AGM 2020

**Chief Executive Report**

We are living in unprecedented times with the Covid-19 crisis which has posed restrictions on attendance and how we conduct the AGM. Our AGM is a hybrid model where a quorum is present to satisfy legal requirements and members can listen in.

I wish to extend a warm welcome to everyone in attendance or joining on the audio link.

The challenges of Brexit, CAP reform and the environment are unknown quantities whose effects will reverberate well into the future. A free trade deal with the UK having zero tariffs, zero quotas is proving difficult. The EU budget is in deficit after the departure of the UK after 47 years as a member. The EU wish to address economic, social and ecological sustainability of dairy farming in the “green deal” with production constraints a possible reality.

IHFA mission is that members’ farming systems are sustainable, in harmony with the environment, efficient and profitable to maintain the family farm into the future. The system is principally based on maximum utilization of grazed grass and grass silage with locally sourced forages to augment output from efficient long-life cows producing wholesome food with cow wellbeing as the cornerstone.

Sustainable farming systems require farmers to take stock of their practices in relation to animal welfare, enhancing water quality, increasing biodiversity and reducing the carbon footprint of their enterprises.

Improving the image of dairy farming by putting the farmer at the centre as a main driver of solutions to animal welfare, carbon sequestration, ecology, management of the environment, while producing wholesome food, sustaining human nutrition and health is a very positive message which must be fostered.

IHFA will continue to advance the welfare image of its dairy farmer members by promoting long-life cows through proven services of registration, ancestry recording, conformation scoring, management reports and on-line management tools.

The number of Holstein Friesian bulls tested globally on an annual basis is a huge asset for the breed in positioning the Holstein Friesian as breed of choice worldwide in varied dairy systems encompassing grazing, confined and variations of both. This natural genetic advantage outweighs the merits of cross breeding systems.

Stepping up promotion of the breed capturing the value of the Holstein Friesian breed for all dairy systems featured strongly throughout the year. This involved extending the reach on social media, enhancing the IHFA website, continuation of national press adverts, farmers journal, local press and media.

Recognising individual animal performance through the Gold & Diamond Awards and promoting herd and member achievements through the All Ireland Awards

IHFA offered a pilot scheme to genomic test females. This service verifies parentage in addition to the breeding values, where a number of bulls run with the herd.

The pedigree certificate issued in compliance with EU legislation as of 1st November 2018 has been remodelled so that the pre-existing format is available on the reverse described as “additional information”

IHFA lobbied the DAFM for many years for the recording of breed of dam on passports. This reality is now a positive step for the purchaser of male calves.

IHFA are continuing their collaboration with IFA in conformation scoring animals at public auctions and farm sales while recording prices. This helps with the case made for better values for pedigree stock.

IHFA are patrons of Agri-Aware who promote the value of food and its farming origins to school children so they have a better appreciation of rural Ireland and how farmers produce wholesome food while simultaneously caring for and protecting the environment.

As patrons of Animal Health Ireland, IHFA support all initiatives. These schemes provide a record of testing which offer assurance regarding stock sales. The National Johne’s Programme, IJCP, is now open to all dairy farmers and IHFA urge participation. Funding is available from DAFM for four years with a target of enrolling 100 herds per year. An IBR programme is in the discussion phase.

The UCD project is continuing for a further three years which is very desirable to help verify initial positive performance for the Holstein Friesian breed.

IHFA are also patrons of Vista Milk, who are carrying out research on the sustainability of our food production systems from soil to sewer. The first systems analysis has been completed on A2 milk. The health benefit claims in some international research is not proven, but may have a role in marketing.

Milk recording reports are in draft redesign. IHFA have again made representation regarding the omission of 305-day yield, animal name and conformation score from the reports.

LIFT: Agreement was reached with the AI organizations to resume the scoring of the progeny of young bulls. This is essential for ensuring the conformation quality of bulls in the system.

IHFA have agreed a sub contract with the Jersey Society to carry out registrations and automate their system.

**Breed Promotion:**

There was a busy schedule of events and activity over the year highlighting the merits of the Holstein Friesian breed.

IHFA promote the benefits of pedigree to all agricultural college students with special recognition of Gurteen College, who maintain a pedigree registered Holstein Friesian Herd.

I wish to congratulate the recipients of the IHFA bursaries to Gurteen College. Patrick Gaynor, President, and I attended the graduation day in January where the bursaries were presented to Niall Slattery and Sean Quinnlan.

