



# IRISH CHAROLAIS NEWSLETTER

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**Irish Charolais Cattle Society**  
Irish Farm Centre · Bluebell · Dublin 12 · Ireland

## The biggest and most outstanding convention

AGEWISE the Charolais is still only in its infancy in Ireland. The first bulls arrived here as recently as 1965, yet last September this country hosted the 10th World Charolais Convention and this 10th Convention was acclaimed by all to be the most outstanding to date.

The highest standard of Irish hospitality was coupled with a very fine technical conference and a very successful show and sale of Irish pedigree Charolais cattle.

With an attendance of over 160 foreign delegates this was the biggest ever convention. Visitors came from most of the neighbouring countries and also from such far away places as Japan, Canada and Australia. As an indication of the success of the occasion the Irish organisers have received some thirty letters of apprecia-

tion from the visitors. The U.S. secretary of the society, Scott Henderson who attended nine out of the ten conventions, said that without doubt this recent one was the best.

Almost all of the delegates were themselves pedigree breeders and they appreciated the help given by the combined efforts of our Department of Agriculture, CBF and the Society organisers. It was altogether a valuable promotion for Irish beef.

### Nostalgic moment

It was a very nostalgic moment for breeders from all over the world when Emile Maurice, founder member and anchor of world Charolais breeding, resigned from the office of International President. This office is now filled by Mr. Edward Schurick of America.

Other appointments were Francois

Maurice (France) as chairman of the Board of International Directors; Marc Bompoy, France, was elected International treasurer; G. Soda (Japan) and A. Harman (Britain) were re-elected as vice-presidents.

As a gesture of gratitude to Emile Maurice for his sterling work for the breed, he was made President d'Honneur of the International Charolais Federation.

The show and sale held in the R.D.S. grounds, Ballsbridge, on the Monday after the conference was the biggest sale of pedigree French bred Charolais cattle held outside France. A total of 46 cattle were sold for an aggregate of £118,000. 27 heifers averaged 3,435 gns. and the 19 bulls averaged 1,558 gns.

Three cattle went overseas, two of  
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Mr. E. Schurick, U.S.A., President of the International Federation, with members of the Japanese party at the 10th World Charolais Convention in Dublin.

# Controversy at Conference over licensing half-breds

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them to Great Britain and one to the U.S.A. Top heifer price which was also top price of the sale was paid for Mrs. P. Fegan's Moyglare Henrietta by Bert Carabinier from Maynooth. This heifer was bought by a Dunboyne butcher and farmer, Mr. Paddy Kearns.

Top price bull was April 1972 Kilgobbin Hurricane bred by Nancy, Countess of Dunraven, Co. Limerick by Shamrock Vendome. He was sold for 3,000 gns. to Mr. A. R. Bell of Alnwick, Northumberland.

Another bull, Mr. Quirke's Rathonan Harold, was sold to the United States. This bull was bought for 1,300 gns. by Dr. R. M. French from Kentucky.

The heifer that was sold to an overseas buyer was Simmonstown Heureuse owned by Mrs. M. E. Anthony and sold to Mr. Minto from Dumfries, Scotland for 4,000 gns.

The technical conference, which was opened by Mr. Clinton, Minister for Agriculture, contained much lively and meaningful discussion. Mr. Clinton paid tribute to the great qualities of the Charolais breed and said these qualities were reflected in the prices being obtained for Charolais-cross animals in our market places.

In an effort to make the Charolais more widely available, the Department of Agriculture had made temporary provision to licence superior-type cross-bred Charolais.

## Controversy

The licensing of these half-breds provided quite a deal of controversy at the conference. The breeders, being

the purists they are, regretted the diluting of the Charolais breed in these fraction breds. Mr. Omer Vanlandegham, president of the Irish Charolais Cattle Society and one of the country's leading livestock exporters, said that good Charolais cross cattle were making £2 a cwt. more than any other Irish breed when sold on the continent. But, he added, the quality of our Charolais stock will decline badly if we continue to use cross-bred bulls.

Dr. Austin Mescal, chief livestock inspector in the Department of Agriculture and Dr. Paddy Cunningham, geneticist with the Agricultural Institute defended the measure, saying that the bulls were well screened and only the best were licensed. They added that the licensing of them would only continue as long as the  $\frac{3}{4}$  breds and pure breds were too scarce to satisfy the demand.

Dr. Cunningham's studies indicate that there is a bonus of 25% in growth rate to be gained by systematic crossing. Such a crossing would be a Hereford-Friesian cow crossed with a Charolais bull.

He put monetary values on all the commercial traits of Charolais, both good and bad, and compared them against all the other well known beef breeds. The Charolais came out on top. It is followed in the placings by the Simmenthal and the Limousin.

You can hardly ever mention the Charolais breed without also alluding to calving problems. The feeling at the conference was that this trait was exaggerated and many of the difficulties that are being encountered are due to

bad management of the cows. Cows mustn't be too heavy at calving—90% of the trouble with calving difficulties seems to have stemmed from the fact that owners didn't know how to handle this new breed.

