

RHASS MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2019

society

A RECORD-BREAKING ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

RHS Supreme Champions 2019 - 8-page Pull-out!

- + Post-Show review + Welcoming a new Chairman
- + Technical Innovation Award Winners + Shindig at the Show
- + RHASS Directors and Presidential Team 2019-20
- + RHET funding news + A day gig rise for RHC

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Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to the Summer edition of Society Magazine. As we bask in the success of another outstanding Royal Highland Show, it gives me great pleasure to introduce myself to you as your new Chairman.

I am very conscious that taking over from our current Chairman, Jimmy Warnock, will be a hard act to follow. The Society has without doubt been deeply privileged to have had Jimmy in this role over the past two years. He has guided the RHASS Board and team with a unique mix of enthusiasm, energy and sincerity. I'm sure you will join me in thanking him for his tenure and wish him and his wife Elizabeth well as he returns to the farm, although I will be pleased to have him on my wing as Past Chairman for the next year.

I am hugely honoured to take on this role in what is one of the most prestigious agricultural organisations in the world. My 'apprenticeship' in the Society over the past twenty years began with trade stand stewarding and has since seen me serving on most of our main committees and in a variety of roles including Chief Steward of carparks and four years on the Executive Committee. I'm sure this experience will stand me in good stead as I take on the Chairmanship.



I take on this illustrious role at what I believe to be a hugely exciting time for the Society. The completion of the new members' facility next year will be a great stepping-stone for things to come as we continue to build on our 235-year heritage and to fulfil our charitable remit. Our aim is to position ourselves at the hub of agricultural and rural life in Scotland and the Society is well placed to do this.

We are fortunate to have a skilled and dedicated staff team here at RHASS and they must be congratulated on delivering yet another record-breaking Show. It was by every measure a job well done and a fantastic advert for teamwork.

Finally, as we come to the time of the year where we see the fruits of our labour at home, may I wish you well whether it be harvesting or selling stock and produce through the summer and autumn.

Bill Gray

Bill Gray,
Chairman



ROTARY CLUB

For 2019, RHASS once again partnered with the Rotary Club of Corstorphine to provide safety wristbands for children and vulnerable adults at the Royal Highland Show. The wristbands not only provide peace of mind in case the wearer gets separated from their group, but also raise thousands of pounds for local charities and international Rotary causes.



Kim Livesey & Jimmy Warnock

JIMMY WARNOCK HONOURED BY SAYFC

RHASS Past Chairman, Jimmy Warnock, was recognised for his significant contribution to the Young Farmers, with the awarding of the Ritchie Trophy - kindly donated by Mr James Watt in memory of the Ritchie Brothers.

SCOTLAND'S FINEST WOODS

The Scotland's Finest Woods Awards were presented this year at the Show, with prizes awarded for categories including Quality Timber and Farm Woodlands, this latter category supported by RHASS. Winners included Earthtime Forest School Nursery, Duffus, Moray in the Schools category and Forestry and Land Scotland North Region team for Fort Augustus Woodlands, Highland in the 1919 Forestry Act Centenary Award.

The Awards highlight the people, organisations and communities that manage Scotland's woods and forests. They also showcase how these woods contribute to the health and wealth of Scotland's people, with a special award being presented this year to mark the centenary of the 1919 Forestry Act.



Forestry and Land Scotland – North Region team for Fort Augustus Woodlands, Highland



Earthtime Forest School Nursery, Duffus, Moray



Lynn Cassells and Sandra Baer for Lynbreck Croft, Grantown on Spey



Levenmouth Academy, Buckhaven, Fife

Scotland's Finest Woods Awards attended by First Minister of Scotland Nicola Sturgeon and Fergus Ewing MSP Cabinet Secretary for the rural economy

PARTNERSHIP WITH CANADIAN WESTERN AGRIBITION

TO PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN TRADE OF LIVESTOCK BREEDING AND BEEF CATTLE GENETICS



CWA CEO Chris Lane and CWA President Chris Lees

We are delighted to announce that RHASS have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Canadian Western Agribition (CWA) during a CWA trade mission to the Royal Highland Show. Signed by CWA CEO Chris Lane and RHASS Chief Executive Alan Laidlaw, the MOU outlines several collaborative efforts between the two organisations.

The organisations have agreed to promote excellence in trade of livestock breeding and beef cattle genetics, along with the free trade of the best-practices, ideas and industry communication strategies. RHASS and the CWA are also aligned in their values of supporting public education in agriculture and the growing importance of international trade between producers and breeders.

WORLD PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The World Ploughing Championships are this year taking place in Minnesota, USA from 30-31 August and the Championships will bring together the world's best ploughers from over 30 countries, testing their mastery, expertise and attention to detail.

This year, RHASS is supporting two Scottish Ploughing Champions with an award of £1500 for travel costs to attend this international competition, giving them the opportunity to prove their skill on the international ploughing stage. We wish the team every success at the Championships and look forward to hearing about their experiences when they return.



RHASS Director John Sinclair (centre) with World Ploughing Championships competitors Dave Carnegie (R) and Andrew Mitchell Snr (L)

10 YEAR TERM MEMBERSHIP AWARD

RHASS' past-President Lord Lothian presenting Hugh Munro with a 10 year term membership certificate as winner of the Borders Presidential competition at this year's Royal Highland Show.



James Goldie & RHASS Director Eric Mutch

SIR WILLIAM YOUNG AWARD PRESENTED TO JIM GOLDIE

James K. Goldie, of South Bowerhouses and Townfoot Farms in Dumfries, has been announced as the 2019 recipient of one of the livestock industry's most prestigious prizes, the Sir William Young Award.

James, or Jim as he is best known, is synonymous with livestock breeding having been at the forefront for over 50 years. His awards include two stock judging wins at the Highland Show in 1962 and 1964.

HE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST BREEDERS TO IMPORT CHAROLAIS CATTLE FOLLOWED BY LIMOUSIN IN 1977 AND LATER ON ROUGE AND BLEU DU MAINE SHEEP

Highly respected for his breeding expertise, Jim has represented Scotland at International Stock Judging for Beef, Sheep and Dairy. He has judged cattle and sheep at all major pedigree shows around the UK including all four Royal Shows, Smithfield and the Paris Show.

In 1969 he was one of the first breeders to import Charolais cattle followed by Limousin in 1977 and later on Rouge and Bleu Du Maine Sheep all of which went on to win Championships at both the Royal Highland Show and the Royal Agricultural Show including Farah who won the first ever Charolais championship at RHS in 1972.

Jim is always at the shows and continues to enjoy the fruits of the next generation's successes.

