

Elections and AGM

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Once again we have had an excellent response to our call for new Council members. With one of our retiring members not standing for re-election we are pleased to see a total of five nominations for Council. Your vote really does count so please do make use of it! Ballot slips are enclosed and should be returned to the Society office no later than Saturday 4th November.

The proposers and seconders of each nominee have been invited to explain why they feel their nominee should be elected to Council. Their reasons are set out within this newsletter. In addition, each candidate has the opportunity of setting out why they feel they should be elected. **Council has agreed these rules in respect to elections and no other lobbying should take place.**

We would remind you that the **AGM** is being held on the weekend of 11—12th November at The Three Swans Hotel, Market Harborough, with a marketing workshop and herd visit to the Hambleton herd, kindly organised by Andrew Nelson, taking place on Saturday and a herd visit on the Sunday to the Blackbrook herd. Our speaker at the AGM dinner will be Mr John Uffold. A number of members have already booked to stay at the Three Swans Hotel—please mention the Longhorn Cattle Society to obtain the special rate (telephone: 01858 433101).

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there.

Sarah Slade

Voting Papers have been sent to all qualifying members of the Society and must be returned to the Society office by Saturday 4th November

THE LONGHORN CATTLE SOCIETY

Election to Council

The following candidates have been nominated for election to the Council of the Longhorn Cattle Society for 2007.

Please vote for no more than **THREE** candidates and return to the Society Office

to arrive **NO LATER THAN Saturday 4th November 2006.**

DAVID BEVAN

Mayhill Herd—Carmarthen

Proposed by: Angela Blockley

Seconded by: John Stanley

Statement by Angela Blockley and John Stanley (Proposer and Seconder)

We are proposing David Bevan as a worthy candidate for the Longhorn Cattle Society Council. David is a man of integrity who will never be compromised on what he feels is the right way forward for both members and the Society. He has been breeding Longhorns of high quality for 20 years and is a stalwart of the breed. He has been a longstanding breed steward for our National Show and Sale and rarely misses a breed event.

David will have a lot to offer as a Council member: he is reliable, honest and straightforward, and totally committed to furthering the breed. He has sound financial and legal business acumen, which we feel sure he will put to good use. David will bring much needed fresh blood, new ideas and vitality to Council.

We hope you will cast your vote where it will really count.

Angela Blockley

John Stanley

Kerry Long

Fritcham, Norfolk

Proposed by: Bernard Llewellyn

Seconded by: Joe Henson

Statement by Kerry Long:

Having served on Council for the last three years, I hope I have made some positive contributions. My main interests are the move of our breed into Europe and beyond, the role of the Longhorn in conservation grazing, and most importantly of all, making our members feel that Council is working with them and for them.

Statement by Joe Henson (seconder)

I am happy to propose the re-election of Kerry Long to the Council of the Longhorn Cattle Society. Kerry has kept and shown Longhorns for many years and has always been a great supporter of the breed and the Society. Kerry no longer has a herd which means she would be unbiased when Council is having to make decisions. She is also a great champion and supporter of new members who she is keen to encourage.

Joe Henson

DAVID SHEPPY**Three Bridges Herd—Somerset****Proposed by: John Hedges****Seconded by: Frank Sutton****Statement by David Sheppy:**

I am 40 and have been involved in running our family farm and cider business since leaving school in 1983. I spent two years at agricultural college studying agriculture, fruit farming and farm management. In 1998 my wife, Louisa, and I took over the running of the business from my parents. The farm is a 360 acre mixed farm growing cereals, cider apples for our cider business and cattle and sheep. We keep about 30 store cattle a year which we finish and sell at our local livestock market.

In 2002 I decided to start a Longhorn herd, partly for my personal interest, but also because I could see the huge benefits in keeping a traditional native breed of cattle. Maintaining the finest possible quality in our produce has always been central to all aspects of our business and my plan to sell top quality home-bred Longhorn beef came to fruition in February this year. We now sell our own beef and lamb through our cider and farm shop, also using a box scheme and our website.

Through our cider business I have gained much experience in marketing and product development. I am passionate and dedicated to the Longhorn breed. I am keen to show my cattle at both agricultural and fatstock shows; promoting the breed as a good sire on other cattle breeds, a good pedigree breed to keep, and an excellent beef breed. I also sit on the Longhorn New Projects Policy group which meets several times a year.