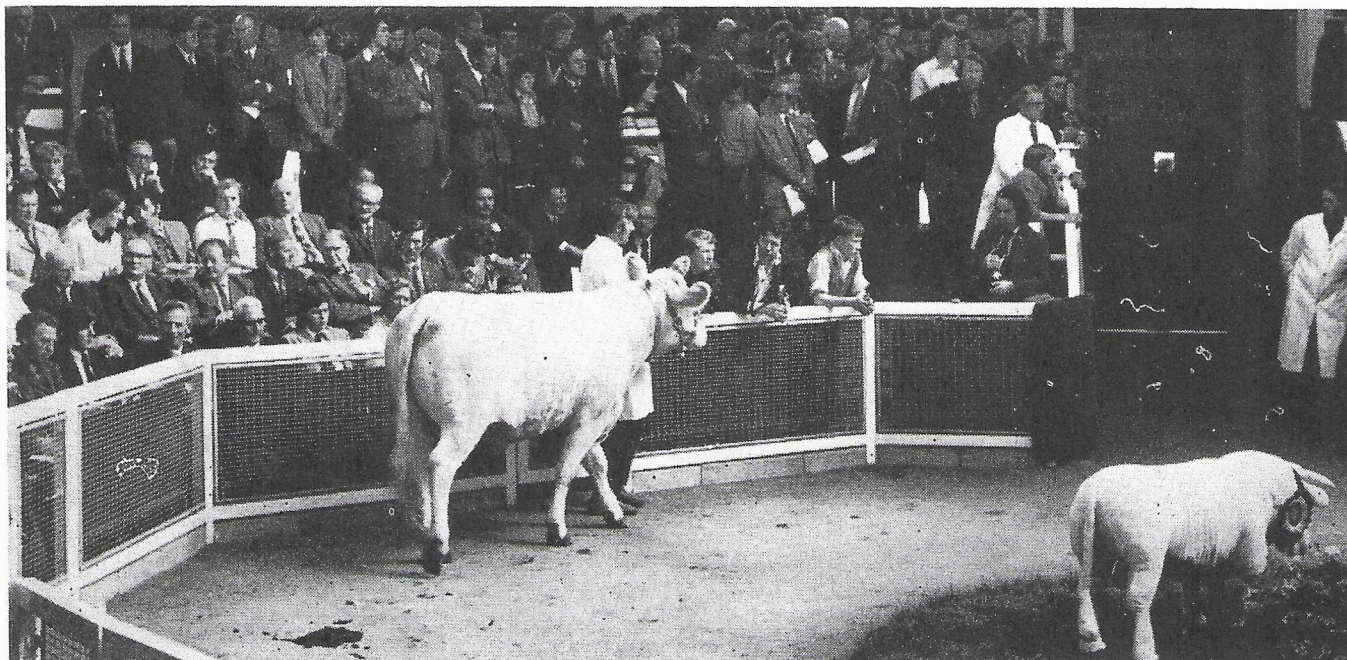
Dr. Mescal also decried this reputation. A recent survey of calving difficulties on three Charolais bulls standing at Sligo A.I. station show the most offending bull gave only 3% difficulties, and the best bull gave practically no problems. This survey covered some 1,500 calvings.

Senor Jose A. Carrilho Ralo, visiting speaker from Portugal, pointed out the predisposition of Charolais cattle to breed twins. Surveys in his own country found that 5.3% of births were twins.

Our almost complete freedom from the world's major enzootic diseases was highlighted by Mr. M. Hynes, Director of Irish Veterinary Services. For instance we haven't had an outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease since 1941. It is clear of rabies, swine fever and fowl pest. Tuberculosis is eradicated and the programme to clear Brucellosis is advancing rapidly.

## Spike Island

The delegates were extremely impressed with our stringent enforcement of regulations to enable us to maintain our present disease free climate. The U.S. Department of Agriculture regards Ireland as equal to Canada in health status. He mentioned the Irish maximum security station at Spike Island which is situated just off the coast at Cobh, Co. Cork.



At the Convention Show and Sale at the R.D.S. Bloodstock paddocks.

# Letters of appreciation from over 30 countries

## France

Dear Mr. Sherry,

We send you our congratulations for all the work done in Dublin for the Charolais Convention. It was perfectly organised, and knowing the part you had in this, allow me to send you my best wishes.

F. Maurice,  
President,  
Herd Book Charolais.

## England

Dear Mr. Sherry,

Lady Rosehill and I would like to convey our thanks to you and through you to your Society for your hospitality and also for the really excellently organised convention. There are many individuals and the people who helped you considerably we would wish to thank personally but the list is so long that we would ask you to convey our thanks to all those who were concerned. It was without doubt one of the best Charolais conventions we have attended and my only regret is that so few English people attended which if they had I am quite sure would have engendered a great deal of friendship

not only between cattle men but between people of all walks of life.

Lord Rosehill,  
Rogate,  
Peterfield,  
Hants.

## America

Dear Mr. Sherry,

On behalf of the entire American delegation who attended the Tenth Annual Federation meeting in Dublin, I would like to thank you and compliment you and the Irish Society for the tremendous reception and organization which was displayed at this International meeting. I have attended nine of the ten Federation meetings held around the world and had a part in hosting one and in my honest judgment I believe yours to be the most outstanding arrangement of activities that I have witnessed.

Your show was most impressive and probably your sale could have been better. I do not believe there has ever been a public sale held that could not be improved upon both quality and price wise.

You and the members of your Society are cordially welcomed to the U.S.A. and the A.I.C.A. headquarters. If we

may assist you in any way, please let us know.

Kindest personal regards,

J. Scott Henderson,  
Executive Secretary,  
American-International  
Charolais Association.

Dear Mr. Sherry,

Please extend my appreciation and gratitude to the Irish Charolais Cattle Society for making the 10th World Charolais Convention such a huge success. The warmth and friendliness of the Irish people will long be remembered.

Many, many thanks for everything.

Mrs. Walker-Wilson.

## Canada

Dear Mr. Sherry,

Please accept my congratulations for presenting such a fine Convention in Dublin.

We certainly enjoyed every event and would ask you to pass on these words of praise to all of those connected with the organization and administration of the 10th World Charolais Convention.

John F. Devins,  
President,  
Canadian Charolais  
Association,



Piping in the barons of beef at the Charolais banquet.