

## BORAN CATTLE BREEDERS SOCIETY

### Chairman's Report: 2010

My first thanks go to Ol Donyo Farm and especially Tara for offering a venue for our 60<sup>th</sup>. (how many of you members realize that) AGM and providing some entertainment and cattle to view. This is very much appreciated. We all know how much time these events take up, but let me assure you it is well worth while – members actually turn up for meetings!

Secondly I would like to thank Bimbi Dyer for giving up her busy schedule to give us some of her expertise and knowledge of handling show cattle – something which we are all a bit jua-kali with. I hope we can take what we have learnt today to next year's show. Many thanks Bimbi, and I hope we can involve you more in the future shows.

My job now is to report on the previous 12 months of Society activities. It has been a busy year and before I summarise the most important events I would like to mention: It was at the last AGM we agreed to take on Shaban and Huduma Services as our Society Secretary. For me as Chairman, his input has been invaluable and made my job so much easier. I better not say too much lest he increase his fees, though, in my view, he has been a tremendous asset to the Society. I hope most members have made use of his services and I think, in the coming year your Committee may increase his workload, if we can afford it!

#### This years events:

- January – Jimmy and Margaret Brooks visit Botswana and start an interest in Boran there; As a result correspondence has started between your Committee and a couple of interested Boran breeders.
- February - Kakuzi Ltd. Boran Field Day: Paul Epsom and his team put on a great day with their cattle showing us a much improved herd.
- April - Paul and Maria Epsom visit Namibia and meet 2 breeders with the first Borans in that country; We are grateful to them for opening up dialogue between our 2 countries.
- June – Ol Pejeta Field Day and Bull sale; a well attended and well sponsored day followed by an interesting sale where all lots sold bar one.
- August – Chairman is sponsored by Embryo Plus to visit and inspect Boran cattle belonging to 4 breeders in Namibia; Jimmy Brooks, funded by your Society joined me, making a useful team, one who pretended to know something about Boran and the other who had all the answers to queries at his finger-tips – on his computer. We have Morne of Embryo Plus to thank for initiating the interest of Boran in Namibia, and quick-starting the process by forming joint-partnerships. We must now take up from there and encourage them to continue. A separate report on the Namibian visit has been written which all members will receive together with these minutes.
- September – Executive member, Mark Taylor is invited by the Herd Book Society of Zambia to attend their annual bull sale. A Boran bull, bred by Neil Kirkpatrick of Demo Ranch, fetched highest price of US\$ 9,000. This is as a result of a sudden renewed interest in the Boran within Zambia.
- September – the new Ol Pejeta Embryo Centre opens at last and the first 32 Boran cows and 5 bulls go into quarantine;

- October – first embryo flush since Dec. 2006. The 32 Boran cows produced a total of 292 frozen embryos – an average of 9 per cow – best results ever.
- November – hope to export Boran semen to Zambia from Ol Pejeta, Mogwooni, Suyian and Kakuzi. Ol Pejeta and Kakuzi will also be importing some from the Demo Ranch who have over 50 years of breeding Borans. This market has been dead for 25 years and is therefore encouraging to see it opening up again. As Zambia start to flush cattle for export to SA, the demand for improved genetics will grow.

In September Robin Stanley and Dr. Paul Egesa kindly took on the job of Judging and Stewarding respectively, the Beef breeds at the ASK, International Show, Nairobi. The only entries were from ADC farms and were generally disappointing according to Mr. Stanley’s report. We continue to be concerned with ADC’s Boran situation, and look forward to Protus Ouma bringing Mutara back into the lime-light.

At this juncture I would like to congratulate our new breeders in particular George Aggett of Kifuku Estate, Rumuruti, who has put a tremendous effort into his foundation herd of natural Polled Borans. He has increased his numbers by purchasing from the Kruger’s in Eldoret, who are in the process of selling their farm. This will be an important stud for the future with genetics going back a long way. Rachel and Hugo Wood of Narok have also made an effort to register their Borans – well done. We, as inspectors, must encourage and help them all to keep it up.

In August your Committee formed a sub-committee led by Tara Lewellyn to design and collect material for a new Boran Brochure. The LBSS trust has kindly pledged a sum to go towards the cost of a new brochure. We agreed to make full use of this and produce something of quality that would last a few years. Breeders have been asked to advertise, cost of which will help towards production. Thanks to Tara and Sean Outram who have done sterling work towards this end. We have extended the deadline to give our slower breeders more time to get their adverts in. We are also in need of interesting articles – members please get involved!

Finally I must thank my Committee for all their input this past year and their commitment to the Boran breed in general. I think we have only met twice as a Committee this year, but much business has been conducted through email and members should know that their committee volunteer much of their time on behalf of the members and the Boran Cattle. My thanks also go to all Inspectors who have had a busy year. The total Borans registered for the year are 858. Compared to previous years:

Year	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	858	1061	969	635	511	787

I do believe, with the conditions we have enjoyed this year there will be a marked increase in registrations. All breeders, thanks for your efforts and I ask you to do your utmost to keep it up. Competition from other countries is growing. South Africa boast 200 members and for the first time, are flushing cattle in Zambia. Zimbabwe have also started an embryo program and it will not be long before they can start exporting also. As competition grows we must maintain our reputation and increase our numbers. Your Committee is here to support you. Make use of us.

Lastly but certainly not least, thanks to our sponsor of the day – Jeremy Ashworth of Antipest who continues to support our events. Thank you.