



John Harris, Brian Harris and Bill Vellacott with the restored Massey Ferguson 35 Deluxe.

## Friends of BOAT Autumn 2022

### Chairman's Message

It's been an interesting half year for BOAT, despite the absence of trainees. With the full support of Bicton College we have been busy converting our in-house training course to a possible on-line version. Trustee Viv Horton goes to Kulika in Uganda very soon to initiate a pilot project, and Peter Reed has been testing-out Microsoft Teams from New Zealand.

On the fundraising front, our refurbished MF35 tractor sold very well at the Honiton Hill Rally in late August, and at the Newark Vintage Show there was a proud winner of the draw for the Kelsey sponsored MF35. Our thanks to all who

bought tickets, to Bill Vellacott's brother Tom for representing us at the presentations, and of course our faithful sponsors. Back in June, we launched African Anecdotes as an ongoing fundraiser – buy now for Christmas!

With regret, Mick Merritt stood down as a trustee at our recent AGM. He and his wife Heather were instrumental in founding BOAT in 1991 and deserve our heartfelt thanks. Our sympathies to trustee Mike Pash on the death of his wife recently.

Thank you all for continuing to support BOAT.

*John Harris* (Chairman)

### Book Sales



#### African Anecdotes Edited by John Harris

The pandemic lockdowns' labour of love came to fruition in the early summer, and we launched African Anecdotes on the Bicton College stand at the Devon County Show on 30th June.

Most of the 31 contributors are south-west-based members of the Tropical Agriculture Association and the Royal African Society. Their stories span 25 countries, covering everything from personalities to politicians, farming to folklore, snakes to security forces and weather to wildlife. Some are very short and none are too long! So far, the book has been very favourably received. I have enjoyed compiling it and I hope you enjoy reading it as much. Thank you for your support.

At £12.99 + £2.99 p&p, the perfect Christmas present! They are available from: [secretary@boatagtrust.co.uk](mailto:secretary@boatagtrust.co.uk). Click here for an order form, contact the secretary to arrange an order and payment, e.g. cheques made payable to Bicton Overseas Agricultural Trust or scan the QR Code for online order and payment.

## MASSEY 35 DELUXE GOES HOME



The tractor on it's arrival at Bicton College and as it was before it's sale by Kivells Auctioneers.

After the restoration of the old MF tractor donated by John Harris by the Bicton Engineering dept, it had been decided that it should be auctioned. Well, the day came in August this year for it to go under the hammer at Honiton Hill Rally Auction over the bank holiday weekend.

The happy and proud owner of the restored tractor is restored Brian Harris of Cornwall, (yes it has returned to the Harris family).

We would like to thank everyone concerned with the restoration, Vapormatic for the replacement tractor parts, Firestone for the tyres and the staff and friends in the engineering dept at Bicton.

The Trustees would like to thank Vapormatic for producing this newsletter and to thank all its sponsors for their generous help.



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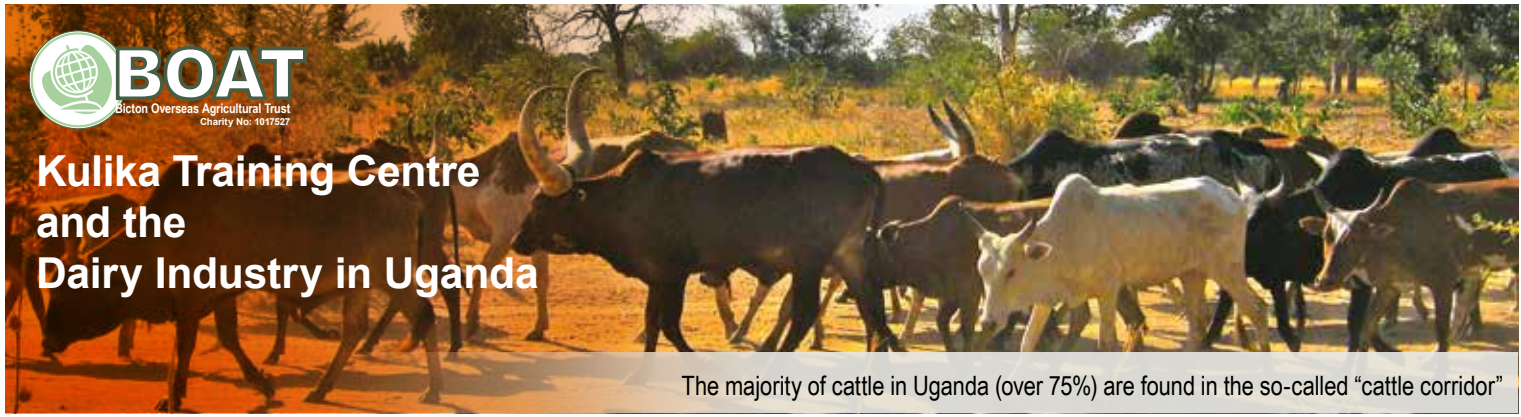


