

Balnabroich Show

Report: Ewan Pate / Photographs: Rosemary Hunter

Highland cattle breeders from across the country have enjoyed a bonus event to round off this year's summer show season. A fundraiser held at Balnabroich, Strathardle, on Saturday attracted entries from many of the top folds in the country to a morning's showing followed by a farm tour, a garden walk and a dinner for 180 people. The whole event was organised by hosts Sir Michael and Lady Sally Nairn with all proceeds going to PATCH, a new medical charity set up to support 24/7 specialist palliative care for hospital patients.

The weekend, including a well-supported charity auction raised in excess of £45,000. Tayside GP and consultant in palliative care, Dr Pamela Levack is medical director of PATCH and Sir Michael is chairman of the board of directors. Presenting the champions with their prizes Dr Levack said: "We are hugely touched at the amount of thought and hard work which has gone into this weekend. The exhibitors, the spectators and everyone here at Balnabroich has been fully on-board and made this a wonderful event."

The championship trophy, a bronze of a Highland bull's head sculpted by Lady Sally, went to Donald MacNaughton, 72 Centre St, Kelty with his four year old cow Skye 4th of Rannoch. A frequent prize winner as a heifer, this Fergus of Isle of Bute daughter was the female champion and reserve overall at the first National Highland Cattle breed show.

She was shown on Saturday with her March born heifer calf by Beinn Lyell of Earn at foot.

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The reserve overall championship was collected by David Soutar, Strathellie, Drove Rd, Alyth with his two year old bull Fionn Mhor of Strathellie. Mr Soutar who was Farms Director at Strathmore Estates before he retired, has 16 cows in his new fold and this was the first calf born into it. Fionn Mhor is by Douglas of Roisbhen and out of a cow from the Glamis fold.

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The judge, Archie McArthur from Ormsary, Lochgilphead said: "This has been a good show of Highland Cattle. I always think they look their best at this time of year. The champion is a well- balanced cow with a very good calf at foot. I am sure the bull in reserve place will go on to do a great job for someone in the future."

Results; (judge; Archie McArthur)

Senior bull- Hamish Irvine, Craiguscar, Dunfermline with Angus Dubh of Savalmohr

Junior bull – 1. David Soutar, Strathellie, Alyth with Fionn Mhor of Strathellie, 2. Blairlogan Highlanders, Alva with Sesh Mohr of Blairlogan.

Cow – 1. Donald MacNaughton, Kelty with Skye 4th of Rannoch, 2. Sydney and Maureen O'Hara , Cnoc Lodge, Appin with Eilidh of Achnacroish, 3. Stuart McKay, Duiletter, Dalmally with Lottie of Mosscairn.

Three year old heifer - 1. Donald MacNaughton with Hayley of Rannoch, 2. Glengorm Fold, Tobermory with Furan Maghaidh 7th of Glengorm , 3. Mr and Mrs S Haley , Marland Lodge, Co Durham with Sineag Dubh 3rd of Brunilla.

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Two year old heifer – 1. Mr and Mrs S Haley with Margaret 1st of Seam, 2. J and J Singer, Kintore House, Auchenblae with Aisla Emma Dubh of Kintore Castle, 3. The Burns family, Tippetcraig, High Bonnybridge with Eileen 4th of Hunters.

Yearling heifer - Bryon MacNaughton, 4 Green Rd, Kinross with Skye of Little Rannoch, 2. K Hownam, Borland, Blacklunans with Lili Ann of Borland , 3. Sydney and Maureen O’Hara with Fraoch 1st of Cnoc.

Calf – 1. Stuart McKay with Molly of Achnacroish, 2. Mr Stephen and Mrs Rosemary Hunter, Barnhill, Shotts with Capleadh of Hunters. 3. Donald MacNaughton with un-named calf.

Pairs - 1. Hamish Irvine, 2 Mr and Mrs Simon Haley.