

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at The Caerberis Manor,
Builth Wells, Saturday 3 November, 2018 at 1pm**



Present:

Robin Jones; Malcolm Evans; Kate Hovers; Stephen Pugh; DR Lynn Williams; Huw Williams; Rebecca Haf Lloyd; Elizabeth Eagles; Brian Eagles; Jill Evans; Bethan Watkin; Rhys Evans; Ffion Williams; Cerys Brown; Sara Brown; Michelle Evans; Meleri Brown; Timothy Evans; Mathew Brown; Sean Jeffreys; Myrddin Parry; Menna Parry; Lis Williams; Veronica Brigg; Joshua Brigg; Llinos Davies; Lucy Levinge; Will Hughes; Neil Dillon; Glyn King; Gaenor King; Lynda Hawker; Enfys Williams.

1. Apologies for absence

Debbie Kingsley; John Shruballs; Sarah Shruballs; Gail Shruballs; William & Dougie Crew; Hywel Williams; Gwyn Jones; Morys Ioan; Rhys Mills;

Before moving on with the agenda, the Chairman noted that the Society had lost some long standing members during the year: Mr John Honeyfield and Mrs Glenys Griffiths. The Chairman led the meeting in a minutes' silence in their memory.

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes were proposed as a correct record by Joshua Brigg and seconded by Timothy Evans.

Brian Eagles updated the meeting on the Rare Breeds status.

Kate Hovers updated the meeting on the testing of wool that had been tampered with. The testing at the moment isn't able to detect any difference. Kate is sending more wool off to be sampled. So far, all of this work hasn't incurred any cost.

Public Liability when letting sheep loose at shows. Lynda Hawker to check the Society's insurance. Exhibitors are meant to have their own public liability.

Local shows find it hard to get judges and very often look to

3. Correspondence

Last minute correspondence was received from the Royal Welsh Winter Fair regarding the True Taste competition. Lucy Levinge has kindly organised that Dafydd Lewis, Cothi Flock will be entering on behalf of the Society.

A letter of thanks was received from HRH Princess Anne thanking the Society for their kind gift at the NSA Show and Sale 2018.

4. Chairman's Report

It has been an honour to serve the society as chairman for the past two years but I couldn't have done it without the help of a hardworking and dedicated committee and officers. I think this year has been the most stable in terms of officers and positions on the committee for many years which has helped a great deal. I hope this stands us in good stead for the years to come.

Once again, this year has been very successful one within the show ring and I would like to congratulate all the winners and thank all those taking part. The shows really are a great way of promoting the breed and attracting new members. They see the fun and banter we have which in turn shows what a great society we are.

We have had quite a bit of Royal involvement this year with 4 representatives of the Society travelling down to Buckingham Palace to the Royal Tea Party. The Society was also fortunate to receive a visit from Princess Ann at the NSA Show and Sale. I'd like to thank both Lucy and Kate for representing the Society and also to Gareth Jones and Aron Hemmings for demonstrating the two breeds and their characteristics so well. The Society also donated a small gift to the Princess and her new grandchild for which we have received a personal thank you. No Knighthood yet though.

I wish to note my thanks to Rebecca for organising today's venue and am looking forward to tonight's meal and social get together.

The future of Agriculture is very uncertain at present with Brexit looming ever closer and all the changes ahead. We can't say one way or the other how things will go – will it be a complete disaster or possibly a golden opportunity – only time will tell. Current reflections in the market for small welsh lambs is pretty poor to say the least and I, amongst many others, have cut down on badgers to keep more commercial sheep. This is, however, an opportunity to demonstrate the commercial value of our breed and it's been great to see the interest on our stand where we have had fine examples of badger mules or crossbred lambs on show. It is very important however that we don't lose sight of our breed and our society's aims. It is important that we continue to breed correct animals of breed type for the future of the society.

Lastly, I'd like to thank all the members for their support over the years. It has not been easy but as I said it has been an honour. I wish the new chairman and president well and wish the Society all the best for the future.

5. Publicity Report

The report was provided by Mr Dafydd Williams.

The publicity stand has been to numerous events this year and it has been a very successful year again. The stand first attended the spring festival where it was awarded reserve best stand, thank you to the Joseph family for supplying the sheep. Josh Briggs, Lucy Levinge and Kate Hovers then attended the NSA sheep event which had a lot of interest and positive comments on the Badger Face cross Suffolk lamb. Thank you to the three of them for attending and for Lucy for supplying the ewe and the cross bred lamb.

