



Guarini



Ballycairn Oman Pello

Home-bred sires fly the flag for UK genetics

# UK-bred bulls top sire list

We spoke to renowned Devon-based dairy breeder and former NMR/RABDF Gold Cup finalist Willy Ley to get his take on the movers and shakers in the December 2013 bull proof run.

text: **Rachael Porter**

**U**K success leaps out of the latest DairyCo Breeding+ bull proof run with three of the top 10 daughter-proven bulls – in a fiercely competitive international field – being home-bred in Britain.

Of the three bulls – Ballycairn Oman Pello, Sherdon Irresistable and Cogent Twist – Irresistable will attract the most interest among producers as he is a newcomer to the top 10 Profitable Lifetime Index (PLI) ranking. He rose to third from 15th position and has an outcross pedigree into the bargain.

Irresistable certainly caught Willy's eye and imagination. "We bought some semen and we've used some already.

Producers who I've spoken to about this bull, who already have heifers on the ground, are very pleased with them. They're good, sound, long-life cattle. They're productive and they get back in calf easily," he says.

Bred by Jerry Palmer in Devon, he has no Oman, Shottle, Goldwyn or Planet in his pedigree and has been awarded 2013 Outcross Sire of the Year by an international Holstein magazine in a triumph for UK breeding.

A son of Cogent Maestro (in turn by Lukas), Irresistable has plenty of health and fitness in his pedigree and is predicted to transmit good fertility, low cell counts and long lifespans on to his daughters.



Willy Ley

His PLI is an impressive £255 while other highlights include 40kg of fat and positive components.

## Phenomenal production

Ahead of Irresistable, the German-bred Guarini retains his number-one position for PLI, rising to £268 and maintains his good Type Merit at 2.29. Willy has some calves by him on the ground and says that so far he like what he sees. He also has some calves by Pello, ranked second. Pello has added even more production to

## US collaboration offers global benefits

Alta and CRV have agreed to collaborate in their North American Holstein genetic programmes. This co-operation offers economies of scale, resulting in greater volumes and higher quality of genetics on the US base, and the end product being a greater output of high GTPI bulls that will be available to breeders across the world, say the organisations.

The collaboration is an extension and enhancement of both their current genetic programmes in North America. "Through the partnership we can strengthen our portfolio of top-end GTPI bulls, both inside and outside the US. Each company will do this from their own vision of breeding and with mutual respect. This alliance will strengthen

our ambitions," says CRV's Ate Lindboom. "It enables both companies to make additional investments in genetics to continue to lead genetic improvement in the exciting and competitive era of genomic selection. And it will allow us to continue providing unrivalled genetic quality and value to their clients globally," added Alta's Paul Hunt.

name	sire	mat. grandsire	supplier	production							functional traits					conformation		
				rel.	milk	fat kg	prot. kg	fat%	protein%	EPIN	EPLI	SCC	lifespan	fertility ind.	dCE	F&L	udder	TM
Guarini	Goldwyn	O Man	Bullsemen.com	75	+590	+24.1	+26.4	+0.01	+0.09	48	268	-29	0.5	4	1	1.73	2.16	2.29
Ballycairn Oman Pello	O Man	Goldwyn	Genus	95	+1104	+43.7	+35.8	+0.00	+0.00	66	265	-22	0.1	-0.4	2.1	1.49	0.93	1.27
Sherdon Irresistable	Maestro	Zelati	Genus	91	+481	+39.9	+24.1	+0.25	+0.10	60	255	-6	0.2	3.7	0.2	1.02	0.86	1.08
Vh Tirsvad Goldwyn Grafit	Goldwyn	O Man	Viking/Nordic Gen.	77	+673	+36.5	+26.7	+0.12	+0.06	57	254	-12	0.2	3.8	1.4	2.58	0.93	1.88
Whitman O Man Awesome Andy	O Man	Zade	Bullsemen.com	85	+387	+31.8	+15.8	+0.20	+0.04	42	250	-25	0.7	5.9	1.7	0.89	0.26	0.48
Cogent Twist	Shottle	Major	Cogent	95	+575	+39.9	+24.5	+0.20	+0.07	58	249	-9	0.4	-2.5	-0.1	1.79	0.90	1.36
Morningview Levi	Buckeye	O Man	Genus	83	+599	+29.2	+23.4	+0.07	+0.05	47	241	-17	0.4	5.4	2.6	1.93	0.73	1.31
Gomez	Goldwyn	Lancelot	Sterling Sires	73	+418	+32.9	+21.0	+0.20	+0.09	51	233	-8	0.2	6.0	0.1	1.75	0.63	1.10
Regancrest Alta Iota	O Man	Ito	Alta	95	+746	+34.4	+25.0	+0.06	+0.01	50	232	-12	0.2	4.3	0.7	1.29	2.32	2.35
Lynbrook Jancen	O Man	Manat	Bullsemen.com	76	+325	+28.5	+20.2	+0.19	+0.12	49	230	-9	0.4	5.6	1.0	-0.32	-0.06	-0.10
D Omar	O Man	Lukas	Viking/Nordic Gen.	80	+415	+30.2	+21.1	+0.17	+0.09	49	230	-19	0.3	4.0	0.5	0.48	0.58	0.73
Roskilde	Roumare	O Man	Bullsemen.com	75	+394	+29.0	+23.3	+0.16	+0.13	52	227	-12	0.2	0.2	-0.8	1.44	1.76	1.90
Dansire Mascol Mason	Mascol	O Man	Viking/Nordic Gen.	79	+586	+27.7	+21.3	+0.05	+0.03	43	226	-23	0.4	4.6	1.7	1.66	0.43	1.06
Welcome Glenton	Planet	Goldwyn	Bullsemen.com	79	+494	+23.9	+19.0	+0.05	+0.04	38	225	-18	0.6	1.4	-0.4	2.14	2.04	2.36
ABS Simon	O Man	Laudan	Genus	92	+563	+25.5	+22.3	+0.04	+0.05	43	221	-16	0.3	8.2	2.4	0.79	0.17	0.40
D Oblat	O Man	Morty	Viking/Nordic Gen.	77	+721	+31.3	+23.0	+0.03	+0.00	45	221	-7	0.3	7.7	1.4	1.17	0.16	0.78
Aurora Jeroen	Bertil	O Man	Avoncroft	73	+431	+26.3	+24.4	+0.11	+0.13	51	220	-12	0.1	5.3	1.4	0.43	0.69	0.71
Kings-Ransom Erdman	Planet	Ramos	Bullsemen.com	82	+640	+27.7	+17.9	+0.03	-0.03	35	220	-17	0.6	5.1	1.4	0.96	1.43	1.49
Bakombre	Baxter	Goldwyn	Cogent	82	+658	+37.6	+22.6	+0.14	+0.02	51	220	-7	0.2	1.5	1.8	1.99	1.54	1.87
Ensenada Taboo Planet	Taboo	Amel	Cogent	98	+1079	+27.8	+28.8	-0.16	-0.07	42	220	-3	0.6	-0.8	1.6	1.92	1.81	2.02
Pirola Goldwyn Wyman	Goldwyn	O Man	Cogent	82	+355	+26.5	+20.2	+0.15	+0.11	46	220	-21	0.2	2.2	2.1	2.69	1.72	2.39

