



# THE ROYAL SMITHFIELD CLUB

Newsletter

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## 2012 Office Bearers

President  
John Coultrip

Chairman  
Angus Stovold

Deputy Chairman  
John Campbell

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 Club Members meeting and Council AGM will be held on Friday 30th November starting at 6pm at the Peterborough Show-ground.**

## The East of England Smithfield Festival

***Following last year's great livestock success for the first Smithfield Festival, with our partners at the East of England, plans are now well advanced for this year's event, at Peterborough on Friday 30th November and Saturday 1st December. Diary the dates now!***

Already sponsorship is close to last year's total, with Newark Livestock Market taking the key sponsorship of the overall cattle competitions and the Beef Supreme Championship. And many of last year's trade stands have re-booked, with an impressive list of new trade exhibitors booking space, including food and country retail businesses. Plans are also underway to attract a much larger visitor audience, especially from the 4000 plus livestock farming businesses within a seventy mile radius of Peterborough.

For livestock exhibitors, the schedules will be in the post to you by early July. For some early information, and profiles of the judges, please go to page 2.

## Chairman Angus Stovold reports on an exciting future for the Club.

Never one to get upset or worry, I do get a little concerned when members wonder what we are doing at the Royal Smithfield Club!

The trustees recently presented to our council the proposals to take the Club forwards and upwards. A great deal of work has been put in by several trustees, council and younger members, looking at the whole essence of the club and how it needs to be taken forward for a long term future. These changes will be proposed at the Club Meetings at the East of England Smithfield Festival in December.

I would like to thank the East of England team for continuing to drive our winter prime stock event, back in its right time slot, it is still seen as the culmination of all the prime stock shows and will attract all the best animals. Last year the quality of animals was exceptional and looking around the shows it again promises to be a bumper year. To put on these events we need help, we have raised a considerable amount of sponsorship but more is needed. Have you ever sponsored a class or a Championship or put your name or business name to something? Now is the right time, for not a great deal of money, you can make a great deal of difference to the show. If you are a potential sponsor, or know of any, please let us know.

Tickets are again available to the Livestock event at the NEC in September and the New Smithfield area is taking shape. This event is the biggest livestock trade event in Europe, you should be there. Take advantage of being a Club Member and apply for your free ticket to the office.

The nomination paper for the Bicentenary Trophy Award is enclosed. Further copies are available from the Club Office, more details on page 4.

As you see from the Newsletter the Ribs competition is going from strength to strength, it is fantastic we now have a major player delivering it.

Finally the proposed London event is getting very close to us making an announcement. However negotiations continue and I'm afraid we still cannot report anything to you. When a decision is made our members will be the first to hear. It is exciting times!

This is what the Club is doing!

## **East of England Smithfield Festival**—continued from page 1.

The overall classes are broadly similar to last year, with a number of exciting developments:

- The Young Handlers competitions have been extended to include 16 regional qualifier competitions at the summer shows around the country. This will create a Grand Final at the Smithfield Festival involving young exhibitors from all over the UK.
- The College Challenge – this has been extended with invitations to all colleges across the UK, encouraging teams of four to compete for the national College Championship Award, involving the judging of beef cattle, lambs, young stock and lamb carcasses.
- Already six breed societies have committed to run their Winter Calf Competitions at the show and several breed societies are taking stands at the event as well.
- The Beef Ribs competition will be featured, as last year, but with the added attraction of a National Champion involving the Supreme and Reserve winners from the Morrisons Smithfield competitions at the Royal Highland and the Great Yorkshire Shows.

Do put the dates in your diary and join us to help grow our new Prime stock Show, which represents the culmination of all the major regional Winter Fairs, with the Royal Smithfield Supreme Championships.

## **East of England Smithfield Festival 2012 Judges announced.**

Following on from the success of the inaugural East of England Smithfield Festival the organisers are pleased to confirm a top drawer line-up of judges for the 2012 show.

This year's East of England Smithfield Festival, which once again has Newark Livestock Market as the major sponsor and Farmers Guardian as its media partner, aims to build on the last year's event, with the introduction of a number of new features.

