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**TORDDU-TORWEN  
BADGER FACE**

**McCartneys**  
SINCE 1874

**THE OFFICIAL 2020 SALE  
OF BADGER FACE WELSH MOUNTAIN  
RAMS & FEMALES**

Will be conducted at the  
**Brecon Livestock Market**

**ON SUNDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**  
Entries Close: Wednesday 5th August 2020

**Strict Covid-19 regulations will apply**  
More details to follow

**Catalogues available  
first week in  
September**

*Top Price Male 2019 - TDRE 171*

Entry forms are included with this newsletter – please note there are separate male/female forms. Further information regarding how the sale will operate under COVID-19 regulations will be announced early September. Please note that the rules must be adhered to or it can risk the closure of the market. The NSA have an online register of sheep for sale for all NS

## Kate Hovers - Winner of the Large Flock Competition, South Wales



I have always wanted to live in the hills and work with sheep but it wasn't until 1988 that the opportunity to own my first flock arose. I was a five year qualified vet working in mid Wales when my lifelong friend Liz Rooney moved to a smallholding in West Wales and we decided to start a small flock of sheep.

I suggested a few breeds but as she had the land the final choice was hers, luckily she chose badger face. We started with Torddu and Torwen but over the years the Torwen seemed

better adapted to the wild Preseli environment. We maintained a flock of hardy, true to type sheep and took them to a few local shows. The meat was very popular with friends and family.

In 1999 I moved into Cwmhydfer with Elvet and the less well marked Torwens came back and forth to a terminal sire ram. Elvet was not convinced by these wild escape artists at first but their tremendous mothering ability and hardy nature won him over (sort off, he's still not impressed with how well they can jump or burrow under a fence). Some of these ewes remained with me after foot and mouth and Elvet bought me three Torwen ewe lambs for Christmas from Glyn and Gaenor King. This started the Hydfer flock.

The flock has grown over the years to 40 to 50 ewes, Elvet originally said I should have my own flock of a dozen but as they survive so well numbers can only increase! I breed 20 to 25 ewes pure every year and put the others to a terminal sire (currently a Charollais bought from the late Glyn Hawker and a recorded Texel bought from the NSA sale).

I sell a few at the NSA and the Llandovery coloured breed sales most years, I have also sold a few starter flocks privately and am always pleased to see people doing well and happy with their flocks.

We enjoy showing, but not every week! I am lucky to have had some success including a first prize ewe lamb and first prize ram lamb at Royal Welsh shows. My ram lamb was sold to Rhys Mills who was starting a flock and went on to look after and show him exceptionally well winning many prizes which I was delighted about.

In 2014 my pair of Torwen X Charollais (out of a previous Glyn Hawker ram) won the crossbred championships at the Welsh Winter Fair proving to the non-believers what a good commercial cross they can produce.

I entered the flock competition as a last minute decision and was very pleasantly surprised to receive the award for large flock of the year in South Wales at the AGM last year. This was followed by a lovely dinner and the usual good social evening. I still have a share in the RH flock with Liz and her husband Tony and also my own smaller Hill Radnor flock. Hill Radnors are Elvet's family breed so at Cwmhydfer we have his, hers and joint sheep but Torwen badger face will always be my first and main love.

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### **AGM**

2019 AGM Minutes are available on the Society Website. Please contact the secretary if you require a hard copy through the post. A decision will be made regarding the 2020 AGM in early September.

### **Society Patron**

The Prince of Wales has now had an opportunity to consider the Society's kind invitation to extend his Patronage of the Badger Face Welsh Mountain Sheep Society. The committee is delighted that the offer has been accepted for a further five year term from May 2020.

### **Vacant Post - E-Communications officer**

Debbie Kingsley will be retiring from her role as Website administrator at the end of this calendar year. The Society is looking for a e-communications officer to be responsible for administrating the website, Facebook and Instagram. Please contact the secretary for a role description. Please express your interest in the role by 30 September 2020.

