

## Belclare All-Ireland Championships

A sun drenched Clonmel provided the setting for the 2017 Belclare All-Ireland Championships co-sponsored by Bimeda and Mullinahone Co-Op. Mr. Grahame Murphy was assigned the difficult task of finding his champion, with breeders travelling from all over the country to showcase some outstanding sheep.



Murphy found his leading lady of the day when selecting a Knockcroghery hogget ewe as his Supreme Champion on the day. This ewe, exhibited by Declan and Joe Miley who do so well with their females, had also been a first prize winner at the National Championships held at Corofin Show in May. The Mileys also took the Aged Ewe class with another homebred ewe, where they sent out the first two prize winners as was the case in the hogget ewe class.



**Declan and Joe Mileys first and second prize winning Aged Ewes**

Reserve Champion on the day was awarded to Rathkenty Chopin, a ram lamb from the Rathkenty flock of local breeders of Richard and John Lalor. This lamb, sired by 2016 National Shearling Champion Rathkenty Alabama, is a maternal brother to the Lalor's 2016 Premier Sale and All-Ireland Champion ram lamb Rathkenty Beethoven and their 2015 Premier Sale Reserve Champion, and displays many of the same attributes of his older brothers. The Lalor's also produced the second prize winning ram lamb in Rathkenty Caesar, who had been Champion Belclare ram lamb and Overall Reserve Champion at Athlone Show the previous week. Third place went the way of Declan and Joe Miley's National Champion ram lamb, Knockcroghery Champion.



**Rathkenty Chopin: Champion Ram Lamb and Overall Reserve Champion**

The Rathkenty flock had started the day in style when they took the first class of the day, the Aged Ram class with their homebred ram RL142327, who successfully defended his 2016 All-Ireland win. Second prize went the way of another Rathkenty bred ram, this time exhibited by Eunan and Mark Bannon, with Liam Delaneys Coolgarragh flock producing the third prize winner.

The Lalor's final winner of the day came in the ewe lamb class. This sharp looking early January born ewe lamb is a full sister to their ram lamb winner, Rathkenty Chopin. The Mileys Knockcroghery flock took the second placed blue rosette, while Liam Delaney took home the third prize.



**Champion Ewe Lamb**

The Hogget Ram class went the way of Sonny Jennings Rathkenty Beethoven. Sold by the Lalor brothers after being crowned Supreme Champion at last year's Premier Sale this ram has matured into a powerful hogget. This win meant that three of the days winners were all produced from one ewe. The Mileys once again took the second prize with their homebred ram Knockcroghery Barney, while the third prize went the way of Rathkenty Bomber, this time exhibited by breeders Richard and John Lalor.



**Rathkenty Beethoven: Champion Hogget Ram**