The students from Gurteen visited Liam O’Brien’s farm in Shinrone, Co Offaly. The Cornhill herd is a great example where expansion is through increasing output through breeding and feeding rather than numbers. This was an alternate lesson for the students in both efficiency and financial management.

The National Hall of Fame Award, in conjunction with Athlone Show Society, was awarded to Richard Whelan of the Lumville Herd. Richard is an ardent supporter of IHFA down the years, always available to help, attend meetings and represent the Association on the Boards of IHFA and ICBF. Richard wishes to thank the Board for nominating him for such a prestigious award.

**44th IHFA Premier Bull Show & Sale.**

32 Bulls of quality were forward on the day and the catalogue offered broad selection to suit diverse farming systems. Minimum qualifying criteria for entry was applied, all bulls were prior inspected, genotyped and sire verified (DNA) and 60-day TB test. There was a56 % clearance rate and average price of €3,173.

I wish to thank Tom Murphy, Swiftsheath Herd, Judge on the day, also stewards, John Kirby and Donal Carey. All IHFA staff were on hand to help. The sale was held at Central Auctions, Nenagh Livestock Mart. Quality breeding was to the fore with price following quality.

Champion Bull title went to Laurelelm Daffy 2 (Lot 8) for Rickey Barrett, Ballinhassig, Co. Cork. He is bred from the Daffodil family, backed by five generations of EX (Excellent) dams. He sold for €3,675.

**National Open Day**

The National IHFA Holstein Friesian Open Day was held on the O’Keeffe family farm, Freemont North Cork on Thursday 27th June. This was the first occasion the IHFA Open Day was held in North Cork. The Radney Herd of 100 cows is a long established, excellent herd of Holstein Friesian cows developed on the strength of homebred cow families. The herd is noted for supplying bulls to the AI industry. A large crowd estimated close to three thousand attended and everyone was warmly welcomed by IHFA President, Patrick Gaynor and hosts. Sean Kelly MEP performed the official opening.

I wish to thank Henry, Liam and the family for hosting the Open Day and congratulate them on a very successful event. I also wish to thank the Cork Holstein Friesian Club for their help and support in training the cows and handling on the day. I wish to thank the master judges: Kevin Flynn - Reary, Victor O’Sullivan - Lisduff, Ricky Barrett - Laurelelm, under 12 age YMA judge Tommy Screene - Windfield, Bryan O’Connor - Bawnmore, reason giving judge, and both Macra Judges Michael Healy - Mylawn and John O’Callaghan - Mountfarna.

A special feature of the day included a young stock sale from the top cow families which averaged €2,000.

Donations were presented to Marymount Hospice and Downe Syndrome Ireland in lieu of the hospitality on the day.

The National Herds Competition is a most prestigious competition and included a section for Pure Friesians. 39 herds competed of which 7 were Pure Friesian.

I wish to thank Mike Gould, Woodmarsh Herd, UK, who judged the competition. He also attended for the presentations at the IHFA Open Day with his wife Katherane which was very kind of him.

National Herds Competition 2019 - sponsored by Greenvale Animal Feeds

**Over 80 Herd**

1. Brochan & Joseph Cocoman, Kilwarden Herd, Co. Kildare.

2. Aidan & Sally Frawley, Ballytigue Herd, Co. Limerick.

3. John Barrett Jnr, Laurelmore Herd, Co. Cork.

**Under 80 Herd**

1. Dermot Jackson, Borkilbeg Herd, Co. Wicklow.

2. Damian Wynne, Rowantree herd, Co. Cavan.

3. Robert and Sylvia Helen, Eedy Herd, Co. Cork.

**Spring Herd**

1. Brian Kenneally, Bessborough Herd, Co. Kilkenny.

2. Henry & Liam O'Keeffe, Radney Herd, Co. Cork.

3. James Egan, Tobermartin Herd, Co. Kerry.

**Judges Choice Award**

1. Dermot Jackson, Borkilbeg Herd, Co. Wicklow.

2. Aidan & Sally Frawley, Ballytigue Herd, Co. Limerick.

3. Micheál Spillane, Mountain Herd, Co. Tipperary.

**Judges Recognition Award**

Michael & Elizabeth McNamara, Barna Herd, Co. Cork.

**EBI Awards**

EBI Herd Award - Brendan Meade, Stamullen Herd, Co. Meath.

EBI Animal Award - Ballygown PKX 1160, Seamus Knox, Ballygown Herd, Co. Kilkenny.

