

MIDLAND DEXTER GROUP

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Revisit to the Boram Herd

"At the visit to the Boram herd in April, Rob and Alison Kirk suggested a revisit in June to see their cattle out at grass, so a visit was planned for Sunday 7th June. We were blessed with a lovely sunny day not too hot, just right to look at the Boram Herd.

We started off by visiting the spring calvers (all black) with their calves and black bull, Frith Remus, at Starvall Farm, Farmington just outside Bourton on the Water. We then travelled up to Sezincote to see the red herd running with red bull, Sollershope Claret; the red cattle as a group were very pleasing to the eye.

By this time we were all getting a little peckish so back to Harcomb Cottage, Chastleton for a picnic on the lawn. After lunch we went to Evenlode to see more black cows and a very nice bunch of yearlings. Rob pointed out that the land here was prone to flies so all the cattle were fitted with a fly tag which was working really well.

The revisit was very worthwhile, the cattle looked very well, a credit to Rob and Alison's stockmanship. They both answered lots of questions about their herd and about cattle keeping in general, which we all found very interesting and useful." (Ann Lea)

Visit to Moonshine Herd and MDG Meeting Sunday 26 July

An optimistic group of members ignored the forecast of yet more rain to join Sue and Mike Bancroft at Church Farm, Preston Bagot. They were rewarded by fine weather and an enjoyable day out.

The welcome refreshments on arrival were followed by the business meeting. (See minutes for full details of items covered.)

Lunch gave the opportunity to swap a few moans about the "Barbeque Summer" weather and its consequences and to enjoy the usual bounty of a Dexter event buffet.

In the afternoon members were able to view Mike and Sue's Moonshine herd out at grass and it was easy to see why they were the winners in 2008 of the Large Herd Competition and the Frith Trophy for Senior Cow.

Mike talked to members about the various groups including the spring calvers, some of the beef steers and heifers and a handsome dun bull calf, who may be one to watch. The animals obligingly posed for the cameras, and Moonshine Clifford and Moonshine Foxy Lady (Senior Cow) were keen to show their finer points.

The visit ended with tea and another taste of the goodies Sue had laid out in the barn and a chance to look around the thriving Farm Shop where customers are able to buy Mike and Sue's home-produced beef, pork, bacon and eggs.

Many thanks to Sue and Mike once again for their hospitality.

Calf and Steer Show

Despite a number of members who were unable to attend for a variety of reasons this year (one of which was the promise of a long awaited few days of dry weather to finally get some hay in) a select band of competitors and "followers" supported all the classes. We are very grateful to Josh Briggs who gave freely of his time and expertise, not only to judge the various classes but to explain the reasons for his choices, and talk to owners about their cattle.

It was a relaxed and enjoyable day and, as always, ran very smoothly, thanks to all the hard work and planning on the part of Gordon Taylor over the last few weeks. Thanks also to Gill Lancaster, who dealt with the passports, to Pete who organised the venue and helped setup, and to all the competitors and their nearest and dearest who set to with hosepipes and brushes to clean up afterwards.

A special mention for the Davies family who came all the way from Llanfairwaterdine, Powys after being up until 3 a.m. bailing. They arrived just in time for the judging of the steer class and went home with a 2nd and 3rd to make it all worthwhile.

The last event of the day was an open handlers class where novices and experts alike showed their skills in the ring with varying degrees of success!

Calf and Steer Show Results

Class 1: calf (male or female) under 9 months

1st : Holberrow Lana owned by Mr G Godber
2nd : Wheeley Moor Camilla owned by Mr and Mrs Lea.
3rd : Tooloo's Flower owned by Ms Abbie Gardner.

Class 2: calf (male or female) over 9 months

1st :Linford Barberry owned by Mr and Mrs Bowles
2nd:Wheeley Moor Roxy owned by Mr and Mrs Lea.
3rd:Linford Chicory owned by Mr and Mrs Bowles

Class 3: store steer any age

Ladyfields Steer owned by Mrs C. Clarke and Mr Maurice Day

Best turned out handler and calf

Miss Judy Ashwin with Mr.G.Godber's Holberrow Lana

Champion Calf

Holberrow Lana owned by Mr G. Godber

Moreton Show Results

Bull: any age

1st : Abbie Gardener-Watercress Wenlock
2nd: Bryan Finch- Knightsway Bertie

Heifer under 15 mths

1st : Abbie Gardener-Tooloos Aconite
2nd : Abbie Gardener- Tooloos Flower
3rd: Stuart Tarrant-Apple Ofmyeye
4th: Mrs Pat and Claire Stone -Hunterstone Redstart

Heifer under 30mths

1st : Stuart Tarrant-Apple Cola
2nd: Bryan Finch -Knightsway Jazz
3rd :Abbie Gardener - Linford Betony
4th :Mrs K.M.Wheeler - Arcadia Tania

Cow or Heifer dry or in milk

1st: Mrs Pat and Claire Stone - Mansham Ruby
2nd: Stuart Tarrant-Apple Jade
3rd: Stuart Tarrant-Apple Jenny

Group of Three

1st : Stuart Tarrant
2nd : Abbie Gardener

Breed Championship and Reserve

Best Male : Watercress Wenlock ,Knightsway Bernie
Best Female: Apple Cola , Mansham Ruby

(I have transcribed these result details directly from the original notes on the Moreton Show website and apologise for any inaccuracies. Please let me know if you spot any mistakes)

Evesham Show There were only five Dexters forward as some entrants did not attend but regardless of the small turnout, the Dexters had a rewarding day. Abbie Gardner continued her successful season by winning the Interbreed Championship and the Interbreed Pairs Championship.

Midland Dexter Group Website

Pictures of the summer's events can be seen on the website.
Clive is still holding the fort but is currently discussing the handover to an MDG member.
Confirmation of this soon when the technical details have been ironed out.
Meanwhile if you have any contributions to include on the site, please send to Clive as usual.

Autumn Social Evening

A Bar Meal and Skittles event has been arranged for 31 October 2009.
See accompanying leaflet for full details and booking form.

Group Meeting Sunday 7 February 2010

The meeting will probably be held at Hatton Village Hall but this is still to be confirmed.

Nick Blaney from Arden Forest Veterinary Group has agreed to talk to us about animal health issues which could have particular implications for Dexter keepers. He is part of a group of vets currently working on a joint initiative with Advantage West Midlands to help cattle keepers draw up long-term plans to control threats to cattle health with minimum use of medicines.

Adam and Pete Lancaster are hoping to run a Powerpoint slideshow during coffee breaks and lunch, showing pictures of 2009 Dexter events. If you have any digital photos of events which you think would be of interest please contact Pete as soon as possible to discuss it.

Full details of this meeting will go out in the January Newsletter and will be posted on the MDG website.

Group AGM Sunday 11 April

To be hosted by Maurice Day and Christine Clarke at Clows Top in Worcestershire. Details to follow

Silver Jubilee Celebrations 21 August 2010

"The Countess of Evesham" has been booked with 44 places available.

Tickets will be £25 per head and price will include entry into a prize draw.

Initially tickets will be offered only to MDG members and can be obtained from Maurice Day at the February meeting.

Members will board The Countess of Evesham at Stratford upon Avon at 7pm with cast off at 7.30pm. During the outward journey, a starter and main course will be served, with a stop at Luddington for 15 minutes. Pudding followed by cheese and biscuits would be served on the return journey. Docking at Stratford upon Avon at 11pm.

A booking form will go out with the January Newsletter.