



# THE ROYAL SMITHFIELD CLUB

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## 2012 SHOW—SMITHFIELD AT ITS BEST

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### 2013 Office Bearers

President  
Andrew Gilmour

Chairman  
Angus Stovold

Chairman Elect  
Julian Hopwood

Secretary  
Geoffrey Burgess  
07702 050119

Administrator  
Sally Ball

Office  
95 Hillside View  
Peasedown St. John  
BATH. BA2 8EU

Tel: 01225 837904  
Fax: 01761 432444  
sally@royalsmithfieldclub  
.co.uk

The Royal Smithfield Club's prestigious prime stock awards were presented at the East of England Smithfield Festival at the Peterborough Showground in early December. One of the best displays of prime stock meant the show lived up to the reputation that the Club has deservedly built up over many years. There was obviously a little concern through last autumn that the poor weather would affect the time and effort that exhibitors could put in to bringing out the very best, but this was unfounded. A tribute goes to exhibitors who as usual gave Smithfield their whole hearted support, some travelling through the night from the Winter Fair at Ingleston which was held only two days earlier.

In the cattle ring, judge Jonathan Maycock from Matlock, Derbyshire, chose as his Champion a Limousin cross heifer, Olympic Dream (596 kg), from V and G Bowring, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, which the judge subsequently purchased for £5000. As his reserve, Mr. Maycock chose the second prize winner from the same class, Black Beauty, a 552kg Limousin cross heifer from Tecwyn Jones, Conwy, Wales.



The cattle Championship trophies were presented twice, firstly in the main ring, and then at a dinner that evening attended by over 400 people. Receiving the awards on the left are Victoria and Gill Bowring, and on the right Victoria receives the awards at the dinner from Charles Horrell and Angus Stovold.

## A RETURN TO LONDON?

At the recent members meeting during the very successful East of England Smithfield Festival, I revealed plans for the possibilities for a new London show.

In December 2010 at a meeting organised by the Royal Smithfield Club of all the major winter show societies, the role of the winter show was discussed. One of the conclusions reached was that the Royal Smithfield Club should look at organising a new major London Show, a consumer led event that would give a national profile of the countryside in the heart of our Capital.

In March 2011 the club with other organisations commissioned a major feasibility study. The very strong indications of the study were that the public would support such an event. The study's conclusions were some of the most positive ever seen by the research company.

The Club formed a partnership with a company who has expertise in developing new business ventures to take the idea and turning it into reality. Since then the Club has been working with a number of organisations to bring this exciting project to fruition. It is proving challenging to develop the idea in these difficult economic times but the positive attitude from everybody we are working with gives us real hope that the project will succeed.

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*It is very sad to report the recent death of Mrs. Janey Cumber, wife of William Cumber of Marcham, Oxford. Janey supported Club activities for many years. A full appreciation will appear in the next issue.*

# SMITHFIELD AT ITS BEST *continued from page 1. For full results, see [www.eoesmithfieldfestival.co.uk](http://www.eoesmithfieldfestival.co.uk)*

The Kings Cup for the Champion beast exhibitor bred went to a pure-bred Limousin Heifer, Keskadale Gamel (538kg) from K. Harryman, Keswick, Cumbria. This animal was the pure bred Champion and Mark Harryman was the Bob Rickatson Memorial Award winner (stock attendant with the best presented beast). The Native Champion and winner of The Queen Mother Perpetual Trophy was an Aberdeen Angus Heifer, Smurf (604kg), from B.E. Williams, Sennybridge, Powys.



Left: Club President John Coultrip presenting the Kings Cup to Mark Harryman, with Jonathan Maycock, the judge.



Right: The Native Champion and Queen Mother Trophy winner with Sally Lloyd.



A very strong show of Baby Beef took place on the second morning of the show, the Champion was an eleven month old Limousin cross heifer (398kg) from T.A. & L.C. Lyon, Bourne, Lincolnshire. In an innovative move, the Duke of Norfolk Trophy was competed for in the New Pedigree Calf section and was awarded to a group of three Aberdeen Angus, much to the delight of Club Chairman Angus Stovold. Each group had to include two spring born animals and be made up of two heifers and one bull.

