

THE SCOTTISH Farmer

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October 1, 2011

NBA treasurer in trouble

TURMOIL ENGULFED the National Beef Association this week, as members backed a call for the dismissal of its treasurer James Fanshawe, writes Douglas MacSkimming.

Former NBA president Christopher Thomas-Everard was one of a number of NBA members backing two resolutions highlighting a number of issues involving Mr Fanshawe's care of association money.

Mr Everard told The Scottish Farmer: "An attempt to stall us was being made today (Wednesday) at the very last minute, demanding that we show that at least 95 members individually back the two resolutions with their own e-mails. I understand we got the necessary response."

If that level of member backing has been achieved, the two resolutions should now be put to the association's agm on October 20.



THE GREENSIDE gimmers, from Alex Blackwood, which sold for the then record price of £700 apiece at Castle Douglas last week

Milk miracle!

Douglas MacSkimming



© d.macskimming@fresh.co.uk

MILK PRODUCTION in South-west Scotland is set to grow dramatically following the announcement this week that farmer-owned co-op Milk Link is to invest £20million in its Lockerbie Creamery.

The cash injection has been applauded by both the Scottish Government and NFU Scotland. Milk Link said that the expansion will make Lockerbie the largest dairy processing site in Scotland, and one of the largest and most advanced creameries in the UK.

As a result, the co-op will need at least 100 new producers to join its ranks in order to supply the plant – and there is certain to be increased competition for milk in the South-west, with some producers likely to be tempted to switch their

Producing an extra 12,000 tonnes of cheese will need an extra 120 million litres of milk

KENNY CAMPBELL

allegiances.

The Lockerbie site will benefit from a major redevelopment, with the installation of the latest processing technology increasing cheese production by 12,000tonnes to over 37,000tonnes of cheese per annum.

Milk Link's chief executive Neil Kennedy said: "This significant investment demonstrates our commitment to Lockerbie and the Scottish dairy industry.

"For a while, Scotland has been needing processing investment focussing on expansion and that is what this investment at Lockerbie will give.

"It secures the long term future of the creamery, and gives a much needed boost to the regional economy of South-west Scotland and its important food processing sector.

"Our decision to invest at Lockerbie reflects the growing demand for our quality British cheeses, the skill and dedication of our staff at Lockerbie and

the potential of the South-west Scotland milk field to supply us with increased milk volumes."

Work at the creamery will start later this year and will be completed by autumn 2012.

Scotland's Rural Affairs CabSec Richard Lochhead commented: "This is superb news for Lockerbie – ensuring that the creamery can look forward to a very bright future.

"As well as securing vital jobs, the creamery expansion will provide a boost for farmers as the amount of milk required increases to meet demand.

"We have been working with Milk Link on this project, along with Scottish Enterprise, which will help to secure a long term and vibrant future for the dairy industry in Scotland and in particular its heartland in the South-west."

NFU Scotland milk committee chairman Kenny Campbell said: "This is fantastic news for the Scottish dairy sector.

The company's decision to make a £20m investment in its creamery shows commitment to meeting the rising demand for cheese both at home and abroad.

"Producing an extra 12,000tonnes of cheese will need an extra 120m litres of milk and behind the scenes we have been encouraging Milk Link to look at the opportunities presented by the hugely efficient milk field that already exists on the Lockerbie Creamery's doorstep.

"The company has stated that it will now be actively recruiting Scottish dairy farmers to add to the existing 50 Milk Link members in Scotland who already supply Lockerbie.

"With one-third of Scotland's dairy cows in Dumfries and Galloway and ample milk produced in Ayrshire, Lanarkshire and the Borders, there is plenty of milk available for haulage to the plant."

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Support group for Highland road traffic incident victims

SCOTLAND'S RURAL and farm roads are infamous for taking lives, whether it be pedestrians or drivers.

When Aberdeenshire businesswoman June Ross lost her son in a car crash, she felt there was no local organisation to which she could turn for advice or simply to talk.

"I just needed the empathy of another mum who had lost a son or daughter in that similar sudden and devastating way and who truly understood the grief and emotions you go through"

June's 22-year-old son, popular chef Ian Buchanan was killed in a two car collision in the North East last year, two days before his birthday.

To mark the anniversary, his mother's decided to help others suffering the shattering loss which follows fatal car crashes.

