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Neges gan y Cadeirydd / Chair's Message **Llythyr Newyddion yr Hydref / Autumn Newsletter**

Annwyl Aelodau / Dear Members,

I write this welcome to our autumn newsletter, fresh from the first ever Badger Face Sheep Society Trip. And, what a great experience it was! 31 Members from the South Wales area boarded a coach for Carlisle on Friday afternoon. On Saturday, we called in at the bull sale at the Borderway Mart, where we saw the champion sold for £70,000. Then on to visit the Crew Family in Lockerbie, where we received a lovely welcome and were treated to a trailer tour of the farm, this included seeing their flock of Badger Faces. It was so good to see the farm which the family moved to in 2017 and how they are progressing – we really can't thank them enough for their kind hospitality. The weekend included good food, good company and a very nice hotel. Travelling home on Sunday, everyone was asking "when is the next trip?". This tells you how successful the weekend was.



The Official Breed Sale at Brecon, once again saw a new top price record, when Gareth Jones sold his yearling Torddu ram for 3,100 gns. In recent years, this record has been broken regularly, following the Joseph ram lamb at 1580 gns in 2010, which was held for no less than 11 years.

This year has not been an easy one for our Society. We need to make decisions about the future of the society and it is important that you attend the autumn meeting on 30th November. To protect our sheep in possible future disease outbreaks, decisions need to be made regarding whether we register as a native breed or become a recognised sheep society with Defra. I hope that as many members as possible attend, as this is an extremely important decision.

We also look forward to the winter fairs. The English Winter Fair is always a good shop window for the breed and I am pleased to hear that the Welsh event has the usual strong numbers forward for both Torddu and Torwen.

Members outside of Wales – please note the new Bricklin Trophy to be awarded to the flock gaining the most points at shows within England and Scotland. Details in this newsletter.

I look forward to meeting up at the autumn events and wish competitors at the shows, good luck.

Lucy Levinge
Cadeirydd / Chairperson

Membership

We have received around 35 New memberships in 2025 which I think is very encouraging for the Badger Face Welsh Mountain Breed & Society! Welcome to all those new members!

Since taking on both roles which do link in very well together, I have been trying to update the Website and Membership lists, which to be honest is taking a lot of time and effort to get up to date as the website list was years out of date.

Please could everyone check their details are correct on the members lists on the website. With GDPR rules, I can not simply add all new members details to the list with out authorisation. This may be why your details are not on the website.

Kate has introduced the new Xero system so it is much easier to keep track of everything, but it is your responsibility to ensure your memberships are paid and personal details are up to date.

- If your details are not correct on the website or you wish them to be added or removed please email me below. It is impossible to chase everyone.
- If you have not received any correspondence or New Memberships confirmation from this year, please get in touch with me on an email below.
- Please make sure your membership fees are up to date. Memberships are renewed annually, January 1st. If your membership lapses, then you will not be able to register lambs or receive any correspondence.

Please remember that the Annual Membership Fees were raised at the 2025 AGM. The cost is now:

Standard: £35

Junior: £15

Family: £60

If you have previously paid by Standing Order you will need to change the amount with your bank before 1 January 2026. We encourage all members to pay by standing order – this is the easiest way to ensure that all membership subscriptions are up to date.

Social Media & Website

Please could everyone engage with any posts as much as possible, it keeps the pages active and reaches further audiences. On Facebook, the New Breed Record Post from Llandovery reached 13.4K views. The 'Breaking News' post from Brecon reached over 26.2K Views.

In the last 90 days the Facebook page has had over 230,089 Views world wide. The page is growing all the time, so please help with sharing and interacting with posts. If I miss something or I miss a tagged story on Instagram please send it to me direct and give me a gentle nudge. Please keep tagging the society in your posts also as this always leads to more viewings. Remember all paid members can add for sale posts to the website, just get in touch.

Mrs Donna Evans, E-Communications & Membership Officer ☎ ~ 07764995532
memberships@badgerfacesheep.co.uk webadmin@badgerfacesheep.co.uk

Registrations

Please remember to add £2 onto all registrations to cover the postage of tags, also if paying by cheque please add an additional £1. Female registrations remain £3 until the end of November, after this they will increase to £6. Registrations for 2025 lambs will close at the end of June 2026.

