

ROYAL WELSH 2018

Four days of hot weather was the order of the day for the in-hand classes for the Welsh breeds. Most classes were well-filled and competition was fierce.

On Sunday afternoon I attended the International Committee meeting in the International Pavilion. Most of the discussion revolved around the 20th International Show which is scheduled to be held in Sydney, Australia, on 23rd and 24th November, 2019. Organisation was well advanced and it appears that this will be a well-attended show. The French Society is organising a 'European Welsh Show' to be held in Deauville in France on 10th and 11th August, 2019, and called on sister societies in Europe to support them. The German Society applied for holding the 21st International Welsh Show scheduled to be held at Aachen in Germany on 14th and 15th August, 2021. The International Committee approved this application for submission to Council of the Society for final confirmation. Germany last held the International Show in 2003, also in Aachen, and at this show there were 450 Welsh Ponies and Cobs coming from 10 nations.

We also inspected the final renovations of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society Pavilion at the Royal Welsh showgrounds. It is a much needed upgrade of these facilities for the use of members when visiting the show grounds for the Royal Welsh and other functions held there during the year.

Then onto the usual church service held in the Meirion Shearing Centre on the Sunday evening, this year presented by the Feature County Montgomeryshire. It is unfortunate that despite all the visitors from overseas and those from England, virtually the whole service was conducted in Welsh which does not make visitors feel very welcome.

On Monday, the riding classes for Cobs and Section C's take over the Main Arena while from Tuesday the in-hand classes are held culminating in the Championships on the Thursday.

Welsh Mountain Ponies were judged by Mrs Betty French of the Forlan Stud in Wiltshire, England, who had as her Champion and the winner of the Captain T A Howson Perpetual Memorial Trophy, the Bay 12 y-o Junior Barren Mare Penboeth Bamboo by Llwynan Tip Top out of Brynlllewelyn Blodwen. Reserve was the Bay 14 y-o Senior Stallion Frongoch Bachgen Bach by Frongoch Cardi out of Frongoch Megan.

Welsh Ponies were judged by Miss Kerrie Wainwright of the Skellorn Stud at Macclesfield in Cheshire who had as her Champion and winner of the Coed Coch Perpetual Trophy, the Dutch Bred 7 y-o Chestnut Stallion, Stougjeshoeve Escudo by Breeton Dai out of Stougjeshoeve Esmeralda. The reserve Section B was the Cream 2 y-o Filly, Waxwing Glamour by Eyarth Beau Geste out of Cwyrtycadno Glain.

Welsh Ponies of Cob Type were judged by Mrs V Robinson of the Tyreos Stud at Usk in Monmouth, who had the following Champions competing for the Chetwynd Perpetual Trophy
the Male Champion, the Bay 6 y-o Stallion, Cwmhir The Bandit by Donys Llawen out of Cwmhir My Dream
the Male Reserve Champion, the Black 6 y-o Stallion, Starlans Evol by Laurton Glyndwr out of Donys Lucy Locket
the Female Champion, the Chestnut 3 y-o Filly, Tyrllawn Princess Teegan by Donys General Jack out of Tyrllawn Chardonnay
the Female Reserve Champion, the Bay 12 y-o Barren Mare, Donys Lili-Lon by Parc Hebog out of Synod Rosie O’Niel

The winner of the Chetwynd Perpetual Trophy was Tyrllawn Princess Teegan with Cwmhir The Bandit

Welsh Cobs were judged by Mr Owen Jones of the Nebo Stud at Llanon in Ceredigion, who had the following Champions contesting the George, Prince of Wales Cup –

the Male Champion, the Chestnut 2 y-o Colt, Cascob Delwyn by Gwenllan Deio out of Cascob Penblwydd Happus
the Reserve Male Champion, the Bay 10 y-o Senior Stallion, Llanarth Fiery Jack by Menai Sparkling Magic out of Llanarth Pam Evans
the Female Champion, the Chestnut/roan 16 y-o Senior Brood Mare, Danaway Cracklin Rose by Danaway Tango out of Danaway Janella
the Reserve Female Champion, the Chestnut 14 y-o Senior Brood Mare, Glansiedi Arwen Even Star by Caenest Tywysog out of Glansiedi Misty

The winner of the George, Prince of Wales Perpetual Cup for 2018 was Danaway Cracklin Rose with Cascob Delwyn as Reserve and winner of the Fronarth Stud Annual Award. This is the second time that Cracklin Rose has won the George, Prince of Wales Cup, having lifted it in 2012. However, this is the first time in 28 years that a Cob has won the cup for the second time. (see the 2012 Journal p135)

