

The Clydesdale Horse Society



Newsletter - Spring 2025



The Clydesdale Horse Society

Company Reference (SC204832)

Charity Reference: (SC011766)

Contact the Secretary:

Ian A Roy, BA.,
7 Turretbank Place, Crieff,
PH7 4LS
Telephone: 07720 895870

Website

www.clydesdalehorsesociety.com

Email:

secretary@clydesdalehorsesociety.com

Welcome to Our Spring 2025 Newsletter



Hercules Texas Hold 'Em winner of the 2024 Winter Fair, Champion at three other foal shows last year, bred by **Christer Paulsson** of Sweden and produced by **the Black family** at Collessie is pictured on the front cover of this newsletter.

Pictured above is **Muirton Successor** owned by *Thomas Clark & Sons* bred by *The Hanna family* and winner of the Clydesdale Horse Society Champion of Champions for 2024 as well as being Champion at the North of Fife Foal Show in November.

It is a privilege to be able to highlight both these wonderful foals in our newsletter at the beginning of 2025.

Thank you Amanda Stewart

Deserving of prominence in this Newsletter is Amanda for her massive contribution to the content with her stunning photographs which she gives us regularly and without any fuss.

Amanda we thank you sincerely.

Welcome to Our Spring 2025 Newsletter

Crieff, 21st January 2025

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter as I send good wishes to all members and friends across the breed here in the UK and elsewhere. As I write these blethers from the confines of the box room in mid-January the weather is fairly pell of mild following the perishing cold of the last few weeks.

We look forward once again with great anticipation to a good year ahead whether you are a Breeder, an Owner, a Rider or whether you simply support us by spectating or in any other way. However in whatever capacity you join us we thank you, and I hope it will be possible to see many of you on my travels over the next 12 months.

Have a great season.

Subscriptions - and a gentle reminder that if you have not yet paid your subscription for 2025, this fell due on 1st January 2025. The rate is £40, a sum which has remained steady at this level for the last 8 years.

Canny be bad!

Ian

Foal Show Winners 2024 Season

Kilmarnock – Herkules Texas Hold ‘Em

Lanark – Collessie Princess

North of Fife – Muirton Successor

Perth - Cloghan Iona

Ormiston – Herkules Texas Hold ‘Em

Forfar – Croaghmore Dolly

Grampian – Collessie Aurora

County Londonderry – Downhill Bonnie

Kilpatrick – Herkules Texas Hold ‘Em

Winter Fair – Herkules Texas Hold ‘Em

Winter Fair 2024

2024 Winter Fair - Done and Dusted

From the warmth and comfort of the living room sofa on the evening of 15th November last year I sat down to compose a post for our Facebook page which I entitled "2024 Winter Fair – Done and Dusted". I began by jotting down the names of everyone who had pulled their weight across the day to allow us to host another great Winter Fair at Lanark Agricultural Centre in the comfort of the Highland Hall.

Judges – **Jim Greenhill and Janette Farley**

Stewards in the penning area – **Helen Smith, Fiona Hardie, Abbie Rice**

Door entry people – **Dorothy Combe, Kath Bowes**

The team at the gate – **Seamons, Willie, Robin**

The folks in the ring and keeping the scores – **Jim Steel, Louise Greenhill, Liz Lang**

The expert and hard working shoveller of the stuff that's allegedly good for the roses – could only be **Capt Jim, Master Mariner**, expert Dung (putting it politely) Shoveller!

The official camera lady – **Amanda Stewart**

The first aid team

The Lanark Mart team and especially **Colin McKinnon**

The amazing folks who helped man our merchandise stand across the day - **Sheena, Linzi, Christine and Hazel.**

Our magnificent sponsors

Our weel kent commentator from o'er the border – **Mrs Delma Nulty**

My trusty chauffeur, the **present Mrs Roy** who almost became the past Mrs Roy in the divorce courts when she had to return to Crieff - a 130-mile round trip - mid morning because someone (no names no pack drill) had left the Championship sashes and rosettes at home!

And if I have missed anyone out I promise you it is definitely inadvertent, probably incompetent on my part and for certain, not deliberate.

That great bunch of mostly volunteers, who worked tirelessly to ensure that the show ticked over smoothly. We thank them all – named and unnamed.