Speaking of the award win, Jim said: "I am delighted to have received this prestigious award and honoured to have been selected from our industry which has so many outstanding and dedicated livestock breeders."

QUADRANT ONE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



For many of our members the Royal Highland Show offered them the first glimpse of Quadrant One, the new members' pavilion and events space currently under construction at Ingliston. Since the breaking of the ground in January, the building has sprung up at a fast pace, with the framework and roof almost complete and the project ahead of schedule and on budget.

With curiosity awakened, a special exhibition offered members and other Show visitors the opportunity to find out more about the new facility in more detail. The Building on Memories exhibition looked at the history of the MacRobert Members' Pavilion and the planning and design features of the new pavilion. It also featured a wonderful selection of members' memories of the Show and the MacRobert Pavilion, and explored why our members are looking forward to the opening of Quadrant One next year. People took the opportunity to rest their feet and watch a short film featuring these stories and the aspirations of some of RHASS' longest standing supporters, as well as its Chairman and Chief Executive

Everyone took the opportunity to chat to exhibition staff, sharing opinions and ideas and asking lots of questions. The new plans were enthusiastically received, with anticipation building for the launch of the new Members' Pavilion at next year's 180th Royal Highland Show. The raised building will offer elevated views down the length of the Main Ring from floor to ceiling windows, a 3-metre deep covered patio and wide grass terraces from which to watch the action and inside a stylish bar, large dining area, toilets and cloakroom facilities.

AN AMBITIOUS FUNDRAISING TARGET OF £1.5 MILLION TO ACHIEVE

With an ambitious fundraising target of £1.5 million to achieve, we were delighted to receive some pledges of support at the exhibition, ahead of the launch of our main campaign. To learn more about the recognition opportunities available, email quadrant@rhass.org.uk.

The exhibition will be touring Scotland as part of the RHASS Regional Roadshow. Members will meet RHASS Directors and staff, enjoy a talk from a guest speaker and hear about the fundraising campaign at these evening events. Register your interest at quadrant@rhass.org.uk. Venue details will also be available on our website and Facebook page by the end of August.

EXHIBITION DATES

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Strathclyde | 23 October and 7 November |
| Dumfries & Galloway | 24 October |
| Highlands | 28 October |
| Lothians | 4 November |
| Borders | 6 November |
| Aberdeenshire | 11 November |
| Perthshire & Angus | 12 November |
| Stirling | 14 November |

POST-SHOW REVIEW

TRULY MOO-SIVE

**A RECORD BREAKING ROYAL
HIGHLAND SHOW IN 2019**

It is billed as the biggest and best celebration of food, farming and rural life and this year's Royal Highland Show certainly lived up to expectations.

Hundreds of prize-winners and a record-breaking 195,400 visitors got to see, smell, taste and savour the best of rural life over four sunny days.

The winning formula of food, farmyard animals, horses, machinery and entertainment attracted visitors from across the globe and delivered an economic value in excess of £55.7 million for Scotland showing how far the event has come in its 179-year history.

Impressive figures aside, for many the Show is simply a time to connect with old friends and make new ones against a backdrop of the finest food, the best of farming and the most vibrant celebration of rural life.

£55.7M+

VALUE OF THE SHOW TO
THE SCOTTISH ECONOMY

195,400

OUR RECORD-BREAKING
2019 VISITORS NUMBER

New for this year was the Shindig at the Show – the brainchild of our Past Chairman, Jimmy Warnock - where over 320 dancers joined together for an eightsome reel in the Main Ring that inspired a pitch ‘invasion’ from members of the public wanting to take part. This simple initiative summed up the power the Show has to connect rural and urban communities.

The Borders Presidential Initiative this year celebrated the region’s heritage and culture with events including a recreation of the traditional Common Ridings in the Main Ring. Congratulations to the team for organising such a stunning display!

Also, a highlight was the Celebration of the Clydesdales; these magnificent animals powered our farms for generations and the crowds certainly appreciated the Main Ring showcase of farm implements drawn by the horses.

Young people were once again a focus across the Show with a new inter-breed Young Handler Championship introduced this year to recognise the best young stockman or woman.

Innovation in the industry was a focus throughout the showground such as drone technology, as promoted by SRUC, to survey crop varieties in the fields. This technology will be used to identify aspects such as the vigour of plants at early stages in their development.

We hope you had a great Show, please feel free to share your #ShowMoments on the RHASS social channels - Facebook and Twitter.

 [royalhighlandandagriculturalsocietyofscotland](https://www.facebook.com/royalhighlandandagriculturalsocietyofscotland)

 [@The_RHASS](https://twitter.com/The_RHASS)



THE SHOW IN NUMBERS

1,101
CATTLE ENTRIES

2,200
HORSE ENTRIES

2,128
SHEEP ENTRIES

£170,000
IN PRIZE MONEY



Highland Show
2019
SINCE 1981
Royal Bank
of Scotland
CHAMPION

280

TROPHIES AWARDED

£100,000

ESTIMATED IN GIFT IN
KIND SUPPORT

£520,000

IN SPONSORSHIP

220+

MINUTES OF TV AND
RADIO AIRTIME



WINNING ENTERTAINMENT

During the Shindig at the Show, which saw 320 dancers take to the Main Ring, we were entertained by The Voice UK 2015 winner Stevie McCrorie. Other entertainment over the four days of the Show included Solid Gold Abba, Got Soul Choir and the West Lothian Schools Pipe Band.

POLITICAL FIGURES AT THE ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

The 2019 four-day event attracted not only the highest attendance in its 179-year history, but also senior politicians including the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy Fergus Ewing, Secretary of State for Scotland David Mundell and MP David Rutley, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

LIVESTOCK FIGURES

Over 5,500 entries were confirmed for all competitive livestock sections of the 2019 Royal Highland Show including sheep, goats, cattle and horses.

Once again, the Highland Hall was at maximum capacity housing just over 1,100 beef and dairy cattle. While the sheep entries boasted a ten-year high figure of 2,128.

Demonstrating the increasing interest of the next generation in farming, the Young Handler classes in the beef and sheep sections both showed a strong increase with 21 and 67 entries respectively.

1,692 entries were received in the light horse section, with solid numbers across all HOYS qualifying classes. And the heavy horse section also continued to have a strong presence, with 416 entries.

There was an increase in entries for the Heavy Horse section this year with the highest number of entries in ten years.

Continuing the development in the goat classes, the section boasted 131 entries this year alongside four young handlers competing for the title.



INNOVATION

The Technical Innovation Awards are RHASS' most longstanding industry accolades. Sponsored by Hillhouse Quarry Group, they showcase and reward innovation and development within the agricultural sector and are a highly respected award for manufacturers, distributors, providers and inventors. In 2019, one Gold, seven Silver and four Certificates of Commendations were awarded.

