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National Holstein Show moves back to Stoneleigh

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THE 29th National Holstein Show takes place on Monday, February 16.

The show is moving back to Stoneleigh and promises to be the largest and most exciting display of milking cattle in the United Kingdom for more than three decades.

The National Holstein Show is a showcase for the best of British Holstein breeding and it remains one of THE most important prizes to win in the UK. To breed the National Holstein Show Champion is the dream of every member of Holstein UK, the show's organiser.

The return to its traditional February date means that the NHS does not clash with any other show and, falling at a 'quiet' time in the dairy farmers' calendar, will attract a healthy crowd of both domestic and international visitors.

"As the dairy industry continues to emerge from the difficult trading conditions of the last few years, the Centenary National Holstein Show will be a true celebration of 100 years of Black & White cattle breeding," said a Holstein UK spokesman.

The first National Holstein Show was held in February 1980 at Staffordshire's Bingley Hall.

The inaugural show of 1980 got off to a flying start with 209 head (including 14 young bulls!) put forward to be judged by Bertram

Stewart, of Hornby, Ontario.

The Grand Champion in that first year was the Junior Cow, Benningborough Progress Spink (by Elmside View Progress), from J Jackson & Sons. In reserve stood the Senior Cow, Oakshore Baroness Radar Queen (by Wenron Baron) from R B & E M Shepherd.

The Junior Championship went to Grosvenor Marquis Fran (by Rowntree Marquis Design) from Grosvenor Farms Ltd, followed by Deehaven Nadir Katie (by Glenafton Nadir) from S M Noble.

Judges over the years have included the late Ian Montgomery, from Newtownards, County Down, who officiated at the 2003 event.

Leading the way in the Young Handlers at the 1980 show was Norman Walker, who was awarded a set of clippers! Christine Ashworth stood behind Norman both in the intermediate class and again in the championship.

The event also includes an elite sale.

"With the increasing level of international-ly-renowned genetics becoming available in the UK, this event promises to supercede even the most high profile sales with only 31 of the very best consignments catalogued," the spokesman added.

The elite sale will commence at 4.30pm after the judging.

Trade exhibitors at this year's event included two from Northern Ireland: Giltspur, Ballyclare; and FarmWizard, Jordanstown.