In the sheep ring, butcher Antony Glaves from Scarborough awarded his Championship to a pair of untrimmed Blue Texel cross Texel lambs from D.S. & L.E. Wadland, Daventry, Northants. The reserve was a pair of pure bred Beltex from Steven and Sara Gibbons, Brecon, Powys. The RABI charity class was won by R.J. Slade, Hereford, with a Dutch Texel.



Left: Club President John Coultrip and Charles Horrell, East of England, presenting the champion lamb awards to David & Linda Wadland, with Antony Glaves, judge.



Right: Chris Riddle, Deputy Chairman RABI, and Secretary of The Royal Cornwall Show, presenting the RABI trophy to Robin Slade, with Antony Glaves.



The National Festival of Meat Beef Ribs completion was also staged at Peterborough, along with the lamb carcass competition. The Champion rib came from S.J. Hodges, Aylesbury, Bucks and was from a Limousin cross heifer, born in June 2010 which weighed 416kg. The reserve came from I. R. & A. D. Wildgoose & Sons of Chesterfield exhibiting a rib from a Limousin cross heifer born in April 2011 which weighed in at 345kg.

The Champion lamb carcass was exhibited by Andrew Morton, Stirling, with a Beltex x Beltex cross weighing in at 46kg live and 26kg dead. Reserve was a Beltex from Andrew Bishop, Gloucester (34kg and 22kg).



Left: Phil Henshaw, Chief Carcass Steward with the Champion beef ribs

**The 2013 East of England Smithfield Festival will be held at Peterborough on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th December .**

# LIVESTOCK EVENT REPORT

The Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers organised Livestock and Dairy Event in Birmingham in September, gave the Royal Smithfield Club the opportunity to put on several workshops on various areas of the beef and sheep sector. Workshops were well attended and informative, ranging in subject matter from how to get a foot hold in sheep farming, to EID use, and how to farm beef profitably without subsidies.

A very interesting seminar was presented by Hugh Dunlop, Holehouse, Cumnock, Ayrshire, and Gareth Scott of Cogent Breeding, entitled "Benefits of AI for Suckler Producers". "Genetic Development is a Continuous Process" was the message in that AI allows beef producers to speed up their genetic progress. There is flexibility in the choice of genetics and farmers are able to use any number of bulls within the herd in one breeding season. New bulls can be tested on a small number of cows and you are able to stop using a particular bull after one season if found to be unsuitable. Breeding using leading genetics is affordable, a £50,000 bull can be accessed for as little as £20 per straw. This leads to improved Stock Quality, performance and returns. Improved returns means consistently selling animals in the top 5% of market prices, and this equates to £200 per animal above the average. Then there is also the potential for show winning stock! Holehouse Farm has two herds on one farm and results show: 71.5% of cows conceive in the first cycle, 17% of cows conceive in the second cycle, 4.5% of cows conceive in the third cycle, with 7% barren cows. This is only regularly achieved in natural service herds where there is an over supply of bulls.



Synchronisation is the key word, being regularly used in beef suckler herds. The main benefits are Fixed Time AI programmes – no heat detection, this tightens the calving period considerably and Cows that hold to service will calve in a 7-10 day period. All this leads to improved management through pregnancy and calving. There is then more consistent and even batches of animals to sell, Increased volume of calves born in the first 7-10 days of calving and increased weaning weights and sale values.

Copies of all the powerpoint presentations are available by e-mail from [sally@royalsmithfieldclub.co.uk](mailto:sally@royalsmithfieldclub.co.uk). This year the event moves to 3rd & 4th July, the dates traditionally associated with the now defunct Royal Show. Some do not like this move, but it is a much more sensible time to hold such a show; the Royal used to attract good numbers, so it must be a good time of year to leave the farm for a day or two.

## The Next Generation of shoppers, Farmers and Stock Handlers

Two events at The East of England Smithfield Festival promoted the younger generation in very different ways. Firstly, about four hundred primary school children attended to see exhibits all about farming and learn about livestock in particular. One exhibit created great interest and that was to identify cuts of meat—this ranged from chicken leg to mince to leg of lamb to sirloin steak.



