

1895 Ballyshannon Agricultural Show Results

The Show took place on Wednesday 21st August 1895 in Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal.

President – Mr R.L. Moore, D.L., Molenan, Londonderry.

Vice Presidents – Mr. St. George R. Johnston, J.P., Mr R. Crawford, J.P., Lieutenant-Cornel Dickson, J.P., Mr H. Stubbs, D.L., Dr Condon, J.P., Mr R. Sweeney, J.P., Mr F. Fawcett, J.P., Mr H. Coane and Mr T.J. Atkinson, D.L.

Executive Committee – Messer's. Robert Lipsett (chairman), P.J. Fergus (chairman board of guardians), P. Kelly, J.P., George Moore, James Likely, David Johnston, J.P., Thomas Morrow, P.L.G., R. Reynolds, P.D. Reavy, V.S., F. Fawcett, P.L.G., R.A. Hamilton, P.L.G., Dr Creighton, M. Maguire (Solicitor), C.J. Tredennick, J.P., J McAdam, P.A. Mooney, J. Cummins, M. Cassidy, J.P., J. Daly, C.T.C., M. Flanagan, T.C., A. Anderson, J. Mohan, T.C., James Gallagher, P.L.G., R. Myles, P.S.C., W. Neely, H.C., and P. McNulty, C.E.

Hon. Treasurer— Mr. Ramage, Provincial Bank, Ballyshannon.

Veterinary Surgeon – Mr P.D. Reavy, M.R.C.V.S.

Hon. Secretary – Mr F.J. McFadden.

Judges

Cattle - Mr E.M. Archdale, Crocknaorieve, Ballinamallard and Mr John Sherridan, Castlederg.

Horses – Captain Hope Johnston, Ardsalla, Navan, Mr Richard Flynn, Cleaboy, Castlerea and Mr Owen Wynn, Hazelwood, Sligo.

Sheep – Mr Richard Flynn and Mr Charles Webb, Rahilly, Sligo.

Butter & Poultry – Professor Carroll, Model Farm, Glasnevin.

On Wednesday, after the lapse of a quarter of a century, the Ballyshannon Agricultural Show was revived, and, judging by the vitality of the reanimated fixture, it certainly promises to be permanent one. To shows taken on the broad, pretensions lines of Strabane or Armagh it claimed the most modest inferiority, but for an initial effort it has offered an almost unique example of what can be done by enterprise, determination! and energy, even in a short time. The idea organising a show, and, if possible, making the affair an annual venture, is generally credited to Mr. Robert Lipsett, the well-known merchant of the town of Ballyshannon. He secured the cooperation some active spirits, a provisional committee was formed, subscriptions were asked for, and the appeal met with a most generous response, considerably over £200 having been contributed. Amongst the largest subscribers was Mr. R. L. Moore, D.L., Molenan, who also sent a magnificent silver cup a prize, to be won two years in succession, for the best sire calculated to get weight-carrying hunters and carriage horses. The organisation of the matter was next perfected, Mr. B. L. Moore being appointed president of the shows, and Mr. B. Lipsett chairman of the executive committee, which included a number of zealous local gentlemen, who took the matter up with the heartiest enthusiasm and carried out the work with the greatest good-will.

The main object of the shows was, of course, to promote the well-being of the agricultural community by encouraging them to improve the breeds of horses, cattle, and other farm animals, and, by practical illustration, instruct them in all the latest methods of dairying. This, with horse-jumping, was the limit of the programme for the first venture, but it is intended on next occasion to add dogs and home industries.

The organisers have very wisely defined the districts from which competitors may exhibit. The first area is from all Ireland, thus throwing open that section to all the very best material in the country, so that the local farmers may have an idea of the highest standard, and aim accordingly. The second class is limited to persons residing within a twenty-one miles' radius of Ballyshannon, the obvious advantage of which will be to encourage the keenest competition within the restricted area. The show was held in the market yard immediately the right of the bridge, and spacious garden adjoining, about to be properly laid out as extension of the market yard, was also adapted to the uses of the show. Hoardings were erected fronting the main thoroughfares, and numerous stalls for horses, sheep, and poultry were constructed around the opposite walls. The garden portion was reserved for cattle, and the market buildings were used for dairy exhibits. The show ring was fenced off in the centre, and numerous chairs were disposed around. A band stand was also erected on a convenient site. Gaily coloured flags floated on staffs here and there, and under the brilliant sunshine which favoured the day the show yard thronged with crowds of well-dressed people, presented a very pretty sight. One of the most valuable and practically effective features of the show yard, was a lecture on dairying by Professor Carroll, Glasnevin, who was assisted by Miss Kate Casey, an instructress sent down by the National Board of Education. The defects in the making of homemade butter were vividly pointed out, and the effect of cleanliness and attention in preparing products for market, were shown with admirable clearness. The lectures and illustrations were followed with the closest interest by the women and girls present.

