

■ Natives take reserve in pairs and teams

Limousins dominate the beef

By Patsy Hunter

Photographs: Catherine Laurenson

LIMOUSIN BEEF cattle are never far away from the headlines when it comes to winning overall championships, and this year was no exception, with the breed scooping the top three inter-breed accolades at a distinctly smaller Royal Show, to include the individual, pairs and teams of five.

Most years, the event attracts in excess of 1200 head of cattle, but this year's show – blighted by bluetongue restrictions and the fact that Defra had refused to bring forward the rules and regulations governing protection zones by just

LEADING awards:

Aberdeen-Angus (Judge: D Barker, Taunton, Somerset). Champion – Angus Stovold, Lydling, Puttenham Lane, Shackleford, Surrey, with Rosemead Karlotta, a five-year-old cow with calf at foot and one of only 10 entries forward from four exhibitors. Unbeaten as a two-year-old, Karlotta is by the 4500gns Lockerley Mere Boy and out of a former home-bred Karlotta. She was on her first outing since 2006 and was shown with bull calf at foot by Rosemead Quartermaster. Her previous wins include champion at the national breed show at Westmorland and breed champion at Surrey and the Bath and West. Reserve – Angus Stovold, with the reserve female, Rosemead Bellmaid, an 18-month-old heifer by Rosemead Junior Eric that stood reserve inter-breed at the South of England and Surrey Shows. The same home also produced the male champion in the shape of Rosemead Jeronny, a two-year-old bull by Elin Erroneous.

Beef Shorthorn (Judge: D Barker). Champion and reserve inter-breed beef champion – Mark Holmes, Meere Barn, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, with the bull, Cairnsmore Thrasher. Bred by Bill and Jane Landers, Newton Stewart, this six-year-old scooped the breed honours at Ayr, Fife, Drymen and the Highland this year with freelance stockpersons Richard and Carol Rettie, Alloa, at the helm. The bull, by Cairnsmore Nike Sportsman and out of Notrelot Milly, was heading to the Great Yorkshire and will then return home to Mark and Wendy Holmes' 40-cow Holmere herd. Reserve – Douglas McMillan, Pindrup Moor, Cheltenham, with the reserve male, Colnvalley Aladdin, a 15-month-old bull by Colnvalley Titanic out of Colnvalley Lovely 2. He also won the junior native inter-breed championship. There were six Beef Shorthorn forward.

British Blue (Judge: A Ryder, Newton, Moffat). Champion – Newroddige Charolais' Ballygrange Alex, shown by Danny Wyllie. This three-year-old black bull, by Woodview Solo and out of Ballygrange Roxy, was reserve at Cornwall and Stafford Shows. Reserve – AJ Neachell, Shrubbery Farm, Walsall, West Midlands, with Tamhorn Uptown Girl, a six-year-old cow bred by Danny and Jane Wyllie. Her breeding includes Baron du Bois Bauloye onto Tamhorn Milly.

seven days, which, according to the organisers, would have bolstered entries to 60% of the norm – had less than 200 forward.

Nevertheless, it was the cream of the crop from some of the biggest sections on parade that again came to the fore to lift the top accolades.

In the individual section, the judge, Steven Bailey, Audlem, Cheshire, pulled in a massive French-bred Limousin cow as his choice of supreme overall, with a Scottish-bred Beef Shorthorn bull taking the reserve.

Taking centre stage was Raymond Crawford's huge 3½-year-old cow, Victorious, which initially won the Limousin section

of 29 head, for Crawford Brothers' 40-cow Rathkeeland herd from Maguiresbridge, Co Fermanagh. Imported from France earlier in the year, this Romeo daughter stood champion at the 2007 Paris Show on her sole previous outing.

She has been in England for the past three months to enable her to be shown at the Royal. She will, however, travel to Rathkeeland after being vaccinated against bluetongue, within the next three months.

Victorious also teamed up with another French-bred animal from Mr Crawford to win the coveted Burke Trophy, this year judged John Jeffrey, Kersknowe, Kelso. This was Vigot, a similarly aged

bull by Hammel-Luc, also bred by Gaec Lagrafeuil, the breeder of Victorious. He was junior male champion at Balmoral and will also have to be vaccinated before heading home.

In the individual inter-breed, Mark Holmes' Beef Shorthorn show bull, Cairnsmore Thrasher, collected the blue and white sash, for the herd from Mere Barn, Wolverhampton.

This six-year-old has been in Scotland since the beginning of the year, with freelance stockpersons, Richard and Carol Rettie, Alloa, and has since gone on to take several breed titles at Ayr, Drymen, Fife and the Highland.

