

AUSTRALIAN SOUTH DEVON NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2017

Hello again Everyone.

This is a quick newsletter containing a comprehensive report of the Brisbane Ekka – because I was there with my camera. I was going to add the report on the ARCBA conference in June, but that would make it a very large edition, so it can wait till next time.

There will be another newsletter immediately after Adelaide, Perth, and Melbourne Royal Shows. If someone can take photos at Melbourne and Adelaide for the next newsletter, I would be very grateful.

Request from Council.

At the next council meeting (14th November) a decision will be made on where and when the next AGM will be held. It is supposed to be held by 30th June, so the timing is somewhat constrained, but Council is looking for submissions from interested parties about a venue. If you can put together a fairly complete plan for an AGM venue (work on about 20 people) can you please either forward it to me or to David McDonald, by email? Personal request; Beef 2018 will be held in Rockhampton from 6 to 12 May - at least three of us intend to be there with cattle. I would like to attend the AGM as well, but if it's not possible, that's life!

BRISBANE ROYAL 2017

This year, 13 South Devons from 4 studs, the largest contingent of South Devons to be shown at Brisbane Royal for some years, represented our breed in centre ring on Friday 11th August. It was a hot sunny day, unusually warm even for Queensland at about 29 degrees.

Studs were; Chevalley South Devons prepared and shown by JN Fitting Services; Kildare South Devons prepared by Barb Evans and Trevor Andersen (with the assistance of Courtney Price at Ekka); Jambili South Devons; and Athlone South Devons with their own entry Torr Down Merlin 20 (shown by James McUtchen) and also Kildare Likabull (who was shown by Courtney Price).

First class into the ring was **Heifer 12 months and under 16 months**, where **Kildare Sassy 25 (AI)** - DLCC Durango 26Z x Kildare Dianna 80 - was the only entry.

She was followed by **Heifer 16 months and under 20 months** with three entries from Chevalley South Devons. Winner was **Chevalley Miranda** – Davelle J12 x Chevalley Jemima, followed by **Chevalley Lisa** – Davelle J12 x Chevalley Yandella, and **Chevalley Black Margaret** – Davelle J12 x Chevalley Black Princess.

The third and final female class was **Cow or Heifer 20 months and under 48 months**; won by **Chevalley Jemima** – Chevalley Dante x Chevalley Yandella, with **Chevalley Jasmine** – Chevalley Dante x Chevalley Yamanta placing second.

The award for Champion Cow or Heifer was won by Kildare Sassy 25 with Chevalley Jemima standing Reserve.

The **Bull 12 months and under 16 months** class was won by **Kildare Magic** – Kildare Haggie x Kildare Lisa 8; with **Kildare Idaho (B)** – DLCC Durango 26Z (AI) x Kildare Sass 5 (B) second.

Next class was **Bull 16 months and under 20 months**, which was won by **Athlone Mack** – Kildare Earl x Athlone Faith; owned and shown by Jambili South Devons (McUtchen Family), with **Chevalley Maestro** – Davelle J12 x Chevalley Jasmine second.

Final class was **Bull 20 months and under 42 months**, which was won by **Torr Down Merlin 20** – Torr Down Marvel 3 x Torr Down Natalie 123, owned by Athlone South Devons. Second place went to **Kildare Likabull** - Kildare Haggie x Kildare Juliet 2, and third to **Chevalley Kimba** – Chevalley Dante x Chevalley Della.

The award for Champion Bull was awarded to Torr Down Merlin 20, with the paternal half-brothers Kildare Magic and Kildare Likabull (both by Kildare Haggie) facing off for **Reserve Champion**, which was **awarded to Kildare Magic**.

Kildare Sassy 25 (AI) and Torr Down Merlin 20 paraded before the judge for **Grand Champion South Devon Exhibit which was awarded to Torr Down Merlin 20**, much to the delight of Graham and Heather Lindsay. Merlin's first calves are now on the ground, looking good. Jambili have the heifers, we have a bull. (McCutchen's "bull sat" Merlin for us while



Graham had his heart surgery last year – South Devon family in action).

For the record; **Torr Down Merlin 20** was 32 months 28 days old, weighed 1120 kg, rib 10, P8 12, imf 5.2, ema 130.

James McUtchen is 6'5" tall – this was two big boys together!



Photo credit; Jane Lowe - Qld Country Life.

Kildare Sassy 25 (AI) had had a stellar year; not only taking out the Female Championship at Brisbane, but also sweeping all before her at Farmfest in June when she won the Cattleman's Cup.

