

CYMDEITHAS AREDIG CYMRU WELSH PLOUGHING ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

June 2013

Welcome

A warm welcome to the first issue of the newsletter of Cymdeithas Aredig Cymru / the Welsh Ploughing Association.

The newsletter is a new venture for the WPA and we hope that you will find it a good read!

The purpose of the newsletter is two-fold: first and foremost it will be a means by which members and supporters can keep abreast of the latest news and developments in the Welsh ploughing scene. Secondly, it will be used to help raise the profile of the WPA and to help us engage with new audiences.

The aim is to publish the newsletter twice-yearly in around May / June and October / November. If you would like to submit ideas for stories for future issues or if you have any news that you would like to share, please contact Julie Jenkins on 01291 690292 or via email: jj.lva@tiscali.co.uk. We would be very pleased to hear from you.



MEMBERSHIP OF WELSH PLOUGHING ASSOCIATION

Member - £15.00 (1 ticket)
Life Member - £200.00 (1 ticket)
Life Vice President* - £400.00 (2 tickets)

* receive a free catalogue on match day
For further details on membership, please contact:

MRS SUE FARMER
Membership Secretary
Tel: (01497) 851 651

Issue No. 1



Preview - The 54th All Wales Wynnstay Group Plc

Ploughing Championships 2013

By kind permission of Dickie Fetherstonhaugh and uncle and nephew team of Mr Ivor Beech and Mr Richard Dod, Kinmel Home Farm at St. George near Abergele on the North Wales coast will be the venue for this year's Championships which will be held on Saturday 21st September. Those with long memories will remember that the Championships have previously been held at this site - in 1990. That year, the weather proved to be a major challenge, it being very windy and wet on the day and the catering marquee being blown over twice on the previous day! Nevertheless, that year was an important milestone in the history of Welsh ploughing; it was the first Championships that selected ploughmen to represent Wales at the World Ploughing Contest - the first two representatives being Ralph Horner and Ian Wilson.

Kinmel Home Farm is a large arable farm on a level site and offers some very good ploughing ground. All ploughing will be on stubble.

The Championships are being organised by Flintshire Farmers Ploughing Society and the Chairman of the local organising committee is Emrys Owen, a well-known North Wales ploughman himself who has represented Wales on no less than two occasions at the World Ploughing Contest. Emrys said "We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to Abergele in September. We've been working hard for the past 3 years to raise the funds to run the Championships and I'm pleased to say that we have now reached our target. All we need now is some fine weather!"

Local North Wales ploughman, Elfed Jones, will be returning once again to defend his title. In addition to the ploughing, there will be a wire fencing competition for teams of 2 people and a competition for mechanical hedge cutting. The Championships will also feature other attractions including a working vintage display, a vintage threshing demonstration and various tradestands. Further details from the Local Secretary, Mrs Margaret Jennings on tel: 01352 715404 or

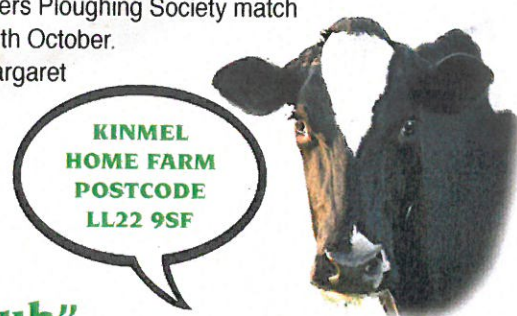
email: margaretjennings718@btinternet.com or from the Assistant Secretary, Mrs Linda Astbury on 01352 712003.

If you are interested in sponsorship or tradestand space or supporting the Championships in any other way, please contact the Local Secretary, Mrs Margaret Jennings or Assistant Secretary, Mrs Linda Astbury - details as above.

The Blessing of the Plough will take place at St. Margaret's Church, the well-known Marble Church in Bodelwyddan on the eve of the Championships starting at 7.00p.m. A buffet will be available afterwards for which admission will be £5 / head. Transport to the church will be available from the match site.

The hedging competitions will be held separately at the Flintshire Farmers Ploughing Society match on Saturday 19th October.

Secretary is Margaret Jennings.



"200 Club"

The "200 Club" is a lottery that was set up by the WPA a few years ago as a fun way to raise funds for the Association which in turn supports Welsh ploughmen to compete at international contests.

