

NEWSLETTER



MERRY XMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL BRITISH SIMMENTAL MEMBERS!

The Society would like to extend the very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy, and hopefully more 'normal' and prosperous, New Year!

This December Newsletter is also an opportunity for the Society to say a sincere 'thank you' to all BSCS members for your continued support, it is hugely valued and appreciated. The membership and the breed is the very heart and purpose of the Society's work and looking forward, every commitment is given that the Society will continue to work hard to meet and exceed core objectives and to deliver a level of added value, professional services.

Through the disrupted year, the sale demand for Simmental bulls from commercial producers and pedigree breeders has been solid and it was encouraging to see the breed sell the biggest number of bulls at Stirling in October and to an increased average. In circulating the weekly Market Briefs, it is also clear that the breed is performing well and profitably at commercial markets around the UK. Pedigree registration numbers are at a similar level to recent years, with a little downward pressure, and financially the Society is in good order with the resources to take aim at a body of core and progressive work.

The BSCS President Stewart Stronach has outlined his aim for the Society to be commercially focussed, and in the previous Newsletter urged breeders to cull hard and be selective to

continue to build the quality across the national herdbook. In repeating his quote he said: "British Simmental is established as one of the most influential and profitable breeds in the beef industry and has all the attributes to be a maternal mainstay of the commercial suckler herd across the UK."

"Efficiency is our strength in so many ways. Simmentals are versatile; complement all breeds; are easy calving, maternal milky mothers; produce beef from grass and are easy fleshing; are fast growing with terrific weight for age; and are long lasting functional cattle. These are the efficiencies beef producers and the modern industry are looking for and is what the Simmental breed can deliver. If we continue to do this and highlight the breed's efficiencies and profitability, I feel there is a ready demand for Simmental cattle and a bright future ahead."

So, as a breed and a Society, there are of course challenges ahead, but there's a lot to be positive about and to take aim at! Through 2021 we again have to work within the prevailing conditions but will be looking at every means of effectively extending the promotion and visibility of the breed, and the reach and business of the Society to commercial producers and the industry at large. I hope that will be a collective journey by the sum of the Simmental Society in all its parts, and good connectivity and communication will be key and very much a priority. Thank you again for your continued support and best wishes for 2021.



2021 SOCIETY CALENDAR

Please find enclosed a copy of the Society's complimentary calendar for 2021. As you will see it's a bit different in content this year with a mixture of pedigree and commercial shots of the breed. The pictures are from regions around the UK featuring the breed in action in typical, and in many instances, scenic environments. We have included provisional sale and show dates for the year but again please be aware that many dates are to be confirmed and are subject to change.

CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSING DATES

As you know the BSCS staff have been working from home recently with the office being closed due to the ongoing Covid situation. For the Christmas period the office is 'officially closed', from 5.00pm on December 23rd, with staff being available again on Monday 4th January. Registrations can still be submitted in this period online and by paper means. Emails and post received between these dates, and any telephone messages left, will also be dealt with from the 4th January date. I trust that this is in order.

IMPORTANT: TRANSITION OF SOCIETY'S DNA SERVICE PROVISION FROM MICROSATELLITES (MS) TO SNPS

Members are notified that the Society is actively discussing with Weatherbys Scientific, a transition of the Society's DNA services from Microsatellite (MS) technology to Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) technology.

As you may be aware, SNP technology has been used in the livestock industry for almost a decade now, and with most of the principle herdbooks, working with Weatherbys, having made the transition.

At a glance, the principle points would be that the SNP technology:

- is more robust for sire and parentage verification
- it gives the ability to add more to a single test, parentage plus polled would be an example, as opposed to requiring separate tests at more cost
- it also gives the platform from which, if the Society chose to do so, major gene testing can be carried out for a range of such as health traits, traits of economic importance, and for work in genomics generally.

Importantly, the increasing use of SNP technology at an industry wide level has seen a significant drop off in the use of Microsatellites for parentage verification purposes. Weatherbys have made clear that the use of MS technology will be phased out and possibly as early as 2022. As use across the industry diminishes then costs for MS may also increase. Given this, and if the Society is to make the transition to SNPs, it is sensible to do so in a good time prior to the phase out of MS.

The Society's Council is presently discussing with Weatherbys Scientific the work and cost involved in making the transition, and also the cost of DNA services and price points in using the SNP technology. It will of course be the Society's aim, in any transition, to keep the costs to members as practical as is possible.

This is a first notice to inform members and to make you aware of the discussions and further updates will be notified to members accordingly.