Kverneland Group UK Ltd was presented the only Gold award for their Kverneland 2500 i-plough®. Their invention is recommended for tractors around 206kW/280hp and has four essential functions that utilise ISOBUS technology – ploughing, transport, marking and connecting.



GOLD - Kverneland Group UK Ltd - Kverneland 2500 i-plough®

Presented with a Silver award is **Can-Am**, for their anti-lock braking (ABS) system for ATVs. Their ABS system underwent a comprehensive engineering programme that included more than 40,000km on a variety of surfaces, including mud, snow, pavement, gravel and dirt.



SILVER - Can-Am
Anti-lock Braking System

Case IH Agriculture won a Silver Award for their Maxxum 145 Multicontroller, which is fitted with the new eight-speed powershift ActiveDrive 8 transmission. The Maxxum produced the best fuel economy for a four-cylinder tractor ever seen in the DLG Powermix tests last year – almost 9.5% below its nearest competitor.



SILVER - Case IH Agriculture
Maxxum 145 Multicontroller

Also receiving a Silver award is **Oran Oak Engineering**, from Omagh, Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland, for their DipFast enclosed sheep showering unit. DipFast is designed for treatment and control of ecto-parasites on sheep. The system allows for one-person operation, thus reducing labour, and there is minimal contact with the sheep and dip held within.



SILVER - Oran Oak Engineering
DipFast enclosed sheep

Easyfix, from Galway in Ireland, impressed the judges, receiving a Silver award for their Easyfix Evolve animal feeding system. The Easyfix Evolve optimises cow welfare and performance, with a unique design allowing for maximum feed intake for cows and both safe access and egress for farm workers.



SILVER - Easyfix
Easyfix Evolve

Penderfeed Livestock Equipment, from Duns in the Scottish Borders, received a Silver award for their Arrowquip Q-Catch, manufactured by Arrowquip of Manitoba, Canada. This 86 series squeeze cattle crush claims to be the quietest crush ever manufactured - this is achieved by using nylon bushes on the hinges and rubber absorbers on the access panel slam bolts.



SILVER - Penderfeed Livestock Equipment - Arrowquip Q-Catch

A Silver award for 2019 was also awarded to **Pollock Farm Equipment** in Cumnock, Ayrshire, for their Pollock Rope Scraper System. Housed within a fully galvanised frame, the drive system utilises a hollow shaft gearbox fitted with a torq spring to dampen shock loading and a microswitch to back up the system's in-built animal overload safety sensor.



SILVER - Pollock Farm Equipment Pollock Rope Scraper System

Receiving a Silver award for the Heatpump Heat/Chill System is **Calibrate Energy Engineering**, from Alnwick, invented by **Shane McDonald and Jack Smales**. The Heat/Chill system is flexible and has many applications, from heating hot water and chilling milk in the dairy parlour to grain drying, chilling potatoes and workshop heating.



SILVER - Calibrate Energy Engineering - Heatpump System

SIB Services of Maud, Aberdeenshire receive a certificate of commendation for the PEL Agricultural Baler, manufactured by **PEL Waste Reduction Equipment** of Co. Mayo, Ireland. The balers reduce the volume of waste by 80%, reducing the haulage costs and storage space required for bales.



COMMENDATION - SIB Services PEL Agricultural Baler



COMMENDATION TH White Machinery Imports Ferris ISX 800 Mower

Receiving the final Commendation is **Angel Nenov** from South Yorkshire, for their HydroGen Electrolyser™ autonomous electrolyser. It reduces emissions and fuel consumption through introducing oxyhydrogen gas (HHO) to conventional vehicles by accelerating the burning process in engines.



COMMENDATION - Angel Nenov HydroGen Electrolyser

Also receiving a Commendation is **TH White Machinery** Imports from Devizes, Wiltshire for their Ferris ISX 800 mower – manufactured by **Ferris Industries**, of New York, USA. Featuring Ferris' new double-wishbone 'ForeFront' suspension, the ISX 800 uses four control rods on the front caster wheels resulting in a smoother, more comfortable ride, precise terrain following and an improved cut.



COMMENDATION Hampton Steel - Versalok®



Thank you

With grateful thanks to the companies, organisations and individuals listed below for their sponsorship, which is invaluable in maintaining the Royal Highland Show as Scotland's premier event.

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ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND
Partner since 1981

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Bonaly Farm Dairy
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British Show Jumping
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Taylor Wimpey
The Sign Company
Townfields Saddlers Ltd
UK Sire Services
United Auctions
Watson Seeds
Worshipful Company of Woolmen
Wright, Johnston & Mackenzie LLP

We would also like to thank the following companies who have kindly lent equipment, or donated products and services for use during the event.

GIFT IN KIND SPONSORS

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Tayforth Machinery Ring
Thomas Sherriff Ltd, Stow
WM Rose & Sons Ltd
Watson Seeds
Wyndford Farm Plants Ltd



ROYAL
HIGHLAND
SHOW 2019
20-23 JUNE
PARTNER SINCE 1981
 Royal Bank
of Scotland

SUPREME CHAMPIONS 2019

OVERALL WINNERS

BEEF CATTLE, DAIRY CATTLE, SHEEP, HEAVY HORSE



OVERALL BEEF CATTLE CHAMPION BRITISH CHAROLAIS

Major D F W H & N R Walter
Balthayock Nessie



OVERALL DAIRY CATTLE CHAMPION HOLSTEIN

Blythbridge Holsteins
Blythbridge Jessy



OVERALL SHEEP CHAMPION TEXEL

Douganhill Farms



OVERALL HEAVY HORSE CHAMPION STANDARD SHETLAND PONIES

HP Sleigh & Son

SUPREME CHAMPIONS 2019



BEEF CATTLE



BEEF SHORTHORN - CHAMPION
Mr Tom McMillan
Trowbridge Tessa Lindsay (P)



