



BRITISH
SIMMENTAL
 CATTLE SOCIETY



BRITISH SIMMENTAL PEDIGREE REGISTRATIONS AND SALES INCREASE FOR A SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

- Official Simmental Society Sales in the Year Gross £2,091,406, up by £87,479

The upsurge in performance for British Simmental has seen pedigree registrations and birth notifications increase for a second year in a row. In the figures released by the British Simmental Cattle Society for the pedigree registration year of 1st August 2022 to 31st July 2023, the overall total was 7633 up by 245 and representative of a 3.3% increase.

Going hand in hand with these figures another strong year of Official Society Pedigree Simmental in the same period has seen a sales gross of £2,091,406, up by £87,479 (4.35%) on the year. The strong sales demand for both bulls and females saw a number of new breed record marks set in the year and including at Stirling, Carlisle, and Aberdeen. The sales at Stirling in May 2022, October 2022, and February 2023, all saw breed record averages attained for these fixtures. Stirling in February 2023 was the highest grossing sale with 97 bulls averaging a new February record of £7,260, up £425 on the year. The sale in October at Stirling saw a new Simmental breed record all-sale average of £7,559 for 45 bulls, up by £1,597 on the year, and up by £734 on the previous sale record mark. At the second staging of the establishing Next Generation Sale of Females & Weaned Calves at Carlisle in December a top price



of 18,000gns was attained, with heifer averages of £5202, up by £806 on the year. Both the top price and heifer average were new breed centre records.

This further increase in pedigree registrations, combined with the demand at the point of sale was again welcomed by the Society's President Norman Robson, Kilbride Farm, Ballyclare who said: "There's a real forward industry emphasis by beef producers on the efficiencies and value that Simmental genetics can deliver.

Continued overleaf...

Continued from first page...

The Simmental's benchmark is their milk fertility, calving ease, temperament, and abilities to rear a fast-growing calf without creep feeding. Add in that AHDB data continues to show the breed as the number one continental breed for age at slaughter, and it just collectively highlights that adding Simmental genetics gives you super maternal performance and top-class carcass traits."

Commenting further he went on to say: "In the course of the year we conducted a wide-ranging survey of Simmental bull buyers, and we were delighted that the breed received a 94% approval rate from

commercial buyers who confirmed that they would purchase further Simmental bulls. I'd like to congratulate breeders for the quality of stock they are bringing forward and would urge everyone to keep placing an emphasis on breeding selection and improvement."

The next pedigree sales under the Society's auspices will be the 2023 Stirling Sale on Monday October 23rd that sees 122 Simmental bulls entered from breeders. Following the bull sale on the same day will be the Complete Dispersal Sale (due to retirement) of the noted Heathbrow Polled Simmental herd, of David & Lesley Sapsed, High Heath Farm, Codicote, Hitchin, Herts.

NOTICE OF THE 53rd BSCS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are notified that the 53rd Annual General Meeting of the British Simmental Cattle Society Ltd will be held at United Auctions, Conference Room, Stirling Agricultural Centre, on Sunday 22nd October 2023, at 9.30am. At the close of the Annual General Meeting, and in keeping with previous years, there will be the opportunity for an informal members' discussion. This year's AGM is again set within the timelines of the October Bull Sales at Stirling. Beyond the Society AGM, the show of Simmental bulls will commence from 11.30am. The Complete Dispersal Sale of the Heathbrow Polled Simmental Herd will take place following the bull sale at 3pm (and will be in Ring 2).

ELECTIONS TO BSCS COUNCIL 2023/2024

At the close of the election nomination period please see the names of the members nominated for the positions in the respective Groups:

Scotland - There were two vacancies and two nominations have been received from Adrian Ivory, Blairgowrie, Perthshire; and Richard Pettit, Fochabers, Morayshire.

Northern Ireland - There were two vacancies and two nominations have been received from Andrew Clarke, Tynan, Co Armagh; and Richard Rodgers, Portlone, Co Antrim

England - There were four vacancies and three nominations have been received from Rob Evans, Claverdon, Warwickshire; Chris Martindale, Oswestry, Shropshire; and Richard Storer Smith, Uttoxeter, Staffs.

Wales - There was one vacancy and one nomination received from Dafydd Jones, Foel, Welshpool.

These respective nominations will be announced as having been duly elected/re-elected to their Council positions at the Society's 53rd AGM.