DNA FOR FEBRUARY STIRLING BULL SALE

A big thank you is extended to all sale vendors who have entered bulls for the February 2021 Stirling Sales. At around the close of entries in November we had received nearly all of the required samples from the bulls entered! This makes a massive difference and is hugely helpful. It obviously reduces the admin and 'chasing' time, and getting them away early means that there is time to deal with any matters that may arise. *At the time of writing 160 bulls have been entered for the February 2021 Sale. No final date for the sale has yet been confirmed by United Auctions.

SOCIETY OFFICE BEARER'S NOW IN PLACE

As you are aware, and following the Society's 50th AGM, Stewart Stronach was duly elected as the BSCS President. With the first full BSCS Council meeting now having taken place, by Zoom, the remaining office bearers have now been elected and the full team is as follows:

President: Stewart Stronach, Islavale Herd

Vice President: Norman Robson, Kilbride Farm Herd

Chairman of Finance: John Moore, Omorga Herd

Chairman of Shows & Sales North: Michael Durno, Auchorachan Herd

Chairman of Shows & Sales South: Simon Key, Key Herd

World Simmental Fleckvieh Federation Representative: Michael Barlow, Denizes Herd

To view the Society's full Council of Management then please visit: <https://www.britishsimmental.co.uk/useful-info/council>

FOR THE 2020 REVIEW: SEMEN FOR SALE & PEDIGREE LEVY SCHEME

Each year in The Review the Society carries a list of semen from bulls for private sale from Society members. A further page highlights bulls that are on the Pedigree Registration Levy Scheme (Semen Royalty). Would respective members please confirm, **by 4th January**, that they would like their bulls to be retained on these lists, or any bulls that need to be added or removed. Please send an email to information@britishsimmental.co.uk

REMINDER: 50TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW RESCHEDULED FOR 9TH JULY 2021

Just a reminder that the British Simmental Cattle Society's 50th anniversary show and sale is aimed to take place on Friday 9th July 2021 in the Exhibition Hall, Borderway Mart, Carlisle. The rescheduled show and sale, postponed this year due to the Covid-19 situation, will follow a very similar format to what had been planned for 2020. As previous, the Covid 19 situation of course remains an unknown in the context of what will be possible in terms of gatherings next year. In planning this rescheduled show, Council are very mindful of that. Preparatory work is continuing but ensuring that no major expenditures are incurred or committed to and as the situation is continually monitored. Look out for more information on this announcement in further newsletters and on the Society's website.

2020 SIMMENTAL REVIEW UPDATE & 50TH PUBLICATION

Thank you to everyone who has supported the 2020 Simmental Review with advertising, it's greatly appreciated. If anyone has a last minute advert they would like to place then please do contact us and we will do our best to include as production continues. We are working hard on The Review and, as previously notified, are aiming to have it published in February. Again, by the nature of this year one or two factors are impacting on work but we will really try to keep to timelines.

After considered thought we are taking aim at producing a stand alone 50th Anniversary Simmental publication, separate to The Review, that will be pictorially reflective of the breed and Society in the UK from 1970 – Present. The intent is to have this publication for members to be largely finalised by the rescheduled 50th Anniversary Show at Carlisle in July. That event will be the final piece to report on and to drop into the publication for it to be produced thereafter. Again, as we have to underline with everything at present, event planning such as the show is subject to change and the publication date may alter. I trust this further publication will be well received and a further vehicle to promote the breed.



SNAPSHOT SALE SUMMARY: ISLAVALE BULLS MAKE 14,000GNS TO LEAD A SOLID SIMMENTAL TRADE AT STIRLING

- 52 Simmental bulls average £5589, up by £411
- Simmentals lead the breeds in numbers sold



Two bulls from the Islavale herd of Mr WS Stronach, Berryleys Farm, Grange, Keith both made 14,000gns to lead a solid Simmental trade at the Stirling October Bull Sale held at United Auctions Stirling Agricultural Centre on Monday 19th October.

The sale saw four bulls making five figures and over, and twenty-six in all selling at 5000gns or more. The fifty-two bulls sold, the most by any breed in the week, averaged a healthy £5589 which was up by £411 on the year. The clearance rate was 64% of the bulls forward.

Bulls to produce top quality breeding females were very much in demand from commercial breeders who led the bidding. Commenting on the bulls, John Roberts of United Auctioneers said: "It was a strong show and there was a ready demand for long, clean bulls with a bit of size and style and with good milk figures." Bulls sold into all areas of Scotland and into the islands with eleven going to Orkney and further bulls also going to the Isle of Islay, and Isle of Bute.