ABERDEEN ANGUS - CHAMPION
Mr Martin R McCornick
McCornick Keira U451



GALLOWAY - CHAMPION
Kilnstown Farms Ltd
Buccleuch Adonis



BELTED GALLOWAY - CHAMPION
Judith Cowie
Copelaw Ruby



HIGHLAND - CHAMPION
Messrs MacNaughton & Lawrie
Skye Of Little Rannoch



HEREFORD - CHAMPION
Miss Heather Whittaker
Coley 1 Clara 418



BRITISH SIMMENTAL - CHAMPION
W J & J Green
Corskie Disco



BRITISH LIMOUSIN - CHAMPION
Mr & Mrs M J Alford
Foxhillfarm Naomi



BRITISH BLONDE - CHAMPION
Mr Alan Walker
Gleniffer Jazmine



BRITISH BLUE - CHAMPION
Mr Kevin Watret
Solway View Milly



SALERS - CHAMPION
R & A Crockett
Bacardi Keisha



COMMERCIAL CATTLE - CHAMPION
Mr Hugh Dunlop
Darcie



**BEEF BREEDER CHAMPIONSHIP
- NATIVE - CHAMPION**
Gordon Brooke Estate
Gordon Provander U300



**BEEF BREEDER CHAMPIONSHIP
- CONTINENTAL - CHAMPION**
Redpath Farms
Redpaths Nobleman



BEEF YOUNG HANDLERS - CHAMPION
Rachael Graham



AYRSHIRE - CHAMPION
A & S Lawrie
Cuthill Towers Highland Dream



BRITISH RED AND WHITE - CHAMPION
Mr J & G Lawrie
Redsky Land Delight Ex93



JERSEY - CHAMPION
Mr Robbie Scott
Clifton Vanahlem Clover Ex92



DAIRY SHORTHORN - CHAMPION
Mr Adam Lawson
Winbrook Cactus 30



DAIRY SHOWMANSHIP - CHAMPION
Rory Scott



DAIRY CALF - CHAMPION
Mr Robbie Scott
Nethervale Awesome Emma Red



DAIRY ANY OTHER BREED - CHAMPION
Mr Robert McCole
Soulseat Larsson Kizzy



SUFFOLK - CHAMPION
Mr Stewart Craft



NORTH COUNTRY CHEVIOT - CHAMPION
W & J Thomson



BLACKFACE - CHAMPION
Mr William Ramsay



LLEYN - CHAMPION
J A & R Geldard



RYELAND - CHAMPION
Mr Andrew Hunter Blair



COMMERCIAL SHEEP - CHAMPION
Mr Iain Wilson



BORDER LEICESTER - CHAMPION
Messrs S & A Watson



BRITISH BERRICHON - CHAMPION
Mr Ewan Burgess



JACOB - CHAMPION
Mr & Mrs W Crowe



NORTH COUNTRY CHEVIOT - HILL SHEEP - CHAMPION
Mr W.D. Allen (Stouphill)



CHEVIOT - CHAMPION
Mr James Robertson



HAMPSHIRE DOWN - CHAMPION
B & J Hill



SWALEDALE - CHAMPION
Mr M R Ewbank



**BLUEFACED LEICESTER -
TRADITIONAL TYPE - CHAMPION**
Mr Frank Johnson



**BLUEFACED LEICESTER -
COLOURED TYPE - CHAMPION**
John Wight & Son



CHAROLLAIS - CHAMPION
Misses E & E Duncan



HEBRIDEAN - CHAMPION
Mr & Mrs CG & KE Heeley



**NORTH OF ENGLAND
MULES - CHAMPION**
Mr Neil Marston



BRITISH ROUGE - CHAMPION
Mr Percy Tait



BELTEX - CHAMPION
Mr J & W McMillan



ZWARTBLES - CHAMPION
Mr Neil Millar



SCOTCH MULE - CHAMPION
Mr Finlay Robertson



BLEU DU MAINE - CHAMPION
Mrs Rachel & Calum Cruden



SHETLAND - CHAMPION
Mrs Joan Brunton



BLUE TEXEL - CHAMPION
P & C Tippetts



**SHEEP YOUNG HANDLERS - CHAMPION
& OVERALL YOUNG HANDLER**
Katie Aiken

GOAT



DAIRY GOAT CHAMPIONSHIP - CHAMPION

Messrs Webster & Smith
Guilden Erin



DAIRY GOAT YOUNG HANDLERS - CHAMPION

Miss Kate Campbell
Kate Campbell



BOER GOAT - CHAMPION

M & M Ross
Balmedie Dancer



HEAVY HORSES



CLYDESDALE MALES - CHAMPION AND CLYDESDALES OVERALL - CHAMPION

Miss Charlotte Young
Doura Magic Touch



CLYDESDALE FEMALES - CHAMPION

Mrs Jennifer Reid
Bencannon Majestic Flowergirl



RIDDEN CLYDESDALES - CHAMPION

Mr & Mrs J W & M McIntyre
Glenside Matthews Flower Of Scotland



HIGHLAND PONIES IN HAND - FEMALES AND OVERALL - CHAMPION

R & K Stewart
West Lodge Alby



HIGHLAND PONIES IN HAND - MALES - CHAMPION

Mr & Mrs A Munro
Carlung Valour



MINIATURE SHETLAND PONIES - CHAMPION

Mr Matthew Davidson
Milday Morse



LIGHT HORSES



QUEENS CUP - CHAMPION AND JUNIOR MOUNTAIN & MOORLAND RIDDEN PONY OF THE YEAR - CHAMPION

Mrs Sarah Parker
Wynbrook Playfair



HUNTERS IN HAND - CHAMPION AND OVERALL HUNTER CHAMPIONSHIP - CHAMPION

Mr & Mrs W. Moran
Under Attack



RIDDEN HUNTERS - WEIGHTS - CHAMPION AND HUNTER UNDER SADDLE CHAMPIONSHIP - CHAMPION

V. Hilary Gibson
Tullynagee Applejack



SPORT HORSES IN HAND - CHAMPION
Mr Brian Gibson
Rio Tari



HIGHLAND PONY UNDER SADDLE - CHAMPION
Mrs Aileen Curle
Harris Of Mendick



WELSH MOUNTAIN PONY (SEC A) - CHAMPION
Penech Stud
Penech Bellisa



WELSH PONY (SEC B) - CHAMPION AND OVERALL MOUNTAIN & MOORLAND PONY IN HAND - CHAMPION AND CUDDY IN HAND - CHAMPION
Mrs L Wilson
Walseker Colorado



WELSH PONY (COB TYPE) (SEC C) - CHAMPION
Mr Gavin Ingram
Dhanak Prudence



WELSH COB (SEC D) - CHAMPION
Miss Lisa Breeze
Northwick Elektra



MOUNTAIN & MOORLAND PONIES IN HAND - CHAMPION
Hayley Reynolds
Drybarrows Advocate



CONNEMARA PONIES IN HAND - CHAMPION
Mrs Jane Somerset
Tesremos Sunnybear



ERISKAY PONIES - CHAMPION
Lachlan McWilliam
Catfield Brynhild



PONY BREEDING - CHAMPION
Messrs Harforth & Dixon
Swanlake



RIDING HORSES - CHAMPION
Miss Lindsay McCulloch
Ice Age



ARABS, ANGLO ARABS AND PART BRED ARABS IN HAND - CHAMPION
Mesdames D Gowans & J Givens
A V Mambo