For an annual fee of £12, there is the chance to win cash prizes at each draw which take place 4 times during each year. Six prizes per draw are offered, first £30, second £25, third £20, fourth £15, fifth £10 and sixth £5. We would dearly like to reach the target membership of 200 people (currently just over 80 members) so, if you are not already a member, please get in touch with Heather Davies at the Secretariat - tel: 01982 553683 and email: heather@rwas.co.uk.

Ploughmen Flying The Flag For Wales In 2013

This year, several of our ploughmen are representing their country at competitions at home and abroad.

At the World Ploughing Contest on 19th & 20th July in Canada, our fingers will be crossed for Rhodri George in the Conventional Class and Wyn Jones in the Reversible Class. Aled Morgan is the Judge / Coach and Wilfred Richards is Reserve Judge.

At the European Vintage Championships to be held in Worksop, England on 7th & 8th September, Gordon Harries will be competing in the Vintage Trailer Class, Emlyn Jones in the Vintage Hydraulic and Griff Jones in the Classic Class. John Tucker will be acting as Judge and Tony Bradley is the Coach / Steward.

At the British National Ploughing Championships on 12th & 13th October at Llanwarne in Herefordshire, Evan Watkin will be representing Wales in the Conventional Class.

In the Five Nations Ploughing Challenge, Aled Morgan will be competing in the Conventional Class and Wyn Jones in the Reversible.

Finally, in the Six Nations Classic & Vintage Competition on 28th and 29th September to be hosted by Wales at Tenby, the following will be competing: Vintage Trailer - Tim Jones & Sam Jones, Vintage Hydraulic - John Lewis & Phil Jones, Vintage Classic - Bryn Harries & Wilfred Richards. Judge will be Ellis Davies and Steward Alan Lucas.

Congratulations to all on qualifying to plough in their respective competitions and best of luck from all at the Welsh Ploughing Association.

Review of the 53rd All Wales Ploughing Championships

2012 & Five Nations Challenge – Morfa Mawr, Llanon, Ceredigion

A spectacular site on the Ceredigion coastline greeted the large number of visitors to the 53rd Championships and was kindly provided by IBERS (Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences) based in Aberystwyth. The event this year ran over 2 days with the inclusion of the Five Nations Challenge, it being Wales' turn to host this contest. In a year when the poor weather was a major talking point, it was a relief to the organisers that during the two days, dry and sunny conditions prevailed.

The event this year was a joint effort, organised by the two ploughing societies in Ceredigion, Llandygwydd YFC Ploughing Society and Cymdeithas Aredig Gogledd Ceredigion with the Chairman of Council and the Ceredigion Local Committee being Mr Dai Jones MBE. Joint Secretaries were Margaret Jones and Phyllis Harries.

On the first day, Friday 21st September, the Five Nations Challenge kicked off the event with Rhodri George of Roch near Haverfordwest emerging as Champion. Larry Bergin from the Republic of Ireland was in the Reserve spot. In the evening, the traditional Blessing of the Plough church service took place at the local parish church in Llanrhystud and was very well attended.

The second day was devoted entirely to the All Wales Ploughing Championships with over 100 competitors taking part that included 10 horse ploughing teams which were a very popular attraction for visitors. In addition to the ploughing, there were a variety of other activities on offer not least a competition for Digging a Hole!



Roger Smith (centre) receiving the Champion Welsh Horse Ploughman trophies

The Welsh Ploughing Champion for the second year running was reversible ploughman Elfed Jones with the runner-up being nine-times Welsh Champion, Evan Watkin. Iestyn James of Cardigan won the class for competitors under 26 years of age and qualified to compete in the YFC section at the British Ploughing Championships. Roger Smith was Champion Welsh Horse Ploughman.

The Champion Hedger was selected at the Hafren Hedging Match with William Carwyn Jones taking the top spot.

DVDs

DVDs of the 2012 Championship are still available via Local Secretary Mrs Margaret Jones (tel: 01239 851451 or email: magsbrohawn@hotmail.co.uk). Price £10. The DVD is recommended for viewing. A particularly memorable moment is Chairman Dai Jones leading the singing of the National Anthem at the end of the day – hard to imagine this happening anywhere other than Wales.

A few copies of the DVD of the 2011 Championships held in Monmouthshire are also still available. Contact Julie Jenkins on 01291 690292 or email: jj.lva@tiscali.co.uk.

FULL RESULTS

FRIDAY

Class 1 - High Cut

1st Ray Alderson;
2nd John Milnes;
3rd Robert Irving;
4th Derek Needham;
5th Don Williams & Vernon Davies.

