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## **King Family - Winner of the Small Flock 2019 Competition South Wales**



'We were very pleased to be awarded with the best small flock in South Wales, it was a pleasure to display our flock to the judge.

The flock was established in 1987, with Gaenor's father being a founding member. The breed is still very popular within the family.

We have been very successful in the shows over the last 33 years, having won the Royal Welsh show numerous times. Also breeding both Torddu and Torwen RWS champions of the same year on two occasions.

As a family, we take great pride in producing our annual consignment

of yearling rams and ram lambs at the society sale. We've been fortunate to win sale championships and achieve the top price of the sale on many occasions.

We'd like to thank the judge, Lucy Levinge and the society for running this competition.'

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### **Young Handlers Competition 2020**



The results were included in the last newsletter however the wrong picture was included of the under 6 winner Efa Jones. Here is Efa pictured.

## 2020 - Society holds its first online show

The Society has held the last two classes in its online show. The judges and results are below.

### Ram lamb class - Torddu judges

Garin Evans - 18yrs old from Ystrad Meurig & Owain Evans - 23 years old from Felinfach



Garin currently milks at Trawsgoed Aberystwyth University farm, which he enjoys after finishing education suddenly this year due to Covid-19.

Garin has grown up in the sheep world throughout his life, attending and showing sheep at a very young age, competing and having great fun and success in the young handler competitions.

Owain works as a mechanic in a volvo car dealership in Aberaeron where he did his apprenticeship in Coleg Sir Gar, Pibwrlwyd! Garin has always loved sheep and has shown an interest in farming since a very young age – he was always to be found in the sheep shed!

Both had always wanted their own sheep, in 2010 they bought 3 sheep from the Llandovery Colour Breeds sale and neither have looked back since! They started the Gwryfon prefix in 2012 and have had many achievements over the years from winning championships

at shows to successfully selling our sheep at the society sale! Our main aim is to make sure our sheep are up to breed standards and keep quality high!

It's so nice to see the breed going from strength to strength with the society becoming stronger every year! We think that opportunities like these, within the Society, are an excellent idea for youngsters to get involved, in order to keep and maintain their interest, keeping the Torddu breed going from strength to strength.

Diolch

## Ram lamb class - Torwen judge

Eleri Fflur Evans



I am 25 yrs old and have recently bought my first home in a small village near Aberystwyth.

Day to day I work in a nursery caring for young children but my main interest lays with my sheep. My family and I keep commercial sheep mainly on our smallholding, but I have a small flock of Torwen sheep which I enjoy looking after.

I am responsible for the care and the health of my sheep and I thrive to improve my flock of Torwen sheep.

My interest started at a young age when my parents bought me and my older sister our own torwen and torddu ewes. I instantly took a big interest and grew my flock of Torwen sheep gradually as I grew older.

I entered my first competition at the age of 9 at one of the local shows and became successful at it. I show my sheep to this day winning rosettes and cups which sit proudly in my new home.

I happily prepare my sheep myself for upcoming shows. I take good care and responsibility for my sheep and I always try to make sure they look their very best. I wish to enter bigger competitions in the future and grow my interest further.

### Ram lamb results

#### Torddu

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Malcolm Evans TDRH 8
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Joseph Family – TDRH 29
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Catrin Price
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Edward Rees – TDRH 50
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Sara & Cerys Brown – TDRH 30

#### Torwen

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Malcolm Evans – TWRH 36
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sara & Cerys Brown - TWRH16
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Rhys Mills – TWRH 6
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Aeron Edwards – TWRH 27
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Sara Morgan

## Ewe lamb judge - Torwen:

Carwyn Williams



I am 21 years old from the Aberystwyth area. I have just completed a degree in Business Management from Swansea University and will be returning to undertake a Masters course in Strategic Marketing.

As a family we have kept Torddu since 2001 and Torwen since 2003 on the farm in Devils Bridge, Aberystwyth. This has meant that I have grown up with the breed, having shown them from an early age at local and national shows following in my father and brother's footsteps.

Keeping the breed has given me an opportunity to meet a variety of people at shows and sales. Being a junior judge of the Torwens at the NSA sale was a great opportunity to put my breed points knowledge into action, whilst developing my judging experience.

