

Having supported the Solway and Tyne Texel Breeders Club sale for over 30 years, it was great to see The Bradley Family's, Bradleys flock from Lancashire, top the sale in their best day ever in the ring.

Ryan Bradleys' Bradley's Eubank took the top price of 70,000gns, when selling in a three-way split to Proctors, Sportsmans and Knockem Flocks. Eubank is a son of the ram lamb they bought for 10,000gns last year, Craig Douglas Dancer. The ram has performed exceptionally well in both the Far Hey and Bradleys flocks, with a full brother taking the championship and 7000gns at the Scottish National sale recently.

Two lambs made the second top price of 30,000 gns. Cressage Epicentre, from Matthew Ellis, was second in the Texel Plus class prior to the sale, then sold to Vaughan Farms, of Herefordshire. He is by the 12,000gns Mellor Vale Dakota and out of a Scholars bred ewe, which was also in the breeding of Cressage Enforcer, which also made 30,000gns at Lanark.

While the Bradley Family had been showing at the sale for 30 years, James Porter, from Knock Cross, Penrith, showed that the door is open to anyone producing quality stock, to get the price they deserve.

In his first year entered at Carlisle and with only seven ewes in the flock, he sold Saltcotes E Class for 30,000gns to Allan Blackwood, Auldhouseburn, Muirkirk. Another by Craig Douglas Dancer, the same sire as the top pricer, he is out of home bred ewe by Knock Alligator, which won second price at the Texel online show in 2020.

Kenny Pratt, of the Hilltop flock, in Aberdeenshire, saw his top price to date of 16,000gns for a son of Castlecairn Diamond Vision out of a Garngour Alabama ewe. He attracted a lot of pre-sale attention and finally sold in a six-way split to local North of England flocks, Saltcotes, Far Hay, Bradleys, Stainton, Gib Farm and Stonehills.

Feddal Road Easypeasy, from Alan Smith's flock based near Dunblane, attracted the attention on the Ingram Family, of Logie Durno, who paid 14,000gns and a new top price for Alan, to take him north to Aberdeenshire. He is by Ellen Valley Dazzler out of a home bred ewe by the also home bred stock ram, Boss Hogg.

Having watched the progeny of one of his Craig Douglas rams take top price, the pre-sale judge, Steven Renwick, backed his decision by purchasing his champion, Proctors Einstien, a son of the world record holding 350,000gns Sportsmans Double Diamond out of a ewe by Teiglum Young Gun. Proctors Eye Catcher, another Double Diamond lamb. then realised 9000gns from the same pen, this time selling jointly to the Clarks, Castlecairn, Holylee and Knockem flocks.

Not to be outdone, Jennifer Aitken, the other half of the successful Proctors team saw her own Consiton Equinox, the same way bred as Proctors Eye Catcher, sell to Donald MacPherson's Hexel Flock, also for 10,000gns. Tom Morgan's Morwood Eurostar, by the 32,000gns Garngour Detroit and out of a Clinterty Yogi Bear ewe, sold in a three-way split to Usk Vale, Partridge Nest and Hope Valley.

Hexel Emoji did the business for Donald MacPherson's Hexel flock, from Berwick, when he sold to Euros Jones' Ynystoddeb Flock for 8000gns. By the highly successful stock ram Haymount Crackerjack, which had previously bred lambs to 38,000gns, his dam is a full sister to the 65,000gns Hexel Django. Bruce and Fletcher Renwick, Castlecairn, sold Castlecairn Eye of The Tiger, a Sportsmans Cannon Ball son out of a Midlock Ali Baa Baa ewe in a joint purchase by Euan MacTaggart, Rascarrel, and Alan Campbell, Strawfrank. Top price in the shearling ring was 8000gns which was reached twice. First, was Yarrow Diamond from Norman and David Douglas, Catslackburn, Yarrow when he sold jointly to Messrs Watson and Co's Brijon flock, at Berwick and Ian Murray's Glenway flock, based in Lowick. Diamond is by Craig Douglas Alonso and out of a home bred ewe by Yarrow Yazza.

Peacehay Dance Monkey, travelled all the way from Somerset, to realise 8000gns for his owner Frank Chave, selling to Messrs Smith, of Hawick. He is by Mullan Armani out of the flock's home-bred show ewe by Peacehay Untouchable.

In the female section, Charlie and Steph Boden's Sportsmans flock took the top price of 7000gns, with a gimmer by Garngour Craftsman out of a Knap Vicious Sid daughter, selling to Messrs Castle, Washingley, Peterborough. The Boden family then sold another, this time by Teiglum Young Gun, to John Sinnet, Weatherall, Carlisle for 4000gns.

After nearly 50 years in the breed, it was time for Keith Jamieson to hang up his crook with his long-established and well-known Annan flock. Leading the way in this outstanding dispersal was the first in the ring, a Proctors Crackerjack daughter out of a Knock Yardsman ewe. She sold for 6500gns to join the Sportsmans flock. Following on was a bid of 5500gns for a daughter of Midlock Avici, which sold to The Campbell Family, Cowal Flock, Lochgoilhead. The adult part of the flock was sold last year but there was a huge interest in this year's gimmers, which were forward at the sale. While the record-breaking Sportsmans Double Diamond is currently making a big influence of the breed, it was his namesake Annan Double Diamond who, arguably, was most influential in the breed in the early days. The Annan flock has been a foundation for many flocks over the years and the time and energy put into,

not only his own flock but that of others, with the help of his late wife Margaret and Robin and Margaret Hope, all of whom are sadly no longer with us.

Keith was and still is the go to for many generations breeders. Young and old have been helped on their way, particularly after FMD, when he himself lost so much. He has always been there for a laugh and a cuddle for the girls and I know of no one who has ever had a bad word to say about the man.

He is clever, quick witted and genuine and no one can ask for more than that in a friend and breeder. I am glad that he will doubtless be carrying on as normal for a bit yet with the ewe and ram lambs still to come next year and we will all no doubt look forward to another spectacular show of Annan stock.

A huge well done from all of us old and young and looking forward to a whisky and a cuddle some time soon.

Averages: (2020)

2 Aged Rams	£997.50
183 Shearling Rams	£1155.53 (179
294 Lamb Rams	£1687.21
62 Shearling Gimmers	£863.54
3 Ewe Lambs	£472.50
18 Annan Females	£2275.00
32 Galloway & Clantibuies Females	£438.05