



Drumlegagh Oceana – Overall Champion, Balmoral



Ballykeel Prince – Male Champion, Balmoral



Approach Farm Pierre – Overall Champion, Welshpool



Rigel Verity - Reserve Overall Champion, Welshpool



Kaimburn Playboy – Overall Champion at Castle Douglas



Rednock Phoenix – Reserve Overall Champion at Castle Douglas



SALERS WIN COVETED GROUP OF FIVE INTERBREED TITLE AT BALMORAL



## COUNCIL BUSINESS

A Council meeting was held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 10am via zoom.

### MEMBERSHIP

Twenty-three new members have joined the Salers Cattle Society since 1 January 2021 and the Council wish to extend them a very warm welcome. If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact the Society office, your area representative or any of the council members. Contact details can be found on the Salers website [www.salers.uk](http://www.salers.uk)

### CHECS JOHNES TESTING PROTOCOL RULE CHANGES

CHECS announced changes to the rules of the Johnes testing protocol on 30th April. There had been no formal consultation to seek support and buy-in from stakeholders, and it was taken against the advice of their very own CHECS Technical Committee. Council put pressure on CHECS via the pedigree breed society group and as a result two independent experts in the field of MAP infection will review the pending changes to the scheme. The CHECS health scheme providers have agreed on the choice of these two experts and as a result the rule changes have been delayed. I would very much like to thank Terence Pye and Martin Tomlinson for their contribution, help and support on this matter.

### VICE CHAIR

The Vice Chair of the Salers Cattle Society Mr Andrew Powell has stepped down from the position due to work commitments. Council have appointed Mr Aled Jones as the temporary Vice Chair until formal ratification at the AGM



**ALED JONES**

VICE - CHAIR & COUNCIL MEMBER AREA 3

### NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS / AREA REPRESENTATIVES



**CATHERINE ATKINSON**

COUNCIL MEMBERS AREA 6



**STEPHEN MAGINN**

COUNCIL MEMBER AREA 4



**MARTIN TOMLINSON**

VETERINARY SPECIALIST & COUNCIL MEMBER CO-OPTED

## 2022 Bull Calves

The year letter for bull calves registered in 2022 is "S"

[View here](#)

### ASSESSING ANIMALS FOR SHOWS AND SALES

The Council have received feedback about cattle forward at Society Sales and are keen to ensure that every Society show, and sale is a showcase of the very best pedigree Salers on offer in the UK.

Assessing your own animals is very difficult but it is also very important and to ensure only the best are presented for show / sale you need to be very critical in this assessment.

Repeat business and customers are the definition of quality and to ensure this we ask that you consider the following when selecting cattle for Society shows and sales:

- Ensure the animal is quiet, well trained, easily handled, and ready to go to the show and sale.
- Be mindful of the desirable traits of the Salers breed.
- Assess the animal in its natural stance ensuring it is bright and alert and stands with a leg in each corner.
- Feet should be of sound proportionate size, open, level and giving the appearance of being up on their toes.
- To ensure desirable locomotion, walk the animal on the halter in a straight line. Locomotion should be definite and confident with full straight strides when viewed from the front, side and the rear showing natural foot placement.
- Remember to check the mouth for being over or undershot (teeth not meeting the pad).
- Ensure bulls meet the weight and scrotal size standards.
- Consider if this is an animal you would like to introduce into your herd for breeding.

## PEDIGREE SALERS

### 2022 EARLY SPRING SALES



## EASY CALVING BULLS



## STIRLING BULL SALES

20 – 22 FEBRUARY 2022



## MELTON MOWBRAY

26 MARCH 2022 (ENTRY DEADLINE 18 FEBRUARY 2022)

## WWW.SALERS.UK

secretary@salers.uk

07903 626249



## DRUMLEGAGH OCEANA TRIUMPHANT AT BALMORAL 2021 & SALERS WIN COVETED BEST GROUP OF FIVE TITLE

Mr Neil Austin of Gatehouse of Fleet, Kirkcudbrightshire had near perfect show weather in which to judge the Salers classes at Balmoral Show 2021. The show that is normally a major calendar event in May each year had been postponed until September due to COVID-19 and despite the spectator numbers at the gate being capped, Salers cattle numbers were not hampered and the quality of cattle in each and every class was extremely strong.

Neil's pick of the day was Drumlegagh Oceana, an April 2019 born heifer that comes from a family line of Champions. Her dam and grand dam had both previously being crowned Champion at Balmoral. Bred by J & E A Elliott and ably brought out by Kirsten Elliott, Oceana was sired by Drumlegagh Hamish and out of Drumlegagh Galaxy. Oceana lifted the Overall Champion title and the Highways Hotel Cup as well as the Wallets Marts Shield for the Best Homebred Animal.

J & E A Elliot also secured the Reserve Overall Championship title with Drumlegagh Poppy, a May 2020 Drumlegagh Hamish sired heifer out of Drumlegagh Larissa who had also been selected as the Balmoral 2021 Junior Champion

Standing reserve to Poppy in the Junior Championship line up was Seamus Connell's Male Champion Ballykeel Prince, a February 2020 born Imperial sired bull out of Ballykeel Mademoiselle.

The Salers Cattle Society Cup for the Best Pair and the Best Turned Out trophy went to B & P O'Kane of Lower Bolie Salers with Lower Bolie Ophra and Lower Bolie Princess.

