



# DEVON YOUNG FARMERS NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026



**NATIONAL ENTERTAINS FINALS**



**TAG RUGBY QUALIFIERS**



**DEVON YFC SHOW & SALE 2026**

[www.devonyfc.co.uk](http://www.devonyfc.co.uk)

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# FROM THE CHAIRMAN

***The Show & Sale was a real testament to the hard work and dedication of our members. The level of showmanship was outstanding.***



**A**pril has been another busy and successful month for Devon YFC. Highlights included our annual Show and Sale, as well as the National Weekend, where we were proudly represented in both the Entertainments Finals and the Junior Member of the Year Finals.

It has been fantastic to see the variety of events and fundraising activities taking place across the county. I was particularly pleased to attend Yarcombe YFC's Mouse Racing Night on 4th April - definitely a first for me! Watching live mice racing, complete with bidding, made for a unique and thoroughly enjoyable evening.

On 15th April, we hosted our Show and Sale at Exeter Livestock Market, run in partnership with Kivells. Entries were high, with clubs well represented and livestock presented to an exceptional standard - a real testament to the dedication of our members. The level of showmanship on display was outstanding.

We also travelled to Newtown, Wales for National Weekend. Devon was represented by Totnes YFC in the Entertainments, who delivered an exceptional performance. We were also proud of Sophie from Witleigh YFC, who represented us in the Junior Member of the Year competition. Sophie truly did Devon proud, highlighting the bright future of YFC.

During the same weekend, we attended the National Annual Meeting of Clubs, where it was agreed that the national subscription fee will increase from £35 to £42 per member from September 2026. This followed a visit from NFYFC Chief Officer James Eckley at our members' meeting on 23rd April, where members had the opportunity to hear about the national budget and ask questions. We were also delighted that Devon YFC was awarded the Tug Wilson Trophy as runners-up for the highest points across national competitions last year!

We have an exciting few months coming up. In June, our County Challenge will see County Officers set off from Westward Ho! on 12th June, walking 66 miles across Devon to Paignton in support of Yellow Wellies and Devon YFC. We'll be sharing the route soon and would love members to join us along the way to boost morale!

I am also looking forward to seeing many of you at Devon County Show, as well as at our Outdoor Activities Day on 30th May. Let's keep the momentum going and continue this success into the months ahead.

*A. Retallick*

**Anneliese Retallick  
County Chairman**



***Sophie from Witleigh YFC at the National Junior Member of the Year Finals***





## COMPETITIONS

### Katie Davie

**Congratulations to our members who represented us fantastically at the National Finals in April!** A huge well done to Sophie Webber of Witleigh who made it to the national finals of the Junior Member of the Year, you should be incredibly proud!

Additionally, congratulations to Totnes YFC who also represented us fantastically in the National Entertainments finals in Newtown, Wales! A lot of work goes on for months in the run up to these shows, so all of those on-stage and behind the scenes should be incredibly proud!

Coming up in May we have a busy couple of weeks... Firstly, I am really looking forward to a packed tent

and timetable at the Devon County Show! If you are coming along, do pop in and see the talent on show! Our marquee is located just above the cattle ring.

Following this, we have the Outdoor Activities Day - there are lots of competitions (including some new fun ones!) to take part in, so get your teams booked in and ready for a great day at Gooseford Farm, by kind permission of the Courtier Family!



### Devon County Show Top Tips!

1. Always double check the size restrictions - it's a shame when great entries get disqualified for being the wrong size!
2. Remember cookery must be covered with cling film or in a clear plastic bag
3. Don't forget to neatly mount your photos!



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# SPORTS & SOCIAL

## Alex Rodd



**W**elcome back everyone - the months are flying by! I believe everyone is bingo'd out from Easter.

We've kept the sports schedule moving forward and on Friday 10th April we held our pub sports finals kindly hosted by The Waie Inn! It was great to see so many people from all across Devon competing.

### Darts Results

- 1st:** Tarka
- 2nd:** Exe Valley
- 3rd:** South Dartmoor

### Skittles Results

- 1st:** North Devon
- 2nd:** Exe Valley
- 3rd:** Haldon

### Pool Results

- 1st:** Haldon
- 2nd:** North Devon
- 3rd:** South Dartmoor

More recently on Saturday 9th May we held the tag rugby qualifiers at Crediton Rugby Club! Well done to the 4 teams who qualified for the finals at Devon County Show on Thursday 21st May! Meet at 5:15pm.

### Tag Rugby Qualifiers

- 1st:** Haldon
- 2nd:** Witheridge
- 3rd:** East Devon
- 4th:** Witheligh

On the 30th May Outdoor Activities Day is back at Gooseford Farm kindly hosted by the Courtier family! I would encourage members to sign up as it's a great day! There's also new activities to get involved with on the day - so I look forward to seeing everyone there!



On Saturday 20th June we also have Devon YFC's clay shooting competition at 10am.