EBI Animal Award Classified VG/EX - Coolnahane GJM Ater VG85, Elizabeth Lane, Coolnahane Herd, Co. Cork.

**Inter-Club Stock Judging 2019 - sponsored by Kerry Agribusiness and Roches Feeds**

**Over 27 years**

1. Kerry Emer Kennelly, Daniel Curtin, Kieran Savage.

2. Breffni Oriel Trevor Williamson, Andrew Gilliand, Karl Colton.

3. Carlow Kilkenny Padraic Murphy, Eamon Coleman, Aileen Murphy.

Highest Individual: Karl Colton (Breffni Oriel)

**18 - 16 years**

1. Kerry Jack Goulding, Padraic Broderick, Katie Kenneally.

2. North Eastern Jack Mennis, Mathew Flanagan, Thea Flanagan.

3. Carlow Kilkenny Simon Lanigan, Doirean Mulhall, Fabian Jacob.

Highest Individual: Michael Healy (Galway) & Jack Goulding (Kerry).

**12 - 18 years**

1. Cork Sarah Shannon, Gabby Nagle, Donncha Lynch.

2. Galway Sarah Grady, Aoibhinn Screene, Stephen Laffey.

3. Kerry Muiris Harty, Ronan O'Mahony, Oisin Cronin.

Highest Individual: Sarah Grady (Galway).

**Pure Friesian Open day**

The Pure Friesian Club Open Day was hosted by Peadar and Maureen Healy & family, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny on Thursday 11th July. They also hosted the Friesian Open Day back in 2009. The Firoda Herd is noted for high solids, size and milk and has bred many bulls for the AI industry. Cow type bred on the farm over the generations is pure Friesian which has developed and adapted well over the sixty years since the herd was established. Grassland management on the heavy clay soils of the Castlecomer plateau is a constant challenge. The use of mole drainage and gravel fill has been used to good effect with excellent grass covers on the grazing platform. The event was very well attended and everyone was made very welcome with refreshments available throughout the day. Donations in lieu were to a local charity, Relay for Life, linked to the cancer society of Ireland.

I wish to thank Peadar and Maureen for hosting the Open Day and Tom Murphy who judged the stock judging competition.

A special sale of young stock was held which averaged €1,742.

**Pure Friesian Herds Competition Results – Sponsor FBD**

1st – Micheál Spillane, Mountain Herd, Fethard, Co. Tipperary.

2nd – Bill O’Keeffe, Churchclara Herd, Churchclara, Co. Kilkenny.

3rd – Michael & Oliver Dempsey, Barrowvale Herd, Ballybrittas, Co. Laois.

Highest Inspection Award - Micheál Spillane, Mountain Herd, Fethard, Co. Tipperary.

Highest EBI Award - Michael & Oliver Dempsey, Barrowvale Herd, Ballybrittas, Co. Laois

**EHRC Judges Workshop**

IHFA facilitated the European Holstein Federation Judges Workshop in July. I wish to thank Aidan & Sally Anne Frawley & family, Co. Limerick, for hosting the event and showcasing Irish quality cows to an international audience. The reception, presentation, cow quality and facilities were commented on by all in attendance as an unforgettable experience. I also wish to thank the Limerick Clare Club members and YMA for their support in training and handling the cows.

**Shows**

The Emerald Expo, National Livestock Show Tullamore, Baileys Champion Cow & National Dairy Show are promotional platforms for the Holstein Friesian across a wide geographical area demonstrating a positive image as a primary producer with the consumer.

**Emerald Expo**

Show Director Richard Whelan welcomed dignitaries and all in attendance to the 9th Emerald Expo on Saturday 27th April at Virginia Show Centre. He gave special mention to the dedicated work of Patrick and Mary Gaynor.

Main sponsors were FBD Insurance, Glanbia and the Department of Agriculture Food & the Marine.

Cyril & John Dowling’s Baldonnel F M Sunshine won FBD Supreme Champion Emerald Expo 2019 and she was also crowned the Glanbia Exhibitor Bred Champion and 1st 4-Year-Old. Reserve Champion was won by Victor Jackson’s Crossnacole Atwood Precious, winner of the Mature Cow class. Des Grands Trix Harmonica was crowned Honourable Mention for joint-owners Aidan & Seamus Foody and Rory Timlin, this fifth lactation mature cow was the winner of the Production class.

The Emerald Expo Best Udder award was won by Sean Faulkner’s 2nd calver Ballyelly Mogul Carmen. Philip and Linda Jones, Hallow herd, had the prestige of winning both Expo Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor for the second year in a row.

