

SHROPTALK



The Newsletter of the Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association

Autumn 2016

PRICE RECORDS SMASHED AT SHREWSBURY SHOW AND SALE

THREE new record prices for the Shropshire breed were achieved at the National Show and Sale (West) on 24th July at Shrewsbury Livestock Market.

For the first time since at least the mid 20th Century, a Shropshire shearling ram made 1,000 guineas at auction. A shearling ewe that was Reserve Champion in the show sold for 880gns - almost double the previous modern sale record. The ewe lamb price record was also broken when the Show Champion was sold for 520gns.

Overall there was a strong market for Shropshire males, with 76% clearance and much higher average prices for males of all ages than in 2015.

However, there was weaker demand for females, unless of show quality. For the first time in four years at this event, the clearance of Shropshire ewes and female lambs dropped well below 100%, with only 54 sold from the 83 animals forward. The average price achieved for Shearling ewes that were sold was the same as last year (£284). The average for the small number of Adult Ewes at this sale dropped to £119/head. The average for ewe lambs declined by 10% to £190/head.

SHOW CLASSES

The pre-sale show of Shropshires started earlier than usual at 8.30am. Peter Bird, owner of one of the breed's longest established flocks (Trenton, flock letters AD) presided as judge. With only two in the first class, Mr Bird reached a fairly swift decision, awarding the red rosette to Tushbrook Astronomy, a

two-shear ram by Piddington Jack owned and bred by Ellie Russell, who has achieved a good record with this ram at other shows.

Apiary Benjie, by Ushers Windy, owned and bred by Jan and Charles Morris, took top honours in the larger Shearling ram Class. In second place was Sprotbrough Pinnacle, bred by Alan Oliver. Pinnacle was Breed Champion last year as a ram lamb at our National Show and Sale (East).

Ram lambs were next, with a Brereton lamb sired by Osmonds Angus taking the red rosette, and a non-MV entry, Hincott Taz, from the Hinks family based near Wem, taking second place.

Moving on to the female section, a small class of breeding ewes saw two 2014-born animals from G&S Mann (Lountwood Flock) taking first and second place.

Then came a large and very competitive class of shearling ewes. After deliberation, Mr Bird placed an entry from the Shimwells' Brereton Flock in first place. This ewe, sired by Brereton Thomas, had been shown successfully as a lamb by the Cheshire-based breeders.

In the ewe lamb class, which was again well supported, two beautifully presented animals from Stonegrove Livestock took the top two slots, the winner having been sired by Stonegrove Centurion. This lamb went on to win the overall Shropshire Breed Championship, with the Brereton Shearling ewe as Reserve.

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NATIONAL SHOW AND SALE (WEST) SHOW CLASS RESULTS

Judge: Mr Peter Bird

Adult Ram Class

1. E Russell
2. Stonegrove Livestock

Shearling Ram Class

1. C&J Morris
2. A Oliver
3. R C Webb

Ram Lamb Class

1. M&S Shimwell
2. E Hinks
3. J Hares

Breeding Ewe Class

1. G&S Mann
2. G&S Mann

Shearling Ewe Class

1. M&S Shimwell
2. Stonegrove Livestock
3. Stonegrove Livestock

Ewe Lamb Class

1. Stonegrove Livestock
2. Stonegrove Livestock
3. P&P Geddes

Champion: Stonegrove Livestock (ewe lamb)

Res Champion: M&S Shimwell (Shearling Ewe)

Sale Averages: Adult Rams: Top 580gns; 2 average £567; Shearling Rams: Top 1000gns; 4 average £530; Ram Lambs: Top 800gns; 7 average £431; Adult Ewes: Top 130gns, 4 average £119; Shearling Ewes: Top 880gns, 31 average £284; Ewe Lambs: Top 520gns 19 average £190. 67 head overall average £287

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The SSBA's AGM will be held at Sandwell Park Farm, West Bromwich, West Midlands on Sat Nov 12th.



Guest Speaker: **Sophie Aylett of Meadows Farm Vets:** Sheep Health and Productivity - top veterinary tips for novice and experienced sheep breeders

All Members Are Welcome!

Free Buffet Lunch

Please attend to support your Society



The Reserve Breed Champion, a shearling ewe from the Brereton Flock of Mark and Sue Shimwell, sold for 880 guineas to GJ Hockridge, Week Barton Flock, Okehampton, Devon.

BACS PAYMENTS TO THE SOCIETY'S BANK ACCOUNT

IF you make payments for stock registrations and / or transfers by BACS, please can you tag the payment with your flock letters and also send an email to the Registrar and Treasurer to let them know what the payment is for. This will be an enormous help to the Society's officers. Thank you for your help!

FLOCK RETURNS AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

THE SSBA's Council is to introduce additional charges for breeders who do not complete their annual flock returns and/or do not pay their membership renewals on time.

Late flock returns and subscription renewals delay the production of the Society's annual flock book. Additionally, a lot of time and effort has to be spent chasing members who have missed the deadline.

