

SCOTTISH HORSE 41

Showing shines at Scone

By Tom Best

AT a time when the showing fraternity in Scotland needed a real boost in fortunes, along came the Scone Palace International Horse Trials last month and delivered in spades.

Congratulations to all concerned particularly Tanya Adamson who brought her organisational skills and experience from Blair to Scone. Her willingness to accommodate the very different needs of the show

ring to those demanded in Horse Trials was a key factor of the event's success and bodes well for the future. In addition, Tanya possesses a listening ear, which will be key to the future success of this unique showing event.

There was room for criticism, such as the distance from the stables/lorry park to the rings and the lack of a much-needed call-up system, however, without exception everyone whom I have encountered was totally captivated by their Scone experience and can't wait until next year.

The overall layout of the arenas was excellent with three large dedicated rings to showing set in front of the historic Scone Palace, which provided a perfect setting. Timetabled over the first two days of the prestigious four-day horse trials, beautiful weather was a blessing and contributed to the good mood of an appreciative audience which filled the ring-sides from early morning to the evening close. Our wish to the Royal Highland, this is a rare experience but one welcomed by exhibitors,

who had travelled from as far afield as Orkney to Lancashire to compete.

The working hunter competitors seemed to appear from nowhere just as they had done previously at Blair with the Balvard Arena busy from early morning to late afternoon. The enormous novice class provided the eventual champion, Lisa Ogilvie's Ashton Noah, a big, upstanding seven-year-old grey Warmblood, bred in Fife by well-known competition horse breeders John and Mary Turnbull. Left by his breeders to mature, he was purchased only a few months previously and competing in the workers for the first time following two show jumping outings. He was ridden by Lisa's daughter, Amy Ogilvie, whom we have seen come through the ranks since a child to become one of Scotland's leading competition riders.

Later in the day, Amy recorded a remarkable treble for the Champfleurie Stables near Torphichen, when she won another two class titles in the section this time riding her own Ashton Orbit, a six-

year-old half-brother to the grey. Bought three years ago, he competes successfully in show jumping and eventing with a qualification for HOYS to his credit last year when he was still a novice. His success not only recorded a remarkable day for his owner/rider but also one for his breeders.

Meanwhile in the neighbouring Lynedoch Arena, a variety of ridden classes appeared in good numbers including hunters led by the current Royal Highland champion, Chloe Macdonald's chestnut middleweight Edenagor Ned. According to his rider, James Munro, he always gives the judges a good ride, which may account for his victory over his stable companion, the former Royal Highland In Hand Champion, Jamie's future. The grey heavyweight was ridden by Russell Skelton, who along with James, produces both horses from their base in Caithness. They cleverly found these horses at the sales in Ireland and have done well to qualify both for HOYS along with a similar find for Chloe

Macdonald, the lightweight, Origis PW.

The Retraining of Rachorse classes attracted some particularly nice horses with great limbs and deep bodies with plenty of heart room for racing. The champion had all the credentials to compete as he not only looked and went well for both rider and judge but he also boasted a glittering career on the race course. Ridden by Beth Clark for Ryan Bird, this was the ten-year-old Irish-bred Statler, previously owned by Ronnie Bartlett in whose famous colours he was successfully trained over fences by Willie Mullins to win over £170K.

The CHAPS (UK) coloured classes always attract a good entry with the championship going to the veteran campaigner and former winner at Blair, Dolly X11, a traditional cob mare owned and ridden by Rebecca Copland. Hogged riding Cobs are few and far between in Scotland so, with the main protagonists seeking HOYS qualifiers south of the border, it left the way clear for Kirsty

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very successful show when she headed the second of two Highland classes with another current Royal Highland champion, Dunedin Mascot, the impressive and consistent grey by the good stock-getter, Dunedin Marksman. Champion again this time, Mascot has remained at the top of his game for many seasons and arguably looks the best ever this year before he heads again for HOYS in October. Standing in reserve position was the free-going novice winner, Hufflepuff of Park View owned and ridden by Alison Blackburn. Outwith the championship, the HOYS qualifier winner was the far-travelled dun stallion Galdur of Over Langshaw from Lancashire belonging to Isabel Bergius and ridden by Aliya Khan. Since we saw him stand second in the novices at Strathallan, his fortunes have obviously changed as he was also David Puttock's choice for the HOYS Price In Hand Qualifier at the NPS Summer Championships. This posts a remarkable double for the Highland breed this year.

