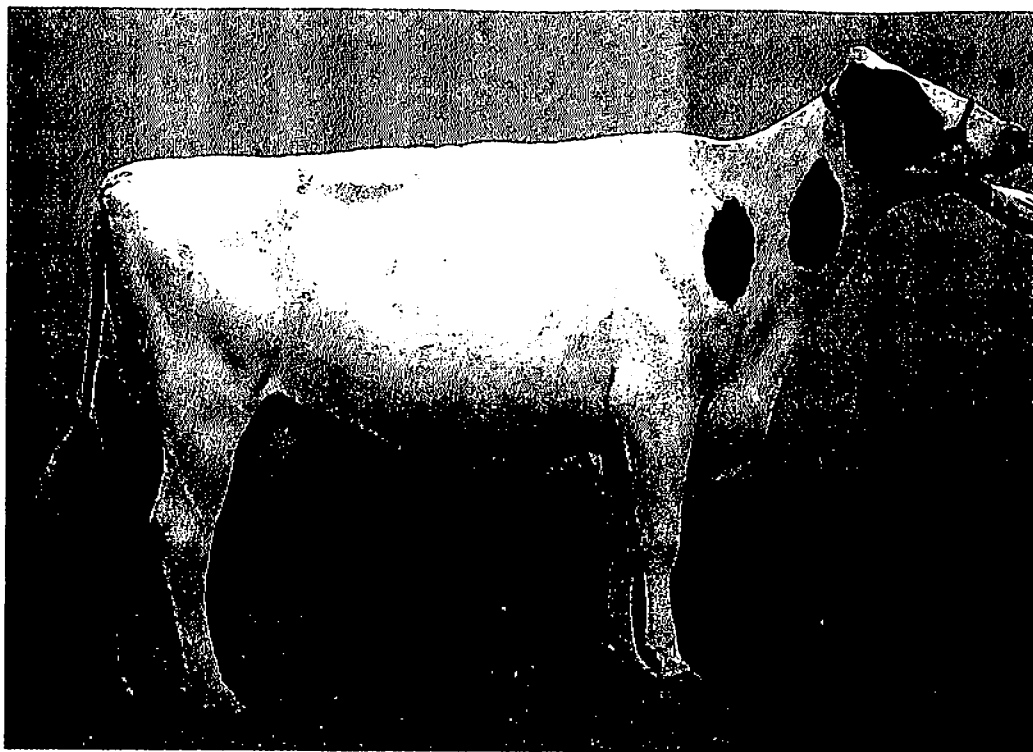


Dilys takes Supreme Champ title

Only the very best were on show at the 2009 Centenary National Holstein Show, but it was a Cornish family who dominated proceedings. Sarah Trickett reports



For a milk producer running 1100 cows and 1300 followers it's a wonder Anthony Wills and his family find time to show cattle. But with the quality of genetics in the Wills Brothers herd, it's no surprise they take time out to show off the well-structured dairy cows they are producing.

Their trek up to Warwickshire from Cornwall proved worthwhile as they took the Supreme Champion title as well as Best Udder in Show with the sixth calver Bassingthorpe Leader Dilys 10.

But this Comestar Leader daughter is no stranger to the showing scene, with a string of successes from last year already under her belt. Taking the Supreme Champion title as a fifth calver at the Royal Cornwall Show last year she was also Reserve Champion at the Dairy Event and Livestock Show.

Although Dilys has only been with the Willsbro herd for a year, she is clearly proving her worth – joining when Mr Wills and his sons bought Mark Knutsford's Riverdane herd after he obtained her as a calf from breeder Ann Harrison, Leicestershire.

A delighted Mr Wills from Wadebridge, Cornwall, said he couldn't believe how well Dilys is performing for her age. "We will definitely be breeding from her again; she calved at the end of November and has given 65,199kg in four lactations. We will be flushing her again, too," he said.

Mr Wills is planning on showing her at the Royal Cornwall again this year, but will be selective as to which shows he enters her into.

One person agreeing with Mr Wills's comments was Canadian show judge Brian Carscadden. "She may not be the biggest cow in the



Reserve Champion, Styche Lyster Sally PI is a VG89 and is from Seaton Farms, Shropshire.

show or the strongest cow in the show, but she is the best cow in the show and is of great quality. After six lactations she is still the best udder cow and is a cow that every dairyman can relate to," he said.

And it was Dilys' mammary system that stole the title from Reserve Supreme Champion, Styche Lyster Sally PI. This four-year-old giving 55 litres a day is out of Styche Jolt Sally PI and was shown by Ed Seaton, Seaton Farms, Market Drayton, Shropshire.

