

Large Black Orpingtons pick of the poultry at Skipton

A trio of Large Black Orpingtons – a cockerel and two hens – from husband and wife poultry breeders Keith and Anne Chatburn, of Cononley, was pick of the poultry at the Craven Feather Auctions Spring show and sale at Skipton Auction Mart. (Sat, March 6)

The birds won the large fowl class, before going on to take supreme championship honours when catching the eye of show judge Jack Killeen, of Menston, a leading adjudicator on the national poultry show circuit.

The Chatburns, who have been breeding Orpington and Sussex hens for more than 40 years, last won the Craven Feather Auctions Spring championship in 2008. Only a fortnight before the latest show, the couple had also been responsible for the best bird in show – a Black Orpington pullet – at the North of England Championships held in Clitheroe.

Over the years they have achieved many championship successes and their latest Skipton victors sold for £100

An all-time mart record price of £340 for a pen of hens was recorded at the show for a top-class trio of White Wyandottes from Alan Barnes, of Cowden, Great Harwood.

His birds often head the selling prices at Skipton and the latest success bettered the then record price of £300 achieved by Mr Barnes at the 2009 Craven Feather Auctions Christmas show and sale of poultry and waterfowl

The show coincided with the bi-monthly sales of pigs, stirks, agricultural machinery, reclamation and salvage items, antique and furniture auctions.



Keith and Anne Chatburn, right, with their Craven Feather Auctions Large Black Orpington champions, joined by judge Jack Killeen.



A montage of pictures from a busy day at Skipton