NPS Scotland takes over all three rings to host its many qualifying Finals on the second day at Scone Palace, just as it had done at Blair. Qualifying tickets (as exhibitors call them) are a real boost for entries round the Scottish shows which play host to qualifying classes from one end of the country to the other. With an entry just four short of its pre-Covid record, the rings were full to over-flowing for most of the day providing a great spectacle and much to entertain the ringside which remained committed until the final supreme championship come evening.

NPS Silver Medals are awarded throughout the season with winners qualifying for a coveted Gold Medal at Finals both north and south of the Border. In the Scottish Final, Chris and Jan Grant claimed gold with their homebred Highland pony gelding, Dewley Rascal, while last year's winner, Jill Graham's Dales mare, Sowermire Amber, stood reserve. In the ridden equivalent, Dunedin Mascot was once more to the fore with James Whiteford riding his mother's highly successful Connemara

Katie Common from Inverness commenced a



Supreme champion was Dukeshill Penny Pincher, owned by Airmie Lock and ridden by Olivia Dickson. Reserve was Bracklinn Beth, a Fell mare, owned by the Smith Family



Champion Mountain and Moorland Working Hunter Pony was Rookery Berlie, ridden by Lucy Whiteford

Continued on Page 42



Champion Highland Dewley Essence from Jan and Chris Grant



Ridling Pony champion



Working Horse champion was Rookery Bertie, an Aberdeenshire-based pony, ridden by Lucy Whiteford

Continued from Page 41

in the championship to the effervescent Welsh Mountain pony gelding, Dukeshill Penny Pincher owned by Aimie Lock and ridden by Olivia Dickson.

In many ways it was the youngest riders who stole the show with huge entries across the board. In front of Scone Palace some twenty-nine M&M lead rein ponies lined up for the judges with more than a handful of top class HOY's standard exhibits vying for victory. Following a marathon session in the ring, it made the win all the more enjoyable for the tiny Shetland, Addingham Darcy, ridden by Grace Alexander for Nicky Marshall, who went on to enjoy a popular win in the championship. All the way from Cumbria, runner-up was the perfectly-mannered Dartmoor mare, Ann Rigby's homebred Dykes Daisy Moon.

Proving more popular than ever, the NPS Scotland Junior Riders Final witnessed another big entry which was led by another Highland pony to give the breed an outstanding run of success throughout the sections. This was the Devonshire-bred nine-year-old mare, Holmedown Princess Katulani, a regular winner in the

dressage arena for owner Lorna Boyd and rider Morgan McLaughlin.

Not to be over-looked were the various classes for the season's In Hand qualifiers, which had unusually high numbers both entered and forward. Top of the NPS Scotland plated pony finals was David Shand's homebred hunter pony two-year-old, Achilly Defender, a purebred Trakehner who really caught the eye handled by Hunter Macdonald. Reserve to him was an impressive performer, Mount Pleasant Celtic Pride, a quality bay show pony with little show ring exposure for his owner/handler, Niamh Green, who purchased him as a foal.

The natives came in very good numbers for their in hand section which was led for the overall NPS Scotland M&M Final by the Smith Family's great going homebred Fell mare, Bracklinn Beth, only a few weeks after she stood overall champion at the Fell Breed Show in Cumbria. The most northerly of the exhibits all the way from Orkney, Kelly Cronarty Pearce's homebred Shetland filly, Hools Je T'Aime, was overall reserve as well as

youngstock champion., Well-known race horse trainer and horse welfare protagonist, Lucinda Russell, had the job of selecting the overall champion from an array of impressive and worthy champions both ridden and in hand. It is a little known fact that

Lucinda used to officiate as a judge prior to concentrating on racing and a visit to her Arlary Stables confirms her good eye for conformation. Well-equipped for the task, she seemed to relish her duties in the Moray Arena with a word for all the exhibitors. In a most welcome but unprecedented reception I have personally ever witnessed at any show, the ringriders provided a wonderful atmosphere by applauding every champion when it completed its individual show.

