

RHASS MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2021

society



ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOWCASE

-
- + RHS Supreme Champions 2021 – 7 page special
 - + Annual Results + Sir William Young Award
-

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FRONT COVER - Female Clydesdale
Champion, Roughlands Majestic Lady
Handler - Alana Johnston'





ROYAL
HIGHLAND &
AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY OF
SCOTLAND

DEAR MEMBERS

This time last year when I wrote my article for the equivalent edition of Society magazine, I was reflecting on the difficult emotions of not being able to host a Royal Highland Show but looking forward to 2021 to celebrate our 180th Show.

In the interim, we set about Saving our Show and the combination of your generosity along with prudent mitigation of our position allowed us to do just that.

The cancellation of the 2021 Royal Highland Show was another body blow but we were determined to deliver an event for our members, exhibitors and the wider audience that we hoped to attract with our livestream broadcast format.

And what an event the Royal Highland Showcase was!

It far exceeded our expectations. That it was such a success was down to the colossal amount of work put in by the Board of Directors and the RHASS staff team in planning and delivering, alongside the support of all the exhibitors, competitors, stewards and judges and the production team who delivered the livestream that proved to be so popular. A special thanks must go to our partners and sponsors and as ever to our members for supporting this innovative initiative.

The collaboration between all of the sector organisations of our industry, and in particular the Scottish Government, was a testament to what can be achieved. What the Showcase also delivered of course was reconnecting our community. This has been the biggest 'miss' arising from the cancellation of agricultural shows around the country, and giving the opportunity for exhibitors to get back into the showing and, more importantly, meet and greet each other (socially distanced of course) was my absolute highlight of the event. I was touched and humbled by the number of people who stopped me as I passed and thanked us for putting the Showcase on.

I was absolutely delighted for our President, Fiona Armstrong, and her team of Vice Presidents from Dumfries and Galloway who, after a year of hiatus, were able to shine a light on their region and all that it has to offer. The iconic wicker Beltie Bull created by Trevor Leat was a standout for the Showcase, it has just headed off for a homecoming tour of Dumfries & Galloway and we hope that it will have another starring role in the future.

On a sad note, we had to say goodbye to one of our Vice-Presidents, Alasdair Houston, who was also the most recent winner of our Sir William Young Award. I will always reflect on his

humility and emotion when I had the pleasure of phoning him and travelling to Gretna to present him with his award. He will be sorely missed and I am sure you will join me in extending our sincere sympathy to his family.

So, as we move through the summer, the uncertainty surrounding the Covid pandemic still affects us and our ability to move forward but we will continue to ensure that the Society goes from strength to strength, fulfilling its charitable remit and delivering for its members and stakeholders.

We look forward to welcoming The Highland Region Presidential Team who take up the mantle for 2022 – an excellent fit for the 200th anniversary of the first show held by what was then the Highland Society in 1822.

I am sure that I speak for everyone when I say that we hope that next year will allow us to put on a fantastic 180th Royal Highland Show – I for one cannot wait.

Have a great summer whatever you are up to and I hope that harvest and autumn farming meets your expectations!

Bill Gray, Chairman

CELEBRATING THE BEST OF FOOD, FARMING AND RURAL LIFE



THE ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOWCASE

Seven days of livestreamed livestock judging, forestry, equestrian, sheep shearing, industry talks and Scottish produce championships was, by every measure, an outstanding success

Judging of over 3000 cattle, goats, sheep and horses took place at the competitor-only event, which was designed by the RHASS team to bridge the gap between a no-Royal Highland show year in 2020 and the 180th Show, which will take place 23-26 June 2022.

In partnership with Royal Bank of Scotland, with funding of up to £750,000 from the Scottish Government, the event was livestreamed throughout the seven days with 252 of hours of live content and a further thirty hours of on-demand programming produced, all watched over by 270,000 people from across 97 countries – including Norway, Finland, Australia, New Zealand, America, Argentina, the Philippines and beyond.

With over two million engagements on social media, the innovative concept was formulated, funded and delivered in less than 12 weeks.



**ROYAL
HIGHLAND
SHOWCASE**
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
**Royal Bank
of Scotland**

Thank you to our sponsors

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A. W. Jenkinson	Graham's the Family Dairy	Scottish Leather Group
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Aldi	Harbro	Scottish Woodlands Ltd
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RHASS are grateful for the support provided by the Scottish Government

HEAVY HORSE SINGLE CART TURNOUT CLASS AT THE SHOWCASE



THE QUEEN'S HIGHLAND BULL,
GUSGURLACH OF BALMORAL



"This funding sets us up for the future as we work to rebuild the Society's finances following such a difficult period in our history."

Bill Gray explained the rationale for holding the event:

"Our members have supported us during some really tough times and we wanted to give something back, which we did by hosting the Showcase. While it was not quite like being there in the flesh, we did everything to take our viewers as close as possible to the action, and the feedback has been tremendous.

"Furthermore, we wanted to ensure RHASS continued to support its charitable aims and the Showcase was an important way of achieving this in lockdown by connecting and entertaining our communities and, in the process, shining a light on our food producers, farmers and the rural way of life.

"When we reimagined a hybrid Royal Highland Show, we couldn't have believed it would have had such a monumental impact on so many people from right across the globe."

About the legacy for future years, Bill added:

"This investment has allowed us to invest in the most up-to-date streaming technology and bring on board the most experienced production teams to do justice to what is the jewel in the crown of the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland.

"It is important to note however, that this investment will bring benefits beyond this year's event. With the funding, we've upgraded our IT infrastructure and improved our website, and this will help ensure a bright future for the Royal Highland Show as well as attracting high calibre events to the Royal Highland Centre.



