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Dear Members

### Newsletter - Spring 2011

Welcome to the latest Abyssinian Cavy Club newsletter. If you have received this letter by post or by hand, and you have access to an email address, please could you let me know so that I can update my records.

Firstly, an apology; I did not amend my telephone number in the last newsletter. The correct number is shown above - 01473 892 120 - and I would be grateful if you could update your records accordingly.

#### Members' Day

Our Members' Day 2010 was held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at Lavendon Village Hall. Thank you to all who attended, and especially to Fred and Richard and team, who yet again provided us with an excellent roast dinner and drinks and refreshments throughout. Thank you also to our judges. The main winners on the day were as follows:

#### *Adult Stock Show - judge: Simon Neesam*

- Best Brindle: Gemma Addison
- Best Tort and white: Wildfell Stud
- Best Roan: Kirsty Ewart
- Best Self: Derek Pike
- Best AOC: Wildfell Stud
- Best Sow: Gemma Addison
- Best in Show: Gemma Addison (Adult Brindle boar 'Phantom') - a repeat of 2009!

#### *Intermediate Stock Show - judge: Jackie Raynor*

- Best Brindle: Kirsty Ewart
- Best Tort and white: Derek Pike
- Best Roan: Andrew Garrity
- Best Self: Elisabeth Hudson
- Best AOC: Elisabeth Hudson
- Best Sow: Andrew Garrity
- Best in Show: Kirsty Ewart (5-8 Brindle boar 'Smudge')

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President: Brian Cutting  
Chairman: Derek Pike  
Points Secretary: Tina Tennant

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### *Young Stock Show - judge: Derek Pike*

- Best Brindle: Andrew Garrity
- Best Tort and white: Wildfell Stud
- Best Roan: Simon Neesam
- Best Self: Andrew Garrity
- Best AOC: Wildfell Stud
- Best Sow: Andrew Garrity
- Best in Show: Andrew Garrity (u/5 Brindle sow 'Kim Clijsters')

David Oulton kindly 'volunteered' to pick an overall Best in Show from the three stock show winners and chose Andrew's young Brindle sow. Congratulations!

Sadly, we had no juvenile entries.

Thank you to Derek who generously sponsored sets of coloured photographic prize cards for award at each of the three main stock shows.

This year's event will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> October, when Andrew will be able to join us as he is back in the UK for a holiday. The exact venue will be confirmed nearer the time, but it will be in the vicinity of Lavendon/Harrold in Bedfordshire. I understand that our Scottish members will be combining resources in an effort to attend. More on that later.

### **AGM**

We had a very useful AGM in conjunction with the Members' Day, where the following items were discussed.

*Points Competition* It was noted that many of the host clubs had failed to advertise the points status of their show, that some shows attracted very low numbers of Abys, and that others were very slow to return results. It was agreed that for 2011, we would trial a programme whereby Points would be awarded only at Mini-Stock Shows and the three main Stock Shows, and that we would not use open classes to award points. In turn, we would host more Mini Stock Shows than we did last year. The programme for 2011 is shown below.

*Stock Show Schedule* A simpler schedule was agreed for future Stock Shows. Copy attached.

*Combined Stock Show 2011* Members agreed to repeat the format of combining the three Stock Shows at one venue again.

*Promotion of Abyssinians in more geographically remote regions*

*Promotion of the breed generally*

### **Mini Stock Shows**

The results of our Mini Stock Show programme for 2010 were as follows:

- Bradford Championship. Judge: David Oulton, Best in Show - Derek Pike's Adult Brindle boar
- Devon County. Judge: Brian Emmett, Best in Show: Jennie Wright
- Betley Horticulture Show. Judge: Derek Pike. Best in Show: Simon Neesam's Adult Brindle boar
- London Championship. Judge: Brian Cutting. Best in Show: Lindsey Clydesdale's 5-8 Roan boar
- Loughborough. Judge: Phil Riley. Best in Show: Simon Neesam's Adult Roan boar

So, a good spread of winners between the Club's eight Stock Shows for last year. Results and critiques of our shows can be found in CAVIES magazine.

Well done to all the winners, and thank you to all our judges. Thank you also to Kirsty Ewart for preparing and manning the club information stand.

### *Abyssinians in Scotland*

We are pleased to announce a new venture for 2011 - the addition of a Scottish Area Rep to promote the Abyssinian cavy in Scotland and support the interests of our members. Ivan McConachie has volunteered to take on this role. Due to geographical locations our friends north of the border, historically, had little opportunity to show their cavies at Club shows without travelling vast miles. Ivan has compiled a suite of Mini-Stock Shows at various locations throughout Scotland so that members can compete with each other and seek more specialist opinions on their stock.

We hope you will support Ivan with show entries, and by encouraging new (and existing!) fanciers to take up the challenge of the Abyssinian cavy and join the Club. I understand that Ivan is reviewing the logistics of organising some form of transport to our Members' Day and AGM in October.

Ivan can be contacted on 07540 615 101, or [ivan.mcconachie@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ivan.mcconachie@yahoo.co.uk) or make yourself known to him at the next show. Ivan will have a stock of Club artefacts and be able to take subscriptions. Thank you Ivan for your enthusiasm for getting this venture off the ground.

### *Stock Shows 2011*

The 2011 Stock Show programme is as follows:

Date	Venue	Status	Judge
29 <sup>th</sup> /30 <sup>th</sup> January	Bradford Championship	Mini SS	David Oulton
9 <sup>th</sup> April	Yorkshire Championship (Keighley)	Mini SS	Peter Gammie
17 <sup>th</sup> April	Scottish National CC at Inchture	Mini SS	
12 <sup>th</sup> June	Turriff District Fur & Feather Assoc	Mini SS	
25 <sup>th</sup> June	SW Championship (Wye Vern)	Mini SS	Julie Ridgely
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Castle Ashby Show	Mini SS	Brian Emmett
6 <sup>th</sup> August	Betley Horticultural Show	Mini SS	Phil Riley
20 <sup>th</sup> August	Essex CS	Mini SS	
20 <sup>th</sup> August	Scottish National CC at Belhaven	Mini SS	
11 <sup>th</sup> September	London All Cavy Ex (Reading)	Mini SS	Jackie Raynor
15 <sup>th</sup> October	Scottish National CC Championship Show at Dunblane	Mini SS	Derek Pike
29 <sup>th</sup> October	Bedford (Members' Day)	Adult SS	Derek Pike
29 <sup>th</sup> October	Bedford (Members' Day)	Intermediate SS	Brian Cutting
29 <sup>th</sup> October	Bedford (Members' Day)	Young SS	Andrew Sparkes
27 <sup>th</sup> November	Birmingham CC	Minis SS	Elisabeth Hudson

### *Members' Handbook*

Good news! The handbook is complete and I will start to issue to paid up members (hint!) at Harrogate. I will then be able to post remaining books out.

### *Other matters...*

Congratulations to two prominent members who have reached milestone birthdays recently - Jackie Raynor and Derek Pike. Also to Andrew Sparkes for the arrival of his first grand child and Tracey (nee Howell) on her marriage to Lloyd Brooks in April.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that 2011 subs are now due (I attach a copy of our application form) and to welcome the following new Members to the club, and trust that you will have a long and fruitful stay: Andrew McDonnell Jay McDonnell and Ben Cook.

Best wishes

Simon