

The 139th Annual General Meeting of the Jersey Cattle Society of the UK...



- Scottish Jersey herds fly high in terms of production at the 2022 AGM of the JCS of the UK

The Jersey Cattle Society of the UK hosted its 139th Annual General meeting at Culter Allers, home of Kingsbeck Jerseys and Jon McCosh and his team on the 2nd August 2022. Celebrating the ability of the Jersey breed throughout the day specifically in terms of milk production with combined fat and protein levels that the breed is recognised for. The morning was dedicated to the formalities of the JCS AGM led by outgoing Society President John Stubbs of Coldeaton Jerseys, Derbyshire, who opened the meeting with thanks for the support he had received over his term of presidency – a role unfortunately he had accepted earlier than expected due to the sad passing of fellow friend and hugely respected breeder Frank Poskitt (Rockcliff Jerseys) in 2019.

JCS chairman Mark Logan (right) opened proceedings on the day, “following an absence of face-to face meetings over the last two years with the 2020 and 2021 AGM’s both held virtually on the zoom platform it is with a huge amount of pleasure we welcome members to the 139th AGM in person, I can only express gratitude and congratulations to Jon McCosh and his team at Kingsbeck Jerseys for hosting the event,” seizing the opportunity, Mark went on to congratulate them on their journey over the last five years to their success last autumn in being the highest placed Jersey herd in the NMR RABDF Gold Cup Competition securing the Lilyhill trophy. Heather Pritchard (Company Secretary of JCS) proceeded to read the notice of the 139th AGM meeting convening the meeting open and welcoming Society President John Stubbs to chair the meeting forthwith.



John Stubbs opened with an overview of his term as Society President, including the events he had thankfully attended over the last 12 months when the pandemic had allowed. He extended thanks to the support he had received over his term both from Emma Horn and her team at Jolly British, Field Officer for the Society, Becky Hurd and especially to Chairman of the Board, Mark Logan and his fellow Board members. Thoroughly enjoying his presidency John concluded with looking to the future of building a relationship with Pedigree Livestock Services in particular at their lead Andy Ryder and the recently appointed dedicated member of their team and new Company Secretary Heather Pritchard.

Following on, the minutes of the 138th meeting were approved and the time came for JCS Chairman Mark Logan to provide his annual report, commenting on the challenge the Board had faced in March when Emma Horn had decided to step down following 10 years of commitment to the JCS Company Secretary role – finding a replacement for her and her team at Jolly British was difficult at the time with the board welcoming two applications, resulting in the team at Pedigree Livestock Services owned by Andy Ryder with Heather Pritchard assuming Emma’s previous role as Company Secretary duly appointed. Mark thanked the team for the manner in which

they had quickly and efficiently continued the smooth running of the Society.

Finance director Steven Bland was next to the stage and as per his annual report and the audited accounts that had been circulated to members prior to the AGM, it fell to Chair John Stubbs to ask for any queries relating to the financial status of the Society. Steven Bland reported member Tom Bradbury had requested clarification over the Society’s position in relation to the investment from the Addington Fund – to which Steven explained to the members the details over the last 12 months regarding the Addington Trust, the loan agreement in place with them and concluding the repayment with overage had stood the Society well, adding that the Society continued on very good terms with the Addington Trust. Likewise reviewing the Society’s investment portfolio and moving over half of them to Quilter Cheviot was an important step in making the Society’s assets and investments work harder with better rewards over the coming years.

As the AGM agenda progressed – Old Mill Accountants were unanimously voted to continue their work as accountants and auditors to the Society having been involved since 2012. John Stubbs outgoing Society President then proposed the election of the President-Elect Kathy Le Brun to President, commending her and her late husband Brian on their dedication to the breed both from club level as Secretaries of the Southern Jersey club to Kathy’s role in supporting Anne Corner in the Jersey Pavilion in its most successful years.



Election of Board Members followed with four vacancies to fill both Mark Davies and Douglas Hume were re-elected with the room unanimous in the appointment of two new Board Members – John Waller (Killington Jerseys) and Philip Arrell (Thistlerose Jerseys). Any other business, the final stage of the AGM, was met with two questions from the floor – Su Mahon firstly asking the Board for a more notable presence of the Field Officer in the East and Northern regions where an opportunity of registering herds could be exploited with 16 potential farms in her region alone and also requesting coverage of the Royal Norfolk County Show which particularly this year would have been justified due to the high level of entries. The second question regarded the emailing of AGM papers and notices – Su asked if it was possible to return to them being mailed by post. Mark Logan, Chairman acknowledged both questions, responding the Board were pro-actively looking at the Field Officer's coverage of the UK and whilst looking to the future some coverage may have to be carried out remotely, the point was duly noted, whilst reverting to mailing every Society member AGM correspondence did come at a considerable cost with rising postage and it was unlikely that would occur, but the Board would continue to promote Society events across their many avenues from social media to e-newsletter and the members publication – the UKJT. With nothing further, the 139th AGM was brought to a close.