There were nine sections for horses, thirteen for cattle, ten for sheep, five for poultry and four for butter. The section for pigs did not fill. It can be seen that the committee catered to wide extent of exhibitors, and did all they could to meet every local requirement. However, a less numerous array of sections confined to the most pressing necessities of the district with increased prize list might, without fear of misunderstanding, be suggested. The entries were not numerous, but the competition, especially in the cow classes, was excellent, some magnificent specimens being on view, and the judges having the greatest difficulty in making the awards. It is scarcely fair to apply ordinary standards to such venture, got up in record time and carried out with notable vigour. The officials and the general public were all on the beat terms, there being apparent everywhere a cordial desire to promote the success of the show, and if there were occasional blunders and defects in detail they could be attributed nothing but zeal to undertake too much. On the next occasion authority will be more carefully divided so that one representative gentleman may be responsible for each section, thus fairly dividing the useful work and directly facilitating any necessary inquiry. The fine band of the Inniskilling Fusiliers (Fifth Battalion) was stationed in the show yard during the day, and as usual discoursed an enjoyable programme of high-class music under the direction of Bandmaster Hassell.

A rather exciting incident occurred the entrance the show ring when two huge stallions were being exhibited. The animals by some means encountered and attacked each other with the greatest fury. The people round about soon ran helter-skelter, and some ladies screamed with terror at the frantic kicking and rearing of the huge horses. The grooms in charge, at no little danger to life and limb, stuck pluckily to their work and succeeded in separating the combatants before any injury was done. One of the stallions when placed in its stall, kicked it into matchwood.

When the awards had been made, and, by the way, is just to mention that the judges in couple of cases, acting strictly up to the rules, withheld awards altogether in classes where they considered the merit was deficient. This decision, though liable to misinterpretation, will form precedent in the

history of the show, and justify the executive in all cases in adhering strictly to the recognised rules, and not permitting themselves to be swayed from the right course by local feeling or inclination, however kind.

When the awards were made the public were allowed into the yard at reduced rate, and many took advantage of the occasion. As was to be expected, the chief popular interest centred on the horse-jumping, and when after luncheon the officials proceeded the tennis ground—a magnificent meadow little way over on the Port side—they found the place already thronged. A spacious grand stand and band enclosure were erected, commanding a good view of the jumps, and the popular portion of the circuit was well filled, though many had taken what is known as French leave” to enter the surrounding walls.

The jumps on the whole were well constructed, with the exception the bank, which was too soft, had an unnecessary footing of furze, and was narrow that the horses had scarcely room to change their feet. The jumping, however, was most exciting, and was greatly appreciated by the spectators. For the organisation, conduct, financial and other success of the first Ballyshannon Agricultural Show, there can be nothing but praise and general admiration, and the promoters have every reason to be proud of their undertaking, which, if conducted in the future as in the past, with the further advantage of sufficient time (or arrangement, promises certainly rival any similar undertaking, even of mature growth. Details:

Horses

Class: Stallion calculated to produce hunter or harness horses;

1st Francis Fawcett – Rowntree Hill, Belleek, thoroughbred stallion, Eirns Fraud,

2nd E.M. Archdale – Crocknacrieve, Ballinamallard, hackney stallion, Homle Fireaway

Class: Broad mare for saddle or harness, with foal at foot;

1st Mrs. Robert Reynolds – Tullaghan,

2nd Thomas Leslie – Annamore

Class: Yearling colt or filly likely to make a saddle or harness horse; there were seven entries but the judges withheld the prizes for want of merit.

Class: Two-year-old colt or filly likely to make a saddle or harness horse;

1st Michael Cassidy – J.P, Erne View, Colt

2nd Patterson Morrow – Abbey, Ballyshannon, Colt

Class: Three-year-old colt or filly likely to make a saddle or harness horse;

1st Richard Hamilton – Rockfield, Ballyshannon, Colt

2nd Alexander Donaldson – Belleek, Colt

Class: Agricultural Stallion;

1st E.M. Archdale - Crocknacrieve, Clydesdale stallion, Torlagh.

2nd Willaim Wilson – Derryhillew, agricultural stallion, The Earl.

Class: Agricultural mare with foal at foot; – No Merit

Class: Harness Horse four years old and upwards;

1st William Knox – Clyhore, Belleek

2nd Francis Fawcett – Rowantree Hill

Class: Pony, not over 14.2 Hands;

1st E.M. Archdale – Crocknacrieve,

2nd Alfred Stubbs – Danby

Cattle

DIVISION A – Open to ALL IRELAND

Bull of any pure bred calved since 1st January 1893;

1st E.M. Archdale – Crocknacrieve,

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Bull of any pure bred calved since 1st January 1894;

1st Robert Lipsett – Ballyshannon,

2nd St. George R. Johnston – Mount Prospect

Dairy Cow in calf, or having had a living calf since 1st January 1895;

1st Charles J. Tredennick – Camlin,

2nd Charlis Webb – Rahilly, Sligo,

HC Robert Lipsett, Ballyshannon and Francis Fawcett, Ronantree Hill.