The Tom and Sprightly Perpetual Cup was contested by the four champions of the sections in the Welsh Studbook and was won by the Section B Chestnut 7 y-o Stallion, Stougjeshoeve Escudo with the Section D, Chestnut/roan 16 y-o Senior Brood Mare, Danaway Cracklin Rose, in Reserve

The Welsh Driving championship judge by Mrs Nicola Jones of the Fronarth Stud at Frongoy, Llanon, Ceredigion, was contested in the Horse Ring by the four Champions from the sections A and C and the section D Stallions and Mares classes, viz.,

Section A owned by Clair Granger and George Mitchell, Senny Kendall, a Strawberry Roan 9 y-o by Plasderw Hallmark out of Senny Kate

Section C also owned by Clair Granger and George Mitchell, Cargarsar Silver Shadow a Palomino 10 y-o by Springfield Park Dotcom out of Tonlyn Rose Shadow

Section D Stallion owned by Alison Butt, Thorneyside Touch Of Class a Chestnut 9 y-o by Thorneyside The Boss out of Thorneyside Magic Moment

Section D Mare owned by Mr E Emanuel, Ddraiggoch Ruby Sundae a Chestnut 8 y-o by Thorneyside The Real McCoy out of Ddraiggoch Jeana Jee
In the fiercely contested final in the Main Arena, Senny Kendall won the Championship with Ddraiggoch Ruby Sundae as Reserve

International visitors are invited to make the International Pavilion their base and meeting place and this facility is well used and appreciated by all visitors to put up their feet and have some light refreshments. But apart from the interesting machinery stands there are hundreds of stalls just off the Main Arena; and close-by activities such as wood chopping, pole climbing, sheepdog trials, stick-making, farrier skills, sheep shearing, etc, etc. attract the crowds.

This year in the Main Arena entertainment was highlighted by the new display of The King's Troop, RHA, Musical Drive. This incorporates 68 horses, including four officer's chargers starting at a minimum of 17.1 hands and six 13 pounder quick-firing field guns. The manoeuvres included the scissors, run-throughs and meet-ups for all the soldiers on parade. After this the gun teams have their time in the spotlight to show off their skills and ability in the 'small drive', including circles, chain loops and a much faster and closer scissors. The whole display is finished off with firing of the guns with the finale being the gallop out at full speed. Because the weather was so accommodating, the RAF Falcons Parachute Display Team was performed every day. 2018 is the centenary year of the Royal Air Force and will be offering displays throughout Britain. It was interesting to see the old Hercules planes still being used. The Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment provided some stirring music in which

supplemented the usual band music provided by the Regimental Band and Corps of Drums of the Royal Welsh Regiment. In addition, we had the usual entertainment of Meirion Owen and his Quack Pack, Black Mountains Falconry, Tristar Carriage Drive with the Royal Welsh Lady Ambassador, the Parade of Hounds, Inter-hunt relay team competition, Pony Club Mounted games, Harness trotting and many, many more. There is something to interest everyone. The Royal Welsh show is so diverse that everyone will find some activity to watch. Apart from the sheepdog trials held on the hill which can be seen from the grand stand, all activities take place within the confines of the showgrounds.

All in all there were 7 923 animals entered in the show which is 37 more than 2017's 7 886. The 22 breeds of cattle accounted for 1 525 (2017, 1 498), the 45 breeds of sheep 3 027 (3 009), the 2 types of goats 76 (142) and the 10 breeds of pigs 154 (149). There were 3 141 (3 088) horses entered of which the Welsh breeds accounted for 1 933 (2 003) with the Section A's accounting for a drop of more than 19% reducing from 548 to 444 Welsh Mountain Ponies. Welsh Ponies were up by 34 to 274, Welsh Ponies of Cob Type down 9 to 352 and Cobs down by 42 to 441. The balance was made up of geldings, Part-breds and Cobs and Cob Types under saddle. A truly remarkable display of livestock.

Once again, I have to thank Arthur Thomson for providing his superb photographs for use in this report. Arthur has provided the Royal Welsh photographs since the first edition of this Journal in 2005 and I am truly indebted to him. Without his photographs, this Journal would not have been what it is. Arthur and his wife Gail breed Section B Welsh Ponies in USA and their Stud's website is www.gayfieldswelshponies.com

The next Royal Welsh Show will be held from Monday to Thursday, 22nd to 25th July, 2019. Anyone who intends attending should make timeous arrangements for accommodation as this is the most difficult thing to find close to Builth Wells for obvious reasons. Other Welsh Pony and Cob Shows held at the Royal Welsh Showgrounds are the Royal Welsh Winter Fair from 26th to 27th November, 2018, and the Royal Welsh Spring Festival held from 18th to 19th May, 2019

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