

## Suffolk NI Championship big hit at Omagh

DOWNPATRICK breeder Harry Stewart and local flock owner William Tait swept the boards at the Suffolk Sheep Society (NI Branch) Northern Ireland Championships, which were held the 168th Omagh Show last weekend. Sponsored by the Northern Bank, the blue riband event of the Society's show calendar attracted a huge entry and a packed judging ring was enthralled as adjudicator Herbert Stanley meticulously selected each of the class winners. Burnview flock owners, S & W Tait captured the main rosettes in the shearling ram, ewe having reared lambs in 2008, ram lamb and group of three categories while the Castlewellan prefix of JH Stewart topped the honours in the shearling ewe and ewe lamb classes.

And it was the Co Down breeder's outstanding shearling ewe that went on to scoop the supreme championship with Tait's ram lamb, which had earlier held off the challenge of Mark Priestley, selected as reserve.

Other names to feature prominently in the rosettes were Gary Beacom, Norman Robinson, Ian Donald, Campbell and Jason Watson and Patrick Donnelly

Upwards on 90 entries contested the various categories with each of the class winners receiving 2.5 litres of Valbazen kindly sponsored by Pfizer representative, Frank McCrystal.

The Society also staged a very successful stock-judging competition with Mark Spratt (under-18); Karen Liggett (19-25) and Jim Winters (26 and upwards) collecting the top prizes in each of the three sections which were generously sponsored by John Thompson & Sons; O2 advisor Wilson Boyd and Growvite respectively.

The next fixture on the Society calendar is the Premier Show and Sale, which will take place at Ballymena Livestock Mart on Tuesday, July 29.

### Results

Champion – JH Stewart.

Reserve Champion: S & W Tait

David Stewart Perpetual Challenge Cup (Best Group of Three): S & W Tait.

Ram, shearling and upwards: 1 and 3, S & W Tait; 2, G Beacom.

Ewe, shearling: 1, JH Stewart; 2, N Robinson; 3, G Beacom.

Ewe, having reared lambs in 2008: 1, S & W Tait; 2, N Robinson; 3, M Priestley.

Ram lamb: 1 and 3, S & W Tait; 2, M Priestley.

Ewe lamb: 1, JH Stewart; 2, S & W Tait; 3, RC and JC Watson.

Group of Three: 1, S & W Tait; 2, N Robinson; 3, I Donald.

Best pair: 1, S & W Tait; 2, RC and JC Watson; 2, P Donnelly.

Female: 1, JH Stewart; 2, N Robinson.

Male: S & W Tait; 2, M Priestley.

### Stockjudging

Under-18: =1, Mark Spratt, Alex Rowan; 3, Wendy Liggett.

19-25: 1, Karen Liggett; 2, W Tait; 3, N Robinson.

26 and upwards: 1, J Winters; 2, W Knox; =3 N Mawhinney, J Watson.



Sean McAllister, agribusiness manager of the Northern Bank, presents the supreme championship to an outstanding shearling ewe belonging to Downpatrick breeder JH Stewart and handled by Andrew Wilson.



William Tait's ram lamb class winner was selected as reserve champion. Included is John Henning, Northern Bank and Frank McCrystal, representative of leading animal drugs company Pfizer.



02 telecommunications advisor Wilson Boyd hands over first prize in the 19-25 stockjudging category to Lesley Liggett, who received it on behalf of sister Karen.



John Gribben, representative for Growvite, presents product prizes to Noel Mawhinney and Jason Watson, who were both placed in the 26 and over category.



Raymond Johnston, Thompsons, hands over sponsorship for the under-18 category of the Suffolk Sheep Society stockjudging competition held at Omagh Show to secretary Roberta McMullan.