

## **Good Carcass Suffolk Rams Highly Sought After At Ballymena Judge: Gordon Troup**

A packed ringside resulted in a cracking trade for Suffolk rams at the Premier Suffolk sale run by the Northern Ireland Branch of the Suffolk Sheep Society. There was an eighty per cent clearance rate of the 135 ram lambs presented for sale selling to an average price of £583.

The highest priced ram lamb went to PDW Taylor when R Wilson, M Priestley and JM Stewart paid 3,000gns for a Birness Bacardi son out of a Strathisla Shadrach dam. This lamb had stood second in the single ram lamb class.

Another Birness Bacardi lamb, which was part of the winning group of three, from PDW Taylor sold over the telephone for 1,600gns to AE Weaver & Sons, Perrinpit Flock, Gloucester. It was a memorable night for Dennis who not only had a complete clearance of the eight lambs presented from his Ballynacanon flock to average £1,122 but then rushed to hospital for the birth of his baby daughter at 2am. We wish them well.

First in the ram lamb class and overall reserve champion went to the Bannview pen of RC & JC Watson. This Conveth Stylist son out of a Deveronside Whistleblower dam was sold for the second highest price on the night of 1,700gns to P Bolger, Enniscorthy Co Wexford. The Watson family had an excellent night by also having the first prize shearling which sold for 620gns to K McCord, Antrim.

The Society president W Montgomery got in on the act presenting a pen of untrimmed ram lambs which resulted in a top call of 1,600gns. This was paid for a son of Ballycoose Big Ben out of a Rhaeadr Rossi dam. He heads for use in the commercial flock of PJ Kane, Ballycastle. William had a complete clearance to average £645 for the seven lambs forward.

New up and coming breeder S Sufferin from Maghera sold his best for 1,300gns to the Burnview flock of S&W Tait. This is a son of the 18,000gns Rhaeadr Ring-a-Ding and out of a Strathisla Shadrach.

Winner of the novice ram lamb and overall champion went for a tremendous carcass lamb from B&C Dickson, Islandmoyle Flock. This Limestone To-Tal son out of a Cairness New Approach dam was sold for pedigree use in Bannow flock of G Rossiter, Wexford. He was purchased for 1,200gns.

A further two lots were sold for the four figure sum of 1,000gns. MJW Priestley received this amount from I Porter, Porterhill Flock for a Rhaeadr Ring-a-Ding son out of a Kings Theatre ewe. This was the ET brother of the Stirling sale champion which was sold a week earlier for 4,800gns. The second lot to reach this price was from the pen of J McKay. This Ewebank High Class son out of a Malinhead Matador ewe was knocked down to R Moore, Kilkenny.