

# SHROPTALK

The Newsletter of the Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association

Summer 2011



## ANOTHER RECORD BREAKING SHOW AND SALE!

**THERE** was a real “buzz” at Shrewsbury market on 2<sup>nd</sup> July for this year’s National Show and Sale (West). More than 80 Shropshire sheep were forward for the event, which attracted substantial interest from buyers and resulted in new record prices being set across the board for male and female Shropshires sold through the auction ring.

The showing classes commenced promptly at 9am, with the Shropshire section being judged by Cody Hiemke from Wisconsin, USA. The arrival of senior judge, Fred Groverman, was unfortunately delayed because his flight from California had been postponed and then diverted. Cody did an excellent job in Fred’s absence, presiding over some large classes. At the end of each class, Cody explained his choices to the spectators, who found this approach very enlightening.

From a championship line-up that included the first and second-placed animals in each class, Cody selected a shearling ram, Hayne Oak Lucas, by Hayne Oak Janitor, as the overall Shropshire Champion. This ram was

owned and bred by Liz Bowles and Mike Bray from Cullompton, Devon. According to Cody, Lucas delivered “the best total package” in terms of conformation and the breed standards. Although the judge was unaware of the Signet figures for animals in the show, Lucas also scored highly for genetic merit, with a Maternal Index of 174 and a Terminal Sire Index of 193, the latter putting him in the top 1% of the breed for growth and carcass traits.

The Reserve Champion was a ewe lamb, sired by Hayne Oak Kendall, from the Brereton Flock of Mark and Sue Shimwell, based near Congleton, Cheshire. The breeders of the Champion and the Reserve Champion were awarded the Morley and the Roydon

Trophies, respectively. This was the second year in succession that these two flock-owners had been awarded the Championship silverware at the SSBA’s western show and sale. The winner of the Southworth Trophy for the best prepared pen of two or more Shropshires, judged by Barry Hodson, was Alice Clay (Showle Flock) from Ledbury, Herefordshire.

Fred Groverman and his daughter, Judy, were kindly collected from Manchester Airport by Peter Geddes as soon as their flight landed, and they were whisked south to Shrewsbury. They arrived at the market just in time for Fred to join in the judging of the Interbreed Sheep Championship with the judges of the other sheep sections, Sandra Thompson and Gerald Hayes. The show’s new Sheep Interbreed cup, The Charles Wilson Memorial Trophy donated by the Wilson Family (Osmonds), was awarded to a yearling Grey-faced Dartmoor ewe from Liz Dawson of Lower House Farm, Criggion. Hayne Oak Lucas was the Reserve Interbreed Sheep Champion.

### EXCITEMENT

The sheep sale commenced after the Interbreed Championship, with MV accredited Shropshire rams the first to go under the hammer. The excitement mounted ring-side when the shearling ram, Morley Malik, was sold for a record price of 800gns. Bred by Graham and Claire Jakeman (Morley Flock) from Thornton Le Moors, Cheshire this high genetic merit son of Roydon Rufus was purchased by Richard Spencer (Benfield Flock) of Ashbourne, Derbyshire. Malik was not shown competitively on the day, owing to the breeders’ links with the judges, but was exhibited in the show and sale rings. His Signet scores of 175 for the Maternal Index and 170 for the Terminal Sire Index put him in the top 10% of the breed for performance traits.

Another breed record was achieved soon afterwards when Alderton Bob, a December-born ram lamb from the flock of Peter and Pippa Geddes based near Montford Bridge, Shropshire, sold for 750gns. Bob, sired by Broomcroft Dylan, was second in the show class of 12 ram lambs, and his Signet figures put him in the top 5% of the breed for genetic merit, with a Maternal Index of 195 and a Terminal Sire Index of 175. He was purchased by the Wilson Family for their Osmonds Flock based in north Shropshire.

Previous breed records continued to tumble with the start of the sale of MV accredited females. A 2009-born ewe by Ushers

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*Champion of the Shropshire Show and Reserve Interbreed Sheep Champion at Shrewsbury, Hayne Oak Lucas, with (left to right) Cody Hiemke, Fred Groverman, Sandra Thompson, Liz Bowles (holding the trophy) Gerald Hayes, and Matt Williams from Halls.*

# ANOTHER RECORD BREAKING SHOW AND SALE!

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Reginald from Aubrey and Marion Webb's Ushers Flock, based near Lutterworth in Leicestershire, sold for a new record price of 360gns for a breeding ewe. The animal had previously won her show class and was sold to Jeanette and Robert Hares (Millenheath Flock), Whitchurch, Shropshire.