FORTHCOMING 2023 SALES & EVENTS

6th October	Next Gen III Closing date for entries
21st October	Cornwall Pedigree Calf Show, Wadebridge
22nd October	Society AGM, United Auctions Stirling Centre
23rd October	Stirling Bull Sale, & Heathbrow Dispersal Sale, United Auctions Stirling Centre
27th October	Borderway Agri Expo & Pedigree Youngstock Show, Carlisle
11th November	Stars of the Future Calf Show, United Auctions Stirling
18th to 19th November	English Winter Fair, Staffordshire County Showground

21st November	Royal Ulster Premier Beef & Lamb Championships, Balmoral Park
22nd November	Agriscot, Royal Highland Centre
24th to 25th November	LiveScot, Lanark Agricultural Centre
25th November	Northern Ireland Club Calf Show, Dungannon
27th to 28th November	Welsh Winter Fair, Llanellwedd
1st December	Next Gen III Sale, Carlisle
9th December	Welsh Pedigree Calf Show, Carmarthen Livestock Market

REMINDER: ENTRIES OPEN FOR NEXT GENERATION III SALE

- Closing date for entries is 6th October
- All entries must be DNA sire verified

Entries are now open to the Simmental Next Generation III Sale of Females & Weaned Calves which will take place this year on Friday 1st

December 2023, and at Harrison & Hetherington's Borderway Mart, Carlisle. This fast establishing fixture is for all classes of pedigree Simmental Females, and with a section for pedigree Simmental Weaned Calves born in the 2023 year.

To see the full schedule and to enter animals then please go the Harrison & Hetherington website at: www.harrisonandhetherington.co.uk

Last year's sale saw an 18,000gns breed centre record price, for an in-calf heifer, with heifers overall averaging £5202, up by £806 on the year. Other in-calf heifers sold to 9000gns, with maiden heifers to 8000gns. The trade for weaned calves was topped at 6500gns.

Next Generation is a fast-establishing sale attracting pedigree Simmental cattle full of style, quality,



and with a depth of bloodlines. Quality remains the key and for the right animals there is a ready market of buyers from new and established herds, and also commercial producers. It's a sale that's got something for everyone!

Entries close on Friday 6th October and keep an eye from here on Facebook for further Next Generation III Simmental Sale updates. If you have any queries around this sale then please see the following contact details:

Contacts: British Simmental
Tel: 02476 696513
Email: information@britishsimmental.co.uk
Web: www.britishsimmental.co.uk

Harrison & Hetherington:
Tel: 01228 406230
Web: www.harrisonandhetherington.co.uk

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR! ADVERTISE IN THE SOCIETY'S 2023 ANNUAL REVIEW

With the autumn now drawing close plans for the 2023 Review are well underway and with work about to commence. We would very much like to invite and encourage members to advertise in the 53rd edition of what continues to be the Society's flagship publication.

The closing date for us receiving your advert artwork is **Friday 24th November 2023**, so please book early if you require any help with this.

Value is the name of the game and we have again held advertising costs at previous years' rates. All Review adverts will be included on the Society website and posted on our Facebook page throughout the year. This is a little extra value and has proved very popular with advertisers as well as helping with continued breed promotion and profile.

Bookings are now being taken and to that end, please find enclosed an order form for you to complete and return to the Society, either by post or email. The order form outlines the sizes available and also the costs of the respective adverts.

The aim is that the 2023 Review will again comprise of pages of news, articles, features, and reports of all things British Simmental. Publication of the 2023 Review will be aimed at late January/early February in 2024.

We very much hope that you will advertise in the British Simmental 2023 Annual Review and are happy to discuss any requirements you may have. If you have any Review queries, then please do contact the office on 02476 696513 or by email to information@britishsimmental.co.uk

ADVERTISING SEMEN FOR SALE IN THE REVIEW

In line with previous editions, we will again feature a list of Semen for Sale in the BSCS's 53rd edition of the Annual Review. This page typically lists the details of the bull, the vendors name, contact telephone number and email address and for reference, was included on page 195 of the 2022 Annual Review. If you would like to advertise semen for sale in the BSCS's 2023 Annual Review, the cost is £20.00 + VAT per entry, but if you also choose to place a full page advertisement for your herd or company in the Review, the entry fee will be waived. If you would like semen from your bull listed, please contact us at the Society office on 02476 696513 or by email at information@britishsimmental.co.uk





ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD VALE ROYAL ANNIE WINS 2023 VIRTUAL SHOW

- Kilbride Farm Jetstream is Overall Reserve

After some six weeks of online judging through July and August, and with 431 animals entered from 81 pedigree breeders all over the United Kingdom, the 2023 Simmental Virtual Show Championship has been won by the eleven-year-old cow Vale Royal Annie from James Arnold, Tarporley, Cheshire. Mr Arnold has now won this fledgling but high-profile competition, the UK's largest online pedigree show, twice in its four-year history having won the inaugural event with Vale Royal Heavenly Girlie in 2020. This year's event has seen 431 animals entered over the six classes, up by 145 on last year.