Heifer in calf, not exceeding three years;

1st Henry Stubbs – Danby,

2nd Henry Stubbs – Danby

DIVISION B – (Confined to *bona-fide* farmers residing within 21 statute miles of Ballyshannon, and whose valuation does not exceed £60.)

Bull calved since 1st January 1893;

1st Edward Vaughan – Dunmuckrum,

2nd George Knox - Clyhore

Dairy Cow in calf, or having had a living calf since 1st January 1895;

1st James Cassidy - Coolcholly,

2nd Patterson Morrow – Abbey, Ballyshannon

Heifer in calf, not exceeding three years;

1st Patterson Morrow – Abbey, Ballyshannon,

2nd Thomas Morrow – Legaltion.

Heifer calved since January, 1894;

1st Patterson Morrow – Abbey, Ballyshannon,

2nd Thomas Morrow – Legaltion

DIVISION C – (Confined to *bona-fide* farmers residing within 21 statute miles of Ballyshannon, and whose valuation does not exceed £25.)

Bull calved since 1st January 1893;

1st Daniel Campbell – Killeen,

2nd Thomas Nicholson – Bunduff

Bull calved since 1st January 1894;

1st Hugh Thompson – Ballymagroarty.

Dairy Cow in calf, or having had a living calf since 1st January 1895;

1st Hugh Mulrine - Ballyshannon,

2nd Bernard Diver – Clontyseer

Heifer in calf, not exceeding three years;

1st Hugh McGowan

Heifer calved since January, 1894;

1st John McIntyre – Abbey, 2nd Thomas McBrine – Whealt

Sheep

The best ram (open to the district);

1st John Anderson – Ballyshannon

Special class (open);

1st William Willson – Enniskillen

2nd John Johnston – Attamore House, Fintona

HC John Johnston - Attamore House, Fintona.

Best of three ewes lambs (open to the district)

1st Thomas Dickson – Rochefield Lodge, Bundoran

Special class (open);

1st John Johnston – Attamore House, Fintona

2nd William Willson – Derryhillew.

Best of three ram lambs (open to the district)

1st John Anderson – Ballyshannon

Special class (open);

1st William Willson – Derryhillew.

2nd John Johnston – Attamore House, Fintona.

Poultry

Best turkey cock and hen;

1st Mr C.R. Barton – Waterfoot, Pettigo.

2nd Charles J. Tredennick – Camlin, Ballyshannon.

Goose and gander (open);

1st A. Woods – Sion Mills

2nd Daniel McCabe – Leggs

Duck and drake (open);

1st Thomas Dickson – Bundoran

Cock and hen (open);

1st Miss A.E. Coane – Higginstown

2nd Bridget Murphy – Rossinver

Pair of chickens killed plucked and trussed for table (open);

1st Mrs A.C. Johnston - Kinlough

Butter (In the district)

Butt not less than 4lbs weight;

1st Mary Connolly, Kinlough,

2nd Robert James Kyle – Fintona

Roll butter not less than 4lbs;

1st Mrs William Coulter – Boyney

2nd Mrs A.C. Johnston – Mount Prospect

HC. Miss A.E. Coane – Higginstown

4lbs butter in fancy prints;

1st Mrs William Coulter – Boyney

2nd Mrs. Catherine Sweeney – Drimnagroagh

HC. James Armstong – Parkhill

2lbs butter in 1lbs rolls (confined to farmers not exceeding £5 valuation or two cows' grass);

1st Mrs. James McSharry – Gurteendarragh

2nd Bridget Durnian – Higginstown

Horse Jumping

First Class Jumping Competition (Open) - First Prize £7, Second Prize £2, Third Prize £1.

1st Mr William Willson (Derryhilla), Morning Star

2nd Mr J.T.R. Johnston's (Castlederg), Barton

3rd Mr A. Sim's (Collooney), Master Feeny

eight competed

Second Class Jumping Competition – Winner of first prize excluded. First Prize £4, Second Prize £1, Third Prize 10s.

1st Alexander Sim's (Collooney), Master Feeny

2nd Mrs Sim's (Collooney), Maid of Athens

3rd Mr J.T.R. Johnston's (Castlederg), Barton

six competed

Third Class Jumping Competition – confined to *bona-fida* farmers within the area. First Prize £4, Second Prize £1, Third Prize 10s.

1st Mr Conlon's Right-of-way

2nd Mr J.T.R. Johnston's (Castlederg), Barton

seven competed. No third prize given.

Driving Competition – For the best turned out and driven horse or pony, not under 14 1 hands and two wheeled conveyances. First Prize £2, Second Prize £1.

1st Mr R.L. Moore – Cliff

2nd Mr M. Cassidy – Ballyshannon

3rd Mr Edward Knox – Belleek

eight competed.

*All information as published in the Derry Journal on Friday 23rd August 1895