

NI Suffolk breeders celebrate at glitzy awards evening

SUFFOLK breeders from the UK mainland joined with members of the NI Branch in raising a glass to celebrate another successful year at a glittering end-of-season awards bash in the Royal Hotel, Cookstown last weekend. The visitors from the West Country were in the province on a whistle-stop tour of farms belonging to local Suffolk breeders as well as attending one of the annual headline events on the NI Branch calendar.

Before a sparkling array of silverware was presented to the numerous winners during the course of the year, chairman William Tait reflected on another hugely successful season for the NI members of the Suffolk Sheep Society, which included notable achievements in the leading inter-breed championships. Mr Tait also thanked the efforts of the Branch members in boosting the coffers of a local Alzheimer's charity to the tune of £4000 while vice-chairman Anthony Patton made special mention of all the sponsors who, despite the current economic downturn, had remained dedicated and generous supporters of the Branch.

Among the dignitaries was Suffolk Sheep Society President Arthur O'Keeffe who congratulated the Northern Ireland members on leading the way in breeding quality livestock and encouraged them to strive to attain even higher standards in assisting the commercial producer. Paul Osmond, speaking on behalf of the English visitors, reiterated those words and insisted that culling average progeny was part and parcel of a successful breeding programme.

The evening ended with a enjoyable and thought-provoking quiz sheet session, expertly put together by secretary Roberta McMullan, a tombola and music.

AWARDS

PREMIER SHOW AND SALE

Major WEH Workman Cup, P Donnelly.

RW Hanna Memorial Cup, P Donnelly.

Kinbally Cup, J McKay.

Robert H Stewart Memorial Cup, S & W Tait.

Novice Cup, PDW Taylor.

Suffolk Sheep Society Cup, AJ & NAJ Robinson.

Allam Cup, AJ & NAJ Robinson.

Blossomhill Perpetual Cup, K & G McAdoo.

Arthur N Boccock Challenge Cup, AJ & NAJ Robinson.

Norman Orage Cup, AJ & NAJ Robinson.

NORTHERN IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP

Desks International Perpetual Cup, MJW Priestley.

North Antrim Suffolk Breeders Perpetual Cup, AJ & NAJ Robinson.

Thomas Robinson Perpetual Trophy, MJW Priestley.

SUMMER AGRICULTURAL SHOWS 2009

Smith/Kline Trophy, 1, MJW Priestley; 2 & 3, S & W Tait.

Suffolk Sheep Society NI Branch Trophy: 1, AJ & NAJ Robinson; 2 & 3 MJW Priestley.

Chestnutt Animal Feeds Cup: 1, MJW Priestley; 2, P Donnelly; 3, AJ & NAJ Robinson.

Hugh Rankin Memorial Cup: 1, MJ Priestley; 2, AJ & NAJ Robinson; 3, S & W Tait.

Nigel Bell Memorial Cup: S & W Tait.

Mawhinney Cup; JH Stewart.

Farming Life Trophy: K & G McAdoo.

Robert Duncan Memorial Salver: K & G McAdoo.

STOCKJUDGING

David Duncan Perpetual Shield (U18); Tracey Liggett.

William Montgomery Perpetual Shield (19-25), Lester Aiken.

FLOCK COMPETITION 2009

Sonia Doak Memorial Perpetual Shield (30 ewes and under), K Telford.

Suffolk Sheep Society (NI Branch) Shield (31 ewes and over), S & W Tait.

Desks International Perpetual Trophy (Pen of three ewe lambs), MJW Priestley.

Nelson Craig Memorial Perpetual Challenge Cup (Stock ram), S & W Tait.

Suffolk Sheep Society (NI Branch) Shield (reserve), MJW Priestley.

UKF Perpetual Challenge Trophy (champion), S & W Tait.



The Robinson family with their array of trophies



Mr & Mrs Keith McAdoo and family



Mr & Mrs Keith Telford



The Priestley family show their array of trophies



Mr Packie Donnelly with his Premier sale trophies



Miss Tracey Liggett winner of the Duncan shield for stock judging



Mr & Mrs Wm Tait



John McKay receives the Kinbally Cup



Denis Taylor receives the Novice Cup