I feel that, with my marketing experience through our cider business, my many years of experience in beef farming and my enthusiasm for the future of the Longhorn breed, I have much to offer Council and the Longhorn Cattle Society.

Statement by John Hedges and Frank Sutton (Proposer & Seconder):

David Sheppy has good all round farming experience together with a keen interest in the Longhorn breed. In addition to the direct marketing of Longhorn beef he runs a very well established Cider company and Farm Shop which gives him wide experience of business and marketing issues, both of which would be great assets to moving the Longhorn breed forward.

John Hedges

Frank Sutton

CHARLES SUTCLIFFE**Tetford Herd—Lincolnshire****Proposed by: Peter Guest****Seconded by: Peter Close****Statement by Charles Sutcliffe:**

I have to admit it was looks that first attracted me to the Longhorn Breed when Debbie and I established the Tetford Herd in 1993. We soon realised that Longhorns have much more to offer than just their good looks. They are beyond equal as a suckler cow, they are wonderful mothers, easy calving and docile with a length and leanness of body that produces the finest quality beef. It is these qualities and the enthusiasm and dedication of breeders that have taken the Longhorn past some significant milestones in the recent past. Now that we are no longer a Rare Breed, we must take on and beat a whole new set of challenges. I believe we can do that and that the breed has an exciting future in the 21st century; we are already being taken very seriously by an ever increasing number of respected personalities from both within and outside the world of livestock. I have enjoyed my time on Council; I hope that to some extent I have contributed to the progress that has been made so far and I would welcome the opportunity of continuing to play a part in the next chapter for the breed and its supporters. Because Longhorns appeal to so many different interests and suit

many and varied applications our membership is likewise diverse and so if re-elected I will continue to work on Council to promote the breed for the benefit of all Members, whatever their interests and involvement with the breed happens to be.

Statement by Peter Close (seconded):

I have known Charles since he bought his first Longhorns from us in 1993. I told him then that it would be inevitable they would start showing. Sure enough it wasn't long before they became one of the most active promoters of the breed on the show circuit, with a myriad of promotional leaflets and regularly winning best kept cattle lines awards, He was one of the first to start selling boxed beef direct to the public and is now the leader in this market and has also invested in a mobile trailer/shop which is open 3 days a week at home and attends countless countryside events. In March, with our Society website languishing as an unattended, unchanging, pretty boring site he took on the daunting task of bringing it up to speed. He has transformed the site into what I consider the best, most user-friendly, active site, not just of all the breed societies but on the web. A definite asset on council.

GEOFF WILD

Riffhams Herd—Essex

Proposed by: Charles Cottrell-Dormer

Seconded by: Angela Cottrell-Dormer

Statement by Geoff Wild:

After being involved with Longhorn cattle for nearly 20 years I felt it a great honour to be proposed to stand for Council

I have spent a lifetime with the livestock of all species and for 30 years before BSE was involved with the import and export of livestock. The first Longhorns to be exported to Germany along with other British breed were shipped through our lairage.

I also have experience of conservation grazing being a tenant of a farm belonging to Essex Wildlife Trust.

I feel that the Longhorn must now be presented as a viable commercial breed as I have been able to demonstrate here . We must not forget though that it is a ancient breed and maintain its characteristics which make it successful in today's changing agricultural needs. We must therefore keep these cattle in the minds of the farming community at these time of change and demonstrate that the Longhorn breed is up to the challenge.

With various practical experiences of the cattle industry I feel I would be an asset to the council by keeping the Longhorn in the limelight both here and abroad.

Statement by Charles and Angela Cottrell-Dormer (Proposer and Seconded)

My wife and I decided to nominate Geoff Wild to stand for election to the Longhorn Council because we believe his lifetime experience of cattle would be a great asset.

Geoff has for many years helped to organise the South East region's herd competition, so he has visited every herd in our area. He and his wife also show their own cattle, with great success, and he has sold bulls and heifers for high prices.

Please vote for him!

Charles Cottrell-Dormer
Angela Cottrell-Dormer