Winter Fair 2024

And of course, the most deserving thanks must be reserved for the true stars of our day - - our dedicated **owners and breeders** who brought along to entertain us the best **Clydesdales** around. Whether you won a red ticket or no ticket be reassured of our huge gratitude not just for entering and showing but also for your daily work in keeping our wonderful **Clydesdale Breed** alive. You are an awesome bunch of absolute stars.

What a veritable cast list of volunteers and performers who together served to make our 2024 Winter Fair a great success and, judging by the many comments I have received since, a great day out.

The work has started again with a booking for the **2025 show on 15th November** at the same venue and across the months ahead we'll be working to try and improve this show still more.

Hope to see you all again next year.

The Roll Call of Winners

Overall Champion & Foal Champion:- **Herkules Texas Hold 'Em – Christer Paulsson**

Reserve Overall & Senior Champion:- **Ainville Cindy Doll - William Mitchell (below)**

Reserve Foal Champion:- **Collessie Princess – Ronnie Black (page 6)**

Reserve Senior Champion:- **Collessie Aurora – Ronnie Black (page 7)**

Best Opposite Sex to the Champion:- **Muirton Successor - Thomas Clark & Sons**

More results on page 20.



Winter Fair Gallery



Winter Fair - Young Handler Winners

Senior Young handler - Kaitlyn Marshall (above left)

Junior Young Handler - Harry Martin (above right)

2024 Champion of Champions

Champion:- **Muirton Successor – Thomas Clark & Sons - (Picture Page 2)**

Reserve:- **Collessie Aurora – Ronnie Black - (Picture Below Top)**

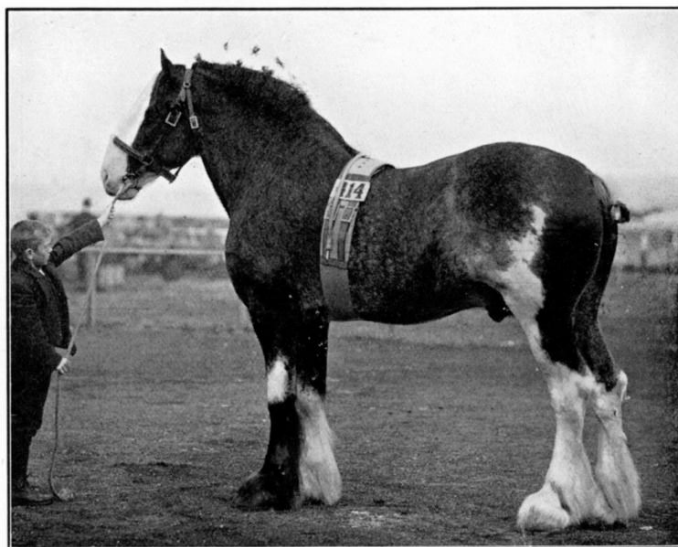
Third:- **Doura Sorrento – William & Janice Dunbar (Picture Below Bottom)**



Celebrating The National Stallion Show from 1857



CLYDESDALE STALLION, "BARON'S PRIDE."
"The greatest Clydesdale Sire that ever lived."



From Photo by A. Brown & Co., Lanark.

DUNURE FOOTPRINT (15203).

Clydesdale Stallion. Foaled 1909.

Bred by and Property of William Dunlop, Dunure Mains, Ayr.

Winner of many prizes, including Reserve Championship and First in his Class at the Show of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland at Paisley, 8th to 11th July, 1913.

History of National Stallion Show

National Stallion Show

With apologies to the **Royal Northern Agricultural Society Spring Show** which usually takes place at the end of February, the one show which the vast majority of the Clydesdale people look forward to is the **National Stallion Show**, to be held this year on Saturday 1st March at Morris Equestrian Centre, Fenwick near Kilmarnock. People often ask me to say more about the National Stallion Show, so to help promote and celebrate this iconic annual event in the calendar of Clydesdales, Highlands, Shetlands, Mountain Moulard and Coloured horses we thought it would be nice to pay tribute to the show, using material 'borrowed' from their website.

"The Glasgow Agricultural Society, which runs the National Stallion Show came into being in 1857, but it is certain that stallion shows were being held long before 1860 – the date of the first show organised under the Society banner—but there is evidence of stallion shows of some kind having been held as far back as 1844..

