

Cymdeithas y Defaid Mynydd Torddu-Torwen Cymreig

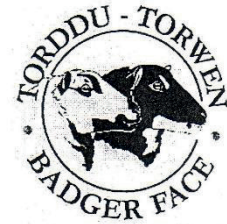
Badger Face Welsh Mountain Sheep Society

Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales

General Secretary: Enfys Williams

The Old Post Office, Pumsaint, Llanwrda, Carm. SA19 8UW

Tel: 07792 869484 Email: secretary@badgerfacesheep.co.uk



AGENDA

Autumn Meeting held at The White Hart Inn, Llandeilo,

Sunday 12 November 2023 at 3pm.

Present: Menna Parry (President); Bethan Watkin (Vice-president); Geraint Joens (Chairman); Lucy Levinge (Vice-chairman); Aeron Edwards; Dillon Family; Dafydd Lewis; Timothy Evans; Gareth Jones; Connor Marshall; Sean Jeffreys; Hywel Williams; Glyn King; Ellie Layton; Ifor Jones; Lynn Williams; John Rashbridge; Gaenor King; Llinos Davies; Gloria Beynon; Josh Brigg; AV Brigg; Malcolm & Michelle Evans; Mathew & Meleri Brown; Kay Richardson; Jessie Richardson; Donna & Matt Evans; Matthew Bevan; Liz Davies; Carwyn Harries; Mansel Glasbrok; Nick Berni; Pippi Berni; Jill Evans; Teleri Thomas; Eirian & Jasmine Jones; Aron Hemmings; Clive Jenkins; Elizabeth & Brian Eagles; Kate Hovers; Ben Pritchard; Huw Williams; Kate Williams; Enfys Williams.

Apologies: Kevin Davies; Gail Gribble; John & Sarah Shrubsall; Sara & Cerys Brown; Paul Wozencraft; Dafydd Harries; Stephen Pugh; Don Green; Gwyneth Ellis; Meirion & Lis Williams; Robin & Jenny Langford; Catrin Price; D Price Jones; Lynda Hawker.

Chairman's Report:

Geraint Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the White Hart for a wonderful lunch. It was pleasing to see such a good turnout. The Chair noted that it had been another busy year for the Society. The showing year started with the Smallholders in Builth. Congratulations were extended to Malcolm Evans & Family for winning both championships. Congratulations to Pippi Berni on winning the intermediate Young Handlers class and to all the young handlers that competed. The Society also won the Best Sheep Trade Stand Award. Thank you to Eirian & Jasmine Jones and the Davies Family for supplying sheep for the stand. The NSA Sheep Event was next and thank you to everyone that helped with the stand at the event and to Sean Jeffreys for taking sheep.

The Royal Welsh Show saw the breed have the biggest sheep classes at the show. This year the stand was in a new location and we held our social get together in the sheep ring on the Tuesday evening where the attendance was excellent. Congratulations to Malcolm & Michelle Evans & Family and the Joseph Family on their champions. And congratulations to Ella Williams, Champion Junior Young Handler and Llewellyn Evans, Reserve Champion Junior Young Handle and to Hari Williams, Reserve Champion Intermediate Young Handlers.

Badger Face Sheep classes have been well supported at all local shows across the United Kingdom. Bryncir, Worcester and Llandovery Sales were also well supported. Our own Society Sale was well supported by both vendors and purchasers. There were two new records at this year's sale being a new ram lamb and new ewe lamb record. Thank you to the inspectors and Drovers for their work on the day. A special thank you was extended to all judges throughout the year.

The Flock competition results for South Wales will be announced today and the South of England results will be announced at the AGM. Once again Geraint thanked everyone for their attendance.

Geraint thanked Menna Parry for presenting him with a folder that belonged to the late Myrddin Parry.

A special welcome to Teleri Thomas who has taken over as e-Communications officer and Jill Evans who has just started as Publicity Officer.

E-communications report:

Teleri noted that she had started in her role in June. She's received training on using the website from Andrew, and has been updating the website since then. Next year Teleri hopes to transfer local show results from Facebook to the website. She would like to know what members would like to see on both the website and Facebook pages.

