

Robinson ram lamb tops at Ballymena

AN OUTSTANDING Cairness Kanine ram lamb bred by local breeders Trevor and Ben Robinson proved to be the show-stopper at the Northern Ireland Branch of the Suffolk Sheep Society show and sale at Ballymena Livestock Mart on Monday evening.

The Robinson lamb, displaying many of the attributes the Suffolk has built its reputation on, claimed the top honour in the ram class, went on to secure the supreme championship and crowned a memorable evening by attracting the top price of 1200 guineas in the sale ring.

And rounding off a hugely satisfying evening for the Robinson stable, the Co Antrim breeders sold a Forkins Four Star ram lamb for the tidy sum of 850 guineas.

That proved to be the third highest price of the evening, after a Cairness Double Bush bred shearling ram presented by Brian McVicker fetched 1000 guineas. The Bushmills breeder also sold a fourth prize-winning Davishill Bumper bred shearling for 700 guineas which culminated in a healthy average of 536 guineas for eight sheep sold.

Three other breeders off loaded rams at 700 guineas, namely John Hegarty, John Murnion (first prizewinning shearling) and Robin McAdoo, who along with Alistair Gault and Gary McAdoo twice more broke through the 600 guinea barrier.

While Robinson's Cairness Kanine ram lamb was the star performer in the show ring, there were other notable successes with John Murnion's Clunty Mackenzie ram the pick of the shearlings. Second place went to a Kirkview Impulse ram brought forward by John Hegarty, with David and Andrew McNeilly's Castleisle Impact bred ram in third and Brian McVicker's DavisHill Bumper ram in fourth.

Runner-up in the ram lamb class and overall reserve champion was yet another Cairness Kanine ram presented by Alistair Gault while Norman Robinson's Strathisla Robbie The Rascal lamb claimed the third place rosette ahead of JS Hamilton's Begney Bouncer sired lamb.

The prizes were generously sponsored by the Northern Bank.

Prizes

Shearling ram: 1, J Murnion; 2, J Hegarty; 3, A and D McNeilly; 4, B McVicker.

Ram lambs: 1, T & B Robinson; 2, A Gault; 3, N Robinson; 4, S Hamilton.

Group of three: 1, N Robinson; 2, A Gault; 3, R McAdoo.

Champion: T & B Robinson; reserve, A Gault.

Prices

T & B Robinson 1200 850. B McVicker 1000 700 550 520 500 370 350 300.

J Hegarty 700 480 420 350 350 300. J Murnion 700 500 400. R McAdoo 700 640 600 480 420 420

G McAdoo 650 460 450 380 330. A Gault 600 560 480. A & N Robinson 580 550 400 400 400 380

P Savage 580 450. J Steele 520 480 420 300. K & G McAdoo 520 480. W Montgomery 500 380 380

380 320. E & G Gould 450. A Patton 420 360 350 350 340 300. I Hyndman 410 300.

I McMurray 400 320. JS Hamilton 400 300. G Thompson 400 310. P Thompson 400 360 350.

RC & JC Watson 350 320. W Alcorn 350. J Lamont 320. R Montgomery 300.



Trevor Robinson with his 1st prize Ram Lamb and Supreme Champion



Alistair Gault with his 2nd prize Ram Lamb



John Murnion with his 1st prize Shearling Ram with the judge Andrew Wilson



Norman Robinson with his 1st prize pen of 3 with P J McMonagle and J Hegarty