ARABS, ANGLO ARABS & PART BRED ARABS UNDER SADDLE - CHAMPION
Miss Joy MacLean
Rashah



MOUNTAIN & MOORLAND WORKING HUNTER PONIES - CHAMPION
Mrs Laura Marshall
Laburnum Richard



SHOW HUNTER PONIES - CHAMPION
Mrs S A Errington
Littlebyrom Limited Edition



SHOW PONIES - CHAMPION
Mrs Elizabeth Dickie
Greenbarrow Picture Perfect



MOUNTAIN AND MOORLAND LEAD REIN & FIRST RIDDEN - CHAMPION
Mrs Lucy Richardson
Briar Snowman



SHOW PONY LEAD REIN & FIRST RIDDEN - CHAMPION
Mrs Kim Wilson
Lochar Love In The Mist



DONKEYS - CHAMPION
Mrs Elma Cunningham
Gamlingay Love In A Mist



WORKING HUNTER PONIES - CHAMPION
Ms Emily Gaynor-Smith
Ella's Melody



MOUNTAIN AND MOORLAND PONIES UNDER SADDLE - CHAMPION
Ms Claire Evans
Northwick Notorious



COLOURED HORSES AND PONIES UNDER SADDLE - CHAMPION
Mrs Jane Turnbull
Burghwallis Paparazzi



COLOURED HORSES AND PONIES IN HAND - CHAMPION
Mrs Beverley Walsh
Billy King Of The North



LEAD REIN OF HUNTER TYPE AND FIRST PONY OF SHOW HUNTER TYPE - CHAMPION
Craig Elenor
Rosedale Marcus

**OVERALL
YOUNG
HANDLER**



SHEEP - CHAMPION
Katie Aiken

POULTRY



SEABRIGHT BANTAM - CHAMPION
Mr Kenneth Dunbar



**ROYAL
HIGHLAND
SHOW 2019**
20-23 JUNE
PARTNER SINCE 1981
**Royal Bank
of Scotland**

RHASS TO HOST WORLD SHEARING COUNCIL'S GOLDEN SHEARS 2022

The Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland (RHASS) has been awarded the bid to host the World Shearing Council's Golden Shears 2022 competition.

Announced in July at the 2019 Golden Shears World Championships in Le Dorat following a successful presentation by the RHASS project team, the competition will take place during the 2022 Royal Highland Show.

Commenting on the successful bid process, Bruce Lang, RHASS Chief Steward of Shearing and a key member of the project team said: "It was a really strong presentation from the experienced RHASS team that built on the experience and knowledge gained from the successful delivery of the Golden Shears competition held at Ingliston in 2003 and of course this year's record-breaking Royal Highland Show.

"With the backing of Event Scotland and the Scottish Government, RHASS' proven event management skills and shearing expertise gave the World Shearing Council the strength of conviction that RHASS is the right organisation to host such a prestigious event. The fact that it will take place in Edinburgh no doubt supported our bid – the city has such appeal with international visitors."

Representing RHASS, Bruce Lang took part in the Golden Shears closing ceremony in Le Dorat, receiving the Championship Shield traditionally held by the host city. Bruce added:

"It was hugely exciting to see RHASS' bid video played to thousands of competitors and spectators at this year's closing ceremony - the feedback was incredible. Everyone is looking forward to coming to Edinburgh in 2022 for what will be a fantastic competition."



Cam Ferguson, 2010 World Champion from New Zealand presents the Championship Shield to Bruce Lang



MAJOR WALTER WINS INTERBREED TITLE

Winning his first-ever beef interbreed title at the Royal Highland Show and marking his 50th year since the establishment of the Balthayock Charolais herd was 85-year-old Major Walter from Perthshire.

Taking home the silverware was his two-year-old Dingle Hofmeister-sired heifer, Balthayock Nessie. The Balthayock herd is one of the earliest Charolais herds to be established in the UK, with the first bull bought at the Royal Highland Show in 1969. The winning heifer was shown by Davie and Tracey Nicoll.



Davie and Tracey Nicoll with Major Walter and Balthayock Nessie

RHET AT THE ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW



RHET CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY CENTRE

The RHET Children's Discovery Centre, sponsored by Greenspan, came alive at 9am on Thursday morning as members of the public came inside to sign up to sessions, shortly followed by groups of school pupils ready to learn!



HANDS-ON SKILLS

Once again, RHET is grateful to QMS for its generous sponsorship to run the Scotch Kitchen Cookery Theatre, this year hosted by Chef Daniela Forbes. Supported by an army of volunteers, 40 hands-on sessions saw 650 children cook either Scotch Beef Stir-fry, Scotch Lamb – Moroccan Style or Specially Selected Pork Sweet & Sour over the four days and the aromas were amazing!

Ingredients donated to RHET courtesy of Aldi resulted in an incredibly busy bakery activity. Youngsters aged three and over were carefully walked through each step to make their very own beautiful blueberry or charming cheese scone. A staggering 800 scones were weighed, kneaded and baked (in all shapes and sizes) over the course of the Show.

Aldi also provided raspberries, honey and apple juice to blend using the smoothie bikes kindly lent by RNCI. Very enthusiastic volunteers helped raise donations for RHET in return for the smoothies.

Mabel, the RHET fibreglass cow, was once again the must-see feature of the Show for hundreds of people of all ages who came to have a go at milking her. Visitors received a free, refreshing drink of milk, generously donated by Grahams The Family Dairy, with over 3,000 cartons handed out during the Show.

NEW TO THE CENTRE

Jobfarm, the RHASS Lothian Presidential Initiative 2018, now co-ordinated by Diane Smith, engaged with schools and Show visitors about potential work experience and careers in the industry. Diane also signed up those who would be willing to host apprentices within their business and gained a list of young people who are looking for experience.

Veolia entertained over 650 young people, teachers and the public who learnt how wastewater is used to generate electricity and provide fertiliser to farmers. During the interactive workshop, participants were walked through the stages of wastewater treatment and were able to get hands-on with imitation waste whilst also participating in an educational game of environmental bingo. It was certainly a lively session.

PeachyKeen, specialists in harnessing the power of human energy, were our third new activity provider. In the run up to the Show, PeachyKeen and RHET ran a competition with participants asked to invent a pedal-powered piece of machinery to do a farm or primary food processing job. The pedal-driven silage feeding wagon designed by 12-year-old David Adam of Kippen caught the judges' attention, and he visited the RHET Discovery Centre during the Royal Highland Show with his classmates to see his design prototype scaled up into a full working model. The finished product was a fantastic sight and addition to the RHET Centre.