The first of the Islavale bulls at 14,000gns was the April 2019 born Islavale Kristoff 19. Semen tested prior to sale, this bull is by Corskie Highlander who has had previous sons to 15,000gns, and is out of the seven-year-old Islavale Ethel EX 91. Purchasing the joint top price was Pitgaveny Farms who run the Pitgaveny pedigree herd at Elgin, Morayshire.

Also from the Stronach's at 14,000gns was Islavale Kai 19. Again April 2019 born, this bull is by Curaheen Giant 2 whose progeny have sold at Stirling up to 16,000gns, and is out of the Popes Laird daughter Islavale Britney. This bull was purchased by commercial producers J&J Pattullo at Sandyford, Kirriemuir, Angus who run 150 Simmental x Limousin cows and are looking to breed our own heifers. This is the most we've paid for a bull and it's very much an investment for the herd to produce and leave the quality of progeny we're looking for. We want to have plenty of length in our cows and also good milk."

Another good pen of bulls, semen tested and with excellent

performance figures, came in the shape of the offering from the Strathisla herd of Strathisla Farms, Moolies, Meigle, Blairgowrie. Topping this pen at 11,500gns was the April 2019 born Strathisla Kinloch 19. In the top 1% of the breed for milk and with a Self Replacing Index of +118, this bull is by the noted sire Atlow Dixon 12 EX 91, and is out of Strathisla Foxys Mira VG 88, who is from the 'best breeding line' in the herd. Strathisla Kinloch was bought by R&N Barclay, (Harestone Farm), South Road, Insch, Aberdeenshire for their 400-cow commercial herd which is heavily influenced by Simmental genetics.

The final bull in the four figure prices was Broombrae Kojac 19 who made 10,000gns for the breeder Mr GL Clark, Broombrae Farm, Auchtermuchty, Cupar, Fife. This bull is by the herd sire Lisglass Goldstar 15, who this year won the senior bull

class in the Society's Virtual Show, and is out of the Team Wisconsin daughter Broombrae Delight. Purchasing the March 2019 born Broombrae Kojac 19 was Mr D Lowry who runs the Keeldrum pedigree herd at Newsteadings Farm, Cartland, Lanark. After the sale Mr Lowry said; "This bull is full of breeding and from a very strong female line. I know the sire very well and the mother, Broombrae Delight, is one of the best cows I've seen. The bull in himself is long and clean, has a bit of power about him, an excellent top, and is very correct on his legs." The Keeldrum herd presently comprises of seventy plus cows.

For the full extended reports including quotes, pictures, and averages then please visit: <https://www.britishsimmental.co.uk/sales-1>



SIMMENTAL HEIFERS SELL FOR £4200 & £3600 AT RUAS BEEF AND LAMB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Simmental sired heifers at £4200, and £3600, were very much at the top end of the prices at the sale following the third Royal Ulster Premier Beef & Lamb Championships held at Balmoral Park on Tuesday 24th November. On the night, sale records were repeatedly smashed, with exceptional prices across the board reaffirming the event as the Premier show and sale for prime livestock in Northern Ireland.

Despite greatly reduced numbers of people allowed to attend the event due to the Covid situation, the full day of judging and auctions was live streamed and as a result, literally thousands watched on from across the globe! The lamb and cattle sales were also viewed live with many lots purchased online in both rings. The quality of livestock forward was top drawer with a mighty 52 beef and lamb show classes culminating in an array of breed and special Championships and some bumper sales.

Lifting the Simmental Championship was a 598kgs heifer from the noted JCB Commercials Team from Crossgar. This heifer

went on to sell for £4200, or £7.02 per kg, to Shane Mullen, Cavan. The Reserve Simmental Championship went to James Alexander (JALEX), Randalstown, with his heifer out of a BB cow. Weighing in at 632kgs she sold for £3600, or £5.69 per kg, to G McGerrigle, Donemana.

Libby Clarke, Chair of the Beef & Lamb committee was absolutely delighted with how it all went and commented on how the use of technology had taken the event to so many people and made it a success: "...The Championships has been a tremendous success with exhibitors showcasing the very best beef and lamb from our local farms. With the innovative use of live streaming, and online sales running in tandem with ringside bidding we have raised the bar in terms of running a top-class event and I sincerely want to record thanks to all that ensured this went without a hitch..."

Auctioneers: Richard Beattie, Beatties Livestock.