In the early days, for the Clydesdale Breed, the purpose of the show was for the hiring of Clydesdale stallions to travel the various districts of Scotland and the northern counties of England, and quite a number were also selected for Ireland. There appears to have been as much competition to secure the best animals as there was to secure the prizes at the succeeding shows.

In these early days, numerous societies advertised their requirements and stated their terms. The highest terms were 40gns and a silver medal; in addition, there were service fees, and these varied considerably. Foal money appears to be a later addition. It was indeed a busy day at the Glasgow Cattle Market when all the deputations met to select the premium horses, apparently several rings had to be erected to accommodate all these deputations.

At the show, held on February 24, 1860, the main business seems to have been the hiring of horses for the Glasgow district; the Dunblane, Doune and Callander Farmers' Club and for the island of Bute.

The show was held in Glasgow Cattle Market in its early days and towards the end of its time there the whole market was taken over to house the number of entries. The summer show, also organised by The Glasgow Agricultural Society, was held at that time in Queen's Park Recreational Ground.

History of the National Stallion Show

The idea of a permanent site for the show took shape just before the turn of the 20th century and the first show at Scotstoun was held in April 1900. That of course was the summer show, a two-day event.

The show continued to be held at Scotstoun until 1993, but for a few years in the 1960s when it decanted to the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow. Then from 1994 to 1996 it was held at United Auctions' Kildean market in Stirling, before heading further north to Perth Agricultural Centre, and in 2010 back south to United Auctions' newly built premises – Stirling Agricultural Centre. It has a vrief foray at Ingliston before today at the Morris Equestrian Centre.

There are many great Clydesdale sires which have appeared at the Stallion Show – in the 1800s, Darnley was arguably the sire with the most show championships to his name, however Prince of Wales and Baron's Pride, sire of Baron of Buchlyvie, were the sires with the greatest influence, but without a Stallion Show career.

Hiawatha, bred by William Hunter, Garthland Mains, Stranraer, in the 1890s, and later owned by Matthew Marshall, Bridgebank, Stranraer, and the John Pollock, Paper Mill, Langside, Glasgow, is the only horse to have won the Cawdor Cup four times – and four times in succession. In the beginning, Hiawatha was almost a complete failure as a breeder, leaving only two foals in his first season and not many more the second. He gradually recovered and was to become one of the most prolific sires of his time.

Dunure Footprint also occupies a place in Clydesdale history. He stood first four years in succession at the Stallion Show before winning the Cawdor Cup in 1910. As a breeding sire, Footprint was phenomenal – at the height of his fame he is reputed to have been mated to 400 mares in one season. He certainly left some inferior stock, but that was inevitable in view of the extent to which he was used, but his prizewinning stock were legendary. In all he sired no fewer than five male and five female winners of the trophy. Thus, he figures as the sire, or as a sire of a dam of 22 Cawdor Cup champions. His nearest rival is his own grandson, Baron's Pride with 18.

Benefactor was another sire worthy of note – his head features prominently on the cover of many Clydesdale Horse Society stud books. At a time when the country was flooded with Dunure Footprint mares, Benefactor was the natural cross.

The outstanding personality around the turn of the century was James Kilpatrick of Craigie Mains, and indeed some families were still to the fore right up to 1960. The Kilpatrick's won no fewer than 18 Cawdor Cups, three of them being won outright.

History of the National Stallion Show

Another of the outstanding exhibitors as Scotstoun was the Clark family, particularly Thomas Clark, Muirton, Perth. He supplied no fewer than six Cawdor Cup champions while his younger brother James, then in Windlaw, Carmunnock, supplied one, and his older brother, Alex Clark, Strathore, was the exhibitor of Strathore Imperial the yearling winner of 1937, but unfortunately, he died shortly after his victory. Thomas Clark & Sons were the winner of the 2011 Cawdor Cup with Muirton Sabre.

Since 1960, one family, has without doubt, dominated the Clydesdale headlines – that of the late John Young, Doura, and his son Jim, with the Greendykes prefix. The Young family have won the Cawdor Cup no fewer than 19 times, four trophies being won outright. The first win for John Young was in 1965 with Doura Ambassador. Other memorable winners include Doura Excelsior, Doura Masterstroke, Doura Expectation. Doura Sir Charles and Greendykes Benjie.

