

Irish National Championships and Sale

Blessington was once again the venue for the South of Ireland Suffolk Sheep National Championships and Sale. Over 90 sheep were on show from the four corners of the country. P J Howard from Clare the 2017 Suffolk Sheep Society Hall of Fame recipient judged the eight classes with ease watched by a large crowd.

The Shearling ram and upwards class was won by Sean O Connor with a home bred two shear ram sired by Strathbogie Jackpot, a former Stirling Champion and stock ram at Lakeview.

As in recent years the aged ewe class was again dominated by Susan O Keeffe taking 1st & 3rd with Philip Lynch dividing the two in 2nd. The winning lady a big bodied ewe sired by Errigal Simply The Best.

Fourteen shearling ewes lined up with Arthur O Keeffe taking 1st & 2nd and Tom Kenny 3rd. This flashy first prize winner was sired by Cairness Casper and had won her class the previous year at Blessington as a ewe lamb. She later secured the Overall Championship title.

The Novice ram lamb class was won by PJ McMonagle with a smart lamb by Birness Bacardi which later sold for 1000 gns to Trevor Burke. Lexie and Alan Kilpatrick came in 2nd with Michael Clarke 3rd.

The Ram lamb sired by an Irish bred ram proved to be one of the strongest of the day with both the Male and Reserve Male champion coming from this class. Leading the way was Wm. J & R Wilson with a lamb sired by the ever reliable Shannagh Resolve. Patrick O Keeffe followed closely with his lamb sired by Clyda Dream Catcher . The first prize winner was the Overall Reserve Champion on the day selling for 1500gns to German breeder Mr Fass. Patricks 2nd prize winner sold for 1000 gns to Tom Kenny and the 3rd prize winner from John A Doherty sold for the joint top price of the day to James Cuffe also for 1500 gns.

The Open ram lamb class had familiar names to the fore with Wm J & R Wilson in 1st Philip Lynch 2nd and Susan O Keeffe 3rd . Forkins Ferrari was the sire of the top one here.

Richard Thompson came out tops in the Novice ewe lamb with a Cionnmhalanna One lamb followed closely by Jeffrey & Robert Thornton in 2nd and Colin & Jonathan Watchorn in 3rd. The 3rd prize winner later sold for 420 gns.

Final class of the day was the Open ewe lamb with the O Keeffe's again dominating. A Shannagh Resolve daughter from Arthur led the way and she then went on to take the Overall Reserve Female title. Susan came in 2nd with Wm J & R Wilson taking 3rd.