

Sunday, 13th February, 2022

### **Galway Auctioneer Wins IPAV National Novice Auctioneer Competition**

A young Galway auctioneer has won this year's IPAV National Competition for Novice Rostrum Auctioneer which saw competitors from throughout the country going head-to-head to demonstrate their skills in rostrum selling.

Darren Hession, a native of Tuam, Co Galway was to the fore from a field of eight novice contestants with a wide variety of selling styles who displayed their skills in a staged auction with a diverse range of lots designed to challenge, encourage creativity and simulate the sort of lots on offer in real-life situations.

Enthusiastic bidders, some of whom were given a brief to interject and challenge the novices put them through their paces before three finalists, Darren; Dan Steen and Josh Pim, both from Dublin were short listed to carry out a further auction at a gala dinner where proceeds were raised for Dogs for the Disabled.

Lots included a house, a two-year old filly, a restored 1958 Massey Ferguson tractor and a number of art pieces.

To be eligible participants were required to have no more than five appearances on the rostrum prior to the competition and to hold a PSRA (Property Services Regulatory Authority) licence.

The judging panel boasted an array of highly respected and experienced auctioneers, including Chairman Colm Farrell from Gort, Co. Galway, Michael J Farrelly from Meath and well-known TV auctioneer, Colm O'Donnellan from Galway.

As part of his prize Darren will receive a week's training at the Mike Jones America's Auction Academy in Texas, sponsored by the world famous Texas Academy. On completion he will receive a diploma in rostrum auctioneering.

He was also presented with the Ron Duff Memorial perpetual Rose Bowl which was presented by Antoinette Duff and family members of the late Ron Duff.

Event organiser Niamh Giffney, Chairperson of the Young Professionals Network at IPAV, the Institute of Professional Auctioneers & Valuers, said the quality of entrants was very high.

"The judges had quite the task to pick the eventual winner. It is so encouraging to see so many talented novice auctioneers putting themselves forward to compete," she said.

Pat Davitt, IPAV's Chief Executive said: "It is testament to the professionalism of auctioneering today and we are delighted as an institute to be contributing to raising the educational standards of what is for so many with the kind of skills these novice auctioneers displayed, an extremely fulfilling and rewarding career."

The competition took place at the prestigious arena at Tattersalls Ireland, in Ratoath Co. Meath on Friday (4th February) and was sponsored by Tattersalls Ireland, the Irish Independent and The America's Auction Academy.

Ends