Another show class winner from the Hayne Oak Flock of Liz Bowles and Mike Bray set a new breed record for a shearling ewe sold at auction when she achieved a price of 420gns. A daughter of Kenseyvale Hurricane, she was sold to Alan Oliver (Sprotbrough Flock), from Sprotbrough, near Doncaster.

The final record from the MV-accredited sheep section was achieved by the show's Reserve Champion: Mark and Sue Shimwell's January-born ewe lamb. With a high Signet score of 150 for Maternal Index (top 25% of the breed) her show-winning style attracted strong interest from buyers and she was finally sold to Mr Charles Saffell and Miss Lorie Newman (Crown Flock), Norfolk, for 360gns.

## SENIOR RAM RECORD

The sale of non-MV accredited stock followed. Shropshires continued to achieve good prices and one more breed price record was broken: A senior ram from Clive Davies's Westwood Flock that won the senior ram class earlier in the day was sold for 420gns to Nick Forsythe of Lower Wood, Church Stretton, Shropshire. The ram, Westwood Archer, was born in 2009 and had achieved an impressive record in the show ring during 2010 and at early shows this season He was sired by Watsdyke Neifion.

Commenting on the 2011 Sale at Shrewsbury, the SSBA's Sales Officer, Claire Jakeman, said: "We promoted this event to all potential buyers who'd contacted the breed society in the past six months or so. The sale attracted

new as well as established flocks and I'm happy to report that Methley Estates purchased a number of ewes and a ram to start a new flock. The success of the Shrewsbury sale has resulted in more enquiries coming in, one being from a Texel breeder who wants to start a Shropshire flock. Two weeks after the show and sale, my sheep shearer commented that he'd heard the Shrops did well at Shrewsbury – and this news had been passed to him from a Hereford cattle man! So we are receiving very good feedback and coverage from outside the Shropshire membership, which is fantastic for only our second sale at Shrewsbury.

## EXTREMELY GOOD AVERAGE PRICES

"All 52 of the Shropshire females entered were sold and the average prices were extremely good. Council may, however, need to review the number of males that can be entered per flock, as this was the only downside: only half of the rams and ram lambs on offer were actually sold through the ring.

"The overall number of Shropshires entered was very high this year we were very lucky to have several Breed Society Inspectors on hand to assist with pre-sale inspections. We definitely need to book more Inspectors for both days if we have another large entry of Shropshires in future years.

"I'm pleased to say that almost all sheep passed the breed inspection: There was only one lamb that had to be withdrawn from the sale because it didn't make the weight requirement. Thank you to all breeders for presenting and producing very good sheep."

## NATIONAL SHOW & SALE (WEST) SHOW RESULTS

### Senior Ram (two shear or older)

1. R T Davies & Co
2. A Clay
3. RB & B Higgins

### Shearling Ram

1. E Bowles & M Bray
2. J & P Bowles
3. E Butcher

### Ram Lamb

1. J & P Bowles
2. P & P Geddes
3. A & M Webb

### Breeding Ewe

1. A & M Webb
2. S Farquhar
3. R Webb

### Shearling Ewe

1. E Bowles & M Bray
2. E Bowles & M Bray
3. A & M Webb

### Ewe Lamb

1. M & S Shimwell
2. P & P Geddes
3. P & P Geddes

**Champion and winner of the Morley Trophy:** E Bowles & M Bray (Shearling ram)

**Reserve Champion and winner of the Roydon Trophy for best opposite sex to the Champion:** M & S Shimwell (ewe lamb)

## SALE PRICES

Averages in £ Sterling, with numbers sold in brackets: Senior Rams £268 (4); Shearling Rams £369 (7); Ram Lambs £457 (4); Breeding Ewes £256 (10); Shearling Ewes £234 (27) and Ewe Lambs £213 (15).

## 2012 DIARY DATE

Next year's National Show and Sale (West) will be held at Shrewsbury Market on Saturday 30th June

## SANSAW BARBECUE

MORE than 80 SSBA members and overseas Shropshire breeders attended a BBQ at Sansaw Hall just north of Shrewsbury the night before the show and sale. They enjoyed delicious local fayre including award-winning burgers and sausages supplied by Maynards Farm of Weston-Under-Redcastle, Shropshire.