Taking on the task of adjudicating in this year's prime cattle and baby-beef classes will be leading butcher and showman Jonathan Maycock of Matlock Derbyshire. Mr Maycock, who is responsible for the day to day running of his family's traditional butchers shop and abattoir is a widely respected cattle judge who has previously judged at both the English and Welsh Winter Fairs. He also runs a small farm at home and has previously exhibited cattle at several major shows, so is well placed to pick this year's supreme champions.

Across in the sheep ring another leading butcher and farmer, Antony Glaves of Brompton-By-Sawdon, Scarborough, will have the honour of awarding this year's top prizes. Mr Glaves is no stranger to the limelight, having previously won the Royal Smithfield championship and judged at leading winter shows, including the English Winter Fair. Alongside the family butchers shop Mr Glaves runs successful pedigree and commercial sheep flocks, breeding Southdown, Suffolk and Texel sheep as well as running a small herd of Berkshire pigs.

And appointed to judge the prestigious Bob Rickatson award for turnout is Mrs. Mary Gilmour. Mary, along with her husband Andrew runs a 500 acre arable farm in Fife. He has been on the Smithfield Club Council for a number of years, so they are both regulars at Smithfield.

Other judges confirmed for this year's show include Cornwall-based Gayle Bersey who will judge the final of the Young Stockperson of the Year competition and Dan Bull, Lambourne, who will have the task of adjudicating in this year's College Challenge.

It is sad to report the deaths of five great Smithfield Show stalwarts.

Lady Aldington, of Ashford, Kent, died at the end of January 2012. She was a familiar sight for many years in the sheep lines with her Jacob sheep.

David Gardiner, of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, died in early February 2012. David exhibited strong teams of sheep for many years.

Distinguished stockmen and exhibitors George Cormack, Jimmy Minto and Bob Sparrow have died recently.

## Morrisons are now The Club's major sponsor of the Beef Ribs Competitions

An informal discussion between one of our Vice-Presidents, Norman Kyle, and the Woodhead abattoir team has led to an exciting new development for the National Festival of Meat beef ribs competition.

Under the new partnership the beef ribs competitions were run on the Morrisons stands at this year's Royal Highland Show, and will be at The Great Yorkshire Show on 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July. Following judging on the morning of the first day at each event, the Supreme and Reserve champion ribs will be a feature on the Morrisons' butchery display section. Details of the winners will be available for all visitors to the stand at Harrogate, with the judge's reasons for the choice of the winning ribs.



*Pictured on the left at the Highland are Roy Craven, Morrisons Butchery Specialist and judge Murray Hardy of Scotbeef, with the champion rib, a Shorthorn cross from W.A. Fettes, Breas of Enzie, Buckie, and the reserve champion, another Shorthorn cross, from S.W. Maitland, Smithyhillcock, Rosehartie, Fraserborough.*

Open to selected Morrison producers, the competition was judged by Murray Hardy from Scotbeef, at the Royal Highland and will be judged by Norman Kyle at the Great Yorkshire. The winners will be invited to enter a new set of ribs to compete for the National Beef Ribs Champion at the East of England Smithfield Festival at Peterborough on 30<sup>th</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> December this year.

On hearing the news Norman said: "It was great that the Club is working with a supplier committed to buying from the British Farming Community, and an honour to be asked to judge the competition at Harrogate".

## Generous Gift of New Perpetual Trophy For Royal Smithfield Supreme Cattle Championship

The 2011 East of England Smithfield Festival saw the presentation of a New Perpetual Trophy to Ewen MacPherson & Sons for the very first time.



The Trophy was presented to the Club by James Stobo of Berwick upon Tweed. Jim has been very involved in the Club, serving on Council from 1965 until 1998, being both Chief Cattle Steward and Chief Sheep Steward at different shows, served as Chairman of the Club in 1979 and 1980, has been a Vice President since 1986 and President of the Club in 1994 and 1995.