The Emerald Expo Express Sale of Youngstock was a new initiative, introduced as a new concept to the show. Twelve lots of youngstock backed by generations of quality breeding were catalogued for sale consigned by show exhibitors. The auction lots averaged €1,550 with a top price of €2,400 and there was a 60% clearance. Denis A. Barrett Auctions conducted the sale.

Donal Riordan, FBD Insurance Head of Sales, main sponsors, hailed the breeders for their craft and complimented the display of tremendous stock on display. Mairead McGuinness, M.E.P. performed the official opening and she saluted the breeders, families involved, IHFA and organisers for providing a quality spectacle of tremendous breeding. In particular she was fulsome in her praise of the talents on display by the Young Members.

Helen Herd from the Hebden herd, Lancashire, UK was the Judge. It was her first time to judge in the Republic of Ireland. Together with her husband Gavin and their two children they milk 50 Holsteins with 75% of the herd classified in the top two categories of conformation assessment. Both Helen and her father are members of the Holstein UK National Judges panel, a unique family achievement. Helen is a qualified Chartered Accountant, owning her own practice which currently employs twenty staff. Her previous Judging credentials include judging Balmoral Show 2018.

Tullamore show: Tullamore show took place at Butterfield Estate, Tullamore on Sunday 11th August. This is the 28th National Livestock Show sponsored for the first time by FBD.

There was a very large attendance despite the thundery showers.

Andy Cope of the Huddlesford Herd, UK was the judge on the day.

The show started with the Young Showmanship challenge which was judged by Emma Behan, followed by the confined classes to Laois/Offaly and Westmeath breeders. These classes were well supported.

Congratulations to Aidan & Seamus Foody and Rory Timlin joint owners of the champion cow Des Grands Trix Harmonica. She also took best udder of the show

Reserve went to Hallow Atwood Grace owned by Philip & Linda Jones, Co. Wexford. She was second in her class to the overall champion.

Honourable Mention went to Bryan O Connor, Kanturk, Co. Cork with Bowberhill Mogul Melody.

Junior Champion was won by Hallow Sol Twizzle owned by Philip & Linda Jones, Co. Wexford.

Baileys Cow Champion:

The Diageo Baileys cow competition took place on 21st August at the Virginia show centre with 25 cows and heifers in the ring. It is sponsored by the drinks company Diageo Ireland in partnership with its cream supplier Glanbia Ireland for the past 36 years.

The weather was not kind on this occasion with spectators shielding themselves with umbrellas from the heavy downpours.

Commenting on this year’s winning cow, the judge, Peter Waring from Yorkshire, selected Baldonnel Flashmatic Draw as his Champion Cow to be crowned the 2019 Diageo Baileys® Irish Dairy Champion Cow. She was bred by the Co. Dublin farmers Cyril and John Dowling. This was their seventh Baileys Champion Cow win. John was presented with his Virginia Milk Products Cup and a cheque for €2,500 by the Minister for Business, Enterprise & Innovation, Heather Humphreys T.D.

Ballytigue Goldchip Shower, owned by first-time entrant Aidan Frawley from Co. Limerick, was declared Reserve Champion. Aidan hosted the European Judges conference in July and will host the IHFA open day in 2020.

Honourable Mention went to Ballyboy Sid Carmen 1039, owned by Jim and Una Sinnott from Co. Wexford, which also won the Best Junior Cow.

Best Heifer in Milk Winner went to Hilltara McCutchen Reann owned by Sam McCormick from Co. Down.

Best EBI Award and Best Protein Award was won by Tom Kelly, Monamore herd, Drogheda, Louth.

Congratulations to all the competitors.

**National Dairy Show**

The 37th National Dairy Show was held at the Green Glens arena, Millstreet on Saturday 21st October. Although numbers were back somewhat it was made up for in quality commented the judge Erhard Junker from Switzerland.

Breeders from Limerick were very much to the fore in the Championship classes. Lisnalty Megasire Rituel was crowned Supreme Champion for Paul and Eileen Hannan and family, Friarstown, Crecora, Co. Limerick. Reserve Champion was won by Woodmarsh Cancun Lyme 2 exhibited by Michael & Elizabeth McNamara, Newtownshandrum, Co. Cork. Honourable Mention was awarded to Des Grands Trix Harmonica exhibited by A. & S. Foody and R. Timlin, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo. Best Udder was won by Baldonnel Flashmatic Dawn exhibited by Cyril and John Dowling, Baldonnel, Co. Dublin. Both the Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor awards were won by Rickey and John Barrett, Co. Cork. Highest EBI was won by Rathard FR4513 Alanna 1915 exhibited by Peter and Paula Hynes, Aherla, Co. Cork.