The SSBA's President, Pippa Geddes, thanked James and Asa Thompson (Sansaw Flock) for hosting the event at their beautiful home. She also welcomed the overseas visitors, who included Benoit Gille and his children, Clement, Baptiste and Mathilde, from France; as well as Cody and Ruth Hiemke, Bill and Susan Shultz and Tim and Debbie Barnes from the USA.

Pippa also drew attention to all the effort that had gone into the organisation of the show and sale, thanking in particular Simon Mackay, Alison Schofield and Claire Jakeman for their hard work behind the scenes.

A raffle was held with prizes kindly donated by SSBA members. Charlie Morgan-Jones did a great job selling the tickets and, together with surplus funds from BBQ ticket sales, £337 was raised for charities Help For Heroes and the breed society.



*Morley Malik sold for a breed record of 800gns*

## BREED SOCIETY OBITUARIES

IT is with great sadness that the SSBA has to report the recent deaths of two well-known and very well liked breed society members: **David Tordoff and Raimund Kohl.**

David and his wife Anne established the Hilltop Flock of Shropshires in Dumfriesshire. David met many SSBA members through the show circuit as he and Anne exhibited their Shropshires successfully at many major agricultural venues. David also played an important role during the SSBA's first World Congress in 2007 (the breed society's 125th anniversary): He was the official tour guide accompanying delegates from the UK and overseas as they visited flocks around the UK, and he helped to make the event a great success.

Raimund was an overseas member of the SSBA from Germany. He used Shropshire sheep on his own tree farm, and also worked as a soil scientist for the German government. Raimund particularly admired the UK type of Shropshire and imported many sheep from the UK, using them to good effect in his own breeding programme. He generously assisted the SSBA with many projects, including writing parts of our "Two Crops From One Acre" booklet and co-authoring an article in "Pesticide News", to highlight the benefits of using sheep rather than agrochemicals for weed control. He made an immeasurable contribution to promoting our breed both in Germany and the UK.

### DAVID TORDOFF 1931 - 2011



DAVID spent most of his working life as a large animal vet in practice in Hexham, Northumberland. He loved his job working exceptionally long hours and was renowned for being able to fly around the farms doing twice as many visits as any other vet. He was the senior partner in that practice for many years and that was how I met him, first when seeing practice as a student and then on graduation working for him as an assistant. I admired his work ethic and in many respects he was my role model and taught me much of what I know as a large animal vet.

David had always been a keen sailor and holidays had been sailing around the Western Isles of Scotland or racing a small yacht at the Solway Yacht Club in Dumfries & Galloway. On his retirement more time was spent with boats and he became Commodore of the yacht club. New challenges were needed and after five years of intensive planning, buying a suitable sailing boat - a 23 year old, 40 foot ketch, undertaking numerous courses and becoming fully fledged radio operators, we set off, just the two of us, to sail around the world.

This was perhaps David's greatest achievement and something we were both incredibly proud of. After three years, 50,000 miles and 45 countries we completed our circumnavigation and arrived back in Scotland heralded by a lone piper welcoming on the quayside and masses of family and friends.

The memories of this trip with its wonderful experiences and times of sheer terror lasted to his death. In the last days we sat together watching videos we had taken on our trip and sharing those memories again.

Once back home, foot and mouth hit and after much persuasion David managed to get MAFF (as it was then) to accept him as a TVI. He went back to work full time in Staffordshire and then Cumbria for 6 months until that awful epidemic was brought under control. It was during this time that David realised how much he missed his farm animals, cattle and sheep in particular. We had at the time an acre of land so a few sheep were the obvious choice. We wanted rare or traditional breeds and after visiting the Shimwells, three Shropshire ewe lambs were purchased, quickly followed by three more ewes.

This was the basis of our Hilltop flock, which grew in size as we expanded our acreage, along with Manx Loaghtan sheep, British White cattle and later White Galloway cattle. David also loved Chocolate Labradors and had four in recent years to counteract my Border Collies.

David took great pleasure seeing the flocks and herds develop and he enjoyed showing when he got the chance. He thoroughly enjoyed being "tour guide" for the SSBA's 125th Anniversary, although physical activity became more difficult for him as cancer took hold and then a double knee replacement was required.