Table 1: Top 21 sires available in the UK (ranked on PLI) and several other interesting sires (source: DairyCo Breeding+ and Holstein UK).

his high-performance index. Now with 1,104kg milk, 43.7kg fat and 35.8kg protein, he combines this phenomenal production with one of the lowest cell count indexes in the top 20 and ease of calving.

Beneath third-ranking Irresistable, a top-20 newcomer makes his debut, in the shape of the Danish-bred VH Tirsvad Goldwyn Grafit. Like Guarini, he is a Goldwyn son, and is predicted to transmit plenty of quality milk along with good health and fertility across the board, as well as a Type Merit of 1.88. On the strength of his original genomic figures he has already been used as a sire of sons in Denmark.

Just edging ahead on Type Merit at 2.36 is another newcomer to the PLI top 20 in the shape of Welcome Glenton. This US-bred son of Planet – one of Willy’s favourite sires of sons – has a PLI of £225 and transmits solid production and

fitness, as well as good type on to his daughters.

“Of course I’ve used some Glenton – I used him when he was a genomic sire. And the daughters I have on the ground are great. I’m pleased to see him in the daughter-proven rankings, but then I have a lot of confidence in the genomic rankings anyway.”

### Genomic list

Moving to genomic sires, the list features many familiar young bulls, as well as a smattering of newcomers to liven up the pack.

Retaining his number-one position is Robust son, De-Su RB Moonray, a top fat improver at 46.1kg, whose transmission of health, fertility and conformation earn him a sky-high Profitable Lifetime Index (PLI) of £292. “It’s no surprise that he’s a sire of sons,” says Willy, adding that he’s got some of his semen in his AI flask.

Sharing second position are Mr Moviestar Mardi Gras and Hoanster Zanzibar, each with a PLI of £278. Mardi Gras is a son of genomic sire Mogul and out of a Planet daughter from the Rudwy Missy family.

“Mardi Gras is an interesting bull and certainly one for a few dabbles. I’ll wait for him to drop in price a little and then I’ll put my order in,” says Willy.

The high type transmission predicted for Mardi Gras is a particular feature, as he weighs in with a Type Merit of 3.66.

Ranking in joint fifth position is Seagull-Bay Supersire and Willy ordered some semen in mid January. “He’s £10 a straw now – much less than he was when he first came out. And he looks to be worth every penny.”

Willy believes that these young genomic sires continue to represent a big step up from most of the daughter-proven sires. “And my confidence in them grows with every proof fun.”

## Interactive photo gallery

It’s now possible to re-live the unforgettable black-and-white action in 2013 through Holstein UK’s interactive ‘Photo Gallery’.

Cleverly linking to the Holstein UK Facebook page, the galleries allow you to ‘like’, ‘comment’ and ‘share’ all your favourite photos at the click of a button. Covering a mixture of industry events,

album highlights include the HYB Weekend Rally, Premier Pedigree Herd Open Day, Holstein Celebration and AGM and the All-Britain All-Breeds Calf Show.

“In today’s modern world, it is a great interactive way for Holstein UK to showcase the superb genetics and skilled people we have in the UK industry,” said Holstein UK’s Lucy Andrews-Node.

“By allowing global access to the galleries through Holstein UK’s website, viewers can see for themselves the unlimited talent the UK has to offer,” she added.

➔ To access Holstein UK’s new ‘Photo Gallery’ visit: <http://www.wukcows.com/holsteinuk/publicweb/FacebookGalleries>