

Northern Longhorn Breeders Herd Competition 2014

Judge: Peter Close

23 herds forward

I knew by comments from previous judges, Peter Guest, Graham Walker and Pat Stanley, when I took on this task that it would be quite a challenge. What I didn't realise was how big a challenge! After the first two days I already had enough show quality animals in many of the female classes to creditably fill the prize list. Accordingly in discussion with the chairman we decided to split the competition - and duplicate the prize list - between Cumbria and Scotland and Tyneside-Durham-Yorkshire-Cheshire-Lancashire - effectively across Hadrian's Wall! Without two smaller competitions and photographic assistance to jog the memory I don't feel I could have done justice to the cattle I was presented with.

I looked for functional cattle with power and shape - "presence with structural integrity"! It's not always easy to differentiate condition and conformation and too much condition can do untold damage to the future potential of breeding heifers - fat can restrict mammary cell formation between 5-12 months and suppress mammary tissue growth 12-24 months - you never see dairymen with over-fit youngstock! Lack of milk can give rise to fat cows with restricted fertility and small calves that have to be "pushed on" with hard feeding - and so the cycle repeats! I wanted to see cows that kept their owners - not cows merely kept by their owners - and this makes assessment no easier; how often is the worst looking cow the best breeding cow; and the best looking cow the worst breeding cow.

At a herd level I looked for uniformity - a herd, not a collection - but at the same time progression or improvement through the ages by constructive breeding. The younger cows should be better than the older cows and the youngstock should promise more potential than their mothers; what we all strive for but often quite hard to achieve - inevitably luck plays its part. But even more so does identifying what works and taking advantage of it - knowing when you're lucky!

Judging has been a real experience. There are some tremendous cattle out there - the best cows a good 4 inches taller than when we first started in the breed 37 years ago - and with the bulk and conformation to match that increase. Younger cows and senior heifers are outstanding indicating the progress that is being made. Junior heifers are more variable but the options are wider with the breed not particularly suited to calving at two. Steady growth is the order of the day and maiden heifers that aren't pushed too hard - nor starved! - really do blossom once they get in calf. The economics of calving at three can stack up but we have to watch the costs of getting there; high cost:low output is not particularly viable.

There are some outstanding stock bulls being used as well - but very few yearling bulls on the ground. We are a "dam" breed and better females have given us progressively better bulls. Unfortunately the market is still limited. Bulls are living too long! - a credit to the breed and breeders. The secretary recently did a survey on the use of stock bulls and found that they were going through 4 - 5 herds and lasting 10 - 12 years!

In conclusion Northern Breeders can be truly proud of the stock they own. We not only have some outstanding individual animals but some of the year groups of youngstock in herds would be a credit to any breed. It certainly made for difficult judging! Weighing the qualities between herds of the breeding herd against the youngstock and against the calf crop can never be an exact science and I hope I have done justice to the quality of cattle presented to me. Thank you all for allowing me to spend a whole month of my life addressing such an enjoyable, if thought provoking, experience!

Peter Close
Fishwick Longhorns

Senior Bull

Sub-Hadrian

1 st & Ch	Stoke Juniper	David & Graham Walker
2 nd & Res Ch	Stoke Inca	HMP Kirkham
3 rd	Settrington Quest	John Harrison & Ruth Russell
4 th	Blackbrook Sabre	David & Angela Blockley
5 th	Blackden Krypton	Peter Wild
6 th	Raby Kaiserchief	Stuart Mullan

Supra-Hadrian

1 st	Aberdeen Jerimia	Susan Aglionby
2 nd	Wellhead Grasmere Lad	Simon Dalton
3 rd	Aberdeen Monty	Graham Lennox
4 th	Underknoll Legend	Panny Laing
5 th	Frondeg Lion	Colin & Norman Hughes
6 th	Raincliffe Harry	Nicky Lockett

Senior Cow

Sub-Hadrian

1 st & Res Ch	Southfield Fable	David & Angela Blockley
2 nd	Settrington Nimbus	John Harrison & Ruth Russell
3 rd	Broomfield Holly	Graham Willey
4 th	Heronbrook Frucie	Stuart Mullan
5 th	Southfield Classic	Simon Rigby
6 th	Tetford Mistletoe	David & Graham Walker

