

BRIGHTWELLS ROYAL WELSH COB SALE

Royal Welsh Showground. 20th, 21st & 22nd October

894 Welsh Cobs, Welsh ponies of Cob-type and Welsh part-breds were entered for the 32nd Brightwells Royal Welsh Sale when 795 were present and 655 (82%) were sold. The Sale total was £741,730 (average of £1,132) which is more than double the total of five years ago (£358,938) and six times the total of twenty years ago (£125,659) when the average was £349.

10 lots were sold to France, 9 to Germany, 6 to Holland, 3 to Sweden and 1 each to Finland and Denmark.

Top of the Sale at £14,500 was Jane Weller's magnificent ridden section D mare Pennal Calon Mai which Jane had bought as a foal on this Sale from her breeder Dai Harris for 800 gns. The 2001 Sale catalogue describes her as "line bred to Pennal Lady Model and possesses the same presence and action". She was indeed a worthy descendant of the famous Pennal Lady Model, an exemplary representative of the breed, beautifully presented and with impeccable manners. Calon Mai was ridden champion at the South of England where she qualified for HOYS (where she won her class) and also qualified for Olympia at Royal Windsor and NPS Area 24 and goes there with all our best wishes. Calon Mai was also ridden champion at the WPCS National Championships and won at the NPS Show ridden side-saddle.

Calon Mai was bought jointly by Annie Smalley of the Barkway Stud (who had never attended a Cob Sale previously!) and solicitor Jill Palmer. Annie's daughter Claire has been one of the most successful riders at Olympia riding section B's having qualified five different animals. After having had time off to have three children, she is now about to resume her competitive career riding section D's.

13 section D mares sold for £3,000 or more and 45 for £1,500 or more. Next in line at £5,500 was Cerdin and Doreen Jones's elegant seven-year-old Synod Rosemary Black. Very similar in type to her record-breaking sire Synod Robert Black, Rosemary has the best possible credentials, her grandsire being Brynymor Welsh Magic and great-grandsire Hendy Brenin. Rosemary returned to familiar ground after being purchased by the Prater family of the Rhencullen Stud, Llanybyther.

It is very rarely that a young daughter of the late three-times Royal Welsh champion Nebo Daniel comes onto the market and Owen Jones of Nebo seized on the opportunity and secured the six-year-old many-times champion Harradene Rosebud (with grandsire Nebo Sportsman and great-grandsire Nebo Black Magic) for £5,000.

Neil and Karen Parry of the Brynmelys Stud sold the twelve-year-old black mare Penycrug Telynores for £4,500 to Susan Harries of Upton St Leonards; locally bred by David and Janet Brake, Telynores has won many prizes at county level ridden by Karen. The same price was paid by Andre Swistun of the Llanmorlais / Osbourn Stud, Swansea for another black mare, the eleven-year-old Fronarth Lady Harriet, daughter of the 1999 Royal Welsh champion Fronarth Boneddiges and full-sister to supreme champion Fronarth Viscountess.

Leading show-jumping rider Eurig Eynon sold the chocolate dun mare Penstrumbly Ffion to Delores Laffen of Newark for £4,000; although only four years old she behaved impeccably under saddle and with these illustrious bloodlines will later be a very valuable brood mare. Another which sparkled under saddle was Meirion, Dianne and Caleb Evans's Gwynfaes Shani, produced and ridden by Sara Ackers. Shani was bought for £3,600 by Angus Tombs of the Hengwys Stud in Dorset who has previously won the ridden class at the Royal Welsh and on Shani, we might well see him repeating this achievement. Haydn Williams of the Ty'rprentre Stud, Caerphilly sold the beautifully-produced ten-year-old mare Penywrlod Bay Lady to Mrs Barron of Shrewsbury for £3,200; she was covered by Llawynhywel Victor which Haydn sold on this Sale for £3,500

Claire Willis-Burton, who set up a new female record at this Sale last year when she sold Tardebigge Estelle for £17,000, this time topped the males when she sold Estelle's half-brother the nine-year-old Pentrefelin Jake (both sired by Pentrefelin Taliesin) to new breeder George Howatson of Awel-y-Grug, Denbighshire for £8,000. Jake is from the same female family as the £5,500 mare Synod Rosemary Black; his dam Synod Rumour and Rosemary both having the same grand-dam Tydi Rosemary foaled in 1967.

French breeder Dr Etienne Stevens paid £6,000 for John Merrick's impressive black colt Brynithon The Invisible who, at only three years of age, is already the sire of one of the "stars" of the Sale, the superb bay colt foal Brynithon Masterpiece, grandson of Kentchurch Reward by Llanarth Welsh Warrior. Masterpiece was bought by Gareth Andrew of Berriew, currently one of the best showmen on the Welsh scene so we are destined to hear a lot more of Masterpiece in the future.

Benni Thomas of Lodor sold his attractive home-bred palomino two-year-old colt Lodor Braint ap Meredith for £5,200 to Mrs Cooper of Wantage. Braint is one of the last remaining progeny of the late Paith Magical Meredith and on his dam's side, he has seven generations of Lodor breeding back to the foundation mare Lodor Anwen. The eleven-year-old black stallion Bryncwmwl Mab-y-Rhys from one of the oldest strains in the Stud Book, the Pantlleinau Cobs from Ceredigion, produced under saddle by the Janton Stud sold for £5,000 to Mr Longbottom of West Yorkshire. Mab-y-Rhys has won many ridden championships including Glanus, Aberystwyth and was supreme at the WPCS National Championships.