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# Kulika Training Centre and the Dairy Industry in Uganda



The majority of cattle in Uganda (over 75%) are found in the so-called "cattle corridor"

The Kulika Training Centre at Lutisi does not operate a dairy unit, but Kulika staff interact with small-holder farmers in the areas where they operate and will be aware of the current state of the Ugandan dairy industry. Milk production in Uganda has almost doubled in output over the last 10 years, and now produces some 2.8 billion litres annually. As demand for milk has increased so the value of milk has gone up: this has led to the development of many local collection centres where small-scale producers may deliver their milk for bulking up and distribution. At the same time small, specialist, stall-feeder units, relying on cut forage and often using cross-bred or Holstein-Friesian cattle, have grown up in peri-urban settings. That said, the majority of cattle in Uganda (over 75%) are found in the so-called "cattle corridor", an area of some 82,000 sq.km. that runs from the south west to the north east of the country. Traditionally, this area receives the most reliable rainfall for most of the year and supports a pastoralist farming system that relies on grazing, with little use of supplementary feeds. Here the majority of cattle are Ankole, or other local breeds: herd size average 8 head in total and cows are hand milked once daily. Thus, this is a low-cost system, but yields are also low, with most cows giving no more than a few litres each day.

It is estimated that some 25% of milk is used within the pastoralist households. Nationally, of the milk reaching the market about 35% is processed (pasteurised for sale as liquid milk or converted into milk powder or yogurt). The remaining 65% is sold "raw" (unpasteurised). With hand milking, the quality of the milk is variable, with contamination (and adulteration) a problem.

In a previous Newsletter we referred to the work that Trustee Peter Reed had done in developing an on-line teaching resource that allowed him to

continue teaching his Bicton students during the Covid "lockdown". Over the summer, Peter hosted an experimental on-line discussion, involving BOAT trustees, some of his farming friends and Kulika staff, together with some of Kulika's Key Farmer Trainers, to determine whether such a system might, in future, be used by BOAT/Kulika to develop a "distance-learning" programme. Technical problems aside, the event was a great success, if the number of questions that it elicited from the Ugandan audience was anything to go by! Peter has now moved to New Zealand for 6 months, to work on a friend's dairy farm on South Island. From there he recently hosted an on-line "farm walk", open to BOAT trustees and Kulika/Lutisi staff, during which we saw, and heard about a 200ha grassland farm, grazing about 300 dairy cows round 24 irrigated "one-day" paddocks. These cows are milked, by 2 men, twice daily, through a fully automated herringbone parlour, capable of milking 40 cows at a time and equipped to provide cows with supplementary feeds as and when necessary. Cows were yielding up to 40l milk per day (8000l/lactation) with butterfat content over 4.5%, with the milk sold on contract to a processor producing milk powder for export to China. Unlike here in the UK, cows remain on pasture right round the year. The slurry collected from the parlour and collecting yards is fed into the irrigation system and greatly reduces the need for purchased fertiliser.

From the question-and-answer session that followed the "farm walk", it was clear that our Kulika colleagues had found it fascinating, interesting and, possibly, a bit "mind-blowing", given the contrasts between the two systems. That said, this experience did serve to illustrate the potential value of on-line links between BOAT and Kulika, and provides a foundation for formal on-line courses in the future.

## Massey 35 Deluxe Tractor Draw Winner Announced

Congratulations to Phil Wormald on this fantastic win of a Massey Ferguson 35x raising money for Bicton Overseas Agriculture Trust Charity with Kelsey Media.

The other winners were:

2nd: Charles Kennedy, 3rd: Robert Regler  
4th: Patrick Bonar, 5th: Heather Brown

Thanks go to Kelsey Media for running the competition on behalf of BOAT and for Newark Vintage Tractor Show for hosting the announcement of winners.



Winner Phil Wormald (centre) at Newark Vintage Tractor Show.

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## And Finally...

The trustees wish to congratulate Josephine Yongo (BOAT Alumnus 2014) who got married in July.



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