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**Picture:**  
Will Hughes



## **Important Dates 2018**

**8 April** - Committee Meeting (Committee members only)

**13 May** - Spring Meeting, Builth Wells

**19 & 20 May** - Spring Festival

**1 July** - Committee Meeting (Committee members only)

**23 – 26 July** - Royal Welsh Show

**9 September** - Committee Meeting (Committee members only)

**16 & 17 September** - NSA Show and Sale, Builth Wells

**17 & 18 November** – English Winter Fair

**26 & 27 November** - Welsh Winter Fair

**November** – Society AGM, Builth Wells (Date and location tbc)

## **Membership**

Please remember that membership subscriptions were due at the end of March. If you are not a fully paid up member of the Society you will be unable to compete at the Royal Welsh Show.

## **2017 Flockbook**

Please send any relevant photos and adverts that you wish to be included in the 2017 Flockbook to the Secretary before 23 April 2018.

## **Vet Corner**

As I write this we have had our first Cheviot and Radnor lambs at home (Elvets favourite old ladies have lambed!), and the main flock and Torwens are in full swing.

The key to a lamb's life is good colostrum and a clean environment. Colostrum has high energy levels to get lambs up and going plus immunoglobulins that are protection against disease. Lambs that do not get enough colostrum in the first few hours of birth are not only more likely to get diseases such as scours or watery mouth; they will also have poorer growth rates and long term productivity. Artificial powdered colostrum can be a life saver as a top up but is never as good as the real stuff, so it is always worth milking some from a good ewe with lots of milk and a single lamb – obviously make sure her lamb has sucked well first. This can be stored in the fridge for 48 hours or in the freezer for at least 12 months and probably longer. Defrost either at room temperature or with container in a bowl of warm water but not in the microwave as that will denature (“cook”) the protein and so destroy the immunoglobulin / antibodies.

However much protection lambs get from colostrum, if disease levels build up they can still get ill. Cleaning individual pens, using lime or disinfectant in pens, plus around water troughs and feed areas all helps. Also, don't forget the shepherd's part. Ideally wearing gloves for any assisted lambing and definitely washing hands frequently +/- using disinfectant hand gels. If you use stomach tubes for giving colostrum, then wash well and sterilise in baby bottle fluid – it's quite cheap to make some up daily and have in a container to put tubes, bottles etc in.

This year many lambs have been kept in a little longer than usual due to dreadful weather (although badger face are tough enough for all circumstances). This increases the risk of coccidiosis, as does having lambs of different ages in the same group. Coccidiosis shows as scour, weight loss, miserable and death in lambs 4-8 weeks old. If you are worried about risk, have had problems before, or your lambs are not looking right then speak to your vet sooner rather than later – prevention is the key. All of the above is also true for calves, so the advice is the same to all of our members who are slowly coming out the other end of lambing and heading straight into Spring/Summer calving.

As some of you may know the law regarding Data Protection is changing in May and we will be sending each member a form that you will all need to complete and return so please keep an eye out for it towards the end of May.

I hope to see you all at the Spring Meeting on Sunday 13 May 2018. .

**Kate**

## **Rhys Mills (Junior Trophy Winner, 2017)**

I'm 15 years old. I have been keeping badgers since 2014. The foundations of my flock came from my grandparents as a present. I haven't been keeping and showing Badgers that long, so to find out that I had won the junior point's trophy I felt a huge sense of achievement. I have both Torddus and Torwens, but prefer the Torwens.

2017 was the first year I showed rams developing my confidence and flock to enable me to widen my showing field, coming up against stronger competition. I mainly show at small local shows but I also show at the major shows like the Royal Welsh. 2017 was also the first year I showed at the Winter Fair and to come first was more inspiring. In the future I want to develop my flock, but focusing more on the Torwens. I would like to learn to trim so that I can do more in the preparation of the flock before the showing as well as boosting my confidence in the ring and knowing that I have helped bring the sheep out to the best of my ability. Also I'm looking forward to competing at the local shows again this year and at the major shows. However 2017 will take some beating.

I feel proud to be part of the society. I have made many friends inside the society all over Wales. I would like to thank the society who welcomed me with open arms and I would like to thank the members who have helped me improve my flock and given me advice on what to look for. I would also like to congratulate Eirian & Jasmine Jones on winning the senior section.



## Registrations 2018

I will be continuing with the registrations for 2018. Please ensure all forms are filled in correctly with all of your details:

Name, Address, Postcode, Contact Number and the Prefix of your flock.

Please ensure the Dam & Sire registration tag numbers are filled in correctly and clearly on the form. We also require the individual UK number for each ewe / ram lamb that is being registered. All of the above details must be filled in on each form. Incorrect, unclear and half filled forms will be void and will not be processed. Registration forms cannot be downloaded from the website. I am unable to accept any tag orders on facebook or via email as this is not the society's policy.

Registration fees:

Ewe lambs £2 per female until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

£4 per female after 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

Ram lambs £20 per male.

Please ensure forms and correct payment are sent to me:  
(Cheques made payable to the Badger Face Sheep Society)

Miss R H Lloyd

Bwlch Dwyfor

Rhoslan

Criccieth

Gwynedd

LL52 0NS



Unpaid members will not receive any tags, please ensure that you are a paid member before sending me the forms. If you are unsure whether you have paid your membership please contact Lynda Hawker (Treasurer). Tags are sent out on 2<sup>nd</sup> class postage, please allow 7-10 working days.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation, and let's hope 2018 is a successful year for the society.

Diolch / Thank you

**Rebecca Haf Lloyd**



## A poem from the lambing shed....

Now the snow's about gone,  
The weather will surely get better?  
But just to piss us right off,  
It's getting wetter & wetter!

This winter's been a long un,  
For every man and beast,  
Pushed us to the limits,  
With those blizzards from the East.

But the days are getting longer,  
The slog will come and go,  
The sun and warmth will lift the mood,  
And the grass and weeds will grow!

Richard Joseph

## Congratulations

Congratulations to our  
President Kate Hovers on  
being elected as the Vice-  
Chair for NSA Cymru/Wales.

## Fame for Society members

Some of our members have become famous during the last few months. Steven Ley featured in the Farmers Guardian back in November and more recently in March David Barrell appeared in the weekly publication.

The Dillon Family have also featured in the Farmers Guardian, following a TV appearance on the "Farmers Country Showdown". The programme is still available on iPlayer and will be shown again on TV during the summer. The Dillon family will also be taking part in the ASAO Welsh Conference on Friday 20 April 2018.



## Welsh CAP

Congratulations to Aron Hemmings who won his first Under 20's 6 Nations Cap for Wales earlier this year.

Aron, pictured with his proud parents, plays for his local team The Carmarthen Quins.

## **Some lambing pictures so far in 2018**



**Hywel Williams – 4 yr old ewe and  
ewe lamb**



**Sean Jeffreys – 13 yr old ewe**



**Rhian Price - Ewe lamb**



**Joseph Family – In lamb ewes in the  
snow**

## **Newsletter**

Please send any relevant news that you wish to be included in the next newsletter to the Secretary before 31 May 2018.