## Society holds its first online show

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

### Ram Judge:



My name is Ellie Layton and I'm 19. I have grown up on a mixed beef, sheep & arable farm in Herefordshire working at the British Limousin Cattle Society. Interest sparked spending summers watching my mum showing from the ringside in the pram.

My first judging duty was in 2012 at Eglwysbach show. The Llwyn On flock consists of just over 100 Badger Faced ewes, mainly torddu, which we put 60% to a Suffolk tup to breed lambs to suit a more commercial market. The best marked ewes are then put to a badger tup to breed replacements and hope some are good enough for the show season.

### Ram any age results

#### Torddu

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Brown Family TDRG 42
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Griff Jenkins – TDRG 85
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Donna Evans – TDRG 11
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Robert Condell – TDRG 74
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Joseph Family – TDRG 34

#### Torwen

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Ifor Jones - TWRG 51
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Dafydd Williams - TWRE 44
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Brown Family - TWRG 27
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Rhys Mills - TWRG 37
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Jill Evans - TWRE 11



### **Aged Ewe Judges:**

Sara and Cerys Brown. They live and help on their farm in Nebo, Llanpumsaint, Carmarthenshire. Their interest started off at a very young age when they visited the Royal Welsh as a family one year and were generally cruising around the sheep aisles when they spotted the Torwen breed and kept on at their father to buy them an ewe each. When they were 8 and 9 years old, they started off with 6 ewe lambs purchased from the Jones Family Highview as Christmas present from their grandparents.

Both are members of Cynwyl Elfed YFC and Aelwyd Hafodwenog where they receive many experiences and take part in many competitions during the year. Cerys has just completed her GCSE and awaiting her predicted grades due to the COVID 19 and Sara has recently started her new career with Wynnstay in Carmarthen. During the summer months their main hobby is showing the selection of Badger face Welsh Mountain Flock in most

shows around the county. Over the last 4 years they have had very many successful shows which include the Spring Fair, Royal Welsh and most local shows. They have received many rosettes in the young handler competitions.

Both have been incredibly lucky to have been selected as junior judges shadowing Mr Dafydd Williams and Mr. Hefin Thomas Bwlchclawdd at the NSA show and sales. This is one of their highlights to date. Sara has also been fortunate to win the Glyn Hawker Young Shepherd of the year award back in 2018.

### **Aged Ewe results**

#### **Torddu**

**1<sup>st</sup>** – Huw Evans - SUB E3

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – Edward Rees - TDC 729

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – Jennifer Williams - TDC 1026

#### **Torwen**

**1<sup>st</sup>** – Rhys Mills - TWE 494

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – Malcolm Evans - TWC 9

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – Huw Evans - TWC 47



### Yearling Ewe Judge:

Rhys is currently completing his A Levels at Llanidloes High School before hopefully heading off to study Geography at University. Alongside his study Rhys has continued to grow and improve his flock of Torwen Badger Face Sheep. Rhys started to keep Badgers after his grandparents purchased some Torddu ewe lambs to run alongside

the Torwen ewes which they already owned. The Torwens took Rhys's interest and he started showing at smaller local shows with success which led to a real enthusiasm for the Breed and Society.

Over the past years Rhys has increased his flock from the starting 2 ewes to a flock of nearly 40 breeding ewes. Rhys is fully responsible for the day to day care and management of his flock and most importantly the preparation of his show team. In 2019 Rhys had his most successful show year winning Male Champion Torwen at the RWAS. Rhys further demonstrated his presentation and showing skills at the All Stars Event last year where he competed on behalf of the Badger Sheep Society alongside Sean Jeffreys and Ellie Layton, taking a well-deserved 2nd place. Rhys was also selected by the Society to judge at the Annual NSA Sale of Torwens alongside Ifor Jones. After winning at the RWAS Rhys went onto win both the Glyn Hawker Young Shepherd Award and the Highest Points at the Society Dinner in November.