SHEEP JUDGING TAKES PLACE



FILMING HIGHLAND PONY CLASSES AT THE SHOWCASE



A COMPETITOR IN THE DAIRY YOUNG HANDLER CLASSES



SHEEP SHEARING TAKES PLACE



L-R RHASS CHIEF EXEC ALAN LAIDLAW, RHASS PRESIDENT LADY FIONA MACGREGOR, MAIRI GOUGEON MSP, RHASS CHAIRMAN BILL GRAY



HIGHLAND CATTLE JUDGING



SHEEP JUDGING TAKES PLACE



Alan Laidlaw, RHASS Chief Executive paid tribute to the team on the ground who brought the event from concept to reality. Alan said:

"I couldn't be prouder of our team of Directors, staff, contractors and volunteers who have left no stone unturned to make this Royal Highland Showcase dream a reality. It's important to our rural community that we were able to come together after such a long absence and it was an incredible opportunity to shine a light on our vibrant agricultural sector, not only for our regular showgoers, but also to attract new visitors who have never experienced the Show before."

Mairi Gougeon, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands, attended the event and added her congratulations to the RHASS team. She said:

"The Royal Highland Showcase marks a step change for the Royal Highland Show and Scottish agriculture. Through the new website and online videos, people, farms and businesses across the world were able to experience Scottish agriculture and food & drink."

"I couldn't be prouder of our team who have left no stone unturned to make this Royal Highland Showcase dream a reality"

"I'm so pleased to have been able to see some of the Royal Highland Showcase in person and see the hard work that went into preparing this event and opening it up to a global audience."

Meanwhile, Paul Bush, OBE, VisitScotland's Director of Events added:

"The Royal Highland Showcase 2021 had innovation, diversification and community spirit at its very heart this year. Offering a range of memorable online experiences and insight for audiences tuning in, this year's hybrid event was able to successfully pivot, providing a wonderful digital interpretation of one of Scotland's much-loved major events."

Highlights from Showcase can be accessed by visiting www.royalhighlandshowcase.org

THE SHOWCASE IN NUMBERS

£750,000

FUNDING FROM THE
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

270,000

VIEWERS IN 7 DAYS
FROM 97 COUNTRIES

30

HOURS OF ON-DEMAND
PROGRAMMING

2 MILLION

ENGAGEMENTS ON
SOCIAL MEDIA

252

HOURS OF LIVE CONTENT

12

WEEKS TO DEVELOP
AND IMPLEMENT

SHOWJUMPING AT THE SHOWCASE



BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE LIVE STREAM



DOUGIE VIPOND AND SARAH MACK HOST
THE SHOWCASE MAGAZINE PROGRAMME



HIGHLAND PONY & FOAL CLASS

Sir William Young Award Winner 2021

Alasdair Houston MBE, DL, FRAgS



The late Alasdair Houston MBE, DL, FRAgS, of Gretna House Farms in Gretna Green was awarded this year's prestigious Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland (RHASS) Sir William Young Award for his exceptional contribution to the world of cattle breeding and service to Scottish agriculture.

The award was presented to Alasdair at his farm by RHASS Chairman Bill Gray shortly before his sad passing earlier this summer.

Alasdair's Gretnahouse herd is one of the most influential in the national Charolais herdbook with bulls to 25,000gns twice at national sales. Added to this outstanding achievement was the creation of an Aberdeen Angus herd in 2011, and in just a decade Gretnahouse Blacksmith is now one of the most sought-after bulls in the breed.

In the early stages of the Simmental breed, the Gretnahouse name echoed through sales rings, with Gretnahouse Supersonic gaining widespread distinction, and even today his name is scattered throughout the herd book.

But 20 years ago, foot and mouth disease ripped the heart out of the prefix, taking with it all the fine animals belonging to the herd. However, with unmatched resolution and conviction of breeding policies, the Gretnahouse name was re-established through a new Charolais breeding programme by embryo transfer and purchasing some of the best genetics from fellow breeders.

A well-respected businessman of wide learning and integrity who was celebrated in the hospitality and tourism sector, Alasdair's true passion was in pedigree livestock breeding. As Chairman of the British Charolais Cattle Society, Alasdair modernised its constitution and mission, driving forward their youth programme which will ensure the Charolais Society thrives in years to come.

Bill Gray paid tribute to Alasdair:

"Anyone in the livestock breeding world who hears 'Gretnahouse' instantly recognises it as a mark of quality, integrity and the passionate production of top-quality animals.

"Alasdair has been the driving force behind his fantastic herds, not to mention his contribution to the tourism and hospitality sectors. I had the privilege of presenting the Sir William Young award to Alasdair and he was genuinely humbled to receive the accolade.

"Our thoughts are very much with his wife Lucy and their children Tara and Rafe."

Alasdair will be remembered amongst a number of leading livestock breeders whose successes have previously been acknowledged by the presentation of the Sir William Young award.



ALASDAIR WITH HIS CHAROLAIS HERD



ALASDAIR WITH RHASS CHAIRMAN BILL GRAY



ALASDAIR PRESENTED WITH THE SIR WILLIAM YOUNG AWARD

RHASS WEATHERS THE STORM OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC



RHASS members and the wider community rallied to Save your Show

In the autumn of 2020, following the cancellation of the 2020 Royal Highland Show, RHASS appealed to its membership for financial support. The Save your Show fundraising campaign marked a new chapter in the Society's history as we sought to counter the impact of Covid 19 on our income and our financial future.

It was clear that we needed to find new sustainable income streams in order to secure the future of the Society and in particular, the Royal Highland Show, the loss of which is unthinkable to all concerned.

The response to the appeal was nothing short of amazing and through the generosity of our members and their readiness to help, we raised almost £500,000. This contribution was absolutely critical, together with Scottish Government support, the development of new business activities at the Showground and a successful insurance claim, in helping the Society to safeguard the future of the Show.

As a charitable organisation, it is part of our remit to raise voluntary income from our supporters, in order to maximise our charitable impact – but also importantly to give

them, and others who value Scottish agriculture and its rural communities, opportunities to support our charitable work. Like every other charitable organisation, we want to involve our members, our industry stakeholders and our Show visitors in our work going forward and of course, with more resources we can do more. It's as simple as that.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we look towards the 200th anniversary of the very first Royal Highland Show in 2022, we are mindful more than ever of the role the Society and Show have played in the lives of our rural communities, and the need to ensure that this can continue for the next generation, and for the next 200 years.

The challenges facing farmers, their families and the industry have never been greater or more complex but there are wonderful opportunities also. We will mark the milestone of 200 years of the Royal Highland Show by offering people the chance to get behind us and to help us to achieve even greater charitable impact for our communities.