In addition he was a Royal Smithfield Show Board Member from 1978 to 1995, serving as Chairman of the Show in 1986 and 1993, and was also Chairman and President of the Smithfield FarmTech event in 1995.

The magnificent trophy had originally been won outright at the Royal Smithfield Show in 1956 by the Stobo family, for the Overall Supreme Champion, with a Shorthorn x Aberdeen Angus Heifer, bred by Captain J.B. Coutts. It is Jim's generosity that has allowed this magnificent trophy with all its history, to again be the highlight of our competitions, the ultimate prize for which all winter fair primestock competitors strive.

## The Royal Smithfield Bicentenary Trophy

Do you know someone or an organisation from our industry who has, in your view, made a major contribution to the British Prime stock industry? They can be from any sector, producer, breeder, researcher, processor or retailer. To qualify for nomination they must have helped our industry move forward.

Past winners have included: *Sir Don Curry CBE, Fred Mallion MBE, John Thorley OBE, Jack Woodhead, Norman Bagley, David Raine, Alan Stevenson OBE, Ian Galloway CBE, Dr Basil Lowman MBE, Richard Cracknell, Prof. Geoff Simm and Rees Roberts OBE.*

This is your chance to put a name forward of someone, or some organisation, that YOU feel has made a real difference.

A nomination form is enclosed; the closing date is 1st August. Further copies available on request.

## The Livestock Event 2012.

**3rd & 4th September,  
NEC Birmingham.**

In association with the RABDF, this year the Royal Smithfield Club will again be playing a major part in the Livestock Event at the NEC, Birmingham .

New Smithfield in 2011 was the part of the show concentrating on beef and organised by the Club. *For 2012 this will be extended to include sheep.*

This show now covers all aspects of the livestock industry and is a "must" for livestock farmers to visit.

**Club members may apply for one free ticket each**, (worth £20.00). Leaflet and ticket application form is enclosed.

## Winter Shows, what is the future?

With a few notable exceptions, winter prime stock shows in the UK are not the financial success that summer shows are and do not attract big audiences. There is an undoubted place for good trade shows aimed at the farming community, but there is also now demand from the general public to come to events where there is added interest for them. Much of this is down to the higher profile of farming, thanks to the input from, for example, BBC Countryfile. It could well be argued that as the machinery disappeared from Earls Court and the Smithfield Show closed, a golden opportunity was missed to diversify that show into the food and country pursuits area, aimed at the millions living in London.

That is precisely the formula operated for example in Canada, very successfully. The Royal Winter Fair is held in November in downtown Toronto, which I visited last year. It celebrates the very best in Canadian agriculture and horse sport, attracting a very large audience over ten days. An outstanding display of beef cattle gives way after a few days to one of the largest dairy cattle shows in North America; I was concerned that this would not mix well with the family part of the show which concentrates on education, Ontario food production and the bringing of a country feeling to the city.

But how wrong I was—the crowds flock in. The very first display is "Spirit of the Horse", family entertainment explaining everything there is to know about ponies in particular. What though was so refreshing was to see the involvement of both Federal and Provincial Government in areas such as "Journey to your good health", promoting not only how to produce healthy food, but also how to cook it and healthy diets. And the show was not afraid to have a "petting farm", take note UK!!

Not only is there top class beef and dairy cattle, the emphasis from the start is on the Young Farmers; the Queen's guineas is a very prestigious award made to a young person, an award combining not only the quality of the animal but also the professionalism of the handler.

And after all this, there was still a big horse show, culminating in afternoon and evening performances in the Ricoh arena with international show jumping and even indoor eventing—a new one on me and highly entertaining. My travels also took me to Farmfair in Edmonton, Alberta, a similar show to Toronto, and to a Agri-Trade, a big indoor machinery show in Red Deer, Alberta. Both with a very big attendance, during a bitterly cold Canadian winter. *Andrew Gilmour*



**To assist the Club, with all communications, you MUST have an e-mail address. If you have not already sent it to us, DO SO NOW.**

E-mail to [sally@royalsmithfieldclub.co.uk](mailto:sally@royalsmithfieldclub.co.uk)