The coveted Stockmans Shield was awarded to Hannah Burns assisting the Lisnamaul herd for her hard work and dedication throughout the whole show





## BALMORAL SHOW – SEPTEMBER 2021

### 599 COW, in calf or with calf at foot

- 1st Maginn PJ & Sons, LISNAMAUL KELLY
- 2nd Ballykeel Salers, INDIANA
- 3rd O Kane B & P, BROOKFIELDS ABBEY
- 4th Elliott J & E A, DRUMLEGAGH LUNA

### 600 HEIFER, born in 2019.

- 1st Elliott J & E A, DRUMLEGAGH OCEANA
- 2nd O Kane B & P, LOWER BOLIE OPHRA

### 601 HEIFER, born on or after 1st January 2020

- 1st Elliott J & E A, DRUMLEGAGH POPPY
- 2nd Maginn PJ & Sons, LISNAMAUL PRINCESS
- 3rd O Kane B & P, LOWER BOLIE PRINCESS
- 4th Elliott J & E A, DRUMLEGAGH POLINA
- 5th Maginn PJ & Sons, LISNAMAUL PATSY
- 6th Ballykeel Salers, BALLYKEEL PENNY
- 7th Maginn PJ & Sons, LISNAMAUL PIXIE

### 602 BULL, up to 2 years old on day of Show

- 1st Ballykeel Salers, BALLYKEEL PRINCE
- 2nd Maginn PJ & Sons, LISNAMAUL PETER PAN
- 3rd O Kane B & P, LOWER BOLIE RAMBO

### 604 PAIR OF ANIMALS,

- 1st O Kane B & P
- 2nd Elliott J & E A
- 3rd Maginn PJ & Sons/Lisnamaul Salers
- 4th Ballykeel Salers

### Male Champion

Ballykeel Prince, Seamus Connell

### Reserve Male Champion

Lisnamaul Peter Pan, P J Maginn & Sons

### Junior Champion

Drumlegagh Poppy, J & E A Elliott

### Reserve Junior Champion

Ballykeel Prince, Seamus Connell

**Overall Champion (Highways Hotel Cup)** Drumlegagh Oceana, J & E A Elliott

### Reserve Overall Champion (Highways Hotel Cup)

Drumlegagh Poppy, J & E A Elliott

### Best Homebred Animal (Wallets Marts Shield)

Drumlegagh Oceana, J & E A Elliott

### Pairs (Salers Cattle Society Cup)

B & P O'Kane, Lower Bolie Salers

### Best Turned Out

B & P O'Kane, Lower Bolie Salers

### Stockmans Shield

Miss Hannah Burns, Lisnamaul





# WELSHPOOL SHOW & SALE – OCTOBER 2021

## Approach Farm winners at Welshpool

The Autumn sale of pedigree and commercial Salers took place at Welshpool on Saturday 9th October 2021. There was a 100% clearance in the pedigree section, however prices were slightly back on the year, with three Salers bulls which sold to a top price of 3600gns and an average of £3360 (-£840 for 1 bull sold in 2020), and two pedigree heifers sold to a top price of 1800gns with an average of £1890 (-£57.23 for 11 females sold in 2020). In the commercial section however, averages were up slightly with 10 females selling to an average of £1460, +£275.62 for 16 sold in 2020.

Angus and Kerry Gowthorpe of Approach Farm, Escrick, York had a tremendous weekend with Approach Farm Pierre, a February 2020 born Beguin sired bull out of Approach Farm Lillybet going back to Mock Delia winning the Male and Overall Championship. He was bought by the judge, Mr David Hughes for 3000gns for his Bodran herd of Salers based at Abergele, Conwy. The Gowthorpe family also won the Champion Pen of Commercial Salers with two 19-month-old heifers that were in-calf to French AI bull Beguin and due to calve in February 2022, these sold for £1850 and £1750 respectively. Simultaneously back in Yorkshire the Gowthorpe's were also being awarded Farm of the Year in the Yorkshire Post Rural Awards, sponsored by the Yorkshire Agricultural Society.

Also in the Championship line-up were Terence and Jane Pye of Rigel Pedigree, Yarm, Yorkshire who won the Female Championship and Reserve Overall Champion title with Rigel Verity, a stylish heifer with strong conformation and deep red colour from imported sire Lascaux. Her dam Violet was 15 years old with her 13th calf at foot and sons included Rigel Vasco, a previous champion at Welshpool, Rigel Verdun Poll, a bull breeding well in the Rigel herd and Rigel Magellan Poll who was exported to France. Standing reserve to Verity was another Rigel March 2020 born heifer, Rigel Margarita sired by Lascaux and out of Rigel Malibu. Rigel Pedigree also topped the trade at Welshpool with their 3rd prize bull Rigel Pendragon Poll who sold for 3600gns to D T Edwards & Co, Trecastle, Brecon. Pendragon Poll was a moderate framed fleshy young bull from a milky cow family.





# WELSHPOOL SHOW & SALE – OCTOBER 2021

Bertie Facon took the Reserve Male Champion spot with Gentons Prada an April 2020 born bull out of Cleuchhead Hope 1257 who was purchased privately from R & K Livesey for her fantastic width and size. His sire Noble who originates from Gaec Fournet David and goes back to Beguin and Variegeois

Reserve Champion Pen of Commercial Salers was awarded to Mrs Austin of the Morwenstow herd of Salers from Bude, Cornwall for lots 5 and 6, two 18–19-month heifers in-calf to Preenbank Nando and purchased by P & M Davies for £1420 and £1550 respectively.

It was a very emotional day for Arfon and Siân Hughes of Garndolbenmaen, Gwynedd who sadly after 30 years of breeding Salers, had made the difficult decision to disperse their Cae Rhos herd of pedigree Salers which was the first pedigree herd of Salers in North Wales. Their introduction to Salers was first made by their friend Donald Gilder, Woodvine Salers in 1989 and in November 1990 they purchased their first two heifers, Woodvine Duchess and Woodvine Princess at the Castle Douglas sale. The whole family from three different generations were present at the sale to lend their support and many of the cattle found new homes in pedigree herds such as Ithan owned by E J W Griffiths and Grove Farm herd of Salers owned Andrew Powell. Trade for the Hughes family peaked at £1911 for Lot 32 Cae Rhos Mari a Cae Rhos Cymro 2nd Poll sired 2017 born cow out of Wicklow Janet who went home with J E Davies, Brynhoftnant, Llandysul.