RHET Executive Officer Katrina Barclay, David Adam with his prototype and PeachyKeen Director Andrew Bowie



The RHET Team made up of staff & volunteers



First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon watches a Forestry Session

SECTOR REPRESENTATION

Forestry and Land were celebrating 100 years since the founding of the Forestry Commission and showcased forestry over the last century and the changing techniques and management used then and now.

SRUC Oatridge were back this year with their popular tractor cab simulator, which saw lots of interaction with visitors both young and old. This activity highlighted the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) side of farming and how the industry relies on precision farming.

The James Hutton Institute showcased a fantastic insight to food of the future, looking at health, environmental and social reasons for possible changes as well as experimenting with colour in fruit.



The RHET Tractor Tour a huge success thanks to George Lawrie and a herd of supporters

RHET TURNS 20 - TRACTOR TOUR RECAP

RHET is celebrating 20 years of taking the 'classroom to the countryside' this year. To celebrate, George Lawrie, Chairman of the RHET board, undertook a tractor tour and visited a school in each of the 12 Countryside Initiative areas around Scotland.

Over 600 miles were covered with the aim of raising £6,000 before the start of this year's Show. The tour began at the Showground on the 12th of June and finished back at the Showground on the 19th of June.

During the tour, over 1,400 children between the ages of 4 and 12 were visited. There was also a competition held to name the tractor, to guess the total amount of diesel used on the tour, and colouring competitions.

More than £14,000 has been raised at the time of writing, which is significantly higher than the original

goal set. George was astounded by the amount of support received, and said, "A big thank you to all. It has been one of the most enjoyable things I have been involved in and the success has been down to everyone's generosity."

The tour wouldn't have been possible without the help of Massey Ferguson, Hamilton Ross Group, Instant Images, Binn Group, Allison Enterprise, Specialized Signs, Ringlink, Kev Paxton of ArtFe, Forfar Galvanisers, RHASS and local farmers for providing both fuel and scrap metal for the cow sculpture.

As part of the celebrations, there will be a Gala Dinner held at Ingliston on the 1st of November. This will include an auction for Curly Sue the Ploo Coo, the Highland cow sculpture that was carted around Scotland by George during the tractor tour, as well as other major auction lots on the night.

Please get in touch and register your interest now via email rhetinfo@rhass.org.uk or phone **0131 335 6227**.



Images of the RHET tractor tour

AMBASSADOR ANNOUNCED

RHET has appointed the first ever Ambassador in the form of successful Edinburgh business woman, restaurateur and food writer, Carina Contini. RHET is delighted to have the support and voice of Carina, who is passionate about using local produce in her establishments and the importance of understanding where food comes from.

Carina and her husband Victor run one of the few remaining independent family businesses that have benefitted from a century of experience running successful food destinations and restaurants in Scotland, including the award-winning Contini on George Street, Cannonball Restaurant & Bar on Castlehill and the Scottish Cafe & Restaurant at the Scottish National Gallery in Edinburgh.

Carina spent time with RHET visitors in the Discovery Centre during the Highland Show, getting hands on helping youngsters mix their scones. Shortly after the Show, Carina joined pupils on a farm in Perthshire as part of a potato day, cooking up delicious gnocchi on the potato nutrition stand.

Commenting on her new ambassadorial role with RHET, Carina Contini said: "It's a great honour to have been selected as RHET's first official Ambassador. I think it's more important than ever that our young people understand more about where their food comes from, so I'm a big supporter of RHET's mission to bring farming, the working countryside and its practices to life for young people."



Carina and George

UPCOMING EVENTS AT RHC



THE RISE OF THE 'DAYTIME GIG'

Lorne Scott shares his views on recent event trends

In an increasingly saturated events industry, we are finding that consumers are on the hunt for truly unique experiences and this demand for what's 'new' shows no sign of abating.

Successful event organisers strive to create that unforgettable experience that not only delivers on the day, but also builds their brand beyond a single event. This trend is becoming evident across many sectors, and none more so than with music.

Music psychology researchers have found that the desire to escape reality in a setting that offers novelty is a key driver for attending a music event.

The rising popularity of immersive one day festivals and the 'day gig' such as elrow or Terminal V is testament to this demand, providing people with the ultimate escape and the chance to party all day long, usually from 12 noon to 11pm.

Unlike the daylight raves that took place in fields and warehouses in the 80s and 90s, today's official events benefit from safe spaces, first-rate sound systems and excellent amenities such as those offered by the Royal Highland Centre (RHC).



We have seen evidence of this first hand with some of the recent events held at the RHC which return year after year and attract over 10,000 attendees each.

Our continuing investment in the RHC as Scotland's leading events venue is ushering in a new age of music events as we have a capacity of over 12,000 in the main hall, combined with 110 acres of outdoor space and parking space for 15,000 vehicles.

Venues like the RHC are leading the charge and helping to put Edinburgh on the map when it comes to music events of all shapes and sizes, thus bringing an influx of vital economic benefits to the city and to RHASS, helping to fulfil its charitable remit.

PRETTY MUDDY

14th September 2019

Race for Life Pretty Muddy is the brilliant muddy obstacle course where you can show cancer that hell hath no fury like a woman in pink. Through raising money at Race for Life to fund ground-breaking research into new drugs and treatments, you can help Cancer Research UK bring forward the day when all cancers are cured?

Let's beat cancer sooner.



Homebuilding & RENOVATING SHOW

19th - 20th October 2019

Customising your home is a project of passion. Whether you're self-building, renovating or extending, going up into the loft or down into the cellar, it's important to know that you're doing things in the best way, with the best tools for the job. From practical tips to inspiring advice and the latest products, we've got it all under one roof at the Homebuilding & Renovating Show.

**Homebuilding
& RENOVATING
SHOW** Everest
FIT THE BEST
OFFICIAL SPONSOR



WHAT'S ON AT RHC

EH1 FESTIVAL

14th September 2019

In 2019, we will celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the EH1 Festival. Hosting some of the world's best DJ talent over 6 stages.



COMIC CON

12th - 13th October 2019

The world-famous Comic Con is coming to the RHC this October! From the 12-13 October you can get exclusive sneak peaks of TV and film world premieres, listen to Q&As and meet some VIP guests. It's going to be a fantastic day out for all comic book, film and TV enthusiasts.