*Beef or lamb?*



*Joe Clark*



*Jennifer Hyslop*

The final of the Young Stock Person of the Year was also held, which was judged by Miss G. Bersey from Looe, Cornwall, and sponsored by NFU Mutual, Peterborough. Divided into two classes, 15-17 years and 18-21 years, a total of thirty young handlers competed, with points being awarded for both theory and questions, and for showing skills with cattle. The winner of the younger age group was Joe Clark from Great Dunmow, Essex, with the winner of the older group being well known stock exhibitor Jennifer Hyslop from Ayrshire.

# CHANGES AT THE TOP IN THE CLUB

At the end of December, John Coultrip stood down as Club President following a distinguished two year term. He has ably helped lead the Club through a difficult period. Stepping into the President's role for 2013 is Andrew Gilmour. Also stepping down, from the role of Deputy Chairman, is John Campbell. Over his period as Chairman elect, Chairman and then Deputy Chairman, John has worked tirelessly for the Club and been instrumental in assisting to bring forward many important changes to the structure of the Club. Stepping into the role of Chairman elect is Julian Hopwood. Angus Stovold continues as Chairman for another year.

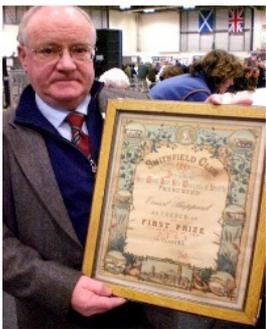


Andrew Gilmour farms 500 arable acres in Fife, Scotland. His main crops are malting barley and feed wheat for distilling, along with let potato land. He has been a Smithfield Council member since the 1980s, has been Chairman of Finance, Club Chairman in the early 1990s and was Chairman of the Royal Smithfield Show in the Club's bicentenary year. "To host HM The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, and then HM The Queen Mother, at the same Show, was indeed a very great honour" recalls Andrew. Andrew and his wife Mary look forward to welcoming members to visits in Scotland following the Highland Show.



Julian Hopwood has a long association with the Club, becoming a Council member in 1983. He has stewarded the cattle for many years and has been Chief cattle Steward on 6 occasions and Chief health and Safety Steward twice. He became a Trustee in 1997 and now steps up to be Chairman elect.

Julian farms 600 arable acres on the south east edge of York with son Scott, in partnership with his wife Patti and his Mother. They farm wheat, barley, OSR, beans and potatoes. They also have a small flock Texel/Beltex and Suffolk breeding ewes. Julian showed at the Royal Smithfield Show for many years in the cattle and carcass sections, winning the Carcass Championship Cup outright in 2000.



The picture on the left recalls some most interesting moments in the history of the Royal Smithfield Show. David Sheppard from Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire came to the Show at Peterborough armed with this fascinating certificate from the 1897 Show. It reads "Smithfield Club 1897, President Marquis of Huntly, presented to Ernest Sheppard, feeder of First Prize of 2 pigs. F. S. Powell, Secretary."

It was fascinating to meet David, who is the Great-grandson of Ernest, who came from Dorset. He told me that history recounts that the route the pigs took to Smithfield was on the train from Wimbourne to Waterloo and then horse and cart to the Agricultural Hall in Islington. David farms Limousin cattle and runs a dealership specialising in livestock equipment.

## Beef Ribs at the Royal Highland Winter Fair

A very good entry of twelve ribs came in front of judge Tom Court of Tom Court's Quality Foods, Cowdenbeath. Champion: Messrs A. Purdon & Son, Carluke, from a Charolais Heifer 332kg, born March 2011, -U4L. Reserve: Jim Brown, Gandykehead, Airdrie, from a Limousin Heifer, 301kg, born November 2010, -U4L.



Photo: Tessa Rouse.

RSABI was the beneficiary of the auction of the ribs when an amazing £2110 was raised from the sale of ten. Everybody involved deserves thanks, including Rory Duff (for the Club), Alistair Logan of Caledonian Marts, and to Scotbeef, Wishaw Abattoir and Morrisons Supermarkets for generously donating the ribs.

