



Strong competition at Valais Blacknose Society National Show & Sale Worcester

With show season significantly curtailed over the last two years due to Covid-19 this event and change of venue presented a great opportunity for everyone to finally come back together and proudly show off their animals.

The show classes and championships were judged by Joint VBS Chairman Raymond Irvine and VBS Secretary Jenni McAllister of the Scottish Highland flock who were amongst the first to import the Valais Blacknose from Switzerland back in 2014.

The Supreme Champion title was awarded to David Hodge & Julian Walters with their senior ewe lamb Blackertor Iona, with Blackertor Gemima a shearling ewe also selected as the Reserve Female Champion. Supreme Reserve Champion went to senior ram Usk Valley George owned by Miles & Lisa Morgan with Orchard Gabriel owned by Gordon Preece winning Reserve Male Champion.

VBS Chairman Raymond Irvine said “The event has been a great day for everyone associated with the breed with strong competition across all classes. Thanks to the dedication of our society members the breed continues to be one of the fastest growing sheep breeds in the UK and there is plenty to both celebrate and be proud of as the demand from new breeders shows no sign of abating, as new flocks continue to be established across the UK & Ireland”.

Alongside the show classes the event also hosted a live and online sale, 26 lots went under the hammer, which included 13 rams, and 23 ewes offering new and old breeders with the opportunity to source top quality stock ahead of the breeding season. Topping the sale was Gordon Preece’s shearling ram Orchard Gabriel at 7,000gns, following at 4,500gns was Blackertor Inca, then Blackertor Iona at 4,200gns both senior ewe lambs belonging to Mr David Hodge and Mr Julian Walters, who’s shearling ewe Blackertor Gemima also sold at 4,000gns.

The Society have also launched an online raffle in conjunction with their two Society Shows & Sales in aid of the non-profit charity organisation Farm Safety Foundation – Yellow Wellies. All proceeds from raffle ticket sales as well as 25% of sales from the 2022 Society calendar will be donated to this worthwhile charity to help preserve and protect the physical and mental wellbeing of the next generation of farmers across the UK. Winners will be announced on August 21, 2021.

VBS Secretary Jenni McAllister commented “We all recognise that farming can be a difficult and at times isolated life, whatever funds we are able to raise in support of this very worthy charity will be put to good use; to give help where needed in the farming industry, so we ask everyone to please get behind this cause and help us contribute”.

To close Joint VBS Chairman David Hodge added:

“I would like to thank our mainline sponsor Whitehall Vineyard and all our class sponsors: Usk Valley Valais Blacknose Sheep, GLW Feeds, Valais Blacknose Sheep UK, Cambrian Valais Blacknose, J G Animal health, Valais Blacknose Sheep Cheshire, and Greencoat Farm who have generously supported the show, everyone’s assistance, help and support is invaluable to the society. As with any show, there is so much preparation, effort, and hard work beforehand, both for the exhibitors and the organisers. Everyone should be very proud as it’s been a truly successful event. Thank you to all who attended, supported, and participated and we look forward to welcoming everyone back next year.”

LEADING PRICES

Lot 600 Orchard Gabriel 7,000gns purchased by Joyce Falconer

Lot 631 Blackertor Inca 4,500gns purchased by Skaigh Sheep

Lot 630 Blackertor Iona 4,200gns purchased by Whitehall Farms LTD.

Lot 629 Blackertor Gemima 4,000gns purchased by Melissa Christie



Supreme Champion: Blackertor Iona
David Hodge & Julian Walters, Blackertor Valais Blacknose Sheep



Reserve Supreme Champion: Usk Valley George
Miles & Lisa Morgan, Usk Valley Valais Blacknose Sheep



Sale topper: Orchard Gabriel
Gordon Preece, Orchard Valais Blacknose Society (VBS)