Following the completion of the morning's formal AGM, retiring board member John Whitby (Raylands Jerseys) thanked Chairman Mark Logan on indulging him the chance to report and share his reflections of '10 years at the coal face of the JCS Board' (as printed on pages 4 and 5) Mark thanked him for his service to the JCS Board and reassured him the legacy of ideas he has imparted, the Board will look to progress in the future, before presenting him with the Weydown Society trophy for his contribution to the breed. Thus began a ream of presentations firstly to outgoing Society President John Stubbs, followed by Mark Logan expressing delight that previous Company Secretary Emma Horn was in attendance to receive her gift of gratitude from the Society, a painting of a Jersey cow for her long service.

Next followed the presentation of the Society's annual production awards – Robert Hunter as Board director of Judges, Sales and Shows initiated proceedings – recognising the work



Outgoing Society President John Stubbs made the presentations:

Above left John Whitby retiring board member receives the Weydown Trophy and above right Emma Horn is presented with a painting for her 10 year term as Company Secretary.

Below left: Robert Hunter collecting one of four trophies won by the Clydevalley herd in the Milk production competition and below left Jon McCosch of Kingsbeck receiving a gift as AGM host.



of both CIS and NMR milk recorders who even during the pandemic continued to be instrumental in the data collection that allowed competitions like this to proceed. Mark Logan then took over the presentation which saw the Hunter family of Clydevalley Jerseys secure almost half of the competition trophies, four of the nine classes, winning three of them with descendants of the Flora family. Robert Hunter interjecting that when he first began in Jersey's, Gordon Hastie of the Alderston herd generously offered him the pick of two individuals from his herd – the original Flora cow being one of them that had left a legacy for which he should be thanked. Other class



winners were spread across the UK membership – the North Yorkshire based herd of the Shaw family at Greyleys winning the Beauty's trophy for a second consecutive year, the John Ibbotson memorial trophy went down south to SE Lane (Hareplain) in Kent, meanwhile in terms of lifetime production of fat and protein Potterswalls Juno Glamour 2 EX94-7E from the Fleming family Northern Ireland took the Secretary's trophy and from Wales James Evan's Gaddesden Tracey EX96-7E was recipient of the Grosvenor Berry Memorial trophy. Completing the results, the Barnowl trophy was won by the Renfree family in Cornwall for their high producing Milki family.

Before a break for lunch for the 75 attendees, presentations were made to host farm to Jon McCosh and dairy manager Leanne Bertram, who had with the background support of Robert and Lorraine Hunter provided the perfect venue for the AGM, with Mark Logan offering huge thanks to the sponsors of the event that had made it possible asking members to engage with the companies present in appreciation of their support.

The afternoon brought about a chance to really appreciate the journey of Kingsbeck Jerseys since 2015 when the decision was made to return to dairying on the 6700 acre mixed estate at Cutler Allers. Progression of the Jersey herd received recognition in the 2021 NMR Gold Cup with them being recipients of the Lilyhill trophy for the highest placed Jersey herd with the highest combined fat and protein of 816kg.

Expanding the cubicle housing by adding another bay to the existing shed, installing a fourth A4 Lely robot, an extra 103 cubicles and a spacious straw yard over the last couple of years has seen the herd grow to 290 cows with around 250 milking. Enjoying a well ventilated environment the milkers are housed all year round and the impressive LED automatic lighting system in the shed sees the lights trigger on if light levels drop below 200 lux with the "blue" lights operating for 16 hours through the day, and "red" lights operating at night between 9pm and 5am at 50 lux to allow safe navigation amongst the herd at night. For Jon McCosh and his dairy manager Leanne Bertram, minimising the stress on the cows is at the forefront to achieving high performance. Jon has always followed the philosophy that healthy soil grows healthy crops to feed healthy cows which in turn results in happy and healthy staff and in the last 18 months he acknowledges the hard work and input of Leanne and the team of Ali, Ruby, Jenny and Łukasz to achieve this.

