

## **New Breed Record set at Simmental Premier Sale with Clonagh Lucky Explorer selling for €52,000**

Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 will live long in the memory of Irish Simmental Breeders for a number of reasons but most notably it will be for the record breaking Clonagh Lucky Explorer who set a new breed record and in fact an Irish record for any breed when selling for €52,000 to join the Popes Herd of the Wood family near Preston in the UK. This May `19 born bull was sold by Garrett Behan, Ballyfin, Portlaoise and was sired by his stockbull Manor Park Hansome and was out of a National Livestock Champion Clonagh Dora The Explorer, a Banwy T-Rex sired cow. One of Lucky Explorer's first outings was when he was shown with his mother at Tullamore 2019 and he certainly attracted a lot of attention that day similar to last Saturday. When auctioneer Denis Barrett finally dropped the hammer at €52,000 there was a great sense of excitement at this record price amount those exhibitors and customers sporadically positioned around the Mart car park and also a sense of relief that the sale was up and running.

At the outset it must be acknowledged that this Simmental Premier was held under the strangest of circumstances following the updated Covid regulations that only came into effect 48 hours prior to the sale. However, it is a credit to all involved that the sale took place and achieved such positive returns allowing for the fact that it was all online with no ringside attendance. To add further to the drama of the occasion the online sales platform went down minutes before the sale was due to start, resulting in a three-hour delay. Those working behind the scene at LSL must be acknowledged for getting the technology back up and running. The Simmental exhibitors have also to be credited for the manner in which they accepted the new regulations imposed only days before the sale, the major one being that they had to hand over their animals to specially appointed livestock handlers and where not permitted access to the sales yard on Saturday morning while both viewing and the sale was taking place. No one cited this as a major issue and the potential to sell animals was the primary objective. The decision to hold no presale show had been made prior to catalogue completion, a good decision as it could not have been held under the current regulations.

Back to the sale and the Behan family also secured the second highest bull price with the sale of Clonagh Lattin Lover at €6800. Another May `19 born bull Latin Lover was also by Manor Park Hansome and out of another National Livestock champion Clonagh Darling Eyes.

John Joe Carroll, Fairymount, Castlerea reached the €4000 mark with the sale of Fairymount Lancer. This Curaheen Dickens sired bull was out of a homebred Seaview Tommy cow Fairymount Blondie.

Garrett Behan was back in the money with lot 15 Clonagh Lexus P selling for €4900. This heterozygous polled bull was again sired by Manor Park Hansome and out of Curaheen Gloria P ET.

Lot 21 Leeherd Lynx 364 was offered for sale by John Finnegan, Coachford, Co. Cork and this August `19 born bull sold for €4000. Sired by the herd sire Dermotstown G-Mac, Lynx is out of an Antrim Daubi sired dam Leeherd Fruity.

€5900 was the selling price for lot 27 Clonagh Leinster Fabulous again for Garrett Behan. Born September `19 this Manor Park Hansome bull is out of a Kilbride Farm dragoon dam Clonagh Glamorous Fabulous.

€4200 was achieved for Chris White, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin with the sale of lot 33 Dermotstown Lamborghini. Sired by Dermotstown Delboy this September `19 bull is out of a Keeldrum Capone bred dam Dermotstown Fairlady.

Hitting the €5000 mark was Lissadell Legacy ET exhibited by Kieran & Paul Mullarkey, Ballinful, Co. Sligo. Sired by Kilbride Farm Dragoon this 11 month old bull is out of Tawley Gretta by Monaduff Snorter.

Overall in the bull section there was an 80% clearance and an average price of €5050.

## Heifer Section

The heifer section started brisk and maintained this pattern right through to the conclusion of the draft section put forward by the Leeherd Herd.

Setting the tone and achieving the top heifer price of €11,500 was the second heifer into the ring Lissadell Kyrstal Speci ET sold by Kieran & Paul Mullarkey, Ballinful, Co. Sligo. At just 24 months of age this Hillcrest Champion sired heifer was also out of the Monaduff Snorter dam Tawley Gretta.

Three lots later Lissadell Luxury VIP P was in the sales ring again for Kieran & Paul Mullarkey and this April `19 born heifer sold for €8000. Sired by Auroch Deuter PP this heifer is out of a Milnafua Graduate dam Corbally Eires VIP.

Lot 64 Fohera Little Cracker was next up for Francis Maguire, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim and sold for €4200. Again born in April `19 this Curaheen Wakeman sired heifer is out of a Hillcrest Champion dam Fohera Destiny.

Coose Loveheart was next in the money at €5900 for John Tuohy, Whitegate, Co. Galway. Out of his stockbull Tulla Jaguar P this August `19 born heifer is out of a Curaheen Wakeman dam Coose Famous.

Selling at €4800 was lot 69 Clonagh Lamour Francesca for Garrett Behan. Born August `19 and sired by Manor Park Hansome this heifer is out of a Rosten Barney dam Milton Francesca Et.

The Maguire family were back with Lot with Lot 75 Fohera Little Avril ET selling for €4100. Sired by Curaheen Wakeman this September `19 born heifer is out of a Ballingar Trendsetter bred dam Fanerange Avril.

Coose Luciana Lot 81 sold at €6500 for John Tuohy. Sired by Woodhall Ferrari this October `19 born heifer was out of an Auroch Bullet P dam Seafort Gloria.

Next breaking the €4000 mark was lot 95 selling for Kieran & Paul Mullarkey. Selling at €5100 was Lissadell Lucky Star ET, sired by Hillcrest Champion this November `19 born heifer was out Tawley Gretta by Monaduff Snorter.

Selling at €7800 was lot 101 Fearna Madame Regal ET for Gerry Neenan, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo. This January `20 born heifer is sired by Dermotstown Delboy and is out of the hillcrest Champion dam Fearna Regal.

16 more heifers sold for sums between €3000 and €4000 and for the record there was an 85% clearance rate in the heifer section with an average price of €3700.

Commenting on the sale, Simmental Society C.O.M. Peadar Glennon firstly wanted to congratulate the Behan family on their outstanding achievement in selling "Clonagh Lucky Explorer" for this record breaking price and wished the Wood family every success and enjoyment with their latest addition to the Popes herd. Peadar also wished to acknowledge the positivity of all the exhibitors when informed of the regulations put in place only two days before the sale and also thanked on behalf of the Society and exhibitors, the Livestock handlers who carried such a professional and competent job on Saturday. He also highlighted the role played by both Roscommon Mart and Department of Agriculture officials in facilitating the sale especially when the three hour delay was factored in. In concluding he acknowledged the difficulties in running the sale, thanked the Society council, office administrator Marian and Covid Officers and stewards who assisted in the overall running of the sale, saying "it was all worthwhile as breeders were afforded an opportunity to sell".