

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at
The Royal Sportsman, Porthmadog LL49 9BH
Saturday 2 December, 2017 at 1pm**



Present:

Robin Jones (Chairman); Malcolm Evans (Vice-Chairman); Kate Hovers (President); DR Lynn Williams; John & Lilian Jones; Rebecca Haf Lloyd; Elizabeth Eagles; Brian Eagles; Jill Evans; Bethan Watkin; Gwyneth Ellis; Dewi Jones; Eirian Jones; Jasmine Jones; Rhys Evans; Ffion Williams; Cerys Brown; Sara Brown; Gareth Jones; Heini Jones; Michelle Evans; Meleri Brown; Timothy Evans; Mathew Brown; Catrin Price; Sean Jeffreys; Carwyn Harries; Myrddin Parry; Menna Parry; Dafydd Williams; Lisa Southgate; Henry & Emrysia Jones; Lis Williams; Meirion Williams; Colin Vicars; Veronica Brigg; Joshua Brigg; Llinos Davies; Lucy Levinge; Myfyr & Sian Jones; Enfys Williams.

1. Apologies for absence

Stephen Pugh; Phillipa Ball; Lynda Hawker; Debbie Kingsley; John Shrubsall; Sarah Shrubsall; Gail Shrubsall; William & Dougie Crew; Lesley Cleland; Claire Smith; Hywel Williams; Meriel Weston; Delyth Crimes; Roger Davies; Gwyn Jones; Liz Rooney; Olwen Ford; K Woodward; Aeron Edwards; Glyn & Gaenor King; Dafydd Harries; Ellie Layton; Morys Ioan; Neil Dillon; Rhys Mills; Geralene Griffiths.

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes were proposed as a correct record by Myfyr Jones and seconded by Meirion Williams. There were no matters arising.

Before moving on with the agenda, the Chairman noted that the Society had lost some long standing members during the year: Mr Glyn Hawker, Mr MJ Law and Mr Richard Williams. The Chairman led the meeting in a minutes' silence in their memory.

3. Correspondence

Kate Hovers read out a letter from Mr Stephen Pugh, Vice-President.

Dear All

Firstly, can I give my apologies for the AGM. As some of you know Jane and I had planned to come and had even booked the accommodation. However, family commitments come first –and a wedding is a real chance to celebrate. I was delighted when Robin asked for the meeting to be held in North Wales (a hot bed of keen breeders and show persons) and it's good to move things around. I am pleased that Daltons have agreed to do the tags next year, but making flock recording and registrations easier must be our intention. Registrations this year are good and new members are joining our wonderful Society. Badger Face Sheep numbers at shows continue to be the envy of most other breeds and it is now common place for our breed to be interbreed and group winners. Well done to all the members for their efforts at shows – this is our shop window.

My kindest regards to everyone, a happy Christmas to you all and we shall all look forward to another successful year for the Badger Face Sheep Society.

Kindest Regards
Stephen Pugh

Kate Hovers then went on to apologise that the meeting was being held in December and despite this and the Agenda not arriving one month prior to the AGM, she hoped that we would be able to have a robust AGM with discussion and debate held in a respectful manner. Kate noted that she had suffered from anxiety during the first half of this year and asked that members be mindful that nobody really knows what's going on in anyone's personal life and that we should all be kind to each other.

Elizabeth Eagles read a note on behalf of Mrs Lynda Hawker, who wished to thank the Society for helping her through what has been a difficult time. She also thanked all members who purchased sheep at the Llandovery sale and was glad to see them all go to good homes. It would be an honour to give a trophy in Glyn's memory.

4. Chairman's Report

Firstly I'd like to thank you all for coming up to sunny North Wales . It's also nice to see a large contingent of North Wales members here today who don't normally get to travel down to the AGM. I'd also like to thank Rebecca for organising today and hope that the badger face lamb will be done justice in the Kitchen! As Kate might have already said due to an administrative error the AGM invite and details were slightly late going out and therefore we cannot pass any rule changes but I believe I'm right that we may pass some of the day to day issues. We will also need to vote on a few things and voting papers will be passed around. Please ensure that only paid up members are eligible to vote. These would not include junior members and would also mean only one vote for family membership or joint membership.

It's been a very interesting and certainly challenging first year for me as chairman. It was early after what was a very successful spring festival that we were shocked with the news of the passing of our membership and registration secretary and very good friend Glyn Hawker. He was a stalwart of the society and is greatly missed by us all. Thankfully we all pulled together and carried on with the task of registrations the best we could until Rebecca took on the role temporarily. Once again we had a very successful Royal Welsh with great weather and a great turnout of exhibitors and their stock.

