**Clydesdale Horse Society – Secretary Blog - April 2021**

We have seen a bit of movement in recent weeks on the showing front and I thought it might be helpful if I were to summarise one or two developments there along with a couple of other matters which have come my way and which might be of interest to you at this time.

**2020 Stud Book**

The 2020 Stud Book is currently at the printers and I’ll post a separate email and a note on a Facebook post when this is available for purchase. If you would like to pre order your copy please send me £15 (including UK postage) and, if possible, an email confirming the position, and this will be posted out to you as soon as print copies are available.

Our bank details remain – Bank of Scotland – Sort Code: 80-02-78 and Account number; 00604757, if you would prefer to transfer the funds directly.

**2022 Calendar / Photographs**

In a recent newsletter I put out a plea for you to send me photographs for a competition we will run with a view to helping with the production of our 2022 Calendar.

In addition to the overall winner which will be sponsored by Shona Harrison in memory of John Zawadzki, there are the following classes this year:-

1. Best picture of a turnout;
2. Best photo of an agricultural cart or ladies cart (prize sponsored by Capt. Jim Anderson);
3. Best Ridden Clydesdale (prize sponsored by Arradoul Clydesdales);
4. Best Clydesdale in the snow;
5. Best 2020 born foal;

There will also be prizes for the best photographs from under 18 year olds sponsored by Hazel and me.

I have had a few entries but need some more from you .

The final deadline date is 20th June 2020 to give time for the calendar to be created and printed.

A more detailed explanation of the competition was included with the Spring Newsletter which was issued a few weeks ago.

**Royal Highland Show**

As has been highlighted in the national press the Royal Highland Show is going ahead this year without spectators. A fairly full programme of Equine Events is scheduled to take place at the show, and I attach a copy of the Equine Schedule which is also capable of being downloaded from the Royal Highland show website. The closing date for entries is 21 May 2021. The Schedule offers information about the availability of stabling blocks for folks who may be travelling a distance.

As I understand it entries this year will also be online and the process can also be found on their website [www.royalhighlandshow.org](http://www.royalhighlandshow.org)

Recent contact with some of the Highland Show team has confirmed that entry to the event will follow very strict Covid protocols and the show organisers are making it abundantly clear that you cannot just turn up on the day and expect to enter the showground under these protocols. Everything must be done in advance.

**Royal Highland Show – Young Handlers**

This year’s Royal Highland show will not be hosting our Young Handler final; nor will there be a young Stockman class at this year’s show.

Therefore it has been decided that any Young Handler qualifier from shows which took place in the years 2019 and at the very beginning of 2020 will be able to compete in the Young Handler final at the Royal Highland Show in 2022. I will soon be contacting all qualifiers whose names have been made known to me and who have received an appropriate Young Handler medal to confirm this position.

This year, instead, the Royal Highland Show is running a Young Handler qualifier Class as articulated in the Equine Schedule. We are encouraging as many young people as possible to enter this class, which is to be judged by Alasdair Fletcher. This will be an ideal opportunity for young people to get out again into the showing ring and especially to open up another opportunity for qualification for the 2022 final at the Royal Highland Show.

As we speak, and given the current situation with Covid, we hope that it may be possible for the regular foal shows to take place in the autumn and we would hope that each of these shows will affiliate with us and, in so doing, provide another opportunity for more Young Handler classes.

There will certainly be a Young Handler Class at the Winter Fair planned for 20th November 2021, Covid permitting.

**Blair Castle Horse Trials**

Earlier this week I had a call from Carol McGee who informed me that the Blair Castle Horse Event will be taking place once again this year, planned from 26th – 29th August. At present the position regarding spectators at this event is undecided, but classes are going ahead. I understand from Carol that there will be a Clydesdale Ridden class this year, which will be an open class rather than a qualifier class, given that it will not have been possible to prequalify as a result of lack of shows to date this year.

The good news is that this class will be a HOYS qualifier and if you are interested in participation could I suggest that you keep an eye on the Blair Castle Horse Trials website at [www.blairhorsetrials.co.uk](http://www.blairhorsetrials.co.uk)

We will be sponsoring this class with the usual rosettes.

**Grassroots Heavy Horse Show**

The Society is co-sponsoring this year’s Grassroots Heavy Horse Show, which is taking place at the Oakridge Arena, Newark on 4th September 2021. This show is a celebration of Rare Breed Heavies for Shires, Clydesdales, Suffolks and Percherons with each Society contributing.

The show is being organised in conjunction with Fiona Ford, at Heavy Horse World magazine. A detailed resume of this show was issued last week on our own Facebook page but the show itself has a dedicated Facebook page at the following link. Have a look and see what’s going on there.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/oakridge-arena/heavy-horse-grassroots-show-2021/940449413449626/>

**Any More Shows in 2021?**

I have been asked by a number of you if I would be willing to create a schedule of shows which are planned to go ahead during the remainder of the year 2021. I am more than willing to do this but need your help. If you know of any show which is going ahead please email me the details including the date and any link to a website and it can be added to the list. If I get enough interest I will publish.

**Ian Roy**

**30th April 2021**