He fought cancer bravely for over six years. Most people would have been unaware of what he was going through as it was never mentioned and his outlook was always positive. When his time came he was ready and had his wish to die peacefully at home. My aim now is to carry on with the Shropshires, cattle and dogs, hopefully breeding and showing them as David would have wished.

*Anne Tordoff*

### RAIMUND KOHL 1960 - 2011

JUST occasionally, someone comes into our lives briefly, but leaves an indelible impression. Raimund Kohl was such a man.

Very sadly, as some SSBA members already know, Raimund died in May this year as a result of a tractor accident on his family farm near Gornheimertal in south west Germany.

Raimund loved his family, his farm, his horses, his Christmas trees and his Shropshire sheep. There are many others who knew him better than I did, but I was privileged to meet Raimund on a few occasions and the impression he left was profound.

I was part of a small group from the SSBA



that visited Germany in 2005 to see Shropshires working on Christmas tree farms. Raimund met us soon after we arrived and acted as our guide, translator, coordinator and navigator. Despite coming from a different culture and a different background, Raimund had this wonderful ability to communicate with everyone. His English was perfect, and his knowledge and understanding of farming were amazing. I recall thinking: "this is a truly gifted man".

We visited his beautiful farm - a perfect haven of peace and tranquility. We viewed his Christmas tree plantations and admired his impressive flock of Shropshire sheep. We met his lovely wife, Claudia, and some of his family. Raimund "made" that trip for the whole group. One of the best nights I can remember was when we had supper with Raimund and Claudia in their farmhouse. It was a night of gastronomic excellence, friendship and fun.

Many more SSBA members met Raimund when he visited the UK as part of the 125th anniversary celebrations in 2007. I was able to join the tour and was delighted to see him again.

I've often said that Raimund's immense abilities and talents were only matched by his willingness to give time to others. It was easy to observe the positive way farmers, shepherds, scientists, and colleagues reacted to his presence as we toured the countryside. Over the years, he must have helped an immense number of people connected with the industry in one way or another. His personality and communication skills put everyone at their ease. He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him, and our hearts go out to his family who have suffered this tragic loss.

*Bruce Jobson*

# SHROPSHIRE SHEEP IN FRANCE

AS reported in the Spring *ShropTalk*, Benoit Gille applied to join the SSBA and became the first French Shropshire breeder to belong to our society. To enable formal approval of his stock as being suitable for registration, the SSBA's newly appointed French co-ordinators, Liz Bowles and Les Newman, visited Benoit in Lorraine on 13th and 14th May this year.

The foundation of Benoit's flock has been exports of rams, ewes and ewe lambs from the UK over the past three years, with the addition of homebred shearlings and 2011 lambs at foot. Benoit had detailed breeding records of females born in 2010 and these were inspected by Liz and Les and approved for registration with one exception. Additional management advice was given on foot trimming, tail length, health issues and the qualities desirable for sound breeding stock. In addition a further 16 animals were inspected, all of whom had detailed parentage information available. These were all accepted for registration and have subsequently been registered.

## ACCLIMATISATION

One of the principal reasons encouraging Benoit to join the Society is an order for full pedigree stock that he had received from Switzerland. Benoit's assessment of the decision to choose his stock is that ease of transport, ability to choose, ease of inspection of stock available, and their acclimatisation to European temperatures are the most important factors to the buyers.

Benoit's 2011 lamb crop was not inspected physically but the animals appeared in excellent condition with plenty of grazing and

good mothering. Management problems at tupping in 2010 mean that these lambs cannot be registered as their sire is uncertain. The grading-up procedure was explained to Benoit who will consider retaining some quality ewe lambs for the future. Seven Shropshire rams were on site, five of UK origin. The two homebred rams with full parental records were also inspected and approved for registration.

The sheep are at present based in the village of Forcelles St. Gorgon, south of Nancy, in organic plum orchards owned by Jean-Luc Loisy, with whom Benoit works. Benoit has many years of experience of farming in Africa on an organic basis and is using this experience in Jean-Luc's orchards and other fruit plantations.

## ORCHARDS

Benoit intends to build his Shropshire flock to 300 ewes with Jean-Luc looking to establish a flock of 200 ewes assuming that the Shropshires prove their benefit to the orchards. All is going well at present.

In addition to the fruit orchards and various other businesses, Jean-Luc is chairman of A La Prune Lorraine, the department's growers' co-operative with over 1,500 hectares of plum orchards. He also has a distillery on his premises producing eau de vie from the Mirabelle fruit and also processing other fruit to produce various spirits. The major market is French patisseries for flavouring their creations.