The stand then attended the Royal Welsh show and was again successful show. The stand was closed on the Monday for judging but the other three days it was very busy. Thank you to Gareth Vince for supplying the ram, ewe and cross bred lamb. David wood took information leaflets and a few merchandise to publicize the breed in Chertsey show as well I must say a big thank you to all the members who volunteered and gave their time to help out on the stand in all the events this year, without all of your help it would not be possible to have a publicity stand at these events, also to Tudor Gethin for looking after the trailer and transporting it to the shows.

There will be an advert in the winter fair catalogue again this year. Society Christmas cards are for sale and a pack of 5 cards is only £2.50. If you would like to purchase some, my mum has some with her today. Also with Christmas just around the corner and you just can't find that unique gift to buy this year, how about a badger face sheep merchandise, from mugs and bowls, aprons, brooch, bags, pens, stickers, ties, bibs, hats and clothes. Full list is on the website but you can also contact me direct if you wish.

6. Website Report

WEBSITE REPORT as of END OF OCTOBER 2018

- 54,814 visits to the website since January 2018, with an increase month on month (from 4765 in January to a peak to 6641 in August and 6119 in October), currently achieving 200-250 visitors a day, and a fairly steady 1500 visitors each week.
- Members are selling their sheep quickly through the website. Photographs of sheep for sale could be improved by taking them side on, not from a standing position which doesn't do the sheep justice – accordingly a tip to sellers has been put on the website selling page.
- The banner photographs on the website have been changed to show the 2018 Torddu and Torwen champions from the Society Show and Sale. Very nice quality images of the sheep were provided but it's a shame the heads of their owners were not included – we have them up to their chins!
- There are currently 357 society members. There are now 340 members of the closed facebook group open to society members and their immediate family. It continues to be very well used.
- 975 people follow the public facebook page. The Society Secretary and Dafydd Williams have been given admin rights for this page.
- Family membership details have been put onto the membership application form and uploaded onto the website.
- There has been a suggestion that the crossing attributes of the Badger Face should be shared – information about this with suitable photographs of various crosses could be put on the website.
- I noted from the last minutes that only shows that have had panel judges should have pictures on the website. Please point me to a list of shows with panel judges so that I can comply.

7. Treasurer's Report

Please note that these are interim accounts until 31 October 2018

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
NSA Affiliation Fee	100.00	Sales	926.70
RWS Spring Festival Stand	380.48	Tags	6077.00
RWS Stand	954.00	Raffle	220.00
RWS Party	600.00	Adverts	302.00
Accountant	180.00	Membership	5085.00
Flock Books	1507.00		
Flock Book Postage	455.92		
Welsh sheep stand	162.00		
Stock for trailer	70.70		
Insurance	524.85		
Meetings - room hire	250.00	BANK	
Catering	778.00	Community Account	14451.55
Dalton Tags	537.00	Business Mgmt Acc	25391.88
Awards	298.88		
Printing	534.29		
Rosettes	170.39		
Show/Sale Prize Money	360.00		
Postage	1094.00		
Flockbook Honorarium	2000.00		
Stand Purchases	1084.75		

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 was proposed by Timothy Evans, seconded by Stephen Pugh and agreed by all as the Society auditors.

8. Registrations and Membership Report

This year there has been less stock registered than in 2017. Some of the same problems arising as last year where members haven't paid membership fees, and not allowing enough time to order tags e.g RWAS, NSA, LLANDOVERY. Please bear in mind that the minimum postage for 2nd class is 4 days, therefore please allow 7-10 working days for tags to arrive.

As Rebecca is getting married in August 2019 she will be unavailable to register stock during these dates (27th July-17th August) this has already been sent out in the newsletter therefore she will not be returning any emails, phone calls or any other messages received during this period. Please ensure that you order your tags in readiness for sale entry in plenty of time.

2017 Torddu Ewe Lambs	2017 Torddu Ram Lambs	2017 Torwen Ewe Lambs	2017 Torwen Ram Lambs
1570	136	514	53
2018 Torddu Ewe Lambs	2018 Torddu Ram Lambs	2018 Torwen Ewe Lambs	2018 Torwen Ram Lambs
1019	132	395	52
-551	-4	-119	-1

9. Amend Rule 8 to read

The Membership Subscription and Registration Fees shall be as the Society determines. Junior members should be aged 16 or under on 1st January of subscription year. All subscriptions are to be paid by 31st March. If these are not paid you are deemed not to be a member, and will incur a re-joining fee of double the subscription fee.

