

## **DIAMONDS SPARKLE AT KNOWLESMERE DISPERSAL**

They say that “Diamonds Are Forever” and there were certainly plenty of Holstein breeders keen to acquire a member of this outstanding cow family when Andrew & Jane Whittaker dispersed their prizewinning Knowlesmere herd at Weston-under Redcastle, Shropshire on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The two top prices were members of this tremendous family and both were purchased by James McNeil from Cairnpat Holsteins at Stranraer, who has acquired many of the best animals to be sold at auction in recent years. He firstly gave 18,000gs for the superb Knowlesmere Solomon Diamond (Ex-93) who has been an All Britain winner for the past 3 years in succession. Milking with her third calf, her heifer calf at foot by Crushabull made 9,000gs to local breeder Brent Crothers, buying for his Tottoi herd. Solomon Diamond’s dam was the great matron Knowlesmere Jordan Diamond (Ex-96), a prolific Champion at major shows and former All Britain Mature Cow, and her granddaughter, the much admired calved heifer Knowlesmere Sol Diamond (VG-88) later in the sale sparked another tense bidding battle between Mr McNeil and Steven Robinson from Northern Ireland, bidding on the telephone, before the former prevailed at 20,000gs. The Diamonds sparked interest whenever one entered the ring and the 24 Diamond lots averaged £5,228.

Andrew and Jane’s daughter Izzy and her husband Gary Jones have had their own cattle registered under the Jones prefix, and as they are about to relocate to Ireland, these were part of the dispersal sale. The six month old Jones Awesome Jelly ET, was the subject of great interest, being the first daughter from the renowned prizewinning Knonaudale Jasmine to sell in the UK, and she made 13,500gs to the Forsyth family’s Baltier Farms, bidding online from their Wigtownshire base. Another fancy calf was Jones Firstlook Lexi Red, a member of the famous Blackrose family, and Claire Swale had to go to 11,200gs to acquire her on behalf of Hautmont Hill Holsteins from Belgium.

The Poppi family are always in demand in the auction ring and Iwan Morgan purchased the VG-87 point 2 year old by Stantons High Octane for 12,000gs for his partnership with Elite Haven Holsteins. Another popular family were the Chancels, with representatives making 8,200, 7,800 and 6,000gs.

30 animals were sold for 4,000gs or more and a further 29 over 3,000gs, paying testimony to the tremendous quality on offer and the Whittaker family are to be congratulated on a wonderful offering of top class Holsteins, resulting in an average of almost £2,400 per life for 322 head from senior cows to baby calves only a few days old.

This was the first online sale conducted by Norton & Brooksbank in their link with MartEye and 19.2% of buyers purchased online, with a total of 246 people bidding online during the day and more than 3,700 people in 9 countries following the sale on live stream.

| <b>TOP PRICES</b> |   |  |        |
|-------------------|---|--|--------|
| 127               | Knowlesmere Sol Diamond (VG-88 2yr)               | Cairnpat Holsteins (Cairnpat)              | 20,000 |
| 47                | Knowlesmere Solomon Diamond (Ex-93)               | Cairnpat Holsteins (Cairnpat)              | 18,000 |
| 273               | Jones Awesome Jelly ET                            | Baltier Farms (Baltier)                    | 13,500 |
| 141               | Knowlesmere Jones Octane Poppi ET (VG-87 2yr)     | I.R.Morgan (Erie) and Elitehaven Holsteins | 12,000 |
| 274               | Jones Firstlook Lexi Red                          | Hautmont Hill Holsteins – Belgium          | 11,200 |
| 47A               | Knowlesmere Crush Diamond                         | B.W.Crothers (Toitoti)                     | 9,000  |
| 91                | Knowlwesmere Fitz Chancel (VG-87 2yr)             | Cairnpat Holsteins (Cairnpat)              | 8,200  |
| 175               | Knowlesmere Solomon Chic                          | L.Murphy (Evergreen)                       | 7,800  |
| 96                | Knowlesmere Doorman Elegant ET (VG-87)            | G & A.E.Smith & Sons (Alandrew)            | 7,200  |
| 127A              | Knowlesmere Chief Diamond                         | J.L.Gray (Drumtall)                        | 7,000  |
| 148               | Logan Chief Edie                                  | Cairnpat Holsteins (Cairnpat)              | 6,300  |
| 64                | Knolesmere Atwood Chic (VG-89)                    | S.R.J.Leyburn (Lislea)                     | 6,000  |
| 272               | Knowlesmere Jones Crisp Amarok                    | L.Murphy (Evergreen)                       | 6,000  |
| 123A              | Knowlesmere Jones Diamond                         | J.Sproule (Foggyhill)                      | 5,700  |
| 147               | Knowlesmere RT Jordy Red Lingerie Red (VG-87 2yr) | S.R.J.Leyburn (Lislea)                     | 5,400  |
| 123               | Knowlesmere Impression Diamond (VG-87 2yr)        | C.Thomasson & Son (Norville)               | 5,300  |
| 146               | Knowlesmere Denver Diamond (VG-86 2yr)            | Laird Farming Co (Blythbridge)             | 5,200  |
| 248               | Jones Impression Fame ET                          | G & A.E.Smith & Sons (Alandrew)            | 5,200  |
| 51                | Knowlesmere Miss Brandysnap (Ex-92-2)             | D,R & B.M.Thomas (Churchvale)              | 5,100  |
| 228               | Knowlesmere Unix Elegant                          | R.Watt (Mountainview)                      | 5,100  |
| 7A                | Knowlesmere Jones Unix Arcuri                     | Gerrit Kerssies – Holland                  | 4,700  |
| 139               | Knowlesmere Highoctane Papoose                    | Cairnpat Holsteins (Cairnpat)              | 4,600  |
| 239               | Jones Unix Ariana                                 | M.Bryson (Whiteflat)                       | 4,600  |
| 65                | Knowlesmere Gold Diamonds ET (VG-87)              | R & E. Butterfield (Ingleview)             | 4,200  |
| 7                 | Knowlesmere Goldwyn Abrakaboom ET (Ex-94-3)       | S.R.J.Leyburn (Lislea)                     | 4,100  |
| 12                | Knowlesmere Windbrook Chancel (Ex-94-3)           | P.Kingston (Cradenhill)                    | 4,100  |
| 134               | Knowlesmere Cotton Starlight (VG-86 2yr)          | C.Sheehy – Eire                            | 4,100  |
| 247               | Knowlesmere Living The Dream Red ET               | P.Manning                                  | 4,100  |
| 69                | Knowlesmere Solomon Diamond 2 (VG-88)             | J.S.Bird & Son (Bartonwood)                | 4,000  |
| 130               | Knowlesmere Impress Papoose (VG-86 2yr)           | R. Stewart                                 | 4,000  |

## **AVERAGES**

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>142 cows &amp; calved heifers</b> | <b>£3,647.20 (incl 62 calves at foot @ £1,703.54)</b> |
| <b>55 served heifers</b>             | <b>£ 2,044.64</b>                                     |
| <b>63 maiden heifers</b>             | <b>£ 2,240.00</b>                                     |
| <br>                                 |   |
| <b>260 lots</b>                      | <b>£ 2,967.21</b>                                     |

**AUCTIONEERS: NORTON & BROOKSBANK**  
**Guest Auctioneer: Jonny Diamond (Halls)**