

**Peter Boylett 19.07.1939 - 01.10.2012**  
**A tribute**

Most farmers have an interest which is outside their area of commercial activity but is still connected to farming. In the case of Peter this was pedigree livestock; sheep, cattle, and horses and with good grounding and experience he became an excellent practical judge of stock.

Peter was appointed the farm manager at Lord Barnard's Raby Estates in 1973 when there was a herd of suckler cows, a flock of sheep, but no Longhorns. These appeared at the start of a project to establish a rare breeds park at Raby and Peter was responsible for buying four cows from the Eyebrook herd and a bull, Rousham Bunter. The project was discontinued, but the Longhorns were retained and became part of the commercial suckler enterprise numbering some 200 cows, with Bunter being used as a crossing bull. When the suckler herd was dispersed in the mid 1980s it was decided to expand the Longhorn enterprise and Peter set about purchasing cows at dispersal and production sales as well as privately on farm. Buying only quality animals the herd increased to about a dozen cows after which the herd increased by retaining home bred animals.

In the late 1980s a team from the herd was entered at the Great Yorkshire Show where, over the years the coveted title of Breed Champion was won by three bulls; Linton Coriolanus, Lupat Horatio and, fulfilling an ambition of Peter, the homebred Raby Whinstone. These were the highlights of a number of trophies won over the years at different shows.

By 1997 the herd had reached a size big enough to hold a joint production sale with the Raincliffe herd of John Backhouse. By the time Peter retired in 2000, he had established one of the premier Longhorn herds in the UK and was always pleased to welcome visitors.

Peter was a forthright and independent judge in the show ring, but he was always helpful and encouraging to the newer and novice handlers and also officiated with a sense of humour. Although unfortunate, he took a comedic delight in the fact that on his last judging appointment only one animal turned up. He took his independence into the role of breed inspector at the Society sales in Melton Mowbray in 2003 and 2004 where he set out to ensure that the inspection was carried out in the best interests of the breed.

Having always resisted attempts to nominate him for the membership of the Breed Council he finally agreed but, having formed a clear idea of how he would act to serve the Longhorn breed, he was deeply disappointed not to be elected. However his work for the breed was recognised with the award of the President's Trophy in 2011, by which time his illness had started to take its toll and he was unable to accept in person.

Peter was a sound practical cattleman and was always comfortable in the presence of those of a similar nature, whatever breed they were involved in.

His funeral service was held at Staindrop church next to the Park where Longhorns whose ancestry Peter was responsible for are still kept. Nearly 300 people were present including friends from his Longhorn days.

It is often said at a person's passing that "we shall ne'er see their like again". That certainly applied to Peter in every part of his life and in particular in connection with Longhorn cattle.

Peter Pitchford. November 2012