

ROYAL WELSH 2023 THE 101st SHOW

The weather was kind for the animals and their handlers on all four days of the Show apart from some light drizzle on the Wednesday early afternoon, The economy is still having a devastating effect on shows of all kinds and the Royal Welsh reflects this. The total equine entries (all breeds and all disciplines) showed a reduction of 49 from last year to 2 498 this year compared with the high in the past decade (8 shows) of 3 358. The Welsh In-Hand classes were slightly up by 17 to 1432 compared with 2022. Section A had 375 entries this year, 443 in 2022 with the highest number of 546 in 2017; Section B were up 51 to 185 this year with a high of 289 in 2014; Section C were 309 in 2023, 323 in 2022, and 351 in 2015; Section D were 10 down on last year at 338 but well down on the high of 506 in 2014; all sections Geldings were the highest ever at 136, up from 97 last year and there were 89 Partbreds, up 19 on 2022 but well short of the high of 132 in 2018.

The main entertainment of this year's Show was the Santi Serra Horse Display – United Minds. It was disappointing compared with other past displays.

Welsh Mountain Ponies were judged by Julie Perrins of the Heaton Stud, Yorkshire. Her Champion was the 3-year-old colt, **Idyllic Spectre** by Springbourne Capricorn out of Springbourne Soprano. The Reserve Champion was the 3-year-old filly **Waitwith Jeneva** by Waitwith Sierra Star out of Waitwith Little Jewel.

Welsh Ponies were judged by Stephen Howard of the Boston Stud, Yorkshire, who had as his Champion **Heniarth Moonahmia**, the 3-year-old filly by Tooravale Houston out of Heniarth Toodle-Oo with Reserve Champion being **Heniarth Arietta**, a 7-year-old barren mare by Heniarth Wood-Wind out of Rhoson Anoushka.

Welsh Ponies of Cob Type were judged by Geraint Thomas of the Telynu Stud, Gwynedd, who had as her Champion the 13-year-old stallion **Donys Dick Turpin** by Donys Importance out of Synod Rosie O'Neil with Reserve Champion being the 6-year-old colt **Rhoswen Cara** by Rhoswen Gethin out of Blaencila Arabella.

Welsh Cobs were judged by Geraint Davies of the Rhyd-Ddu Stud in Carmarthanshire, who had selected the following four cobs to compete for the George, Prince of Wales Cup

The Male Champion, **Gwynfaes Seren Wledig**, the 12-year-old stallion by Gwynfaes Culhwch out of Gwynfaes Elliw

The Male Reserve Champion, **Fronarth Calzaghe**, the 16-year-old stallion by Derwen Desert Express out of Fronarth Welsh Model

The Female Champion, **Eglwysfach Neli**, the 11-year-old brood mare by Geler Glyndwr out of Brynithon Southern Brezze

The Female Reserve Champion, **Danaway Jolene**, the 7-year-old brood mare by Trevallion Black Harry out of Danaway Shakira

The winner of the George, Prince of Wales Perpetual Cup was **Gwynfaes Seren Wledig** with **Eglwysfach Neli** in reserve, winning the Fronarth Stud Annual Award. All the 70 winners of this prestigious Cup awarded 97 times since 1908 can be found on this website above. Gwynfaes Seren Wledig was also awarded the Queen's Cup presented annually to the Champion of ALL the Welsh breeds on a rotational basis.

The Tom & Sprightly Perpetual Cup, contested by the Champions of the four Purebred Welsh Ponies and Cobs, was won by the Section C stallion **Donys Dick Turpin** with the Section B filly **HeniARTH Moonahmia**, reserve.

Gwynfaes Seren Wledig went on to win the remaining awards of the Horse of the Year Supreme In-Hand Qualifier Championship, the Royal Welsh In-Hand Championship as well as the Royal Welsh Supreme Horse Championship. It was 21 years ago when Gwynfaes Culhwch, the sire of Gwynfaes Seren Wledig, won the George, Prince of Wales Perpetual Cup, in 2002.

Readers are encouraged to visit the Royal Welsh Show at least once to experience the feeling that the Welsh have for their ponies and cobs, especially on Wednesday afternoon when the Champion Cob is decided, also the Section A Champion. On the Thursday they have the Champions for the Sections B and C, followed immediately thereafter by the Tom & Sprightly, HOYS Qualifier Championship, The RW In-Hand Championship and culminating in the Royal Welsh Supreme Horse Championship, open to all horse breeds.

The next show will be held at BUILT WELLS from Monday 22nd July, 2024, to Thursday 25th July, 2024. Book early!