BRITISH SIMMENTAL EMBRYOS EXPORTED TO AUSTRALIA

- 32 embryos from the Kilbride Farm herd exported to New South Wales



In another sizeable pedigree Simmental export, 32 embryos from the noted Kilbride Farm herd of WH Robson & Sons, Ballyclare, Northern Ireland, have been exported to Australia and the Knox Farms Simmental Fleckvieh herd of Jeff & Robbie Knox, 'Kokomo', near Goulbourn, New South Wales.

With an interest in both horned and polled cattle, and liking the type of cattle seen on the Kilbride Farm Facebook and Instagram posts, Jeff Knox originally contacted the Robsons to enquire about importing semen from the herd's homozygous polled stock bull Kilbride Farm Hans PP. With the semen not qualified for export to Australia, some further research and discussion led to the collection and sale of the embryos.

Through analysis of pictures, pedigrees, and performance information of many of the herd's cows, Mr Knox particularly liked the daughters of the bull Crugmelyn Brenin and picked out Kilbride Farm Gina 26F and Kilbride Farm Eunice 206G. Kilbride Farm Kells, a Sneumgaard Emperor PP son out of Kilbride Farm Gina 26F, finished second in the young bull class of the Society's 2020 Virtual Show and was subsequently sold to the pedigree Kilcorn herd of Mr M Hamill, Portadown. Kilbride Farm Eunice 206G is described as 'a massive cow weighing 1090kg' with a stated aim of Mr Knox being to introduce more size into his herd. Previously her full brother Kilbride Farm Digby, sold for 11,500gns in Stirling.

In total, 32 embryos were collected in two flushes by Parklands Veterinary Group who also looked after the administration

and paperwork of the export to Australia. The bull Kilbride Farm Hans PP, where the Knox's interest was first initiated, was used for all of the flushes. Kilbride Farm Hans PP is noted for producing easy calved, fast growing cattle which are predominantly red, and with red eye patches. These traits and characteristics are sought after and preferred in Australia. Semen from both Kilbride Farm Hans PP, and his sire Sneumgaard Emperor PP has been sold widely across Europe. Whilst the Robsons have exported semen previously to Australia, the sale of embryos to Australia is a first and a new market for these genetics.

Commenting on the sale, Michael Robson said: "We are delighted with the sale of Kilbride Farm pedigree Simmental genetics to Australia. Jeff Knox was looking for polled genetics, pedigree, and performance figures, combined with the typical Simmental attributes of growth potential, milk, easy calving and breed character. We will be keeping in touch and look forward to see how the resulting progeny do in due course." The embryos are due to be implanted in early December and some further females are already being considered for potential flushes and export next year.

The sale of these embryos is another export of British Simmental genetics from Northern Ireland. Earlier this year in what was an export first from Northern Ireland, three bulls and eight heifers from the Omorga and Hiltonstown herds respectively were exported to herds in the breed's homeland countries of Switzerland and Germany.



SimmentalMarket
WWW.SIMMENTALMARKET.CO.UK

SIMMENTAL BULLS FROM THE NEWBIEMAINS AND AUCHORACHAN HERDS EXPORTED TO ITALY

The seemingly ever-increasing demand for British Simmental genetics abroad has seen a further export of four Simmental bulls to an AI centre in Italy. Three bulls from the Newbiemains herd of Jim & Patricia Goldie, Newbie Mains Farm, Annan, Dumfriesshire, along with a further bull from the Auchorachan herd of D&R Durno & Sons, Auchorachan, Glenlivet, Ballindalloch, Banffshire, were exported in late September.



The bulls have been purchased by the US based Horizon Genetics and, following the first collection, the semen is destined for use in the US market with further collections destined for China.

Having initially seen videos and pictures of British Simmental online and through social media, representatives of Horizon genetics then came to view stock at farms in England and Scotland last year. Initially the idea had been to source embryos but having seen the quality of the animals first-hand, the decision was taken to purchase an initial selection of young bulls.

Commenting on the criteria for selecting the bulls, Jim Goldie said: "Horizon were very much looking for strong, beefy type Simmentals that were very correct, had plenty of length, and were from good families. Colourings and markings were important, with the bulls having to have white faces, and there were also strict health requirements."

The three Newbiemains bulls are all by different sires.

Newbiemains Jax is by the homebred Newbiemains Golden Eye; Newbiemains Kiddo is by Woodhall Fantastic; with Newbiemains Knightstone being the first bull the herd has sold by herd sire Moorglen Hillbilly. Auchorachan Johnstone, September 2018 born, is by Team Fergus 14 EX91 and is out of Auchorachan Faye VG 89. Speaking of the market potential, Michael Durno said, "We hope these bulls go on to do well are delighted that Horizon Genetics are already considering further bulls moving into the 2021 year."

