

Cumbrian Farming and Rural Business Association

An all-in-one co-operative for farmers and rural businesses is expanding to offer its package to the rest of the county.

More than 30 farmers and business people have already signed up for the Cumbrian Farming and Rural Business Association (CFRBA), which was launched early this year in West Cumbria.

CFRBA's planned start-date of February, 2001, coincided with the outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD), stopping farm visits across Cumbria. Much of the membership recruitment depends on these visits.

The co-operative's "all-in-one" package for its members consists of cost-cutting deals on fuel, oil, electricity, gas, phones and animal medicines, and of machinery and labour-sharing rings.

CFRBA has strong links with similar rings elsewhere in Britain, enabling it to get good deals on several other commodities. It can also advertise members' private sales, such as for machinery, in its newsletter.

CFRBA can source or market feedstuffs, livestock and other produce at bulk-buying rates. It can also find workers to suit individual businesses, such as farm relief and hotel workers, labourers and holiday-time employees for the tourism industry.

Since CFRBA's launch, hundreds of diverse, rural enterprises in West Cumbria have shown interest in the new-style co-operative as they look to recovery after FMD and seek ways of cutting costs.

The Cumbria Rural Development Programme and Cumbria County Council are supporting CFRBA with £59,000 over its first two years. The Muncaster Conference is also supporting the co-operative.

CFRBA's manager, Andy Hayhurst, a sheep farmer at Sedbergh, said: "We are pushing ahead to offer the co-operative's advantages to all areas of Cumbria.

"We are the first membership-based Cumbrian machinery and labour group, though in some parts of the county there are other bulk-

buying groups. An added advantage is that we can also source or market a very broad range of goods and services for different rural businesses as well as agriculture."

CFRBA is a registered Friendly Society, and is non-profit making. Its regular newsletter includes details of members and their businesses.

"We hold small meetings to discuss CFRBA and what we do with, perhaps, two or three business people or farmers at a time. We also point out that members can save at least double their membership fees in a year," said Andy.

CFRBA chairman and founder member, Alistair Mackintosh, who farms sheep, beef and some arable land as tenant of Muncaster Home Farm, Ravenglass, said: "Rural enterprises are being urged to work together co-operatively to increase profits and efficiency, so we're in the right place at the right time to offer this.

"In four years' time, we aim to have 300 to 400 members across Cumbria and we are working well towards this target. We have been planning this for several years, and this co-operative is unique in the county."

New member Jim Hadwin, a sheep farmer at Mansergh Hall Farm, Kirkby Lonsdale, also has a Pick Your Own fruit and vegetables enterprise and a butcher's shop which has its own website.

The family's RSPCA Freedom Food accredited Mansergh Hall Lamb, a branded product for 10 years, is also distributed by mail order and is served at a top London restaurants as well as in northern restaurants.

For three months last year, the farm shop was closed because of FMD restrictions and Jim says: "I joined the Association recently because I believe co-operatives are the way forward. CFRBA is already selling some machinery for me - taking on all the hassles of phone calls and ringing round.

"We should be able to work together because it's a far better approach than running round like headless chickens by ourselves."

Silloth Tennis Club

Boy's & Girl's Tournament

Under 11's

Boy's Club Championship
*Sponsored by
The Kandy Shop*

Girl's Club Championship
*Sponsored by
John's Plaiice*

Under 16's

Boy's Club Championship
*Sponsored by
The Community Shop*

Girl's Club Championship
*Sponsored by
Clive's Shape 'n' Style*

- Cost of entry 50p Per Event.
- Trophies & prizes for winner and runner up.
- Membership of Silloth Tennis Club is gained on entry to any tournament.
- All Junior events open to pupils of Silloth's schools and anyone in the surrounding areas.
- Application forms are available from David Wise, William Dolling, David Pigeon and in the respective schools.
- You can also apply on-line at <http://welcome.to/silloth-tennis-club>.
- Entries are allowed until commencement of play.
- The under 11 tournament will take place on the 18th of May 2002.
- The under 16 tournament will take place on the following Saturday, the 25th of May 2002
- Silloth Tennis Club is LTA affiliated, however, you do not need an LTA rating to play.

If you have any queries regarding these tournaments, or wish to apply for entry, please contact one of the following committee members: -

David Wise
29 Caldew Street
Silloth
Tel - 3298

David Pigeon
Barracks Bridge
Silloth
Tel - 31295

William Dolling
9 Waver Street
Silloth
Tel - 32926

Silloth Tennis Club

Tournament for the 2002 season

Singles

Men's Club Championship
*Sponsored by
The Balmoral*

Men's Tennis League
*Sponsored by
T.B.A*

Women's Club
Championship
*Sponsored by
T.B.A*

Doubles

Men's Doubles
*Sponsored by
S.G. Hart Window Cleaning*

Women's Doubles
*Sponsored by
The Albion*

Mixed Doubles
*Sponsored by
Winters Newsagents*

- Cost of entry £3 per tournament
- Trophies & prize money for winner and runner up
- Closing date for entry is 18th May

Please note.

- Membership of Silloth Tennis Club is gained on entry of any tournament.
- Silloth Tennis Club is only open to residents of Silloth, those who work in Silloth and pupils of Silloth's schools.
- Players must be of secondary school age or over.
- Application forms are available from committee members. You can also apply on-line at <http://welcome.to/silloth-tennis-club>.
- All tournaments will start on 20th May, with finals taking place on 13th/14th July. Players will have until 12th July to play their fixtures leading up to the finals.
- A complete fixture list and set of club rules will be provided on entry to a tournament.

If you have any queries regarding these tournaments, or wish to apply for entry, please contact one of the following committee members: -

David Wise
29 Caldew Street
Silloth
Tel - 3298

Gareth Lewis
43, Wampool Street
Silloth
Tel - 31786

Peter Wise
22 Esk Street
Silloth
Tel - 32231