

# ROYAL WELSH 2019

## THE 100<sup>TH</sup> SHOW

Despite the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society celebrating its centenary back in 2004, they have not been able to hold a show every single year. The show was cancelled during both world wars, in 1948 due to petrol rationing and most recently, in 2001 due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak. As a result, they held their 100<sup>th</sup> show this year.

The Royal Welsh Agricultural Society was established originally as the Welsh National Agricultural Society in 1904 and became 'Royal' three years later, when King George V became patron in 1907, followed by King George VI in 1936 and currently the Queen since 1952.

For the first portion of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the show was peripatetic in that it moved between sites each year, alternating between North and South Wales. It wasn't until 1963 that the show society offices moved to its current, permanent site in Llanelwedd at Builth Wells.

Although it settled at its new permanent showground, the society did not lose sight of the host county structure which had seen it in good stead during those early years. Rather than moving from county to county, as before, counties were invited to be featured each year, with a representative becoming the society's president for their term-of-office. The feature county advisory structure still remains the backbone of the society's success and the 'gold dust' that sets it apart from many other societies.

With the early aims of the society to improve the breeding of stock and encourage agriculture throughout Wales, the first show held in Aberystwyth attracted 442 livestock entries. Four years later, in 1908, 23 special trains comprising 224 cattle trucks and horse boxes arrived at the show, together with 100 passenger coaches ferrying visitors from far and wide.

This year the entries numbered 8 263; 3 068 equines of which 2 012 were Welsh Ponies and Cobs, 1 813 cattle, 3 173 sheep, 81 goats and 128 pigs.

Four days of hot weather were ideal for showing off the Welsh Ponies and Cobs. Unfortunately, a recent outbreak of equine flu had caught a lot of potential exhibitors off balance when the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society required ALL equines to have been vaccinated against equine flu; but gave

notice only 14 days before the start of the show. This impacted on the numbers forward but most classes were well-filled and competition was fierce.

**Welsh Mountain Ponies** were judged by Colin Tibbey of Bala, Wales, who had as his Champion and the winner of the Captain T A Howson Perpetual Memorial Trophy, the Grey 9 y-o Senior Brood Mare **Islyn Sbri** by Islyn Hafoc out of Islyn Asbri. Reserve was the Grey 7 y-o Junior Stallion **Pendock Paige Boy** by Pendock Mirage out of Pendock Flower Girl. *(See 2013 Journal page 116)*

**Welsh Ponies** were judged by Mrs Claire-Marie Nimmo from Broxburn, Scotland, who had as her Champion and winner of the Coed Coch Perpetual Trophy, the 12 y-o Dark Chestnut Stallion, **Skellorn Bronze Soldier** by Skellorn Consort out of Bureside Penny Black. The reserve Section B was the Grey 6 y-o Junior Brood Mare, **Waxwing Persuasion** by Eyarth Beau Geste out of Cwrtycadno Perlen.

**Welsh Ponies of Cob Type** were judged by Mr Aled Lewis of Carmarthen, Wales, who had the following Champions competing for the Chetwynd Perpetual Trophy  
the Male Champion, the Bay 14 y-o Stallion, **Gwenllan Madoc** by Parc Marvel out of Gwenllan Awel  
the Male Reserve Champion, the Chestnut Yearling Colt, **Rhydeilian X-Pert** by Donys Dick Turpin out of Rhydeilian Seren Aur  
the Female Champion, the Bay 7 y-o Junior Brood Mare, **Tycwm Abby-Grace** by Moorcroft The Master out of Tycwm Abbey-Leigh  
the Female Reserve Champion, the Liver Chestnut Yearling Filly, **Brynseion Little Lush** by Donys Importance out of Laurton Little Gem

The winner of the Chetwynd Perpetual Trophy was **Gwenllan Madoc** with **Tycwm Abby Grace** in reserve.