## Female Class

1<sup>st</sup> & Female Champion – Rigel Verity

2<sup>nd</sup> & Reserve Female Champion – Rigel Margarita

## Male Class

1<sup>st</sup> & Male Champion – Approach Farm Pierre

2<sup>nd</sup> & Reserve Male Champion – Gentons Prada

3<sup>rd</sup> – Rigel Pendragon Poll

## Overall Champion

Approach Farm Pierre from A & K Gowthorpe

## Reserve Overall Champion

Rigel Verity from Rigel Pedigree

## Champion Pen of Commercial Salers

A & K Gowthorpe

## Reserve Champion Pen of Commercial Salers

A M Austin

## Pedigree Sale Section

Lot 16 - Rigel Verity, 1800gns, R Evans & Son, Ebnaal Lodge, Oswestry

Lot 18 - Rigel Margarita, 1800gns R Evans & Son, Ebnaal Lodge, Oswestry

Lot 19 - Approach Farm Pierre, 3000gns, D W Hughes, Bryn Kenrick, Abergele

Lot 20 – Rigel Pendragon Poll, 3600gns, D T Edwards & Sons, Llandrindod Wells, Powys

Lot 21 – Gentons Prada, 3000gns, A J Abberley, Llandrindod Well, Powys

## Commercial Sale Section

Lot 1 from A & K Gowthorpe - £1850, P Featherstone

Lot 2 from A & K Gowthorpe - £1750, R Evans & Son

Lot 3 from A M Austin - £1380, D K Price & Son

Lot 4 from A M Austin - £1350, D K Price & Son

Lot 5 from A M Austin - £1420, P & M Davies

Lot 6 from A M Austin - £1550, P & M Davies

Lot 7 from A M Austin - £1580, D A Williams

Lot 8 from A M Austin - £1600, D K Price & Sons

Lot 12 from A M Austin - £1000, I M Jones

Lot 13 from A M Austin - £1120, I M Jones





# STIRLING BULL SALES & DUNGANNON – OCTOBER 2021

## Salers at Stirling Bull Sales - 18 October 2021

Three Salers bulls sold to a top price of 4,500gns and an average of £4,060. Taking the top price was Mr D Murray Lyle of the Strathallan Herd of Pedigree Salers from Dunblane with Lot 398, Strathallan Persille a Seamore Kawasaki son who sold to J Mitchell, Rumbletonrig, Greenlaw, Berwickshire. Lot 393 from Gill & Malcolm Pye at Rednock Estates was Rednock Ollie Poll a Rigel Munro homozygous polled son who sold for 3600gns to J McIntosh, Genoch Mains, Stranraer. Rednock Percy a February 2020 bull sired by Rigel Officer out of FAI Wytham Polled Lucy sold for 3,500gns to J Jamieson, Meikle Carleith, Galston.



## Dungannon – 22 October 2021

Area 4 Salers Club hosted an autumn show under judge Mr Pearse O’Kane followed by a sale of Salers at Dungannon on Friday 22 October 2021. There was 100% clearance in both the male and female section. Topping the trade at 4,300gns was the Overall Champion, Ballykeel Prince from Seamus Connell. Prince was placed 1st in his class at Balmoral Show 2021, as well as Junior Male Champion and Reserve Junior Breed Champion. He went home with T Treanor, Warrenpoint, Newry. The two other bulls Lisnamaul Peter Pan and Mileview Pathfinder both achieved 3,000gns and were sold to R W Robertson & Co, Killinchy Newtownards, County Down and H Devine, Strabane, Co Tyrone respectively.

Seamus Connell of Ballykeel Salers topped the female trade also at 3,400gns B Gallagher, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh selected Ballykeel Penny, a thick, long heifer sired by the French bull Icare. The second top price heifer went to the Reserve Overall Champion on the day, Lisnamaul Rita a March 2021 born calf out of the 2019 Balmoral & Omagh Show Champion Lisnamaul My Girl. She was purchased by pedigree breeder, J Wright, Trayboyack Salers, Girvan, South Ayrshire. 3 bulls sold to a top of 4,300gns and an average of £3605 4 females sold to a top price of 3,400gns and an average of £2992.50





## Strong demand for easy calving, low maintenance Salers at Castle Douglas

The annual premier show and sale of pedigree and commercial Salers was held at Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th November 2021 and was kindly sponsored by the Farmers Guardian.

There was a strong demand for the easy calving, low maintenance Salers especially from breeders from Northern Ireland. They were keen to secure females from both the pedigree and commercial sections with 29 commercial heifers and 10 pedigree females being purchased. M Fleming of Magherafelt, Northern Ireland alone purchased the Overall Male Champion and Overall Show Champion, Kaimburn Playboy, along with six commercial in calf heifers and a further 29 commercial bulling heifers.

The show took place on Friday and was judged by Johny Wright of Trayboyack Salers, Ayrshire. Johny had originally been asked to judge in 2020 but COVID restrictions had led to the cancellation of the main show, leaving him with only the commercial section to assess. He was therefore invited back in 2021 making history by being the first to judge the show twice, in consecutive years.

In the led pedigree female section Johnny found his Champion in Rigel Valentina from Rigel Pedigree. She was a Lascaux sired daughter, in calf to Rigel Oligarch and was born in March 2020. She won the McClymont Cup and went on to sell for the top led pedigree female price of the day 2,300gns to L Howat, Cumnock Ayrshire. In reserve was another from Rigel Pedigree, Rigel Maisie Poll, another March 2020 heifer by Lascaux, and in calf to Rigel Oligarch who won the Tullyneddie Cup for the best polled animal. She sold for 1,700gns to R Milne, North Bethelnie, Old Meldrum.

There were two pedigree production drafts forward from Allison Devereux Farms, Weardale, County Durham and Patrick and Judith Boyd, Drumaglea, Isle of Tiree.

Topping the production sale was Patrick and Judith Boyd with a Baron sired daughter Drumaglea Paula born in April 2020 and out of Drumaglea Blusher who had also bred Drumaglea Outstanding who sold for 7,200gns in Stirling in February 2021. She was sold in calf to Hibou to J Martin & Sons, Swinlees, Dalry for 3,500gns. J Howatson, Risk, Newton Stewart paid 3,200gns for Drumaglea Opal a Beguin sired female in calf to Hibou and new breeders Andrew Orr and Lyndsay Wight from Lawhead, Tarbrax purchased Drumaglea Orla a Baron sired heifer, in calf to Icare for 2,900gns.