There seem to be long-term opportunities for UK breeders to supply quality Shropshire sheep to Benoit, Jean-Luc and possibly many other growers in the area.



Liz and Les were provided with typical French hospitality and thank Benoit and Jean-Luc for showing them their enterprises.

Liz and Les's travelling expenses were fully reimbursed by Benoit, and he also generously presented them with several bottles of eau de vie, which Liz and Les brought to the Sansaw BBQ on 1<sup>st</sup> July. The gift was then shared with many other members of the breed society, who enjoyed the complimentary "shots" of this liqueur that were handed around.

## 2011 FRENCH EXPORT UPDATE

Another consignment of 100 British Shropshire ewe lambs and 4 ram lambs with the ARR/ARR scrapie genotype has been purchased by Benoit this year. The animals are due to leave the UK in September. Breeders supplying the order will be shearing their lambs at least a month before the departure date, as this will help them to adapt to the warmer conditions in France.

*Pictured from left to right: Les Newman, Benoit Gille and Jean-Luc Loisy.*



## NATIONAL SHOW AND SALE (EAST) AT MELTON MOWBRAY 9TH AND 10TH SEPT

ON-LINE entries for this national show and sale of Shropshires close on 5th August (paper entries closed on 29th July). Entries can be made via Grassroots Systems' website: [www.grassroots.co.uk/melton.html](http://www.grassroots.co.uk/melton.html)

The Shropshire show and sale is part of a larger Traditional Native Breeds Event at the market. The organisers expect to have entries from 11 different breeds of cattle and 22 breeds of sheep.

Showing classes for Shropshires, judged by Peter Bird, will commence at 2pm on Friday. The sale of female sheep commences at 10.30am on Saturday (off boards) and the sale of rams through the ring starts at 12 noon.

Please note the upset (minimum) prices which are mandatory:

Ewe lambs: 100gns

Shearling ewes: 150gns

Ram lambs: 140gns

Shearling rams: 200gns

Older ewes and rams at the vendor's discretion. Vendors may, of course, set higher reserve prices for their animals.

## RBST SHOW AND SALE, STONELEIGH

THE Rare Breeds Survival Trust is organising a new show and sale for cattle, sheep and pigs at Rugby Farmers Market, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire on 30th September. For more information, call Simon Draper on 024 7669 7731 or 07774 723758.

## SSBA WEBSITE UPDATES

DON'T forget that you can change your sales register entry on our website, or submit any other material for inclusion on the site throughout the year.

Updates are made once a month by our Secretary, Simon Mackay, and the deadline is the 5th of each month. News and information approved by the editing committee will then go on-line within the following 14 days.

Please keep your sales register entry up-to-date as it is frustrating for buyers if entries are inaccurate.

## SHOW POINTS COMPETITIONS

ENTRY forms for the SSBA's four trophies awarded for show-ring successes can now be downloaded from the SSBA's website. If you need a form to be sent by post, please contact Simon Mackay. The rules are provided on the entry forms.

Junior Members should note that they must show their own sheep in order to claim points for the Hornpipe Quaiche.

Completed forms must be sent to the Awards Officer, Anne Harvey, by 30th September. No late entries will be accepted.

## SHOWING SUBSIDY

SSBA members who exhibit their sheep at shows running for two or more days can claim a subsidy from the breed society to help with entry fees and travel expenses. The subsidy is £5/head for two-day shows and £10/head for longer shows. Claim forms can be downloaded from the SSBA's website or obtained from the Secretary. The closing date for claims is 31st August. Forms should be sent to the SSBA's Treasurer. No late entries will be accepted.

## NEW MEMBER'S SHOW SUCCESSES



SIX-year-old Efa Jones (pictured left) had such fun showing two bottle-fed Shropshire lambs that her parents, Robin and Meinir, decided to invest in a small flock of Shropshires especially for her.

One of the ewe lambs they purchased from Hannah Power earlier this year won her class at Dyffryn Ogwen show. Teamed up with the bottle-fed lambs, Efa had a very successful group of three which went on to be awarded the reserve championship for rare breeds.

At Caernarfon she showed a shearling ram, Watsdyke Rhys, bred by Brian Higgins of Penyffordd, Flintshire. Rhys won his class, as did the ewe lamb, and this time she went on to take the overall Sheep Championship.