Top section D colt foal at £2,600 was Cruglwyd Stud's flashy chestnut Cruglwyd Dazzler who was sold to Mrs Rowe of Southampton; sired by the 2002 Royal Welsh champion Gwynfaes Culhwch, his dam Cruglwyd Enid has also produced Lampeter Youngstock champions. Brynithon Masterpiece (above) was next at £2,100 followed by the black Fronarth Ace of Spades which went to Sandra Watkins of the Triad Stud, Flintshire for £2,000. One remembers the 2003 Sale when Sandra bought the black filly foal Horeb Undeg (also by Culhwch) who went on to win at the Royal Welsh and we wish her similar success with Ace of Spades.

The Cob filly foal which sold for three times any other at £11,000 was Mary Edwards's charming bay Cascob Powys Princess sired by Gwenllan Deio which Cascob had borrowed in 2004 and 2005 and hope to borrow again! Powys Princess is a daughter of the champion Cascob Heleddd, one of three yearling fillies with which

Cascob Stud won Royal Welsh first prizes within five years. Heledd is four generations away from the original Cascob mare Parc Princess II (foaled in 1956) which Mary bought at Hay-on-Wye for 137 gns after she had been used for five years pulling timber in the forestry. Powys Princess was bought by Tom Hughes of the Rhydeilian Stud in Anglesey whose son Alun is a showman "par excellence". Tom and Alun at this Sale last year bought the top colt foal Trefaes Black Flyer (£4,400) sired by Gwynfaes Culhwch. Under-bidder on Powys Princess was Andre Swistun who sold eight lots.

There were other smart filly foals on offer. John and Bev Batt had £3,800 for the bay Abergavenny Welsh Maid which went to Kath Hall of the Penstrumbly Stud who has had much success with Abergavenny Cobs in the past. Regular top purchasers Steve and Carol Crutchley of the Caerddaniel Stud paid £2,600 for the palomino Harradene Material Girl; John Merrick's Brynithon Super Lady another grand-daughter of Kentchurch Reward went to the long-established Llwynhywel Stud in Llanilar for £2,600; Julie Evans's black Haighmoor Gwyneth was bought by Alan, Jan and Adrian Pearce of Glyncoch Stud for £2,000 and John Evans's bay Glantraeth Pride, third prizewinner at the Royal Welsh was bought by Ceri Fell (who sold two very attractive colt foals) for £1,900.

Valerie Layton's dun yearling filly Caebryn Surreal of Glanvyrnwy breeding at £8,500 was far and away top of the section D fillies selling to Mr Davies of Pengelli, Llandeilo. Next, two three-year-old fillies both sold for £4,000 were Penrhiwlas Stud's Penrhiwlas Dameg by the German-bred Palatinate Rodeo which went to Mrs Barron of Shrewsbury (purchaser also of Penywrlod Bay Lady) and Henk van Dijk's Dutch-bred Ruska Rosa Mundi joins the many champions at the Mason family's Stepol Stud in Lancashire.

There was a dearth of section C stallions on offer, the top male section C at £2,400 being the Moore family's good-moving dun yearling colt Tycwm Triple Crown who was sold to Dumfries and was the foal at foot when Tycwm Abbergail was overall champion and HOYS qualifier at the Royal Welsh Show.

The top section C mare, filly and filly foal all had "Synod" connections; Idyllic Stud's seven-year-old chestnut mare Synod Razzle Dazzle sold for £4,000 to Mrs Marsden of Durham, Popsters Stud's palomino filly foal Popsters Lalique, grand-daughter of Synod Replay and great-grand-daughter of Synod William sold to Mr Wilkinson of Much Hadham for £4,500 and Jacky Kirk's three-year-old chestnut filly Donys Fancy That, daughter of Synod Rosie O'Neil, sold to Messrs Turnbull of Doncaster for £4,000.

Synod Stud's own consignment of 8 section C's and 2 section D's averaged a staggering £2,340 with the top section C price of £3,200 paid by the Maenan Stud, Cheltenham for the chestnut two-year-old filly Synod Rosie's Gold sired by Synod Reagan who is now in his twenty-sixth year.

30 geldings fetched £1,500 or more with the twelve-year-old Neuaddparc Duke selling to Mr James of Three Cocks, Brecon for £4,500 and the four-year-old dun Llanwnen Euros, who hails from a long list of duns back to the beginning of the Welsh Stud Book, selling for £4,400 to Mr Edwards of Neath.

The seven-year-old part-bred chestnut mare Drumbilla Mary Lou, also of Glanvyrnwy parentage and a member of the Irish show-jumping team sold for £4,600 to Mr J W Lawes of Stowmarket, Suffolk.

Wynne Davies

Stop Press:

Madonna's horse:

The national press recently has been speculating about Madonna quitting Britain and going to live in her Los Angeles mansion. There have been many photographs of her riding "Tom" who has been flown to LA in a special cargo plane.

"Tom" is actually an eight-year-old Welsh Cob gelding Ystrad-dewi Briton which was bought by Tom Bowdler of Stafford for £1,250 on the May 2005 Brightwells Spring Sale at Builth Wells. "Tom" is a grand-son of the renowned late Ebbw Victor, four times Royal Welsh male champion between 1983 and 1997 before finally winning the coveted Prince of Wales cup and retiring in 1998.

Wynne Davies.