Membership report:

This year there are 253 paid up members. Whilst the number is down the income is similar to previous years due to the fact that the membership fee was raised this year. Geraint noted that Huw wishes to stand down as membership officer and thanked him for his hard work. Geraint noted that expressions of interest for the role closes on 20th November.

Registrations Report:

Torwen Ewe Lambs	Torwen Ram Lamb	Torddu Ewe Lamb	Torddu Ram Lamb
377	50	1053	122

Aeron noted that a higher number of Torddu Yearling rams and Yearling ewes have been registered this year.

Kate Hovers noted that she decided in the Spring whether she was keeping on yearling males and females. A short discussion was had regarding the cut off date for registering both male and female yearlings. Kate Hovers proposed and Jill Evans seconded that the cut off date for registering both male and female yearling be brought forward to May or June. This will be taken to the 2024 AGM as a recommendation.

Aeron also noted that money was being wasted on stamps. Stamps have risen this year again and very often members only register one or two animals. A discussion was had regarding how this cost can be covered. Malcolm Evans proposed and it was seconded by Huw Williams, that the cost of posting tags be covered the member. This will be taken to the 2024 AGM as a recommendation.

Treasurer's Report:

The accounts to date were presented by the Treasurer and there were no questions from the members. The accounts can be found at the end of this set of minutes. Menna Parry asked who we were insured with. Kate noted that all our policies were held with the NFU. Kate was happy to ask for new quotes before the next renewal date.

Feedback on stands at Smallholders & Royal Welsh Show 2024

Geraint thanked everyone who volunteered to help with the stands throughout the year. A special thanks to Kate and Enfys for sorting the various stands as we have been without a publicity officer for most of 2023 and also to Tudor Gethin who stores the trailer.

Menna Parry noted that she was on the stand on the Wednesday of the Royal Welsh and it seemed to be a very small crowd on the stand. Maybe not all the public knew there were stands up on the balcony. A few of the members noted that the Royal Welsh stand was good for members.

Elizabeth Eagles noted that there were no sheep on the stand. Everyone knows that if you're looking for a new breed of sheep it's to the NSA shed they will go. People like to see how quiet sheep are on a stand and then children encourage their parents to buy the sheep. We've always done well at the NSA shed.

Kate noted that we had saved money this year by moving to the balcony and that we took that spot this year as we would never get offered it again.

Hywel Williams noted that perhaps we should invest more effort in our stand at the NSA Sheep event – that is where we will sell our breed/sheep.

Glyn King suggested that we stay on the balcony for another year and then re-assess the situation.

Review of Show & Sale 2023

Geraint asked for the members view on this year's show & sale and specifically the inspection process.

John Rashbridge noted that he felt the inspection was slightly too harsh, a few hairs could have been passed. We need to breed a commercial, grass fed animal that is low maintenance and is a good dead weight.

Kate Hovers felt that having inspections on the morning of the Show & Sale was too much for everyone. Kate noted she was in favour of inspections.

Ben Pritchard noted that it was a pedigree sale and as an inspector he thought that they all did an efficient job within the situation given. They had been briefed by the committee two weeks previous to the sale and the inspectors had gone with the committee's wishes. Horns in ewes and ewe lambs are not acceptable within the breed. Ben suggested that ram lamb inspections are bought back before the Royal Welsh. Costs are high – registration, feed and entre fees and people are being disappointed when their lamb doesn't make the grade. Mansel Glasbrook supported Ben's comments.

Glyn King suggested that new members should be educated more in terms of breed points. The standard did improve under the old way of inspections. However it was suggested that bringing back the old type inspections will create more work and cost.

Neil Dillon suggested that we hold an education day for both new and long standing members. Sean Jeffreys agreed that education is key. Perhaps we can commission a video explaining each point on camera. Though it is hard to explain what a traditional Welsh type looks like.

Dafydd Williams explained that the Royal Welsh entries close April/May. Huw Williams explained that the Balwen Society hold an inspection towards the end of June and are able to withdraw their lambs. As an inspector, Huw felt that the inspections were too much of a rush on the morning of the sale and would prefer a ram lamb inspection prior.