Vale Royal Annie initially prevailed from a tremendous class of 92 Cows-in-milk, judged by Bridget Olds of the Bosahan herd, Falmouth, Cornwall, before securing the Female Championship from the section judge John Barlow of the Denizes herd, Nr Leyland, Lancs. In the Supreme Championship, judged by David Lowry of the noted Keeldrum Herd, Newsteadings Farm, Lanark, she went head-to-head with the Male Champion Kilbride Farm Jetstream 18 (P) from WH Robson & Sons, Doagh, Ballyclare, before duly being announced as the winner.

Commenting, David Lowry said: Vale Royal Annie is just a tremendous example of the Simmental breed. She's eleven-years-old and in the picture she just retains such a freshness, and is full of breed character and femininity. Annie has an excellent top line on her, lovely balanced body, a tremendous udder for her age and looks to be standing on a good set of legs. With nine calves to her name she's also a terrific example of the longevity that is typical of Simmental females and I think she's a very worthy Supreme Champion."

To see the full report, class winners, and all of the entries in this year's 2023 Simmental Virtual Show then please visit the Society's Facebook page, and also go to www.britishsimmental.co.uk.



CORSKIE NUTMEG SOLD IN PRIVATE DEAL FOR £32,000 TO THE DENIZES HERD

Corskie Nutmeg, the January 2022 born Simmental bull from WJ & J Green, Corskie, Garmouth, Fochabers has been sold privately for £32,000 to the Denizes herd of MA Barlow & Sons, Ulnes, Nr Leyland, Lancashire. At this year's Royal Highland Show in June, Corskie Nutmeg put himself firmly in the shop window when winning the Simmental Junior Male Championship; Reserve Overall Male; and Reserve Overall Junior; and before going on to win Reserve Overall in the Beefbreeder Interbreed. Immediately catching the ring side eye of John Barlow, an approach to the Green family was made and after a few days discussion and consideration the deal was done. Beyond heading home to Corskie and passing all the usual tests, the bull was picked up in mid-August and has now joined the 80-cow pedigree Denizes Simmental herd in Lancashire."

The £32,000 price is the second highest paid for a Simmental bull in the UK and sitting only sitting behind the 45,000gns the Greens themselves paid for Bel Dhu Capercaillie at Stirling back in February 2013. With a breeding connectivity, Capercaillie is the sire of Corskie Nutmeg's dam, Corskie Jasmine EX92.

Commenting on the purchase John Barlow said, "We didn't go to the Highland with a view to looking for a bull but Corskie Nutmeg just had that x-factor and we couldn't miss the opportunity. Dad (Michael) and I moved quickly for him because he has everything we look for in a Simmental stock bull and with his quality we knew there had to be a lot of interest in him! Nutmeg's got length, power, muscle, and with a real sweetness and style. He comes from a foremost herd with proven cow families, has a real depth on both sides of his pedigree, and has top performance indexes. We have Denizes Hamish, Saltire Impressive, and Coose Gambler as stock bulls and all bringing something different to the herd. Nutmeg adds to that and we're excited about the prospect of him clicking with these other lines."

Corskie Nutmeg is sired by the herd's stock bull Kilbride Farm Haka who the Greens purchased for 10,000gns at Stirling in 2018. To see the full press release then please visit www.britishsimmental.co.uk

POPES PRINCESS IMMIE A SUMMER SIMMENTAL SHOW STAR!

It's been a fantastic summer show season for the Simmental breed across the summer 'majors' and county shows with some terrific turnouts going hand in hand with more than a few interbreed titles. It's fair to say that right up there as the summer Simmental show star is the May 2017 born cow Popes Princess Immie from the Wood family, Popes Farm, Dutton, Preston, Lancashire.