Captivating the hearts of both ringside and judge was the grey Welshman, Dukeshill Penny Pincher, who was recording his best result to date. Runner-up came from the in hand ranks when the Fell mare, Bracklinn Beth, was asked to stand forward.

This provided a wonderful finale to two incredible days of showing at Scone



Ridden champion was a Highland called Dunedin Marksman, shown by Katie Common from Inverness

Palace, whose organisers must have been delighted with the support and reaction from exhibitors and spectators alike. While the Kings Arena provided a wonderful spectacle of dressage by the event riders over the equivalent period, it has to be admitted that it has little appeal for the general public who arrived in their thousands over the four days of the event. In terms of public engagement and entertainment, it surely proves that the show ring

can fulfil a very useful purpose as we already witness in the main ring at the Royal Highland. What other equestrian discipline can fill three large arenas over two days at a relatively minimum cost to a very high cost event? There is no doubt that the showing fraternity has found a wonderful new Scottish venue for their sport while in showing, the Scone Palace International Horse Trials has equally found a valuable asset and partner.



HOY's ridden winner was Gaidur of Over Langshaw from Lancashire, owned by Isabel Bergius and ridden by Aliya Khan



Champion ridden miniature was the Shetland Addingham Darcy ridden by Grace Alexander for Nicky Marshall



Hunter champion was Ederagor Ned by Chloe Macdonald, ridden by James Munro. Reserve was Jamie's Future ridden by Russell Skelton

Supreme success for

Spam

Small is mighty in historic Scone supreme, a decorated champion feels better than ever and home-breds are HOYS-bound

By BETHAN SIMMONS

Scone Palace, Perthshire

EQUESTRIAN icon Lucinda Russell, who trains racehorses nearby Scone Palace at Milnathort, selected 10-year-old Olivia Dickson and her mother Aimee Lock's Welsh section A Dukehill Penny Pincher (Spam), as her partnership Dukehill Penny Pincher and Olivia Dickson clinch the open title before swooping in for the supreme spoils

A rise through the ranks: former first ridden partnership Dukehill Penny Pincher and Olivia Dickson clinch the open title before swooping in for the supreme spoils



Beth was supreme champion at the Fell Pony Society bred show just a week prior to here. Today has been the best day ever; I can't believe we've just won the supreme at Scone! In reserve was NPS Scotland (M&M) in-hand final champion, Fell pony Bracklinn Beth, exhibited by her breeders, Freddie out of Bracklinn Tess, the Smith family. By Auskaside we've got there now," said "He's been hard work, but way up the ranks. classes together, making their pair started off in first ridden third season with Spam and the a stallion swap. Olivia is in her borrowed by Jo for a season in Dutch stallion known as Ham by Oidenjizilster Action Man, a Dukehill Penny From Heaven was bred by Jo Sheil out of Nine-year-old Spam champions en route. pair were open ridden supreme champions. The section A Dukehill Penny Pincher (Spam), as her partnership Dukehill Penny Pincher and Olivia Dickson clinch the open title before swooping in for the supreme spoils

BINGO MAKES THE MOMENT

THE long journey west from Newmarket to Pembrokehire County proved worthwhile for Steve Pitt and Victoria Smith when their home-bred hunter breeding champion Superstition (Bingo, pictured) secured a pass to the Price Family supreme in-hand championship. The two-year-old – also a champion at the recent hunter championships – is by Leander and was shown by Steve. "He's won every time out," said Victoria. "We think he's very special – he's a lovely horse now and he'll be a grand horse at three. We'll show him again next year and see where he goes from there."