RHASS DIRECTORS & OFFICIALS | 2019-2020



President

Fiona Armstrong, Lady MacGregor,
Lord Lieutenant of Dumfries

Vice Presidents

Alasdair Houston MBE
Hugh Ramsay MBE
Edward Percy Keswick Weatherall
Alistair Marshall

Chaplain

Reverend Alex Cairns

Chairman

William G Gray

Immediate Past Chairman

James F Warnock

Honorary Secretary

Allan J Murray

Honorary Treasurer

John G Sinclair

BACK ROW (L-R)

Ian Beck, Christo Shepherd, John Seed,
James C Warnock, John McWilliam, Andrew Rennie,
David Lyle, Dennis Bridgeford, Kenny Sutherland,
Will Downie, William Robb, Rob Livesey, Martin Hall,
John Owen, Matthew Currie, Gordon Gray,
Philip Benzie, Eric Mutch

SECOND BACK ROW (L-R)

Bryce Sloan, Neil Thomson, Heather Wildman,
Gordon Sutherland, Alex Bankier, Sarah Mackie,
Kenny Matheson, Tom Henderson, Les Davidson,
Bruce Lang, Kay Adam, Elizabeth Vance, Fiona Ross,
Bill Arnot, Jimmy Dunlop, Sandy Wilkie

SECOND FRONT ROW (L-R)

Fiona Roebuck, Jo Andrews, Susan Lawrie,
Jim Hastings, Robbie Newlands, Alasdair Straker,
Jackie McCreery, Louise Elder, Marie Livingstone,
Lorne Scott, Keith Campbell, Mark Currie,
Valerie Smith, David Alexander

FRONT ROW (L-R)

Percy Weatherall, Rev. Alex Cairns, Alistair Marshall,
Alan Laidlaw, Alasdair Houston, Fiona Armstrong,
Bill Gray, Jimmy F Warnock, Allan Murray, John Sinclair

ORDINARY DIRECTORS (32)

ABERDEEN

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| 2016-2020 | Andrew Rennie |
| 2017-2021 | John McWilliam |
| 2018-2022 | Sarah Mackie |
| 2019-2023 | Christo Shepherd |

LOTHIAN

| | |
|-----------|---------------------|
| 2016-2020 | James Logan |
| 2017-2021 | Jacqueline McCreery |
| 2018-2022 | John G Sinclair |
| 2019-2023 | Louise Elder |

BORDERS

| | |
|-----------|----------------|
| 2016-2020 | Neil Thomson |
| 2017-2021 | Thomas Tennant |
| 2018-2022 | John Seed |
| 2019-2023 | Gordon Gray |

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

| | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| 2016-2020 | Ian Beck |
| 2017-2021 | Matthew Currie |
| 2018-2022 | Heather M Wildman |
| 2019-2023 | Jim Hastings |

HIGHLAND

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 2016-2020 | Dennis Bridgeford |
| 2017-2021 | Alistair Kenneth Sutherland |
| 2018-2022 | William M Downie |
| 2019-2023 | Robbie Newlands |

PERTH

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 2016-2020 | D Bruce Lang |
| 2017-2021 | Kay J A Adam |
| 2018-2022 | William F Arnot |
| 2019-2023 | Fiona Roebuck |

STIRLING

| | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| 2016-2020 | Gordon Sutherland |
| 2017-2021 | James C Warnock |
| 2018-2022 | John Owen |
| 2019-2023 | Anne Logan |

STRATHCLYDE

| | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| 2016-2020 | Keith Campbell |
| 2017-2021 | Alexander Bankier |
| 2018-2022 | Bryce Sloan |
| 2019-2023 | Alexander C Wilkie |

EXTRAORDINARY AREA DIRECTORS (8)

ABERDEEN Philip Benzie

LOTHIAN Fiona Ross

BORDERS Rob Livesey

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY Elizabeth Vance

HIGHLAND Tom Henderson

PERTH Val Smith

STIRLING David Lyle

STRATHCLYDE William Robb

EXTRAORDINARY DIRECTORS (UP TO 12)

YEAR ONE

Kenneth Matheson
Eric A Mutch
Susan Lawrie
Andrew Hornall
William G Gray
Ewan M Brewis
David CS Alexander
James G Dunlop

YEAR TWO

James F Warnock

EXTRAORDINARY DIRECTOR
REPRESENTING THE
BRITISH AGRICULTURAL
AND GARDEN MACHINERY
ASSOCIATION (BAGMA)
Alasdair Straker

EXTRAORDINARY DIRECTOR
REPRESENTING THE AGRICULTURAL
ENGINEERS' ASSOCIATION (AEA)
Les Davidson

HONORARY DIRECTORS & ADVISORS

Martin Hall
Julian Pace

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Chief Executive Alan Laidlaw

RHET Executive Officer Katrina Barclay

Head of Operations Mark Currie

Finance Manager Stuart Rae

Commercial Director Lorne Scott

Fundraising & Partnerships Manager Jo Andrews

Society Secretary Marie Livingstone

AUDITORS

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144 Morrison St, Edinburgh EH3 8EB

LEGAL ADVISORS

Shepherd & Wedderburn,
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Square, Edinburgh, EH3 8UL

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS

Represent
57 Calton Road
Edinburgh, EH8 8FJ

RHASS PRESIDENTIAL TEAM 2019 - 2020



Fiona Armstrong
Lady MacGregor Lord
Lieutenant of Dumfries

President

Fiona is a renowned national and regional newscaster/journalist on ITN, BBC, GMTV and Border TV's Lookaround. Fiona also champions the Scottish countryside on her Border Life, River Journeys and her fishing programmes.

Hugh Ramsay MBE

Vice President

Hugh is very much a local legend of Wigtownshire and perhaps an icon of the Royal Highland Show through his many years of showing his magnificent Clydesdale Horses. One of the most popular honours conferred on a Scottish Farming personality was the MBE awarded to Hugh Ramsay of Newton Stewart.



Alistair Marshall

Vice President

Alistair is well known to RHASS through his fine work with RHET in Dumfries & Galloway. He graduated with honours in Agriculture at Aberdeen University in 1987. A former chairman of the Barony College Board and now vice chairman of SRUC Board and SAC Consulting Board, he was recently appointed trustee of the Crichton Trust. Alistair has also overseen a large expansion of his impressive dairy enterprise at Hardgrove.



Edward Percy Keswick Weatherall

Vice President

Percy is a much-respected businessman whose roles have included managing business interests of the Jardine Matheson Group in the UK, USA, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, Korea and the Philippines. Percy now oversees an expanding and impressive farming enterprise of his own in the Region.



Alasdair Houston MBE

Vice President

Alasdair is a well-known and much acclaimed exhibitor at the Royal Highland Show through his Pedigree beef herds from his farming enterprise at Gretna. Alasdair is also greatly respected for his business interests at Gretna Green where he has excelled in developing tourism in the area through his hospitality and retail developments.



Rev Alex Cairns

Chaplain

Mr Cairns is a very young at heart kilted minister of many parishes and popular officiant at local weddings and funeral ceremonies in the Rhins of Galloway.

