



The Cattle Section

I have been involved in the Cattle Section all my life, but in the actual running for some 40 years! The section involves a lot of people before, during and after the event. There is a good team for helpers; from people who turn up to help setup, to steward on the day and to pack it away again the shed. It always amazes me how long it takes to setup, yet the day after the show it is all back in the shed by 3pm!

Helping me for the last 21 years has been Helen Downing, but unfortunately, due to the then arrival of her new baby, she felt she should stand down and spend some time with her family. That in turn made a space for a new secretary, this was when my son Lewis stepped up. He has been helping for a few years previously and decided the time was right to take the bull by the horns!



Show time is manic in our household, not only do we - and I will say we because all the family are involved in the section - put up the rings/lines but we do everything else right up to installing the milking parlour in the tent and of course all the office side of the job. Just to add insult to injury, my husband, Chris and daughter Emma, show our Ayrshire cows. They are not content with just taking a couple either - I think the most has been 12 on the showground! To say tempers are a little frayed by Sunday evening is an understatement. A friend's granddaughter came to us for her work experience several years back and she was with us in the week running up to Stithians Show and did she have an eye opener! Our

friends said to us how do you do it all and show the cows? We looked at each other and said together 'cos we do'.

I was born into it. My Grandfather, Uncle and now cousin were/are all Showyard Directors and my Dad was Cattle Secretary before me. The other side of the family; father-in-law is Chief Cattle Steward as well as Trade Stand Secretary along with my sister-in-law. So, the show runs through my blood.

I touched on the parlour earlier; that legacy, was made by my Dad, Leonard Barter, who

back in the day made a point of providing our exhibitors with a substantial milking facility so the cows could be milked out. This over the years has become quite a crowd puller; adults and children stand and watch the cows being milked and are mesmerised by it all.



Our show day starts nice and early; the first animals are on the ground by 6am. They are washed, dried, brushed all before 9.30am when judging starts.

The judges are met and made welcome before the judging starts - may the best animals win! It is quite a common comment from the judges that the standard of cattle at Stithians, is as high as any county show. I would like to add to this that just after we moved to the present site, we had 313 cattle on the showground for our one day show. However, those days are gone, but there are still 150 very high-quality cattle on the ground every year and hopefully there will be for many years to come.



The competition concludes with the crowning of the champions and whether it's beef or dairy – what an animal!

The Grand Parade of the Cattle Section, takes place in the Main Ring, so the whole of the show can see what we have to offer as this is afterall "STITHIANS AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION" and how much more agricultural does it need to be than our prizewinning stock?!



To say I've missed the show would be a lie; I haven't missed the work, who would, but.... I have missed seeing you all, whether it is just in passing through the section or friends and family who just pop their head into the tent and say 'Hi'. Then there's the exhibitors; a friendly bunch at heart, but on show morning it's very competitive and then as the day goes on the jokes start and they relax - maybe even thought of as an extended family.

Going virtual this year has been a challenge, but a no brainer. The pandemic has left a huge hole in showing so hopefully this will be a filler for the time being.

So, on that note, I'll sign off and keep my fingers crossed to see you all next year.

Helen Roskilly, Cattle Secretary.