We will be launching our new fundraising activities in the next

few weeks, offering a number of ways to support RHASS's work. This will include a regular monthly giving programme, which offers the chance to make small regular gifts which will help the Society to plan ahead more easily.

We will offer our donors the chance to support an area close to their heart, whether this be our support for mental health work through RSABI and Farmstrong, opportunities for young people to develop the skills and knowledge to thrive in an agricultural career, or a sustainable future for farming, for example.

We are now looking forward to coming together with our members very soon, to thank them for their generosity and for standing by us. We eagerly await the celebration of the 200th anniversary at next year's Royal Highland Show and hope everyone will join us in the exciting year ahead!

For information about how you can support RHASS's work, please email or call to speak with our fundraising team
fundraising@rhass.org.uk
0131 335 6214



SHOWCASE CHAMPIONS 2021

**BEEF CATTLE, DAIRY CATTLE,
HEAVY HORSE, LIGHT HORSE,
SHEEP & GOATS**



ROYAL
HIGHLAND
SHOWCASE
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
 **Royal Bank
of Scotland**



BEEF CATTLE



**OVERALL NATIVE BEEF CHAMPION
HEREFORD**

T & D Harrison
Moralee 1 Rebel Kicks KS R12



**OVERALL CONTINENTAL BEEF CHAMPION
BRITISH LIMOUSIN**

R Graham
Grahams Precious



ABERDEEN ANGUS

Brailes Livestock
Weeton Blackbird V519



BEEF SHORTHORN

Headlind Partners
Dunsyre Horatio



BELTED GALLOWAY

J&Z Kirk
Huntfield Twiggy



BRITISH BLONDE

Thor Atkinson
Blackwater Maple



BRITISH BLUE

Kevin Watret
Solway View Pearl



BRITISH CHAROLAIS

AJR Farms
Maerdy Morwr



BRITISH SIMMENTAL

Gerald W Smith
Drumsleed Hivy 16



COMMERCIAL CATTLE

Wilson Peters
A'va Butt



**CONTINENTAL BEEF
YOUNG HANDLERS**

Amy Vance



GALLOWAY
J & A Finlay
Blackcraig Dora May U450



HIGHLAND
Her Majesty The Queen
Gusgurlach of Balmoral



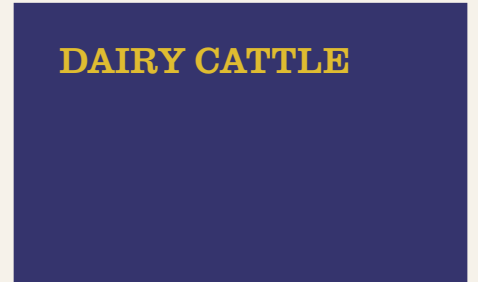
LINCOLN RED
Andrew Mylius
St Fort Yeovil



NATIVE BEEF YOUNG HANDLERS
Mollie Keiley



SALERS
Rednock Estate
Rednock Panther Poll



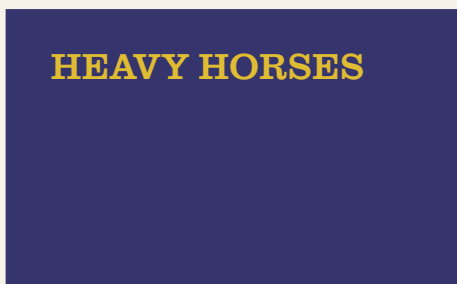
OVERALL DAIRY CALF CHAMPIONSHIP
HOLSTEIN DAIRY CALF
G & G Templeton
Blydale Chief Lynn



COLOURED BREED DAIRY CALF
Brian Weatherup
Parkend Dice Starlet Red



DAIRY SHOWMANSHIP
Neil Sloan



CLYDESDALES OVERALL
CLYDESDALE MALE
Thomas Clark & Sons
Muirton Spirit



HIGHLAND PONIES IN HAND OVERALL
HIGHLAND PONIES IN HAND - MALES
Sarah-Jane Forbes
Kincardine Uist



CLYDESDALE FEMALES
Iain D. Johnston
Roughlands Majestic Lady



HARNESS, GROOMING
AND DECORATION
Benny Duncan



HIGHLAND PONIES IN
HAND - FEMALES
Mrs Susan P Wardrop
Querina of Carlung



HIGHLAND PONY UNDER SADDLE
Gillian McMurray
Trailtrow Tearlach
Rider - Kirstin McMurray



MINIATURE SHETLAND PONIES
Chesterwood Stud
Milday Ferresamo
Handler - Matthew Davidson



RIDDEN CLYDESDALE
Catherine Hodge
Doura Oakley



STANDARD SHETLAND PONIES
H.P. Sleight & Son
Wells Dancing Brave



LIGHT HORSES



**ANGLO-ARABS & PART
BRED ARABS IN HAND**
Charlie Cousens
Colonel Mustard



PONY BREEDING CLASSES
Charlie Cousens
Colonel Mustard



RIDDEN COB
Rosamund Lane
Pudding Lane
Rider - Sophie Lane-Keery



**COLOURED HORSES AND
PONIES IN HAND**
Miss J. Cameron
Peter Pan



**COLOURED HORSES AND
PONIES UNDER SADDLE**
Miss Danielle Radford
Rhyfel Saxon Prince
Rider - Lexi Brash



HUNTERS IN HAND
Sandra Auld
Watervalley Bobbies Girl



**JUNIOR MOUNTAIN AND
MOORLAND RIDDEN PONY**
Tom Brash
Wellbank Gabriel



LADIES SIDE SADDLE HORSE
Michelle Feeney
Ballyhoulihan Rags to Riches
Rider - Emma Dewhurst



**LEAD REIN OF HUNTER TYPE AND
FIRST PONY OF SHOW HUNTER TYPE**
Julie Templeton
Littlebriars Horatio
Rider - Harriett Walsh-White



