



BRITISH SIMMENTAL

CATTLE SOCIETY

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY 2023 NEW YEAR TO ALL BRITISH SIMMENTAL MEMBERS!

The clock has quickly gone round and here we are heading towards 2023! In this end of year newsletter the Society's Council and staff would like to extend the warmest of seasons greetings to members and with the very best wishes for a happy and healthy 2023 New Year. As is very fitting and traditional, it is also a further opportunity to sincerely thank all members for your continued support. The membership is the essential heartbeat of what makes the Society and the assurance is again there that we will continue to work hard to promote the Simmental breed, and to provide a professional level of herdbook, technical, and administrative services.

Again, the end of year message is always a good time to finish on the front foot and there have been many 'Simmental positives' that we can reflect on in 2022, particularly at sales, and at a glance would include:

- Back-to-back record breed averages of over £6,800 achieved at Stirling Feb Sales.
- A further new Simmental breed record average of £7,559 at the October Stirling Sale, up by £1,597 on the year.
- The second staging of the Next Gen Sale saw an increased 18,000gns top price and heifer averages at £5,202, up by over £800 on the year.
- Over £2Million of pedigree Simmental cattle had been sold at Society sales in the year.
- Pedigree registrations & notifications increased by 15% to an overall total of 7,388, up by 960.

Let's take aim, in what of course is a continued difficult economic climate, to sustain these

figures and to build upon them where we can. In November time a Zoom meeting was held of the Chair & Secretaries of the regional Simmental Clubs. There were a few shared challenges but the togetherness and positivity to promote and showcase the breed across the country was fantastic. Harnessing such a collective 'team approach' and maximising the 'Simmental resource' in all its parts can only make us more effective in marketing, and growing breed awareness to commercial producers and the industry at large.

From here regional clubs will be organising a programme of activities and interacting with the Society on those, whilst collectively supporting national Simmental events. In quick summary the 2023 year will see a continued emphasis on breed promotion. Later in the newsletter you will see we have the planned introduction of three Simmental Farm Open Days in different UK geographies; a commercially focussed 'agile and flexible' mini magazine will be produced to promote the breed with targeted marketing; and the Review will continue to be a breed promotional flagship publication. There will be promotional attendance at specialist beef events; three Simmental National Shows are in place; and the Society will have its usual presence at summer major shows, and autumn/winter events. Emphasis will also continue on developing breed social media and all-round digital marketing which has proved hugely effective and has seen some remarkable numbers. It's just a quick snapshot of some aims ahead and we hope 'whets the appetite' a little.

Have a fantastic family festive season from all at British Simmental and we look forward to seeing you at British Simmental shows, sales and events through 2023.



NORMAN ROBSON ELECTED AS THE 27TH PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH SIMMENTAL CATTLE SOCIETY

Northern Irish Simmental breeder Norman Robson of Doagh, Ballyclare, Co Antrim, has been announced as the new President of the British Simmental Cattle Society. Mr Robson was elected following the Society's recent AGM held in Stirling in October, and takes over the reins from Stewart Stronach, Maisley, Keith, following the completion of Mr Stronach's two-year term of office. Steeped in Simmental history, Norman Robson becomes the third member of the Robson family to serve as BSCS President with his father Billy being President in 1985-1986, and 1999-2000; and his brother Michael holding the office between 2011-2012.

The Kilbride Farm Simmental herd, now consisting of 90-100 Simmental cows, is one of the most recognisable names in the pedigree beef sector, with a highlight reel track record of selling bulls and Simmental genetics through home and Society Sales to pedigree breeders and commercial producers in the UK and to international markets. The herd was established in 1971 with four heifers from the first importation into Northern Ireland.

Over the years the Kilbride Farm herd has attained a mighty seven Supreme Championships at the Perth and Stirling Sales and whilst regularly attaining five figure prices. The majority of bulls in a typical year are sold privately off farm to buyers in the UK and Ireland. Kilbride Farm genetics have been exported in the early years to North America, Australia and New Zealand whilst more recently it has been 'coals to Newcastle', with the herd exporting semen and stock back to the breed's homeland countries of Austria and Switzerland. The Kilbride Farm has always aimed to grow fleshy cattle with a moderate mature weight, and with stock bulls used to add uniformity. Over recent

years the herd has introduced the polled gene with 70-80% of the cows now carrying polled genetics whilst retaining Kilbride Farm's traditional qualities.

Commenting, Norman Robson said: "It is a huge honour and a privilege to be elected as the 27th President of the British Simmental Cattle Society, and to be the sixth breeder from Northern Ireland to hold this office. With a motivated membership and Council, I hope to lead a Society that offers value and assistance through practical breeding tools to all breeders, and positively promotes British Simmental to every industry level.

