**Southdown National Premier Sale at Worcester**

The 2020 National Southdown Sale at Worcester took place on August 8th in compliance with strict Covid-19 guidelines and restrictions. There was no pre-sale show, but breeders gathered, at the appropriate social distance, to bid keenly for the animals that were presented for sale. Further breeders chose to place their bids via telephone.

The Premier Sale saw a top price of 820gns for a shearling ram from Jonathan Long’s Chaileybrook flock, Bishops Frome, Herefordshire.

Chaileybrook 19/00563 is by homebred sire Chaileybrook 13/0001 which was reserve champion at the 2015 National Show and carries French breeding on both sides. Buying him and a further two tups from the Chaileybrook pen at 600gns and 500gns were Roger and Tom Elliott for their commercial flock Brockhall, Northamptonshire.

Next best with a call of 700gns was Brant 19/00635 from Sid Cook, Brant Broughton, Lincolnshire. This one is homebred on both sides and carries Wattisfield breeding on the dam side. He sold to Jean-Claude and Isabelle Thomas, Les Archers, Le Chatelet, France, who sought him out on the strength of his pure English bloodlines. This ram will head to France later this autumn to work in the Thomas family’s pedigree flock, once he has passed relevant health tests.

Leading the females on offer at 380gns was a shearling ewe from Georgina Helyer’s Langford flock, Salisbury, Wiltshire. This one is by Goodwood Chas and out of a homebred ewe by a Southern Cross sire. Taking this one was J F Abbott, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Best of the ewe lambs was a call of 350gns for the sole entry from Nick Page’s Pilly Green flock. This one is by a Ridings sire out of an East Dean ewe and sold to Andrew and Emma Bishop, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

Sale leader in the ram lamb section at 300gns was Sheepcote Everard from Ben Slack and Katy Gibson, Ashbourne, Derbyshire. By Holly Bar Rascal, this one is out of a homebred ewe by Lincwold Prince II. Taking this one home was Patrick Goldsworthy, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

***Averages: 6 flock ewes £150.50; 26 shearling ewes £239.07; 11 ewe lambs £233-86; 6 shearling rams £567; 3 ram lambs £252 (McCartneys, Worcester).***

***IMAGES:***

***Southdown-lot77-820gns-0198.jpg***

Leading trade for Southdowns at Worcester on Saturday was the 820gns shearling ram from Jonathan Long’s Chaileybrook flock.

***Southdown-lot75-700gns-Brant 19/00635, shearling ram***

***Southdown-lot123-350gns-Pilly Green ewe lamb***