Over the last few years my enthusiasm for the breed has increased further by starting my own flock. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing improvement

and I hope in the years ahead to further improve my stock of both the Torddu and Torwen. Although there are no shows this year I'm looking forward to future shows and it's an honour to be asked by the Society to undertake the task of judging this class.

### Ewe lamb results

#### Torddu

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Joseph Family TDH 315
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Aeron Edwards TDH 80
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Ifor Jones TDH 245
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Edward Rees – TDH 103
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Chloe & David Wood – TDH 241
- 6<sup>th</sup> - Huw Williams

#### Torwen

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Sara & Cerys Brown TWH137
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Eirian & Jasmine Jones - TWH 197
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Dafydd Lewis – TWH 232
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Huw Williams
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Donna Evans
- 6<sup>th</sup> - Rhys Mills – TWH50

## Ewe lamb judge - Torddu:

Ifor Thomas



I am 19 years old and currently studying the second year of an Agricultural degree at Gelli Aur.

I farm at home with my parents in Llanddeusant. I also work part time for a local agricultural contractor.

The farm is a mixed beef and sheep farm mainly comprising of Welsh Black cattle, Brecknock Hill Cheviot sheep and a small flock of Torddu sheep.

I have been bought up with Torddu sheep after my parents bought 5 ewes from Myrddin and

Menna Parry on their retirement 22 years ago.

I have a keen interest in showing and have been fortunate to have been a junior judge at the NSA previously. This year has been a strange year with no shows and limited opportunities to socialise at livestock markets but I am grateful to the Society for asking me to judge this competition.

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### **Torwens and the breeds at risk register**

This is an update on my attempts to have the Torwens placed on the Breeds at Risk Register (BAR).

I am pleased to report that Defra and the Farm animal genetic resources committee have accepted that the Torwen Badger Face is a distinct breed of mountain sheep. This has now paved the way for the Society to approach the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST) with a view to placing them on their Watchlist .

An application was submitted in September and I understand will be considered by their board in November .If we are successful I anticipate they would be placed in category 4 which is classed as AT RISK .having less than 1500 registered breeding ewes .It is of interest that this is the same category as the Balwen and the Hill Radnor .

**B.W.EAGLES BSc B Vet Med MRCVS.**

## **Society Sale Report – 13 September, Brecon Livestock Market**

### **Timothy Evans, Field Officer**

With many hurdles to overcome due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Society Sale was held this year at Brecon Livestock Market. The sale proved to be very encouraging to both vendors and purchasers with an overall clearance of 88%. Many purchasers travelled from all over the British Isles. Indeed, one purchaser, N Robeson had travelled all the way from Aberdeen in his pursuit for good quality stock, in order to lay strong foundations for his new venture. There were also many new breeders from all over Wales looking for good quality Torddu and Torwen sheep.

I feel that we, as members, should thank our Chairman, Mr Malcolm Evans and all the committee for their hard work and dedication to ensure that the sale was a successful one. We are also incredibly grateful to our auctioneers for many years, McCartneys, for supplying the venue of Brecon Market and also for their support prior to and during the sale day. It is a shame, but due to the rules and regulations, that it was not possible to hold a show this year. However, let's hope that things will improve for next year. Another new venture that proved very successful was selling the Torwens in one group (both males and females) before moving onto selling the Torddus.

The Torwen females were the first to go under the hammer and an exceptionally good, steady trade throughout the ewe and ewe lamb sections was had. Topping the Torwen female section was Gareth Jones, Pencae who sold his ewe lamb for 480gns to Connor Marshall, Nantgaredig. Gareth also sold another of his ewe lambs this time to A Doyle, Hungerford for 400gns. Mr Dafydd Lewis, Cwrt y Cadno sold his strong well marked ewe lamb for 350gns again to A Doyle. This ewe lamb had been placed third in the Society's online show. Next in line was Mr L Williams, Talley who received 280gns for his ewe lamb selling to G Pearce. Her sire had been purchased at last year's Society Sale where he was champion and top price Torwen, from breeders the Brown Family, Llanpumsaint.

Both Mr Aled Groucott and Eirian Jones sold their lambs for the good price of 250gns each. Eirian's ewe lamb had been placed second in the Society's online show. In fact, 15 Torwen ewe lambs sold for 200gns or more which shows how popular they were on the day.