June's launched a unique support group to help anyone who has been affected by a road traffic incident seek support from those who have personal experience and understanding of such a devastating event.

The Group, Don't You Forget About Me is named after the Simple Mind's song which was the last song played at Ian's funeral.

"There are national groups but we are different because we are local and we are dealing with a unique section of the country which, although numbers have dropped, still has particularly appalling incident statistics, plus all the problems that go along with that," explained June, 46, of Alford.

"We are not professionals or counsellors, we are purely people who have been affected by a road traffic incident and we are open to



JUNE ROSS

anyone involved in such a tragic situation. That can be anyone who has survived, a pedestrian who witnessed it, the parents, siblings, or partners of a victim - almost anyone affected in any way, no matter how long ago.

We also know that the repercussions of tragedies like this can go on for years and, in some cases, when families are fractured and they don't have the old-fashioned extended family network, individuals need to deal with grief in their own very different ways."

Highland-born June, who lost her father suddenly of a heart attack at only the age of 14 and

her mother of ovarian cancer when she was in her early twenties finds that one of the best ways for her to cope with her grief is to try and ensure that something constructive comes out of the tragedy.

The busy mum of four recently set up a new business, Your Event Scotland.com, an online events resource for anyone requiring information and personal guidance when organising an event, whatever that event may be. Running her business and the on-going duties of being mum has helped her stay positive.

"A road traffic incident affects so many of us. My loss was my first born child and I think of him daily, not just on the birthdays and anniversaries. I hope that Don't You Forget About Me helps others and becomes a proud and fitting legacy to Ian.

There is no way we could ever forget about him, or many others!"

To contact June, you can email at: juneross2@hotmail.co.uk

Open day at - eco impact ar

FREE ICE cream and a day out... sounds like a plan. A Perthshire farm are opening their doors to visitors today, Saturday, October 1, in a bid to highlight the work they are doing in reducing their environmental impact.

Stewart Tower Dairy in Stanley, Perthshire, is inviting families to this special event, where the focus will be on making a difference as well as tasting some of their delicious ice cream.

Appropriately Stewart Tower is one of the farms taking part in the Scottish Government's 'Farming for a Better Climate' (FFBC) project. Supported by SAC (Scottish Agricultural College), farmers involved in the initiative are exploring practical ways to reduce farming's impact on climate change and the environment.

On Saturday, as well as the dairy cows and delicious ice cream, visitors can tour Stewart Tower see for themselves how the farm is reducing the levels of harmful greenhouse gases produced as grows its crops or feeds and milks its cows. Some of their ideas could also be adopted, on a smaller scale, in visitors own homes and gardens.

Neil and Lindsay Butler at Stewart Tower will be joined by SAC environmental experts

who will answer pass on tips.

SAC's clim. manager, Rebel who oversees FFI Scottish Govern a target to redu greenhouse gas 80% by 2050. Th we will all have in achieving this.

"We are invi along to Stewart out more about farms are doing.



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DEBBIE HEDLEY, Earlston, Berwickshire, and Darren Wright, of Bewcastle, Cumbria, were married at Stapleton Church Photo: Granary Studios, Penrith

Laggan Clippings DVD

FOLLOWING ON from last week's article on the Laggan Clippings at Blaragie Farm, several readers have enquired where the DVD of the clippings could be purchased.

There are two suppliers, and with a running time of 20 minutes the DVD costs £11.00.

Contact:

Graham Grant, Banchor Mains, Newtonmore, PH20 1BP. Tel. 01540673215 or email: grantbanchor@aol.com

Alternatively you can also obtain copies by sending a cheque for £11.00, made payable to Jill Brown Media Ltd, to 30 Craighead Road, Milton of Campsie, Glasgow, G66 8DL - remember to include YOUR address, and the DVD will be posted out to you.

Planning a wedding? Head to Lanark this weekend

LANARK MARKET is lending itself this weekend (Saturday) to host a wedding fair, their third to be held at the venue.

More than 20 small, owner managed exhibitors will be set up, providing exclusive deals to customers who book on the day.

Catwalk shows featuring dresses for brides, mothers of the bride and groom and the groom are on at 1pm and 3pm.

Floristry, hand made jewellery, fascinators, and even a fireworks company will be there to cover everything you need to make your wedding day perfect.

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INVITES YOU TO WEAR IT PINK