

COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2018

Nominee: **PETER CLOSE, Fishwick Herd, member no 00087**
Fishwick Mains, Berwick on Tweed, Berwickshire, TD15 1XQ

Proposed by: **Bernard Llewellyn, MBE, Carreg Cennen, member no 00149**

Seconded by: **Harry Hodgson, Harold herd, member no 01234**

Statement by Peter Close

First involved with Longhorns 42 years ago attracted by its commercial qualities - deep wide easy calving pelvis, feed responsive high fat milk, with exceptional length and loin width. Used Longhorn bull on Welsh Black and Simmental to produce outstanding sucklers. Rapidly also involved in pedigree side, amassing 40 strong herd by 1981 when there was only 300 breeding females. Since then we've been involved in promoting the Longhorn not just as a pedigree breed and source of quality meat but also its commercial use as both a purebred or half-cross female and as a superior suckler dam sire.

Current Society policy to focus almost entirely on niche meat market ignores most qualities that the Longhorn possesses. Side-lining the commercial breeding market drives down sale prices to below commercial levels benefitting only buyers/finishers; this is borne out by the past two National Sales at Worcester: 66% of cattle forward going for slaughter/finishing. This discourages breeders from registering calves; encourages them to cross them - or sell. I understand why future National Breed Sales are suspended but is this not "throwing the baby out with the bath-water"? It does not address problem: badly presented, or in some cases inferior, cattle facing restricted market with lack of competition thereby engendering prices well below commercial parity.

I do not pretend to have all the answers but a vigorous multi-faceted approach is urgently needed; otherwise the current policy, whilst not impacting the top herds, will inevitably promote a slaughter out of the breed down to nearer novelty status.

Statement by Bernard Llewellyn (proposer)

I would be delighted to propose Peter Close as a member of Council – I can think of no person who has contributed more to the breed in the last 30 years than Peter, both in terms of promotion and breeding quality cattle – in his past terms on Council he has always made more than a positive contribution to debate and I believe his knowledge is invaluable and as such would be continued asset to the Society and Council.

Statement by Harry Hodgson (seconder)

I first met Peter at the Stirling bull sales where we bought our first Longhorn bull. Since then Peter has become a great friend and supporter of my fledgling interest in the breed, now I am a fully devoted member. I believe Peter is a huge asset to the breed having seen the breed grow from its threatened status to its current state. Through all of this time the breed has had to adapt and change and Peter has always been a promoter of this. I think his selection to the Council would bring a huge depth of knowledge, experience and ideas as the breed looks to continue its development and secure its future.

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**Nominee: SOPHIE GURTON, Colne Valley Herd, member no 00962
Colletts Farm, Wormingford, Essex, CO6 3AU**

Proposed by: Rachael Heard, Treverton Herd, member no 00899

Seconded by: Sarah Coleman, Chalkney Herd, member no 00490

Statement by Sophie Gurton

My involvement in Longhorns started in 1992 at the age of five when my mother started her Chalkney herd. For me Longhorns have always been the natural choice and in 2006 I bought my first heifer to start the Colne Valley herd. In 2010 the herd was moved to our now home on the Essex Suffolk border. My husband and I now have a herd of 25 breeding females and followers totalling around 50 head. We also have a micro Jersey herd, 120 mixed bred ewes and three Middle White pigs. I was lucky enough to join the Longhorn judging panel in 2017, and have enjoyed judging this season.

I have always been extremely passionate about Longhorns and they form the largest part of our business. I have added value to our beef by producing pies and selling gourmet burgers via farmers markets and other outlets, as well as producing straight cuts for both our farm shop and other high end butchers. I strongly believe that breeding quality animals results in quality produce both in meat and stock. Our breeding stock within the herd and for sale reflects this.

I am not afraid to think outside the box and feel I can be an asset to the Council and the Society. I am dedicated and enthusiastic about this fantastic breed and believe on Council I would be better placed to help take these exceptional cattle forward.

Statement by Rachael Heard (proposer)

Having got to know Sophie over the past few years I am pleased to propose her Council nomination.

Coming from a farming background with her enthusiasm, knowledge and commitment to the breed, Sophie will be a great asset to the Council as it strives to move the Society forward.

The success of her own business venture is testament to this showing hard work and initiative.

Sophie believes the breed has a lot to offer the beef industry and is willing to explore this with new ideas and a positive approach which can only benefit members in the future.