Andrew Kennedy, Mileview, Northern Ireland bought Drumaglea Okra a Sancy sired female for 2,700gns and Drumaglea Patsy a Beguin daughter for 2,000gns. Retiring Area 4 representative Seamus Connell added Drumaglea Oyster to his Ballykeel herd of pedigree Salers for 2,500gns, she was sold in calf to Baron.

The Allison Devereux Farms draft hit 2,600gns twice, first for Harperley Miss Oli born in March 2019 by Oliver and out of Ninette imported from Messieurs Missiel. She along with Harperley Fo Mist 2 and Harperley Gobi Mist 3 who were purchased for 2,000gns and 1,900gns respectively by Andrew Orr and Lyndsay Wight, Lawhead, Tarbrax. The second lot at 2,600gns was purchased by the judge Johny Wright, Trayboyack Salers who added Harperley Mey Van to his pedigree herd. She was a Vanlooy daughter out of Nadia, born in March 2019 and in calf to Jericho. Northern Ireland farmer S Thompson, Omagh, purchased three Harperley females. He paid 2,100gns for Harperley Rab Mist sired by Mistral, born in March 2019, Harperley Rab Miste for 2,000gns and Harperley Miss Mist 2 for 1,850gns.

**There was 100% clearance in the pedigree female section.**

**20 in calf heifers achieved a top price of 3,500gn and an average of £2359.88. 4 pedigree bulling heifers realised 2,000gns and averaged £1758.74.**

**2 Cows and calves topped at 2,300gns and averaged £2362.50.**

In the commercial section of the sale there were 184 females forward and demand was exceptionally strong for in calf females.

R A Austin, Boreland of Girthon, Gatehouse of Fleet had a tremendous trade selling ten in-calf heifers to a top of £2300 to John Young & Sons, New Cumnock Ayrshire and averaged £2140. A R Lee, Lumbylaw, Alnwick sold nine in-calf heifers to a top of £2050 to S Brash, Kirkston Manor, Peebles and averaged £1883.33. J Martin & Son, Swinlees, Dalry sold five in-calf heifers to an average of £1,880 and a top price of £2000 to March & Lobban, Borgue, Kirkcudbright and Rusko Farm, Pulcree & Upper Rusko, Gatehouse of Fleet sold ten to an average of £1,850 and a top price of £2,100 to D Howat, Enoch, Girvan.

The bulling heifers peaked at £2,050 for the Champion Pen of Commercial Salers (Willie Davidson Trophy) from G S McClymont, Cuil, Palnure and sold to M Fleming, Magherafelt, Northern Ireland and he also purchased the Reserve Champion Pen of Commercial Salers for the second highest price of the day for bulling heifers again from G S McClymont, Cuil, Palnure for £1800 apiece.

Heifers stirks made a top price of £1,600 from Firm of Andrew M Brown, Drumhughry, Corsock, they sold to J W Bonner & Sons, Whitfield House Farm, Whitfield.

**184 commercial females were forward and sold with 100% clearance**  
**15 heifer stirks sold to a top of £1,600 and an average of £1193.33**

**34 In-Calf Heifers sold to a top of £2,300 and an average of £1,948.53**

**135 Bulling heifers sold to a top of £2,050 and an average of £1,340**





## CASTLE DOUGLAS – NOVEMBER 2021

Leading the senior bull class and taking the top price of the day in the sale on Saturday was the Reserve Overall Champion of the Great Yorkshire Show 2021, Approach Farm Olly from Angus and Kerry Gowthorpe. This Beguin sired, February 2019 born bull was used on heifers by the Gowthorpe family in 2020 and was purchased by R A Austin, Boreland of Girthon, Gatehouse of Fleet for 8,000gns. The Reserve Senior Male Champion, Bacardi 007 from Roy and Adam Crockett, a Seawell Kitemark son born in December 2019 whose dam Bacardi Miss Money Penny won Reserve Interbeed Champion in Northumberland and Stirling shows in 2019 was also purchased by R A Austin, Boreland of Girthon, Gatehouse of Fleet for 5,800gns.

There was a strong line up of nine intermediate bulls put in front of judge Johnny Wright and he found his Intermediate Champion in Rednock Phoenix from Rednock Estate. This March 2020 bull also lifted the Reserve Overall Show Champion title and sold to Hair & Brewis, Drumbredan, Stranraer for 6,500gns. Rednock Pheonix was by the 12,000gns bull Drumaglea Kes. Standing as Reserve Intermediate Champion was Darnford Powerful by Cammock Mormo out of Darnford Mellony. He sold for 3,000gns to G Evans, Grofft Farm, Powys.

Demand was exceptionally strong for junior bulls where trade peaked at 6,200gns and a further four bulls achieved 6,000gns. The top priced bull was Bacardi PDiddy from Roy and Adam Crockett, PDiddy was the first son offered for sale by Seamore Nitro and sold to A R Lee, Lumbylaw, Alnwick. The winner of the junior bull class was Kaimburn Playboy from Edgerston Trading (2006) Ltd, brought out by Neil Ralston. Kaimburn Playboy lifted the Fisher Trophy for the Junior Male Champion, The Cuil Cup for the Overall Male Champion and the Jack Boyes Trophy for the Overall Show Champion. Stockman Neil Ralston also won the G McKnight Cup for the Best Stockman. Kaimburn Playboy sired by Bacardi Ladysman and out of Kaimburn Lucky was born in April 2020 and sold to M Fleming, Magherafelt, Northern Ireland for 6,000gns. The Livesey family realised 16,000gns for three bulls in the junior section, the first Cleuchhead Pathfinder, by homebred sire Cleuchhead Dick Dastardly sold for 6,000gns to J Laurie, Cupar Fife. Next up was Cleuchhead Pumba a Nobel sired bull out of Nadia who also sold for 6,000gns to J R Rankin, Badenheath Farm, Cumbernauld and finally Cleuchhead Pharaoh sold for 4,000gns to W T Evans, Awhirk Farm, Stranraer. Pat and Judith Boyd from the Isle of Tiree also sold a junior bull at 6,000gns to pedigree breeders W Aitken, Scotstounbank Farm, Blyth Bridge. **Sixteen bulls sold with a clearance rate of 73% and a top price of 8,000gns to an average of £4889.06 +£412.24 on 2020.**