Photo Jane Lowe QCL.



Kildare Magic - Reserve Champion Bull. Scan figures from Ekka. Weight 696 kg, rib 5, P8 8, imf 3.4, ema 124.

Magic won the Bull 12 months and under 16 months class.



These are the three Chevalley heifers parading before the judge in the Heifer 16 and under 20 months class. **From left to right; they are Chevalley Lisa (2nd), Chevalley Black**

Margaret (3rd) and Chevalley Miranda (1st).



Cow or Heifer 20 months and under 48 months was **won by Chevalley Jemima, on the left, with Chevalley Jasmine (on the right) second.**

Chevalley Jemima was also Reserve Champion South Devon Cow or Heifer.



2nd place in the Bull 12 months and under 16 month class, behind Kildare Magic, was awarded to Kildare Idaho (B).

His figures were; weight 720kg, rib 7, P8 9, imf 5.2 ema 98.



Winner of Bull 16 months and under 20 months was Athlone Mack.

His figures were; weight 718 kg, rib 6, P8 9, imf 5.2, ema 123.

2nd placegetter in Bull 16 months and under 20 months was Chevalley Maestro. Unfortunately, I do not have his figures, but I do remember that he had an excellent ema. Photo on right.



2nd place in Bull 20 months and under 42 months was awarded to Kildare Likabull.

His figures were; weight 922 kg, rib 9, P8 13, imf 5.24, ema 127.

Photo on left. This would not be my best photo, but by then I was wearing my owner hat and not my newsletter one. This is my second favourite bull, after Merlin.



3rd place in the Bull 20 months and under 42 months was Chevalley Kimba. I do not have his figures either, but I do remember that he also has an excellent ema, from memory 130.



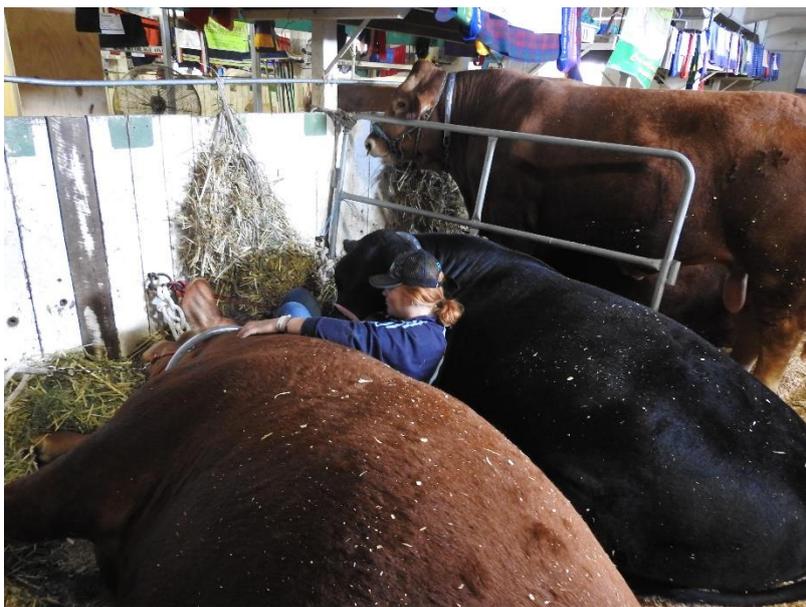
This is on one of the Jambili led steers with obvious South Devon content. He did not place, but as you can see, he was a worthy contender in the lightweight class.



A couple of photos of the South Devon site at Brisbane Ekka. South Devons in the left-hand side. The facilities are very old, and in fact are to be replaced, possibly even by next year. We are hearing a four-story facility but at present are not sure exactly where we (both cattle and handlers) will be situated in 2018.



I just had to share these photos to show the temperament we absolutely **MUST** keep in our breed. While I don't recommend that everyone else does this, I can tell you that when I was on 'poo patrol' I had a book to read and my seat was exactly where Courtney was, tucked in between Torr Down Merlin 20 and Athlone Mack – they made pretty good backrests!



This was Courtney and her two 'boys'. Kildare Likabull (red) and Kildare Idaho (black). I'm not sure that the bulls didn't enjoy this more than Courtney did.

Promise this is the last one. Barbara Evans took this photo (on her phone) of Courtney trying out Merlin as a bed.



Editor's musings.

I was starting to wonder whether all the time, effort and money we put into feeding and showing our cattle was worth it, but during and since Brisbane a couple of things have happened to keep us motivated.

