

SUSSEX CATTLE SOCIETY

LARGE HERDS COMPETITION 2023

JUDGES: Mr. D. Stevens & Mrs. S. Harmer

- 1st E.H. Holdstock & Son, Elbridge Herd
- 2nd Chandler & Dunn Ltd., Goldstone Herd
- 3rd S. & F. Carr & Daughters, Oxendean Herd
- 4th Mr. G.A. Innes, Titsey Herd

Best Stock Bull in Class: Goldstone Poll General 2nd at the Goldstone Herd

Best Cow/Heifer and Calf in Class: Intwood Buttercup 1st at the Intwood Herd

Judges' General Comment

Thanks to all the competitors for their time and hospitality. We enjoyed our 4 days judging and saw some very impressive cattle including over 700 cows. The overall Stock Bull quality was good. The top two herds in the competition both used Signet recording and have used this to their advantage.

We recommend that all herds record now that the Society is providing this service free of charge.

All six large herds were thriving, and all are very well managed. The cattle were doing the job that each owner required, some on very poor pasture on which Sussex cattle excel.

The top bull was Goldstone Poll General 2nd for the second year running with reserve Windsor Regent at the Intwood herd. The top cow and calf was Bruce Lockhart's Intwood Buttercup 1st with her calf.



INTERMEDIATE HERDS COMPETITION 2023

JUDGES: Ms. J. Howard & Mr. J. Giffin

- 1st C.E. & W.S. Millson, Trottenden Herd
- 2nd D. Spanton & F. Peterson, Maygate Herd
- 3rd Buchanan Family, Black Ven Herd
- 4th The Montreal Estate, Montreal Herd

Best Stock Bull in Class: Petworth Regent 11th at the Trottenden Herd

Best Cow/Heifer and Calf in Class: Maygate Poll Shadow 2nd at the Maygate Herd

Judges' General Comment

Thank you to everyone for showing us round your herds, it was a very close competition, with very little to choose between the top three.

We saw many many different management systems from those using Sussex on very extensive grazing, some with no inputs at all, to those using common land with all the issues that plenty of public access brings and others contending with floods! It will be very interesting to come back next year to see how those of you switching to various versions of mob grazing get on in Year 2.

There were some excellent cows and followers but sadly the bulls less so and most of the better bulls seen were older. This continues to be a problem for the breed though having said that there were a few excellent yearlings flying the flag.

We were impressed by the enthusiasm of all the owners / managers with most having a clear vision of where they are going with their cattle and we thank you for your time and enthusiasm.



SMALL HERDS COMPETITION 2023

JUDGES: Mr. R. Dunn & Mrs. B. Hide

- 1st Mrs. J. Howard, Coopers Herd
- 2nd Mrs. V. Deradour, Wren's Herd
- 3rd Mr. S. & Mrs. N. Bish, Saxonhurst Herd
- 4th Mrs. S. Watts, Montgomery's Herd

Best Stock Bull in Class: Coopers Poll Regent 3rd at the Coopers Herd

Best Cow/Heifer and Calf in Class: Saxonhurst Lock Heedless 32nd at the Saxonhurst Herd

Judges' General Comment

What a contrast from last year's drought to this year's abundance of grass. All cattle looked extremely well and calves shone in the sunshine, which we were lucky to choose the best days.

The standard of all herds was very good, the established herds maintaining a consistent level while younger herds continue to progress.

Different management styles that these cattle seem to fit all, an interesting mob grazing system the cattle seemed very content and very placid.

We would like to thank all the competitors for their time and hospitality, it makes judging a very enjoyable experience.

Herne Valley Rose Bowl for the highest place novice entrant in the Herd Competition: Oxendean Herd



CHAMPION HERD

Judge: Mr. Alan Mummery

I was honoured to be asked to judge the Supreme Champion Herd of the Year 2023 for the Sussex Cattle Society. I enjoyed visits to 3 outstanding, but quite different herds, and I congratulate the owners on their success in winning their individual classes. My task was not easy but I was charged with the great responsibility of choosing a Supreme Champion for 2023.

It was fascinating see such high quality breeding herds all with very different management systems and farm environments. The judging took place after one of the wettest summers in history so there was plenty of grass around so the cattle all looked in great condition.

I am grateful to all of the owners who spent time showing me around their farms and all 3 should be very proud of their herds and the progress that they are making with the breed. It has proved to be a much more difficult decision than I anticipated and I have decided to award the Supreme Champion award to the **Elbridge Herd** for the following reasons:-

Stockmanship of all 3 class winners was of the highest quality so I could not differentiate of this basis. My decision to favour the Elbridge Herd is because I saw cattle being managed very successfully on some very challenging marginal ground and the herd looked extremely impressive- a great advert for the breed. This, coupled with the consistent herd type from the breeding cows, to the intakes of in-calf and maiden heifers which is the aim of any breeder to achieve. I congratulate E H Holdstock & Son on their success.

Finally, I thoroughly enjoyed my tour and put me rather wanting to return to my previous times as one of the auctioneers to the Society!