Donna Evans noted that the Society has a field officer who is approachable, friendly and kind and we should utilise Tim more or have a few more field officers in order to help all members before shows and sales and then on Sale day inspection can be just the three Ts.

Malcolm Evans seconds everything Ben has said. For him when he joined, inspections was a learning process. If something fails you are there to see it and you learn from it. Inspections have been successful in the past, but he appreciated Glyn's comments regarding organisation and cost. Malcolm noted that everyone agrees that

there are problems creeping into the breed and we must sort it out now before it gets too far down the line, and whilst we are the biggest sheep breed in the Royal Welsh it would be nice to have an excellent line up. Clive Jenkins noted that as a family they had learnt a lot from the inspection at Brecon this year.

Hywel Williams said that he had recently spoken to a long standing member, who very recently judged at the Royal Welsh and he will be giving up his flock of Badgers because he feels the Society has lost its way without the ram lamb inspections.

Elizabeth Eagles asked if people would moan about the travelling distance to inspections? Will they continue with the sheep? Malcolm suggested it would be possible to hold inspections outside of Wales and we must think of positives in order to improve the breed and move forward. Glyn noted that it would be essential to have consistency within inspections. Brian Eagles noted that the last ram lamb inspections nearly tore the Society apart – we have been without inspections for 13 years. He feels that bringing back inspections will cause another rift.

Sean Jeffreys noted that when there are bad sheep about the market will decide. Inspections has the potential to cause another rift and we'll go back into the dark days when people used to cut tails etc.

Jill Evans noted that it was a relief when inspections stopped, however the breed standard is slipping and feels that Covid has not helped as we were without shows for two years and people have been unable to self educate. We must have a bare minimum standard at the Society Sale. Jill proposed that there are three options available:

- Continue with inspection at Brecon
- Bring back ram lamb inspection
- No breed inspection needed

Gareth Jones and Hywel Williams asked whether it was possible to hold a show the evening before the sale and have a social get together like there used to be at Builth Wells. Donna Evans noted that this would affect members in their part of the world as the day before the Sale is Usk Show day.

Ellie Layton suggested that we get photos of bad markings at the Winter Fair.

All were in favour of taking photos at the Winter Fair and that the three options regarding inspections and a show on the evening before the sale be discussed and voted upon at the 2024 AGM.

Lynn Williams queried the order of selling i.e. if someone has three yearling rams to sell it can take out buyers for other vendors. Other Societies do a different form of selling order.

Any Other Business:

At the 2025 AGM, six committee members are due to stand down (this is due to not having two AGMs due to Covid-19). It was agreed that six new members would be a lot to find at on time. Geraint Jones noted that he didn't want to lose anyone from the committee as the committee is working well, but it had been agreed at the 2022 AGM that three members would remain on committee for 2 years only. Glyn King suggested that three names should be drawn out of a hat at the 2024 AGM and they would be the committee members to stand down. All were in agreement with this approach.

Geraint asked what everyone's views were on the judging at the Royal Welsh being held over two days. It was a mixed response, however some did feel the Torddus should be held on the Monday, as they are the biggest Welsh breed at the show. A vote was held and 11 members voted to keep it over two days and only seven voted to keep the judging on the Monday.

Reserve judges were needed for the Smallholders:

Carwyn Harries would judge Torddu and Dafydd Lewis would judge Torwen.

Geraint noted that he would like to see more members added to the list of Life Members. All agreed to bring any nominations to the next AGM.

Ben Pritchard raised the issue of sheep being sold as registered sheep when they didn't have Society tags in them. Ben had noticed the sheep at the Llandoverly sale and had raised the issue with the vendor. The reputable breeder had put the prefix tag in the ear but not a Society tag. Ben noted that this isn't good enough and others noted that they had also picked up on the matter. Ben asked the question if members are allowed to do this then what is the point of a Society tag? It was agreed that the members in question should be written to and their attention drawn to the Society rules regarding tagging.