Class 2 Horse Ploughing – general purpose

1st Michael Puxty;
2nd William Williams;
3rd Jane Muntz-Torres;
4th Geoff Amor.

Class 3 Horse Ploughing – high cut

1st Roger Smith;
2nd Dafydd Roberts;
3rd Malcolm Kerswell.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY - FIVE NATIONS CHALLENGE

Conventional

1st Rhodri George (Wales);
2nd Larry Bergin (Republic of Ireland);
3rd Allen McAnally (Northern Ireland);
4th Stuart Vickers (England);
5th Mark Skea (Scotland).

Reversible

1st Dan Donnelly (Republic of Ireland);
2nd Adrian Jamison (Northern Ireland);
3rd Gordon Beattie (Scotland);
4th Chris Howell (Wales).

SATURDAY – ALL WALES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Class 1 Semi-digger

– World Style:

1st Evan Watkin;
2nd Rowland Glanville;
3rd Michael Holloway;
4th Rhodri George;
5th Aled Morgan

Class 2 Semi-Digger

– World Style – Under 26:

1st Iestyn James;
2nd Euron Owen Griffiths;
3rd James George.

Class 3 Reversible Ploughing

– World Style

1st Elfed Jones;
2nd Alan Critchlow;
3rd Wyn Jones;
4th Clive Roberts;
5th Emrys Owen.

Class 4 General purpose

or semi-digger (classic):

1st Jon Cole;
2nd Griff Jones;
3rd Bryn Harries;
4th Phil Meek;
5th Wilfred Richards.

Class 5 Vintage Ploughing

– Trailer:

1st Barry Evans;
2nd MJ Watkins;
3rd Gordon Harries;
4th Tim Jones & Derek Lloyd

Class 6 Vintage Ploughing

– Hydraulic

1st Richard Ingram;
2nd Emlyn Jones;
3rd John Lewis;
4th Philip Jones;
5th Paul Studley

Class 7 High Cut:

1st Ray Alderson;
2nd Robert Irving;
3rd John Milnes;
4th Derek Needham;
5th Vernon Davies.

Class 8 Ferguson TE20 with standard Ferguson Plough (GP) (no modifications) + standard T20 top link:

1st Keith Williams;
2nd John S Evans & Gwynfor Parry;
4th Richard Glyn Jones;
5th Martin Newman.

Class 9 Horse Ploughing

– High Cut:

1st Roger Smith;
2nd John Fletcher;
3rd Malcolm Kerswell

Class 10 Horse Ploughing

– General Purpose:

1st Michael Puxty;
2nd William Williams;
3rd Jane Muntz-Torres;
4th Dafydd Roberts;
5th Geoff Amor.

Best turnout (horse ploughing):

1st Jane Muntz-Torres;
2nd John Fletcher;
3rd Geoff Amor.

Best working team of horses:

1st John Fletcher;
2nd Jane Muntz-Torres;
3rd Geoff Amor.

Class 11 Open Pairs:

1st Glyndwr Arrowsmith & Russel Lewis;
2nd Meirion Davies & Marc Morris;
3rd Keith Pugh & Alun Davies

Champion Welsh Tractor Ploughman

Elfed Jones

Reserve Welsh Champion Ploughman

Evan Watkin

The Evan Davies Trophy (Best Young Ploughman under 26 years on 1 January 2012 for the best work in any class)
Iestyn James

Champion Welsh Horse Ploughman

Roger Smith

The Richard & Heather March Trophy (Best work in semi-digger under 26 class)
Iestyn James

The Monmouthshire Perpetual Trophy (Best Ploughing work done by a Monmouthshire Ploughman)
Phil Meek

Welsh Ploughing Association at the Royal Welsh Show 22nd – 25th July 2013

A warm welcome awaits everyone at the WPA stand at the Royal Welsh Show which this year is being organised by the Flintshire Local Committee of the 2013 Championships. Refreshments will be available and ploughing competitors are welcome to hand in their entry form. At approximately 6pm on the Wednesday, a cheese and wine reception will be held at which presentations will be made to World and European competitors, judges and coaches. There will also be the usual draw of the "200 Club".

Round-up of 2012 Welsh Ploughing Successes

World Ploughing Contest 14th & 15th September – Croatia:- Evan Watkin achieved 3rd place in the Conventional Class and Elfed Jones 6th place in the Reversible.

