Hello everyone.

As I slip back behind the desk after a ‘wee’ day off yesterday it’s time once more to share my meanderings for another week. Last week was a pretty active one and for my blog today I have accumulated lots of bits n pieces to share in what might become a bit of a list.

To begin though, let me say how delighted I was to receive the first photo shown below from Alastair Guild. Alastair told me that this photo came from personal family papers and it dates back to the 1950’s. It shows Alistair’s great uncle George Guild on his farm at Archbank, Moffat. I wonder if any of our members remember Mr Guild? Alastair reckons that the gentleman behind in the picture is more than likely to be George’s assistant on the farm.

Part of George’s story is that he lost an eye in a boating accident when he was at Cambridge University and he returned to the farm in the Borders. It is reckoned that George had Clydesdales on account of their relatively docile nature and their reputation as gentle giants – and that he could cope with them even given his disability.

Alastair also tells me that he was a freelance journalist and about 20 years ago he wrote an article for the Glasgow Herald about how Clydesdales were being used for woodland work. I have a copy of that article if anyone would like to see it.

In thanking Alastair and his family for showing an interest in our work I do wonder if anyone else has a story to tell of the history of Clydesdales going back into a generation when the Breed was fully working in farms or in the cities? I would be delighted to hear from you about any such stories.

The second picture this week was shared by prospective new Council member for Area 13, Andrew Whetton, and shows his foal this year.

And as a bonus this week – a third photo, shared only last night by Kate Smith from Yorkshire of mare and foal taken recently. Kate tells me that she’s so pleased to be able to work on a farm in these difficult times, although she added the rider ‘it’s a pity that it has turned back to winter’!! The sun will shine with warmth again, Kate!

Thank you to Andrew and Kate for their photos, too!

Other news

1. I was delighted to receive the newsletter this last week from the 2021 World Clydesdale Show being held in Brandon, Manitoba. Their class sponsorship is fairly filling up and I am delighted to confirm that CHS has sponsored ‘The Best UK Bred Stallion’ class at that show.
2. And talking about World Shows, I was delighted to have been invited to the last committee meeting held for the 2022 World Show which itself takes place at the P & J arena in Aberdeen on 20th – 23rd October 2022. I was so impressed by the enthusiasm and drive of the team and I look forward to being with them again in the future after Covid 19 allows meetings to take place - and also to be in a position to share more of their plans in the times ahead.
3. I mentioned a few weeks ago that I had written an article for Farming Scotland magazine – a potted history of our Breed. That article has now been published along with a few of the photos I supplied. Just so that no offence has been created I supplied a larger selection of photos than were printed - the editor chose the photos he wanted! If you don’t already do so you can subscribe to Farming Scotland via their website at [www.farmingscotlandmagazine.com](http://www.farmingscotlandmagazine.com)
4. I was also pleased to receive my copy of Heavy Horse Herald last week. You can also subscribe to this via [www.auchengreeclydesdales.com](http://www.auchengreeclydesdales.com) – and in this quarter’s edition Mr Fletcher has some interesting things to say about the breed.
5. Last weekend on Facebook I read that Dillars Clydesdales, in lieu of the cancelled 2020 Lesmahagow Show, but in an effort to keep the showing spirit alive, has launched their own Virtual Photographic Show on Saturday 30th May 2020. So, you are being encouraged to rake through your photos and send them electronically either via PM or WhatsApp to 07920 851245. There will be classes for male and female Clydesdales – entries close on 22nd May. More information on the Dillars Clydesdales Facebook page.
6. We still await the final 3 nominations for the Clydesdale Decade Champion from the Scottish Farmer. That certainly stirred up a lot of healthy interest in our Breed!
7. It has been really nice to have had emails of appreciation from some of the Young handlers and their parents following the issue of the recent Young Person Newsletter. Thank you one and all for taking the time to do this.
8. I would also cross-refer you to my Facebook post from last week of the proposed Young handler Virtual Competition being hosted by Bryan Lindsay and the Young handler League organisers on 6th June 2020. More news about this can be found in due course on the Team Rascal Facebook page and we will also share any more news of this as we receive it.
9. I often get short surveys to complete from undergraduates who are writing towards their final degree – and on the ground that all publicity of this nature is good publicity, I always do my best to respond. This week Emily Windsor from Hartpury University in Gloucester sent me an email concerning her studies into breeding and conservation of rare equine breeds – and this short survey is directed more at breeders than at administrators like me! If you feel inclined to help Emily out, I note below the link to her survey and this link tells you all about what she is doing. If you can help her, I’m sure she would appreciate you taking a few minutes of your time to respond. <https://forms.gle/6kMoLDrCgWdYDi5n7>

Well folks, I think that’s about enough to be getting on with today. Hope you all have a good week. As always, stay safe and well and I’ll see you next week for some more delightful dialogue (or diatribe) from the dining room!

All the best for now - Ian