

Robinson ram lamb fetches 2200 gns

DOWNPATRICK breeder Norman Robinson was in celebratory mood on the final Saturday in July after scoring an impressive double at the Suffolk Sheep Society Northern Ireland Branch Premier show and sale in Ballymena Livestock Mart.

The Benrafter flock owner beat off stiff competition to collect the supreme championship in the show ring with an outstanding seven-month-old ram lamb. The overall champion was sired by Strathisla Stoner and later that evening in the sales arena it was another excellent Stoner lamb from the Co Down flock that secured the top price of 2200 gns.

Top quality lambs were certainly much in demand and that was reflected in the fact that bidders, a number of whom had travelled from south of the border, had to break the four figure barrier on numerous occasions.

Keith and Gordon McAdoo, Cookstown brought forward a number of excellent lambs, the best of which attracted a plethora of bids before the hammer dropped at 1850 and 1300 gns respectively while yet another Stoner lamb presented by Limestone flock of Mark Priestley attracted much interest before being knocked down at 1800gns.

Stephanie and William Tait's overall reserve champion, bred by highly-regarded stock ram Castleisle Impact, sold for 1300gns while a Bailey's Invincible lamb from the Burnview camp attracted a final bid of 1000gns.

One thousand guineas was also paid to William and Denis Taylor for a Strathisla Lift T' The Stars lamb - a first prizewinner - while the champion shearling, brought forward by John McKay of Ballymoney, fetched 1100gns. The average price for shearlings and ram lambs was up on 12 months ago with the cream of this year's crop almost 100gns to the good.

Earlier in the show ring judge Arthur O'Keefe had the unenviable job of selecting the prizewinners from a strong field of contenders. Kirkview flock owner John McKay took the opening honour by winning the shearling class before S & W Tait got the nod ahead of Mark Priestley in the Signet Recorded ram lamb class.

The Taylors of Macosquin won the Novice Cup before a large crowd of onlookers got the first glimpse of Robinson's overall champion, which was also presented as the winning Group of Three.

Packie Donnelly, Ballymena brought forward the best of the ewe lambs before Norman Robinson's ram lamb pipped the Tait camp to the overall honour. The event was generously sponsored by the Ulster Bank.

Prices

Ram lambs

A and N Robinson: 2200; 600; G McAdoo, 1850; 1300; 750; 700; M Priestley, 1800; S & Tait, 1300, 1000, 850, 800, 600; W Taylor, 1000, 620; JH Stewart 700; E & J Gould, 650.

Shearling rams

J McKay, 1100; JF & PJ Savage, 920, 650, 350; L Jamison, 600; A & N Robinson, 600, 400; G Beacom, 550, 480, 450.

Show results

Shearling ram: 1, John McKay; 2, Lynda Jamison; 3, Philip Savage.

Signet recorded ram lamb: 1, S & W Tait; 2, Mark Priestley; 3, S & W Tait.

Novice Cup ram lamb: 1, PDW Taylor; 2, Lynda Jamison; 3, Martin Hegarty.

Ram lamb: 1, Norman Robinson; 2, Ian Donald; 3, JH Stewart.
Group of three: 1, Norman Robinson; 2, JH Stewart; 3, Keith and Gordon McAdoo.
Ewe lamb: 1, Patrick Donnelly.
Champion: Norman Robinson; reserve, S & W Tait.



Norman Robinson's outstanding ram lamb was selected supreme champion. The Downpatrick breeder is pictured with Conor McNeill, representing the Ulster Bank, and daughter Anna.



Omagh breeder William Tait presented the reserve champion.



Norman Robinson's winning group of three.



Denis Taylor, Coleraine was the Novice Cup winner.



Ballymoney breeder John McKay took the honours in the shearing class.



Packie Donnelly, Ballymena with the pick of the ewe lambs.



Ian Donald, Newtownstewart, with second placed ram lamb.



The Novice Cup runner-up was presented by Lynda Jamison.