

Good morning Ladies & Gentlemen

Some twenty-five years ago I was approached by the local chief with his elders asking if I would stand for elections. I told them I was a man of few words. They retorted “that’s the sort we want.” I countered that even so I had nothing to say. The chief replied “That’s exactly we want!”

Of course I did not oblige them. Today though, I do have something to say.

I am greatly honoured.

In accepting to be the BCBS senior member I salute all those senior members who I have known during the past fifty years, especially my old friend JOHN KENYON wherever he may now be; reunited with Jane and in green pastures.

I bring apologies from Grev Gunson who I saw yesterday. He wishes you all the very best and regrets that he cannot continue as senior member. Pat Smith is more senior than me, but I believe that Pat declined to accept. I am sorry.

One thing I would like to see in the BCBS is some real coordination between breeders to get performance testing and genetic profiling and reliability indices and data done by all studs. I admire Mogwooni who mostly on their own for so many years have been submitting their data with the Beef & Livestock Recording Centre.

I am periodically bothered by Alf Collins in Australia who would like reliable data on the Kenya Boran to help promote imports to Australia. As you know the Borans that went to Australia were faced with exceedingly strong competition from Brahman and the composite breeds. We just do not have sufficiently convincing facts & figures to back up our bull, and to quote Charlie Stone-Wigg. *“Let’s avoid stalling on too fine a point.”* What we want are efficient cattle that bring dollars per hectare.

Thank you and my appreciation goes to the Committee who work pro-bono for the breed in the face of all sorts of difficulties unrelated to cattle breeding. Well done. Thank you.