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Neges y Cadeirydd / Chairman's Message

Welcome to our autumn newsletter, with a special welcome to our new Members. Now the show season has finished and with the sales coming to an end, we can reflect on the past few weeks.

The Royal Welsh Show was again, a great success for our Breed. Large classes and excellent quality were a wonderful sight, the Breed Stand extremely popular and the party well attended. Thanks go to Dafydd Williams for judging the Torwens, with the championship being awarded to Gareth Lloyd – a fantastic achievement with his first ever Royal Welsh entry. Reserve went to Malcolm Evans. Thankyou also to Christie Joseph for judging the Torddu classes. Aron Hemmings took the championship here, with Matthew & Donna Evans, reserve. The Badgers also made more appearances in the young handler classes. Congratulations to Mared Jones for winning the junior category with little brother Dion Jones placed 6th in the same class and Pippi Berni placed 3rd in the senior class. An amount of £260 was received from members, as donations for the party. This was very much appreciated to help with costs.

The Show & Sale, being held in Brecon for the 5th year, has become an important date in our calendar. Congratulations to all the show prize winners, The Davies Family taking the Torwen championship and Matthew & Donna Evans in the Torddu section. Entries were very similar in number to 2023 and the trade good throughout, with some fantastic averages. We also saw new records for both the ewe lamb and ram lamb in the Torddu section – please see full report in the newsletter for more details.

We now look forward to the autumn meeting. This is being held on 10th November at The Metropole Hotel in Llandrindod Wells. Following a similar format to last year's meeting, members are able to enjoy their Sunday lunch before the meeting. Details can be found within this newsletter, the lunch needs to be booked with the secretary by 3rd November and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Thankyou to our Committee for all the help they give and to members for showcasing our breed throughout the season.

Lucy Levinge

Chairman

Membership Officer

The Society is looking for a new Membership Officer. The post holder will be required to be able to use Xero to check for incoming payments and raise invoices/receipts and use it to keep the membership database up to date. They will also be required to answer membership queries from both existing and new members. Access to and the ability to use a PC/Laptop and printer is required for this role, as all records are held digitally by the Society. Position to commence on 1 January 2025.

Honorarium: £1000

Please submit your expression of interest to Lucy Levinge, Chair Person by Friday 8 November.

What the Society expects from Members

Unfortunately, the Society received a complaint regarding the behaviour and conduct of one of our members whilst they were exhibiting at the recent Royal Welsh Show. The complaint has been received from an exhibitor with another breed and states:

‘They got very near to the ring and the sheep decided it no longer wanted to walk, so they understandably pulled on the halter a few times. The sheep still wouldn’t budge, they pulled the halter and the sheep rolled on the floor. I could see at this point they were getting extremely frustrated. They picked the sheep up, brushed off the straw and tried again. Again the sheep didn’t want to go and ended up on the floor, covered in straw again. They obviously couldn’t show the sheep covered in the straw so turned to make their way back to the pens. Again the sheep wouldn’t budge, ended up on its back a couple more times, a couple more times was dragged up again. The member was getting angrier as this happened and was extremely rough with such a little sheep. Eventually when nearer to the pens, the sheep went on its back again. The member decided, in front of the general public, to pull the sheep along the concrete floor by its halter, whacking it into the corner of the pens as they walked up the middle of them, with the sheep dragging behind. They then got far enough down the centre of the pens and I believe tied it up and brushed it again. The sheep didn’t move at the time when it was stood so I think it must have been tied extremely tight. The sheep was then carried it back towards the ring with no care.’

We, as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Society would like to remind members that Shows, whether small local shows or large shows, sales and social media are the shop window for our breed and Society. As a relatively small Society, utilising these avenues to promote our sheep and ourselves is vitally important and I urge members to try and remember this at all times when attending various sales and events or commenting on social media. The incident that happened at this year’s Royal Welsh, was obviously distressing for witnesses, and serious enough for another sheep breeder to feel the need to raise a complaint. However, due to us not being able to identify the member, we are asking all members to conduct themselves professionally and politely at all times when representing the Society.

Lamb records broken at Brecon

It was another record-breaking day for Badger Face Welsh Mountains on Sunday 8th September at the Society's main sale at Brecon Mart, where new records were set for both Torddu ram lambs and ewe lambs.

Torddu trade

Setting a new ram lamb record and highest price of the day at 2250gns was a ram lamb from Gareth Jones, Felingwm, Carmarthen. Sired by the 2023 ram lamb holder from Brecon and carrying a dam line that goes back to a 2018 Royal Welsh champion. The lamb himself was a class winner at this year's Royal Welsh and after spirited bidding from the ringside, he was finally knocked down to Aron Hemmings, Llanfynydd, Carmarthen.

Next up in the males selling at 2100gns was a yearling ram from Aled Groucott, Crumlin, Gwent. Having stood reserve champion at this year's Royal Three Counties, this one carries homebred lines on both sides with the grand sire having been purchased privately from the Joseph family in 2019. Taking this one home was Julie Tamplin, Caerphilly, Glamorgan.