**SALERS CATTLE SOCIETY / Members Newsletter**





CASTLE DOUGLAS – NOVEMBER 2021



George McCall  
receiving the  
Cuil Salver



## MYOSTATIN FREE BY 1 JAN 2024 – WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR MEMBERS?

**Every calf from 1 January 2024** whether male or female must be either tested free of myostatin (M0) or be myostatin free by parentage (MOP) to enter the Salers Cattle Society of the UK herd book.

### WHY?

The Council took the decision in March 2019 to eradicate the myostatin gene from the herd book to protect the maternal traits of the breed.

### WHAT SHOULD I DO?

- Use a bull that has been tested myostatin free (M0)
- DNA test your breeding females to understand their myostatin status.  
[Remember if you test your older females first and they are myostatin free, provided they were put to a bull that was free of myostatin also, then their progeny will be myostatin free by parentage (MOP)]

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Myostatin free females put to a myostatin free bull will give you progeny that is myostatin free by parentage (MOP).
- Myostatin free animals are automatically eligible to enter the herd book from 1 Jan 2024 without any further DNA test. This is the case for both males and females.
- Testing will continue to be required for all bulls and MU females entered in the pedigree / production sections of Society sales, for bulls to be used as a sire of registered calves and ad-hoc DNA profiling initiated by yourselves or to satisfy a member or Society query.

### WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I DO NOT TEST MY BREEDING FEMALES BEFORE 2024

If you do nothing, your costs will increase significantly from 1 January 2024. This is because you will need to DNA test all male and female calves to establish their myostatin status before they can be registered with the Society. The table below demonstrates the increase from 2024 onwards of registering 10 females and 2 male calves each year if the myostatin status of the cows is unknown.

	No of Cows	No. of calves to register	DNA Cost	Registration cost U3mths	Total Cost
2021 registrations	20	12	£50	£336	£386
2022 registrations	20	12	£50	£336	£386
2023 registrations	20	12	£50	£336	£386
2024 registrations	20	12	£300	£336	£636

### SOCIETY ASSISTANCE

From 1 January 2022, the Society will reduce the cost of female, under 3 months registrations, that have a known myostatin status, at the time of registration. Those registrations that meet the criteria, born between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022 will be charged £10.00 plus vat per registration. Calves born in 2023 that meet the criteria will be charged £20.00 plus vat per registration and the registration fee will revert to the normal rate on 1 January 2024. Females with an unknown myostatin status will be charged the normal registration fee e.g. Under 3 months = £28.00 plus vat.



## CORRESPONDENCE

### ADDRESS:

Siân Sharp  
Breed Secretary  
Salers Cattle Society  
Jasmine Cottage  
2 Maitland Row  
Gavinton  
TD11 3QP  
E: [secretary@salers.uk](mailto:secretary@salers.uk)  
T: 07903 626249

### REGISTERED OFFICE:

Lane Farm,  
Milnthorpe  
LA7 7NH

### COMPANY REG. NO:

01892440

### CHARITY NO:

1115115

### VAT REG NO:




625 3266 49



The office will be closed  
from  
22nd Dec 2021  
until  
5th Jan 2022

## MERCHANDISE



-  Air fresheners £2.50 plus P&P
-  Society ties £15.00 plus P&P
-  Society pin badges £3.50 plus P&P



Email: [secretary@salers.uk](mailto:secretary@salers.uk)

Tel: 07903 626249

## DISCOUNTED REGISTRATION FEES

From 1 January 2022, the Society will reduce the cost of female under 3 months registrations, that have a known myostatin status at the time of registration.

### 2022

Those registrations that meet the criteria above, born between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022 will be charged the discounted rate of £10.00 plus vat per registration.

### 2023

Those registrations that meet the criteria above, born between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023 will be charged the discounted rate of £20.00 plus vat per registration.

Females born in 2022 & 2023 with an unknown myostatin status will be charged the normal registration fee. The registration fees will revert to normal on 1 January 2024.

*I would like to wish all our members  
a very Merry Christmas and a happy,  
healthy and prosperous new year!*





**A SELECTION** of the pure herd with their spring-born calves at foot – just about ready for winter housing, when the calves will be weaned *Ref:RH151021035*



**THE SLEIGH** family, Andrew and wife Patricia, sons John and Andrew and grandkids Thomas, John and Isabella *Ref:RH151021021*

# Salers prove unbeatable at Newseat of Tolquhon

**By Kathryn Dick**  
*Photographs by Rob Haining*

**DRAWN to their easy calving abilities, excellent temperaments and longevity, Andrew Sleigh – who farms around 620 acres in Ellon – is a firm supporter of Salers cattle, running around 150 pures and Salers cross Charolais cows at Newseat of Tolquhon, based at Tarves.**

Previously a breeder of

pure Simmentals, Andrew introduced the Salers to his enterprise some 24 years ago and believed he has found the ideal milky, low maintenance female which is also proving to be the ultimate suckler cow.

"I took a tour of France in 1983 and saw these big Salers cows with Charolais calves at foot – I thought they looked tremendous. They had no obvious marks of a Caesarean section and after discovering that the cattle have the largest pelvic capacity of most breeds, I decided to invest in a dozen Salers cross Simmental and Shorthorn

heifers from Flinder Farm, based at Inscrh," explained Andrew.

"They are very easy calving, which is the main priority for us, as well as having a good udder and feet. Although they may be smaller in size, Salers cattle are still capable of calving to a big Charolais bull, and that's exactly what we use over the females to produce top quality bull beef."