The show and sale took on a new format this year. As a trial we had the Show and social evening on the Sunday followed by the main sale on the Monday. Prices were good and the majority of animals sold well.

A subject that has sparked some debate during the second half of this year has been registrations and tags. Following a meeting that was held during early October, which included a presentation about the Grassroots system, the

committee suggests that the Society remains as it is for 2018. Daltons have confirmed that they have enough tags available for 2018 and since the meeting have found a new supplier from Germany. Since the meeting several different options have been put forward and further investigation and consultation are required to find the best solution for the society. It is hoped that continuing with the current system for 2018 will give members a chance to consider all options regarding tags/registrations. There are a number of things to consider in terms of how we register and identify our pedigree Torddu / Torwen sheep and it is proposed that this will be discussed again at some length during the Spring meeting 2018. It is also planned to organise further workshops and discussions throughout the year in order to obtain a full understanding of the options available to us. This is a huge step for the society and perhaps a complete change so it is imperative that we don't rush into anything and fully engage in the process.

The Welsh Winter Fair was once again successful for the breed as the Pritchard Family's pair of Torddus were awarded the Reserve Champion in the Welsh Mountain Pure Breeds Section. This is the third consecutive year where the Torddus have been Champion or Reserve in this Section.

Finally I hope we have an enjoyable day and look forward to a very enjoyable meal and get together this evening.

5. Publicity Report

The report was given by Mrs Elizabeth Eagles.

The stand attended three events this year. The Spring Festival, an event which always attracts a good deal of attention and thanks to the Joseph Family for once again supplying some splendid sheep. Gareth Jones took the stand to the Welsh Sheep event and thanks to him for all his help there and also for supplying the sheep for the Royal Welsh Show. The Royal Welsh was once again a good week and thanks to all members for their help throughout the week.

As Lynda and I are standing down from the role of Publicity Officers we would like to thank all of you who have helped with the stand over the years, supplying sheep and taking slots to spend time promoting the breed. A special thank you to Tudor Gethin who has not only stored the trailer, but has delivered it whenever required complete with a stand assembly kit.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish whoever takes on the role, every success and hope that the committee and members will give them the support they will need.

6. Website Report

Annual visitors for the website have been around the 75,000-90,000 mark since it was updated in 2014, with 87,500 visits to the website in 2016 for the full twelve months.

In 2017 to date there have been 72,000 visits to the website with another 6 weeks of the year remaining. August and September are the busiest months with over 8,000 visitors each month.

The main regular updates on the website are: sheep for sale, show results and society news. Show results content comes entirely from using the information and photographs posted by members on the facebook group. We continue to get plenty of positive feedback from members who are selling their sheep through the website, and many are also successfully selling through the facebook group.

There are 296 members of the closed facebook group, currently open to members only. That's 83% of the membership – an incredible level of engagement which enables members to communicate regularly about their sheep.

We have many requests from non-society members to join the facebook group, which are currently not allowed to join. Some members have noted that it is a shame that it is not open to all to encourage new members to the society. 875 people follow the public facebook page. If you have any other website related questions or requirements please do get in touch.

A discussion was had on whether the facebook group should remain closed or for it to be opened up as a public group. A vote was had and 27 people voted in favour of keeping the group as a closed group and none voted against.

7. Treasurer's Report

Please note that these are interim accounts until 31 October 2017

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
NSA Affiliation Fee	100.00	Ram Tags	3600.00
RWS Spring Festival Stand	355.56	Ewe Tags	2760.00
RWS Stand	948.24	Replacement Tags	16.00
RWS Party	600.00	Yearling Tags	276.00
Accountant	160.00	Sales	592.30
Flock Books	1544.00	Postage	9.50
Flock Book Postage	458.20		
Welsh sheep stand	162.00	Senior Membership	4355.00
Stock for trailer	70.70	Junior Membership	155.00
Insurance	578.72		
Meetings - room hire	250.00	BANK	
Catering for meetings	404.50	Community Account	17564.18
Dalton Tags	542.16	Deposit Account	15249.97
Awards	230.00	Invested Account	10000.00
Printing	609.10		
Rosettes	93.69		
Show/Sale Prize Money	176.00		
Postage	779.22		

Printing includes NSA catalogue
No income from adverts.

A discussion was had about unaudited accounts, and the members agreed that they supported the audited accounts once completed. Lewis Book Keeping and

Accounting Services from Haverfordwest were proposed by Elizabeth Eagles, seconded by Rebecca Haf Lloyd and agreed by all as the Society auditors.