A glittering season saw this six-year-old cow, shown with her January born bull calf at foot Popes Premier by Popes Lethal weapon, win a host of titles and including: Simmental Supreme and Overall Individual Interbreed titles at the Great Yorkshire Show; Simmental Supreme at the English Simmental National Show, and Reserve Continental Interbreed, at the Royal Norfolk; and Simmental Supreme at the Scottish Simmental National Show, and Overall Dumfries Show Interbreed Champion! Sired by Kilbride Farm Comber, Popes Princess Immie is out of the herd's heralded show

cow Popes Princess Cleo who herself secured a number of 'major' show Interbreeds in 2017, also as a six-year-old, and with Immie as her calf at foot.

Well done to the Wood family on their success and to all breeders who have supported and promoted the Simmental breed so well through the summer. For full reports and pictures from all of the summer 'major' shows please visit the Society website at: www.britishsimmental.co.uk

HEATHBROW POLLED SIMMENTALS

Complete Dispersal Sale

23rd October
at United Auctions Stirling

(Approx. 90 animals)

High Health Status herd
from a TB4 testing area



Heathbrow Natasha

Overall Junior Beef Interbreed Champion, Great Yorkshire Show 2023

DAVID & LESLEY SAPSED

High Heath Farm, Codicote, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG4 8SZ Email: highheath@btinternet.com Tel: 07836 782184

Visitors Welcome

 Heathbrow Polled Simmentals

FEMALE FAMILIES KEY TO HEATHBROW SIMMENTAL HERD'S SUCCESS

The Heathbrow Simmental herd has had tremendous show and sale success, with its progeny also influencing many other herds. On 23rd October at United Auctions, Stirling, this noted herd will hold a Complete Dispersal Sale after some 28 years of pedigree breeding. Please see the Heathbrow herd feature here which was first printed in the Farmers Guardian and is reprinted with their kind permission.

With a background in dairy farming, David Sapsed, who farms, with his wife Lesley, at Codicote, Hertfordshire, knew that focusing on maternal traits was essential when establishing a pedigree beef herd & it is that to which he attributes much of the herd's success.

Mr Sapsed's father took on the running of High Heath Farm from his father in 1948, on the promise that he would keep milking cows there. Mr Sapsed explains: "My grandfather had taken on the tenancy of the farm on Viscount Hampden's Hoo Estate in 1943, rent-free for the first five years, because it was known as 'the worst farm in Hertfordshire for soil type' & the previous three tenants had gone broke. But he believed that by milking cows and putting the muck back on to the land it could be improved."

Mr Sapsed was given the opportunity to take on the farm in his own right in 1975 at the age of 23 when his father moved to a bigger arable farm. By that time, it had been acquired by Oxford University, which is still the current landlord and comprised of 117 hectares (290 acres) & 50 dairy cows. He says: "At that time the cows were British Friesians, but I moved to Holsteins, used Canadian bulls by AI & built the herd up to 120-140 cows, which were producing 8,000 to 9,000 litres annually from three-times-a-day milking – which was a lot in those days.

"We had our first reduction sale in 1988, which was very successful with 68 animals sold to Ireland, France & Italy. It just proved that





Heathbrow Herd

- High health – TB4 area, accredited for BVD, Johne's, tested for Leptospirosis.
- Spring calving
- Heifers calved at two-and-a-half to three years
- Bulls not sold for breeding are finished & sold at 14-16 months old to Dawn Meats

focusing on pedigrees had paid off. But it was a difficult time for dairying. Bank rates were against us and milk quota leasing was very expensive, so we took the decision to get out of dairy. So in 1993, all the youngstock were sold at Crewe market and the cows as a herd in one private transaction."

Following the dispersal of the dairy herd, the decision was taken to establish a pedigree beef herd, but the question was 'which breed'. Mr Sapsed says: "We experimented with a number of breeds, including Hereford, Simmental, Limousin and Charolais crosses, by rearing calves right through to heifer calving themselves. Simmentals came out top for everything, particularly milk and growth and that really made our minds up."

Four heifers were bought from the Borlase family's Sacombe herd as foundation females and the commercial cows were gradually phased out. In a move to differentiate their newly formed Heathbrow herd from the majority of others and to give stock an additional selling point, it was decided to go down the polled route. The polled yearling heifer, AWL Starlet, which was blonde in colour was imported from Canada where she had to spend six months in quarantine before shipping. Starlet proved to be very influential in the herd as well as a big winner in the show ring.

Mr Sapsed says: "She was bought from A W Londry, who was ahead of his time & very much a pioneer in cattle breeding in Canada. Starlet won three breeding championships in her first season showing & then we brought her out again nine years later & she won three

inter-breeds & six breed championships. We never flushed her, but she bred extremely well, always producing polled bulls. She was very much the head of the herd and was put to sleep just before her 21st birthday, but there are still 19 of her descendants here today."