With a third of the herd comprising Salers cross cattle, the majority of the numbers are made up of Andrew's pure-bred Salers cattle, which were founded

by the importation of French genetics since 2005.

"I returned to France some 16 years ago and invested in females from three herds to get us started. Two of those females were daughters of the first prize group of five cows that were shown at the Sommet de l'Elevage, Clermont-Ferrand. However, I soon discovered that they were more show cattle than working cattle – which ultimately didn't suit our system.

"The third heifer I purchased derived from Jean-Pierre Roussel, who runs a herd of 60 Salers, which

he milks, and is a genuine stockman that concentrates on producing excellent working cattle.

"I have purchased a few pure Salers in this country over the duration of a few years, however, I believe that the best ones derive from France and I make an effort to go over there most year to see what bulls are breeding the best," he added.

Selecting quality bulls to produce top end breeding stock, as well as quick-finishing bull beef, is far from easy, but Andrew has invested in a few over the years that have certainly

made their mark on the herd.

"One bull that left a lasting impression in the herd is Trafalgar, which was 10-years-old when I purchased him. He was a Paris Show champion that went on to breed two further Paris Show winners.

"We are also using sons of a bull called Van Looy, which is an AI bull belonging to Generation Salers – a group of 82 pedigree breeders who have as selection of 15 Salers bulls, which are picked on performance. This boy left a lot of good stock that have gone on top breed well for us," commented Andrew.



**PEDIGREE COWS** with their spring born calves *Ref:RH151021033*



**EVEN SOME** of the pure females end up in the commercial suckler herd if they're deemed not good enough, where they are crossed to a Charolais bull *Ref:RH151021037*

As well as French genetics within the Salers herd and contrary to popular notions, Andrew is also relying on French-bred Charolais bulls over the British variety for their thicker carcase and increased muscle, rather than the Simmental.

"When you cross the Simmental with the Saler, the performance is very close to the Charolais, however, we believe we are breeding the best combination."

When looking to invest in new genetics, Andrew has high standards when selecting what stock will be introduced into his herd.

"When I'm looking to buy a new bull or some females, I'm usually looking to see what breeding is in it – pedigree is important to us. The cattle also have to have good locomotion and size, as well as have a great nature," he explained.

With Andrew aiming to scan cattle in early October, a restricted bulling period is in place to ensure a uniform calving group and anything late bullied is put in the feeding court to avoid a prolonged calving period.

Calving takes place mostly indoors, commencing on March 1, with cows requiring little assistance and calves proving vigorous and quick

to their feet. All cattle are then released outdoors either in the last week of April or beginning of May.

All calves are weaned in October, with the bull calves being fed a diet comprising ad lib, silage and concentrates in the form of Norvite Prime Beef 4, whilst heifers receive silage, five pounds of home-grown barley per day and a pound of dark grains for protein uptake.

All females are then put through a vigorous selection process, with anything not up to breed standard being brought inside and fed in order to be sent off the farm deadweight by the end of the year.

"I also run a strict culling policy when selecting replacements. Any problems and they're sent away, whether that be mastitis, poor temperament or failing to get in calf – the cattle here need to be able to look after themselves," Andrew stated.

"I do, however, make exceptions for the best cattle. For example, one of our show cows – which had been shown all year – was AI'd and didn't get in-calf but we kept trying and she eventually calved in November.

"Obviously, that put her calving cycle out of place but with a bit of work, she's now



**FEMALES THAT** don't make the pedigree grade are run with the cross cattle herd and crossed to a Charolais bull *Ref:RH151021041*



**SOME OF** the young bulls that will be offered for sale next year *Ref:RH151021029*

## FARMfacts

- **Farm** – Owned by the Sleigh family, comprising 620 acres of arable ground. Growing spring barley, winter oilseed rape, winter barley and winter wheat.
- **Cattle** – 150 cows including cross and pure, with a third crosses and two-thirds pure. Pure Salers bulls used to produce replacements heifers and surplus heifers that are sold in-calf heifers. Charolais used to produce bull beef cattle which are sold deadweight.
- **Sheep** – Lambing 380 Shetland and Shetland cross sheep, which are crossed with Berrichon and Suffolk tups to produce finishing lambs.
- **Feeding** – Buy in feeding from Harbro and Norvite, with silage and barley being home-grown.
- **Markets** – Bull beef sold through McIntosh Donald, Aberdeen, with breeding bulls sold through United Auctions Stirling Bull Sales, the breed sale at Castle Douglas or privately straight off the farm. Surplus heifers are sold at the October show and sale of breeding cattle, held at Aberdeen and Northern Marts' Thainstone centre or privately.

back to calving in April – she was an original French cow and has left a lot of nice calves for us over the years, so we gave her another chance," he explained.

With his bull beef prime cattle, Andrew is aiming to have calves away between 13 and 15-month-old, weighing as close to 400kg deadweight as possible.

"The Charolais crosses definitely fatten quicker, with the Salers bull beef calves ready a good six weeks behind them. We sell all

bull beef through McIntosh Donald, Aberdeen, with last year's group of 55 cashing in at £1500," he added.

With Andrew retaining around 30 bulling heifers each year, the remaining females that meet breeding standards are bullied and sold in-calf through the October show and sale of breeding cattle, held at Aberdeen and Northern Marts' Thainstone centre, with an aim of averaging £2000 per head.

Andrew also aims to sell between seven and 10 pure



**THE SALERS** produce good, strong spring-born calves, which do well over the summer making the most of grass *Ref:RH151021031*

Salers bulls, either through UA's Stirling Bull Sales, the breed sale at Castle Douglas, Thainstone Mart or privately.

The team at Newseat of Tolquhon are also kept busy at home with the management of 380 Shetland and Shetland cross ewes, helped by employee, Andrew Adam, and son, Andrew – who is also responsible for the 450 acres of cereal grown at home and on rented land.