British Ploughing Championships 13th & 14th October:- Elfed Jones placed third in the Reversible Final Plough-Off having finished second in Class 1 One Way Ploughing. Michael Holloway of Montgomery placed 3rd in Class 3B Semi-Digger Work 2 or more furrows; Aled Morgan of Newcastle Emlyn was 5th in the same class. Euron Griffith from Rhydyclafdy, Pwllheli came 4th in Class 4A YFC Conventional Ploughing. There was almost a clean sweep in Class 7, the David Brown Ploughing Championships, with Jeremy Jacobs of Cardiff coming second, Hugh Griffith of Rhydyclafdy third, Robert Convery of St. Clears fourth and John Hooson of Brynford, Holywell coming fifth with just 16 points separating all four Welsh competitors. Phil Meek of Newcastle, Monmouth was placed fifth in the Classic Ploughing Championships and Martin Newman of St. Maughans, Monmouth finished third in Class 15 the Ferguson Ploughing Championships. In the horse ploughing, John Fletcher of Moylegrove was placed 5th in the General Purpose class.

European Vintage Ploughing Championships 8th and 9th September - Belgium; Gordon Harries of Pembrokeshire was placed second in the Vintage Conventional Ploughing Championships. Phil Meek took the top spot in the Classic Conventional Class with 524 points.

Six Nations Vintage Ploughing Championships 26th & 27th October 2012:- Gordon Harries was placed third in the Vintage Trailer Class, Gareth G Jones was also placed third in the Classic Class and Ian Wilson achieved a second in the visitors conventional class.

Congratulations to all on their successes!

Local News

Llangattock Ploughing Society in Monmouthshire recently honoured one of its finest ploughmen, Phil Meek. To mark Phil's achievement in winning the Classic Conventional Class at the European Vintage Championships held in Belgium in 2012, an inscribed crystal tankard was presented to him at the Society's meeting in March.

On Sunday 14th July 2013, a Road Run will be held as a fundraiser for the 2013 All Wales Championships starting from Pen-y-Ffordd, Lixwm Road, Brynford. Further details from John Hooson on 01352 712028.

Obituaries

Ellis Lloyd Jones

To quote from Ellis Davies' book "50 Years of Welsh Ploughing":- *When people start talking about Welsh Ploughing, it is not long before the name of Ellis Lloyd Jones comes up – and rightly so!* Ellis Lloyd Jones contributed an immense amount to Welsh ploughing. A lasting legacy was his role in securing affiliation to the World Ploughing Organisation for the Welsh Ploughing Association. As a result, Welsh ploughmen were able to compete at the World Contest for the first time in 1991. In the years since, Welsh ploughmen have competed very successfully and we are all indebted to Ellis Lloyd Jones for taking Wales onto the World Ploughing stage. Ellis continued his connection with the World Ploughing Organisation being appointed Board member for Wales for a 6 year term from 1991 to 1996. Back at home, Ellis was Chairman of the All Wales Ploughing Championships held in Flintshire in 1990 and acted as a Field Director on various occasions.

Les Goodwin

This year saw the loss of one of the true ploughing greats, Les Goodwin, who hailed from Dorstone in Herefordshire and was the first British ploughman to be crowned World Champion. It was in Stuttgart in Germany in 1958 when he was in his late twenties that Les reached the pinnacle of his ploughing career with a Fordson Major tractor and 2 furrow Ransomes plough. Local Herefordshire people from the time remember that Les was given a hero's welcome when he returned home. Crowds of people awaited him at Hereford Railway Station where he emerged with a laurel wreath around his neck and holding his golden plough trophy aloft for the crowds to see. In later years, Les became Chairman of Weobley Ploughing Society before finally becoming a member of Radnor Valley Ploughing Society.

And Finally.....

If you have any comments on this newsletter (positive or negative!), please forward them to Julie Jenkins at jj.lva@tiscali.co.uk.

The Welsh Ploughing Association was founded in 1958 by the Radnor Valley Ploughing Society.

The objectives of the Association are:

- To promote and encourage the art and skill of ploughing, hedging and other rural crafts.
- To promote an annual Welsh Match, to be held each year in a different area of Wales.
- To provide facilities whereby entrants from Affiliated Societies to the Welsh Ploughing Association may compete for the Welsh Championship and represent Wales at the British Championships and other such competitions.
- To promote the British Championships, the World Ploughing Contest and other such competitions.

SECRETARIAT: The Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Ltd,
Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, Powys, LD2 3SY
Tel: 01982 553683 • Email: heather@rwas.co.uk

Website: www.welshploughing.org.uk
Registered charity no. 515090

We have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the information contained within this newsletter is accurate at the time of going to print.