The bull, Hockenhull Kramer, was bought in October 2000 after being champion at Perth bull sales and several other females from well-known herds have been bought over the years. In 2006, the heifer Darsham Real Treasure was bought for 13,000gns at the herd dispersal sale at Stirling. She was a daughter of one of the breed's most successful females & winner of numerous Royal championships, Darsham Kit Kat, & went on to produce Heathbrow Ex-Factor, which won numerous championships.

Three heifers were bought from Finlay McGowan's Dirnanean herd – Sarah, Sybil & Kitty – all of which bred very well. Sarah won several breed championships and was dam of Diamond, a junior national champion, and the granddam of the bull, Heathbrow Important, which won four inter-breed titles and was European Simmental of the Year and Reserve Simmental world champion in 2020. Heathbrow Important was sold privately to the Blackford herd, Inverness, but the Sapseds continued to use him by AI & he has now returned to Heathbrow.

Sybil produced Duchess, a national champion, and Kitty won five inter-breeds & was national champion in 2013. Mr Sapsed says: "We have always focused on having good families as they will always rise to the top. We have kept the best females & continually culled out

the bottom end to keep improving the herd. We do use Breedplan as a management tool and when selling stock. The younger generation particularly want to see figures, but it is also important to use your eyes.

“ *Temperament is also paramount, as are good udders – we do not keep any females which do not milk. Longevity is often overlooked. We have a number of cows in the herd more than 10 years old. If your cows last longer you will have more heifers to sell.”*

Stock bulls have included Dirnanean Welcome by Starline Nelson, bought in 2010, & Celtic Comet, who was injured & left limited progeny.

The horned bull, Scotland Hill Cairo, was bought to inject some stature into the herd and his progeny included the bulls Jaguar Juggernaut, who went to Germany, as well as successful females.

More recent purchases have been the polled bull Blackford Kirk, and also Kilbride Farm Morikawa, in partnership with Tom Hill.

More than 200 pedigree bulls have been sold over the years, the majority of which have been private sales. Mr Sapsed says: “We have sold nine bulls this year just by word of mouth. We have a lot of repeat customers and shows are a great way of advertising stock. We have also helped a number of people set up pedigree herds by selling them female foundation stock and it is nice to follow their progress.”

Mr & Mrs Sapsed now farm 234ha (600 acres) at High Heath along with contract farming a further 283Ha (700 acres) of arable land on the Knebworth Estate in partnership with Mr Sapsed’s nephew, Peter. They employ Kevin Jenkins, who has been with them for 40 years, and some part-time staff, with Mr Jenkins doing all the arable work allowing Mr & Mrs Sapsed to focus on the cattle.

Mr Sapsed says: “Although it has improved since the early days, the farmland is very light. Most of the grassland is unploughable as it is an ex-gravel pit which was not top soiled or levelled properly. We always grew maize for the dairy cows, which was quite unusual then and lucerne, which we have continued with. The poorer the land, the better for lucerne, as it needs no fertiliser apart from a bit of potash & it keeps going in a drought. We rotate it round the arable land and it can be difficult to establish, but can last for about five years, with the second crop of wheat after lucerne generally doing the best. The lucerne is cut three times a year, round baled & fed to the cattle which do very well on it. Youngstock also get a home-grown mix, but we do not include any protein in it as lucerne is high in protein.”

Recent triumphs for the herd include taking the Male Championship at the Great Yorkshire Show with Heathbrow Nationwide, and the Overall Interbreed Junior Championship with the heifer Heathbrow Natasha.

In spite of this ongoing success, the couple have taken the difficult decision to disperse the herd, which will be going under the hammer at Stirling in October. Mr Sapsed says: “We have had tremendous fun breeding and showing cattle, and thoroughly enjoy the social side. But we now have 11 grandchildren and we want to have more time to be able to see, support and encourage them in what they are doing, as well as taking more holidays. We do not have a stockman here, we relied on help from freelance stockpersons at shows, including Brenda Hide, Paul Walker, Richard Davies and Ashley & Scott McInnes, for which we are very grateful. Kevin can manage the arable side & having no cattle will enable us to do other things.”

***Please keep an eye on the Society’s Facebook page and website in the run up to this sale as we continue to highlight the stock and lots that will be available for sale.**



SimmentalMarket

www.simmentalmarket.co.uk