"We cross the Shetland sheep with Berrichon and Suffolk tups in order to produce top quality finishing lambs. With regards to our Suffolk tups, we aim to use New Zealand genetics as we find that the ewes lamb easier and the lambs are not so big boned," Andrew said.

Commenting on the future of the much-admired French breed, Andrew concluded: "In the long run, the breed has a bright future ahead of it. The next generation of cattle farmers don't want to

have to be pulling calves out of cows and the Salers is a very forgiving breed – if I've made a managerial mistake, it won't result in the worst case scenario of a dead calf.

"There are a lot of new breeders coming to the fore in this country and I've seen an increase of farmers using Saler bulls in commercial herds. In comparison to other continental breeds, nothing else offers the mothering and calving ease that the Salers can.

"The Salers breed mixed with the Charolais is a perfect match in my opinion, as the cow will breed a Charolais calf unassisted and produce the yellow coloured calf, which is an easy selling animal that will go on and demand top prices in the store ring."

■ Andrew will have two bulls forward for the annual February Stirling Bull Sales, held by United Auctions.



# USING AI IN HEIFERS TO INTRODUCE NEW GENETICS AT REDNOCK – A CASE REPORT

When we moved the herd from Yorkshire in 2016 to restart as Rednock we brought two main herd sires with us, Munro (homozygous polled) and Officer. With the addition of Drumaglea Kes in 2017 we had a high genetic gain rotational breeding programme providing growth, polling, and conformation alongside the core Salers maternal traits of calving ease, milkiness and performance from grass. Salers bulls often have a lifespan of over ten years but they cannot last forever, and in 2020 we decided that as we grow the herd from 120 cows up to 250 that a key target was to also increase genetic diversity within the herd. Maintaining and protecting our long standing high health status was essential throughout this process so having weighed up the Pros and Cons of artificial insemination as opposed to natural service (see table 1) we chose to start running an AI programme at Rednock alongside our established herd sires.

**Table1: Artificial Insemination compared to natural service.**

Pros	Cons
<b>Increase Genetic gain</b> - use elite sires to select for, calving ease, growth etc., -	<b>Collection and processing costs</b> - increasing complexity of legislation demands post Brexit.
<b>Increase Male “power”</b> - increase in females covered; fewer bulls.	<b>Skills and training required</b> - big variation in technician ability, AI is a practiced skill. DIY can be an advantage with timing, but can be an issue with high value cows and high cost semen.
<b>Reduced bull costs associated with herd sires</b> - housing, feed, vet, replacement costs.	<b>Heat detection/synchronisation costs</b> – mainly drugs and labour costs.
<b>Less fertility variation</b> - semen quality and breeding programme carefully selected.	<b>Storage and Handling Facilities</b> - risk of mismanagement can lead to semen loss – this does happen!
<b>Disease control</b> - NB AI legislation especially if internationally sourced semen is used.	<b>Only half the genome</b> - embryo transfer or IVF can produce genetic gain faster.
<b>Sexed semen</b> - improved herd dynamics depending on herd objectives i.e. breed just female replacements etc.	<b>Equivalent or lowered conception compared to natural service</b> - (many factors can influence this and can be farm specific).
<b>Manipulation of herd structure</b> - used with synchronisation can manipulate calving block and aid in herd planning.	<b>Cost</b> – overall economic cost may be lower than a new herd sire but time, farm facilities and success rates could easily drive costs up.

## Sire selection:

Our first objective was to bring in some high quality polled genetics to substantially diversify the Rednock polled programme. The homozygous polled sire Cumbrian Royal was selected as a excellent fit with our well fleshed and growthy polled lines derived from Munro and we purchased a batch of semen from Tom and Ian Walling to be used on polled heifers and a number of the best polled cows in 2020 and again in the first AI round in 2021.

The second objective was to bring new genetics into the horned lines whilst maintaining the very strong focus on maternal traits. This proved to be a very interesting and detailed review of the sires available in the UK, Ireland and France. In the end we leaned towards French sires partly because they were well advanced with their Maternal Index. Initially Baron semen was purchased from Genus, a proven performer with strong a Maternal Index score and calving ease combined with superior fleshing and conformation traits.

In early 2021 batches of Halley and Icare semen were imported from France for use this season, Halley produces well-fleshed, long stock and his progeny are establishing a reputation for these traits and growing in popularity in the UK market. Icare is again a long bull with good growth performance and sits close to the top of the French Maternal index.

## Dam Selection:

Our first round of AI in 2020 was to increase the polled lines within the herd and involved the insemination of polled females both cows and heifers. The first round pregnancy rate was only 40% (13 pregnancies from 33 inseminations, and some cows were double served!). Acceptable perhaps in the dairy herd but not really in a highly fertile Salers herd (aiming for ~65%), we were disappointed. However this was not the cow's fault, our dam selection criteria involved some of the oldest animals in the herd (12-15years old), and some cows that were out of sync with our main calving block or held back as well as one or two “problem animals” who we decided might benefit from being programmed. So for 2021 we decided to set strict selection criteria in submitting animals to the AI programme. We chose to only use an annual and rolling maiden heifer programme to increase the pace of genetic gain and ensure that we were only putting the most fertile animals forward. It also means that we can manipulate the calving pattern better within the herd to suit management needs. All heifers must be a minimum of 455kg (based on roughly 65% mature bodyweight) and have a vet ovary check for cyclicity. We aim to calve all heifers at two years old. We supplement 2kg of concentrate per head in housed heifers to ensure a DLWG of 1-1.2kg per day. This gives all heifers 2 chances at AI and then a sweep through with the bull before 16 months of age. In 2021 we have achieved a much happier pregnancy rate in the AI programme of 77% (34 from 44 inseminations) based on returns to service - at the time of writing we have not PD'd animals yet as they are still at grass so this figure may fall a little.