Over the last two years we have seen some record sale averages for the Simmental breed, some successful new fixtures, and an increase in pedigree registrations. It is very much a further aim that we can continue to build on this base and to grow the reach of the breed into all areas of the UK."

"No other breed has the flexibility of the Simmental, from crossing on a Luing type cow on the hill, to high output lowland suckler herds, and as a crossing sire onto the dairy herd. As breeders if we can collectively continue to provide the genetics for a profitable, sustainable forward beef industry, I feel there is a bright future for British Simmental."

In his new role as BSCS President, and off to a busy start, Norman has already been in attendance and meeting members at the Stirling Sale, the Four Breeds Calf Show, the Next Generation Sale, a Zoom meeting of the BSCS Club Chair & Secretaries, a BSCS Council meeting, and has been interviewed for a Farmers Weekly podcast. Hitting the ground running!



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR DATES FOR THE BSCS OFFICE

The Society's office will close for the Christmas period at 5pm on Thursday 22nd December and will reopen on Tuesday 3rd January at 9am. Please note that registrations can still be submitted over this period either online or by paper means. All emails and post received whilst the office is closed, and any telephone messages left, will also be dealt with and replied to from the 3rd January date.

SIMMENTAL REVIEW 2023 & PUBLICATIONS

Thank you to everyone who has booked and placed an advert in this year's Review, it is greatly appreciated. PLEASE NOTE: If anyone would still like to advertise then please contact the office. Whilst we can't guarantee inclusion at this late stage we will try and accommodate if we can. [Contact information@britishsimmental.co.uk](mailto:contactinformation@britishsimmental.co.uk) or Tel: 02476 696513. As it builds, the Review will again be a mix of news, articles, features, reports, and general information around all things British Simmental. Publication of the 52nd Review will be aimed at late January/early February in 2023 and prior to the Stirling Bull Sale. Copies will again be posted to all members, in addition to the agricultural media, international associations, colleges and universities, and to a list of industry influencers. The Review will also be available at shows, sales, and events through next year. As indicated previously the Society is looking at the idea of a supplementary commercial newsletter being produced through the year. The simple aim is that this 'agile' publication will be targeted at commercial beef producers to promote the abilities, efficiency, and profitability of the Simmental breed, and also to further highlight upcoming sales. Watch this space as this is considered.

BSCS FARM OPEN DAYS ANNOUNCED FOR 2023

A big part of forward breed promotion is for the Society in association with respective regional clubs, to hold a series of Farm Open days at venues, commercial and pedigree, across the UK.

Kicking this off in 2023 we are excited to announce that Simmental Farm Open days will be held at:

Vernon and Jon Bailey's Mixbury Hall, Near Brackley in Northamptonshire. This 530-acre mixed farm of beef, sheep and arable carries a closed herd of 70 pedigree Simmentals with 10 to 12 retained each year, and remaining heifers sold to other breeders across the UK. Young bulls not suitable for breeding are finished and sold direct, with the remaining male calves sold as yearlings through the local Thame market. A great venue to host the first Simmental Farm Open day in the year.

Next up will be noted commercial producers **Colin and Robert Manson, D & G Mason & Sons, Brodieshill Farm, Forres, Inverness.** The Mansons have 145 head of suckler cows the majority of which are Simmental crosses, calving in the Spring, and they breed all of their own replacements. Previously finishing the bull calves, they have more recently been castrating them and selling them as stores at Thainstone. At present the Mansons run three Simmental bulls purchased from the Blackford and Islavale herds. A very focussed commercial herd and will be a top venue.

In August the Society and Wales Simmental Club will hold a further Farm Open Day at the **Dewisland herd of Mark and Emma Evans, Upper Harglodd, Haverfordwest, Pems.** Farming across holdings, there's an emphasis on home grown feed in what is both a pedigree and commercial suckler system. Fifty pedigree cows and 20 in-calf heifers form the basis of the pedigree herd at Upper Harglodd. In added value diversification, the Evans' also have a boxed beef scheme, and run a micro-brewery! Sure to be another hugely interesting day.

At the time of writing, we are finalising the dates with the host farms and will be advertising them early in the New Year. Some great Simmental based visits ahead and Farm Open days not to be missed!