Congratulations to all exhibitors especially those who took the top honours.

**Ploughing**

Record crowds were in attendance at the National Ploughing Championships

The site at Ballintrane, Feenagh, Co Carlow was a great success with easy access and exit on all days.

IHFA had a prominent presence with a clear message; “The Holstein Friesian has the unique genetic variation and diversity to suit all dairy farming systems”. With seven Holstein Friesian cows on display to showcase the theme, IHFA staff demonstrated to the huge crowds of farmers who visited the pavilion the monetary value of the Holstein Friesian.

These cows were selected locally and as the Ploughing site moves across the country quality cows can be found in all local herds. Two Pure Friesian cows were on display to demonstrate their potential milk quality, longevity, calf value and EBI.

I wish to thank the local breeders who kindly loaned the cows for the event.

Tony Jackson - Keadeen, Seamus Knox - Ballygown, Sean Murphy - Knoxtown, Tommy & Brian Rohan - Archersrath, Mark & Maura Mc Carthy - Multeen, Bill O’Keeffe Churchclara and Martin & Pat Cleary who supplied pure Friesians.

Cow Averages; **Average Milk Value per Lactation € 2,921.**

**Milk 8,041Kgs**

**Kgs Milk Solids per Lactation 635 kgs**

**Protein % 3.56 %**

**Fat% 4.27%**

 **EBI € 131**

**Classification VG88**

There were many favourable comments on the quality of the cows, they were hard working family friendly cows, going back in calf on an annual basis, average size with conformation to suit the various systems of dairy farming as practiced. Their efficiency of production was demonstrated on boards overhead each cow.

The pavilion also featured trade displays from Volac and Animax who are sponsors of various IHFA events during the year.

With Brexit so pressing it was opportune that we had Paul Dillon present promoting export of heifers to international markets.

I wish to thank all breeders who loaned cows for the stand, my thanks to Greenvale and Glanbia GAIN who supplied the dairy ration, Pratts Abbeyleix who supplied the milking machine.

I wish to thank Richard & Mervyn Jones who looked after the cows so well with everything ship shape every morning.

**YMA:**

Our young members had a very busy and successful year. They competed with honours at the European show in Libramont, National finals in Cilin Hill, HYB rally, EYBS and showmanship league final at the national dairy show, Millstreet. I wish to recognize the effort of the parents in supporting the young members to compete at the various activities.

**Open Day Inter-Club Stockjudging**

**JUNIOR:**

1ST Cork Club: Sarah Shannon, Gabby Nagle, Donnacha Lynch

2nd Galway Club: Aoibheann Screene, Sarah Grady, Stephen Laffey

3rd Kerry Club: Muiris Harty, Oisin Cronin, Ronan O’Mahony

**INTERMEDIATE:**

1st Kerry Club: Katie Kennelly, Jack Goulding, Padraic Broderick

2nd North Eastern Club: Thea Flanagan, Jack Mennis, Matthew Flanagan

3rd Carlow/Kilkenny Club: Doireann Mulhall, Simon Lanigan, Fabienne Jacobs

**Highest Individual Award**

Junior; Sarah Grady (Galway)

Intermediate; Joined winners Michael Healy (Galway) and Jack Goulding (Kerry).

**National Calf Show**

**Handlers**

**Champion** Rachel Corley (Breffni Oriel)

**Reserve** Kate Lehane (Cork)

**Hon. Mention** Hollie Keenan (Breffni Oriel)

**Calves**

**Champion** Dalevalley GWY Aiko ET, Roy & Heather Cromie (Breffni Oriel)

**Reserve** Hallow Sol Twizzle, Philip Jones (Slaney)

**Hon. Mention** Cahirmee Goldenway Marieka, Pat Smith (Cork)

**Club Awards & Merits of Achievement**

Laois / Offaly Bill Flynn Memorial YMA Perpetual Trophy for Best Stand: **Cork Club**

Cork Friesian Breeders Club YMA Perpetual Trophy for Team Clipping: **Cork Club**

Carlow/Kilkenny F/B Club YMA Perpetual Trophy for Indv. Clipping: **Jamie Keenan Breffini/Oriel**

Breffni / Oriel Friesian Breeders Club YMA Perpetual Trophy for Best Calves: **Cork Club**