### Programme Design:

Running an effective AI programme requires good communication and organisation both on and off farm. Timings and dates are important and it is not always easy. We work closely with our vets and also AI technicians (Stevie Rolfe Cattle Services and Genus – both of whom have been excellent) to try and tailor the programme to the farm and the animals selected. Working backwards from the desired date of calving and preparing animals and people well in advance has contributed to good success rates. We are lucky to have good staff and good facilities, which is key to minimise stress to the cows whilst going through the programme. This year we chose to use a set time AI programme for first service (modified CoSync) followed by reinsertion and removal of intravaginal progesterone devices and service to observed heat in the next 23 day window. This meant we could maximise the number of services in the shortest window possible.

### Heat detection and returns:

Although we sweep through with established herd sires after a break we still intensively heat detect to identify any animals for resubmission to AI or to help with subsequent herd management. This is as important as the initial set time AI to make sure we make the most out of the semen in the tank. We are realistic in our expectations and abilities but try hard to maximise heat detection through cumulative recording of signs of oestrus (table 2) and communication via Whatsapp alongside tail painting. Things we are working on include; heat detecting housed animals which is often more comfortable but not necessarily easier than at grass. Separating definite bullers into an adjoining pen/area may entice suspects to express more behaviour and become easier to spot.

**Table 2: Signs of heat detection, time related expected submission rates and heat detection aids.**

Signs of Oestrus “Heat”		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Standing to be mounted - only definitive sign</li><li>• Encouraging others to mount</li><li>• Mounting of other cows</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Signs of aggression or abnormal behaviour</li><li>• Flehman response (lip curl on urination etc)</li><li>• Departure from routine (increased activity, lack of feeding, holding back, coming forward)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ruffled hair on tail head, grazes, “mucky”, sweaty (which one is on heat?)</li><li>• Bulling string</li><li>• Red, moist, engorged vulva</li><li>• Bleeding (probably too - late usually occurs 24 -48hours post Oestrus )</li></ul>
No. Of observations per day:- 1-2: <50% detected 3: 50-60% detected 4: >60% detected	Last observation:- Before 8 pm: <50% detected 8 – 10 pm: 50-60% detected After 10 pm (or return from pub): >60% detected	Heat detection aids we use: People Cameras Tail paint Hormonal synchronisation Other potential aids not used: Tail head beacons Accelerometer based devices New technology (non-accelerometer based)

### Conclusions:

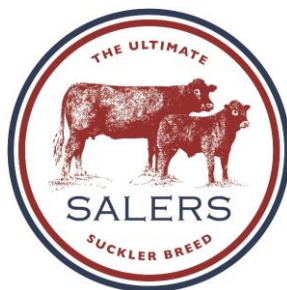
We set out with a good programme in 2020 but reduced its effectiveness by breaking most of the rules on dam selection. This year we returned to a more text book approach and got greatly improved results – and we could still possibly do even better by increasing the rigour of veterinary selection of the heifers. We are making good strides towards achieving our objectives of increasing genetic diversity in the herd and some of the stock from the programme will be available to buy soon. The plan going forward will be to generate as close to fifty pregnancies from fifty heifers inseminated as we can get. We are already looking forward to next year’s programme and also to selecting exciting new sires to bring to the strongly growing UK market for great Salers stock.



HALLEY



ICARE



Date: .....

Signed:.....

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
Salers Cattle Society of the UK  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021, Sheep Rings, Wallets Marts  
Chair – T Walling

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Fred Robinson and Bryn Robinson.

**2. Minutes of the last AGM**

Circulated - minutes proposed by R Hallos and seconded by Alan Howatson.

**3. Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Financial Report**

The accounts summary for 2020 (circulated). Income total was £104,173 with expenditure totalling £87,268 gave a surplus of £16,905.

The treasurer was thanked by the Chairman.

**5. Appointment of Accountants**

It was agreed that Gall Robertson CA, Galashiels would continue as the society accountants for 2022. This was proposed by A Gowthorpe and seconded by R Milne. K Livesey confirmed there would be no increase in fees in 2022.

**6. Chairman's Report – Andrew Sleigh**

A Sleigh was unable to attend the meeting. A full report will appear in the 2022 journal.

**7. Secretary's Report – S Sharp**

See report attached.

**8. Annual update on marketing and membership trends – T Pye**

See report attached.

**9. Ratification of Area Council Members, Areas 3, 7 & 8**

In accordance with the Articles of Association, three Council members Angus Gowthorpe, Seamus Connell and Neil Austin retired this year, all of which had served two terms of office. Tom Walling thanked them for their hard work and dedication to the Society and the Salers breed.

Voting papers were issued earlier in the year and nominations were received from Catherine Atkinson to act as an area representative for Area 6 and Stephen Maginn for Area 4. These appointments were proposed by R Livesey and seconded by H Pritchard, decision ratified

Since there were no nominations from Area 2, Neil Austin had agreed to continue as a co-opted member until a replacement could be found. Martin Tomlinson has been invited to sit on Council as a veterinary specialist and co-opted Council member and co-opted Council members agreed to remain as serving members, Rachel Hallos, Alan Howatson, Harri Pritchard, Rob Livesey, Terence Pye. One co-opted Council member Bryn Robinson had decided to step down due to work commitments. T Walling thanked Bryn for his hard work, time and enthusiasm on Council.





These appointments were proposed by A Gowthorpe and seconded by M Light, decision ratified.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

T Pye updated members on the CHECS management board's decision to change the Johnes testing protocol. He explained that in future if CHECS went ahead and changed the testing protocol anyone submitting less than 100 samples, which is most of our members, would be automatically reclassified JL3 or JL4 on the basis of just two positive blood tests and would be specifically denied the right to have confirmatory dung tests taken into consideration, which under the present rules frequently reveals that the blood tests were false positives.

Various members spoke in support of the Society opposition to the rule change, none supported the rule change.

Martin Tomlinson explained that T Pye had taken on a huge amount of work, researching and interpreting data to challenge CHECS via the Pedigree Breed Society group and thanked him on behalf of the Society.

Martin Tomlinson thanked Sian Sharp for her hard work and professional approach over the last year and Tom Walling echoed this stating the promotion of the breed had been very good.

#### **11. Date of next AGM**

4 November 2022 – Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas

The meeting was brought to a close, the chairman thanked all concerned.