**MOUNTAIN AND MOORLAND
LEAD REIN & FIRST RIDDEN**
Lynn Robertson
Thistledown Skyfall
Rider - Jensen Anderson



**MOUNTAIN AND MOORLAND
PONIES IN HAND**
Messers Smith
Bracklinn Mabel



**MOUNTAIN AND MOORLAND
PONIES UNDER SADDLE**
Kirsty Aird
Nicholwalls Black Jack



**MOUNTAIN AND MOORLAND
WORKING HUNTER PONIES**
Jenny Deary
Malby Mahyong
Rider - Jessica Burdess



NURSERY STAKES CHAMPION
Karen Watson
Birkinbrook Cello
Rider - Aaliyah Watson



PRIVATE DRIVING
Richard LN Lanni
Harold & Manfred



RIDDEN HUNTERS
Magnus Nicholson
Remember Rossmore
Rider - Kate Nicholson



RIDDEN PART BRED
Caitlin Galbraith
Roseberry High Flyer
Rider - Susy Edwards



RIDING HORSES
Isla Miller
JST Silvermist



SHOW HUNTER PONIES
Chrissy Knipe
Bronheulog Gold Dust
Rider - Samantha Taylor



SHOW PONIES
Caitlin Galbraith
Field Aston Diamanté
Rider - Ella Anderson



**SHOW PONY LEAD REIN
& FIRST RIDDEN**
Kim Wilson
Litton Perfection
Rider - Charlotte Wilson



SPORT HORSES IN HAND
Fenston Stud
Toners Burnished Unakite



**THE PRICE FAMILY SUPREME IN
HAND CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFER**
Charlie Cousens
Colonel Mustard



WORKING HUNTER PONIES
Janet Cowie
TGF Lucy
Rider - Alice Cowie



WORKING HUNTER
Anna Sloan
Dalton P



**MV ACCREDITED INTERBREED
CHAMPION CHAROLLAIS**
Gregor & Bruce Ingram



**NON MV INTERBREED CHAMPION
BLUEFACED LEICESTER
- CROSSING TYPE**
Andrew McQuistin



BELTEX
Alan Miller



BLACKFACE
Stuart Heads, Aitkenhead farm



BLEU DU MAINE
Laine Daff



**BLUEFACED LEICESTER -
TRADITIONAL TYPE**
Kate Smith, Low Arkland



BORDER LEICESTER
Mary Laidlaw, Drennans



BRITISH BERRICHON
Ewan Burgess



BLUE TEXEL
Kevin Watret



COMMERCIAL SHEEP
Andrew Morton



HAMPSHIRE DOWN
J&R McFarlane



HEBRIDEAN
Dr John Mosley, Bryland Hebrideans



**MV ACCREDITED SHEEP
YOUNG HANDLERS**
Finlay Shone



NON MV YOUNG HANDLERS
Joanna Dale



NORTH COUNTRY CHEVIOT
J Runciman & Sons



RYELAND
Raymond Aitken



SHETLAND
Denise Playfair, Kaimknowe Flock



SUFFOLK
The Hiddleston Family



TEXEL
Robert Wilson



ZWARTBLES
Neil Millar



GOATS



BOER GOATS
M & M Ross
Balmedie Garva



GOAT CHAMPIONSHIP
Webster & Smith
Guilden Erin

FROM AVENUE Q TO SHOWCASE

– RHET'S DISCOVERY CENTRE GOES ONLINE!



A RANGE OF INTERACTIVE ONLINE ACTIVITIES WERE HOSTED BY RHET THIS YEAR

The Royal Highland Education Trust was proud to highlight its education programme at this year's Royal Highland Showcase.

Typically on Avenue Q at the Royal Highland Showground, the charity moved online this year after weeks of diligent planning from a team of dedicated volunteers and staff.

They were given a prime location in the main menu of Showcase. And as a result, the new online Discovery Centre was a huge success!

Thousands of people clicked through to the Discovery Centre, where they uncovered information on topics like arable, beef, dairy, food, land-use, machinery, sheep, and the countryside.

A section was also dedicated to RHET's volunteers and featuring videos created by each RHET area featuring local volunteers.

RHET ran a very well attended free teacher webinar on the Thursday of Showcase week, sponsored by SRUC, which was a success. Feedback gathered so far is that it was very valuable for all attendees, urging plans for similar events in the future.



A RHET GROUP FROM 2019



GOATS AT THE 2019 ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

YEAR OF BEEF LAUNCHED

RHET and the Royal Northern Countryside Initiative (RNCI), working in collaboration with QMS, are delighted to launch their Year of Beef for the academic year 2021/22.

From September 2021 through to June 2022, the program will tell the story of beef production in Scotland. From the rugged hills of the Highlands and Islands to the lush grass fields of the lowlands, beef production is woven into Scotland's history.

The Year of Beef collaborative will develop a range of resources for use in schools. It will start with the cow and calf story and cover sustainability, grass, careers, butchery, technology, and much more over the duration of the academic year.

VISIT THE RHET WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE: www.rhet.org.uk

GET INVOLVED IN THE SUMMER CHALLENGE

This summer, RHET encourages 5-12-year-olds to have a go at some food, farming, and countryside challenges as they launch the first-ever Summer Challenge.

Anyone can take part, and you have the whole of the summer holidays to get involved. There is a range of different activities from various organisations for you to try, together with a tick sheet to record what you do as you go along.

TO FIND OUT MORE, VISIT:

www.wakelet.com/@RHETSummerChallenge



BAKING IS AN ELEMENT OF THE SUMMER CHALLENGE



PRE-PANDEMIC - PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN ON A RHET ORGANISED FARM VISIT

LOCAL RECIPE BOOK IS A BEST SELLER

Ann Redpath, a volunteer in the Scottish Borders, created a recipe book at the start of the lockdown last year and has been busy promoting and selling the book ever since!

Lockdown in Lambing has been an enormous hit and has sold copies nonstop since it launched. So far, Ann has raised an astounding £17,000, which she has generously shared between RHET and the Borders General Hospital.

