

Strong demand for Suffolks at Rathfriland

THE RECENT show and sale of Suffolk ram lambs and shearlings at Rathfriland was one of the best at the Co Down venue for a number of years, due in no small measure to increased commercial interest and the outstanding quality on offer.

The exceptional quality of the entry was evident in the show ring where an eye-catching ram lamb brought forward by Newtownards breeder Anthony Patton walked off with the supreme champion accolade.

This magnificent Burnview Bruiser sired lamb scooped the top honour by shading the verdict over a Baileys New Arrival ram presented by B and C Dickson.

The pair had earlier been first and second respectively in the ram lamb class with Mr Patton, chairman of the NI Branch, also securing third place ahead of Ian McMurray, Banbridge.

In the shearling class though it was the McMurray stable and a tremendous Castlewellan Samuel bred ram that annexed the top spot with Keith McAdoo, Cookstown runner-up and R and J Neill, Crossgar, third.

The McAdoo camp, too, featured prominently when judge Hunter Stewart, Castlederg, handed out the rosettes in the group category with Anthony Patton yet again scooping first prize, ahead of Downpatrick breeders Alfred and Norman Robinson,

In the sale ring prices and a high clearance rate subsequently reflected the quality on offer with a ram lamb and shearling belonging to Cookstown breeders Keith and Gordon McAdoo achieving the top two prices of the evening.

A Castlewellan Stoner lamb presented by the Clunty flock owners attracted considerable interest and duly fetched the top price of 850 guineas as did a Burnview Big Horse shearling brought forward the Tyrone breeders which changed hands for 780 guineas.

Burnview Big Horse-sired stock appeared to be much in demand with yet another ram lamb from the McAdoo stable fetching 700 guineas.

The reserve champion, presented by B and C Dickson, attracted a plethora of bids before the hammer dropped at 750 guineas while Hilltown breeder, Des McGarry had something to smile about when his Castlewellan Dylan Thomas bred ram lamb was sold for 700 guineas.

Prices

K & G McAdoo 850 780 700 650; B & C Dickson 750 620; D McGarry 700 650 580 380 350; A & N Robinson 680 620 520 500 500; A Patton 520 420 350 320 300; I McMurray 520 500 480 480 380; A Linden 520 400 350; P Savage 500 480 380; R & G Neill 480 450; K Patterson 450 350; J Murnion 420; S & R Graham 400 320 300; M Herron 400 400 350 350; C Magowan 400; S Burns 350 300; Blakely 350.

Prizes

Shearling ram: 1, I McMurray; 2, K McAdoo; 3, R & J Neill.

Ram lamb: 1, A Patton; 2, B & C Dickson; 3, A Patton; 4, I McMurray.

Group of Three: 1, A Patton; 2, A & N Robinson; 3, K & G McAdoo.

Champion: A Patton; reserve, B & C Dickson.



Mark Patton with his Champion Ram Lamb with the judge Hunter Stewart



Brian Dickson with his Reserve Champion



I McMurray's 1st prize Shearling Ram



Mark and Anthony Patton with their 1st prize pen of three with the judge Hunter Stewart and Philip Savage