

NI Texel Tops National Sales

For Northern Irish Club member Alistair Gault the Scottish National Sale in Lanark 2010 proved to be a day he will never forget, as his second lamb into the ring Forkins Rocksolid not only broke the Northern Irish record price it also set the highest price of the season for the UK. Selling at 65,000gns he joins the High Weald flock in Surrey owned by Trinidad Investments. Sired by Tamnamoney Ned who is a Douganhill McFly son, he has the length, skin and backend to justify his top price position. The Club is delighted with Alistair's achievement and wish all their breeders success for the sale season.

TEXEL TOUR 2011

Back in 2008 the NI Club welcomed a party of happy travellers from The Highland Club to our shores; during this visit their chairman invited the NI Club for a reciprocal visit. So, back at the AGM in January the decision was taken to take up this kind invitation and travel to the Highlands and Islands for our Club trip in 2011. The trip begins on Thursday 14th July when we fly to Inverness then take the ferry to the island of Orkney where we stay overnight and take in a tour of the Island and a few flocks to boot. We then return to the Mainland where we will attend the Caithness Show and Show Dance on Saturday evening before returning home to NI on Sunday. As usual we will pack in as many flock visits as possible throughout the trip providing members with a great opportunity to view potential stock rams or maybe even follow up on a ram that has been sold to this region. To check for late availability and a chance to make a trip to the far flung regions of the Highlands And Islands please call Nigel on **07855316017**, email nshamills@hotmail.com or the secretary – contact details on front cover.

SOLWAY & TYNE CLUB VISIT

A group of intrepid travellers from the Solway and Tyne Club will be travelling to the Province on Thursday 2nd June visiting the Millars', Heathmount and Ballynahone flocks before travelling across to Letterkenny. Members of the Donegal Club will entertain the group during Friday with a flock visit to John McGee's, Cresslough and a social evening back in Letterkenny. The Donegal Club have kindly invited the NI members to join them throughout the day and to the social evening. The following morning the group make their way back into the North, stopping off for visits to the Springhill and Corbo flocks before travelling back to Bangor for an evening in the Marine Court Hotel. Sunday morning brings a visit to the Springwell flock before they set off for home. We would encourage members to support these visits and social events to make our visitors trip one to remember.

Co. Down Venue For Open Night

The beautiful drumlin landscapes of Co Down will be the back drop for the Club's Open Night on Monday 1st August. Members and friends will be welcomed by Barclay Bell and sons Elliott and Jonathan who run the long established Kiltarriff Flock of pedigrees Texels, which was awarded the Reserve Champion Flock of the Year 2009, and has had many successes throughout the years in the sales ring. Barclay and his wife Lesley, also run an expanding cut flower enterprise and renewable energy project while a large proportion of the farm is sown out in cereals. There will be a chance to have a look at all the enterprises on farm with short presentations on the night including a flower arranging demonstration. This evening will prove to be an exciting opportunity to view an excellent flock of sheep, and maybe even get a few ideas regarding diversification, appealing to the whole family.



YOUNG BREEDERS

The Texel Young Breeders NI has started 2011 with a number of social events in order to include all members and friends of the club. In January, approximately 30 breeders took part in a Go-Karting evening in Ballymena with the overall winners being Alastair Gault in 1st place, Andrew Hamill coming 2nd and James Adams coming 3rd. In the girls section Stephanie McCollam was placed 1st, Gillian Hamill came 2nd and Lesley Hamill was 3rd. The club has also held a Table Quiz in the Gilgood Lodge which saw a Young Farmers Club from Moneyrea being placed 1st and this was closely followed by the TYB President Nigel Hamill's team coming in 2nd. Our thanks must go to Quizmaster Stephen McCollam and also to all committee members for providing refreshments and ballot prizes. The TYB have also introduced club rugby shirts which cost £30 for youth sizes and £35 for adult sizes. These have kindly been sponsored by Parklands and can be ordered by contacting any member of the committee. The Young Breeders Club has also organised a number of events over the next few months including Young Handlers and Stockjudging at Balmoral Show in May. These can both be entered at the Texel stand on the Wednesday of the show or by contacting Club Secretary Stephanie beforehand. The Stockjudging can be entered by anyone of any age as there will be an open class and an under 18 class, but to take part in the Young Handlers you must be under the age of 17. Both of these competitions will involve a small entry fee which can also be paid on the day. The Texel Young Breeders NI club would like to thank all those under 35's who have already joined the club and we welcome anyone else who may be interested. We urge you to join as soon as possible as in the coming months there will be a number of competitions taking place which can only be entered by paid up members of the Texel Young Breeders club. For instance, at Antrim Show a Texel Young Breeders class was introduced in 2010 which is kindly sponsored by Denis Hamill, and also at the NI Premier Sale in August there will now be a Texel Young Breeders class within which only previously paid up members can take part. There will also be more classes like these at various other shows and sales, so if anyone is interested in joining the club and would like a membership form or would like any more information, please do not hesitate to contact Club Chairman David Chestnutt on 07843152743 or Club Secretary Stephanie McCollam on 07792161316.



