



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Champions Crowned and sale record smashed at the 2023 Blacknose Beauties National Show & Sale**

Once again, the Blacknose Beauties National Show and Sale has drawn exhibitors from across the country and enthusiasts from around the world, coming together to showcase and celebrate some of the finest Valais Blacknose sheep in the UK. Blacknose Beauties 2023 attracted almost 200 entries. Two days of competition, demonstrations, and trade stalls provided everyone with an opportunity to enjoy themselves and learn much about this fascinating breed.

Friday's schedule included the grading of all sheep. Using an adopted points system from Valais, Switzerland, grading is carried out to ensure that the highest breed standards are maintained in Britain. Every Valais breeder strives to achieve the ultimate accolade of 'maximum points'. This year, grading was carried out by Phil Garrod, Chris Slee, and Marita Tauni, all respected breeders themselves who have undergone training with Oberwalliser Schwarznasen Schafzuchtverband, the Swiss Upper Valais Sheep Breeders Association. 190 animals were graded of which the high accolade of maximum points was awarded to 11% of the overall entries.

The highest-graded sheep were eligible for Saturday's competition and those gathered were able to witness the finest sheep in the UK compete for the coveted title of 2023 Blacknose Beauties Supreme Champion. The event was streamed live for enthusiasts worldwide who could not attend.

Jackie and Jack Simonini of Valais Blacknose Sheep Lakeland were awarded their first Overall Supreme Champion title with their 2-year-old ewe, Moorahill Ingot, who was also the Female Champion. Overall Reserve Champion went to Tom and Joan Blackwood of the Ayrshire flock with their 23-month-old ewe, Ayrshire Ingrid, who was also the Reserve Female Champion. Overall Male Champion went to Valerie Cartner with her 18-month-old ram, Blackwoodridge Jack, and Reserve Male Champion was awarded to Gerallt and Kerry Jones with their 17-month-old ram, Snowdonia Jago.

The ever-popular Young Handlers competitions attracted 24 entries across both classes. The age 8 and under young handler class was won by Penny Wood of Valais Blacknose Northumberland with the best young handler aged 9 and over being awarded to Izzy Jacobsen of Valais Blacknose Kinneff.

During this year's event, the Society raised funds for the [Charlie Dallas Lancaster Foundation](#) (C.D.L. Foundation), which help and supports organisations and individuals working within the Mental Health and Suicide prevention sphere. All proceeds from the annual raffle, 25% of sales from the VBS 2023 calendar, and donations made through the local crook markers stall were donated directly to the charity. Additionally, there was an auction of two Valais Blacknose lambs that took place, with breeders generously donating all proceeds to the charity. These lambs were from the prize-winning flocks of Valais Blacknose Sheep Northumberland and Valais Blacknose Sheep Cheshire and were auctioned by Cammy Wilson of The Sheep Game. The Society is delighted to have raised a total of £8,000 for the C.D.L. Foundation.

Saturday's action culminated with the live and online sale where 31 lots were sold. The top price went to Steve Dace of Valais Blacknose Sheep Cheshire whose 2-year-old ram, Cheshire Incredible Hulk, sold for a record-breaking 18,000gns to Iwan White Evans of Vale View Valais Blacknose. The second highest price was 7,000gns, which was paid by Richard Beattie from Omagh, Co Tyrone, for Valerie Cartner's Champion Male, Blackwoodridge Jack.

Daisy Fovargue's Blackthorn Jackpot James was sold to T Patchett of Northallerton for 5,000gns, Heather Adams's Deepdale Jammy Dodger was sold to S Robinson, Mosterlon, Dorset and Deepdale Jewel was sold to Henry & Emily Duncan, Whitehall Valais Blacknose, Dumfries at 4,500gns. The highest price for a female lot was achieved by Emily & Henry Duncan of Whitehall Valais Blacknose with their lamb Whitehall Kaleidoscope selling at 6,000gns to Irene Gray, Diamond Valais Blacknose, Co Antrim. Alex Burch's in-lamb ewe, Birchfield Innocent, was sold for 2,800gns to Matthew Morrow, from Co Tyrone.

To close, VBS Chairman Raymond Irvine added:

"These past few days have been incredible, and our show was a huge success! The animals on display were of the highest quality, a true testament to the dedication and hard work of all the breeders who spent months preparing their sheep for the event. It was also heartening to witness a record number of entries in our Young Handler section, and we hope that the younger members of our community will continue to show such enthusiasm. Finally, capping off the day with a new sales breed record was the perfect way to end things".

He says..."A lot of effort and planning is involved in organising this event, and we appreciate the backing of our sponsors, participants, volunteers, and attendees who make it a remarkable occasion in the Valais Blacknose schedule. It's delightful to see both old and new breeders come together, and all of them are dedicated to breeding the finest. I want to extend my congratulation to every participant of this year's event, and we're excited to build upon this triumph and have everyone back in 2024."

#### LEADING PRICES

Lot		Price	Purchaser
<b>RAMS</b>			
47	Cheshire Incredible Hulk	18,000gns	Iwan Evans, Vale View, Denbighshire
56	Blackwoodridge Jack	7,000gns	Beattie, OMAGH, Co Tyrone
73	Blackthorn Jackpot James	5,000gns	T Patchett, Little Holtby, Noerthallerton
55	Deepdale Jammy Dodger	4,500gns	S Robinson, Mosterlon, Dorset
<b>EWES</b>			
215	Whitehall Kaleidoscope	6,000gns	I Gray, Diamond Valais, Co Antrim
131	Birchfield Innocent	2,800gns	Matthew Morrow, Aughnacloy, Co Tyrone



Supreme Champion: Moorahill Ingot  
Jackie & Jack Simonini, Valais Blacknose Sheep Lakeland  
Pictured left to right: Jack & Jackie Simonini



Sale Topper: Cheshire Incredible Hulk  
Steve Dace, Valais Blacknose Cheshire  
Pictured left to right: Summer, Stephanie & Steve Dace

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