

Magnum Opus draws 40 buyers from 15 counties

Strong local support and plenty of buyers from as far afield as Scotland, Pembrokeshire & Devon ensured competitive bidding when Greg Fletcher and family dispersed their good Magnum herd on farm at Stapleton, Leicestershire on Tuesday 27th this week. With the farm sold and a machinery sale booked for November 7th, everything had to go, providing buyers with a genuine dispersal sale of the 440 head.

24 animals made 2,000 guineas or more peaking at 2,500 gns for an August calved heifer by Relough Carlos. Magnum Carlos Dora GP82 was one of a number of well bred animals in the herd descended from purchases made from Messrs Day's Bickleygate herd in North Yorkshire. The buyer was local breeder Brian Sercombe who secured 9 quality animals for his Foresthill herd, including the top priced served heifer at 1950 gns. Magnum Fontaine Jenny was due in 5 weeks to Stardust.

The trade of the day was for milking heifers calved in the last 3 months and 24 in this category averaged an impressive £2,069. The milking herd contained a rather large proportion of older cows and it was not until we got to lot 94 that we were past cows in their 4th lactation. Several had faults but the younger animals were good and the rising prices reflected this.

Maiden heifers and calves were easier to buy than at recent sales as the rising cost of straw and feed prices made buyers wary of unproductive animals with the imminent onset of winter. Calves at foot peaked at 480gns for a 4 month old daughter of Pine-Tree Defence with yearling heifers reaching 780gns twice for daughters of Silver & Mayday both going to Shropshire buyers Bubney Farms who purchased a decker load for their herd near Whitchurch.

AVERAGES: 251 Cows & Calved Heifers (all in)	avg	£1,283
54 Served Heifers	avg	£1,323
73 Maiden Heifers	avg	£ 496
64 Heifer calves at foot	avg	£ 295
442 Head	avg	£1,008

Auctioneers: NORTON & BROOKSBANK