

The Cotswold Sheep Society Show and Sale

Cirencester Market 01/08/09

On Saturday 1st August 2009 the Cotswold Sheep Society held their annual Society sale under the umbrella of the Rare and Traditional Breeds Show and Sale at Cirencester Market. Judith Wilkie and Derek Cross kindly card graded the entries for the show which took place on the Friday afternoon. The standard of the sheep was high, only 4 blue cards were awarded, and no yellow cards, this left a good number of red cards for Bob Palmer to judge.

There was a particularly strong entry of shearling ewes, with sheep from the Harford, Tingewick and Kespar flocks. The number of sheep to handlers meant that the ewes were allowed to free range in the ring for a short while before they were all recaptured, with remarkable panache, for closer inspection. The winner of this class was Steve Parkes's Kespar Gloria, with Mrs Pat Quinn's Harford Ewe C10732 second. Third was Davina Stanhope's Tingewick Tapestry, and Kespar Geena was fourth.

The Ewe Lamb class was made up of five nice Tingewick lambs. First prize went to Tingewick Emma, with Tingewick Lila in second place and Tingewick Francesca in third. Tingewick Emma was then named Show Champion with Steve Parkes's Kespar Gloria as Reserve Champion.

The weather forecast for Saturday certainly did not look encouraging, and those flock keepers who bravely spent the night in their trailers or vans, later reported that they had had little sleep owing to the torrential rain pounding down on their vehicle roofs all night. As the market gates opened however, an encouraging stream of trailers and cars began to arrive in spite of the continuing unrelenting rain.

More sheep arrived for the sale and had to be card graded; again these were of a generally high standard.

At twelve o'clock, after the poultry sale had been completed, it was the turn of the Cotswold sheep. Davina Stanhope's shearling ram, Tingewick Cadfael, achieved 200 guineas, the highest price paid for a Cotswold at the sale. The shearling ewes averaged 122 guineas each, with the highest price paid being 145 guineas. Davina Stanhope's Show Champion ewe lamb, Tingewick Emma, achieved 130 guineas, the highest price paid for a lamb.

The most encouraging aspect of the day was however, that as a result of the sale several new Cotswold flocks have been founded, and their owners have become members of the Society. At a time of recession, and when the entire sheep industry faces major challenges, this must surely be encouraging news.



Bob Palmer judging



Good support around the sale ring with keen bidders



With more sheep available to judge that handlers to hold them a little free range judging took place