**Steady trade at 2016 Society sales**

The 2016 Southdown Sheep Society sales at Ashford, Worcester and Melton Mowbray saw a steady trade with pedigree and commercial buyers being selective in their purchases. The trade for females of all ages was encouraging.

**ASHFORD**

Heading up the trade at 400gns at the Society’s opening sale of the season was the pre-sale champion, Goodwood 15/05201, a son of Ridings 11/00701 out of a homebred Goodwood ewe, who headed home to Kent with the Mannering family.

Making the same money was a pair of shearling ewes from the Ridings flock of Messrs Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer. The first of these was Ridings 15/03058, a daughter of East Dean 11/00448, selling to Megan Chilcott, Somerset. The second ewe, Ridings 15/03056, a daughter of the homebred Ridings 11/00701 out of an imported French ram, was sold to the same buyer.

Selling at 360gns was a Goodwood shearling ewe by a Southern Cross sire and out of a homebred dam. She sold to Nigel Barrington-Fuller, Clacton-on-Sea. At 300gns was another Goodwood gimmer, this time by Ladywell 12/00095 out of a homebred dam. She sold to Messrs G and M Sparke, Hertfordshire.

Close behind this was at 330gns was a shearling ram from Goodwood Estate, Goodwood 15/07391. He sold to Messrs O’Kane, Headcorn, Kent;

Also at this price was a Ridings shearling ewe, Ridings 15/03064, which headed home to Somerset with Megan Chilcott.

Three found new homes at 300gns, with the first being the female and reserve overall champion, a ewe lamb from the Long family’s Chaileybrook flock. This was Chaileybrook 16/00022, a daughter of the homebred Chaileybrook 13/00001 out of a homebred dam. She was bought by Celeste and Florence McKeague, Ayrshire.

The next two at this price were shearling ewes from the Ridings flock, Ridings 15/03146 and Ridings 15/03140, both bought by Megan Chilcott.

Selling at 280gns was Southern Cross 15/00649 from Messrs Whitcombe, Surrey. This shearling ram by Langford 12/00134 and out of a homebred dam was sold to Peter & Anne-Marie Payne, Hertfordshire.

The reserve male champion and leading ram lamb of the day was Chaileybrook 16/00002, from the Long family. Sired by the imported sire TC10187 and out of a homebred ewe, he for 275gns to Ray Edwards, Devon.

**WORCESTER**

At Worcester trade peaked at 310gns for the pre-sale Show champion Prescoed Harebell, a shearling ewe from Howard Wood’s Pontypool based flock, secured by S Welton, Ledbury, Herefordshire.

The same purchaser took home a total of five sheep including two other shearling ewes from the Prescoed flock at 205gns and 190gns respectively.

Senior flock ewes were closely followed, selling to 150gns for a three year old ewe from Robert Backshall’s Caesars flock going to P Geary, Milton Keynes, Bucks, to start a new flock.

Ewe lambs enjoyed a brisk demand topping at 170gns for the first prize winner from D, S and P Humphrey’s East Dean flock, selling to P Geary. The second prize ewe lamb from Howard Wood, sold at the same price to H Williams, Llandeilo, Carms.

Shearling rams were a selective trade and topped at 300gns, again from H Wood, Prescoed for his second prize winner taken by G E and S J Mann, Loughborough, Leics.

**MELTON MOWBRAY**

The final sale of the year took place at Melton Mowbray as part of the Traditional Native Breeds Show and Sale. A good number of breeders, both new and of long-standing, ensured that bidding was brisk and interest was high. Trade for all females was excellent: aged ewes, shearling ewes and ewe lambs all sold and competition was keen with breeders determined to take home females from the last of the season’s sales.

Taking top price of the day was a shearling ewe from Alison Allen, Norfolk. Marshland 15/00344 is sired by Goodwood Bentley 12/01382, out of a homebred Marshland ewe, and sold for 400gns to G Hill, Tamworth, Staffs.

Show champion was a shearling ewe from the East Dean flock of D, S and P Humphrey, East Dean 15/02359, sired by a home bred tup, East Dean 14/01744, and out of a home bred ewe. This ewe was purchased by Loraine Clements for 350gns.

Reserve champion was a shearling ram bred by Sophie Arlott, Montecristo 15/15081. This ram is sired by Ridings 13/01453, out of a homebred ewe. He was sold for 370gns to H Wilson, Stamford, Lincs.

Ewe lambs were much in demand. Taking first prize in the pre-sale competition was a ewe lamb from D, S and P Humphrey, East Dean 16/02887, sired by Montecristo 15/15088, out of an Ashmole ewe, which sold to new member Debbie Geary, Olney, Bucks, for the top ewe lamb price of 160gns.

Buyers were selective when it came to the ram lambs on offer. Top price was paid for the first prize winner, Caer Owen 16/00020, from Lynne Rowlands of Anglesey, which then headed back home to Wales with Dylan Williams of Cilau Aeron, Ceredigeon. WHAT PRICE?

In the aged rams the top price of 360gns was achieved for Wigginton Freddie 12/00019, bred by Gay Hargreaves Jones and sold by Loraine Clements. This four year old ram, sired by East Dean Hector 05/0297 and out of Buckland Dolly 04/0004, headed home to join the Caer Owen flock of Lynne Rowlands.

**AVERAGES**

**Ashford:** aged rams £215.20, shearling rams £273, ram lambs £202.65, shearling ewes £283.50, ewe lambs £196.35 (Hobbs Parker).

**Worcester:** 6 senior ewes £149.62, 3 shearling ewes £246.75, 6 ewe lambs £168.87, 1 aged ram £126.00, 4 shearling rams £225.75, 2 ram lambs £136.50 (McCartneys)

**Melton Mowbray:** 3 aged ewes 238 guineas, 15 shearling ewes 240 guineas, 8 ewe lambs 148 guineas, 1 aged ram 360 guineas, 5 shearling rams 274 guineas, 3 ram lambs 173 guineas.