

PRESS RELEASE

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UA hosts presentation of £10,500 donation from charity auction

United Auctions (UA) hosted a presentation of a cheque for £10,500 to a breast cancer charity at their new mart in Stirling.

The healthy sum was raised in a charity auction at the recent grand opening of the leading livestock auctioneer's brand new Stirling Agricultural Centre.



(L-R) Paul Burns and Patricia Smith, David Leggat, Executive Chairman of UA, Claire South, charity representative and Ian Galloway

Highland heifer, Bess 1st of Bien Esk, was the first animal sold at the new mart - for 10,000 guineas, raising £10,500 for the Breast Reconstruction Liaison Endowment Fund, part of the Plastic Surgery Unit based at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. The Highlander was generously donated by owners Patricia Smith and Paul Burns of Craigengelt, Stirling and bought by Ian Galloway, Chairman of Bridge of Allan-based meat company Scotbeef. The First Minister of Scotland brought down the hammer on the sale.

The animal's current and former owners along with David Leggat, UA's Executive Chairman, handed over the presentation cheque to Claire South, a Breast Reconstruction Clinical Nurse Specialist.

Speaking on behalf of the charity, Claire South said: "It's really overwhelming to receive a gift of this magnitude. It will allow us to explore how we can enhance the Breast Reconstruction Service currently being offered to patients in the West of Scotland. And we will make every effort to ensure that this money will be used directly to benefit patients' care."

Patricia Smith, who hand-reared the three year old heifer with partner Paul and was herself diagnosed with breast cancer nine months ago, said: “The mart opening was a tremendous success and the money raised for the Breast Reconstruction Unit completely exceeded our expectations. We hope the donation will allow the Unit to continue helping women like me return to a normal and active life.

Ian Galloway said: “It’s been a family tradition to buy the first animal through the market since the ‘60s. The Galloways bought the first animal sold at the Kildean and Perth marts and now at the new Stirling Agricultural Centre. When it comes to traditions, price doesn’t really matter and I’m very pleased that the money is going to such a worthwhile cause.”

He added: “We had a fold of 40 Highlanders in the 1970s and while the plan is to try for a new fold with Bess, it’s still early days. There are also a few family members vying to have her so we’ll have to see what happens. She won’t be going through the family business though.”

David Leggat, Executive Chairman of United Auctions, said: “The opening of the new mart was a very special day and we were thrilled to share it with an audience of more than 3500 people. The donation of the animal was an incredibly generous offer and the fast and furious bidding came from all quarters. We’re delighted that the money is going to such a worthy cause and it’s particularly pleasing that the successful bidder comes from a family with whom the company has a long connection.”

Issued by JK Consultancy Ltd on behalf of United Auctions. For further information please contact:

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