**Secretary’s Blog – Week 3 of Lock Down**

**Be Positive with Good News!**

Hello everyone,

How are you all getting on this week?

I know it’s all a bit of a struggle, isn’t it, and there’s not a lot of good news around to cheer us up. But as we wish the Prime Minister and all folks affected by Covid 19 a speedy recovery, I see in the news this morning, for the first time since this whole thing began, that yesterday China did not have a single Covid related death to report. I also see that Denmark and Austria are contemplating relaxing some of their rules of containment.

I don’t know about you, but I have hope – I am trying very hard to be optimistic – and little nuggets of better news from elsewhere are ‘just what the doctor ordered!’

We all need cheering up and courtesy of that commentator extraordinaire - you know …. that lady of predominantly the ‘big beasties’ down south … but she who is always welcome North of Hadrian’s Wall - the indefatigable Mrs Delma Nulty; courtesy of Delma I am sharing a story which I have purloined from her Facebook page (I have no shame!) from last week. So, if you follow Delma on Facebook, not unlike the BBC at the moment, this is a repeat and you will have seen it recently, but I hope it does tempt your chuckle muscles to raise a wee laugh.

According to Delma, this story came to her via Hugh Ramsay! So here goes.

God is in his heaven and he's looking out onto beautiful green fields full of all the past champions from the Shire & Clydesdale world. He thinks to himself ...why don't we have a show - all the champions are here in heaven along with the men and women who bred and showed them. So, he put the word out around heaven, and it went down a storm - everyone started washing out and braiding up and getting on with the preparation.

Now down in Hell the devil got to hear about this amazing show, and he called a meeting with God – and the devil said to God ‘I hear you’re putting a show on and I would like to take part.’ God looked at the devil and said, ‘Why would you want to show? You only have the bad horses down there – you know the ones who used to bite and kick.’

Not to be deterred, the devil looked at God and said, ‘I bet you a million pounds that I could win that show!’ But God laughed at the devil and replied, ‘you have no chance because I have all the best horses in heaven – and all the champions of the past!’

Back came the devil who looked God in the eye and replied, ‘Yes’ he said, ‘but I have all the judges!’

As with last week, sadly, we continue to see 2020 Shows right into July and some beyond then, now being cancelled. But the subject of showing emanating from that story ties neatly in with a suggestion made to me last week from Ejner Andersen over in Denmark. Ejner contacted me last week with the following message and I quote:

‘Ian, I hope everything is ok with you and that everyone is healthy. Now that all shows are being cancelled along the way, I got a brilliant idea myself. At least I think so!! The Society could perhaps make a virtual show where Clydesdale owners can submit a picture or pictures, where a horse is put up to show. Of course, divided into different classes. Then a couple of judges could see the pictures and find a winner. Just a (corona) idea from Denmark!’

With the request for polite responses only (!!) and under the mantra that we don’t want to put folks to a whole lot of trouble, is this something which you would be up for? If so, let us know and I will put the thinking hat on and see how we can work this through in conjunction with Ejner and others. It might just be a bit of fun in these straightened times – and as most of us may well be pining for the Royal Highland Show this year, maybe judging could be on Highland Show Thursday!

It’s also great at the moment to see pictures of new foals emerging on Facebook and I am delighted to say that last week I registered and passported the first 2020 born foal of the year that has been presented to the office. This is good news.

And there’s more good news to report as we welcome the following to membership of the Society – Elliott Anderson, Charlotte Birkin (Ridden), Jonathan Bower, Kiera Gowans (Junior to Senior), Ulla Greve, Sharon Hepburn, Alli Hinselwood, Christine Love, Mark Main, Paul Massey, Anthony Ronzio, Jenny Fritzson Sjoo, Diane Tulloch, Muller Veronique, Johnie Ward, Jack Ward, Tierna Ward (Junior) and Craig Birkin. Welcome one and all!

In addition, David Curtis, Steve Leveret and Keona Eastwood have joined the Judges Panel and John Henderson has re-joined after a time of less good health. Welcome and welcome back as the case may be.

A reminder too that we still have stock for sale of copies of our Clydesdale Celebration DVD recorded at last year’s Royal Highland Show – and these can be posted out at the moment using franked mail – priced £15. Email me for more information – a great way to spend a couple of hours reminiscing!

And lastly let me share with you the good news that I have imported two Clydesdales from Australia – a pair of absolute beauties which I picture below!

They are very low maintenance and come in at very reasonable rates. I have 5 of ‘large’ and 10 of ‘little’ for sale at £25 and £15 each excluding postage. Posting these to you might be a challenge right now but if you would like to reserve one, email me for more details including postage, and I’ll reserve one for you in return for payment of the price – and I will get posted out just as soon as I can get access to our local Post Office to post parcels, hopefully in a few weeks’ time.

If the demand is sufficient, I can order more but as the costs of importing and delivery in the UK are quite expensive, we would need to justify that cost.

Well that’s about enough for me this week – don’t forget to share your good news stories with me – and especially if you have photos to share, send them by email to my office email - secretary@clydesdalehorsesociety.com. In that way I know you are giving me permission to use them.

Meantime, take care, be safe and please do all you can individually to help get rid of the spread of this awful virus.

All the best for now.

Ian