**Welsh Cobs** were judged by Mrs Julie Evans of the Haighmoor Stud at Llanfyllin in Powys, Wales, who had the following Champions contesting the George, Prince of Wales Cup –  
the Male Champion, the Bay 5 y-o Junior Stallion, **Gwynfaes Cyleddon** by Gwynfaes Culhwch out of Gwynfaes Elliw  
the Reserve Male Champion, the Bay 8 y-o Senior Stallion, **Gwynfaes Seren Wledig** by Gwynfaes Culhwch out of Gwynfaes Elliw

This is the first time that two full brothers contested the Male Championship at the Royal Welsh, here the younger one winning the title.  
the Female Champion, the Bay 7 y-o Barren Mare, **Perthog Gwennan Mai** by Gwynfaes Culhwch out of Perthog Champ  
the Reserve Female Champion, the Bay Yearling Filly, **London Total Temptress** by Swanhill Golden Rocket out of Tardebigge Sea Empress

The winner of the George, Prince of Wales Perpetual Cup for 2019 was **Perthog Gwennan Mai** with **Gwynfaes Cyleddon** as Reserve, and winner of the Fronarth Stud Annual Award. This is the second time that Perthog Gwennan Mai has won the George, Prince of Wales Cup, having lifted it in 2015. (*see 2015 Journal p144*) However, this is the second time in 28 years that a Cob has won the cup for the second time; Danaway Crackling Rose won it in 2012 as well as last year. Perthog Gwennan Mai was also the first filly but the second Youngstock Champion who went on to lift the George, Prince of Wales Cup in 2015, the first one being Pennal Brynmor, a colt, who did it in the mud in 2009, (*see 2009 Journal page131*) his handler at the time being George Mitchell who was the joint Judge with Clare Granger at our Tulbagh Gold Medal Show this year.

Readers would have noticed that this year both the Cup winner and the reserve were by the same stallion, Gwynfaes Culhwch, who won the Prince of Wales Cup in 2002. It was last in 2011 that the winner and reserve of the Cup, Abergavenny Morning Queen and Trevallion Black Harry, were by the same sire, Travallion Harry (*see 2011 Journal p130*). In 2011 Trevallion Harry was also the sire of the reserve stallion champion, Powysvalley Mr Harry. This year, three of the four cobs contesting the cup were by Culhwch because Gwynfaes Seren Wledig is also by him. Some record. Naturally, Culhwch was the Sire Champion at this year's Royal Welsh, again.

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 D Bay 7 y-o Barren Mare, **Perthog Megan Mai** with the Section A, Grey 9 y-o Senior Brood Mare, **Isllyn Sbri**, in Reserve

The Welsh Driving championship under judge, Mr Steve Everitt of the Terive Stud, and who will be our breed and harness judge in 2020, was contested in the Main Ring by the four Champions from the sections A and C and the section D Stallions and Mares classes, viz.,  
Section A owned by Clare Granger and George Mitchell, **Senny Kendall**, a Strawberry Roan 10 y-o by Plasderw Hallmark out of Senny Kate

Section C owned by T James and AA Mountford, **Crossfield Reflection** a Chestnut 4 y-o by Crossfield Danny Boy out of Crossfield Eilona  
Section D Stallion owned by Alison Butt, **Thorneyside Touch Of Class** a Chestnut 10 y-o by Thorneyside The Boss out of Thorneyside Magic Moment  
Section D Mare owned by Mr E Emanuel, **Ddraiggoch Ruby Sundae** a Chestnut 9 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 **Thorneyside Touch Of Class** in Reserve. Interestingly, the winner of the Section A, the Section D Stallion and the Section D Mare were the same as last year.

The Driving Sire Champion this year was Cargarson Silver Shadow owned by George Mitchell and Clare Granger and who has won at the Royal Welsh Shows many times.

This year in the Main Arena, entertainment was disappointing. The main item was the Atkinson Action Horses which was a mish-mash of the polished presentation of the display of horsemanship by Lorenzo in 2017 and the thrilling exhibition of riding by the Cossacks in 2007 and 2016 – unfortunately it had neither the polished display nor the thrilling riding and can be put down as a total let-down. The usual band music provided by the Regimental Band and Corps of Drums of the Royal Welsh Regiment was again welcomed by the crowd together with the entertainment of Meirion Owen and his Quack Pack, mostly for the young, Black Mountains Falconry, Tristar Carriage Drive, and, of course the Bolddog Lings Freestyle Motorcycle team, for those who like a lot of noise!, 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. In addition, there are over a thousand trade stalls and hundreds of some interesting food and drink stalls and visitors will be spoilt for choice.

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 grandstand, all activities take place within the confines of the showgrounds.

The next Royal Welsh Show will be held from Monday to Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2020. Anyone who plans on attending should make timeous arrangements for accommodation as this is the most difficult thing to find close to Builth Wells during the show for obvious reasons.

**GK 2019**