Last, but most certainly not least, Devon YFC's Past and Present Ball is coming together nicely and tickets will be going on sale in the very immediate future - so please keep your eyes peeled!

**DEVON YFC**  
*Past & Present Ball*  
**SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY**  
**WROFORD MANOR**  
TWO COURSE MEAL • AUCTION OF PROMISES  
DANCING TO 'THE SHRINE' BAND • DJ



# AGRI Lily May

**A** huge thank you to everyone that supported this year's Show & Sale at Exeter Market - entries were up again this year and it was another incredible spectacle of YFC livestock. The biggest thank you must go to the brilliant team at Kivells for making this event possible, as well as all of judges, sponsors and of course all the members for taking part.

Our Devon YFC 2026 Overall Supreme Champion sponsored by Mole Valley Farmers went to Jasmine Cligg with her magnificent dairy heifer. A huge thank you to our judge Andy Lane, who had an incredibly tough job on his hands.

**Supreme Beef Champion**  
sponsored by Masons Kings  
Jack Davis - Culm Valley YFC

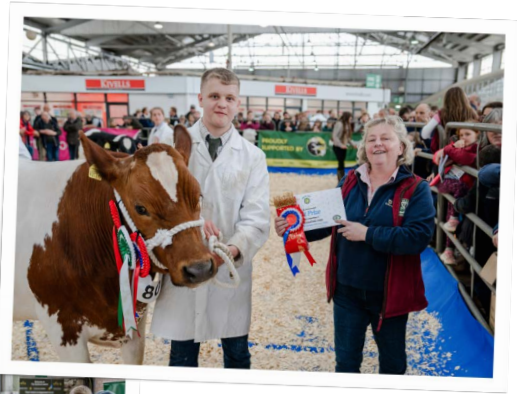
**Supreme Beef out of Dairy**  
**Champion** sponsored by Exe  
Valley Farm Shop  
Arthur Olney -  
Whimple & Broadclyst YFC

**Supreme Dairy Champion**  
sponsored by Crediton Milling  
Jasmine Cigg - Culm Valley YFC

**Supreme Ewe and Lamb**  
**Champion** sponsored by  
Smallridge Bros  
Ben Seward - Axminster YFC

**Supreme Pet Lamb Champion**  
sponsored by Hamblys  
Imogen Kelland - Witleigh  
YFC

**Supreme Pig Champion**  
sponsored by Green  
Circle Feeds  
Ben Gillard -  
Cheriton & Tedburn YFC



## Open Class Results

Congratulations to all the members that took part in our Devon YFC open classes during the Show and Sale. The winners were:

### Beef from Beef Steer sponsored by Torch Farm Vets -

Matt Derryman (Honiton)

### Dairy Down Calving Heifer sponsored by Barkers Animal Health Ltd -

Amy Dunn (Totnes)

### Dairy Bulling Heifer sponsored by Duffields -

Amy Dunn (Totnes)

### Best pair of butchers lambs sponsored by NFU Mutual:

Ben May (Newton St Cyres)

### Pet Lamb sponsored by Livery Dole:

Ella Hammacott (Kenn Valley)

### Pair of Butchers Pigs sponsored by BRH Fabrication: Ben Gillard

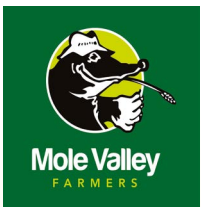
(Cheriton & Tedburn)

**As you are all aware, next up we have Devon County Show!** On Friday the 22nd at 10:30am is the annual Agri Debate. This year's topic is 'Feeding the Algorithm: Is Social Media Helping Agriculture?' We will be discussing the impact that social media has on the general public's perception of farming. There will be lots of arguments covered with varied opinions and perspectives of the positives and negatives. There will be opportunities for the audience to ask questions too, so come along and have your say!

On the Saturday of the show there is also of course the Stockjudging competition. This is a fantastic competition for members and an important, everyday skill for all livestock farmers. There's beef, dairy, lambs and pigs to judge so something for everyone - if you're keen to have a go, just speak to me or Katie!



Thank you to all of our Show & Sale sponsors for making this event possible!



BRH Fabrication Ltd



HAMBLYS





## TRAVEL Lois Sing

**D**evon Travel may have seemed quiet over the past few months, but there has been plenty happening behind the scenes, especially with fundraising efforts across the county.

Our Exe Valley members recently hosted a successful clay shoot and bingo event, while North Devon organised a car treasure hunt and coffee morning. East Devon brought everyone together for a lively boozy bingo evening, and the remaining groups all have exciting events coming up soon.

Meanwhile, we have been working closely with our partners in Slovenia and Poland to create action-packed travel schedules, ranging from farm tours to adrenaline parks. I can't wait to share the busy schedules with the members travelling.

Our seniors will be heading off in June, and we all look forward to hearing all about their experiences when they return.