Supra-Hadrian

1 st & Ch	Bejon Delia	Simon Dalton
2 nd	Raincliffe Frances	Colin & Norman Hughes
3 rd	Logie Harriet	Panny Laing
4 th	Clonyard Whaup	Colin & Jenny Driver
5 th	Wellhead Infinite	Nicky Lockett
6 th	Aberdeen Gentle	Graham Lennox

Junior cow

Sub-Hadrian

1 st	Settrington Octavia	John Harrison & Ruth Russell
2 nd	Lowoaks Kimba	Steven Horrocks
3 rd	Southfield Lace	David & Angela Blockley
4 th	Newton Venus	David & Graham Walker
5 th	Raby Kiwi	Stuart Mullan
6 th	Reiver Cleopatra	Ridley Armstrong

Supra-Hadrian

1 st & Ch	Aberdeen Krystal 19 th	Graham Lennox
2 nd & Res Ch	Wellhead Koh-i-Nor	Nicky Lockett
3 rd	Greenside Jenny	Simon Dalton
4 th	Clonyard Ani	Pam Pumphrey
5 th	Houghton Ianthe	Susan Aglionby
6 th	Howslack Jesse	Colin & Jenny Driver

Homebred Cow

Sub-Hadrian

1 st & Ch Southfield Fable	David & Angela Blockley
2 nd Settrington Nimbus	John Harrison & Ruth Russell
3 rd Broomfield Holly	Graham Willey
4 th Newton Venus	David & Graham Walker
5 th Reiver Cleopatra	Ridley Armstrong
6 th Kirklan Kiera	HMP Kirkham

Supra-Hadrian

1 st & Res Ch Aberdeen Krystal 19 th	Graham Lennox
2 nd Wellhead Koh-i-Nor	Nicky Lockett
3 rd Greenside Jenny	Simon Dalton
4 th Clonyard Ani	Pam Pumphrey
5 th Houghton Ianthe	Susan Aglionby
6 th Logie Harriet	Panny Laing

Senior Heifer

Sub-Hadrian

1 st & Ch Settrington Racy	John Harrison & Ruth Russell
2 nd Kirklan Mary	HMP Kirkham
3 rd Newton Whoopee Do	David & Graham Walker
4 th Southfield Moonstone	David & Angela Blockley
5 th Settrington Rainbow	Harry Hodgson
6 th Beaufront Megan	John Pennie

Supra-Hadrian

1 st & Res Ch Aberdeen Primula	Graham Lennox
2 nd Wellhead Madeira	Nicky Lockett
3 rd Croftlands Molly	Colin & Norman Hughes
4 th Clonyard Coquette	Pam Pumphrey
5 th Logie Maple	Panny Laing
6 th Mandathorn Mulan	Amanda Dixon

Junior Heifer

Sub-Hadrian

1 st Southfield Nymph	David & Angela Blockley
2 nd Kirklan Nicky	HMP Kirkham
3 rd Settrington Strawberry	John Harrison & Ruth Russell
4 th Newton Xtra Topsy	David & Graham Walker
5 th Paragon Nightingale	Stuart Mullan
6 th Beaufront Nell	John Pennie

Supra-Hadrian

1 st & Ch Wellhead N-Dless	Nicky Lockett
2 nd & Res Ch Greenside Natalie	Simon Dalton
3 rd Aberdeen Joan 19 th	Graham Lennox
4 th Logie Nesta	Panny Laing
5 th Croftlands Nigella	Colin & Norman Hughes
6 th Marindin Rosie	Rita Adam

Male calf

Sub-Hadrian

1 st & Ch Southfield 290 [d.Southfield Echo]	David & Angela Blockley
2 nd & Res Ch Paragon Orion [d.Heronbrook Frucie]	Stuart Mullan
3 rd Reiver 27 [d.Reiver Annabel]	Ridley Armstrong
4 th Harold Outstanding [d.Raby Laura]	Harry Hodgson
5 th Newton Yorkie [d.Newton Snowdrop]	David & Graham Walker
6 th Beaufront Oliver [d.Wellhead Guinevere]	John Pennie