At Brisbane Royal, the large breeds of cattle come into the grounds on the Saturday or Sunday prior to the show starting. Led steers and School classes are weighed, scanned and Judged first. Stud cattle are weighed and scanned on Monday and Tuesday (we asked nicely and had the IMF's done but that is not a usual measurement at Brisbane Royal – don't know about other Royals.) I would like to know why females are not weighed and scanned. I realize it would double the time taken, but aren't the females the cornerstone of any breeding programme? If I am looking to buy cattle, I go to the female line first! The Stud cattle classes begin on Thursday which is the day prior to the Show being open to the public. Friday sees the remainder of the large breed Stud judging, culminating in the Parade of Champions and Interbreed judging in Centre Ring late on Friday afternoon. Large breeds of cattle then depart the showgrounds on Sunday, with the smaller breeds (Dexter, Lowline, Ausline and Galloways) arriving.

At Brisbane, and I'm not sure whether this applies to other Royal Shows, the general public has access to the cattle pavilion, and we were inundated by city people who wanted to get up close and personal with BIG cattle. A lot of them told us that they have changed the days

they come to the show because they used to come later in the week, but found out the big cattle weren't there, so now they come on the first Friday or Saturday. On Friday night, someone turned the lights out at about 9.30 pm as the aisles were still packed with people looking at cattle.

Because we knew our cattle weren't going to worry about being patted, we allowed people (supervised of course) to come in close to them and pat them, take photos, even sit on their back for a photo. I reckon the South Devon cattle would have had more Facebook posts than a lot of celebrities for those two days! Now, these people weren't necessarily going to buy cattle, but they eat meat and they talk to other people, and they took away good memories of South Devon cattle. As we had South Devon show cards for every beast (which were photographed with the cattle), they could remember which breed they had seen. Graham and I were quite amused because the people who seemed to get the biggest kick out of getting up close to a bull were the about 20 year old males – we got as much enjoyment out of watching them as they got out of taking selfies with a bull - they couldn't get over the fact that something that weighed over 1000kg could be so docile! We also had a lot of young families who were bringing their children through to see cattle up close. One young boy (maybe 3) amused us hugely. He was amazed to see that 'Mummy, they moved!' 'Yes, darling they are real!' 'They're real??!!' with a total look of amazement.

In fact, there may have been a bull sale because of our attendance at Ekka, to a newcomer to our breed, who was most impressed by the temperament he saw from the South Devon cattle on display, as well as their appearance of course.

The second pleasant surprise was just yesterday (31st August) when Graham and I made a quick visit to the Beef Expo at Toowoomba showgrounds. We were slowly walking past a Bazadais booth when we were hailed by the occupant, who wanted to know how our cattle went at Ekka. He had seen them at Farmfest and recognised us from there. He complimented us on Torr Down Merlin 20 and then went on to say that he had no idea that South Devon cattle scanned so well. This young fellow had been listening intently to what was said at the presentation, and how even if you can't see the quality of meat on a South Devon, it is there! We had a very productive discussion on the attributes of South Devons in cross breeding programmes and will catch up again at Beef 2018. Graham won the semen draw at the Bazadais stand at Beef 2015 and we are going to use them when we get organized- of course we want all bull calves from this experiment so we can do carcass classes, but we will probably get all heifers!

We then visited another breed booth where the lady told us that in her opinion, South Devons are a very under-appreciated breed – of course we agreed whole heartedly. We are going to visit her stud prior to Christmas to continue the discussions.

Just proves; we MUST keep putting our cattle out there, entering competitions, and keeping our quality as high as we possibly can. We are planning to start entering carcass competitions, because that is where we feel the strength of South Devons lie – in the quality and quantity of the meat. Also, I get too attached to animals I feed, so led steer competitions are out.

SO GO ON EVERYBODY – GET OUT THERE AND SPREAD OUR MESSAGE. SOUTH DEVONS - BEEF AT ITS BEST!!

An update on Ross Cauley; his eye problems seem to have been fixed, which is excellent news. He is supposed to wear sunglasses whenever he is outside, which is probably a good idea for all of us. Sunglasses and hats should be an essential part of our work wear.

I'm always after photos and news, that I can use for the newsletter or Facebook page.

Heather Lindsay, Newsletter Editor. gh.lindsay@bigpond.com

PS Narelle Rossiter has just sent me this very cute photo of a set of triplets – all heifers.

That's all folks – till next time!

