

Patron HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

## THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION

# PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009

## Smithfield winner donates top lamb to charity

Exhibitors who entered the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution Charity Sheep class for single lambs at last week's AgriLive Smithfield raised over £1,500 for the charity.

Leading the way was Andrew Bishop from Eldersfield, Gloucestershire, who added to his success in the show's supreme championship by taking the RABI perpetual trophy. His excellent Beltex lamb went on to sell for a top price of £500, a record for the class in which exhibitors donate the sale price to RABI.

The Bishop family were helped by RABI during the 2001 foot and mouth epidemic and, like many of the exhibitors, regard the class as a way of helping those less fortunate members of the farming community. "We were completely stuck during foot and mouth, surrounded by outbreaks", said Andrew Bishop. "It cost us a fortune and RABI helped to feed the family until we got sorted out.

"The lamb I entered was probably the best one I had but it did not have a pair to match it for the other competitions. Entering it in the RABI class was all about putting something back for all the help we received when we needed it."

Runner up for the RABI championship was a Dutch Texel exhibited by RJ Slade from Pembridge, Herefordshire, which sold for £175. The 13 entries represented a cross section of the breeds on show with more than half of them shown by exhibitors who had supported the class since its inception in 2004.

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### Notes for editors

The attached pictures show Andrew Bishop with his RABI champion lamb and receiving the RABI Smithfield Trophy from Baroness Byford.

The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution is the national charity for those involved in farming in England and Wales. Established in 1860, it assists all those in need in the farming community.

While the main focus of RABI's work has always been the retired and disabled it also provides assistance to working farming families facing severe financial hardship as a result of a crisis such as illness, bereavement or events beyond anyone's control.

Further information about RABI is available on its website - [www.rabi.org.uk](http://www.rabi.org.uk) or from Nicholas Bond, RABI Press Officer on 01865 724931 (RABI office); 01789 721311 (home); 07748 927424 (mobile)

**The royal agricultural charity providing financial support to the farming community past, present and future**

**President: The Lord Plumb DL, Chairman: HAC Densham CBE**