AWARDS & GRANTS

Silver medal

Veterinary Surgeon at the Institute of Aquaculture at University of Stirling Alexandre Pargana, was recently awarded a RHASS Silver Medal.

National Rural Mental Health Forum

RHASS contributed a total of £663 to cover the costs of their stand and tickets for their volunteers at the Show this year.

Central & Fife West Agricultural Society

RHASS awarded £600 to cover the cost of producing Breed Boards for displaying at agricultural shows. These Boards help enhance awareness and advance the education of the public about livestock on Scottish farms.

National Sheep Association

NSA received in kind support for their stand at the 2019 Show, to the value of £2500 for three years. The RHASS Fleece Competition was also hosted at the NSA stand this year.

International Federation of Agricultural Journalists Highland Tour

RHASS sponsored this year's IFAJ tour to the value of £4000 and RHASS Directors William Downie and Kenneth Matheson attended the gala dinner along with 18 journalists from 34 countries.

Horsescotland National Equestrian Awards

The awards were granted with three-year support of £5,000 per year, to a total of £15,000, to help encourage Scottish equestrianism, which plays a large role in the Show.

RASC Next Generation Conference

An award of £2500 has been made to contribute to a scholar package to attend the 2019 Conference, which is being held in the Caribbean in November.



Alexandre Pargana, Veterinary Surgeon



IFAJ Highland Tour delegates



Horsescotland National Equestrian Awards Writer of the Year 2019 winner Emma Cheape with (L-R) Peter Scudamore and Allan Murray



FEEL GOOD FARMING



Recently four Rural Youth Project delegates and fifteen Scottish Enterprise Rural Leaders went on a learning journey to “think different” about rural communities and businesses. RHASS was proud to provide support to the value of £2000 to help cover the costs for some younger members of the trip, which was an intense learning experience about how to bridge the rural-urban divide.

Alana Black tells us all about the trip.

Hailing from all corners of Scotland, strangers soon became friends after five days exploring the Netherlands and learning about the collaborative and forward-thinking nature of the Dutch.

Social enterprise, and how rural organisations – such as Herenboeren Community Farm – are positively impacting the community, is a pillar of Dutch innovation. Herenboeren Community Farm is a hub of 200 families (approximately 500 people) working in the community-supported agriculture model, and as an organisation they rent 20 hectares of land and employ a full-time farmer. Participating families pay a one-off fee of €2000 to join plus a weekly contribution of about €10 per person in the household and in return the family receive a weekly portion of vegetables, fruit, meat and eggs.

This “feel good farming” between farmers and consumers through community-supported agriculture is one that builds trust through transparency and understanding.

Although, in order to stop decline of rural economies, we need to recognise that it isn't purely a geographical issue, and to ensure their strong continuation we need urban consumers to buy into regional communities. To do this, the learning journey focussed on the power of storytelling for agricultural and rural enterprise to inspire delegates to use it as a foundation in bridging the urban/rural divide.

PIGS ARE FARMED AND RAISED IN FIELDS, FORESTS AND MEADOWS OVER 10 LOCATIONS CLOSE TO THE CONSUMER

Businesses like PigMe, where pigs are farmed and raised in fields, forests and meadows over 10 locations close to the consumer with dedicated caretakers, are using their evocative story to drive promotion. PigMe's adaption of ancient farming practices in semi-urban areas coupled with savvy social media marketing has resulted in an emotional buy-in from consumers and high-end retailers with minimal businesses overheads. This is a prime example of how personal/business narratives are now more marketable than the product sold.

With 26% of the Netherlands landmass underwater, the Dutch have had to innovate and utilise urban spaces to meet food requirements and have subsequently built the world's first floating dairy on Rotterdam's Harbour. Although not a wholly commercial enterprise, this proof of concept challenged us all on how we see traditional agriculture and, as the first ever visitors to see the facility in production, we all walked away inspired.

Rural Youth Project delegate Rebecka Bergh noted: “[The Netherlands] highlighted the need to broaden our perception about who can work with food production, to create new and more inclusive employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities, young people, urban farmers, and people co-owning land.”

One of the greatest accomplishments of this trip was the organic mentorship that sprouted between the Rural Youth Project delegates and the Scottish Enterprise Rural Leaders. Last year's Rural Youth Project survey found that only 13% of young people feel they have a say in their community, and to now have mentors throughout Scotland who are champions of change for rural young people is truly empowering.

THE £11M
INFRASTRUCTURE
PROGRAMME IN THE
SHOWGROUND AND
MEMBERS' AREA WILL
BE COMPLETE BY
THE 2020 SHOW



The many months of planning to deliver what is Scotland's largest outdoor event has paid off. Record-breaking numbers of people flocked to the Showground in June, while the media reported widely on the success of the Show based on the impressive attendance numbers.

This got me thinking, is footfall the only success indicator that we should concern ourselves with when measuring attainment? The financials are certainly important as the money raised through ticket sales and exhibitor fees allows us to carry out RHASS' charitable remit. Additionally, it enables us to undertake large capital projects such as the £11m infrastructure programme in the Showground and the building of the multi-use events space, or new Members' Area, which will be complete by the 2020 Show.

However, I think success is more than the pounds, shillings and pence. It is important to take the time to remember why the Show means so much to so many.

The Show has always been a safe platform on which to debate the thorny issues our industry is facing. It is also a place where farmers can connect with their peers and share worries and find solutions to issues facing them in their businesses. These softer success indicators are

more difficult to measure but that's not to say they aren't foremost in our minds when it comes to evaluating the Show's value.

In the run up to the Show, we looked to members to share their memories of the Highland Show. This 'Building on Memories' campaign delivered more than we could ever have hoped for with many moving stories depicting what these four days in June has meant to them over the years. While the anecdotes were varied, they all centred around happy times – when they met their partner, came away with a coveted rosette, or simply took time out to share a drink with a friend they hadn't seen for a year. These stories will be touring round Scotland as part of the Capital Campaign roadshow and we want more so if you have a special memory, we'd love to hear it – please feel free to write to me or email me at quadrant@rhass.org.uk

Our team are already planning for next year's Show with the shared vision that the event will always be a showcase for the Country's Best ... and that for me is a true measure of success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Alan Laidlaw'.

Alan Laidlaw, Chief Executive



This is farming

You'll find Lynn in the field, the factory or the boardroom. It's her products that belong in the kitchen. With our industry specialists, we're proud to help women in agriculture thrive, like Supernature Oils' Lynn Mann.

#ThisIsFarming

Lynn Mann, Supernature Oils

Partner of the Royal
Highland Show since 1981



Royal Bank
of Scotland