Unanimously agreed by all.

Amend Rule 15 to read

The Society shall appoint 3 persons, from within the officials of the Society (either committee members or officers), 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 commence any investigation within 2 weeks of receipt of the complaint.

Unanimously agreed by all.

Amend wording of Rule 19 to read - Exhibitors shall not, under any circumstances, artificially colour the fleece or existing markings by any means. It will be investigated as per Rule 15.

Unanimously agreed by all.

Proposed New Rule - Provisional judges to have a minimum two years judging experience and to have judged 5 shows in two or more years. A maximum of three shows only to be judged by any judge during one year. Each provisional judge to send a CV into the committee meeting before the AGM in order to be approved for promotion at the AGM. A provisional judge must not judge a county show and it is

the individual members' responsibility to inform the show that they are not qualified to judge at County level. Judges to be sent a set of rules when they are appointed as a provisional judge. A judge to be a fully paid up member in their own right. Unanimously agreed by all.

10. Presentation of points' trophies

Senior Points Trophy – Eirian & Jasmine Jones

Junior Points Trophy – Rhys Mills

Highest price sheep at the Society Sale – Malcolm Evans

A new award this year was presented in memory of Mr Glyn Hawker. The young shepherd award was presented to Sara Brown.

11. Election of Officers & Committee

President: Stephen Pugh. Proposed by Kate Hovers and seconded by Neil Dillon. Agreed by all.

Vice President: Menna Parry Proposed Brian Eagles and seconded Lynda Hawker. Agreed by all.

Chairman: Malcolm Evans

Proposed by Lyn Williams and Seconded by Josh Brigg and agreed by all.

Malcolm thanks Robin for his hard work during the last two years and thanked the membership for the honour of becoming Chairman.

Vice-Chairman: Geraint Jones Proposed Timothy Evans; Seconded Hefin Thomas and agreed by all.

Committee Members:

5 members stood for election onto the committee. Timothy Evans and Kate Hovers were nominated as tellers. Following a paper vote Lynn Williams and Lucy Levinge were elected onto the committee.

Officers:

Dafydd Williams – Publicity

Enfys Williams – Secretary

Rebecca Haf Lloyd – Registrations

Lynda Hawker – Treasurer & Membership

Debbie Kingsley – Website

NSA Rep: Joshua Brigg

Nomination of Judges:

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 following were nominated as new judges:

Mathew Brown
Aron Hemmings
Ellie Layton
Aled Thomas

There was also a discussion here regarding the family membership. It was agreed that the family membership allows for 2 votes and 2 judges if circumstance arises.

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.

Professional photos at shows – It was agreed that Chrissie Long would be asked to photograph at the Spring Festival; Royal Welsh Show and NSA Show & Sale. She would also be asked to take Champion Photos at any show she was present.

NSA Show and Sale Catalogue – Enfys provided a proof of the 2019 catalogue and a quote of £420 plus £25 artwork. It was agreed to produce a catalogue of this standard from 2019 onwards.

The standard of stock was raised. It seems that the top end of the breed is going from strength to strength and the bottom end is getting worse. The quality of Torwens has decreased incredibly. It was agreed to hold an open day with the aim of encouraging new members to attend in order to understand what the standard of the breed is. It was noted that the Society has enough funds and it is time that the Society gave something back to its members.

Sale of Badgerface Sheep in England – Josh Brigg noted that Brian Eagles had raised the fact that members from outside of Wales feel very isolated from the Society. As a means of addressing this Josh proposes that we look into the possibility of holding a sale as part of the traditional Native Breeds National Show and Sale held annually in September at Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire. This has been running for many years, the 2019 Sale, on 13th and 14th September, will be the 17th, and is now a well-established and principal sale for nearly thirty native sheep breeds. It was agreed to look into the possibility of this and to discuss throughout the year and bring back to next year's AGM.

A flock competition was proposed and agreed. Expenses to be paid to the judges. The Show points' competition is struggling to get entries, this in part maybe because not everyone wants to show and the 6 day rule is also restrictive. The flock competition was proposed by Huw Williams and seconded by Timothy Evans and agreed by all. It was agreed that the competition should be held in the autumn. This would also give new members an opportunity to receive feedback on their stock.

Venue of next AGM

It was agreed that the Spring Meeting will be held on Saturday 27 April 2019 at Builth Wells and that the 2019 AGM will be held on Saturday 2 November – location to be confirmed.

The meeting was declared closed at 5.15pm.