Books cost £10 (+£2 P&P) and are still available to order via emailing: lockdownrecipebook@gmail.com



VOLUNTEER ANN REDPATH

RHASS Directors & Officials 2021-22



Back row: Mark Currie, Stuart Rae, Philip Benzie, Bruce Lang, James Porter, John Seed, Martin MacDonald, William Ritch, Ashley Spence

Fourth Row: Jackie McCreery, Gordon Sutherland, Alex Bankier, Kay Adam, Matthew Currie, Andrew Rennie, Andrew Hornall, Donald Harvey, Sandy Wilkie, Barclay Hamilton, Alison Logan

Third row: Ian Beck, Tom Tennant, Anne Logan, William Robb (Director 2019-2021), Martin Hall, Will Downie, Dennis Bridgeford, Heather Wildman, William Hamilton, Louise Elder, Susan Lawrie

Second row: Marie Livingstone, Robbie Newlands, Keith Campbell, Alan Laidlaw, Kenny Matheson (Director 2006-2021), Gordon Gray, Les Davidson, Jim Hastings, Bill Arnot, David Alexander

Front row: Jim C Warnock, John Sinclair, James Logan, Bill Gray, Ewan Macdonald, Andrew Shepherd, Isobel McCallum, Sandy Cumming, Rod MacKenzie, Rev. Alex Cairns (Chaplain – 2019-2021)



RHASS PRESIDENTIAL TEAM 2021/2022 (SEE PAGE 24)

2021-2022 DIRECTORS & PRESIDENTIAL TEAM

President:

Ewan Macdonald

Vice Presidents:

Andrew Shepherd

Rod MacKenzie

Isobel McCallum

Sandy Cumming

Chaplain

tbc

Chairman

William G Gray

Chairman Designate

James C Warnock

Honorary Secretary

James Logan

Honorary Treasurer

John G Sinclair

Honorary Vice President

Martin Hall

Ordinary Directors

ABERDEEN

2018-2022 Sarah Mackie

2019-2023 Christo Shepherd

2020-2024 Eric A Mutch

2021-2025 Andrew Rennie

LOTHIAN

2018-2022 John G Sinclair

2019-2023 Louise Elder

2020-2024 William G Gray

2021-2025 James Logan

BORDERS

2018-2022 John Seed

2019-2023 Gordon Gray

2020-2024 Rob Livesey

2021-2025 Neil Thomson

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

2018-2022 Heather M Wildman

2019-2023 Jim Hastings

2020-2024 Aylett Roan

2021-2025 Ian Beck

HIGHLAND

2018-2022 William M Downie

2019-2023 Robbie Newlands

2020-2024 Martin MacDonald

2021-2025 Dennis Bridgeford

PERTH

2018-2022 William F Arnot

2019-2023 Fiona Roebuck

2020-2024 Susan Lawrie

2021-2025 D Bruce Lang

STIRLING

2018-2022 John Owen

2019-2023 Anne Logan

2020-2024 Andrew Hornall

2021-2025 Gordon Sutherland

STRATHCLYDE

2018-2022 Bryce Sloan

2019-2023 Alexander C Wilkie

2020-2024 David CS Alexander

2021-2025 Keith Campbell

Extraordinary Area Directors (8):

Aberdeen William Ritch

Lothian Barclay Hamilton

Borders William Hamilton

Dumfries & Galloway Ashley Spence

Highland Peter Moss

Perth James Porter

Stirling Alison Logan

Strathclyde Donald Harvey

Extraordinary Directors

Year one:

Alistair Kenneth Sutherland

Philip Benzie

Kay J A Adam

James C Warnock

Jacqueline McCreery

Thomas Tennant

Alexander Bankier

Matthew Currie

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

Julian Pace

tbc

Management Team

Chief Executive

Alan Laidlaw

RHET Executive Officer

Katrina Barclay

Director of Operations

Mark Currie

Finance Manager

Stuart Rae

Fundraising & Partnerships Manager

tbc

Society Secretary

Marie Livingstone

Auditors

Azets, Exchange Place, 3 Semple Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8BL

Legal Advisors

Shepherd & Wedderburn, 1 Exchange Crescent, Conference Square, Edinburgh, EH3 8UL

Public Relations Officers

Represent, 57 Calton Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8FJ

RHASS Presidential Team 2021/2022



Left to right: Sandy Cumming CBE, Andrew Shepherd, Ewan Macdonald, Isobel McCallum, Rod MacKenzie

Ewan Macdonald – PRESIDENT

Ewan farms, along with his brother, on the Black Isle and Wester Ross. They have a mixed farm, with beef, sheep and cereals. Alongside this, they have renewable projects, including a Hydro Scheme and holiday lets, and have also been involved in property development in the local area.

Ewan Macdonald was Vice President of the RHASS Highland region, ten years on the Board of the Highland Hospice and is currently Vice Chairman of, and for the last twenty years actively involved with, Dingwall Auction Mart.

The family farming business was started in the 1920's by his grandfather, Angus Macdonald and has evolved over the years to the business it is today.

His late father, Angus S Macdonald, CBE, was very involved as a Director, Vice President and President in RHASS.

Rod MacKenzie – VICE PRESIDENT

Rod Mackenzie, a crofter born and bred, is a well-known figure in the north of Scotland farming and crofting communities. His working life started as a livestock auctioneer in Dingwall and then followed a successful career working in auction marts throughout the Highlands and Islands and Aberdeenshire. He was secretary and organiser of Black Isle Show for 14 years from 2005 – 2019, and Convener and Commissioner of the Crofting Commission from 2017 until recently.

Isobel McCallum – VICE PRESIDENT

Isobel is well known to RHASS, having served as a Director for the Highland region in 2015. She runs a mixed arable and stock farm on the Black Isle, including a pedigree North Country Cheviot flock. Closely involved with the Highlands' agricultural community for over 40 years, Isobel served as the Black Isle Farmers Society's first woman president in 2009. A former Convener of Highland Council and local councillor for many years, Isobel is well acquainted with public life as a long-standing representative for the Highlands.

Andrew Shepherd – VICE PRESIDENT

Andrew farms in Moray, running a herd of pedigree Aberdeen Angus. He is better known as a Chartered Accountant with a number of Board roles, including with the quality meat processor Scotbeef Ltd and from September 2021 Chairman of leading property consultants Galbraith.

