

Suffolk females in huge demand at Ballymena

THE NI Branch of the Suffolk Sheep Society wrapped up a hugely successful season with their annual female show and sale at Ballymena Livestock Mart on Monday evening.

And in keeping with the seasonal trend the outstanding quality on offer was matched with consistent prices across the board.

Topping the leaderboard in the sale ring was Newtownards breeder Alistair Gault whose eye-catching Cairness Kanine-bred ewe, in-lamb to Cairness New Approach, attracted significant interest before being knocked down for 1400 guineas.

Forkins flock owner Gault, who claimed the supreme championship at the Branch's Premier show and sale at the same venue back at the beginning of August, sold a similarly bred ewe for 900 guineas and completed a successful evening by twice achieving 650 guineas.

Another to turn heads was an impressive Strathisla Lift T'The Stars bred ewe and reserve champion presented by Denis Taylor, Macosquin. The outstanding female, in-lamb to Carragh Viagro, engaged a plethora of bids before changing hands for 1050 guineas.

Strathisla Stoner bred ewes were much in demand with Benrafter flock owners Norman and Alfred Robinson being paid 1000 and 800 respectively. The Robinson camp sold a total of 27 lots although the Co Down breeders didn't sell the overall champion, a Stoner bred female that had been served with the renowned Jubilee Jethro. Bidding stopped at 2,800 guineas. In total 82 lots changed hands.

In the show ring it was first and third for N and A Robinson in the ewe class with Denis Taylor and Alistair Gault placed second and fourth respectively.

Honours in the ewe lamb class went to Mark Priestley (first and second) with third place going to David and Andrew McNeilly, who sold a total of 22 lots to a top of 550 guineas.

The evening, too, saw the dispersal of Stuart Johnston's Ballywillin flock.

PRICES

AR Gault 1400, 650, 650, 900.

Denis Taylor 1050, 320, 520, 380, 480, 380, 350, 400, 400.

Norman and Alfred Robinson 500, 350, 350, 800, 350, 500, 300, 600, 350, 500, 350, 300, 580, 300, 350, 350, 380, 1000, 320, 320, 400, 400, 550, 500, 450, 380, 380.

Stuart Johnston 380, 400, 480, 350, 350, 300

Cameron Magowan 300.

Andrew and David McNeilly 350, 550, 320, 300, 300, 300, 380, 300.

JS Hamilton 320.

Show results

Ewes: 1 & 3, N Robinson; 2, D Taylor; 4, AR Gault.

Ewe lambs: 1 & 2 M Priestley; 3, D & A McNeilly.



Norman Robinson with the Supreme Champion



Denis Taylor with the Reserve Champion



Mark Priestley with the 1st prize ewe lamb