## President's Weekend

This year's Club President Andrew Gilmour and his wife Mary will be hosting events and visits in Fife in June.

Full details and a booking form will be sent to you in the next few weeks, but so you can get it in your diary now, the outline is that we will be staying at The Dean Park Hotel, Kirkcaldy. We will meet in the early evening of Friday 21st June, with a Club dinner on Saturday 22nd. There will be various visits in the area on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd June, so that a return home will be possible on the Sunday late afternoon or Monday—or even a round of golf at St. Andrews on Monday!

You will by now have perhaps realised this coincides with the Highland Show which opens on Thursday 20th June. The main judging and business days are Thursday and Friday. The Dean Park Hotel is a 30 minute drive (in normal traffic!) from the Highland. If anybody would like to use the hotel as a base for both the Highland and the weekend visits, please let us know as soon as possible to make reservations at the discounted rates negotiated.

Please contact [andrew.gilmour@montrave.net](mailto:andrew.gilmour@montrave.net)

# The Commonwealth Agricultural Conference, Zambia 2012.

As full members of the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth, The Royal Smithfield Club was well represented at the recent conference in Zambia. Here, Next Generation delegate Charles Orpwood from Mindrum, Northumberland, gives a short report. During events at the President's weekend later this year, he will be giving an illustrated account of the conference and tours.

“With a world population expected to reach 9 billion people by 2050 it has been estimated that global food production will have to increase by around 70%.”

Therefore with this statistic it was very appropriate that the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth (RASC) held its 25<sup>th</sup> conference in Zambia on Africa's role in world food production, after a successful Next Generation (NG) mission there in 2004. Within the RASC is the Next Generation (NG) which again represents shows. The NG arm of the RASC was started in 2006 to help bring younger people into RASC and give the NG a bigger voice in agriculture.

The Royal Smithfield Club was represented by Chief Executive Geoff Burgess, Vice Presidents Andrew Gilmour and Simon Orpwood and Next Generation Delegate Charles Orpwood who was sponsored by the society.

The conference opened with the focus on Zambian farming. The first paper was given by Jervis Zimba President of the Zambian National Farmers Union (ZNFU). He spoke of the importance of agriculture and the changes that have occurred with Zambia concentrating on food security through introduction of in-put based subsidies to help boost the production of small scale farmers. Jervis acknowledge that in the last 10 years Zambia has come a long way but there is still some way to go. This can also be seen with the minister of agriculture declaring to increase the national beef herd from 3 million to 9 million but to achieve this aim they do not want to compromise the bio security of the national herd.

“No Farmers, No Food, No Future” is the slogan of ZNFU. All delegates found this slogan to show how important agriculture is and how valued it should be through not just the commonwealth but the world.

The Deputy Prime Minister of Zimbabwe Thokozani Khuphe gave a paper on behalf of Morgan Tsvangirai Prime Minister of Zimbabwe. The Deputy Prime Minister of Zimbabwe said that “Zimbabwe was once the bread basket of Africa and now is the basket case of Africa”.



Ms Khuphe understood that to help to increase food production to a growing population there needs to be a strong stable government. However she believes that Zimbabwe does have the potential to become the bread basket of Africa again.

Africa's role in world food production has the potential to be great with Zambia and Zimbabwe between them having the potential to feed the whole of Africa.

A full report will appear at [www.commagshow.org](http://www.commagshow.org)

## A RETURN TO LONDON? *Continued from page 1*

At the same time, in the summer of 2011, Farming in the Park (FTP) was announced and we quickly formed a relationship with the FTP board. The Club, with the Worshipful Company of Butchers', have been asked to take charge of the Live-stock and meat side of their event, planned as a one off for 2013 or 2014.

However in the autumn of 2012 The Royal Parks announced that they would not host any new major events in Hyde Park because of the potential damage which could be done to the grounds. The FTP board is now trying to find a new site and we will continue to work with them. At the same time we are progressing with our partners on the plans for a major new annual countryside event for the London public. *Angus Stovold.*