



Commercial youngster champion at Northern Limousin Extravaganza

The commercial champion got the nod over the pedigree champion in the battle for supreme honours at the 2010 Northern Limousin Extravaganza at Skipton Auction Mart. (Wed, May 12).

Organised jointly by Craven Cattle Marts and the North East Limousin Breeders Club, the annual show provides an opportunity for breeders to exhibit 2009-born juveniles making their debut in the exhibition arena.

The overall title fell to the first prize Limousin-sired bullock, "Coco Pop," from James and Rachel Wilkinson, of Ivy Farm Cottages, Leyburn. He is a son of the prolific Rossignol, bred in Cumbria by W. Richardson & Sons, Ghyll House, Dufton, Appleby.

Mr Wilkinson now has big hopes for his Skipton victor on the exhibition circuit, planning potential appearances at both regional and national shows, including Beef Expo, the Great Yorkshire, Countryside Live and, hopefully, Smithfield.

Another promising young heifer from the Tomschoice Limousin herd of James and Sarah Cooper, based at Dacre, Harrogate, secured the pedigree and reserve supreme championships. Tomschoice Emily, brought forward by Mark Phillips, is a daughter of the Welsh sire Sarkley Topknot, Great Yorkshire champion in 2004, out of Tomschoice Bethan.

It was a case of déjà vu for the Coopers, as Bethan was herself pedigree and reserve champion when the Northern Limousin Extravaganza was first staged at Skipton in 2007, again losing out to the commercial and supreme champion.

However, it was a good day all-round for the Coopers at the 2010 renewal. Their consignment was also responsible for the pedigree bull champion, Tomschoice Elgar, a son of the £100,000 Haltcliffe Vermont, out of the home-bred Tomschoice Artiste, herself another product of Sarkley Topknot.

They also won the class for younger bulls with Tomschoice Endeavour, by Steven and Ruth Priestley's Brontemoor Aceofspades, out of a Tomschoice Tom daughter, Tomschoice Voluptuous.

Millington Grange Estate, east of York, responsible for the 2009 Skipton supreme champion, Millington Davina, who went on to win the Royal Show Limousin championship before selling for 28,000gns, this year landed the class for younger heifers with their Genial daughter Millington Exotic.

Derbyshire showman Andrew Dickinson, of Park Gate Farm, Bradbourne, presented the reserve commercial champion, a Limousin-sired heifer by Waindale UFO, who stands with Mr Dickinson's next-door neighbour David Wright.

Show judge was James Wycherley, from Cork, a noted Limousin breeder, who owns the 20,000gns Brookmill Vindicator, the third highest priced AI bull in Ireland.

The fixture, now an established highlight of the northern Limousin calendar, attracted a £2,000-plus prize fund following support from over 20 sponsors. They were the British Limousin Cattle Society, North East Limousin Breeders Club, Ripon Land Rover, Ripon Select Foods, Yorkshire Agricultural Society, Bishopton Veterinary Group, AON, Showtime, Pfizer Animal Health, Tomschoice Limousins, l'Anson Bros, LEBC Group, Redcliffe Computers, Natural Stockcare, Carrs Billington, Elite Beef Semen, Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health, Yorkshire Grain, Jamesons, Ritchey Tags and KW ABAGRI.

The fixture formed part of Craven Limousin Day - a Skipton pedigree beef season double-header also featuring the annual show and sale of pedigree Limousin breeding bulls and females.



James Wilkinson with his 2010 Northern Limousin Extravaganza supreme champion, joined by judge James Wycherley.



Mark Phillips with James and Sarah Cooper's 2010 Northern Limousin Extravaganza reserve supreme champion, joined by judge James Wycherley.



Mark Phillips with James and Sarah Cooper's 2010 Northern Limousin Extravaganza pedigree bull champion.