There was also a buoyant trade for Torwen ewes. Topping this section was a yearling ewe from Kate Hovers, this was a strong yearling ewe. She made 390gns and was sold to TC Edwards and co. Close on her heels was Mr Malcolm Evans' yearling that made 360gns selling to Kieran Jones, Hereford. The Brown family sold their two quality yearlings for the good price of 280gns each, one to Gail Shrubshall and one to D & M Evans Abergavenny.

The next section was for Torwen senior rams, but in this section, purchasers were much more selective in their choice. Many nice animals did not quite reach their reserves and remained unsold. However, it was from this section that the overall sale top price was achieved, when Mr Gareth Jones, Pencae sold his very true to type yearling ram for 1450gns, jointly to Mr Dafydd Lewis and Mr Timothy Evans. In achieving this amount, it set a new breed record for a Torwen. It is interesting to note

that this ram's sire also achieved the top price of 1240gns at the Society Sale in 2018 – bred and sold by Mr Malcolm Evans. He has proved a very good investment for Gareth as he was also the sire of the top price Torwen ewe lamb.

Trade in the Torwen ram lamb section was also a bit sticky and again it was only the best that sold well. Top price in this section was Dafydd Lewis' April born ram lamb, that was full of quality, who sold for 650gns to Mr Sean Jeffreys. The next highest price was again from Mr Gareth Jones who sold his ram lamb to Connor Marshall for 380gns. Connor purchased many top-quality animals at the sale, and we wish him the best of luck with them, as it is always good to see youngsters doing well within the breed.

The Torddu section also started with the ewes. The top price yearling ewe was a star and made 480gns, from the very consistent young breeder Mr Aron Hemmings and sold to Mr Huw Williams, Talley. Mr Malcolm Evans sold his smart yearling ewe for 390gns to Connor Marshall. Mrs E Jones from Lowesby, sold her quality yearling for 300gns to M Jones, Harlech. It was nice to see vendors who had travelled a long way to attend the sale doing so well.

There was also a good steady trade through the Torddu ewe lamb section. It was once again Aron Hemmings' time to shine when he sold a very smart ewe lamb for 500gns to Mr Huw Williams, Talley. The Joseph family can be relied on every year to produce top quality animals for this sale and they sold two of their super ewe lambs for 280gns and 250gns. The first to Liz Davies, Gwynfe and the second to Kieran Jones, Hereford. It is also interesting to note that Aron himself purchased a beautiful ewe lamb from Geraint and Ifor Jones, Llanllwni for 250gns. She was in fact a daughter of the ram that Geraint had purchased from Aron at last year's Society Sale. This ewe lamb was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Society's online show. Good prices were also achieved for ewe lambs from Liz Davies, Gareth Jones, Malcolm Evans and Catrin Price.

On the whole trade in the Torddu male section was quieter. However, Lucy Levinge and her daughter Ellie had a very good day, selling their two year old ram to Catrin Price for 1050gns. This was top price Torddu on the day. They also sold their yearling for 600gns to K Richardson. I am sure that both rams will prove a sound investment for the future for their new owners. They were both good strong rams with plenty of substance, bone and colour. The Joseph sold their super quality yearling to Mr David Barrell for 600gns. I am sure he was very happy going home with his investment.

The Joseph family also topped the ram lamb section selling their very smart lamb to Mr Myfyr Jones, Conwy for 750gns. They also sold another ram lamb for 600gns to Eirian & Jasmine Jones, Capel Isaac. Second top price in this section came from Mr Edward Rees and family, Whitemill when they sold their very classy well marked ram lamb for 700gns to M Jones, Harlech. This was a very nice animal produced to perfection by Edward. It was very nice to see them doing so well in this, their first year of selling at the society sale. I am certain that Edward's father in law, the late Mr Alan Condell would be very proud of his family in keeping up this tradition.

All in all, it was a particularly good day for both vendors and purchasers. And many new members left with quality stock to work with for the future. In fact, everyone I spoke to after the sale, both vendors and purchasers, were very satisfied with how this new venture of change of venue had turned out in this a most difficult year.



**New Torwen Breed Record 1450gns:** Lot 58 Bred by Gareth Jones and purchased jointly by Dafydd Lewis and Tmothy Evans



**Highest Price Torddu:** Lot 178 1050gns. Bred by Lucy Levinge and purchased by Catrin Price