Other prominent exhibitors to have won the Cawdor Cup more than once since the 1960s include John Chapman, Jim Picken, Torrs, Peter Sharp, Ronnie Black, Newton of Collessie, Robert Hamilton, Dillars; all lifting the prestigious trophy.”

And so, on 1 March 2025 the next chapter of the history of the National Stallion Show will be written at the Morris Equestrian Centre, Fenwick, near Kilmarnock.

Glasgow Agricultural Society

THE NATIONAL STALLION SHOW

Saturday 1st March 2025

Morris Equestrian Centre, Fenwick, Ayrshire, KA3 6AY

Featuring in-hand classes for Clydesdales, Highlands and Shetlands

Also including The Clydesdale Horse Society Stallion Parade

Secretary: Morag Kennedy

Borlick Farm, Aberfeldy, Perthshire, PH15 2JP

Tel: 07713 355019

Email: secretary@thenationalstallionshow.co.uk

www.thenationalstallionshow.co.uk

Scottish Ploughing Championships - Horse Section
Congratulations to Scottish Champion - Benny Duncan
Some 'Benny' Photos to Enjoy



From Blair to Scone

The resounding feeling of depression and sadness which permeated the land when earlier in 2024 news reached us that the 2024 Blair Horse Trials would be the last to be held at that iconic location, was quite palpable. For many years folks have treated that weekend as being sacrosanct in their calendars and to know that it was coming to an end was like a bereavement. By all accounts, a great time was had across that final Blair weekend and more memories were created and champions were crowned none more so than our own Kaitlyn Marshall who after having had a wonderful 2025 in the showing ring, took home the trophy in the Ridden Heavy Horse class.

But rising like a Phoenix out of the ashes in the autumn news emerged that Blair would soon become Scone - to be precise Scone Palace International Horse Trials - and the great news is that the show will go on. Of course, there have been cries 'it'll no be the same' and of course it can never be the same because the location of Blair was quite unique.

So, it's time to put these dates in your diary – 21st to 24th August 2025 for the Scone Palace International Horse Trials. Website www.sconehorsetrials.com

And even better news for our Breed is that the Ridden Heavy Horse class will continue and will be sponsored by the Clydesdale Horse Society. We have been in touch with the organisers who have now got details of all shows which affiliate to the Clydesdale Horse Society and they will be in touch with you to organise qualifiers.

So hope to see you there!

One last picture below shows the final 'Blair' Committee - at the point of handover to Scone. Thank you - all of you - and thank you Blair for creating so many memories over the years,



Royal Highland Show 2025

The booking is made and preparations are already underway for the 2025 Royal Highland Show which takes place this year from the 19 - 22 June. We will be there with our exhibition unit as usual, and we hope to see many of you come along and support the show.

As ever we were always on the lookout for folks to give us an hour to help on the stand in return for a free cup of coffee, some shortbread and some exceedingly good crack and chat. And you might also help us sell a pound or two of the wonderful merchandise which our friends at Whistlefish arrange for us.

Whilst on the subject of the show we send our warmest congratulations to those of our number and beyond who have been appointed into the illustrious position of Judges for this year:

Scott Greenhill (in Hand Male)

Robert Detweller (In Hand Female and Heavy Horse Turnouts)

Heather Fraser (Young Handlers, Young Stockman, and Ridden Confirmation)

Jo Callwood (Ridden Ride)

Mike Horler (Harness and Grooming)

World Show 2025



Kristin Hastings, one of the directors for Clydesdale Breeders USA and a member of the 2025 World Clydesdale Show committee has been in touch about their show which is taking place this year from 1st to 5th October at Springfield, Illinois. As always, the Society is sponsoring the best Mare bred in the UK class and Kristin is particularly keen to

make sure that breeders and owners from the UK are made to feel very welcome if you are going to the show. She has asked me to give you her contact information so that you can be in touch with her to receive that warm welcome when you get there. Kristin can be contacted on dkhastings1996@gmail.com

And for those of you who cannot make it in person and the show will be live streamed on Facebook.

It is always nice to have memories and one memory I have of the 2022 World Show was the poem which was recited at the opening ceremony. This poem moved Lyn Thompson so much that she chose to have produced for us tea towels featuring that poem to sell within our merchandise. We will have these out at shows this year.

