

Mark the man of the moment at Rathfriland

UP and coming breeder Mark Herron was the man of the moment at last week's NI Branch show and sale of Suffolk shearlings and ram lambs at Rathfriland Farmers Co-op.

The Castlewellan breeder held off stiff competition to emerge victorious from an exceptional ram lamb class before his outstanding Cairness Kanine lamb walked off with the overall championship.

And completing a successful evening for the Ballyward man his champion attracted one of the highest prices of the evening of 520 guineas.

That total was only bettered by the reserve champion, a Stockton Sensation ram lamb from the William Montgomery camp, which attracted a plethora of bids ringside before being knocked down for 600 guineas.

Shearlings were much in demand with Keith and Gordon McAdoo's first prizewinner, sired by Burnview Big Horse, fetching 520 guineas as did the second and third placed rams presented by Philip Savage, Ballywalter and S & R Graham, Kilkeel respectively.

The Group of Three honour went to Jean and Ivan Porter, Ballyward, with Alexander Linden second and Anthony Patton third.

Prizes on the night were generously sponsored by Thompsons.

Shearling: 1st K & G McAdoo; 2nd P Savage; 3rd S & R Graham; 4th R & J Neill.

Ram Lamb: 1st M Herron; 2nd W Montgomery; 3rd A & N Robinson; 4th A Linden.

Group of Three: 1st J & I Porter ; 2nd A Linden; 3rd A Patton; 4th A & N Robinson.

Prices

Wm Montgomery 600, 300; M Herron 520; P Savage 520, 400; S & R Graham 520, 320; K & G McAdoo 520 300; I McMurray 370 320 300; J & I Porter 350 350 320; A Linden 370, 300; A Patton 370; R & J Neill 320; A & N Robinson 300.



Mark Herron with his champion ram lamb with the judge Ian Donald



William Montgomery with his reserve champion ram lamb



Ivan Porter with his 1st prize group



Keith McAdoo with his 1st prize shearing