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Gorffennaf / July 2024



Neges gan y Cadeirydd / Chairman's Message

I hope this newsletter finds all of our members well, the first of which since I was handed the baton from Geraint. It was lovely to catch up with many faces at the recent AGM, the first time since lambing for most. Taking over as Chair from Geraint is a great honour and I thank Geraint for his excellent leadership and helpfulness during his two-year reign.

Our AGM saw change to the top table, and I would like to welcome our new Committee Members, Tudor Gethin, Kay Richardson and Dafydd Williams to their roles. They will bring both experience and new ideas to the Society and I wish them an enjoyable term. I would like to thank Sean Jeffreys, Donna Evans and Kevin Davies for their work during the past few years as they step down from committee.

We recently gathered for the first Committee Meeting of this term, with much discussion and decisions made covering our forthcoming events. A useful list of dates can be found in the newsletter. We were also saddened to hear on the day of the committee meeting that Charles Arch, President of the Society in 2013/14 has passed away.

The Smallholding Festival at Builth saw the beginning of the show season. Jill Evans did an excellent job of her first publicity stand, since taking office at the end of last year. It looked good, giving plenty of information about the Breed and I am sure that members found it a useful place to meet up and enjoy refreshments. It is pleasing to see how well the Badger Face classes are supported at all shows – with the quality presented, this is an excellent shop window for our sheep. Among the ideas discussed at the AGM, the Committee is now organising help for our newer members. This is to learn more about the breed and the Society. It will be a good opportunity to meet one of our judges and ask questions about what we are striving to achieve as a Society. Further details can be found within the newsletter.

Already halfway through the year, we are heading towards the pinnacle of the showing year, the Royal Welsh Show. I look forward to meeting members during the week and wish all competitors a successful show. Please visit the breed stand which will be situated on the balcony above the show ring, for the second year, where refreshments are available. Our annual party will also take place on the Tuesday evening, and we hope to see you there.

If you have any Society queries, please do not hesitate to contact a Committee Member, details can be found on the website. The website is currently being updated by Donna Evans, who has very kindly taken on the social media/website work.

Finally, a personal thank you to all Officers. The Society would not run without your help, which is very much appreciated.

Lucy Levinge

Committee Meeting Update

A committee meeting was recently held on 7 July. The main topics discussed were:

- Finances – the committee is looking at various ways to cut down on expenditure – details of changes to the newsletter can be found within this newsletter
- The 2024 Autumn Meeting will be held on Sunday 10 November and further details including time and venue will be available in September.
- Celebrating 50 years – if anyone wishes to be part of a sub-committee to help and support organise the celebrations please contact the Secretary.

Royal Welsh Show 2024

The judging times will be the same as last year - the Torwen sheep will be judged at 3pm Monday and Torddu at 8.30am Tuesday. Don't forget to visit the Society stand on the balcony up above the sheep pens next to the sheep ring.

The Society will hold its annual social get together on the Tuesday evening at 7pm in the Sheep ring or if it's wet up on the balcony at the Society Stand. There is no charge for the food, however donations are welcome but not mandatory.

Country Girl Media will be there to take stood photos of class winners at a time to be arranged at the Show. If anyone else wishes to have any photos taken, please contact the secretary.

The Society wishes past President, Kate Hovers, all the very best as she takes on the task of judging the Lloyd Award on the Wednesday of the Royal Welsh Show.

Would you like some advice regarding the breed Standard?

Are you a new or young member or just a member who would like some advice regarding breed points? If so, we have experienced members from within the Society that are willing to spend time with you at the Royal Welsh Show and walk around the sheep lines with you and discuss anything and everything about the breed points. If this is something that you would like to take advantage of please contact the Secretary with your phone number, your availability at the Show and whether you would like to talk about the Torddu, Torwen or both. The Secretary will then put you in touch with the most appropriate person.

SCHMALLEMBERG VIRUS (SPV)

The purpose of this short article is to update the information which is available on SCHMALLEMBERG . The virus was first identified in Northern Europe in 2011 in cattle who showed high temperatures, milk drop and gave birth to deformed calves . By 2012 the virus was traced to being spread by biting mosquitoes. In the next few years there were few reports, however these increased in 2016 and it now appears that the virus is showing peaks every 3 to 5 years.

In the autumn of 2023 evidence of the presence of the virus was detected in milk samples from cattle. Subsequently, in the last 4 months to March 2024, 442 suspect cases have been tested of which 233 were positive so we can conclude the virus is circulating in the mosquito population and they are busy spreading it to cattle, goats, sheep and even camels. Of the 233 positive cases 24 were in calves, 2 in goats and the rest in lambs.

Infected ewes when in lamb abort or have stillborn lambs. If they are born alive the lambs have limb deformities, curvature of the spine and skull malformation so require euthanasia, surprisingly some ewes with twins will produce one badly deformed lamb and another which appears normal.

It is now thought that the deformities are produced if a ewe is pregnant and is infected by a biting mosquito in the 28 to 60th day of her pregnancy with the same scenario in cattle, but the time span is 80 to 150 days of gestation.

