

ATTENTION TO DETAIL ENSURES CONTINUED SUPPORT AT SANDYKNOWE

The annual on farm sale of performance recorded Sandyknowe Suffolk rams, attracted buyers old and new to Malcolm Stewart's Brotherstone Farm near Melrose. The flock, which was established in 1957, has been performance recorded for 47 years. The 150 ewes are run on a commercial basis with an emphasis on hardiness, enabling all ewes to lamb outdoors, with the exception of the triplets. It's this attention to detail which ensures the demand for the Sandyknowe sheep.

Top price of the day was 1800gns, for a shearling with an index of 422 and all EBV's well above average. He is by the outstanding stock sire Sandyknowe Tweed 14-1 who himself has an EBV of 435 and is out of a Sandyknowe Tweed 10-1 ewe. He sold to regular buyer, Charles Fuggle, East Sussex.

Another regular buyer, Alistair McKenzie, made the journey from Upper Whitebog, Fortrose, Ross Shire, to purchase one the same way bred and again out of a Tweed 10-1 ewe. He had an index of 448 and sold for 1600gns.

Three lots made the 1000gns mark, with the first from the flock's Yarrow family to J & E Logan, Pirntaton Farmhouse, Stow, Galashiels. Another local buyer, W Barr & Co, Thirlestane, Lauder took one from the flock's Leader family, this time by Yarrow 14-2 and the third 1000gns bid saw a son of Leader 14-2 go to Miles Wise, Pearce Bridge Yorkshire.

The 40 sheep sold averaged £632