Members will receive their annual flock returns and membership subscription renewal forms with this edition of *ShropTalk*. The deadline for these to be completed and returned is 30th November 2016.

There will now be an additional charge of £10 for flocks who send their forms back in December. This will rise to £20 for those that are not received until after December.

On payment of these fines, stock can then be registered. If the charges are not paid, the members concerned will not be allowed to register their 2017-born lambs. Please look out for your flock return and membership renewal and return them promptly by 30th November.

QUALITY BUT NOT QUANTITY AT THE MELTON SHOW & SALE

THE Shropshire National Show and Sale (East) on 9th and 10th September was part of the Rare and Traditional Breeds event at Melton Mowbray Market, Leicestershire.

Only three Shropshire breeders had stock forward for the judge, Gail Sprake, who commented that she was impressed by the quality of the sheep, if not the quantity.

A 2014 ram from the Church Preen Flock entered by G&S Mann and Sprotbrough Prowess, a ram lamb from Alan Oliver's flock, were placed first in their respective classes.

The ewe lamb sired by Stonegrove Archie out of a Sprotbrough ewe was the Show Champion with the Benfield Kryptonite Shearling ewe, bred by Richard Spencer, as Reserve.

Saturday's sale created some interest although purchasers were not willing to match the vendors' assessment of the value of some stock. The top price of 200gns was achieved by two Benfield ewes, with one of the ewe lambs from Mrs C Marriott, Lountwood Flock, making 155gns and the senior ram from G&S Mann reaching 150gns.

SHOW CLASS RESULTS

Judge: Mrs Gail Sprake

Ram Class

1. G & S Mann

Ram Lamb Class

1. A Oliver

Shearling Ewe Class

1. R Spencer

2. R Spencer

3. R Spencer

Ewe Lamb Class

1. A Oliver

2. A Oliver

Champion: A Oliver
(Ewe Lamb)

Res Champion: R Spencer
(Shearling Ewe)

Sale Averages:

Adult Ram: 150gns; Ram Lamb: Not sold; Shearling Ewes: Top 200gns, Av £194; Ewe Lambs: Top 155gns; Av £120. 9 Head sold overall, Average price £153.



The Champion at the National Show and Sale (East): A Sprotbrough ewe lamb from the Doncaster-based flock of Alan Oliver. The lamb was sired by Stonegrove Archie.

TIMBERLINE FLOCK OPEN-DAY

A successful farm walk and barbecue was hosted on 14th August by Paul Stead and Val Tew on their holding in Oxfordshire. Visitors viewed the Timberline Flock of Shropshires as well as the resident herd of Alpacas.



One of the Timberline tugging groups



Sixteen Shropshire breeders attended the open-day at Little Haven near South Newington - eager to see Paul and Val's high genetic merit sheep and their herd of Alpacas. Being an early-lambing flock, the Timberline ewes were already running in their tugging groups with teaser rams. Paul had selected a number of ewes and lambs for visitors to judge at close quarters, according to breed standards. An interesting discussion ensued about desirable and undesirable type traits for Shropshires. Visitors were also able to see the stock sires, which are in the top 10% of the breed for genetic merit, according to Signet figures. Everyone enjoyed a very tasty barbecue of home-produced burgers and sausages - a by-product of the couple's Alpacas, which are kept mainly for producing pedigree breeding stock and fibre. Thank you Paul and Val for a very interesting day!

REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL SHOW AND SALE WEST

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For the first time at this event, females were sold before males to help new flock owners purchase rams with blood lines to suit ewes they may have acquired earlier.

Shearling Ewes

The first female entering the sale ring was the Reserve Show Champion from the Brereton Flock. As well as her show credentials, could boast the ARR/ARR scrapie genotype and above average genetic merit with particularly good EBVs for growth rate and muscle depth. Bidding was keen for this stylish ewe, with gasps from the crowd as the price climbed well above the previous auction record for a shearling ewe (450gns). Eventually the hammer went down on a bid of 880gns from GJ Hockridge - and the audience broke into applause. What a start to the 7th National Show and Sale West at Shrewsbury!

Six other shearling ewes sold for 410gns or above - including animals from Hayne Oak, Millenheath, Stonegrove and Ushers Flocks. These animals were in the ribbons in the showing class and/or animals with high genetic merit. The second highest price (460gns) was made by a shearling bred by Aubrey and Marion Webb. Sired by Ushers Tiger, she had above average genetic merit with high EBVs for growth rate and maternal ability. She was sold to CA Weaver.

Breeding Ewes and Ewe Lambs

No older breeding ewes were on offer in the MV section. The two-shear animals available from the Manns' non-MV Lountwood Flock were sold for between 95 and 130gns.

Some 19 MV accredited Ewe lambs were sold and the Breed Champion from Stonegrove Livestock achieved the highest price of 520gns, exceeding the previous record for a lamb set in 2013 by 80gns. She was sold to LTJ Mottershead. The second highest price was achieved by the animal that was 3rd in the show, an Alderton Ewe lamb by Alderton Jethro, which also had high scores for genetic merit, putting her within the top 25% of the breed. She was sold for 300gns to M A Brooksbank.