Buyer of the top priced lamb, Aron Hemmings was in the action himself selling his yearling ram for 2000gns, the champion from this year's Royal Welsh Show and reserve champion in the pre-sale show. He's by the same sire as the highest priced ram lamb from the 2022 Brecon sale and found a new home with C Roscoe, Newport, Pembrokeshire.

Back with ram lambs and Dafydd and Amy Harries, Llangadog, Carmarthenshire, sold theirs for 1400gns. A prize winner at many local shows this year, he was knocked down to D G and B Thomas, Llanddeusant, Carmarthenshire.

Then at 1250gns Aron Hemmings sold another yearling ram, this time the fifth placed ram from the Royal Welsh this year. Taking this one home back to Pandy, Abergavenny was B J and L A Pritchard. He also sold his second placed ram lamb from the Welsh for 1100gns to T A Davies, Clifford, Hereford.

Meanwhile, at 1200gns was a yearling ram from Messrs King and Jeffreys, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire. This one is by the 2022 & 2023 Royal Welsh Male Champion and caught the eye of D J and C K Richardson, Chepstow, Monmouthshire.

Torddu females topped at 1000gns with a new breed record for a ewe lamb, set by Matthew and Donna Evans, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire. A half-sister to the family's reserve breed champion at this year's Royal Welsh Show. This one stood champion in the pre-sale show, judged by Neil Dillon and junior judge Ollie Davies. Backing his judging convictions, this ewe lamb went home with the judge Neil Dillon, Llangadog, Carmarthenshire.

Having made the journey down from Brough Sowerby, Kirkby Stephens, Ioan Jones then made 650gns for a ewe lamb by a LOC bred ram lamb that was no stranger to success at local shows as a lamb. This one was knocked down to G Jones, Felingwm, Carmarthenshire.

Torwen trade

Torwen trade topped at 1050gns on two occasions, the first being for young breeder Llewellyn Evans with a homebred yearling ram. This one was male and reserve breed champion at this year's Royal Three Counties and second at the Royal Welsh and Brecon Show. After lots of interest the hammer fell to Jenny Langford, Tattenhall, Chester. The next at this money was the pre-sale show champion, another yearling from the Davies family, Llanfynydd, Carmarthenshire. This one is half-brother to the champion at this year's Smallholders Show in the Spring. Buyer here was E Morgan, Hengoed, Mid Glamorgan.

Then at 920gns came the highest priced ram lamb from Eirian and Jasmine Jones, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire. This one has been a regular class winner on this year's show circuit, including the Royal Welsh and was the pick of C Jones, Llandeilo.

Next up at 850gns was another yearling, this time from previous Torddu vendors, Dafydd and Amy Harries. Another class winner from the local shows, this was the pick of Matthew and Donna Evans, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire.

Torwen trade topped at 480gns for King & Jeffreys yearling ewe. She was a class winner in the pre-sale Show and is by a Cothi sire who himself was top priced ram lamb at the 2021 Brecon Sale.

Torwen ewe lambs topped at 450gns on two occasions, the first for Malcolm Evans, Llandysul, Ceredigion. By a homebred sire with dam lines going back to the 2019 Society Sale top price, she was the choice of S Hermanis, Swansea.

Also at that money was the first placed lamb from this year's Royal Welsh Show and the pre-sale reserve champion from Gareth Jones. Sired by this year's Royal Welsh Show champion, she was the pick of G Lloyd, Ammanford, Carmarthenshire.

Averages:

Torwen: 15 ewes (yearling and older) £240.80; 24 ewe lambs £238.00; 11 rams (yearling and over) £468.68; 12 ram lambs £378.00.

Torddu: 67 ewes (yearling and older) £306.23; 74 ewe lambs £249.87; 27 rams (yearling and older) £614.05; 23 ram lambs £531.73 (McCartneys).



Royal Native Breed Lamb Taste Test Competition Welsh Winter Fair 2024

Dydd Llun 25 Tachwedd ~ Monday 25 November

The aim of this competition is to help promote all the Native Welsh breeds of Lamb and to encourage more interest in the different tastes between the various Welsh breeds, with a hope to market Welsh lamb as a premium product.

These lambs must have been born, bred and reared in Wales and we will require proof of its traceability from farm to the Show ground, including the slaughterhouse and butcher used.

The main aim of the award is to promote the unique and special nature of where these lambs are produced in the most sustainable way and this in turn translates into their distinctive flavour. These lambs will be primarily grass fed on the hills and mountains of Wales.

Two legs of lamb are required for this competition and the Society is looking for one Torddu and one Torwen lamb to be submitted. Please contact the secretary for further details and to express your interest before Sunday 10 November.

Reminder for 2024 registrations

Please remember the deadline for registrations is 30 November. After this, ewe lamb registrations will increase to £6.

Christmas Cards 2025

The Society is planning new Christmas Cards for 2025. Keep your cameras at the ready over the winter months and don't forget to take pictures of your Torwens and Torddus in winter scenes. Please keep an eye out for further information on what to do with those photos in future newsletters and on social media.