

LONG TERM STRATEGY PAYS DIVIDENDS

The long-term breeding programme, introduced at Brotherstone Farm, Melrose, some 10 years ago, dedicated to producing rams with longevity and growth from grass, paid off this week for Malcolm Stewart's Sandyknowe Suffolks, at his annual on-farm sale.

A 100% clearance of the 47 rams forward, produced an average of £888 with a top of £5000. "I couldn't be more pleased." said Malcom. "We could have sold another 10 rams and we had another mini-sale later in the house. It isn't often that you have 120% sale clearance!" he quipped.

The reputation of the flock over the last few years has grown steadily. The select breed lines, which are able to produce rams under commercial conditions, have seen the quality of stock forward develop and enable them to produce easily fleshed lambs off grass, while retaining their own condition and exceptional longevity. This year's sale attracted around 300 people to the farm, on the night before Kelso Ram Sales, with **prospective** purchasers arriving from late morning onwards, from all over the UK and as far away as Southern Ireland and Germany.

The top price of the day was Lot 10 in the ring, which sold for £5000 to W C Ingram's well renowned Logie Durno flock at Pitcaple, Aberdeenshire. He is Sandyknowe Tweed 18:1 and is by last year's £2600 Sandyknowe Tweed 17:1. His figures show an outstanding growth rate which is translated into his lambs. Semen from 18:1 has already been sold to the Ram Compare Scheme.

Next was Lot 20, Sandyknowe Teviot 18:1, which is by Sandyknowe Leader 17:1. A three way bid of £3800 saw him shared by local breeders C & D Hall, Lilyburn, Penicuik A Lambie & Sons, Fallhills, Penicuik and N & M Stuart Loanstone Mains, Penicuik . His sire, Sandyknowe Leader 17:1 sold for £1600 in 2018

Charlie and Matt Harding of the Bentely Flock came all the way from Nuneaton, Warwickshire and paid £3,800 for their choice Sandyknowe Y:13 another by Leader 17:1

Auctioneer: Scott Lambie