Statement by Sarah Coleman (seconded)

Sophie has been involved with Longhorns all her life and has seen the breed develop from a rare breed to the fantastic cattle we have today.

I feel that going forward the Society needs our younger members with new ideas and thinking represented on Council as these are the future of the breed.

Sophie has created a very successful herd and business, is hard working and very enthusiastic brimming with new ideas to secure the future of our wonderful breed. I think she would be an exceptional asset to the Council and the Society.

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**Nominee: DAVID McVEIGH, De-Kenton Herd, member no 00996
Kenton Hall, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 6JU**

Proposed by: John Stanley, member no 90380

Seconded by: Peter Grabham, Watton Herd, member no 01083

Statement by David McVeigh (nominee)

I have felt privileged to have served on Council both as an elected and as a co-opted member. My special interest is seeing that the financials of the Society remain strong and all our members are supported by short and long term strategies that sponsor quality and best prices for breeder and finisher alike. Much still needs to be accomplished but as a Council I believe we have sound foundations in place and if we pull together much can be achieved.

Statement by John Stanley (proposer)

It gives me great pleasure to propose David to be elected to Council for a second term.

He has been able to bring together his skills in farming, engineering, catering & tourism to enhance the work of Council. He has been instrumental in the Trademarking of our Beef & Longhorn logo and in working to establish our Longhorn certified beef scheme.

David has a friendly, common sense and forward thinking attitude to all he does and along with his business experience has already contributed so much to our Society.

Please vote for him so that he can continue this good work.

Statement by Peter Grabham (seconder)

I write with my whole hearted support of David McVeigh in his nomination for Council of the Longhorn Cattle Society.

David is a great individual, he has so much energy and enthusiasm for everything he does and in particular such passion for the Longhorn breed.

David has many ideas about furthering the branding of the breed and developing a greater appreciation and acknowledgement of Longhorn cattle. This would in the long term result in a premium price for the premium product that we are producing. His knowledge and experience in both farming and business, I believe will prove invaluable in taking the Society to this next level.

Producing a viable commercial animal, to be attractive to both smallholder and to the larger commercial farmer, is perhaps what the Breed needs and I believe that David is the individual who can certainly help the Society achieve this.

I truly hope that David's nomination is successful and will support him in any way I can.

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Nominee: PAT STANLEY, Blackbrook Herd, Member no 00380
Springbarrow Lodge, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 5UT

Proposed by: Pat Quinn, Harford Herd, member no 00085

Seconded by: Sabine Zentis, Castleview Herd, member no 00405

Statement by Pat Stanley (nominee)

I have been breeding English Longhorns since 1989. For 26 of those years we have shown our animals achieving extensive success including 6 National Show Champions.

I have promoted the breed not only in the showring, but at major events across the world, the pinnacle to date being a Commonwealth Conference in Calgary, Canada where I was honoured to be asked to give a paper on the English Longhorn.

Genetics from the Blackbrook Herd have been exported worldwide and have stimulated great interest in the breed's unsurpassed meat quality & temperament. The breed is now winning top recognition, scooping prizes for its meat from 'paddock to plate' in Australia.

The Blackbrook Herd won the Country Life 'Best Meat in Britain' Gold Medal 2012.

I am the author of 'Robert Bakewell & the Longhorn Breed of Cattle' a short history of the breed from 1760-1890.

We are delighted to have been nominated in the Farmers Guardian 'National Farming Awards 2018 for 'Beef innovator of the Year'.

My sole passion over the years has been to improve & make the breed better fit for purpose in the modern world. If elected I hope to further encourage Council to promote the Breed on a global scale.

Statement by Pat Quinn (proposer)

My support for Pat Stanley is based on thirty years observing her dedication to our breed, facing the ups and downs with courage and determination.

Her foresight in recognising the potential of the breed goes a long way to accounting for the success we benefit from today. In these days of uncertainty we need our Council to keep a watchful eye on our future and I believe Pat, with her depth of knowledge of the breed, will contribute to progressive thought and action in the best interest of members and their cattle.

Statement by Sabine Zentis (seconder)

I am seconding the nomination of Pat Stanley for Council because she has always been at the forefront showing the potential of the breed not only in the show ring but in the field. With very challenging times ahead we must make sure the Longhorn Cattle Society is well represented by breeders with knowledge and personality, prepared to stand up for the good of the Society and its members to help the breed to progress further. Pat's experience with organisations and decision makers as well as her knowledge of all livestock related matters will be beneficial for all members of the Longhorn Cattle Society.