Bred by Bill and Jane Landers,

Bargaly, Newton Stewart, this Cairnsmore Nike son was originally sold at Perth to Mike Abrahams, who resold him earlier in the year to Mr Holmes.

Adding to the celebrations, Scottish stockman, Glen Welsh, brought out the second reserve. This was the breed leader from the Charolais section, Killadeas Barney, from Don Marshall and Peter Donger, which in his class was pulled up by the umpire, David Leggat, United Auctions, Perth, as Barney's breeder, Stuart Bothwell, was the official breed judge.

He has also been via Scotland, having scooped the pre-sale championship at the bull sales at Perth, last October, before going

on to sell for 13,000gns.

The Hereford breed was also in the prizes, taking the blue and white sash in the pairs and the teams of five.

Both included the champion, Greenyards 1 Archie, a bull bred in Scotland by Phil and Alison Allman, who previously farmed just outside Dunblane but now live in Hereford.

Their five-year-old bull is a former champion at the Royal, the Highland, Royal Welsh and the Great Yorkshire and together with the reserve breed champion, Phocle Dowager, a six-year-old cow from David Jones, Ross-on-Wye, made up the pair for the Burke.

There were more Scottish

connections behind the top team of five, the Limousins which comprised of two Brockhurst-bred heifers from Buckinghamshire breeder, Doug Mash, which have been successfully shown all summer in Scotland by Stirlingshire's Dougie McBeath and Sarah-Jane Jessop.

Brockhurst Batik, which collected the red, white and blue ribbons at the Highland and at Drymen and also stood reserve overall at the Royal, teamed up with her herd mate, Brockhurst Bolshoi, the breed leader at Stirling Show.

The remainder of the group included two from David Cormack and Gaynor McDowell, Greenhill

Viper and Newstart Tansy, and PR Dawes' Fleethill Sal.

The junior inter-breed championships, saw the Beef Shorthorn stand supreme over the Aberdeen-Angus in the native competition, with the Charolais leading over the Blonde in the Continental lines.

Top native was Doug McMillan's reserve Shorthorn, Colnvalley Aladdin, while the reserve went to Angus Stovold's Rosemead Bellmaid.

In pole position in the Continentals was Don Marshall's heifer, Cotehouse Cockenzie, with Roy Kinnish's Blonde bull, Kinaston Carlos, having to settle for reserve.

British Blonde (Judge: A Stott, Cairn Crescent, Corby Hill, Carlisle). Champion – Ian and Sue Archer, Marston Mill, Coventry, with the cow, Marstonmill Penelope Pitstop, collecting her third breed title here. This nine-year-old female, by Kinaston Noah, a bull bought at Carlisle, and out of the home-bred Maid-Marian, is also a former champion winner at the Highland and the Royal Welsh. Reserve – Roy Kinnish, Manor Farm, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, with the Kinaston Badoncia, a two-year-old heifer by Haydens Platinum out of Kinaston Pandora. Seven head of Blondes were on show.

Charolais (Judge: S Bothwell, St Angelo, Ballinamallard, Co Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, with umpire D Leggat, United Auctions, Perth). Champion – Don Marshall, Cote House Farm, Derby, winning an entry of 19 head. His champion was Killadeas Barney, a rising two-year-old bull shared with Peter Donger, Seawell, and shown by Scottish stockman, Glen Welsh. Barney was champion at the Perth Bull sales last October for his breeders, Stuart and David Bothwell, and later sold for 13,000gns to Mr Marshall, a Mercedes car dealer who also runs 50 Charolais in his herd. A son of Dunlon Ullick out of Killadeas Uneven, Barney was male champion at the Derbyshire Show and second at Stafford, earlier in the year. Reserve – Colin and Gaynor McDowell, Sunnyside Farm, Leicestershire, with Marwood Beaumont, a two-year-old heifer bought at the Charolais Christmas Classic at Carlisle, last year for 1300gns. She is by the Scottish sire, Inverlochey Passport, out of Mowbraypark Jessica and was breed champion at Newark and Cheshire shows this year.

Hereford (Judge: R Irvine, Ballymoyer Road, Co Armagh, Northern Ireland). Champion – Phil and Alison Allman, Amberley Court, Hereford, with Greenyards 1 Archie, a five-year-old bull bred in Scotland when the couple farmed just outside Dunblane. Hereford 'Bull of the Year' in 2006 and a former champion winner here, at the Great Yorkshire, the Royal Welsh and at the Highland, this bull is by the Australian sire, Doonbiddie Hustler and out of Dendor 1 Contessa 5. The Allmans, who moved back down to Hereford in 2007, now run 50 pedigree Hereford cows. The Herefords, the

largest beef section on show with an entry of 40 head, found its reserve in a cow with calf at foot from David Jones, Upton Bishop, Ross-on-Wye. This was Phocle Dowager, a six-year-old home-bred cow by Phocle National out of Phocle Dowager P12.

