

ROYAL WELSH 2022 THE HUNDREDTH SHOW

The first Royal Welsh Show was held at Aberystwyth in 1904 and attracted 442 livestock entries. In 2022 entries numbered just over 7 000 with some 20 000 cars a day plus hundreds of stock lorries and trailers converging on the showgrounds in Mid-Wales for this annual event which has grown to be one of the most popular shows in Europe.

After two years of not having a show, it was a pleasure to experience the enthusiasm of all attending the 2022 Royal Welsh Show. It was hot by Welsh standards although about the same as a normal South African hot summer's day, about mid to upper 30 degrees.

All entries were down on the 2019 figures as can be expected with the economy taking the strain of amongst others, the higher energy prices as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the aftermath of Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Welsh Mountain Ponies were judged by Judith Reed of the Haverford Stud, Pembrokeshire. Readers may remember that she was the judge at the Nationals in Bloemfontein in 2008. Her Champion was the Dutch bred 7 year-old brood mare, **De Weyerds Hailey** by Springbourne Capricorn out of De Weyerds Hunique. The Reserve Champion was the 9 year-old brood mare **Islyn Purdey** by Blackhill Picalo out of Lacy Poppy.

Welsh Ponies were judged by Richard Miller of the Heniarth Stud, Carmarthenshire, who had as his Champion **Kallared Heartbeat**, the 3 year-old colt by Rhoson Amlyn out of Eyarth Sophia with Reserve Champion being **Eyarth Yaris**, a brood mare by Rhoson Adonis out of Eyarth Pansy.

Welsh Ponies of Cob Type were judged by Cheryl Frith of the Ristol Stud, Shropshire, who had as her Champion the 6 year-old barren mare **Glynwyn Annie Power** by Glynwyn Gideon out of Glynwyn Vespa with Reserve Champion being the 2 year-old colt **Crossfield Casino** by Crossfield Dannyboy out of Cadfach Request.

Welsh Cobs were judged by Ernest Gant of the Northwick Welsh Cobs Stud in County Durham, who had selected the following four cobs to compete for the George, Prince of Wales Cup

The Male Champion, **Powysvalley Macsen**, the 10 year-old stallion by Danaway Tango out of Powysvalley Miss Molly

The Male Reserve Champion, **Bryneglur Prince Rambo**, the 6 year-old stallion by Geler Sparc out of Brynithon Reward

The Female Champion, **Geler Loti**, the 13 year-old brood mare by Llechfryn Ffrwydryn out of Geler Heti

The Female Reserve Champion, **Riverbank Rose Queen**, the 16 year-old barren mare by Wernllain Sentinel out of Riverbank Rosina

The winner of the George, Prince of Wales Perpetual Cup was **Geler Loti** with **Riverbank Rose Queen** in reserve, winning the Fronarth Stud Annual Award

The Tom & Sprightly Perpetual Cup, contested by the Champions of the four Purebred Welsh Ponies and Cobs, was won by the Section B colt **Kallared Heartbeat** with the Section C barren mare **Glynwyn Annie Power**, reserve.

Glynwyn Annie Power went on to win the Royal Welsh Supreme Horse Championship, The Royal Welsh In-Hand Championship as well as the Horse of the Year Show In-Hand Championship Qualifier 2022. She also was Supreme at the National Welsh Championship Show held two weeks later.

The Partbred Champion was the 3 year-old colt, **Dibynn Topgun** by Marchemanor Red Arrow out of the South African bred mare Dibynn Chic Flic.

The driving classes were rather disappointing in numbers, but not in quality. In the Private Driving won by Mandy Burdick with Horseman Momentum there were only two of the 22 entries present, in the Light Trade Turnout won by the Butcher cart, M Burgess with Brightman The Phantom, there were five of the seven entries present while the following were present compared with the entries: Section A two of four; Section C one of the seven; Cob stallions two of the four and the one entry in the Cob mare class failed to appear.

George Mitchell, who, with Clare Granger judged the Tulbagh show in 2019, won the Section A competition again with the 13 year-old stallion Senny Kendal and won the Section C class with his 10 year-old stallion, Lonwind Swagger, who went on to win not only the Welsh Driving Championship but also the overall Royal Welsh Driving Championship, as above.

Readers are encouraged to try to visit the Royal Welsh Show at least once to experience the feeling that the Welsh have for their ponies and cobs. The next

show will be held at Builth Wells from Monday 24th July, 2023 to Thursday 27th July, 2023, but please make accommodation reservations timeously because these are quite obviously at a premium during the show.