

PRESS RELEASE

24TH ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE OF RARE AND TRADITIONAL BREEDS

The 24th Annual Show and Sale of Rare and Traditional Breeds of Cattle, Sheep and Pigs at Chelford, held by Auctioneers Frank Marshall & Company on behalf of the Rare Breeds survival Trust, brought forward an excellent entry of stock, and attracted a huge crowd of potential purchasers, enthusiasts and on lookers from a wide area.

CATTLE

A superb entry on offer, prices reflecting the high level of confidence within the industry at present and virtually every lot sold at levels in excess of expectations.

Leading the days prices was regular consignor The Bollin Valley Partnership with a fantastic young cow 'Bollin Groundsel' she sold with her twin bull calves at foot at 1200 gns (£1260) to Mr A Marsden of Alvanley. Nicky Lockett made the long journey from Cumbria and saw her March 2007 cow 'Wellhead Hope' sell with her April born bull calf at 1020 gns (£1071) also to Mr Marsden.

Sue Davies brought forward a very classy pen of Beef Shorthorn heifers from her Bitfel Herd, Welshpool. The leading price was 1100 gns for Bitfel Nellie selling to Mr G Sutton of Winterley. Bitfel Princess Royal sold to Mr Whalley, Accrington for 1060 gns.

Home Farm Tatton were well represented with their Red Poll cow "Tatton Ursula" sold together with her heifer calf at 1010gns to Mr R Lightfoot from Mold. Maiden Red Poll heifers peaked at 710 gns from the same stable, Mr Lightfoot once again the buyer.

The single Gloucester entry from CHADS at Rugeley, Trentside Jonquil sold with her heifer calf for 1000 gns to Mr Rob Swain of Market Drayton.

SHEEP

There was terrific demand in the Sheep section, again reflecting the current buoyant trade throughout store and breeding sheep sales.

In particular, there was a super quality entry of Greyface Dartmoors, for the Society's official show, resulting in the days top price of 400 gns being paid for the Champion Greyface Dartmoor and Reserve Overall Champion Sheep, a Shearling Ram from S & J Bullock, Rushton, Macclesfield, which sold for 400 gns to fellow breeder A J Roe, Llandegla, Denbigh. Another Shearling Greyface Dartmoor Ram, this time from Mrs E J Dale, Leek, Staffordshire, made 300 gns to C Humphreys, Caernarfon.



Leading Greyface Dartmoor Shearling Ram at 400 gns

Other notable prices included the leading Balwen, a 2 year old ram from R Lovatt, Ingestre, Stafford, which made 250 gns to R Edwards, Hatherton, Nantwich; best of the Greyface Dartmoor ewes, a shearling from Mrs E Dawson, Criggion, Shrewsbury made 230 gns to R C Prince, Leek, with several other leading Greyface Dartmoor shearling ewes making in excess of 200 gns; best of the Jacob ewes a shearling from Messrs Shemwell, Chesterfield, making 150 gns; leading Cotswold ram, a shearling from Messrs J M Fearn, Darley Moor making 160 gns.

Amongst a good selection of ewe lambs, it was again Greyface Dartmoors which lead the way, with Messrs Bullock selling their best at 180 gns, Cotswold to 110 gns, Shetlands to 80 gns, Shropshire's to 70 gns etc.

PIGS

Pigs proved a more difficult trade, although there were several leading prices of note. Best of the day was 370 gns for a Welsh gilt, sold in-pig and from a show background. This gilt was the best of a pen from Messrs E W & K M Austin, Reynoldston, Swansea selling to 370 gns to J E Williams of Pwllheli, Gwynedd. J Wild from Matlock, Derbyshire, saw her Reserve Champion pig, a Gloucestershire Oldspot sold 6 weeks in-pig to a prize Boar make 350 gns to D L Gemmill, Holywell, whilst best of the British Saddlebacks, the Show Champion from S Samuels, Bicester, Oxford, made 300 gns, also going home with D L Gemmill.



Champion Pig – British Saddleback Gilt at 300 gns

POULTRY

The second rare breed Poultry sale of the year saw a super trade with some interesting quality lots.

Large fowl achieved sound prices with White Silkie hens reaching £44, half grown Speckled Sussex pullets £20 each, Buff Sussex, Rhode Island Red and Splash Orpington made £60, while most others averaged between £16 - £20.

Bantams were particularly well represented in the sale and proved as popular as ever. Blue Millefleur Barbu d'Uccks attracted £55 each, Gold Pekins £24; Sablefoots, Silver-laced Wyandottes and White Miniature Silkies £20; Blue-black Silkies, Lemon Cuckoo Pekins £18 each.

Ornamental waterfowl saw some intense bidding at times on some breeds rarely seen in the auction yet, on occasion, some very ambitious reserves were not met. Mandarin ducks mostly achieved £30 in-pairs, all female lots, both normal, silver or blonde as did Chilean Wigeon, Bchara Pintails £26; Ferruginous Teal and Tufted £20.

Other best prices included Sebastapol geese at £35 each and a stunning pair of Snow Geese at £56.



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