Supra-Hadrian

1 st Aberdeen 506 [d.Aberdeen Faith]	Graham Lennox
2 nd Logie 164 [d.Logie Hazel]	Panny Laing
3 rd Houghton Max 102 [d.Houghton Croft]	Susan Aglionby
4 th Wellhead Orwell [d.Wellhead Jubilation]	Nicky Lockett
5 th Croftlands 408 [d.Raincliffe Frances]	Colin & Norman Hughes
6 th Mandathorn Olaf [d.Clonyard Yuhina]	Amanda Dixon

Heifer calf

Sub-Hadrian

1 st Ch & Overall Best Calf Fullwood Olga	Peter Wild
2 nd Kirklan Octavia	HMP Kirkham
3 rd Southfield Osprey	David & Angela Blockley
4 th Newton Yorkshire Lass	David & Graham Walker
5 th Broomfield [d. Broomfield Holly]	Graham Willey
6 th Gale Farm Nicola	Steven Horrocks

Supra-Hadrian

1 st & Res Best Calf Wellhead Oklahoma	Nicky Lockett
2 nd Greenside [d.Greenside Indie]	Simon Dalton
3 rd Aberdeen Krystal 27 th	Graham Lennox
4 th Marindin Moonracer	Rita Adam
5 th Logie Orchid	Panny Laing
6 th Croftlands Ocean	Colin & Norman Hughes

Junior Bull

Sub-Hadrian

1 st & Res Ch Southfield Nitro	David & Angela Blockley
2 nd Kirklan Nero	HMP Kirkham
3 rd Harold Nevis Pyke	Harry Hodgson

Supra-Hadrian

1 st & Ch Aberdeen Nik	Graham Lennox
2 nd Howslack Narrator	Colin & Jenny Driver
3 rd Wellhead Nomad	Nicky Lockett

Steer

Sub-Hadrian

1 st & Ch Settrington	John Harrison & Ruth Russell
2 nd & Res Ch Broomfield	Graham Willey
3 rd Paragon Steer	Stuart Mullan

Supra-Hadrian

1 st Logie Steer 150	Panny Laing
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Crossbred

Sub-Hadrian

1 st & Ch	Newton Limousin x cow & calf	David & Graham Walker
2 nd	& Res Ch Harold AA cross bull calf	Harry Hodgson
3 rd	Broomfield Cross heifer & calf	Graham Willey

Supra-Hadrian

1 st	Greenside Limousin x heifer	Simon Dalton
2 nd	Clonyard AA x Heifer calf	Pam Pumphrey
3 rd	Marindin Shetland Cross Cow	Rita Adam

Small Herd [14 cows or less] Wellhead Shield

Sub-Hadrian [7 herds]

1 st & Res Ch	Paragon herd	Stuart Mullan
2 nd	Fullwood herd	Peter Wild
3 rd	Gale Farm herd	Steven Horrocks

Supra- Hadrian [5 herds]

1 st & Ch	Logie herd	Panny Laing
2 nd	Houghton herd	Susan Aglionby
3 rd	Howslack herd	Colin & Jenny Driver

Large Herd [15 cows or more] Clonyard Shield

Sub-Hadrian [5 herds]

1 st & Ch	Southfield herd	David & Angela Blockley
2 nd	Settrington herd	John Harrison & Ruth Russell
3 rd	= Kirkland herd	HMP Kirkham
3 rd	= Newton herd	David & Graham Walker

Supra- Hadrian [5 herds]

1 st & Res Ch	Aberdeen herd	Graham Lennox
2 nd	Wellhead herd	Nicky Luckett
3 rd	= Croftlands herd	Colin & Norman Hughes
3 rd	= Greenside herd	Simon Dalton

Newton Shield (Best Senior Bull)	Stoke Juniper
Howslack Shield (Best Junior Bull)	Aberdeen Nik
Maxwell-Pumphrey Shield (Best Senior Cow)	Bejon Delia
Levisham Cup (Best Junior Cow)	Aberdeen Krystal 19th
Fishwick Shield (Best Homebred Cow)	Southfield Fable
Paragon Trophy (Best Senior Heifer)	Settrington Racy
Overdale Cup (Best Junior Heifer)	Wellhead N-Dless
Settrington Salver (Best 2014 calf)	Fullwood Olga
Ginger Pig Cup (Best Purebred Steer)	Settrington
Capontree Vets Trophy (Best Cross-bred)	Newton
Clonyard Shield (Best Large Herd)	Southfield Herd
Wellhead Shield (Best Small Herd)	Logie Herd