

Lockerbie Grading and Show 2025 24th August 2025

The threat of Bluetongue down south in England had us Scottish breeders very worried for most of our show season over whether we would even be able to attend Blacknose Beauties 2025. As with all Valais breeders we had spent well over 6 months, since the previous year in fact, organising our flocks, planning, tupping and shearing accordingly to be ready for the usual August dates and Blacknose Beauties 2025. We had, of course, had a grading in Lanark which was much earlier in the year and, as the border had not been closed, a lot of our sheep had not been entered into Lanark as they hadn't been sheared accordingly for so early a date and, at that time, we thought we would still be able to make it down to BB25. So it was an immense relief to us all when it was finally announced, late in the season, that another venue would be arranged for us with the closure of the border! All our planning, effort and hard work would not be going to waste. Unfortunately, we would not have the opportunity for the Swiss graders and judges to see our sheep as they had to return to their work and their flocks following BB25 but we were all incredibly happy and grateful that our UK graders and judges, Heather Adams, Geralt Jones and Jamie Wood had agreed



Supreme Champion Highland Kili

to continue their weekend with us in Lockerbie.

As with everyone's Valais and the weather this year, Scotland was no different, and we all struggled keeping our sheep fleeces non-felting and matting! Considering the weather we had had in the lead up to it, it was a miracle that we had some fleeces like we did, absolutely stunning! I, myself, had headed off to Blacknose Beauties to help handle the sheep for fellow breeders so my last washes of the season were done on the Monday and Tuesday to head down to Carlisle on the Thursday and therefore I could only pray that everyone kept clean for the Sunday as there would be absolutely no chance of them getting washed again!

On the day it was wonderful to see fellow breeders and familiar faces all come and support the event, not only those showing sheep, but also breeders who had stayed on after Blacknose Beauties to see the Scottish offering of Valais, some fabulous faces even all the way from Ireland! We had all the same classes that we would have done at Blacknose Beauties so we had a full turn out for most classes after the grading was done. There were a couple of sheep that the graders took quite some time deciding on grading, my



Reserve Male Champion Nithsdale Kain



L-R Reserve Male Champion Nithsdale Kain,
Male Champion Highland Kili

Nithsdale Myree being one of them. I think it was the longest 20 minutes of my life!

The showing classes offered some stunning sheep and the judges decisions were not easy with most of the sheep in the classes only having lost 1 point! Tom and Joan Blackwood took the first class Ram 18-24 months with Highland Kili beating all the competition including my boy, Nithsdale Kain, who came in 2nd. The 2nd class, Ram 12-18 months was taken by Morgan Dempsie with Brickrow's Lorenzo. The 8-12 month Ram Lamb was won by Emily Duncan with Whiterigg Loaded. Tom and Joan Blackwood also took the 6-8 month Ram Lamb with Ayrshire Mickey as well as the 4-6 month Ram Lamb with Ayrshire Major. Onto the ewes Katrina and Robbie Taylor took the Ewe 2-3 years class with Whiterigg Keepsake, Tom and Joan Blackwood won the Ewe 18-24 and 12-18 month

olds with Moorahill Lime and Moorahill Lakeland Diamond. Ros Stewart took 1st with Whiterigg Lucy Locket in the Ewe Lamb 8-12 months. With an already incredible season under her fleece, my own ewe lamb, Nithsdale Myree, took another first place in the 6-8 month class which was absolutely amazing with such incredible competition. The final class was

won by Tom and Joan Blackwood with Moorahill Missy in the 4-6 month Ewe Lambs.

All winners came back into the ring for the Male Championships first so, there I was, waiting outside the ring with Myree, waiting to go in for the Female Championships following when the judges put a request out saying that they wanted all the 2nd place tups from all the tup classes too. I, what felt like, threw poor Myree at an audience member and had to quickly rush back to my pen to grab Kain who, like me, had believed he was done for the day and was happily munching away getting hay and straw all over himself! A very quick picking off session ensued en route to the ring and in we went taking our place behind Kili. With so many gorgeous sheep the judges took their time and finally went over to Tom Blackwood and Highland Kili for Male Champion and then they started deliberations for the Reserve Male. As Kili had won Male Champion and we were in the ring with all the other first place winners I honestly thought Kain and I were basically just standing there for ceremony and never did I think he was even in the running with all the other 1st placers! So I was just there absent mindedly still pulling bits of straw and hay off him but, then I noticed, the judges were still looking at him.... Was he actually still in contention?! The judges finally made their decision and had the sash and rosette....



Female Champion
Nithsdale Myree



Reserve Female Champion
Moorahill Lime

And were coming over to Kain and me as Reserve Male Champion with their hands outstretched!! I honestly couldn't believe it! Having come 2nd in his class, I thought we were completely out of contention! What an honour for him to be thought of so highly for his and my second year showing. I was absolutely thrilled. For some reason every time Kain does well it makes me so emotional because he is quite literally there, in sheep representation, an embodiment of all the hard work, blood, sweat, heartbreak and tears from several years that have gone into my wee homebred Nithsdale show team. He is my very first homebred show sheep and he's been with me through it all. I was speechless and that doesn't happen often!