Geraint noted that the Society would be celebrating 50 years in 2026. We will need to start thinking about celebrations before long. Menna noted that if anyone wishes to write a book about the Society then she has every newsletter since the start – Myrddin had kept them all over the years. Elizabeth noted that Brian Kempton once drafted a book and she agreed to ask Liz Kempton whether she still had a copy. Hywel suggested that if a copy was still available that Brian Eagles would be the most appropriate person to update/carry on with that work.

Sean kindly offered to hold an Open Day during 2026 to mark the celebrations.

The winners of the South Wales Flock Competition were announced.

The meeting was closed at 6pm.

Badger Face Welsh Mountain Sheep Society
Accounts to 10 November 2023

	Year to 10/11/2023	PREV YR Year to 31/12/2022	
Income			
Senior Membership	6000.00	5100.00	
Junior Membership	240.00	70.00	
Male Registrations	4760.00	4620.00	
Female Registrations	4431.00	6149.00	
Yearling Tags & Sub Tags	399.00	1566.00	
Merchandise Sales	725.19	511.90	
Flock Book Adverts	301.00	454.00	
McCartneys Share of Sale	1865.00	1715.00	
Show & Sale Sponsorship Prize Money	360.00	360.00	
Donation		27.00	
Money manager interest	274.92	49.73	
Total Income	19356.11	20622.63	
Expenditure			
Purchases	1818.23		
NSA Affiliation Fee	115.00	100.00	
Insurance	744.91	735.84	
Newsletters/ Agenda/minutes Printing	376.00	613.46	
Flockbook Costs - see over	2250.00	4578.24	
Postage - Other	801.20	1124.22	
Stationery	66.31	64.52	
Dalton Tags	987.54	874.80	
Brecon Sale Costs - see over	2809.34	2609.04	
Female Refunds from 2021		20.00	
Honariums excluding Flock Book	3000.00	6833.00	
Officers Travelling		200.00	
Accountancy		60.00	-67.20
Advertising	354.00	222.00	
Registration Books			
Photography - see over	327.00	874.20	
Website & Email Expenses			
Flock Competition Expenses		554.85	
Bank chgs		100.22	
Royal Welsh Show Expenses - see over	1783.40	1597.87	
Stand Costs- see over	2074.52	2428.01	
Meeting Costs -see over	220.00	522.37	
Sundry	31.94		
Total Expenditure	17759.39	24112.64	
HSBC Bank Balance at 31/12/22	0.00	0.00	
Lloyds Bank Balance	6898.69	5677.69	
HSBC Reserve Balance	26168.60	25893.68	

Stand Costs

Welsh Sheep Stand	180.00
Royal Welsh Stand	600.00
Smallholders Stand	445.56
Aluminium Board for Outside Shed	339.00
Refreshments	26.49
Electricity for Royal Welsh Stand	96.68
Display Boards for Stand	182.40
Pictures & Sundries for Stand	<u>204.39</u>
	2074.52

Meeting Costs

Hire of Pavilion for Spring Meeting	
Tea, Coffee etc for above	
Greyhound -AGM & committee	170.00
YFC Room Hire	<u>50.00</u>
	220.00

Flock Book Costs

Printing	
Enfys Administrator	2250.00
Postage	
	<u>2250.00</u>

Photography

Smallholders	327.00
Winter Fair	
Three Counties	<u>160.80</u>
	487.80

Royal Welsh Show Expenditure (excluding Stand - see Stand Costs)

Food for Party	840.00
Photography	837.00
Glass Trophies	72.00
Flowers for Stand	
Water for Competitors	
Rosettes	<u>34.40</u>
	1783.40

Brecon Sale Expenditure

Sale Catalogues & Leaflets	674.00
Photography	591.30
Prize Money	360.00
Postage for Sale Catalogue	187.50
Drovers	120.00
Food for Inspector & Drovers	184.00
Advert	480.00
Sale Entry Forms	
Rosettes	67.20
Envelopes & Labels	38.54
Trophies	60.00
Catrin Price Fee	30.00
Prize Cards	<u>16.80</u>
	2809.34

Stationery

Enfys	66.31
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Postage

General	787.50
Enfys	13.70
	<u>801.20</u>

Sundry

Flowers & Cards	31.94
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