Sandy Cumming CBE – VICE PRESIDENT

Sandy grew up on an upland farm in Strathconon, Ross and Cromarty. He studied Agricultural Economics at Edinburgh University, before spending over 35 years in economic and community development, working for Highlands and Islands Enterprise where he was Chief Executive for a decade. He is a former member of the Accounts Commission, former Board Member and Chair of the Cromarty Firth Port Authority, former Trustee of the Robertson Trust. He is currently Chair of Scotland's Rural College, having served on the SAC/SRUC Board since 2011.

CREATING A SUSTAINABLE CHARITY



£1.8m INTERIM INSURANCE PAYMENT (BUSINESS INTERRUPTION)	£1.4m INCOME FROM RHASS, LAND ASSETS, MEMBERSHIP & INVESTMENTS	£0.5m INCOME FROM ROYAL HIGHLAND CENTRE EVENTS
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£0.5m DONATIONS	£0.5m GOVERNMENT GRANTS & SUPPORT	£0.3m SHOW SPONSORSHIP
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TOTAL INCOME - £5M



CHARITABLE REMIT

FULFILMENT OF OUR CHARITABLE PURPOSES, ENSURING
THE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF THE CHARITY



INVESTMENT IN SOCIETY	AWARDS & GRANTS	OPERATIONAL EXPENSES
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TOTAL EXPENDITURE - £5.3M

A DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE IS
INCLUDED IN THE NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

RHASS ANNOUNCE 2021 TECHNICAL INNOVATION AWARD WINNERS

The Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland (RHASS) has announced the 2021 winners of the Technical Innovation Awards, with one Gold, six Silver and five Certificates of Commendations being awarded.

The awards, RHASS's most longstanding industry accolade, showcase and reward innovation and development within the agricultural sector and are a highly respected award for manufacturers, distributors, providers and inventors.

This year, applicants were once again invited to enter online with judging taking place virtually. Winners were featured as part of the Royal Highland Showcase in partnership with the Royal Bank of Scotland, with a formal award ceremony planned for the 2022 Royal Highland Show.

Gold awards are presented to previous Silver award winners for continuous outstanding merit.

KUBOTA UK - Earning another Silver this year is Kubota UK for their **M7003 Premium KVT tractor and the BV Series TIM round baler**. Kubota's TIM (Tractor Implement Management) is a cross-product and cross-manufacturer ISOBUS solution for the agricultural machinery industry, whereby the implement is able to control certain tractor functions. The TIM system enables the implement to automatically control certain functions of the tractor to optimise the quality and efficiency of the overall system. Kubota is the first manufacturer to receive the renowned AEF certification for a tractor/implement combination. The TIM system offers decisive advantages, such as reduced driver fatigue, at the same time increasing comfort and efficiency.



CALIBRATE INC LTD - Calibrate Inc Ltd earned Gold for their **Heatpump Heat/Chill 6MW System**. The Heatpump Grain Drying System means users can enjoy a 'Hands Off' Heatpump solution. The 6mW heat pump system manages a revolutionary Grain Drying process. A bespoke controller can operate the grain dryer via a cloud-based system enabling Calibrate to monitor all aspects of the process and tariff generation meters online.



GRAINTEK UK LTD - Graintek UK Ltd were awarded Silver for their Baby Portable Grain Dryer. Designed to be the smallest portable grain dryer that can dry by using continuous or batch mode with the flick of a switch, uniquely it can run from a 16a single phase supply using plc and inverter technology. The design uses a single leg elevator running in continuous mode to fill and dry at the same time, cutting the cost of power and equipment required. It is a 50% full scale size of its 9 tph bigger brother.



MASSEY FERGUSON - Massey Ferguson also impressed the judges, winning Silver for their **MF 8S Tractor**. Built from a blank canvas using a 'Voice of the Customer' study, this was used to create something completely new. Key feedback underlined the need for comfort, ease of use, value for money, excellent reliability, intuitive and convenient controls, efficiency transmitting maximum power to the ground, 100% connectivity and the ability to work with the most demanding implements. The Dyna E-Power, is the ultimate dual clutch technology, stepless shifting raising comfort, maximum power to the ground due to the mechanical conception and the best fuel efficiency in its class.



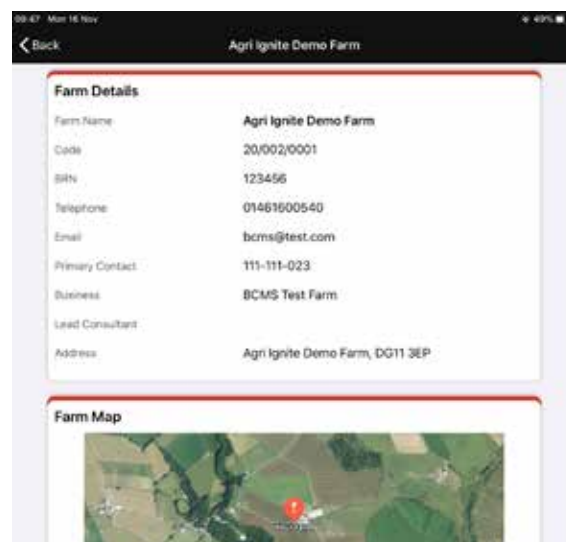
SAFE FORESTRY BY SAFE WORKSITE

- Safe Forestry by Safe Worksite also earned a Silver this year for their **Safe Forestry App**, an app supported by a desktop system designed to show competence and compliance whilst at work in the forestry industry. The app focusses on Health and Safety, ensuring that all risk assessments and documentation such as training and maintenance of equipment is in one place and up to date. The app is based on industry best practice and customisable to the tasks undertaken. There are plans to roll this out to the agricultural industry next.



SMALL ROBOT COMPANY - Presented with a Silver award this year also was Small Robot Company for their **End to End per Plant Farming**. This ground-breaking multi-robot's end-to-end capabilities were demonstrated to deliver per plant weeding, which is a world first. 'End-to-end' means that one robot ('Tom') scans fields for weeds, which are processed and detected by Wilma, an artificial intelligence Advice Engine, devising a weed treatment plan. Then a second robot ('Dick') is activated to go to the very same spot, ID the weed, and kill it. This new model gives Per Plant precision. Each plant can be farmed individually, with minimal waste. Benefits include cutting chemicals and emissions by up to 95%, delivery of Net Zero targets, and increasing yields by up to 20 tonnes per hectare for wheat, from the current UK average of 8.5.

