**Secretary Blog Week 11 (or week 1 of partial release from Lock Down)**

Well friends, how are you all doing this week?

Are you happy to have a wee bit more freedom under the revised lock down arrangements announced last week – or maybe some of you are still under compulsory lock down because of health or other issues? If you are in this latter category, I hope it won’t be long before you also get the release from ‘captivity’.

Hazel and I are slightly nervous about the opening up, but that didn’t stop us from venturing to the local garden centre last Friday morning early on, finding it very quiet indeed and spending an absolute fortune! Then our days on Saturday and Sunday were spent getting absolutely puggled (and not an alcoholic drink was consumed)! - in all that heat - getting plants and bedding into place.

But enough of my idle chit chat – you’ll be wanting to know what’s happening in Clydesdale World this week?

**Stud Book**

Well last Monday I got news that the printers we use are open for business and so the present Mrs Roy and I spent a couple of days proof reading, checking and double checking, referencing and cross referencing the 158 pages which make up this year’s stud book. And off it has gone to print – so it should be with us fairly soon – thereby allowing me to extract a shekel or two from your hard-earned cash in the not too distant future! As one of our breeders has been known to say, ‘it’s all about the money’!!

**Stallions**

We’ve got a couple of stallion applications on the go at the moment and the first DNA sample for a stallion registration went off to Weatherbys on Friday.

**Foal Registrations**

A fair number of you have asked for foal registration paperwork and, again, the first DNA samples for 2020 born foals have gone off to Ireland.

It looks as if, this year, it will be necessary to mail out applications for foals – but if you are registering a colt the form can be emailed instead. Filly forms need to be posted because of the need to include a DNA test kit. This year, once more, the registration fees remain unchanged at £50 to register a colt and £105 to register a filly (including the cost of DNA test). The deadline for registration this year remains at 30th September for foals and 30th November for stallions.

**Heavy Horse World**

Last week I received a news release from Diana Zeuner advising that the summer 2020 issue of Heavy Horse World due out on 1st June will be her last as editor and publisher. The business has been sold on, allowing Diana to secure a rest from this aspect of life and affording her the opportunity to pick up new interests and different things to keep her amused. We wish Diana well in her retirement, thank her for all her marvellous contributions to the Heavy Horse World over the last 33 years - and we also wish Fiona Ford, the new editor, every success in her new venture at the helm. I look forward to continuing with Fiona the excellent working arrangement I have had with Diana.

**Dillars**

A huge well done to Bob Hamilton and all at Dillars for putting on a terrific virtual show last Saturday. With over 170 entrants this was a great display of Clydesdales. A few words on this blog will not do justice to the spectacular nature of this event. So, go and have a look at the Dillars Facebook page where you will see so much more. But well-done Bob – you deserved that end of the day drink!

**Music and Song**

This week more shouts for Kelsey Logan and her inimitable almost daily offering of ‘Lock doon live Aberdeenshire fae the Coo shed’ on Facebook What a singing talent Kelsey is and I for one certainly thoroughly enjoy when she entertains us regularly with her own style of great music. And also, a shout for Adam Young who continues with his great contribution on accordion, drums and who know what else as part of ‘Tunes Fae the Hoose!

I feel a real party evening with great entertainment coming on and on the cards for next year’s Highland Show Saturday evening.

**Member Voting Papers**

Following my circular to members dated 18th May many thanks to the folks who have already returned their voting sheets. The deadline for the return of these is 19th June 2020 at 5pm so there’s still plenty of time and every opportunity for each member to play their part in voting for the next CHS Council and the principal office bearers.

**Pictures**

After my blog last week Arthur Greenan sent me a couple of emails with pictures attached. I attach one taken in 1954 at Dalkeith Show of a very young Arthur handling Clyde – a gelding bred by Robert Dykes of Myles Farm - and also, one of Duncan Jack, under whom Arthur served his apprenticeship into working with Clydesdales.

We now have a growing array of photos on the Website page entitled ‘2020 Gallery’ at [www.clydesdalehorssociety.com](http://www.clydesdalehorssociety.com) and Beverley Walker sent another of one of the 2020 foals from up at Galcantray too.

My grateful thanks to both Arthur and Beverley.

Please keep your photos coming. Enter this year’s photo competition and you could see your picture take pride of place on the ‘2021 People’s CHS Calendar’. This year because of the absence of the Highland, there are plenty of gaps available in our 2021 calendar. And to get better area coverage I’d particularly like to see some photos from Northern Ireland and mainland Europe! Please email these to me to add to our wee parade of horses.

Well folks that’s my lot I think for this week.

Oh, and before I go just to say that a fresh stock of Clydesdale horsey soft toys (large and small) have arrived from Australia. To those who have an order, I’ll be in touch very soon. That will still leave some in stock for any folks who might be interested in laying their hands on one - £25 + postage for the large chap and £15 + postage for the smaller version.

That’s really it now – have a great week – till next week. Stay safe and stay well.

All the very best.

Ian