Breeder's Gazette

2011

N.I. Texel Club - Tel: 07791679112 Email: nitexelbreedersclub@live.co.uk

OFFICE HOLDERS 2011

Honorary Presidents: Barbara Gamble, Bangor and Robbie Mulligan, Banbridge
Chairman: Victor Chestnutt, Ballymoney
Vice Chair: Geoffrey Fleck, Ballymena
Secretary/Pro: Karen Beacom, Ballywalter
Minutes Secretary: Robert Calvin, Ballymoney
Treasurer: Brian McAllister, Kells
Export Manager: Nigel Hamill, Crumlin
Regional Director: Henry Gamble, Bangor
Young Members' Representative: Adrian Liggett, Fintona

Committee Members elected 2011:

Brian Hanthorn
 Martin Warnock
 John Young

Elected 2010:

James Adams, Glarryford
 Phillip Hammond, Cookstown
 Alex Thompson, Islandmagee

Elected 2009:

Marcus Barton, Lack
 Alistair Gault, Newtownabbey
 Damien Tumely, Downpatrick

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As your new chairman I am delighted to have this opportunity of speaking to you as members of the N.I. Texel Club. A club made up of members with the ethos of what can "I" do for the club rather than what can the club do for me. With prime lambs selling at prices that two or three years ago we didn't even dream possible how could one fail to be upbeat in the sheep industry at the minute. However it is necessary that as breeders we do not take our eye off the ball and strive to produce exactly what our commercial customers want, to that end the N.I. Club has teamed up with a student from CAFRE to do a survey of our commercial buyers and the traits they would wish us to focus on. More about that later in the year. As usual in the Texel Club there is a packed programme for the year, starting with a change of day to Wednesday for the showing of Texels at Balmoral, please continue to use the Texel caravan for a welcome break. As we approach the summer shows as chairman I would like to personally thank all the breeders who will take the time and effort to bring out sheep over the show season, as this is undoubtedly a shop window for our breed. In July at "Sheep N.I." you are invited to participate on the Texel stand where there will be valuable vouchers to be won for guessing the kill out percentage of prime Texel lambs. We as a club feel this is one of the areas where prime Texel lambs are outstanding.

As chairman I wish to thank the Wylie family for their help in conducting many successful sales since "Automart" closed. The Texel club along with the Society has taken the decision to move the Premier Sale to Ballymena Market, a modern facility that handles the largest amount of commercial sheep in N.I. The auctioneers for the event will include Graham Loughrey, Tommy Symington and David Lowry. With our Premier sale moving east our main sale has moved west to Enniskillen and I would urge breeders to support and reinvigorate this sale as the one for our second draw of rams.

We hope 2011 will be the year when N.I. Texels hit the world stage as we are following up enquiries for semen and embryos to Brazil. At the end of our packed year we welcome members from across the UK who are hosting their AGM in N.I. we plan to make this a weekend to remember with a female trio (ewe, gimmer and ewe lamb) show and sale of fifteen elite gimmers on the Saturday. Please support this event as we combine it with our own annual dinner.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our breeders a successful year