HOYs 2024

For as much as there is always great excitement in the spring at the prospect of the Stallion Show, in the early summer at the prospect of the Highland Show, there is equal enthusiasm as the weeks leading up to the early part of October and the annual journey down into spaghetti junction territory for the Horse of the Year Show.

In 2024 the breed was well represented in the British Ridden Heavy Horse of the Year Championship with Colleen and Kaitlyn Marshall, John McIntyre and family with Alasdair Matheson, Lyn Thompson with Ailsa Noble, Brian Bisset and Isla Miller who had two entries, and last but by no means least Harry Emerson with rider Natalie Leslie.

All had qualified to be involved in this highly competitive class and each acquitted themselves superbly. We send particular congratulations to recent new mum (huge congratulations for this too), **Isla Miller, riding the incorrigible Stobilee Zac** who was runner up to the overall Champion. Quite awesome Isla.

In the Gogar Services sponsored Driven Heavy Horse of the Year Championships there were 6 qualifiers – Owner John McIntyre and driver Alison Snowie, Val Smith and Olivia Streatfield James, Ailsa Noble, John McIntyre (again), Brian Bisset and Isla Miller, Hugh with Elaine Ramsey and Annette Noble.

And we send warm congratulations to **Elaine Ramsey** pictured the below who came out on top of the tree with her Shire gelding Langcliffe Glassia.

Well done each and everyone of you for representing the Breed so marvellously well.



Well Done Jim Balfour - Contributed by Kate Stephen

Founded in 1998, Horsescotland is the National Organisation for all equestrian sports and activities and it is partnered with Sportscotland, with various support grants being available. Every year it holds a dinner where various very prestigious awards are made, one of which is for breeder of the year for which several of our members have been nominated and been successful over the years.

In 2024 there was an award for Outstanding Achievement which went to master farrier Jim Balfour. Jim will be known by many of you - as clients - but he is also renowned throughout the Clydesdale World for his and his family's skill in heavy horse shoeing. Jim has also been very active in the furthering of understanding of the best practise of shoeing heavy horses in terms of welfare and he serves on various farriery committees.

Many of you will remember the key role Jim played in organising the massively successful international farriery competition at The World Clydesdale Show in Aberdeen in 2022. A keen competitor in farriery competitions in his early years having retired from active participation himself, he is currently the Scottish Farriery Team Manager and lately had two of his sons Wayne and Lewis in the team representing their country. We wish to send our heartiest congratulations to Jim on winning this award and thank him at the same time for his contribution to our breed.

2024 Foal Registrations

Colts - 71 (91)

Fillies - 87 (84)

Earlier Year Fillies - 3 (4)

Earlier Year Colts - 0 (2)

Grade Ups All Years - 2 (5)

Changes of ownership - 164 (232)

Unregistered passports issued – 9 (9)

Stallions – 11 (20)

Daughter Stud Book Foals - 16 (20)

Don't forget that under Passport Regulations when you acquire a new horse you have 30 days to change it's ownership into your name. It is the responsibility of the new owner to do this.

Judges

One of the happier occasions at Council Meetings is when we are given the opportunity to welcome new Judges to join the Society's Judges Panel and during 2024 we were delighted to welcome three new judges all of whom, dare I say it, have an element of youth on their side. Elliot Anderson, Michael Martin and Adam Young were suitably appointed onto the Judges panel and we thank them for agreeing to undertake this important work in the showing cycle.

This picture of Adam came to us recently from the Friockheim & District Ploughing Match in November working Kelsey Logan's Raine. We thought you would enjoy seeing it.



The Strangest Place to Find A Clydesdale - Amanda Butler Merchant

..... Inside (yes inside) a Nursing Home!

Let Amanda and the incorrigible Maggie May take up the story.

“Two years ago we were contacted by a lady called Moira who worked at a care home in nearby Laurencekirk. Her request was simple, could we possibly take a Clydesdale horse to the care home. One of the residents was coming up to her 99th birthday and in conversation had said she would love to see and touch a Clydesdale once more. “Of course” we said and we took along Mr Bojangles and Maggie May.