ONE TO WATCH

aboard Jane McNaught's highly shown Royal Highland winner, Mullachbuie MacLaren, a six-year-old by Glenwestcastle Loch Rannoch. Katie partnered trusty multi-garlanded Dunedin Marksmen son Dunedin Mascot (Scottie) to both the ridden Highland tricolour and the M&M silver medal rosette final. "Scottie never got his moment in the ridden Highlands nor in the NPS finals at Blair," said Katie. "This was totally unexpected. ridden silver medal title holder. Dunedin Rhiona, a double Blair Castle's last in-hand silver medal championship, out of home-bred gelding Dewley rasal. Six-year-old Rasal is by Dunedin Mohawk, winner of Blar Castle's last in-hand silver medal rosette final leading his won the M&M in-hand silver tricolours to his CV here. He won the M&M silver medal and the M&M silver medal

show him due to his record, but he's so brilliant, and he keeps I do feel the pressure when I show him due to his record, but he's so brilliant, and he keeps when to pull it out of the bag. us on our toes."

CHRIS GRANT added two "A RASAL BY NAME AND NATURE" and Charlotte Turner. Dartmoor Dykes Blue Moon ridden pairing, Tracy Turner's Reserve was the top first my life," said Nicola. she never went back; she's a wee star and I trust her with

CHRIS GRANT

"He's good fun and he keeps us on our toes"

He looks better than he's ever looked and I'm so lucky to have him." There was plenty of celebration from the ringside when the M&M mini champion was called out. Nicola Marshall's Shetland mare Addingham Darcy and five-year-old Grace Alexander had earlier led a 29-strong lead-rein final before taking the overall title. The 11-year-old has been based with Nicola and her family for five years. "She came on loan to be brought on under saddle and



PARTING GIFT IS HOYS-BOUND



AGAINST THE ODDS

SIÂN and Darydd Morris' Friars For You (Jimmy, pictured) exceeded all expectations to secure the HOYS Price Family supreme in-hand championship ticket at Denbigh and Flint, shown by Dorian Lloyd. This was seven-year-old Welsh section A Jimmy's third show-ring appearance. He was shown by Simon Charlesworth, who usually shows for the stud, to be runner-up at the Royal Welsh on his debut, and champion at the NPS Summer Championships. As Simon was unable to attend here, Dorian took Jimmy's rein as he's been producing him since Darydd broke his leg recently. Jimmy's bred in the purple. His sire Uphill James Fox was the first-ever section A to win the Heritage championship at Olympia, now London International. On his dam's side, Jimmy is the sixth generation of Friars breeding, and the last foal out of one of the Friars Stud's most celebrated broodmares, Friars Liquid Gold – dam of Royal Welsh winners Friars Donatella, Friars Queen Of Hearts, Friars Antofat Angel and Friars White Gold.

"We always felt he was her parting gift," said Siân, who admitted they almost didn't show here due to Darydd's leg and Simon's inability to attend. "Good job we did in the end." Also celebrating a first HOYS ticket against the odds here was Maddison Lindsay's winner of the ridden Welsh section D class, Fairgrove Morgan Mai, ridden by his producer Danielle Hughes. at birth when his dam Brynseion Morganna Mai sadly suffered from a rupture. "After a desperate Facebook plea we were contacted by Nardine Francis who offered us the most amazing foster mare Menai Countessa who did an amazing job of rearing him," said his breeder Gemma Paxford. "It's moments like this that make the challenges and expense of breeding worthwhile."

Chris was in-hand Highland pony champion the previous day with home-bred three-year-old filly Dewley Essence. The daughter of Dewley Esmerelda and she's generally a very easy grazing site a mile from home and she's generally a very easy can tell it's going to be a special event. It's amazing to have made history today." H&H

In-hand Highland pony champion, Chris Grant's home-bred Dewley Essence

and dual Royal Highland the Year Show (HOYS) finalist and is by Chris's multi-Horse of a third generation home-bred day with home-bred three-year-old filly Dewley Essence. The champion at Drymen and was Essence stood youngsters champion Dunedin Iolara.