

## **STRATHISLA TOPS THE BILL WITH 5000 GNS GIMMER AT BEESTON CASTLE SUFFOLK SALE**

The Eleventh Annual Show and Sale of Pedigree Suffolk Females sponsored by the FARMERS GUARDIAN attracted its largest entry to date with some 212 In-lamb Ewes and Gimmers and Ewe Lambs for this year's event at Beeston Castle Auction, Cheshire.

It is just amazing how this sale has grown from humble beginnings to being the largest collective sale of Suffolk females in the country. This is no doubt due to the central geographic location of Beeston and to the great support received by many of the Breed's leading flocks who relish the opportunity of presenting their sheep to a huge audience of buyers who have travelled from just about every corner of Great Britain. Almost seventy different buyers were recorded at the end of the day from as far away as Dumfriesshire, the Scottish Borders, Northumberland right the way down to the south coast of England with buyers from Devon, Dorset and Kent also featuring on the final buyers list. It was also great to have buyers from Belgium at the sale and they purchased six sheep too.

This year judging was in the hands of Hugh Annett who runs the Widdrington Flock at Morpeth, Northumberland. He had some strong classes and many fantastic sheep to cast his eye over. In the end it was the 1<sup>st</sup> prize ewe lamb from John Sinnetts's Stockton Flock at Stockton-on-Teme, Worcester that took championship honours. In reserve was Barclay and Lucy Mair's 1st prize gimmer which travelled all the way from Turriff, Aberdeenshire and the Honourable Mention going to another Aberdeenshire sheep, a one crop ewe from Jimmy Douglas' Cairness Flock at Fraserburgh.

It has to be said the overall quality of virtually all the sheep entered was from the top drawer which undoubtedly was a contributing factor to the solid and at times furious trade experienced from start to finish. What a fantastic day it proved to be for two new vendors to the sale who are both based at Turriff, Aberdeenshire – Barclay and Lucy Mair who entered 10 gimmers from their noted Deveronside Flock and Robbie Wilson who entered 15 ewes and gimmers from his Strathisla Flock.

It was the Strathisla Flock who attracted the day's top bid and a new centre record of 5000 gns and the Deveronside Flock who achieved the highest flock average selling their ten gimmers for an average of £1879 and the second and third top sellers too.

The top seller from Robbie Wilson was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the gimmer class; she is by Strathisla Seabird and out of a ewe by Strathisla Speed and was sold carrying twins to Rhaeadr Ring a Ding. She sold to join the Mardle Flock of Mary Julia Cornish at Buckfastleigh, Devon. The leading bid from Deveronside was for their Reserve Champion, also a daughter of Strathisla Seabird and out of JTO:H28 who is a four times class winner and twice Champion at the Royal Highland Show who was in-lamb to Rhaeadr Ramjet carrying a single. She sold for the second top price of 4500 gns and also sold to Mary Julia Cornish. The Mair's were in the spotlight again selling another Seabird gimmer carrying twins to Deveronside Black Caviar for 4000 gns to Gary Owen for his Morris Flock based on the Isle of Anglesey.

Jimmy Douglas topped the ewe prices with his 1<sup>st</sup> prize sheep, a one crop ewe by Cairnton Nephew carrying twins to Cairness Achievement and selling for 1600 gns to John Sherratt for export to Belgium. The Mair's had three gimmers selling at 1500 gns each, two, both by Deveronside Diamond and each carrying twins to Rhaeadr Roger Ramjet, selling to Andrew Hall of Melrose, Roxburghshire and the other a daughter of Strathisla Speed going to Toon Decock, Belgium. They also had another by Seabird selling to AT Turner of Hatton, Derbyshire. Also selling for 1400 gns was the second prize gimmer from Jack Pryce, Meifod, Powys; this daughter of Birness Popstar sold carrying twins to Birness Drambuie to Sandra Woodend of Bootle, Millom, Cumbria.

Ewe lambs were a little harder to clear than the in-lamb sheep, but there was plenty of bidding for the best. The top seller in this section was 3000 gns achieved for John Sinnett's champion, a daughter of Rhaeadr Mad Man, who sold to Mary Julia Cornish. The only other ewe lamb to break the four figure barrier was the second prize lamb from Mark Evans, Keighley for a daughter of his homebred Jubilee Jethro which sold for 1600 gns to JM Robinson & Son Ltd., of Great Limber, Grimsby, Lincolnshire.

### **AVERAGES:**

**72 Ewes £549.64; 67 Gimmers £808.03; 25 Ewe Lambs £683.34; 1 Stock Ram £630.00; 165 HEAD £646.93.**

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