Next up was the Females turn so Kain got swapped out for Nithsdale Myree and all the other beautiful female class winners and 2nd places came into the ring. I was still on a high and floating from Kain's win and didn't really think it could happen twice. I looked around the Championship class a few times where I was surrounded by stunning sheep and some of the most amazing people I have met in the Valais world and I was so proud of all of us for having shown up and represented the Scottish Valais so well. Then, before I knew it the judges had made their decisions again and the sash and rosette were on their way with hands outstretched, again, towards me!! How had my wee Myree beaten these stunning girls? But there

we were, draping her sash on her and her wee head being too small for all the rosettes that she had won. Myree is quite the diva in the ring which I think gives her that spark and makes her stand out with attitude and she had just gone and done it again. What a finish for her already incredibly successful first show season! Female Champion. Wow! To be honest, the rest of the Female Championship was a bit of a blur as I was busy cuddling Myree, trying to attach two more huge rosettes to her wee head, but I looked up to see that Tom and Joan had won Reserve Female with Moorahill Lime from the 18-24 month class. I was absolutely thrilled for them, what a way to finish their cracking season too! So, there we were, Tom and I, we were one a piece, one Champion and one Reserve each for the big finale. To be honest, I would have been thrilled which ever way it went as it just felt amazing to be standing there with my friend who I know would have also been thrilled for me too, whichever way it went. As it turned out, Highland Kili clinched the top spot with Supreme Champion and my Myree took Reserve Champion! Both Tom and I were absolutely ecstatic. What a result and what a simply cracking day it was. Well done and thank you to everyone taking part and involved! A huge thank you to the Society for putting it on for us. Hopefully we'll all be reunited and back at Blacknose Beauties next year representing Scotland!!

Cat Losty



L-R Female Champion Nithsdale Myree,
Reserve Female Moorahill Lime



Supreme Champion Highland Kili,
Reserve Champion Nithsdale Myree

Ram 18-24 Months Old

- ① **Highland Kili**
Mr Tom Blackwood
- ② **Nithsdale Kain**
Cat Losty
- ③ **Whiterigg Laphroaig**
Mr & Mrs
R & K Taylor
- ④ **Whitehall Livramento**
Mr & Mrs
R & K Taylor
- ⑤ **Kinneff Laird**
Mrs Jo Jacobsen

Ram 12-18 Months Old

- ① **Brickrow's Lorenzo**
C & L Dempse

Ram Lamb

8-12 Months Old

- ① **Whiterigg Loaded**
Mr & Mrs Henry
& Emily Duncan

Ram Lamb

6-8 Months Old

- ① **Ayrshire Mickey**
Mr Tom Blackwood
- ② **Whiterigg Moto**
Mr & Mrs
R & K Taylor
- ③ **Whiterigg Monte Carlo**
Mr & Mrs
R & K Taylor
- ④ **Whitehall Loki**
Mr & Mrs Henry
& Emily Duncan
- ⑤ **Kaim Maximus**
M & J Ramsden

Ram Lamb 4-6 Months Old

- ① **Ayrshire Major**
Mr Tom Blackwood
- ② **Whiterigg Monarch**
Ros Stewart
- ③ **Ayrshire Miami Vice**
Mr Tom Blackwood
- ④ **Edelweiss Master Finlay**
Mrs Katharina Hare
- ⑤ **Happyhills Maximas**
Mr & Mrs Tony
& Val Davies

Ewe 2-3 Years Old

- ① **Whiterigg Keepsake**
Mr & Mrs R & K Taylor
- ② **Brickrow Kloud**
C & L Dempse

Ewe 18-24 Months Old

- ① **Moorahill Lime**
Mr Tom Blackwood
- ② **Whitehall Lily** Mr & Mrs
Henry & Emily Duncan
- ③ **Brickrow's Lacey**
C & L Dempse

Ewe 12-18 Months Old

- ① **Moorahill Lakeland Diamond**
Mr Tom Blackwood
- ② **Whitehall Lychee**
Ros Stewart
- ③ **Whiterigg Lotus**
Mr & Mrs R & K Taylor
- ④ **Ayrshire Liliana** Mr & Mrs
Nick & Philippa Randall
- ⑤ **Gower Lottie**
Mr David Roberts

Ewe Lamb 8-12 Months Old

- ① **Whiterigg Lucy Locket**
Ros Stewart
- ② **Whiterigg Lady Di**
Mr & Mrs
R & K Taylor
- ③ **Whitehall Lettuce**
Mr & Mrs Henry
& Emily Duncan

Ewe Lamb 6-8 Months Old

- ① **Nithsdale Myree**
Cat Losty
- ② **Ayrshire Mandy**
Mr Tom Blackwood
- ③ **Nithsdale Marnie**
Cat Losty
- ④ **Kaim Molly**
M & J Ramsden
- ⑤ **Whiterigg Moritz**
Mr & Mrs
R & K Taylor

Ewe Lamb 4-6 Months Old

- ① **Moorahill Missy**
Mr Tom Blackwood
- ② **Edelweiss Mitty**
Mrs Katharina Hare
- ③ **Ayrshire Mitzy**
Mr Tom Blackwood
- ④ **Edelweiss Moonlight**
Mrs Katharina Hare
- ⑤ **Valkkyries Orkney Moon**
Mrs Toni Hourston

Supreme Champion
Ayrshire Highland Kili Tom Blackwood

Reserve Supreme Champion
Nithsdale Myree Cat Losty

Female Champion
Nithsdale Myree Cat Losty

Reserve Female Champion
Ayrshire Moorahill Lime Tom Blackwood

Male Champion
Ayrshire Highland Kili Tom Blackwood

Reserve Male Champion
Nithsdale Kain Cat Losty