Diet consistency is paramount, and the herd are fed a grass silage based TMR (currently 39kg silage/cow plus blend) that equates to maintenance +19kg milk in the passage, with the feed pushed up hourly by the Lely Juno robot. Concentrates fed in the robots see the herd currently averaging 24.5 litres sold per cow per day. With pregnancy rates running at 22% fertility is also important as Jon and his team strive towards a low replacement rate of 20% and a goal of cows averaging 5.5

Pictures of the Kingsbeck milking herd at Culter Allers - feed is pushed up regularly by the Lely Juno, with the cows housed in an airy and well lit cubicle shed that contains the four robots as well. Attendees of the AGM viewed the herd from the feed passage in search of finding the Chairman's three favourite cows - a small side competition on the day.



lactations in the herd. Current sires used on the herd are selected on improving udder quality alongside maintaining frame, production and components. Using primarily World Wide Sires and Semex - Victorious, Matt, Lemonhead, Lightning, Moonlight and Boomerang (from Blondin) are all in the flask currently, whilst heifers calving into the milking herd include daughters of Barcelona, Dakota and Video. Heifers receive two chances of sexed semen with the aim to calve at around 24 months with Beef Shorthorn used to sweep up.

Leanne's belief of giving the youngstock the best possible start has seen improvements and changes implemented to the calf rearing and youngstock housing. Moving to a more ventilated shed and installing LED lighting, the calves are no longer fed by a machine, but penned in two's before being grouped into five's and fed by a milk bar twice daily and then at weaning two groups are combined to make a batch of 10 in which they remain until going out to graze through summer. Colostrum management has also been improved with colostrum tested using a refractometer and none below 25 fed. The new routine for the calves and improved cleanliness of the calf environment has seen the use of prophylactic antibiotics virtually eliminated, a notable cost saving, whilst the calves are visibly thriving. There are plans to start selling surplus in calf heifers in the near future.

With the estate at Culter Allers also including a pedigree flock of 1600 Blackface and a further 400 drafts that are bred to Blueface Leicester with the resulting Scotch Mules sold on for breeding stock, there are several other operations and projects in action across the estate. Initiation of a Long Term Forest Plan will see 18 months of cutting trees and a further 18 months of replanting ahead to reduce disease risk in the larch on the estate. Encouraging biodiversity is always at the fore, for example, the noticeable improvement in the pastures has seen a return of grass hoppers that haven't been present for nearly 20 years. While on the hill and inbye grazing, consistent habitat management efforts are seeing a welcome return of red listed bird species (ring ouzels, lapwings, golden plover, black grouse and curlew). Finally, there are plans to install wind turbines with a neighbouring farmer which would cover the electricity for the estate and provide surplus energy back to the grid in a huge sustainability step.

Jon McCosh addressed delegates of the AGM explaining that it was an honour to welcome so many to the farm and summarised that Kingsbeck had been a little like a dream for him, born and brought up on the estate he had never anticipated he would end up running it. He thanked Graham's the Family Dairy for taking them on as a new dairy producer which had ultimately sealed the decision to have a Jersey herd of which they are proud to have grown and developed, with an accolade such as the Lilyhill trophy only further instilling confidence in the direction of the herd and the progress it has made over the years in terms of performance.

A few words of thanks from our new President, Mrs Kathy Le Brun...

I would just like to record my thanks to John Stubbs for his time as President of the Jersey Cattle Society. John was thrown in at the deep end when Frank Poskitt became seriously ill in 2019. He took over the position that his friend Frank was due to hold then fate threw another curve ball and Covid hit with a vengeance. This meant that all outside activities were seriously curtailed and what should have been a happy time for John visiting various parts of the country meeting members and attending events simply could not happen.

Fortunately, this last year has seen John out and about and I hope very much that he has enjoyed it and that it has made up for the inactivity of the previous two years. I know that his love of the Jersey breed will mean that he will continue to be involved with various Jersey events. He has passed on his passion for the breed to his daughter, Jo, and her family so two more generations will hopefully carry on that enthusiasm for our wonderful Jersey breed. A very simple and heartfelt thank you, John, with best wishes for the future.

Kathy Le Brun

The 2022 Jersey Cattle Society Board of Directors and staff - from left to right:

Heather Pritchard (Company Secretary), Mark Davis, Philip Arrell, John Waller, Kathy Le Brun (President), Mark Logan (Chairman), Douglas Hume, Robert Hunter, Becky Hurd (Field Officer) and Steven Bland