Both breeders endorsed the power of advertising good quality stock online and through social media with pictures and videos, and said that the visibility really did bring worldwide opportunities in what was a very competitive marketplace.

In further commenting, Jim Goldie went on to say: "This has been an exciting challenge and learning experience, and it has opened a door for UK genetics into significant markets like China and US. We're hopeful these boys can do a sterling job for promoting British Simmental worldwide which could be great for the breed in the UK going forward."

In addition to these bulls to Italy, recent Simmental exports have seen embryos being sold to Australia, and females and young bulls exported to Switzerland & Germany.

7-MONTH-OLD CWMBROMLEY SUCKLED CALF SELLS FOR £1000 AT BISHOPS CASTLE

An April born Simmental sired suckled calf sold for £1000 on 19th November at the sale held in Bishops Castle Livestock Market, Shropshire. This steer calf went on to top the pence per kilos sale price at 351p/kg compared to the sale average for steers of 254 p/kg. Bred by commercial producer Wayne Davies, Cwmbromley, Sarn, Newtown, Powys the calf is by the bull Killiworgie Emperor which was purchased from the breeders Steve & Gill Gummow, Newquay, Cornwall. April 10th born it weighed in at 285kgs and is out of a Lim X BB cow. Having had some 'cracking' commercial calves to date Mr Davies has also used the bull on his pedigree Cwmbromley Simmental herd. Killiworgie Emperor is 2013 born and by Auchorachan Wizard and out of Ballinalare Farm Buttercup 2nd. In sharing and commenting on social media, Halls Livestock Auctioneers said "Probably The best commercial Simmental we've ever seen!! Making a flying trade at Bishops Castle Auction..!"

PROVISIONAL BSCS SALE DATES FOR 2021

Please see below a calendar of provisional BSCS sale dates, including Club Sales, for the 2021 year. Due to the ongoing Covid situation these sales and dates may be subject to change and we will keep you informed in communications from here.

FEBRUARY

14th - 15th - UA Stirling Bull Sales, - TBC
24th - Aberdeen & Northern Marts,
Thainstone

MARCH

26th - NI Society Sale, Dungannon
27th - Centre West Club Sale, Melton
Mowbray - TBC

MAY

1st - Worcester Sale, McCartneys
3rd - UA Stirling Multibreed Sale - TBC
15th - Carlisle Sale, Borderway Mart

JULY

9th - 50th Anniversary Show and Sale,
Carlisle, Borderway Mart

SEPTEMBER

25th - Worcester Sale, McCartneys - TBC

OCTOBER

17th-18th - UA Stirling Bull Sales - TBC
22nd - NI Club Sale, Dungannon

PLEASE NOTE THE YEAR LETTER FOR 2021 IS 'M'

With the calendar ticking over into 2021, members are reminded that the registration letter for the year is 'M'. Please see below a list of suggested names, both male and female, that I hope you find helpful when registering pedigree calves.

SUGGESTED BULL NAMES FOR 2021

Mack	Marcopolo	Martin	Maverick	Mickey	Mischief
Maestro	Marek	Martinez	Max	Midas	Mohamed
Magic	Mariner	Mascot	Maxwell	Midge	Monarch
Magnificent	Mario	Mason	Mayor	Mighty	Moneymaker
Magnus	Marius	Masterpiece	Mcgregor	Mike	Monty
Major	Mark	Mata	Mckenzie	Mikel	Morgan
Malcolm	Marksman	Matador	Memphis	Milan	Morris
Manny	Marouane	Matteo	Mercury	Millar	Moses
Manuel	Marquis	Matthew	Merlin	Milord	Mourinho
Maradona	Mars	Mattie	Micah	Minor	Mungo
Marcel	Marshall	Maurice	Michael	Minstrel	Murray

SUGGESTED FEMALE NAMES FOR 2021

Mabel	Majesty	Marilyn	Mavis	Michelle	Moirra
Madam	Mandy	Marion	May	Milady	Molly
Maddison	Marchioness	Marquise	Megan	Millie	Mona
Madeleine	Marcia	Marta	Melanie	Minnie	Moneypenny
Madge	Margaret	Martini	Melinda	Mint	Monica
Madonna	Margo	Mary	Melissa	Miranda	Monroe
Maeve	Maria	Matchmaker	Melody	Miriam	Morag
Maggie	Mariah	Matilda	Mercedes	Misty	Muriel
Maisie	Marigold	Maud	Mia	Modesty	Myla