Efa also entered the junior handler's class with the ram and came second.

"Efa is a shy girl, - after all she is only six," says her father. "But she has absolutely no worries about showing the sheep in front of complete strangers. She has a very natural way with all animals."

Efa's parents keep Hebridean and Badgerface sheep on their farm near Porthmadog in Gwynedd. We wonder how long it will take Efa to convert them entirely to Shropshires? Not long, perhaps, if those show successes keep coming. Congratulations Efa!

## SHROPSHIRE LAMB GETS THE THUMBS UP

MANY members of the SSBA get very positive feedback about the quality and taste of Shropshire lamb. The breed society is currently designing some promotional material to help members sell-in their lamb and mutton to local butchers and food outlets.

Claire Jakeman from Cheshire was recently contacted by her local butcher, Martin Platt. His response to her lambs shows the potential that is out there for marketing good quality local meat.

Martin said: "I have been watching Shropshires grow in popularity. Due to a change in direction of how I want my business to run in respect of supporting local producers and being able to have traceability, quality and a reduced carbon footprint, I feel that stocking Shropshire lamb is the way forward. I asked local breeders Claire and Graham Jakeman if they would be interested in supplying lamb. I was extremely impressed when I went to select my first draw of lambs. They were well-covered, with good depth of loin, gigot and good weights. My customers are already making positive comments about taste and I look forward to receiving my next lambs."



## SHEEP TRIMMING WORKSHOP

EIGHT members of the SSBA participated in the trimming workshop on the 4th June, organised by Pippa Geddes, with assistance from Simon Mackay. The venue was Haston Farm on the Sansaw Estate in Shropshire, by kind permission of James Thompson. Lambs for trimming practice were also kindly provided by James from his Sansaw Flock.

The day started with a demonstration from Chris Crowther (pictured right), who has trimmed sheep for the show-ring for more than 30 years. Chris explained what to look for in a good show animal, and demonstrated carding and trimming techniques and "the system" for trimming a lamb to enhance its best features.

Then it was time for everyone to roll up their sleeves and have a go themselves. As Chris said: the best way to learn is to keep practicing.

Equipment was loaned to some trainees, while others had brought their own. Brand new trimming shears, carders and headstalls were also available to purchase on the day.

Feedback from the workshop has been very positive and the breed society may organise another trimming day next year if there is sufficient demand.

The SSBA members who signed up for the experience this year were: Jeanette Hares, Andy Heath, Barry Hodson, Trevor Lightfoot, Simon Mackay, Charlie Morgan-Jones, Daz Peate and Peter Tavernor.



## SOUTH WEST OPEN-DAY



Council members Liz Bowles and Monique Hustinx held a successful open day in Devon on 25<sup>th</sup> June, taking in Shropshire sheep from the Hayne Oak and Sidedowns Flocks. Breeders were treated to a visit to one of the highest points in the area (around 900 feet above sea level) to see a group of 100 Shropshire ewes and 70 weaned ewe lambs. After lunch Pauline Bowles demonstrated the art of preparation for showing using a Sidedowns ram lamb as the guinea pig. This was the first open day for Shropshire breeders held in the South West, and Liz says there will be another one next year. Details will be posted in *ShropTalk* nearer the time.

### DIARY DATE

The Annual General Meeting of the SSBA will be on **Saturday 12th November** at **Sandwell Park Farm, West Bromwich** (just off junction 1 of the M5) **Please support your breed society by attending**

## A GREAT RECEPTION FOR SHROPSHIRE AT THE BALMORAL SHOW



IN May this year, the SSBA took a display stand to the Balmoral Show in Belfast. This was the first time in the history of our breed society that Shropshires have been formally promoted at this leading agricultural event. It is so popular that it took Breed Stand Officer, Barry Hodson, two years to persuade the organisers to let in a new trade exhibitor.

Helping Barry on the stand were our NI and Eire Coordinators, Jean Jones and Pat Delaney, along with Alistair Jones, Dolway McCorry, David Kenwell, Claire Jakeman and Simon Mackay.

The SSBA's team reported that there was great interest in Shropshires and overwhelming enthusiasm for the breed. The whole atmosphere was so positive for the agricultural and food industry, and the SSBA hopes to become a regular exhibitor at this major show.

*Pictured left are Claire Jakeman, Jean Jones and (on the far right) Pat Delaney - all at work on behalf of the SSBA.*