SIAGRI - Earning a Commendation is 5|Agri for their **Agri Ignite**, a farm business software for farmers and agricultural consultants. The cloud-based software programme enables farmers and their consultants to make decisions based on real time data. The system is fully integrated with Xero accounting software, undertakes livestock movements for BCMS and ScotEID and records medicine compliance. Agri-Ignite was amended to provide an online IACS portal. Farmers can log in and view maps of their crops, confirm their livestock numbers, agree deductions and the various schemes that they are participating in.



MCHALE - Also awarded a Commendation was McHale for their **Orbital Bale Wrapper**. It is unique in that it encompasses the proven Vertical Wrapping ring carried over from the very successful McHale Fusion but transforms it into a high speed and high end trailed wrapping machine. With the ability to pick up one bale whilst wrapping another and carry on down the field to the next bale, it offers a very fast and efficient method of bale wrapping. The rear wrapper roller automatically adjusts to meet the bale size implemented through the control box meaning that the band of film is always placed on the centre of the bale, regardless of bale size.



SPREAD-A-BALE - Spread-a-Bale were also presented with a Commendation for their **Spread-a-Bale balers, the HD and XL**. The HD works for hard, high density round and rectangular bales and the XL for two round bales or extra long rectangular bales. Each provides real straw spreading solutions to issues emerging from the latest trend towards more ergonomically efficient high density baling machines and longer rectangular bales. Overall, the options contribute to Spread-a-Bale enabling farmers to make further reductions in spreading time and labour, and straw savings of between 30% to 50%.



SMARTRURAL - Another Commendation was earned by SmartRural for the **Smart Rural App**. Their work to date has clearly shown that there is considerable value derived from the use of readily available sensors across different farm types, to generate data that helps the farmer work smarter; make their businesses more profitable & sustainable; and aid them on the road to net zero.

UBCO BIKES UK LTD - Finally, UBCO Bikes UK Ltd also received a Commendation for their **UBCO 2x2**. The UBCO Adventure 2X2 is the world's first Electrically Powered 2wd Utility Bike built specifically with agricultural users in mind. Its unique design comprises of encased motors within both wheels powered by 3.1kW battery. It has no chain or belt to be damaged in our working environments and is a low maintenance machine. Designed and engineered in New Zealand, the machine was initially made to offer a safe, sustainable alternative to farm transport replacing more dangerous options powered by internal combustion engines.



RHASS Chief Steward of Technical Innovation, Christo Shepherd said:

"I would like to extend my congratulations to the winning entries of the Technical Innovation Awards this year. This year's entries were exciting examples of the innovative work going on within the agri-tech industry, and especially inspiring were the number of software solutions entered this year."

"The benefits to winning for businesses and brands are significant, providing a respected mark of quality for customers to look out for. After such a challenging year, it is heartening to see such quality entries come in once again."

CASE STUDY – SAFE FORESTRY BY SAFE WORKSITE

Safe Forestry by Safe Worksite earned a Silver this year for their Safe Forestry App, an app supported by a desktop system designed to show competence and compliance whilst at work in the forestry industry.

We spoke to Calum Duffy, Director of Safe Forestry, to find out how their app is changing the industry for the better and what it means to win a Silver award.

Tell us more about your company

Safe Forestry aims to make the forestry industry safer for those who work there. This also includes being able to prove professional competence and continuous professional development of those operating in the forests and those who manage them.

What led you to develop your entry and how is it helping the industry?

We were challenged by the Health and Safety Executive during a site visit in February 2019 to improve the way we prove the competence of our operators.

Like most other contractors at this point, we were relying on certification and word of mouth for an operators' skill level. The HSE visit soon pointed out that wasn't enough if it were to "all go wrong... So this is where the concept of Safe Forestry was born.

After 2 years of field testing by our operators and several other contractors the system now incorporates the fundamentals required to work towards compliance.

Safe Forestry offers managers, contractors and operators an operator friendly way of recording their competence,

ongoing CPD, machinery checks and any other site activities that will prove the professionalism of the individuals involved. This is all backed up by photographic evidence and logbook entries. An app on the operator's phone is all that is needed.

How does it feel to win a RHASS Technical Innovation Award?

We at Safe Forestry by Safe Worksite are honoured to have been awarded a Silver Technical Innovation Award by the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland for our health and safety app. This award recognises the innovative approach we have taken to support competence and compliance within the forestry industry.

This award means a lot to us. It is validation that what we are doing is innovative and keeping people safer at work.

How do you think winning will make a difference to your business?

This will increase awareness of our product within the forestry sector in Scotland.

How did you find the process of applying for the Technical Innovation Awards?

Straight forward and easy to do.

What are the plans for the future of the business?

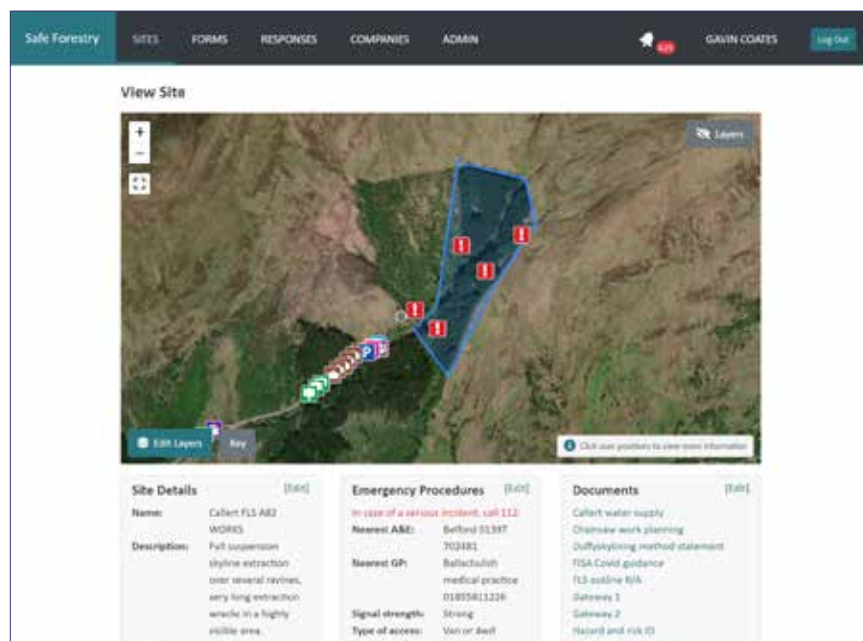
The future plans are to grow within the forestry sector. As well as growth in that industry, we will be replicating the Safe Forestry concept for other industries. The next industry that we are targeting is Agriculture. For this we will be partnering with Agri Ignite, the software developed by 5 | Agri.

