

SOLWAY AND TYNE CLUB FIRST SALE REPORT

Auctioneers: Harrison and Hetherington

averages:

193 shearling rams, £805.34 (-£156.39 for six more sold); 278 ram lambs, £1900.00 (+£431.20 for 25 more).

History was made at the Solway and Tyne Texel Breeders' Club Show and Sale at Carlisle, last week, when Sportsmans Flock became the first to sell two animals – of any breed – at six-figure prices.

Following on from the family's 130,000gns sale last year at Lanark for the Texel lamb, Sportsmans A Star, was Sportsmans Batman, the popular pre-sale champion that made 100,000gns The Bowden Family when he sold to Procters fMossock from House Farm, Wennington, Lancs.

The mid-March lamb is the result of flush from a home-bred ewe by the 145,000gns Knap Vicious Sid and sired by Garngour Alabama, the 40,000gns lamb bought here last year in partnership with four other breeders. With other Sportsmans lambs selling for 3100gns, 3500gns and 4100gns, the Bodens also picked up the leading flock average of £29,164 for four.

The Bodens also sold the second top priced shearling ram at 3400gns to Messrs Jenkinson, Whinfellpark, Penrith. Sportsmans Atomic, the third prize tup at the pre-sale show is by Pant Wolf and out of another home-bred ewe by Vicious Sid.

Outwith the 100,000gns, which added £360 to the overall average, a flying trade for the top end of breeders' sheep saw a further six lots sell at five-figures. Such was the demand for the best, that averages improved by £71 per head and for 25 more sold – without the six-figure topper.

Next best, at 30,000gns, was the second prize recorded lamb, Claybury Basic Instinct, an ET from Robert Draper and son, James' 40-ewe flock from Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury. A son of the 4400gns shearling, Strathbogie Yogi, bought here last year, bred from a home-bred Stainton Vantage II-sired gimmer, he headed home with Paul and Christine Tippetts, Wilodge, Shifnal, Shropshire.

The Clark family from Garngour, Lesmahagow, had another cracking day with lamb sales at 24,000gns and 8000gns for sons of the 1600gns Ettrick Yom Kippur, a Douganhill Vital Spark son owned by Willie Fleming.

The former, Teiglum Braveheart, a late March-born ET from a ewe by Teiglum Windfall, sold in a five-way split to Robert Bennett, Plasucha, Meifod, Powys; Bryden Nicolson, Knockem, Duns; Neil and Stuart Barclay, Harestone, Banchory; Bruce Renwick, Castlecairn, Kelso; and Messrs Teward, New View, Darlington, Co Durham.

Selling at 8000gns was Teiglum Bandana, another March-born lamb this time bred from a ewe by Knock Yardsman that is a full sister to last year's 40,000gns Garngour Alabama and Garngour Al Capone. Fourth prize recorded lamb, he sold to veteran breeder, Sandy Lee, buying for his small Fordafourie flock, in Fraserburgh.

Earlier in the day Fordafourie got the sale off to a great start when Fordafourie Big Ben, made 16,000gns selling to John Forsyth, for the Glenside flock at Maybole. An ET brother to the 12,000gns Fordafourie Balvenie sold at Lanark, he is the result of a flush from a Deveronvale gimmer by Garngour Ultimatum that has bred sons to 24,000gns, fertilised by semen from Fachell Victor.

Aberdeenshire breeders, Kenny Pratt, Hilltop, Peterculter, and Jim Innes, Strathbogie, Huntly, then went to 18,000gns for the fifth prize tup lamb, Knap Blazing Star, from Robert Cockburn, Hill of Errol, Errol.

Bred from one of the best ewes in the flock, this lamb is a maternal brother to 6200gns and 3400gns females while maternal brothers have peaked at 4000gns. Blazing Star is by Knap Alligator, a tup retained for breeding by Procters Yankee.

Hugh and Alan Blackwood's run of success for sons of the 130,000gns Sportsmans A Star from their Auldhouseburn flock, at Muirkirk, also continued with sales at 15,000gns and 8000gns.

The former, Auldhouseburn Bolt, bred from a home-bred ewe by Glenside Willie Winkie, that goes back to the 7500gns Ettrick Ennis, was knocked down to Peter Woof, Stainton, Kendal; Rob Pierce, Oldfield, Pulford, Chester; Ryan Bradley, Far Hey, Barnoldswick, Lancs; Richard Wilson, Eden Valley, Appleby; and Messrs Bradley, Colne, Lancs.

John Sherratt, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, bought the 8000gns lamb, Auldhouseburn Bacardi, bred from a 3800gns Teiglum gimmer by Castlecairn Vavavoom, purchased in 2016.

Some top genetics were behind Albert and George Howie's Knock Bantastic, a son of the 24,000gns Allanfauld Am The Man, from Stuartsfield, Fraserburgh, which made 12,000gns during the final 10 minutes of the sale!

