Year-Old and Over Gelding** |  |
| Bandirran GibbsSinglie GavLochcote CooperWindyknowe BarraStobilee ZacPeggyslea Buddy | Simon & Lyn RaeJames TennantAlistair McLeanAnnette NobleIsla MillerAnnette Noble |
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| **Female Classes (Results in Order 1-6)** |  |
| Mare of Any Age with Foal at foot |  |
| Collessie Flash girlRossie Mhairi | Charlotte YoungRon Brewster & Helen Carr |
| **Foals** |  |
| Ron Brewster & Helen CarrCharlotte Young |  |
|  |  |
| **Female Classes (Results in Order 1-6)** |  |
| **4-Year-Old or Over Yeld Mare** |  |
| Mollinhillhead Lady EleganceLittleward MeghanWest Glen Rambling RoseDownhill Lady Jennifer | Amanda StewartCharlotte YoungBoat ClydesdalesLynn Gowans |
| **3-Year-old Yeld Mare or Filly** |  |
| Doura BallerinaBurgess Outon MiracleGarcal Fra Sweet IonaRolling Thunder Moon ShadowCollessie First Choice | William DunbarColleen MarshallKelly StirlingRolling Thunder ClydesdalesNatalie Leslie |
| **2-Year-Old Filly** |  |
| Freedom Believin LoveThorpe Hill ElsieFordelhill LouiseAinville SenoritaBandirran IsobellaStobilee Alexa | John Anderson, Ron Brewster & Helen CarrThorpe Hill FarmScott GreenhillWilliam MitchellJonathon WilkieRobbie Morton |
| **Yearling Filly** |  |
| Roughlands Majestic LadyDownhill LizzyTulloes EmilyCollessie AlanaFordelhill LimelightBoat lady Sophie | Iain JohnstonGeoffrey and Lesley TannerJim GreenhillRonnie BlackScott GreenhillBoat Clydesdales |
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| **Ridden Class (HOYS Qualifier)** |  |
| Doura OakleyGlenside Matthews Flower of ScotlandPeggyslea BuddyStobilee ZacBogton CommanderWhinhill WallaceDownhill Lady Jennifer | Catherine HodgeJW & M McIntyreAnnette NobleIsla MillerCharis GrayWest Park FarmLynn Gowans |
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| **Harness, Grooming and Decoration** |  |
| **Best Kept Harness**1. Benny Duncan
2. Colina McCulloch
3. Gawin Holmes 4. Gawin Holmes
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| **Best Groomed Horse**1. Benny Duncan
2. Colina McCulloch
3. Gawin Holmes 4. Gawin Holmes
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| **Best Decorated Harness – Wool**1. Benny Duncan 2. Gawin Holmes
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| **Best Decorated Harness – Floral**1. Colina McCulloch 2. Gawin Holmes
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