### Yearling Ewe results

#### Torddu

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Joseph Family TDG 989
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sean Jeffreys – Homebred ewe
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Malcolm Evans - TDG 211
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Catrin Price – TDG 373

#### Torwen

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Brown Family – TWG 128
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jill Evans – TWG 181
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Malcolm Evans - TWG 79
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Jennifer Williams – TWG 278

## **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).

To be classified as a rare breed you have to have less than 3000 breeding ewes. At the inception of the Society in 1976 both the Torddu and Torwen fell within this guideline. Since then the Torddu have increased well over the 3000 mark whilst the Torwens remain low in numbers and the number is falling. When I tried to ascertain how many breeding Torwen ewes there were last year, I arrived at a figure of approximately 1300 kept by 60 members of the Society. A search of the flock books shows the numbers of ewe lambs being registered is declining – 681 in 2013 and down to 395 in 2018.

The BAR is maintained by DEFRA through its Farm animal genetic resources committee (FAnGR), it is this group who have the final say on placing the Torwens on the BAR list. The BAR comprises all the rare breeds of livestock which make up the total genetic resource of our diverse livestock in the UK and, as such, need protection.

Once on the BAR list it would mean that livestock have greater protection from slaughter in the event of any serious disease outbreak i.e. foot and mouth. As you can imagine there is a list of specific requirements which would have to be met including restricted movement, specific identification and quarantine facilities. These are similar to the isolation facilities we used to have.

I have been talking to DEFRA and FAnGR since January 2019 to try and achieve BAR status for the Torwens. Initially they did not realise that there were two distinct types of Badger Face Sheep. I then had to demonstrate that the Torwens had been individually recorded and registered for 40 years, this involved submitting the relevant 40 year records from flock books. The initial problem was that they could not agree that there are two distinct types of Badger Face sheep. This has now been resolved and they have requested a breeding programme to try and increase numbers of breeding ewes. This has been submitted.

In the meantime, the Torwens have been placed on the breeds transition category of the BAR list.

I hope that we can achieve rare breed status for the Torwens as this would open up new avenues for showing when it returns. I am hopeful that the Rare Breeds Trust will take the Torwens on board especially as two members of FAnGR are on its Board. Stay safe all and breed Torwens,

**Brian Eagles**

## Young Handlers Competition 2020

The Society held an online Young Handlers Competition during what would have been Royal Welsh week. The judge was Mr Steven John from Llansteffan, Carmarthenshire.

### 6 years of age and under



**1<sup>st</sup> – Efa Jones**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Ela Williams**

**3<sup>rd</sup> - Mari Anthony**

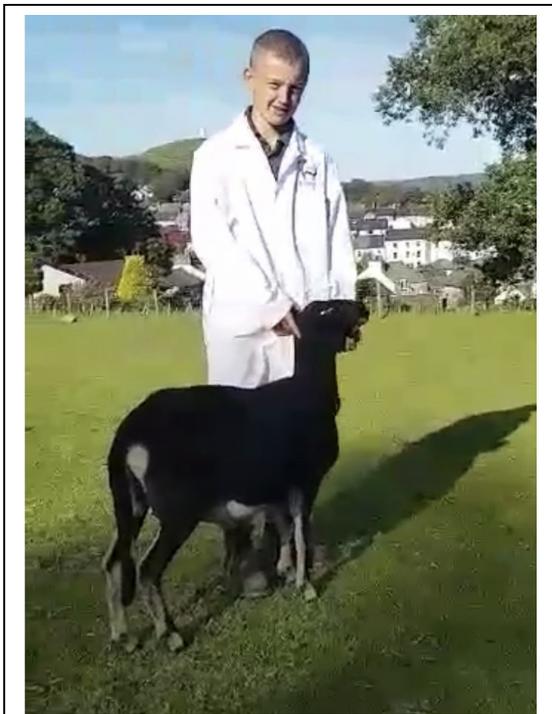


### 11 years of age and under

**1<sup>st</sup> – Hari Williams**

**2<sup>nd</sup> –Tomos Jones**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – Ilan Jones**



### 16 years of age and under

**1<sup>st</sup> – Alfie Clark**