8. Registrations and Membership Report

2016 Torddu Ewe Lambs	2016 Torddu Ram Lambs	2016 Torwen Ewe Lambs	2016 Torwen Ram Lambs
1636	170	608	69
2017 Torddu Ewe Lambs	2017 Torddu Ram Lambs	2017 Torwen Ewe Lambs	2017 Torwen Ram Lambs
1570	136	514	53
-66	-34	-94	-16

On behalf of the Society, Brian Eagles thanked Rebecca Haf Lloyd for her work during the year as registration secretary.

9. Amend Rule 8 to read

The Membership Subscription and Registration Fees shall be as the Society determines, with an additional re-joining fee of £50 after a lapse of one year or more. Junior members should be aged 16 or under on 1st January of subscription year. All subscriptions are to be paid by 31st March. Any membership fees paid after 31st March will incur a re-joining fee.

It was agreed that there must be a higher price to pay when re-joining, therefore £30 was suggested and that if membership is not paid by 31 March, then no correspondence will be received from the Society.

Amend Rule 15 to read

The Society shall appoint 3 persons, from outside of the Society, and who have no connection to the Society, to investigate and report on cases of doubtful or suspect pedigrees. The Society reserves the right to remove any members whose conduct, in its opinion, is or has been detrimental or prejudicial to the interests of the Society or Breed. In order to investigate a complaint, it must be received by

the Secretary within 6 weeks of the incident. The Society will investigate within 2 weeks of receipt of the complaint.

Carwyn Harries noted that Rule 15 wasn't followed during 2017 as 2 people should have inspected the ram Mr & Mrs King had purchased. He also stated that it will be difficult to find 3 people from outside the Society that are unconnected to members. After some debate, it was suggested that 3 people should investigate a complaint with at least one being from within the Society.

10. Review of Shows and the NSA Show and Sale

Proposal: The Society subsidises female entries to the NSA Sale at £5 per head on any age and any number of females entered. The females must be sold in order for the £5 to be claimed.

A vote was held and this was agreed unanimously

Proposal: Change to Points form for 2018 to include points for Interbreed Champion and Reserve.

A vote was held and this was agreed unanimously

NSA Show and Sale – the show was held this year on the Sunday evening and was deemed a huge success. It was proposed by Carwyn Harries, seconded by Henry Jones and agreed by all that this should be continued. It was suggested that prize cards are used and that the winning lot number be written on the prize card and displayed at the pen so that people knew which animal had won the prize. The Sale itself to continue at 11am on the Monday – this was voted with 24 in favour and 2 against.

Volunteers were needed to organise the food for 2018.

The Chair thanked Lucy and her team of drovers.

It was raised that vendors had been charged by the NSA for each animal sold in order to cover the cost of the Tug Taxis. Lucy Levinge said she would feedback to the NSA and also encouraged anyone who was interested in driving a tug taxi to get in touch.

It was noted that sheep were let loose at this year's Spring Festival. Bethan Watkin asked if this was going to happen again in the future. The matter was of some concern as one yearling had got loose. Malcolm Evans, the judge, noted that he had discussed it with Gwyn Davies and the exhibitors themselves and they were all happy. Malcolm felt that the sheep showed themselves better when loose. Elizabeth Eagles asked the meeting who would be liable if something had happened and if a member didn't have enough public liability insurance.

It was noted that the Society cannot dictate to judges how to do their job, but the Society needs to check it has enough Public liability insurance.

11. Presentation of points' trophies

Senior Points Trophy – Eirian & Jasmine Jones

Junior Points Trophy – Rhys Mills

Highest price sheep at the Society Sale – Joseph Family

12. Election of Officers & Committee

A presentation was made to Elizabeth Eagles as she was now standing down as one of the publicity officers. Kate Hovers and Stephen Pugh have made arrangements with Lynda Hawker to present her with a gift.

Review of Honorariums for Membership Secretary, Publicity Officer and Registration Secretary:

Publicity: £500 - Proposed by Elizabeth Eagles, Seconded by Myfyr Jones
Registrations: £1,000 - Proposed by Brian Eagles, Seconded by John Jones
Membership & Database: £1,000- Proposed by Brian Eagles, Seconded by Dafydd Williams

Treasurer: £750 - Proposed by Eirian Jones, Seconded by John Jones.

NSA Show Stewards - £50 each – Proposed by Henry Jones, Seconded by Malcolm Evans

The above honorariums were agreed by all.