**A huge thank you to everyone for your continued support. The Travel Team truly appreciates all the encouragement and generosity shown to us. These scholarships would not be possible without you.**

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# CLUB UPDATES

YFC updates from across the county



## CHERITON & TEDBURN YFC

**W**e have had a busy few months hosting events and raising money for charity. Back in February we had a farm tour of Stuart's finishing unit, our entertainments re-run at Tiverton with Witheridge YFC and we also had our dung sale raising £596.38 for our chosen charity, The NHS Blood and Transplant.

Then in March we had a club social at the Waie Inn sports hall where we played basketball and football. We then had our Big Breakfast at Tedburn Village Hall where we served 65 breakfasts over the morning. April started with our Easter Bingo with lots of easter eggs for prizes as well as roast dinners. Then we went to Exeter Racecourse for

their family day where we brought some sheep with us for the public to see, then we also spent a fun evening watching the horses race.

We had a really engaging talk from our chosen charity NHS Blood and Transplant. Lastly, we went around Dane's Castle Fire Station for an evening about road safety and a tour around the station. Coming up we have our Grand Summer Ball on the 20th June at Shobrooke. On behalf of the club I would like to thank everyone for their continued support and we look forward to seeing at our upcoming events.

**Lydia Gough**

## LEWDOWN YFC

We held our annual dinner and dance at Trethorne Golf Club. With 74 people attending, both old and new members from multiple local clubs. A fun night was had by all with multiple awards won by our members and a successful charity raffle with many prize donations from local businesses.

We were joined on the night by our president Dave chick and our fabulous guest speaker Tim Sutton-Woohouse who very kindly came along to discuss his work in training medical detection dogs. Thank you heartfelt photography who captured the night beautifully.

**Millie Dennis**





# CLUB OF THE MONTH

## WOOLSERY YFC

Supported by  
SOUTH WEST  
**Farmer**

**Woolsery Young Farmers is a busy club that has enjoyed a packed few months of fundraising, competitions and social events, with members getting fully involved in both club and community activities.**

The club's recent highlight was an incredible charity cycle ride from Woolsery to Weymouth, raising money for Children's Hospice South West.

**Club Secretary Georgia Daniel explains:** "One of our highlights of the year so far is our charity cycle from Woolsery to Weymouth in aid of Children's Hospice South West. Members set off early in the morning and took on the challenge using back roads, with lots of support from people cheering us on along the way.

"We are so incredibly proud of all our members who took part in this challenge, and we're delighted to have raised a fantastic £3,231.53. It's a charity that is very close to our members' hearts and it means a lot to be able to support them in this way."

The cycle ride formed part of a wider charity effort by the club, who have been busy raising money for a number of good causes this year. Their tractor run raised £2,500 for Devon Air Ambulance, whilst their Christmas Tree collection raised £500 for Clovelly RNLI.

Alongside their fundraising efforts, Woolsery YFC members have also been active in competitions. Several members have successfully made it through to the county round in pool, skittles and darts, following strong performances at a group level.

**Club Chairman Baz Meeson adds:** "We've had a really busy few months with lots going on. From competitions and meetings to socials and fundraising, it's been great to see so many members getting involved and supporting each other.

The club has also hosted a variety of successful events for the local community, including a breakfast morning, car wash and Easter bingo with a carvery."

Looking ahead, it's a busy time for Devon Young Farmers with the upcoming Devon County Show and their annual Outdoor Activities Day. Woolsery YFC are keen to continue building on their success, with more fundraising and social events planned in the months to come.



## Planning a barn dance, awards night, or summer ball?

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- Entry into three cash prize draws throughout the year!
- Stay up-to-date with Devon YFC news by receiving our monthly digital Devon YFC newsletter
- Invitation to the County AGM and our annual Chairman's Reception at the Devon County Show.
- Invitation to special commemorative events.

All funds raised through Friends of Devon YFC will support our ongoing programme of activities for all members aged 10 – 28.

**Become a Friend of Devon YFC today and you can make a difference to over 1,500 young people across Devon.**





# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## MAY

- 19th: Stage entries at Devon County Show
- 21st: Tag Rugby Finals at Devon County Show
- 21st-23rd: Devon County Show
- 30th: Outdoor Activities Day

## JUNE

- 4th: General Council
- 7th: SWA Comps Day - Lackham College
- 12th: Bow's Big Bash
- 13th: Devon YFC Race Across the County
- 13th: Lewdown YFC Big Breakfast
- 20th: County Clay Pigeon Shooting Finals
- 20th: Cheriton & Tedburn YFC Grand Summer Ball
- 28th: SWA TOW
- 29th: Travel applications open

## JULY

- 4th: Chulmleigh YFC Duck Race
- 4th-5th: NFYFC Competitions Finals
- 11th: Devon YFC Past & Present Ball
- 23rd: Members Meeting
- 25th: South Dartmoor YFC Field Day
- 31st: Witleigh YFC Barn Bash



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