Why do you think innovation is important for the industry?

Innovation challenges us to grow as a business within our industry, innovation is driving us to always do better and be more efficient. Without innovation, the industry could be left behind.

What would you say to someone interested in applying for an award?

It was such an easy process, why not put forward your innovative ideas, it could be you winning next year!





THE NEW RHASS MEMBERS PAVILION

AN UPDATE FOR OUR MEMBERS

As valued members and the lifeblood of RHASS, your continued support throughout the past two years has been invaluable to the Society.

We hope that many of you were able to enjoy the Royal Highland Showcase online (along with over 270,000 others!) and we look forward to the return of some normality and a live Royal Highland Show in 2022.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The outbreak of the pandemic led the Board to postpone an intended increase to life and term membership fees for the last two years. The Board does intend to bring forward a proposal to raise life and term fees in line with the adult annual fees, with the increases coming into force in January 2023, subject to approval at the AGM.

This will give current and prospective members time to consider their options before the price increase. If either upgrading or gifting membership is something you've been considering for a while, now is the time to do it while fees remain at pre-2020 prices.

Payment plans are available. If you would like to discuss options, please contact the Membership Department by emailing membership@rhass.org.uk.

RHASS DIGITAL DRIVE CONTINUES

As highlighted in the Autumn 2020 edition of Society Magazine, during the Covid 19 pandemic we have been investing in our membership systems to improve communications and administration by upgrading to a fully digital system, and we hope to launch our new members' portal in late 2021. The portal will allow members to access information about the Society and their membership, update their personal details, manage their membership and more.

To help us with our move to a fully digital system, please make sure we have your current email address by emailing membership@rhass.org.uk, quoting your name, your address including postcode and membership number. Each member will need to have an individual email address as this will be required to access the portal. If you haven't received any email communications from us recently then it's unlikely we hold a current email address for you.

We realise that email isn't necessarily everyone's preferred means of communication, but in order to future-proof our systems and to help us keep costs down so we can devote as much money as possible to fulfilling our charitable remit, we will need individual email addresses for all members. We are happy to be of assistance during this period to aid an easy transition to the new platform.

THE ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW 2022 TICKETS

Anticipation is high for a return to normality, and after a two year gap since the record-breaking 2019 Show, we are looking forward to once again welcoming members, competitors and the general public safely through the gates at Ingliston next year to celebrate the bicentenary of the very first Royal Highland Show.

Continuing the work started in 2020 and 2021 around Covid-19 capacities, we will ask members to book for each day that you plan to attend, giving you the option to select the days you will be in attendance, and book any other guest tickets, parking, children's tickets etc through the membership portal. You will receive notification of when these will be available to book and how to use the new digital tickets. Please ensure we have your email address so we can keep postal costs to a minimum.



*“
Post Covid, our sector,
our landscapes and
relationships with the
great outdoors and food
will change forever
”*

I am delighted that we have put together a Society magazine for you that includes some real progress for the Society. It shows what a successful and important Showcase we had in June and it also points towards a future where Covid has less of an impact on us, our members and the sector as a whole. Here is to increased “normality” and greater opportunities for RHASS to deliver its charitable activities through the things we know you value as members, namely RHET, the Royal Highland Show and supporting all of rural Scotland.

The last year has been nothing short of horrendous for so many people and organisations. We will all share stories of our difficulties and challenges. But behind that there are stories of success and change during adversity. We need to recognise those too, while being supportive of those who have scars and wounds from the pandemic. “It’s ok to not be ok” is a phrase used a lot now. It means different things to different people. But I believe that post Covid, our sector, our landscapes and relationships with the great outdoors and food will change forever. If you take that and the impact of the recent IPCC report on climate change into account, it signals that change is happening to us and around us at a rate many of us will find uncomfortable

RHASS is over 230 years old and stands as a testament to how the agri sector is resilient and responsive to change, and I hope that as “normality” returns, we are able to come together as members, share ideas, rediscover social bonds lost in the last 18 months and replenish our reserves. That’s in a social and mental way. We have been doing exactly that in a business and financial manner for the last few months - the impact of our business interruption insurance pay-out in March and government support for the Showcase, and the Society as a key

membership organisation in Scotland, has put us in a great position to be engaged with our members, be active in future discussions and involved in shaping the landscape as it develops in front of us. We have the COP26 conference ahead and I strongly believe that there has never been a greater opportunity, or a more important time, to celebrate, promote and develop all that RHASS, RHS and our sector has to offer. Rural Scotland and its businesses, especially farmers and land managers, must shape the future and be recognised as part of the solution. If we don’t, we will be done unto, and that’s not a feeling that ever sparks joy or success.

I hope that we are able to welcome you in the coming months to Ingliston for events and elsewhere to come together. The strength of RHASS as an organisation has always been its people, members, directors and our great staff team and I hope that we are all in the mood to engage in creating a highly successful sector for the future. In recognising our people, I want to pay credit to all the volunteers who have given so much through the pandemic, whether it’s on the board or through supporting RHET activities across the country. Remember, as a Society those who get the most out of it are often those who put their hands up to be involved, in any number of ways. If you are interested, drop me a note. And I remind you, as Bill Gray has done often, that we always need new stewards, helpers and Directors, whether for a 1-year period or to join the board longer term. If this interests you, speak to me or one of the Director team listed on page 22.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Laidlaw'.

Alan Laidlaw, Chief Executive



DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AT RBS RODDY MACLEAN WITH
OVERALL CONTINENTAL BEEF CHAMPION BRITISH LIMOUSIN