A vote was held for committee members. Kate Hovers and Timothy Evans counted the votes. The following four committee members were elected: Geraint Jones, D Price Jones, Neil Dillon and Carwyn Harries.

Treasurer – Mrs Lynda Hawker – Proposed by Carwyn Harries, Seconded by Sean Jeffreys

Membership – Mrs Lynda Hawker – Proposed by Elizabeth Eagles, Seconded by Menna Parry

Website – Mrs Debbie Kingsley - Proposed by Malcolm Evans, Seconded by Dafydd Williams

Publicity – Dafydd Williams - Proposed by Eirian Jones, Seconded by Gareth Jones

Registrations – Rebecca Haf Lloyd – Proposed by Henry Jones, Seconded by John Jones

NSA Rep – Kate Hovers - Proposed by Carwyn Harries, Seconded by Jill Evans

Field Officer – Timothy Evans – Proposed by Bethan Watkin, Seconded by Catrin Price

The above were agreed by all.

It was proposed by Malcolm Evans and seconded by Meirion Williams that Mr Aeron Edwards be invited to the committee meeting prior to the NSA Show & Sale in order for everybody to be aware of all arrangements.

13. Nomination of Judges

Joshua Brigg – Proposed: Robin Jones Seconded: Malcolm Evans

Kate Hovers – Proposed: Timothy Evans Seconded: Mathew Bevan

Hywel Williams - Proposed: Gareth Jones Seconded: Sean Jeffreys

A short discussion was had regarding shows using non-panel judges. Even though shows cannot be forced to use panel judges, shows need to be reminded that having a Society judge would attract more exhibitors. The letter enclosed with

the list of judges to shows should explain the points system the Society has in place.

The NSA Show and Sale judges would be decided upon at the Spring meeting in May.

14. Any Other Business

Rare Breeds Trust – It is possible for us to get the Torwens as a Rare Breed. There is a PHD on genetics of Welsh sheep which proves that there is enough DNA difference for the Torwen sheep to be classed as a rare breed. This would give the Society some protection if there was a disease outbreak. There is a Breeds at Risk Register held by the UK Government and a register of Welsh Sheep that need protection held by the Welsh Government. This can only be good for the breed. It was proposed by Brian Eagles, seconded by Mathew Brown and agreed by all to proceed with this.

Following the Spring meeting, Kate Hovers has done some investigation with regard to testing for colouring of sheep. She has found a Government approved UCAS laboratory, which is responsible for illegal dyes in food stuffs. The Kennel Club also uses the laboratory. They can develop a process. We would need to submit one clean sample of wool and four samples of coloured wool and then the process for testing would be able to be developed. The cost would be £600 plus VAT. It was agreed by the meeting that this is something that needs to be looked at. A vote was held to give permission to investigate if this is feasible.
Vote – 23 in favour and none against.

It was queried why the NSA price list wasn't included in the 2016 Flock Book. The meeting was told that a complete list wasn't available from the auctioneer as a closed system is used during the NSA sale.

Bethan Watkin noted that she had been in touch with Daltons and that Diane D'bouk from the company was willing to attend the Spring meeting if given enough warning to attend.

Malcolm Evans has been contacted by a member who has noticed that she and another member have the same Prefix. It was agreed that whoever was given the prefix first would keep the prefix and that the other member would need a new one.

Catrin Price asked that the Chairman gave a committee report to the Spring Meeting and the AGM.

Show dates – The secretary noted that she was aware that Cardigan and Tregaron shows have already changed their dates and kindly asked that members let her know if there are any other changes they know of.

The secretary noted that she would be setting up a facebook account for the secretary.

Catrin Price extended the Society's congratulations to the Secretary on winning the Supreme Champion lambs at the Welsh Winter Fair.

It was suggested that the Society gives a monetary contribution towards the Welsh Mountain Pure Breeds Section at the Welsh Winter Fair. The committee was given permission to decide on the details.

The Society's attention was brought to the change in the Data Protection Law that is changing in May. The Society will need to do some work regarding how it keeps information about members.

Trophy in memory of Glyn Hawker. Champion Young Member / Champion Young Shepherd. A nomination system to be put in place. It would look at how the young member contributes, helped older members and has helped to promote the breed. Lynda Hawker to decide on the winner. Again the committee was given permission to decide the detail.

15. Venue of next AGM

It was proposed by Myfyr Jones and seconded by Timothy Evans that the AGM be held in Builth every other year and that it should move with the Chairman the following year. This was agreed by all. It was agreed that the Spring Meeting will be held on Sunday 13 May 2018 at a location in Builth Wells.

The meeting was declared closed at 4.45pm.