



## **Calderdale showman excels at Skipton prime shows**

Calderdale beef and sheep farmer Brian Lund added to an ever-growing list of honours at Skipton Auction Mart when exhibiting the champion beef animal at the March prime shows.

Brian, of Walshaw Farm, Walshaw, Hebden Bridge, secured the title with a two-year-old home-bred Parthenais-x-Limousin heifer, by his former stock bull Willow Creek Minstrel, acquired from Grimsby-based breeder Peter Wesley and responsible for some high-class Walshaw progeny.

The 525kg victor caught to eye of show judge James Dewhurst, of Stanforth Butchers, Skipton, before being knocked down for the day's top price of £1,105 (210.5p per kilo) to West Yorkshire butcher Mark Spauls for his two shops in Burley-and-Wharfedale and Cottingley.

It was the first time that Mark had purchased the beef champion at Skipton – he has previously bought prime lamb title winners – and it will be the first time he has sold the Parthenais breed to his customers. It will be on sale from March 22 after the beef has been fully matured for 21 days.

Red Rose showman Jimmy Baines, who has farms in Gisburn and Trawden, was responsible for the reserve champion Limousin-cross 530kg heifer. It joined Cross Meats, Bacup, for £1,046 (197.5p per kilo), with the same buyers also purchasing Mr Baines' third prize Limousin-cross 460kg heifer at £918 (199.5p per kilo).

Cross Meats is run by Philip and Raymond Cross, who have been farmers and butchers for over 30 years. They have three markets stalls in Bacup, Rawtenstall and Shaw, near Oldham, and their latest Skipton prime beef acquisitions will be fully matured before going on sale to customers in all three markets.

Mr Baines, who for the past two years has won the Craven Cattle Marts' Stock Person of the Year title – points are awarded at shows and sales throughout the year - further added to his 2010 tally when exhibiting the prime lamb champions.

His pen of five Beltex-x-Texel 47kg lambs sold for £115 per head, top price in show, to Ali Shan, of Yorkshire Halal Meat Supplies, for Shan's Supermarket in Alice Street, Keighley. In addition, Mr Shan acquired the reserve champions, the first prize pen of 52kg Suffolks from Brian Lund, at £92 a head, along with the second prize Mules, a pen of 50kg Mashams from Stephen Dorey, Newark, at £91 each.

The same exhibitor also won first prize in the Mules class, his 52kg charges selling for £83 per head to Paul Watson, Hellifield, who also bought the first prize pen of 48kg Swaledales from Roy Nelson, Bordley, at £80 each.

Jimmy Baines' third prize pen of Beltex-x-Texel 53kg lambs sold for £106 a head to Saltaire butchers RC & B Binns, while Brian Lund capped a good day by sending out the second prize Continentals pen, his 44kg Suffolks selling at £96 a head to Bowland Foods, of Preston.

The prime lambs show, also judged by James Dewhurst, was sponsored by Guy Machinery, with the prime beef fixture sponsored by Philip Bolland Trailer Training. Both companies are based in Skipton.



The Skipton March prime beef champion, with exhibitor Brian Lund and judge James Dewhurst.



The Skipton March prime lamb champions, with, from left, judge James Dewhurst, Guy Machinery's Rebecca Turner, exhibitor Paul Baines and his mother Lynne.