The Clarks from Garngour; Steven Renwick, Craig Douglas, Peebles; and Allan and Karen Wight, Midlock, Crawford, forked out the cash for this entry bred from a home-bred ewe by Sportsmans Trojan II that is a grand-daughter of the flock's 5034 ewe by Anglezarke Krug that has bred more than £300,000 worth of progeny.

Sons of Plasucha All Star, which bred sons to 8000gns and 7000gns at Lanark for Donald and Ewen Macpherson's Hexel flock, from Berwick upon Tweed, again proved popular with a top sale of 9000gns paid for Hexel Blockbuster.

Bred from a home-bred Sportsmans Trojan II ewe, he was knocked down to Bruce and Ali McKerrow's Grougfoot flock, Bo-ness; Alan Cullen, Craighead, Carluke; Cammie Gauld, Cairnam, Auchterarder; and Kerr Jarvie, Duncryne, Muthill, Crieff.

On the other side of the coin, Hexel forked out the same money for the first prize recorded lamb and reserve champion, Procters Bobby Dazzler, from Procters Farm. Male champion at the Great Yorkshire, this substitute is by the 10,000gns Milnbank American Sniper and out of a ewe by Tophill Union Jack that is a full sister to the 8000gns Procters Vagabond.

A decidedly lacklustre trade for shearlings peaked at 4000gns for Mershott Amazon, from the Gordon Brooke Estate, Upper Huntlywood, Earlston. He is by Roxburgh Yorkie, a tup sold at Kelso for £2600, out of a ewe by Teiglum Utah. Messrs Robinson, Welshpool, were the buyers.

In an all-Ireland transaction, the first prize shearling from Henry Gamble, Groomsport Bangor, Co Down, made 3200gns selling to Messrs Myles, Ballyshannon, Donegal. He is by Sportsmans Yogi Bear and out of a Bradleys Underworld ewe.

Just behind, on 3100gns, Alan and Hazel Smith, Crumhaughhill, Hawick, bought Peacehay A Star, a Clarks Wizard son out of a ewe by Cennan Magnum that is a daughter of the dam of the 11,500gns Peacehay Razzle Dazzle, from FH Chave and Son, Peacehay, Wellington, Somerset.

The previous evening saw a good trade for quality gimmers.

73 gimmers, £1219.44 (+£258.01 for four more sold); 19 ewe lambs, £412.26 (-£200.82 for one more).

Robert Forsyth's Baltier flock, from Whithorn, topped the gimmer trade, having sold the top priced lot last year at 9500gns, his pen leader this time made 16,000gns selling to Messrs Teward, buying for their New View flock from Staindrop, Darlington, Co Durham. Female champion at last month's Wigtown Show, and maternal sister to a 5000gns gimmer and a 3400gns tup lamb, she is bred from a home-bred ewe by the retained stock ram, Baltier Rocksolid and sired by Milnbank Womaniser.

Baltier also received 4500gns for an ET sister to the 16,000gns entry, purchased by Kenny Pratt, buying for his Hilltop flock, from Oldtown, Peterculter, Aberdeen, with Mr Forsyth's pen of four cashing in at £6431.

Keith Jamieson's Annan flock, from Dumfriesshire, produced the second top priced gimmer at 6000gns, when a great grand daughter of the mother of Annan Jewel – a tup that dominated the breed in the late 1990s – was bought by Stephen Cobbald, Acton, Suffolk. His purchase is a Knock Yardsman daughter, out of a ewe by Strathbogie Terminator.

Strathbogie Terminator was also the sire of the dam of Stuart Barclay's first prize gimmer at the pre-sale show, which made 4000gns selling to Ken Hodge, of Greenarch Texels, Mosslane, Cheshire. This entry from the Harestone flock, from Inch, is by Haymount Windsor.

Selling across the Irish Sea, the fourth prize gimmer from the Clark family, from Garngour, Lesmahagow, made 3400gns to Messrs Leitch, Castlederg, Co Tyrone. This Teiglum entry is by Fordafourie Young Star and bred from a Ryders Unit daughter.

Other Leading Prices

Ram lambs

7500gns – Douganhill Farms' Douganhill Bees Knees, by Procters Abracadabra, to Messrs MacTaggart, Rascarrel, Castle Douglas.

7000gns – G Gray's Ettrick Bet Fred, by Usk Vale Albatross, to W Knox, Mid Haddo, Turriff and B Buchan, Clinterty, Fraserburgh.

6500gns – EG Morgan's Blaencar Bandit, by Eden Valley Wiz Kid, to Messrs Howells, Llandysul, Dyfed and Messrs Morgan, Brecon, Powys.

5500gns – RH Wilson's Milnbank Brisbane, by Holylee Acrobat, to Messrs Jones, Corwen, Clwyd.

Shearling rams

3000gns – RN and C Orr's Halbeath Atom, by Cambwell trademark, to Messrs Jenkinson, Penrith; A McColm's Crailloch Agassi, by Procters Wildcard, to Messrs Riby, Bridlington, East Yorkshire.