At present there is no vaccine available against this viral infection which has been most serious in the early lambing flocks largely because they tup earlier when the mosquitoes are still very active. It does appear that infection can be reduced by either dipping close to tupping or applying insecticides which deter mosquitoes. Research is ongoing and it is very important the information on levels of infection is gathered. To this end APHA offers free testing and can be contacted on 0300 303 8268 in Wales and 03000 200 301 in England. It remains important that as much data as possible is collected as this problem will not go away.

B.W. EAGLES, BSc B Vet Med MRCVS

Changes to the Society Newsletter

At the recent committee meeting, it was identified that sending 4 newsletters a year by email, posting it on the members Facebook group and on the Society, website would save the Society circa £1400 per annum. It was agreed that after this newsletter, this would be the last newsletter automatically posted out to members. If you wish to continue receiving the newsletter by post, please contact the secretary. Please remember to check the flock book to ensure we have the correct information for you – be that your address, your email address or phone number. We have had several instances during the past 18 months where members have moved and haven't notified the Society, which has resulted in post not reaching members and incurring additional cost to the Society.

Polite Reminder

All Society officers work full time and/or farm as well as some having young children. It is not always possible for them to answer the phone or answer Messenger messages immediately. When phoning and if you require a call back, please leave a voicemail message. Our officers will get back to you as soon as they can, but we ask for your cooperation. Diolch.

Contact details for officers:

Kate Williams, Treasurer – treasurer@badgerfacesheep.co.uk

Enfys Williams, Secretary – secretary@badgerfacesheep.co.uk

Aeron Edwards, Registrations – registrations@badgerfacesheep.co.uk

Jill Evans, Publicity – publicity@badgerfacesheep.co.uk

Donna Evans, e-Communications Officer – webadmin@badgerfacesheep.co.uk

Sean Jeffreys - Flockbook Administrator -

Society Show & Sale

As you are aware, this year's Society Show & Sale will be held on Sunday 8 September at Brecon Livestock Market. Entries are now open and will close on Wednesday 7 August. Entry forms are available to download and print from the Society website or can be collected from the Society stand at the Royal Welsh Show. All sheep entered into the Society Show & Sale must be registered.

Please feel free to use the sale poster on social media to advertise the sale or we will have some spare posters at the Society stand at the Royal Welsh if you would like one to display at any local event you are attending.

NSA Sheep Event, Malvern

The Society will have a breed stand at the NSA Sheep Event, Malvern on Tuesday 30 July. If you would like to help on the stand for an hour please contact Jill Evans, Publicity Officer.

Smallholding & Countryside Festival
Judge: Mr Sean Jeffreys
Champion: Aron Hemmings (Yearling ewe)



Judge: Mr Dafydd Lewis
Champion: Davies Family (Yearling ewe)



Royal Three Counties Show
Judge: Mr Ben Pritchard
Overall Badger Face Champion: Kay Richardson & Family



Rare Breeds Survival Trust
Overall Champion Young Handler – Ollie Davies



E-comms Update

I was happy to accept the position of the E-comms officer and would like to personally thank Teleri, who, visited me at home to do an initial quick handover last month, as I have frustratingly been recovering from an operation.

For those of you who do not know me, we farm at the base of the Skirrid Mountain, Monmouthshire and run our Skirrid Torddu flock, our sons Llew Flock of Torwens, our Black Welsh Mountain and commercial sheep. As a family, we are familiar faces around some of the show circuit, with our Black Welsh Mountain sheep and in recent years showing the Badger Face Torddu and Torwen sheep with our farming mad children, who are keen young handlers, showman and stock persons in their own right.

As I get to grips with my new e-Comms post, there has been quite a bit to organise behind the scenes with the website, it is not the easiest of systems to use to say the least! Please bear with me as I get to grips with it and get back to physical speed again, whilst trying to organise a busy homelife, farm and catching up with everything else, whilst I have been out of action the last few months. Social media is a more comfortable avenue for me, running our own flock pages. I also previously ran the Black Welsh Mountain Society social media pages in the run up and during their Centenary and sale events.

As I now concentrate on my new role, in order to keep the Badger Face Welsh Mountain social media pages active, please keep tagging the society in your pictures, flock updates, show results etc, as I would like to keep the social media pages active which will keep growing the audiences of the society and its highly addictive breed of sheep. If I do miss something, please feel free to inbox me privately or please share any ideas you may have. It would also be great to see the young generations being highlighted, especially with their Badger Face sheep in any of the young handler competitions or simply at home with them. They are the future of the breed after all and 'sometimes' the bosses behind the scenes!



Equally please remember that the society does have a 'private members' group page which any of its members can ask questions, share advice, safely post pictures or show success. Unfortunately, we will have to remove any 'FOR SALE pictures/posts but do get in touch and I can happily put them on the society website for you.

Please get in touch with me via the Badger Face Welsh Mountain Sheep Facebook & Instagram pages, or webadmin@badgerfacesheep.co.uk. Alternatively, please come and say hello at a show or sale. Lastly, thank you to Lucy, Enfy's and everyone else who have been a great support.

Thank you

Donna Evans
e-Communications Officer



THE OFFICIAL 2024 SHOW & SALE OF BADGER FACE WELSH MOUNTAIN RAMS & FEMALES

Will be conducted at
Brecon Livestock Market

ON SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2024
Entries Close Wednesday 7th August 2024

**Catalogues available
end of August**



Top Price Male & New Ram Lamb Record 2023 - TDRL41 - 2200gns