

## BEESTON BID'S TOP AT 3200 GNS AT ANNUAL SUFFOLK SHOW AND SALE

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Show and Sale, and First Official Society sale of Suffolk in-lamb females and ewe lambs took place at Beeston Castle Auction on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November in front of a large crowd with bidding from all parts of the UK including Northern Ireland as well as Belgium.

The sale attracted a record pre-sale entry of 300 sheep of which 263 were forward on the day. Trade throughout would best be described as two tier, with such a large entry, buyers were able to be selective and unfortunately a small percentage failed to find new homes. That said, those that did flew away, with near record averages being recorded within each section and some tremendous top prices being achieved with almost 20 sheep selling in excess of 1000gns. The sheep were distributed near and far with a total of 71 different purchasers being recorded on the day, from Dumfries in the North, Mid to South Wales and Devon in the South.

Our judge this year was Myfyr Evans of the Rhaeadr Flock and what a wonderful show of sheep were presented in front of him. The quality in terms of numbers was tremendous throughout the shed and was evident not only within the show classes, but for most of the sheep in the sale. For his Champion he chose the winner of the ewe class; this was a three crop ewe, a daughter of Strathbeg Sea The Stars and part of the Willmar Dispersal Sale from Rob Holmes of Dunchideock, Devon. Reserve Champion was the winning gimmer from the Knockem Flock of Bryden Nicolson's Highfield Farming Ltd, based at Duns, Berwickshire for their daughter of Rhaeadr Rolex. The Honourable Mention was the winning ewe lamb, a daughter of the homebred Wharfe Lancelot from Stephen Bolland's Skipton based flock.



The top bid of 3200 gns was for the second prize ewe from Jimmy Douglas of Fraserburgh from his famous Cairness Flock. An outstanding ewe sired by Thurston Fergie and carrying twins for late January, lambing to Cloontagh Chieftain, was eventually sold after frantic bidding to Messrs Sinnett, Worcester. Next at 2800 gns was our Reserve Champion from Highfield Farming's Knockem Flock, this 1<sup>st</sup> prize gimmer sired by Rolex was an early lamber carrying twins to the 21000 gns 2017 National Sale Champion Lakeview Bob and was sold to D & A Callan, Talbenny, Haverfordwest.

R F Holmes of the Willmar Flock had taken the difficult decision to disperse their flock through this year's show and sale. The quality of the stock was tremendous and attracted plenty of interest, kicking off the sale with a real bang. Topping their consignment was a wonderful breeding ewe who had bred the 1<sup>st</sup> prize gimmer at this year's Royal Bath and West Show. Sired by Donbraid Devil and carrying twin to Solwaybank Rooster with the hammer being knocked down at 2100 gns to S Sufferin, Maghera, Co. Londonderry. Next at 2050 gns and from the same flock was a Ballynacanon bred ewe, this super two crop ewe by Bacarsi was a mid-January lamber carrying twins and was sold to last year's Judge, Mark Priestly for his Limestone Flock based at Downpatrick, Co. Down.

Ewe Lambs were perhaps the trade of the day topping at 1550 gns for the 4<sup>th</sup> prize winner from R F Holmes, this was a January born daughter of Solwaybank Rooster purchased by I Barbour, Annan. 1<sup>st</sup> prize ewe lamb from Stephen Bolland's Wharfe Flock sold to 1400 gns for a February born daughter of Wharfe Lancelot and sold to volume buyers R Hiddleston, Shawhead, Dumfries with others from the same home to 1050 gns for a daughter of Rhaeadr Rastafari.

**TOP PRICES**

Lot 58	Ewe	J G Douglas	<b>3200gns</b>
Lot 190	Gimmer	Highfield Farming Ltd	<b>2800gns</b>
Lot 12	Ewe	R F Holmes	<b>2100gns</b>
Lot 14	Ewe	R F Holmes	<b>2050gns</b>
Lot 181	Ewe	Highfield Farming Ltd	<b>1700gns</b>
Lot 8	Ewe	R F Holmes	<b>1600gns</b>
Lot 269	Lamb	R F Holmes	<b>1550gns</b>
Lot 22	Gimmer	R F Holmes	<b>1500gns</b>
Lot 185	Gimmer	Highfield Farming Ltd	<b>1500gns</b>
Lot 290	Lamb	Stephen Bolland	<b>1400gns</b>
Lot 262	Ram	R F Holmes	<b>1400gns</b>
Lot 191	Gimmer	Highfield Farming Ltd	<b>1300gns</b>
Lot 7	Ewe	R F Holmes	<b>1200gns</b>
Lot 291	Lamb	Stephen Bolland	<b>1050gns</b>
Lot 282	Lamb	M L Evans	<b>1000gns</b>
Lot 183	Ewe	Highfield Farming Ltd	<b>1000gns</b>
Lot 196	Gimmer	Highfield Farming Ltd	<b>1000gns</b>
Lot 187	Gimmer	Highfield Farming Ltd	<b>1000gns</b>

**AVERAGES:**

**94 In-Lamb Flock Ewes £458.65; 60 In-Lamb Gimmers £615.48; 17 Ewe Lambs £751.68; 2 Stock Tups £997.50.**

*WRIGHT MARSHALL of Beeston Castle Auction, Cheshire were the Auctioneers.*