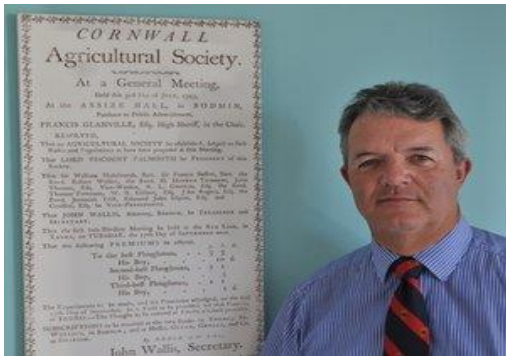


THE ROYAL SMITHFIELD CLUB



Chairman's Briefing Winter 2020

INTRODUCTION



Despite entering Lockdown 2.0 and the many uncertainties facing us all in our everyday home and work lives, the Club nevertheless looks forward to a positive 2021. 2020 has seen a surge in demand, and prices, for British meat with the consumer re-identifying with how their food is produced and buying locally sourced products.

We believe the Smithfield Forum has played no small part in re-energising the industry and promoting the good news stories behind UK livestock production

to the public as sustainable, environmentally friendly and produced to the highest welfare standards.

We are hopeful that the Rethink Conference will indeed finally take place next year in late Summer with the focus on 'The Sustainable Truth about British Livestock'.

At the time of writing, the position regarding the various events and activities of the Club remain unclear but I know we all hope that some sort of normality can return soon.

Wishing you and yours every good wish for the Festive Season and a happy and healthy New Year.

Yours,

Chris

Chris Riddle ARAgS
Chairman, Royal Smithfield Club

NEW INDUSTRY WEBSITE



Please visit the new website www.sustainablebritishmeat.org which has been put together by the British Meat Processors Association (BMPA). The site is home to a fantastic array of articles and features on environment, trade, standards and food security. Look out for an article from Club Industry Strategy Director John Dracup.

2021 CLUB OFFICE BEARERS

- Chairman Chris Riddle
- Deputy Chairman William Bedell
- Trustee Responsible for Finance & Governance Simon Orpwood
- Trustee John Campbell

Please note that Donald Biggar's 4-year term comes to an end in December 2020 & Neil Gourlay has stepped down for 2021. Both will be re-eligible to stand in 2022.

PRESIDENT

It is proposed to invite Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex to become the Club's President for 2021, and in the event of Her acceptance the proposal is that Geoff Burgess should be Deputy President.

ANNUAL MEETING OF CLUB MEMBERS

According to the Club's constitution, the Club should hold one Meeting of Club Members each calendar year to ratify the appointment of its Office Bearers. Due to Covid, Trustees have recommended that this be held instead as a 'virtual' meeting. Agenda Notes have been emailed separately to Members who are therefore kindly requested to raise any queries or comments within two weeks of receiving the Agenda Notes ie by Tuesday 15th December to Club Secretary Richard Saunders richard@royalsmithfieldclub.co.uk

2020 BICENTENARY TROPHY

The Selection Committee met online in September to choose this year's winner. Look out for news on the presentation coming soon.

2021 MEMBERS COUNTRY MEETING



As you will be aware, this year's Members Country Meeting could not take place. It is hoped that autumn 2021 may see the much-anticipated visit to the Royal Farms, Windsor.

Fingers crossed that we can bring Members together to enjoy a farming-inspired social gathering!

We will keep Members informed as to its progress in due course.

SMITHFIELD FORUM – UPDATE

With the support of all sectors of the British Red Meat Industry, the Smithfield Forum made good progress through 2019 following its formation in September 2018.

An action plan was agreed by us all and with your support The Royal Smithfield Club committed to lead the setting up of a small, focused group from across all sectors of the industry as part of the Smithfield Forum. This continued into 2020 with the planned Rethink Conference being organised by the British Meat Processors Association (BMPA) to be held last March.

But, as we are all now too well aware, Covid 19 arrived and all our lives in business and at home changed dramatically. The conference was cancelled and our work in the Smithfield Forum was suspended as everyone concentrated on managing the day-to-day challenges of running their businesses.

Even though Covid 19 is still and will remain with us for a long time, the need to restart the plans created last year is more important than ever. Everything that was highlighted at last year's meetings remain keenly in focus, with the negative voices against livestock farming's impact, the health issues about meat, animal welfare and the overall effect that modern British Farming has on the environment.

Add to this our rapid approach towards January 1st 2021, with our final exit from the EU and all that may bring for UK agriculture, the need for clear positive communication with politicians, the media and most importantly the general public, is even more vital.

The Royal Smithfield Club is willing to continue funding the Forum but we do need your continued support with your membership which will give you access to and involvement in everything that is happening.

Do please join us in this crucial work for our industry.

John Dracup, Industry Strategy Director, Royal Smithfield Club

ROYAL SMITHFIELD CLUB MEMBERSHIP

The Trustees very much hope you will continue to lend your support to the Club in the coming year by renewing your membership subscriptions.

As a reminder, a new membership structure was introduced last year with different tiers of Membership with varied benefits and subscription levels. Membership of the Royal Smithfield Club is open to anyone who wishes to support the Club in its charitable aims: Full (£50pa), Life (£975), Corporate (£750pa), Independent (£95pa), Youth (£30pa).

To join, please complete the online form within the membership section of the Club's website. Corporate & Independent Membership is by invitation.

ROYAL ULSTER CHAMPION CALF



The Champion Calf award at the 2020 Royal Ulster Premier Beef & Lamb Championship held on 24 November was won by Michelle O'Kane.

Pictured with the winning calf is handler Kelly O'Kane.

Congratulations to all exhibitors in the Calf Championship sponsored by the Royal Smithfield Club. A 17-strong entry saw judge Anthony Kitson award his championship to this March 2020-born Limousin-sired heifer calf out of a Limousin dam; reserve went to a May-born Blonde-cross calf out of a Blue-cross dam from Pat Hackett, Clogher.

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

Please visit the Royal Smithfield website www.royalsmithfieldclub.co.uk for up-to-date news, reports and events. Please also 'like' the Royal Smithfield Club Facebook page and follow us on Instagram.

CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

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