Victor Chestnutt
 Chairman

Texel Sheep Society AGM and Social Weekend

Northern Ireland Texel Breeders Club are honoured that the Society have chosen the region to host the National AGM and Social weekend on Friday 28th and Saturday 29th October 2011 in the La Mon Hotel & Country Club, Castlereagh, Belfast. A brief itinerary of the weekend includes an informal dinner followed by a TYB Table Quiz, on Friday evening. Saturday morning brings a Belfast city tour of the "Hot spots" and Titanic Quarter before stopping off at Balmoral Show grounds where the Club will be holding a Female Trio Show, kindly sponsored by Thompsons. The show of females will be an excellent shop window for the breeding potential of the Northern Irish pedigree flocks, and will include a ewe, a gimmer and a ewe lamb, which do not necessarily have to be related to each other or exhibitor bred. On Saturday evening there will be an auction of Elite In-Lamb ewes, which will be chosen for the sale at Antrim Show. These gimmers will also be on display at Balmoral before being auctioned by video during the evening entertainment. Following a stop for lunch delegates will then return to the hotel for the AGM and the Club's Annual Dinner Dance. This should surely prove to be an excellent weekend of entertainment and socialising with fellow breeders throughout the UK at a beautiful location in the Castlereagh Hills, with excellent facilities for all the Family. The Chairman and committee would strongly appeal to members to support these very important events as acquaintances are made, renewed and revived with members from all the regions.



Texel Society AGM

Congratulations to Club members M&L Anderson, 187 Pettigo Rd, Kesh, on winning the Lamb Reviver box competition, generously sponsored by SOLWAY RECYCLING.

NI CLUB SALES 2011

It is the individual breeder's responsibility to ensure they are fully paid up members of the NI Texel Sheep Breeders Club. Members MUST have completed a pre-sale entry form for the season and ensure that their entry forms are received or on-line entries completed on BASCO prior to the closing date. Registered post is advised in all circumstances. No faxed or late entries will be accepted.

Rathfriland: Monday 29th August

Judging 6.00pm Sale 7.00pm
Convenors: R&J Boyd, P Garrivan
Judge: Andrew Hamill
Sponsors: Norbrook Laboratories
Auctioneers: Rathfriland Farmers' Co-op
Tel : 028 4063 8493
Closing Date : 29th July

Enniskillen Main: Saturday 10th Sept

Judging 9.00am Sale 11.00am
Convenors: P Hammond, M Barton & V Chestnutt
Judge: John Stewart
Sponsors: Farm Care
Auctioneers: Ulster Farmers' Mart
Tel : 028 66322218
Closing Date: 13th August
** EXPORT SALE**

Armoy: Thursday 15th September

Judging 6.00pm Sale 7.00pm
Convenors: R Calvin, A McCartney & D Tosh
Judge: Philip Hammond
Sponsors: Glen Farm Supplies
Auctioneers: D McAllister
Tel: 028 2177 1227
Closing Date: 19th August

Swatragh: Friday 16th September

Judging 6.00pm Sale 7.00pm
Convenors: M Mc Kinney & S Etherson
Judge: Cahir McAuley
Sponsors: Corby Rock
Auctioneers: Sperrin & Bann Valley Mart
Tel: 028 7940 1335
Closing date: 19th August

Hilltown: Monday 19th September

Judging 6.00pm Sale 7.00pm
Convenors: B Bell, J Burns & M Annett
Judge: Ms Megan Shaw
Sponsors: Norbrook Laboratories
Auctioneers: Hilltown Farmer's Sales Ltd
Tel: 028 4063 0287
Closing Date: 19th August

Co.Antrim: Wednesday 21st September

Judging 4.30pm Sale 6.30pm
Convenors: R Kennedy, G Fleck, N Ross & B McAllister
Judge: Mrs Kim Coleman
Sponsors: Tullivin Growvite
Auctioneers: J A McClelland & Son
Tel : 028 2563 3470
Closing Date: 19th August

Lisahally: Thursday 22nd September

Judging 6.00pm Sale 7.00pm
Convenors: M Warnock & R Strawbridge
Judge: Andrew Fyffe
Sponsors: Fort Dodge Animal Health
Auctioneers: R Beattie
Tel: 028 8164 7105
Closing Date: 19th August

Clougher: Thursday 29th September

Judging 6.00pm Sale 7.00pm
Convenors: M Barton & A Liggett
Judge: Norman Read
Sponsors: Lissan Fuels
Auctioneers: D McAllister
Tel: 028 2177 1227
Closing Date : 26th August

Gortin : Thursday 6th October

Judging 6.00pm Sale 7.00pm
Convenors: J Young & A Liggett
Judge : David Seaman
Sponsors: Smyth Daleside
Auctioneers: R Beattie
Tel: 028 8164 7105
Closing Date : 9th September

