

Bauls' back-to-back Craven Dairy Auction coup

Back-to-back Craven Dairy Auction championships were secured by M Baul & Partners, of Watergate Farm, Bishop Thornton, Ripon, at the main February Craven Dairy Auction at Skipton Auction Mart. (Mon, Feb 20)

Exhibitor Peter Baul, who lifted the title at the opening dairy show earlier this month, repeated the feat with his first prize Holstein Friesian newly calven pedigree heifer by the Cogent sire, Dalbytop Phil, a son of Crichel Principal and one of the British Livestock Genetics Consortium's best-selling bulls.

The fourth calf of a home-bred cow, the victor, giving over 28kg, returned to her place of origin when bought for £2,350 by B Kellett & Sons at Hatton House Farm, Bishop Thornton.

The Kelleets - brothers Roger and Glenn - acquired all but one of the prize winners, which all came from the prolific commercial dairy herd of father and son farmers Malcolm and Robert Swires at Haverah Park, Beckwithshaw, Harrogate.

Among them was the first prize cow and reserve show champion, a second calver giving 40 litres, which achieved joint top call of £2,420. This price was emulated by another Swires newly calven heifer that did not figure among the prizes.

Two other Kellett buys from the Swires that did win rosettes were the second and third prize newly calven heifers, which made £2,220 and £2,240 respectively.

The Kelleets continue to build their North Yorkshire dairy herd, which now stands at 275-strong and is set to peak at around the 290 mark. Their estimated annual milk yield is circa 2.3 million litres, which all finds its way to Paynes Farm Dairies in Boroughbridge.

Nine of the 29 milkers among the 32-strong entry sold for over £2100, with newly calven heifers averaging £1,809 and newly calven cows £2,160. In-calf heifers sold to £1,360 at an average of £1,290. Show judge was regular Craven Dairy Auction buyer Wick Williams, of Nantwich, with BOCM Pauls again sponsoring.



Above: Peter Baul, left, with his second Craven Dairy Auction champion this month, joined by sponsor's representative Phil Coleman, centre, and judge Wick Williams.

Left: Libby Simpson with the Swires' Craven Dairy Auction reserve champion, which made joint top price in show.