2023 SPRING SIMMENTAL SALES IN ENGLAND

- Worcester Sale date now Saturday 29th April

A principle aim of the Society is to continue the development of sales in England and to grow the reach and visibility of the Simmental breed. The second staging of the Next Generation Sale at Carlisle has built on the foundation of last year and we hope this sale will quickly become an established breed fixture and with vendors and buyers from all geographies. The next Simmental sale in England is the fledgling Melton Mowbray Multi Breed on March 25th and which saw a 5,000gns Simmental top price this year for a Cade bull. PLEASE NOTE: Due to a clash with the King's Coronation

date, the Worcester Sale has been brought forward one week to Saturday 29th April. This fixture will still have a pre-sale show as per normal. The Simmental Sale at Carlisle, held within a multi breed fixture, is scheduled for Saturday 13th May, and this fixture this year realised top prices of 6,200gns, and 6,000gns for Cheestermann bulls. Again, we would very much encourage you to support these sales and with good quality entries of bulls and females. The Society will continue to work hard through advertising and social media to promote Melton, Worcester, and Carlisle on behalf of members.

SCANNING SERVICES

As you are aware there has been a recent pressure on the number of scanners available for the provision of services across the UK. We are pleased to say that after a recent crush side scanning accreditation course held in Lincoln, that another four scanners have passed and are now available for scanning. Along with the existing five scanners hopefully this will ease the pressure of members of all breed societies getting cattle scanned, and in time for sales. The newly accredited scanners are;

JIM BARBER	CHESHIRE	j.barber334@btinternet.com
GORDON CLARKE	SCOTLAND	glclark@gmx.com
LINDA MACKENDRICK	SCOTLAND	arnydie77@hotmail.co.uk
STUART FRISWELL	MIDLANDS	sfscanning@outlook.com
MAY MILLAR	SCOTLAND	maymillarscanning@gmail.com
GWION PARRY	WALES	gwionbodgaea@hotmail.co.uk
NAIRN WYLLIE	MIDLANDS	njwagri@gmail.com
WILLIAM TAIT	N IRELAND	wtait37@gmail.com
WILLIE WILSON	SCOTLAND	williewilson4@btinternet.com

ABRI will have this full list of UK scanners on their web site soon and these details will also be available on the Society's website. We hope this allows members to book scanning as required for 2023.



Brandane Lulu - 18,000gns.

18,000GNS BRANDANE LU LU HITS THE HIGH NOTE AT SIMMENTAL NEXT GENERATION II SALE

- 18,000gns a breed centre record price
- Heifers average £5,202, up by £806 on the year, and a new breed centre record average
- Overhill House sells to 9,000gns
- 8,000gns Denizes Eve's Beauty 7th makes the top maiden heifer price
- Islavale leads the weaned calf trade at 6,500gns



Overhill House Luna-9,000gns.

Denizes Eve's Beauty 7th - 8,000gns.

Jimmy & Kath McMillan, Bradwell Ash, Bury St Edmunds sold the in-calf heifer Brandane Lu Lu for 18,000gns, to lead the second staging of the Simmental Next Generation Sale of females and weaned calves at Carlisle's Borderway Mart on Friday 2nd December.

Purchasing the top price was Reece and Andrew Simmers for their noted Backmuir herd at Keith, Banffshire. Brandane Lu Lu is a full sister to Sterling FCUK Impuls who previously sold to the Backmuir herd for 13,000gns at Stirling in February 2019.

Again the catalogue and trade was dominated by in-calf, served, and maiden heifers. At a snapshot glance, Richard McCulloch, Armadale, West Lothian sold an in-calf heifer from his Overhill House prefix for 9,000gns; the Denizes herd at Leyland, Lancashire led the maiden heifer trade at 8,000gns with a further maiden at 6,000gns; the Newbiemans herd of Jim & Patricia Goldie, Dumfriesshire sold a served heifer to 7,000gns; and with the Heathbrow herd of DA & LA Sapsed, Hitchin, Herts, selling an in-calf heifer to 7,000gns.

The Islavale herd of WS Stronach, Keith, Banffshire won the Hugo Arnold Trophy for Weaned Calves in the pre-sale show judged by Chris Weatherup of the Lisglass Herd, Ballyclare, Co Antrim, and took the top calf price of 6,500gns; a further weaned calf from the Overhill House herd made 6,000gns.

The establishing Next Generation Sale II saw some further breed record marks set combined with new entrants to the breed buying some of the leading lots on the day. The 18,000gns top price was a centre record for the Simmental breed and eclipsed the 16,000gns price achieved at last year's sale.

Twenty-two heifers sold to average a very healthy £5,202 which was up by £806 on the year, and again a new centre record average for the Simmental breed. Fourteen lots in all made 4,000gns or more and the sale saw a 74% clearance rate.

