GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND ADDRESS TO THE 2014 WORLD CONGRESS, GERMANY BY MR SCOTT MCKINNON, CHAIRMAN

I am delighted to have the opportunity to address you as the new chairman of the GB Society. It is with much pride, I took over the role at chairman from Andrew Waugh, Kilnstown. Andrew did a sterling job and the Society is indebted to him for all his hard work. I hope I can follow in his footsteps.

On thinking of my report, the two things we all have in common is Galloways and the weather and I am pleased to report that both have been kind to us over the last two years since we last met.

After the terrible year of 2012, the weather has been kinder to us, although it took many months to recover from the terrible wet summer of 2012, the rain took its toll on the animals, especially cows and calves and it was well into 2013 before they were looking there best again. With the extra cost of feeding during that year, many farmers are still bearing the costs and with beef prices steadily falling this spring, it is a big worry. After the horse meat scandal in early 2013, the super markets were falling over themselves to support the British beef industry. Now we see a 70p drop per kilo and a waiting list to slaughter prime stock. Someone, somewhere is needing to do some joined up thinking to protect our beef industry, we have already seen another drop in the overall number of cattle down 0.7% to 9.7million with the beef herds dropping 3% to under 1.6million. Where is our beef going to come from? And with the uncertainly of our European subsidies will the UK have a beef industry? This is where the Galloway will come to the fore, our beloved easy fed cow which produces and excellent beefy calf will prove her worth.

Galloways in the UK are still very much sought after and this has reflected in our sales, all our sales have had nearly 100% clearance and prices have been comparable year on year. In fact many sales potential purchasers have went home empty handed.

Our shows are still an important part of our promotions, the Royal Highland Show, based in Edinburgh is still the top agricultural attraction in the UK attracting over 180000 people and with over 5000 head of livestock it is certainly the place to be in the middle of June. Congratulations to the Finlay Family, John, Ann, Finlay and Iain on their championship with Blackcraig Noreen T423, this young heifer is a Finmac Norseman daughter and her dam has a very successful show career winning the Highland twice. Jim and Selina Ross, Romesboech was reserve with Nerys 1307 of Romesbeoch, she is an embryo heifer bred from Kirkmabreck Nimord and out of another successful show cow Doon of Urr Nerys 42nd.

The main English show is now The Great Yorkshire show held in the first week in July, this event is going from strength to strength, it is great to report the number of Galloways attending the show have increased in the last two years, it is certainly a fabulous shop window for our breed. This time it was Jim and Selina Ross receiving the champion and reserve awards with Nerys 1307 of Romesbeoch and Beauty 1185 of Romesboech, The Ross family then when on to win the reserve interbreed beef championship with Nerys, this is a great achievement for our small breed as we were competing against 17 other breeds.

Our National show is still as popular as ever, now in its ten year, we travelled back to our first venue of Border Union Show, held in the beautiful border town of Kelso. We had an

excellent time, great cattle, great weather and great friends a full report is on our web site. www.gallowaycattlesociety.co.uk For our 2014 show, we are attending Stewartry Show (Castle Douglas). Galloways are coming home and with an entry of 64 cattle it will be a show to remember. Please read all about it on our web page

Our promotions are on-going, there are many specialist beef event to attend where we promote our beloved Galloway, showing what a great cow she is, but I don't need to tell you that.

We are very proud to be hosting the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, I hope you have seen some of the coverage on TV and to prove the sun does shine in Scotland, there has brilliant sunshine for the start of the games, a perfect way to showcase Scotland. The Commonwealth Games slogan is the Friendly Games, and you would certainly receive such a welcome if you decided to pay Scotland and the UK a visit. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you all in 2016, plans are now being made with the start date being Friday 5th August 2016 and your hotel will be Gretna Hall Hotel in the historic town of Gretna, just 80ish miles south of Glasgow and Edinburgh. More information to follow and latest news of the congress will be posted on our web site.

To steal another slogan from the Glasgow Games and a line from a very famous Scottish song "come away in, it is nice to see you"