Again this cow is not shy to

showing, taking Champion Heifer title at the Royal Welsh Show 2006 and gaining an honourable mention at the 2004 All Britain Calf Show.

Mr Seaton who milks 200 cows with his family, said he will be out showing Sally at numerous events in the coming year. This VG89 cow is definitely one to look out for, impressing the judge with her style, depth and condition.

Second to Sally throughout the show was Riverdane Outside Hazel also from the Wills' family. This Comestar Outside daughter got an honourable mention and topped the Intermediate Cow class.

However, it was a novice to the

Supreme Champion Bassingthorpe Leader Dilys 10, a Comestar Leader daughter also received Best Udder In Show title.

showing scene that took the Champion Heifer in Milk title for the Wills brothers with Smiddiehill Goldwyn Sharon. This daughter of Braedale Goldwyn is giving 51kg at just 2.5 years old.

Mr Carscadden said Sharon was selected because of her correct teat position "She is definitely the best udder heifer and is longer upfront through to the end."

Reserve Heifer in Milk, also a daughter of Braedale Goldwyn, headed north this time to Cumbria with Berryholme Goldwyn Maud. Shown by David Wright of H Wright and Sons, Kendal, Maud was Champion at Northern Expo and was reserve at AgriScot and is giving 32kg a day.

There were plenty of animals to look out for in the calf classes and one taking the judge by storm was Sahara Damion Sara, from Sahara Holsteins, Monmouthshire. The Sahara consignments topped several of the classes, including Senior Heifer with Sahara Damion Tessie and Intermediate Calf with Sahara Advent Enjoy.

Reserve Champion calf went to Richard Bown, Worcestershire, with Richaven RR Squaw 4. sarah.trickett@rbi.co.uk

**HOLSTEIN UK'S
CENTENARY ELITE SALE**

**Top genetics
included
household
names**

Some of the very best young heifers with the most sought after pedigrees were on offer at Holstein UK's Centenary Elite Sale, Stoneleigh Park this week.

With household names like Melody, Shottle, Goldwyn, Talent and Sara all on offer, it was no wonder the ringside was packed with potential bidders hoping to get a stake in the next generation of potential champions.

It was the household names that commanded top prices, with buyers coming from as far as The Netherlands to get their hands on some top genetics.

Four lots exceeded 10,000gns, with the joint top price of 14,000gns firstly going to Sahara Talent Licorice. Consigned by Sahara Holsteins, this full sister to the prize-winning heifer Savage-Leigh Lavish heads to Pembrokeshire with Tom Philips of Pedran Holsteins.

Second at 14,000gns was a first-choice Maureen heifer from six embryos and guaranteed Redline x Advent colour. From the dam JK RG Advent Maureen Red and consigned by David Robinson and Gloryland Holsteins, the calf due next month sold to Hefin George, Pembrokeshire.

11,500gns secured the only daughter of Shanael to be sold by auction for Messrs Miller's Shanael Herd, Worcestershire, and consigned by T H Cope and Son.



All eyes focus on this young heifer as the bidding begins.



A flurry of bids secured this top-price animal Sahara Talent Licorice at 14,000gns for Pedran Holsteins, Pembrokeshire.



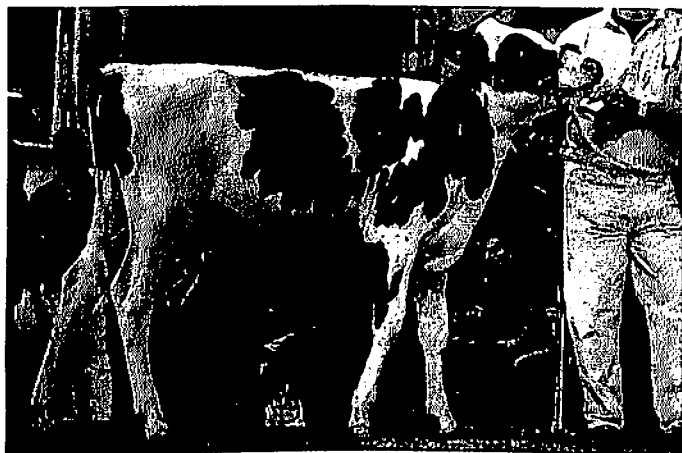
Decisions, decisions... salegoers study the catalogue to pick out some of the best buys of the day.



Left: More bids please... Norton Brooksbank auctioneer Chris Norton sells to a packed ringside.



To see more pictures, go to www.fwi.co.uk/community/photos



Despite the weak pound this June 2008-born Tegan Bolton Lila Z consigned by D M and G Davies heads across the water to The Netherlands, bought by Diamond Genetics.



Fluttering her eyes for a few more bids, this young red heifer looks on.