Speaking after the sale, the British Simmental Cattle Society's General manager Iain Kerr said: "The Next Generation Sale is a fixture that the Society aims to become established and recognised for offering primarily Simmental females with style, quality, a depth of bloodlines, and full of forward potential. Quality is the key, and with the ready trade and averages for the heifers, I think this second staging of Next Gen is another positive step forward for the breed."

To see the full report and pictures then please visit the Society's website at www.britishsimmental.co.uk



Heathbrow Girlie's Laurel 7,000gns.



Newbiemains Lady Gaga 7,000gns.



Islavale Nestle 6500gns.

28,000GNS ISLAVALLE MAGNUM FIRES STIRLING SIMMENTAL BULL SALE TO A NEW BREED RECORD AVERAGE OF £7559, UP £1597 ON THE YEAR

- New Simmental Breed Record average of £7,559 for 45 Bulls, and up by £1,597 on the year
- Two Bulls over 20,000gns, with 10 bulls over 10,000gns in all, and 29 at 5,000gns and above
- Seven Islavale Bulls Average £13,500
- Denizes Monty Sells for 20,000gns
- Sale grosses £366,315
- Springfield Heifer tops females at 6,000gns

The March 2021 born Islavale Magnum from WS Stronach, Berryleys Farm, Keith, Banffshire, sold for 28,000gns to fire the Simmental bull trade to a new breed record sale average of £7,559, up by a remarkable £1,597 on the year, at the breed's October Sale held at United Auctions Stirling on Tuesday 19th October 2022.

With commercial producers competing fiercely with pedigree breeders for the quality bulls on offer, two bulls made over 20,000gns with ten in all over the 10,000gns mark and twenty-nine at 5,000gns and more. The total Simmental sale gross on the day came to £366,315.

A tremendous team of Islavale bulls broke new ground for this prolific Simmental herd with the 28,000gns topping their previous sale best of 24,000gns and seven bulls in all selling to an incredible average of £13,500. In addition to the 28,000gns top price, further Islavale bulls sold on the day for 18,000gns; 13,000gns; 10,000gns x 2; 6,000gns; and 5,000gns.

The sale leader, Islavale Magnum, is by the noted AI sire Team Celtic and is the first calf at sale out of Islavale Harper, who herself had stood as the Senior Champion as a yearling heifer at Stars of the Future show in 2017. Combining a depth of pedigree with performance figures showing +14 for Maternal (milk), this classy dark red bull was purchased for the Delfur pedigree herd of Delfur Farms, Rothes, Aberlour. Commenting on behalf of Delfur Farms, which runs a 120-cow herd, new herd manager Garry Patterson said: "This is a big investment for the future, but we were looking for a bull that will put a serious stamp on the herd and help us to take that next step. I thought Magnum was a standout bull the minute I saw him, and with his breeding and performance figures he's just the full package. We wanted a bull which will click with our females, breathe new life into the herd, and to take that next step. We very much think and hope that Magnum's daughters will have the potential to do that and produce some first quality bulls at the same time."

Speaking after the sale, British Simmental Cattle Society General Manager Iain Kerr said: "It's great to see a Simmental sale with an average of over £7,500gns, a new record mark, and continuing a series of strong sales and averages for the breed over this past year. There were breeders buying bulls today, but the trade was underpinned by commercial producers competing for the bulls of their choice and willing to pay five figure prices. The Simmental is a maternal mainstay of the UK suckler herd and the efficiency of females in milk, fertility and easy calving, combined with growthy, fast finishing progeny is just adding up for commercial producers.

We would have liked to have seen more bulls sold but there was a strong demand for the quality lots of offer and we have to be mindful of the continued move to spring calving, and farmers taking time to consider at present in a very cost-conscious moment for the industry." A further seven bulls were sold after the sale and up to 7,000gns.

For the full sale report and pictures, and all of the respective sales and show reports in the period, then please visit

www.britishsimmental.co.uk



Islavale Magnum - 28,000gns.



Denizes Monty - 20,000gns.

23,000GNS ANNICK COLLEEN'S GINGER & ANNICK GINGER'S NUTMEG SPICE UP A CRACKING ANNICK SIMMENTAL HERD DISPERSAL SALE

- 23,000gns breed record price for a cow and calf unit
- Cow & calf units sell at 23,000gns; 12,500gns; & 9,400gns
- Calved heifer sells at 16,000gns
- Sale grosses £220,710.05

The seven-year-old-cow Annick Colleen's Ginger EX93 along with her heifer calf Annick Ginger's Nutmeg, sold for a combined 23,000gns to lead the much-anticipated Annick Simmental Herd Dispersal Sale held on behalf of the late Lachlan Quarm, Holehouse Farm, Annick Lodge Estate, By Irvine, Ayrshire, at United Auctions Stirling Agricultural Centre, on Saturday 10th September.