Kildare Friesian Breeders Club YMA Perpetual Trophy for Handling: **Breffini/Oriel Club**

West Midlands F.B Club YMA Perpetual Trophy for Ag-Analysis Competition: **Limerick/Clare Club**

Barrett Family Perpetual Trophy for Handling: **Rachel Corley Breffini/Oriel Club**

Denis Barrett Auctions & Pedigree Sales Perpetual Trophy for Sportsmanship: **Joe Doran (Kildare)**

**Representative teams participate in International Young Breeder summer events**

The YMA National Committee selected individual teams to represent YMA in two overseas/International events where Young Members had the honour of representing the Association and had the opportunity to meet and compete against fellow Young Breeders from the Continent.

**HYB Weekend Rally August** 9th – 11th hosted by the Welsh Club. Five team members:

*Emma McNamara Limerick/Clare club, Sinead O’Sullivan Cork club, Christy McCarthy Cork club, Conor Lynch Limerick/Clare club, Kevin Smith Cork club.*

**European Young Breeder School (E.Y.B.S)** August 28th – September 1st hosted by Association Wallone De L’Elevage (AWE) Belgium. Seven team members:

Andrea Rafferty Breffini/Oriel club, Rebekah Williamson Breffini/Oriel club, Jane Hannan Limerick/Clare club, Sean Ryan Limerick/Clare club, Stephen Shannon Cork club, Jack Walsh Kerry club, Mark Hurley Slaney club.

**Showmanship League Final**

**Junior 12yrs & under**

1st Kate Lehane Cork, 2nd Muiris Kearney Kerry, 3rd Manus Murphy Carlow/Kilkenny

**Intermediate 13-16yrs**

1st Nikki McLoughlin Kildare, 2nd Jack O’Neill Limerick Clare, 3rd Cathal Mulhall Carlow/Kilkenny

**Senior 17-26yrs**

1st Kevin Smith Cork, 2nd Stephen Shannon Cork, 3rd Claire Kirby Cork

**YMA Weekend Rally 2019 – Gurteen College**

A YMA Rally took place on November 2nd with Gurteen Agricultural College, Co Tipperary as the venue. In a new format the Rally was held on one day and the turnout and overall feedback was testament to the success of this new format.

Sincere thanks to College Principal John Parry and Richard Hamilton, Lecturer, for their assistance in hosting this event and making the college facilities available to YMA. Gurteen College is an excellent venue in a very central location and the facilities are to a very high standard.

A diverse programme of educational and fun workshops was held with a blended mix of theory and practical components.

**YMA AGM**

The AGM took place on February 28th. Guest speaker was Aisling Neville who is a former YMA member and past member of the National YMA Committee as a representative of her local Laois Offaly club. In the past year Aisling has commenced farming in her own right, leasing a substantial existing dairy farm in Westmeath. Aisling provided an overview of her background, including her third level studies and qualification in Agricultural Science, her work experience placed on a large Australian dairy farm and she also gave a summary of her experience in the first year of taking on a farm and managing her own herd of cows.

**All Ireland Awards**

Presidents Medal: Laura Sinnott Slaney club

Hall of Fame: Owen Laffan Limerick/Clare club

Club of the Year: Carlow/Kilkenny club

Photography Competition: Clodagh Helen Limerick club

Open Stockjudging 18yrs & under: Sarah Shannon Cork club

Open Stockjudging 18 -26 yrs: Kane Boal Galway club

**YMA National Committee**

**T**he National Committee Chaired by Doireann Mulhall with Gerard Kirby as Co-Ordinator met numerous times during the past year to oversee and direct National YMA matters. My thanks to Doireann, Gerard, joined PRO’s Roisin Doran and Mary Conroy and all club representatives as members of the committee for their input and assistance into a very vibrant YMA. I also wish to thank Donal Carey for his work as liaison officer with YMA as well as his many other roles.

I wish to thank our sponsors throughout the year, without their support it would be much more difficult to organize our varied events.

I wish to thank our staff at the office and in the field, who ensure a high standard of professionalism and dedication.

I also wish to thank our Chairman, Peter Ging, President, Patrick Gaynor, IHFA board and committees, YMA youth officers, local Holstein Friesian clubs and the Irish Pure Friesian Club.

The busy schedule of events planned for breed promotion for 2020 had to be regrettably cancelled due the Corona virus pandemic outbreak in mid- March.

The European Conference scheduled for 2021 has been rolled over to the Spring of 2022 as a result.

Stay Safe!