

## British Blonde National Show at Malvern

The 2<sup>nd</sup> National Show took place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June at the Three Counties Show at Malvern in Worcestershire.



Hackleton Vixen

Hackleton Vixen (above), sired by Brownhill Oswald from Hackleton Farms, took the eye of the judge John McVeigh from the Ashtonlodge herd from County Down, Northern Ireland, winning the title of Breed Champion for the second year running.

This amazing seven year old cow scooped a number of trophies, including awards for best homebred animal, Champion female and Breed Champion before going on to win Continental Interbreed Champion and Reserve Interbreed Champion. Clearly Sam Brown from Hackleton Farms was delighted having scooped such awards when there was an amazing 900 cattle at this increasingly popular show.

Hackleton Farms were on a roll when their calf, Hackleton Geisha Girl, won the Blonde Calf class and the South Wales Perpetual Cup, going on to win the “Baby Interbreed Championship”.



Hackleton Geisha Girl

Reserve Champion of the show was Doncombe Exodus, owned by Mervyn Thomas from Hereford and David Knight from Bristol. Sired by Rodleigh Voyageur, Exodus won the intermediate bull class and the “Blackwater Perpetual Challenge Trophy” and also taking the Male Championship award, “The Farmers Weekly Perpetual Challenge Trophy”.



Doncombe Exodus, Reserve Champion

Winning the Senior Bull class was Andrew Bailey's Kinaston Carlos from Kendal, Cumbria. Carlos born January 2007 and sired by Kinaston Uttam was awarded the Lambert Fenchurch Challenge Cup.

Kinaston Fonz (below) from Roy Kinnish's Kinaston Herd from Aston Botterell, Shropshire, saw off plenty of competition in the Junior Bull class. Born January 2010, Fonz is a son of Doncombe Sebastian and was awarded the Bradnock Perpetual Challenge Trophy.



Kinaston Fonz

Doncombe Celine, again from the Doncombe Herd, Bristol, born November 2007, added to the victories by lifting the Badham Perpetual Challenge Trophy for Junior Cow.



Doncombe Celine

Dodimead Daisy (below), a Druk Lance daughter born May 2008 and owned by Mrs Sue Knight from Bristol, won the Meatgold Perpetual Cup for the Calved Heifer class.



Dodimead Daisy



Cosdon Empress

Intermediate Heifer, Cosdon Empress (above), born May 2009, daughter of Hillhead Umar, bred and exhibited by P Holman and P Williams from Okehampton, Devon, beat this large class of heifers to win the Ivaniskey Pedigree Livestock Cup.

Young stable mate to Exodus was Doncombe Flavia. This smart, 12 month old heifer, a daughter of Druk Thor, went on to win the Avonparks Perpetual Trophy as well as the Junior Championship award. The Under 30 month old Heifer FIERBA Trophy was also awarded to Doncombe Flavia.



Doncombe Flavia

The Doncombe Herd lifted the Pairs Trophy for two animals from one exhibitor. In second place was Andrew Bailey "Baileys" and the animals in third place belonged to Ian & Sue Archer from the "Marstonmill Herd".

Champion Commercial animal was "Chico" bred and exhibited by David Skinner from Beaworthy, Devon, who runs the Allacott Herd. This Commercial Steer, born May 2010 was sired by Allacott Best. David Skinner was delighted to be presented with the North of England Perpetual Cup for Commercial animal sired by a British Blonde Bull.

Following the judging, the Midland Club hosted a Cheese and Wine reception for the Blonde members and friends on the British Blonde Stand which was appreciated and enjoyed by all.

The British Blonde Society thank their sponsors, Farmers Guardian, NWF Feeds, McCartneys, Harrison & Hetherington Auctioneers, Thompson Rural, Countrywide, Meadow Quality, Gerald Shearing and the South East and South West Blonde Clubs for their generous sponsorship and continued support.

The British Blondes enjoyed an excellent Show with a great representation of the breed. The breed made the most of every opportunity to be seen by the public, including providing a team of maiden heifers for the Young Farmers Stock Judging Competition.

We would like to thank the exhibitors, Stewards, Judges, Commentators and the Three Counties committee and staff who made the Blondes very welcome again this year. We look forward to holding our National Show at Malvern again next year 15-17<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

The presentation Dinner took place in the members marquee whereby Rex Diffey our President, Steph Denny from Farmers Guardian, Ivan McElroy and Ben Garratt presented trophies to the winning exhibitors.

The evening was brought to a close after Rex Diffey cut the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary birthday cake accompanied by Dan Davies (Chairman), Martin Rodgers (Vice Chairman) and John McVeigh (Judge & Past Chairman).

The Young Stockjudging Competition took place on Saturday whereby Master Judge, Richard Holloway from Northamptonshire, judged four animals at the same time as the competitors, whilst Blonde members paraded four Intermediate heifers for the competitors to place and give reasons on "Breed Standards". A difficult decision for many who were spectating, having given their reasons, the placings were as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Menna Davies and Milly Hendy

2<sup>nd</sup> Rosie Colton

3<sup>rd</sup> Rebecca Appleton