Described as a foremost Simmental pedigree herd, the Annick sale catalogue was just filled with quality animals, built around a strength of family lines with a depth of breeding, proven performance, and a high herd health status. Sold as separate lots, the top price cow Annick Colleen's Ginger made 15,000gns when selling to the noted Backmuir pedigree herd of Reece & Andrew Simmers, Backmuir Farm, Keith, Banffshire. In a connectivity of breeding, later in the sale the Simmers also bought the first calved heifer Annick Ginger's Lucia, and Ginger's daughter, for 16,000gns. A third calver, Annick Colleen's Ginger by Corskie Callum and out of Annick Prudence's Colleen EX95, and with her calf at foot being a full sister to the 16,000gns Lucia.

Following mum into the ring, Annick Ginger's Nutmeg, a daughter of the 15,000gns Wolfstar Golddigger, was quickly reunited when purchased by the Simmers at 8,000gns. The combined 23,000gns price is a new Simmental breed record for a cow and calf unit.

One of the most anticipated lots in the catalogue was the February 2020 born heifer Annick Ginger's Lucia. Full of breeding being out of the day's top price and being sired by Wolfstar Golddigger, this upstanding, stylish heifer had secured a string of show titles through the summer and most noticeably when placing Reserve Simmental Overall, and Reserve Female Champion at the Royal Highland Show. Having calved a heifer calf by Kilbride Farm Karl the day before the sale, Annick Ginger's Lucia couldn't travel to Stirling. However, offered in her absence, this well-known heifer's breeding and show ring performance was enough to see her race to 16,000gns and again be purchased by the Simmers family.

To see the full report and pictures then please visit the Society's website at www.britishtsimmental.co.uk



Top Price 23,000gns - Annick Colleen's Ginger EX93 & Annick Ginger's Nutmeg.



16,000gns - Annick Gingers Lucia.

NEXT GENERATION SALE III ANNOUNCED FOR 1ST DECEMBER 2023



PROVISIONAL SALE, SHOW & EVENT DATES FOR 2023

Please see here a list of provisional BSCS sale, show, and general event dates for 2023. As always, these dates are correct at the time of publication but in instances may be subject to change. Where any dates are changed, updates will be notified to members through email, social media, and the Society's website.

February	
Stirling Bull Sales, United Auctions	20 th
March	
Aberdeen & Northern Marts, Thainstone	1 st
Melton Mowbray Multi Breed Sale	25 th
Dungannon Sale, Bulls & Females	24 th
April	
BSCS Worcester Sale	29 th
May	
Stirling Multi Breed Sale	1 st
Royal Ulster (Balmoral) Show, Belfast	10 th - 13 th
Carlisle Sale (Multi Breed), H & H	12 th - 13 th
June	
Scottish Beef Event, Dalswinton Estate	7 th
Royal Cornwall Show, Wadebridge	8 th - 10 th
Royal Highland Show, Ingliston, Edinburgh	22 nd - 25 th
English Simmental National Show (within Royal Norfolk Show)	28 th - 29 th
July	
Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate	11 th - 14 th
Royal Welsh, Llanellwedd	24 th - 27 th
Northern Ireland National Simmental Show (within Antrim Show)	22 nd

August	
Scottish Simmental National Show (within Dumfries Show)	5 th
Welsh National Simmental Show, (within Pembrokeshire Show)	16 th - 17 th
Farm Walk/Open Day, Dewisland Herd of Mark & Emma Evans, Haverfordwest, Pems	18 th (TBC)
October	
Stirling Bull Sales, United Auctions	22 nd - 24 th
Cornwall Pedigree Calf Show	21 st (TBC)
NW & BSCS Pedigree Calf Show within Borderway Agri Expo, Carlisle	27 th
November	
Stars of the Future, Stirling	11 th
English Winter Fair, Staffordshire	18 th - 19 th
Live Scot (Scottish Winter Fair) at Lanark	24 th - 25 th
Northern Ireland Club Calf Show, Dungannon	25 th
Welsh Winter Fair, Llanellwedd	27 th - 28 th
December	
BSCS Next Generation Sale III, H & H Carlisle	1 st
Welsh Pedigree Calf Show, Carmarthen Livestock Market	9 th

IMPORTANT: THE YEAR LETTER FOR 2023 IS

With 2023 fast approaching, please note that the registration letter for the year is 'P'. A list of suggested names for use will be included within the upcoming Review and will also be available on the website at www.britishsimmental.co.uk

P



SimmentalMarket

Advertise your animals
for sale online today!

www.simmentalmarket.co.uk