Ballymena Harvest: Monday 17th October

Judging 6.00pm Sale 7.00pm
Convenors: G Fleck, R Kennedy & J Adams
Judge: Gareth Tumelty
Sponsors: S H Coleman
Auctioneers: J A Mc Clelland & Son
Tel : 028 2563 3470
Closing Date: 16th September
** Entry forms from Club Secretary**

Hilltown In-Lamb: Friday 9th December

Judging 5.30pm Sale 7.00pm
Convenors: H Gamble, B Bell
Judge: Michael McHugh
Sponsors: Norbrook Laboratories
Auctioneers: R Beattie
Tel : 028 4063 0287/ 8164 7105
Closing Date: 11th November
** EXPORT SALE**
Entry forms from Club Secretary



PICTURE THIS

NI Texel Club Photographic Competition

The first Photographic Competition kindly sponsored by Kevin McAuley Photography / Multimedia proved to be a huge success with superb photos entered throughout all the classes.

Judging proved to be no mean feat as entries were of an exceptionally high calibre in all the classes. The overall winning picture came from the under 18 age group, taken by Aaron Hamilton, this picture was worthy of a winning place in the prestigious 'Country File' competition never mind the NI Texel Club!

Following on from the success of our first photographic Competition the Club are delighted that Kevin McAuley Photography / Multimedia has kindly agreed to sponsor the competition yet again this year.

The competition is yet again open to all ages with classes for both pedigree Texels and commercial Texel cross sheep. There will also be an open class this year for 'any rural setting'. Entries are very welcome any time between now and the 30th September 2011, giving all those wishing to enter plenty of time to capture that perfect shot. Entries will be accepted in both digital and conventional format. Those wishing to email their entries can do so to nitexelbreedersclub@live.co.uk while printed entries may be returned to 10 Ballyatwood Road, Ballywalter, Newtownards, BT22 2PA.

All entries will be placed before a panel of judges and the winning entries will be announced at the Annual Dinner on 29th October 2011.

Classes are as follows

1. Best Photograph in a commercial situation (Over 18)
2. Best Photograph in a pedigree situation (Over 18)
3. Best Photograph in a commercial situation (18 years and under)
4. Best Photograph in a pedigree situation (18 years and under)
5. Best Photograph in a rural setting (Open)
6. Special prize for Best Photograph by a photographer Under 12

The first placed entries in each class will again compete for the Kevin McAuley Photography Perpetual Cup which will be awarded to the Overall Winner.

The competition is free to enter and is open to both Club members and commercial breeders, so why not forward your favourite picture with your name, address and the class number you are entering written on the back to the address above or call 07791679112 for further details.



SHEEP NI 2011

The Club will be attending the NSA Sheep NI event on Monday 4th July. Members of committee are already organising the stand for this event which will be an excellent opportunity to show off the commercial attributes of the Texel as a terminal sire. There will be a presentation kindly supplied by the Texel Society with posters, and promotional material alongside live exhibits with Texel cross lambs and the added attraction of a competition, for ram vouchers, to guess their dead weight, grade and kill out percentage. All Club members are very welcome to come along and promote the Texel breed to the many commercial customers attending.



SALE ISSUES

As most people know by now there will be a change of venue for both the Premier Sale and the Club's main sale. In August the Premier sale will move to Ballymena Livestock Mart under the same format as previously with the Show of all classes and Sale of gimmers on Monday 15th and sale of shearing rams and ram lambs on Tuesday 16th. An exciting new class has been introduced on judging day for young breeders however, only fully paid up members of the Texel Young Breeders Club are eligible to enter.

The Club's Export eligible Main Sale also moves this summer. It will now be held in Ulster Farmers Mart, Enniskillen. The Chairman and committee are looking forward to utilizing these excellent facilities and encourage members to continue supporting this, the Club's most prestigious sale, with the high standard of pedigree Texels the sale is renowned for.

The Club's In-Lamb ewe sale also moves again this year it will be held in Hilltown Attested Sales Yard, with Richard Beattie continuing as auctioneer of the sale.

Slight changes have been made to the sales protocol with inspectors at the Club sales this season marking shearing rams that are marginally over shot of the mouth with a blue dot. These sheep will not be allowed to enter the classes, however may be sold through the ring. The size of a ram's testicles will also be monitored and accepted into the sale under the Texel Society Bye-Laws.

Please remember the convenors and inspectors are performing their duties on a voluntary basis to ensure all sheep sold meet the breed standard and appreciate members' co-operation at sales venues



Forkins RockSolid - Topped the Texel Sale Season