

Chris and Sally Holmes held a flock view day, on Thursday 7 November 2013, to show their Suffolk sheep that won the 2013 National Flock Competition run by the Suffolk Sheep Society. This Competition has run since 1899. Arthur O’Keeffe from the well known Annakisha flock in Cork judged the 2013 event, travelling almost 2,000 miles in the process.

Society members and commercial sheep farmers attended from all parts of the United Kingdom and Ireland to view the prize winning Rookery flock. The weather was perfect and everyone enjoyed the hospitality provided by the Holmes Family. The British Wool Marketing Board sponsored the event and their representative, Gareth Jones outlined the promising future for the wool market as part of the prize giving ceremony.

Nine cups were awarded within the competition and the Holmes Family won five of them. These included the WE Lloyd Cup for the best flock between 31 to 60 ewes, the Bonnington Salver for the best flock of ewes, the Howard Peel Cup for the best stud ram and the Chebsey Cup for the progeny group which was sired by Rhaeadr Obsession. As overall winner the Rookery flock was also awarded the Bristol Gold Cup.

DF and AE Callan (Castlemartin Flock) from Pembrokeshire were awarded the John Long Cup for the best flock of ewes in the under 30 ewe category. This was a tremendous achievement for a flock only established in 2005.

RF Holmes from Exeter won the Keeble Cup for the best flock of ewes in the 61-100 ewes category. Their Willmar Suffolk flock was also placed reserve in the best stud ram section.

Irene Fowlie had a long drive down from Aberdeenshire but it was worth the trip to collect the Brooks Cup for the best flock of over 100 ewes. The Essie Flock also collected Reserve in the Progeny Group with animals sired by the Top Signet Recorded ram Drinkstone Heavyweight.

The Sainsbury Cup for the Best Ewe Lambs was awarded to William T Borthwick (Ballochmyle Flock). William had also travelled from Mauchline, Ayrshire.

The Suffolk Sheep Society would like to thank the Holmes Family, Arthur O'Keeffe, competition participants, visitor and British Wool Marketing Board as the Sole sponsor for all their help in making this view day an excellent event.

The 2013 Sire of the Year Trophy was awarded to I&J Barbour for their Homebred Sire Solwaybank Skyfall. Four sons sold at Society sales to average £13,519. Individual prices were 36,000gns, 8,000gns, 5,000gns and 2,500gns