A few weeks ago Moira was in touch again. She is now working in Montrose and wondered if we could take a horse along for their



Remembrance service being held at the home last night. Again there was no hesitation in saying yes. We took Maggie May and under saddle, joined in the service with the staff, residents, families, representatives from the dog world and the Lathallen school pipe band.

The pipe band played, the residents read In Flanders Field and the last post was played. Maggie met the residents who were all seated in chairs or wheelchairs.

She did her usual and gently lowered her head to each person so they could touch her. Space was tight but she managed like she had done it all her days.

After the service Moira asked if possible, could we get close to the building as a resident who is terribly poorly and bed bound would love to see her. We couldn't get close enough, so Moira opened the fire doors near the gentleman's room and yes, we walked Maggie straight through them and into the care home. She never batted an eyelid. Once inside we got right to the gentleman's door where he could see her. The look of joy on the gentleman's face we will never forget. The whole visit was emotional and humbling.

The gift Maggie May gave last night was worth more than all the money and riches in the world and will stay with us for the rest of our days. Maggie May, you have been a delight since the minute you were born. You are exceptional and totally awesome.”

Yes, the strangest place in which to find a Clydesdale! Unless of course, you know differently?

Statistics

Membership

At the end of December 2024, the Membership Data Base shows the following:

Annual 517 (2023 - 497)

Ridden 0 – (2023 – 15) – Category of membership abolished at 31/12/2023.

EU Members 28 (2023 – 29)

Junior 35 – (2023 – 25)

Life 233 – 237

Deaths – We Will Remember Them

Sadly we also have to report of the following deaths of members over the last year. These names and any others that come our way will be reported at the Annual General Meeting in March and if you are aware of anyone else who has passed away since March 2024, please let me know. As I always say is better to be told twice than not at all.

This year we mourn the passing of the following members - Honorary President Malcolm McFadyen, Robert Aitken, David Broll, J R Cameron, Cecil Pirie.

Top Stallions 2024

Based on Registration received to 20th January 2025 the following is a provisional list of Stallions per foals registered for the 2024 Stud Book. This list may be updated in due course.

Arradoul Balvenie - 17

Dillars Caledonia - 10

Collessie Monarch - 9

Macfin Starlight - 8

Doura Aird Ambition - 8

Dillars Top Maverick - 7

Willow Way Swiper - 7

Dillars Ollie - 6

Bratlach Arclid Duke of Edinburgh - 6

And with 5 foals each - Collessie Connoisseur, Muirton Sabre, Roes Hall Apollo, Dillars Nobleman

In total 50 Stallions were used to produce the foals registered in 2024.

Winter Fair Results

Novice Handler

1st Emma McKay
2nd Mhairi McDougall
3rd Maggie McDougall

Senior Colt

1st Collessie Warrior - Ronnie Black
2nd Newton Glens Champagne Charlie –
Sandy Aitken, Lynn Aitken & Kiera Gowans

Senior Filly

1st Herkules Texas Hold'em – Christer Paulsson
2nd Collessie Princess – Ronnie Black

Junior Colt

1st Muirton Successor - Thomas Clark &
Sons
2nd Unnamed Colt - Messrs Tennant

Junior Filly

1st Fordelhill Elena – Scott Greenhill
2nd Croaghmore Dolly – Thomas Clark &
Sons

Senior Young Handlers

1st Kaitlyn Marshall
2nd William Greenhill
3rd Adam Martin
4th Carlie McAllister
5th Samantha Murray

Junior Young Handlers

Harry Martin
Ella Lightbowne
Arianna Differ

Gelding 3 years or over

1st Gildy Flash – Julie & Lindsay Martin
2nd Gildy Braveheart - Julie & Lindsay
Martin

Mare 3 years or over

1st Collessie Alanna – Ronnie Black
2nd Doura Sorrento – William & Janice
Dunbar

2 year old Filly

1st Ainville Cindy Doll – William Mitchell
2nd Mill Rose -John McMillian & Family

Gelding 1 or 2 years old

1st Greenknowes First Ambition – An-
nette & Ailsa Noble
2nd Fergie's Fortunate Son – Bruce Fer-
guson

Filly 1 Year

1st Collessie Aurora – Ronnie Black
2nd Slievenamon Lady Joys Dream –
Joan Butterworth

Pair of Foals

1st Thomas Clark & Sons
2nd Ronnie Black & Christer Paulsson