

## Repeat success for Solwaybank at Royal Highland Show

A bumper entry in the Suffolk classes at the Royal Highland Show gave judge Gary Beacom plenty of quality to find his champion from, with Mr Beacom praising the strength and depth in all classes and the exceptional carcass characteristics displayed from the top to the bottom of every class.

Leading the way for the second year running was the Barbour family's aged ewe, a Rhaeadr Rastafari daughter out of the dam by Solwaybank Sultana. This 2011-born ewe, FHT 11:0111, had the power and breed character to sneak both the female and breed championship, said Mr Beacom. "The female championship line-up was great to see, I had three strong females to pick from, but the ewe stole it for the sheer power and evenness of fleshing she displayed."

Taking the reserve overall title was the Mair family's male champion, a ram lamb by Rhaeadr Red Devil, a tup bought from Myfyr Evans last year. He is out of a gimmer by Rhaeadr Roger Ram Jet which was flushed as a lamb and his grand dam was champion of champions at Turriff in 2011.

Mr Beacom said the tup lamb was a credit to the breed. "He has a great carcass, a tremendous skin and is a real breeders lamb. On the day he was just beaten by the power of the ewe though."

Winning the aged tup class was Solwaybank Goldfinger from the Barbour family, with this one being a 2012-born son of Rhaeadr Rastafari out of a Cairness Castello dam. In the shearling tup class the winner was the sire of the reserve overall champion, Rhaeadr Red Devil, an Ardlea Arbennig son.

In the shearling ewe class the winner was a Strathisla bred gimmer from Gregor Hiddleston. This Strathisla Stifler daughter is out of a dam by Strathisla Schumacher.

The ewe lamb class was then won by the Mairs, this time with a Rhaeadr Red Devil daughter out of a dam by Strathisla Speed. The Mair family then took the prize for the best group of three sheep.

Rounding up Northern Ireland-based Mr Beacom said it had been an honour to judge the Royal Highland Show and the sheep had been a credit to the exhibitors. "It was an excellent show of sheep this morning and I'm pleased to see Suffolks of this quality in Scotland."

## **Class results**

### **Aged tup**

- 1- Messrs Barbour, Solwaybank Goldfinger
- 2 - Annie Hutchon, L25:12:060
- 3 - S and G Sutherland, Sitlow Surefire
- 4 - Annie Hutchon

### **Shearling rams**

- 1 - S G Mair and Sons, Rhaeadr Red Devil
- 2 - S and G Sutherland, Strathisla Sign Off
- 3 - Alan Mackinnon, Ballynacanon Bandicoot
- 4 - Annie Hutchon, T86:13:087

### **Ram lambs**

- 1- S G Mair and Sons, NAJ:14:340
- 2 - Tom Fitzsimon, NCK:14:00368
- 3 - Messrs Barbour, FHT:14:00901
- 4 - Graeme Christie, PDN:14:046
- 5 - Robert Redpath, LHP:14:00058

### **Aged ewes**

- 1 - Messrs Barbour, FHT:11:0011
- 2 - Sandy Fraser, LOZ:L6
- 3 - David and Paula Reid, JDY:12:044
- 4 - Annie Hutchon, JFF:N24
- 5 - Ashley Bothwell, NHL:11:06

### **Shearling ewes**

- 1 - Gregor Hiddleston, FNV:13:103

**2** - Messrs Barbour, FHT:13:070

**3** - S G Mair and Sons, NAJ:13:052

**4** - James Innes and Son, FNV:13:144

**5** - S G Mair and Sons, NAJ:13:028

**Ewe lambs**

**1** - S G Mair and Sons, NAJ:14:347

**2** - Jill Tooze, DYX:14:148

**3** - Messrs Barbour, FHT:14:00849

**4** - Robert Redpath, LHD:14:036

**5** - James Innes and Son, SUT:14:843