

**Minutes of the Albion Cattle Society meeting held at Lynn House Farm, Sandbach on 10th August 2018**

Present at the meeting: John Ball (Chairman) & Lynn Parks (Treasurer), Susannah Mannerings (Secretary), Ruth Dalton (RBST), Colin Nankervis, John Pring, Mike Caunter, Bill Waters, Alan & Leona Mills, Tom Littler, Stan Price and Stewart May.

Apologies were received from Alan & Jane Hewson, Tanya Fox, Ian Fawcett, William & Emma Richardson, Carson Lee, Graham Clews and Julian Stevens.

***Treasurer’s statement*** – At present, nearly £900 is in the account, due to subscriptions and kind donations. (Not enough for bull semen collection…yet!)

***RBST breed recognition*** – It was thought that there is now plenty of evidence to support the continued existence of the breed in its original form for the required 76 years, (40 years plus 6 generations, where a generation in cattle is 6 years,) and that an application should be made to RBST, for consideration at their next Conservation Committee meeting on 27th September.

Bill Waters & Tom Littler are very keen to provide extra evidence of Albions in the 1970s/80s- the time when not much paperwork was available.

**Action: Susannah to put together an application for submission by the 20th September.**

***FAnGR acceptance of Albions on to their Native Breeds at Risk (NBAR) list*** (for Natural England and future subsidy schemes, disease protection) - The breed has been previously listed by FAnGR on the NBAR but has been removed in recent years; some breeders claim NBAR subsidy as part of Higher-Level Stewardship whereas some have been told they can’t. Close communication takes place between RBST and FAnGR so an approach was suggested as soon as there is acceptance onto the RBST list.

***Zootechnical Legislation application*** – EU legislation with possible implications for claiming subsidy in future schemes. Ruth described the process and advised the ACS to apply as soon as possible for Zootechnical status – the process will be changing from 1st November and the signs are it may become more complex so would be best to get an application in before this date. However, the breed society would need to decide how best to continue the running of the pedigree database – at present Ruth keeps this up to date as part of a software package held within RBST.

The choices would appear to be:

**Registrations –***Don’t forget to send details of your calves born in 2018!*

*On-line via website or phone: Susannah Mannerings 07733 419685*

1. Purchase software independently from Grassroots (potential cost c. £1800) and run the database in house
2. Ask Grassroots to quote for running the Albion Cattle database as part of the Combined Flock Book, which they already administer for RBST, and includes an online access facility for members to view pedigrees, animals etc
3. Continue as presently, with the risk if staff changes at RBST, there may not be continued support in terms of administration time.

General opinion was for option 3 until the Albions are officially recognised and then to enquire about option 2

***Bulls available*** – Colin Nankervis has Buthyn Peanut available for AI/ swapping, he also has Scoutbeck Hector from the Lake District.

Susannah Mannerings has 2010 bull Speckles Jonas (***for sale***) and 2017 white bull: Speckles Ferdinand by Barnacres Snowflake, (for semen collection.)

**Speckles Jonas**

John Ball has Betchton Harold and Betchton Tinote: both by R Blue Note and available for semen collection. Also, Betchton Showman: available for hire/ swapping but is too related to B. Snowflake for AI use.

John Pring has Ironstone Blue John from the Hewsons and specifically will keep a couple of good bull calves entire in 2019.

Alan Mills will be selling his albion bull calves, entire at 12 months in Bakewell market (Spring 2019)

Mike Caunter is keeping a black bull calf born this Spring.

AI On-Farm Semen Collection: if bull **born** under TB restrictions = not allowed.

 If Bull IBR + or vaccinated for IBR = not allowed.

**AOB –** Mike Caunter reported on the Cotswold Farm Park herd – where there have been 3 pure calves born and 2 more to come. There was a possibility of selling albion badges in their rare breed shop to help raise funds and maybe another project at the Cotswold Rare Breeds farm.

**Raising money:** suggestions ranged from more subscriptions to asking Prince Charles or crowd funding!

(It is likely that RBST would help with IVF and semen collection costs when the Albions are recognised.)

**Grading up Albions -**No decision was specifically made over this at the meeting. Generally, when a calf is a product of 3 top crosses it would be allowed in the pedigree register. No objections were raised when it was suggested to follow similar rules to the Vaynol Herd Book. **If anyone has a strong opinion over this, please reply asap as this must be decided when applying to RBST for breed recognition.**

***Subscriptions -*** *£15 due again this autumn; (Any donations welcome!)*

*Please send cheques to: Ms Lynn Parks, (treasurer)*

*Lynn House Farm, Betchton, Sandbach, Cheshire. CW11 2TX*