Highland (Judge: A McGillivray, Althban, Portsonachan, Dalmally, Argyll). Champion – Mrs Patricia Knauff, Hoden, Cleve Prior, Evesham, with a cow from her six-cow House of Hoden fold established in 2006. Her winner, from an entry of less than 10, was Lesley of Thistle, a five-year-old cow bred by Anne Perkins, Marcliffe. She was bought privately and is by Jock 2 of Cim out of Morag 17 of Barfillan. Reserve champion here last year, she was shown with bull calf at foot by the Scottish-bred bull, Iain Ruadh 5 of Woodneuk. Mrs Knauff, also picked up reserve with a daughter of the champion, Isobel May of House of Hoden, a 16-month-old heifer by Iain Ruadh 3 of Woodneuk.

Limousin (Judge: A Graham). The second largest section in the beef lines, with an entry of 29 head from eight different exhibitors was led by a French-bred cow from Crawford Brothers, Rathkeeland, Co Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, Victorious, a rising four-year-old cow bred by Gaec Lagrafeuil, stood champion at the 2007 Paris Show on her sole previous outing but was not purchased until January of this year and since being imported has remained in England to enable her to be shown at the Royal. She will now be vaccinated for bluetongue before being exported over to the 40-cow Rathkeeland herd. The same home also produced the reserve male in Vigot, another bred in France by Monsieur Lagrafeuil. He is by Hammel-Luc and was junior male at Balmoral. Flying the flag for Scotland, Dougie McBeath and Sarah-Jane Jessop, exhibited the female champion and reserve overall for Buckinghamshire breeder, Doug Mash. This was Brockhurst Batik, a 27-month-old ET by the 55,000gns Grahams Samson out of the top show cow, Ronick McAinsli. Champion at the Highland and Drymen, she also teamed up with her ET sister, Brockhurst Bolshoi to win the pairs competition. Top male was Gaynor McDowell and David Cormack's Greenhill Viper, from Sunnyside,

Billesdon. Inter-breed champion at Newark and Cheshire and breed champion at Stafford, this 4½-year-old was bought at the Newstart dispersal at Carlisle for 20,000gns. He runs alongside the couple's four Limousin cows, 12 Charolais and one Aberdeen Angus.

Salers (Judge: R Livesey, Nether Firth, Lilliesleaf, Melrose). The Pyes, from Leven Fields, Yarm Cleveland, were the sole exhibitors in this section and won the overall with Casimir, a 16-month-old French-bred bull by Trizac out of Linda. He was bred by Gaec du Marilhoux. Reserve was a 25-month-old home-bred heifer, Rigel Bounty, by Sagitaire and out of Rigel Blanch.

Simmental (Judge: J Dykes, South Slipperfield, East Linton). Champion – David Bell and Thomas Booth, Crackley Farm, Kenilworth, with Crackley Cornelia, a four-year-old cow which triumphed over an entry of 16 cattle from six different herds. Reserve champion at Kenilworth Show, this youngster is backed by home-bred bloodlines on both sides. Her sire is the Agardsley Bruno son, Crackley Klassik, a bull that has produced semen sales to Germany, while the grand-dam was Crackley Cornelia 10D, a former champion winner at the Royal Welsh. Reserve – J Barlow, Littlewood Hall, Preston, with Denzies Melody 2, a six-year-old cow by Pasturefields Harshorne out of Brinkton Melody 10, which goes back to the top Scottish cow, Stuartslaw Melody. Denzies Melody was second in her class at the Highland and was shown with October-born twin calves at foot. Male champion was Roger Birch's Pasturefields Turbo Tommy, a 21/2-year-old bull shared with Dan Evans, Wroxall. A son of Marywood Polled Wester out of Vinegard Mon Cheri, he has been unbeaten all summer and was inter-bred at Kenilworth.

(Several sections were missing this year due to lack of entries, including Galloway, Belted Galloway and Murray Grey).



VICTORIOUS BY name and nature, the Crawfords' inter-breed champion



KILLADEAS BARNEY the Charolais winner for ED Marshall TSF



ROSEMEAD KARLOTTA was Angus leader for Angus Stovold TSF



LESLEY OF Thistle was Highland champion for Patricia Knauff TSF