

RAPTURE THE STAR OF A BRISK AINTREE TRADE

Richard and Ruth Pilkington's Aintree herd, with a history of more than 60 years, has long been renowned for its exceptional production figures and its impressive depth of pedigrees, and the dispersal of the milking portion and their most recently born heifer calves, drew a large crowd of breeders from many parts of the UK, with purchasers travelling from Cornwall, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Yorkshire and Northern Ireland, with many more bidding on Marteye.

The trade was fast and furious from beginning to end, as nearly 400 animals went under the hammer, and the animal that piqued most breeders' interest was Aintree Sassafras Rapture, a VG-88 second calver bred from 15 generations of Excellent cows and a good bet to be the 16th in due course. Several well known faces were in the bidding action, but it was James Dunn who had the last call at 8,400gs to take her back to his Newbarton herd at Camborne in Cornwall. James was a determined bidder for many of the choicest lots and purchased 20 head in the sale. Rapture's eight week old heifer calf by Denovo Cabo made 2,600gs to the Jones family's local Leamoll herd.

Martin Lowry gave 5,200gs for another classy second calver Aintree Achiever Shady B, giving over 50kg+, to take to the Halen herd near Newcastle Emlyn, and at 5,100gs Sam Gilmore from Tandragee, Co Armagh secured another 88 point cow by Seagull-Bay Slvr Kimball, among his 24 purchases.

The much admired red and white cover girl Aintree Kimball Nugget B Red (Ex-92) was the first to break the 5,000 guinea barrier, bought by Stuart Forshaw for the Longshaw herd in Lancashire. David & John Coullthurst from Goosnargh, Lancashire have been among the most prolific buyers of quality cattle this year and added another 23 super young milkers to their Edenfield herd, their top purchase being Aintree Achiever Elegance B at 5,000gs. Highest volume buyers were Messrs Lloyd who took 28 animals back to their herd at Crundale, Haverfordwest.

The heifer calves were a sparkling trade, with over 100 averaging £951, a remarkable figure considering most were under 2 months old. The top price on this section was 4,000gs, given by James Dunn for a red Ranger daughter out of a 94 point cow from the noted Sara family.

Richard Pilkington has developed a small section of British Friesians within the herd in recent years, emanating in the main from his purchase of the outstanding brood cow Blackisle Pauline 71 (Ex-95-6 17*). She gave over 100 tonnes of milk with yields up to 14,000kg at 4.9%, and bred 4 proven sires in the Genus stud. James Dunn, who milks both Holsteins and British Friesians on his Cornish farm, purchased her last remaining daughter Aintree Chad Pauline 4 ET (Ex-90) for 4,200gs together with her Bradash Patriot Red heifer calf for 2,600gs. 5 other Paulines made 3,000gs or more. The 17 British Friesian animals averaged over £2,700.

With 70 animals breaking the 3,000 guinea barrier, the Aintree dispersal must be counted as a huge encouragement for pedigree breeders and was a great tribute to the Pilkington family's skill and dedication to cattle breeding over many years.

TOP PRICES			
HOLSTEINS			
187	A.Sassafras Rapture (VG-88)	J.Dunn (Newbarton)	8,400
115	A.Achiever Shady B ET (VG-88)	K.R.Lowry (Halen)	5,200
169	A.Kimball Linda B Red (VG-88)	S.Gilmore	5,100

65	A.Kimball Nugget B Red (Ex-92)	S. Forshaw & Sons (Longshaw)	5,000
128	A.Achiever Elegance B (VG-88)	N.W & J.M.Coulthurst & Son (Edenfield)	5,000
220	A.Persuade Nugget B (VG-86 2yr)	J.Wadsworth (Glenwood)	4,600
79	A.Hartley Secret (Ex-92)	G & J.Booth (Beechview)	4,400
160	A.Star Nugget E (VG-86)	S.Gilmore	4,300
174	A.Kimball Linda C (VG-86)	N.W & J.M.Coulthurst & Son (Edenfield)	4,200
81	A.Hartley Nugget (Ex-91)	N.W & J.M.Coulthurst & Son (Edenfield)	4,100
117	A.Yamaska Elegance (VG-87)	J.E.Tolley (Hurstwood)	4,100
134	A.Useful Secret (GP-83)	S. Forshaw & Sons (Longshaw)	4,100
20A	A.Ranger Sara Red	J.Dunn (Newbarton)	4,000
118	A.Achiever Elegance (VG-86)	M.E.M & C.R.Morgan (Beili)	4,000
167	A.Darwin Secret (VG-85)	A.D & R.M.Thomas (Wolston)	4,000
69	A.Upright Rae B (Ex-90)	N.W & J.M.Coulthurst & Son (Edenfield)	3,900
91	A.Allclass Daisychain (VG-88)	W.J & M.D.Oldfield (Whinhill)	3,900
152	A.Outback Sara (VG-85)	N.W & J.M.Coulthurst & Son (Edenfield)	3,900
166	A.Star Peach (VG-87)	J.Dunn (Newbarton)	3,800
215	Whinchat Attico Molli Red 3 (GP-84 2yr)	N.W & J.M.Coulthurst & Son (Edenfield)	3,800
14	A.Star Nugget (Ex-94-3)	E. Gay & Sons (Walkabout)	3,700
71	A.Rapid Nugget Red (VG-85)	D.McNiece (Townview)	3,600
80	A.Hartley Linda (Ex-91)	J.Warden (Ballygrainey)	3,600
127	A.Malbec Linda (VG-87)	N.W & J.M.Coulthurst & Son (Edenfield)	3,600
145	A.Useful Sara (VG-87)	N.W & J.M.Coulthurst & Son (Edenfield)	3,600
157	A.Hyperion Secret (VG-85)	N.W & J.M.Coulthurst & Son (Edenfield)	3,600
221	A.Idolise Nugget (VG-85 2yr)	A.P & J.H.G.Wyatt (Penbryn)	3,600
255	A.Art Nugget (GP-83 2yr)	D.McNiece (Townview)	3,600
65A	A.Ranger Nugget B Red	E. Taylor (Letterloan)	3,500
149	A.Lighthouse Peach (VG-85)	C.Irwin (Cormeen)	3,500
BRITISH FRIESIAN			
100	A.Chad Pauline 4 ET (Ex-90)	J.Dunn (Newbarton)	4,200
97	A.Chad Pauline 2 (Ex-90)	J.Dunn (Newbarton)	3,200
101	A.Chad Pauline 5 (VG-85)	R.D.Moore & Son (Corryglass)	3,200
105	A.Jupiter Dazzle (GP-83)	P.A.J & E.H.Davies (Hollinscourt)	3,200
108	A,Jingle Pauline	J.Dunn (Newbarton)	3,200
110	A,Jingle Pauline 2	D.J.Edwards (Groes)	3,200
102	A.Jacob Pauline (GP-84)	D.J.Edwards (Groes)	3,100
99	A.Chad Pauline 3 (Ex-90)	R.D.Moore & Son (Corryglass)	3,000

AVERAGES

238 cows & calved heifers (including all faults)	£ 2,930.00
21 served heifers	£ 2,032.50
2 maiden heifers	£ 2,520.00
117 heifer calves	£ 951.46
2 bulls	£ 1,942.50

AUCTIONEERS: NORTON & BROOKSBANK