Senior and Shearling Rams

The winner of the senior ram show class, Tushbrook Astronomy, sold to RA Davies for 580gns. Stonegrove Bertie, 2nd in the show, sold to PCM Pugh for 500gns.

Then came the sale of Shearling rams. The second through the ring was Sprotbrough Pinnacle, bred by Alan Oliver from Doncaster. This ram was 2nd in the show class and of the ARR/ARR Scrapie Genotype. He was sired by Stonegrove Archie, a previous breed champion at Shrewsbury in 2013. Excitement grew again in the audience as the bidding got off to a strong start. The previous breed record for a shearling of 800gns was exceeded - and still the bidding continued. The final price was 1000gns, offered by GJ Hockridge. The crowd was delighted with the new breed record price - as was the vendor!

The second highest priced shearling ram was the winner of the show class, Apiary Benjie, by Ushers Windy. Bred by Charles and Jan Morris, Benjie has high scores for genetic merit putting him well within the top 25% of the breed for performance traits. He was sold for 520gns to Lucy Morgan.

Ram Lambs

The Brereton winner of the show class, by Osmonds Angus, was first through the ring and sold for 440gns to E&T Powell. However, the highest price paid for a ram lamb on the day was 800gns achieved by the Ushers lamb by Ushers Alexander, currently the top ranked stock sire in the breed within the Signet evaluations. This price was just 20gns short of the breed record set in 2013. The lamb was ranked in the top 5% of the breed for genetic merit and was purchased by Mr and Mrs Zielinski (Leonardshire Flock, Shropshire).

Second highest price of 680gns was paid by LTJ Mottershead for another high genetic merit ram lamb from the Alderton Flock. This lamb by Alderton Travis, was 4th in the show class and had excellent EBVs also putting him in the top 5% of the breed for genetic merit.

The Halls Trophy for the highest priced Shropshire sold from a small flock (25 ewes and under) was won by Ellie Russell, Tushbrook Flock, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire for her senior ram (500gns).



Breed Champion Stonegrove ewe lamb, pictured with Archie and William Dorrell, sponsor Claire Jakeman and Judge Peter Bird.



Reserve Champion a Brereton shearling ewe, with breeder Mark Shimwell.



Best opposite sex to the Champion - a Brereton ram lamb pictured with Mark Shimwell and sponsor Anne Harvey.



Winners of the Southworth trophy for the best prepared pen of sheep - Stonegrove Livestock.

SIGNET PERFORMANCE AWARDS AT BURWARTON SHOW



Marion and Aubrey with their winning duo. Sashes kindly sponsored by RAS Show Supplies.

BOTH the ram and the ram lamb Signet Performance Awards, held at Burwarton Show, went to the Ushers Flock of Marion and Aubrey Webb from Gilmorton, Leicestershire.

Shearling ram Ushers Captain was 3rd in the Burwarton ram class and the highest placed Signet recorded animal with a terminal sire index above the breed average. Ushers ram lamb 256KX16 won the hotly contested ram lamb class, which had 11 entries in total. His terminal sire index of 252 puts him in the top 5% of the breed for genetic merit. The ram lambs placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th at the show were all high genetic merit animals bred from the Signet Recorded Ushers, Alderton, Millenheath and Apiary Flocks.

SUCCESSFUL YOUNG BREEDERS

IT was great to see a number of Junior Members participating in the National Show and Sale (West) with very impressive results.



Emily Hinks, Hincott Flock, second with her ram lamb and winner of the SSBA's young handlers' rosette.



Ellie Russell, Tushbrook Flock, winner of the senior ram class with Tushbrook Astronomy.



William (right) and Archie Dorrell, with the first and second placed ewe lambs from the Stonegrove Flock.

VICTORIOUS PUB QUIZ TEAM AT THE SHOW & SALE



THE Social Evening the night before the National Show and Sale (West) at Shrewsbury Market was very well attended this year, with more than 80 tickets sold. The food was excellent, provided by a new caterer organised by SSBA Council member, Jan Morris. This year the pub quiz was run by the Shropshire RBST group and the winning team was a group of Shropshire breeders pictured above. From the left: Sue Shimwell, Alison Schofield, Peter and June Tavernor, Paul Redgate (not quite visible!), Diana Redgate and Mark Shimwell.



SHROPSHIRE SHEEP EXPORTS 2016

AFTER a rather slow start to the season, overseas demand for British Shropshires picked up, with consignments being sent to Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands and France. In total 30 ewes, 38 ewe lambs and 3 rams were sold via Society-led exports this year.

Exports were managed by Sue Farquhar and Claire Jakeman. The following flocks participated by supplying sheep: Alderton, Apiary, Clipston, Hayne Oak, Hilltop, Hornpipe, Millenheath Morley, Piddington, Roydon, Strangford, Timberline and Ushers. Pictured above are Shropshires in their new home in Rochepeaule, south east France, with Ivan Bouvet (La Ferme Du Repaire).

SHROPTALK

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