

Royal Welsh Show

Judge: Clive Davies
22 July 2019

It was with some excitement that the invitation was received to judge the Longhorn Cattle classes at the 100th Royal Welsh Show. The annual event must be one of Europe's leading livestock exhibitions nowadays and a tremendous shop window for exhibitors of all farmed stock. It was fortunate that the day offered sensible summer weather to set off a great display of the breed on the rise. Just one bull class is scheduled but the competition was strong with three individuals ranging in age somewhat but each with useful merit. The cow class may have been stronger but certainly, the heifer classes offered good viewing for all concerned. The senior heifer class offered some options but in the event was led by a smart entry with great balance. Likewise, the yearling heifer class was competitive but headed by an outstanding exhibit. So much so that this class winner, Gentons Sara from Bertie Facon took the Breed Championship. In over 40 years of showring judging, I believe that this January 2018 born youngster is the best yearling heifer of any breed that I have had the pleasure of placing. Her conformation, balance and presence was exceptional. Above all her perfect hindleg structure was a pleasure to behold. During the 1940s and 50s, a concentrated amount of work was done by dedicated stock people within breeds like the Hereford, for example, around this particular feature but relaxed attitudes of late have led to concerning issues. Within the Longhorn breed there are a good number of preferred examples of this vital trait but certainly to see it demonstrated by this outstanding champion of the Longhorn ring was all-around good news. No wonder she featured in later Interbreed recognition. Indeed, she deserved all that she received and possibly more!!! The breed's Reserve Championship went to David Howden's male champion, Pointer Diamond King just getting past the same exhibitor's well-deserved reserve female champion, Pointer Dreamer.

Many showgoers would have been impressed with this quality turnout of the breed. I was extremely honoured to be involved with the occasion. For the future, it would be good that more bulls might be encouraged by the provision of a junior section and surely with exhibits on the showground and already prepared, a group class or similar would add even more fun!

My grateful thanks to everyone involved with this special event. It will be long remembered.

Bull

6 entered/3 forward

1 st Pointer Diamond King	Mr D Howden
2 nd Gentons Ramses	Mr B Facon
3 rd Gentons Sydney	Mr B Facon

Cow, in milk or in calf

2 entered/2 forward

1 st Carreg Martha	Mr & Mrs B&M Llewellyn
2 nd Gentons Qiana	Mr B Facon

Senior Heifer

7 entered/4 forward

1 st Pointer Dreamer	Mr D Howden
2 nd Carreg Rye Grass	Mr & Mrs B&M Llewellyn
3 rd Carreg Romance	Mr & Mrs B&M Llewellyn
4 th Mayhill Demerara	Mr D Bevan

Junior Heifer

8 entered/5 forward

1 st Gentons Sara ET	Mr B Facon
2 nd Pointer Enough is Enough	Mr D Howden
3 rd Carreg Sweet Pea	Mr & Mrs B&M Llewellyn
4 th Carreg Sonnet	Mr & Mrs B&M Llewellyn
5 th Carreg Snowdrop	Mr & Mrs B&M Llewellyn

Breed Champion

Reserve Breed Champion
Male Champion

Gentons Sara ET

Pointer Diamond King
Pointer Diamond King

Reserve Male Champion	Gentons Ramses
Female Champion	Gentons Sara ET
Reserve Female Champion	Pointer Dreamer
Best Junior Bull	Gentons Sydney
Best Junior Heifer	Gentons Sara ET

Native Junior Heifer Interbreed Reserve Champion
Overall Exhibitor-bred pairs Champions
M&S Beef Breeds Team of Three Reserve Champs

Gentons Sara
Carreg Rye Grass & Carreg Romance
Pointer Dreamer, Pointer Diamond King,
Mayhill Demerara