

## Beacom shearling captures top honour at Balmoral

FERMANAGH breeder Gary Beacom made it four wins in a decade by winning the Suffolk championship at last week's Balmoral Show.

Beacom, the current chairman of the Northern Branch of the Suffolk Sheep Society, travelled to Balmoral Park aiming for back-to-back successes and duly delivered when his eye-catching shearling ewe, bred by the £10,000 Cairness Classic Fyvie, ultimately emerged victorious from a day of stiff competition.

An impressive aged ewe, presented by Norman Robinson captured the reserve champion rosette with the Downpatrick breeder also taking the honours in the Group of Three. Earlier judge John Campbell, who runs the highly-acclaimed Thrunton flock in Northumbria, placed Patrick Donnelly and William Tait first and second respectively in the aged ram class as Robinson secured first and third in the aged ewe category with Patrick Donnelly sandwiched in between. Campbell and Jason Watson, winners of the best pair, also presented the pick of the shearling rams, followed in order by William Tait, Leslie and Mervyn Liggett, Martin Butler, Denis Taylor and Patrick McVerry.

Onlookers then caught their first glimpse of the overall champion as Beacom claimed a one-two in the shearling ewe class, described by the judge as "the strongest he had seen at a Royal Show" with Norman Robinson third and fourth, followed by Stephen Sufferin and Patrick Donnelly.

Beacom, too, got the nod in the ram lamb class ahead of the stables of Tait, Watson, Taylor, Donnelly and Liggett while the Watson camp claimed top spot in the ewe lamb category with L&M Liggett, P Donnelly, A & N Robinson, S Sufferin and S & W Tait following in line. However it was to be Beacom's day and, after the Lakeview flock owner claimed the male and female championship, the way was clear for the Fermanagh man to walk off with the top honour. Suffolk breeders also tasted success in the interbreed competition by winning the group category and claiming the reserve champion rosettes in both the pairs and singles.

### Results

Aged ram: 1 P Donnelly, 2 S & W Tait.

Aged ewe: 1 A & N Robinson, 2 P Donnelly, 3 A & N Robinson.

Shearling ram: 1 C & J Watson, 2 S & W Tait, 3 L & M Liggett, 4 M Butler, 5 D Taylor, 6 P McVerry.

Shearling ewe: 1 & 2 G Beacom, 3 & 4 A & N Robinson, 5 S Sufferin, 6 P Donnelly.

Ram lamb: 1 G Beacom, 2 S & W Tait, 3 C & J Watson, 4 D Taylor, 5 P Donnelly, 6 L & M Liggett.

Ewe lamb: 1 C & J Watson, 2 L & M Liggett, 3 P Donnelly, 4 A & N Robinson, 5 S Sufferin, 6 S & W Tait.

Pair of lambs: 1, RC & JC Watson.

Group of three: 1 A & N Robinson.

Male champion; G Beacom with ram lamb

Reserve: P Donnelly with aged ram.

Female champion: G Beacom with shearling ewe.

Reserve: N Robinson with aged ewe.

Supreme champion: G Beacom with shearling ewe

Reserve: A & N Robinson with aged ewe



First prize Shearling Ewe, Female Champion and Supreme Champion owned by G C Beacom.



1<sup>st</sup> prize aged ewe, reserve female champion and reserve supreme champion owned by AJ & NJ Robinson



1<sup>st</sup> prize shearling ram owned by P Donnelly



1<sup>st</sup> prize shearling ram owned by RC & JC Watson



1<sup>st</sup> prize ram lamb and male champion owned by G C Beacom



1<sup>st</sup> prize ewe lamb owned by RC & JC Watson



1<sup>st</sup> prize pair of lambs owned by RC & JC Watson



1<sup>st</sup> prize group of three owned by AJ & NJ Robinson