**Secretary News - 21st July 2020**

In keeping with the national momentum of trying to move on from the restrictions of Covid 19, I have decided to re-name these blogs - and in so doing, to remove the words ‘lock down’ from the title. I do this on the basis that most of us now have more freedom to get out and about. Affectionately, however, these wise words (!!) will still be – and will always be - ‘Drivel from the Dining Room’!

I’m not sure where the last fortnight has gone! It seems no time at all since I was here with my then weekly diatribe - and it’s good to be back. I really enjoy my interaction with you all, and I thank you, as ever, for all your support over the weeks when things were a bit tough for us all.

Contrary to some rumours, I wasn’t on holiday last week – that comes in a months’ time. But thank you to those whom I very obviously I misled in my last blog – it was good of you to send me happy holiday wishes!!

It’s been a busy two weeks in which a fair few foal registrations have come in and have been processed, in which DNA results have started to filter through from Weatherbys and where, very sadly we had the news of the final demise of the Animal Health Trust. Please bear in mind if you have an urgent need for a passport, especially for a filly foal, that it’s preferable that you plan ahead to avoid delays at your end. It is taking fully 3 weeks to get DNA results back at present. Also please bear in mind that I have an arrangement with Weatherbys to send off DNA samples in weekly batches on a Friday. So, try and get your samples to me if you can, to arrive in Friday’s post, so that they can be included in that weekly mailing which goes away at around lunch time.

On Friday last week, I completed the ‘legal bit’ for the formal handover of historical DNA records from Animal Health Trust to Weatherbys. Across the breeds Weatherbys are taking over a massive 70,000 samples from AHT, so I am guessing that life is not quiet right now in the Weatherbys laboratories in the Republic of Ireland!

A further final update about and tribute to Animal Health Trust will appear in our July Newsletter, which in itself, also took up quite a bit of time last week. The newsletter went off to print late last week and I am hopeful, printer permitting, to have it in your hands in early August.

On Saturday Bryan Lindsay organised - and the Young Handlers in our Breed put on - another fantastic virtual show, which taxed the judging skills of Amanda Stewart. I had the impression that all the Young Handlers really impressed Amanda and huge congratulations are due to the following winners: -

Seniors – 1st Blythe Duncan – 2nd Sophie Mitchell – 3rd Hannah Lindsay

Juniors – 1st Erin Ralston – 2nd Miles Chester – 3rd Ahva Elder

Amanda also awarded a special accolade to Erin as the best presented handler on the day.

Once again, thank you Bryan and your team for all the work involved in arranging this event, Arradoul Clydesdales for supplying the rosettes, Amanda for judging – and most of all to a great bunch of enthusiastic young people who displayed not inconsiderable talents again on Saturday. With young folks of this quality coming to the fore, the future for our Breed is surely pretty rosy!

Finally, today I’d like to share with you an initiative which our great friends at Whistlefish under the leadership of Lyn Thompson have been working at behind the scenes – and which will help us to hopefully raise some funds for the Society.

The Whistlefish Website will shortly include the following post: -

**The Clydesdale Horse, Equine King Framed Print**

Featuring the immortal words of the late JGS Flett of Orkney, this stunning piece of art features 2 majestic Clydesdales in a field of flowers, set against a setting sun. This beautiful piece captures the power and grace of these magnificent animals and the scene is completed by the elegant words of JGS Flett.

Whistlefish are proud to be supporting the Clydesdale Horse Society on this exclusive piece of art and all profits from the sale of these pictures will be donated to the charity.

This picture comes mounted in a range of frames, with the options to have it framed in black, white, grey or dark brown wood.

RRP: £49.95 including postage

* Landscape orientation
* Image size 380 x 280 mm
* Framed size 560 x 470 mm
* Arrives ready to hang

All ordering and payment will be directly with Whistlefish (they have a great, user friendly website) and I am advised that the Society will benefit to the tune of up to £25 for every framed picture sold. I don’t want anyone excluded from this opportunity so if you are not online or struggling to get your order done – or indeed if you don’t habitually buy over the internet, I’ll be very pleased to help you with this – just give me a call and we can discuss to sort it out!

One of the perks of the job is that I received a free framed print for ourselves and it is now hanging in our home. ….. and just to avoid the rumours (!!) starting, I have transferred £50 to the Society bank account, so the fund raising from this source has begun!

I attach a copy of the original print and also a copy of the framed version we have.

We are enormously indebted once again to Lyn and her wonderful company for all the support they give us. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude.

Well folks, that’s all this time. See you again in a couple of weeks and until then be of good cheer, keep taking the tablets if you need to (!!) and take ever so good care of yourselves.

Cheerio for now from the Dining Room. Ian