Registration Officer: Aeron Edwards registrations@badgerfacesheep.co.uk

Autumn Meeting

The Autumn Meeting will be held on Sunday 30 November at 2pm in the Builth area. We will confirm the location no later than Tuesday 4 November. The agenda is available on the closed members group on Facebook and also the Society website.

Bricklin Shield

Brian and Elizabeth Eagles have kindly donated a shield for the highest number of points at shows in England and Scotland. Sheep which have entered any other hill classes or badger face classes are eligible. The shield will be awarded annually. The Society wishes to thank Brian & Elizabeth for their kind donation. Please forward your show results to the Secretary before Friday 28 November.

Flockbook Officer

The Society is looking for a new flockbook officer from 1 January 2026. This role is paid an honorarium. Please contact the Secretary for a copy of the role description and express your interest before Friday 28 November.

Merchandise

Don't forget the Society has plenty of merchandise that would make great Christmas gifts. Last order dates are 3 December for items that need ordering and 10 December for in stock items. Please contact Jill Evans publicity@badgerfacesheep.co.uk



Native Lamb Taste Test Competition

The 2025 RWAS Winter Fair will be once again holding the 'Native Lamb Taste Test Competition'. 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.



Each Breed will need to supply 2 boned legs of lamb (on Sunday 23rd November, or between 7.00am and 7.30am on Monday 24th November to the steward in the Carcass Hall). Only one leg will be cooked. Once the competition has been judged (and awards presented) in the Cambrian Training Pavilion (opposite the Band Stand), the uncooked legs (with rosettes) will then be displayed in the Carcass Hall. If you wish to compete please contact the Secretary before Friday 7 November.

Fatstock Market Prices

Please keep us updated of your market prices so that we can promote the versatility of the breed.

2026 – 50th Anniversary year

Some dates for the diary to celebrate the Society's special year include an Open Day at our President's farm on Sunday 2nd August 2026. The date for the anniversary show is Saturday 22nd August 2026. This show will be held at Fedw Equestrian Centre, Llywel, Brecon, LD3 8RG. There will also be a Grand Raffle during the year. If you have any other ideas for the year please get in touch. We are also looking for a variety of photos and articles from across the years – if you are able to scan these please send them over to our secretary. If you would like us to scan them please contact the Secretary to make arrangements. Please keep an eye out for further information early in 2026. If you know of anyone who wishes to sponsor either event please contact the Secretary. We are also looking for prizes for the Grand Raffle.

Cups & Shields

The committee kindly asks that all members respect and look after the cups and shields that are awarded to them throughout the year. There have been instances this year when awards have been returned uncleaned and broken – this causes costs and also upset to those that have donated these awards. If you encounter problems with any awards before returning them please contact the Secretary.

New record set at the Society Show & Sale in Brecon

A new breed record was set at 3100gns by Gareth Jones & Family, Felingwm, Carmarthen, for a Torddu shearling ram at the annual Society Sale at Brecon Livestock Market on the 14th September.

The shearling ram was the male champion at the Royal Welsh show this year and breed champion at the Spring Festival at the start of the show season and is sired by a previous record price ram lamb from 2023. After competitive bidding he was knocked down to I Bowen and family, Kidderminster, Worcestershire.

Torwens topped at 1200gns for a shearling ram from S Hermanis, Penycae, Powys. This ram was male champion at the Royal Welsh this year and also stood reserve male champion in the pre-sale show under judge Dafydd Lewis and junior judge Bethan Jones. The successful purchaser was J Jones, Bwlch, Brecon.

Averages: Torwen - 19 ewes £290.13; 20 ewe lambs £268.80; 14 rams £474.75; 5 ram lambs £655.20.

Torddu - 61 ewes £296.74; 56 ewe lambs £195.17; 29 rams £891.41; 13 ram lambs £515.30. (McCartneys)



New Torddu Breed Record 3100gns from Gareth Jones & Family

**Autumn Meeting to be held at the
on Sunday 30 November 2025 at 2pm.
AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters arising from Minutes
4. Correspondence
5. Chairman's report
6. Treasurer's report
7. Registration's report
8. Membership report
9. E-communications report
10. Publicity report
11. Update on 50th Anniversary celebrations
12. Discussion regarding an application to become a member of the Defra Native Breed's list
13. Review of 2025 Smallholders & Royal Welsh Shows
14. Review of Official Show & Sale 2025
15. Nomination of Judge:
 - Royal Three Counties 2026 (One judge to judge Torwen & Torddu)Please forward any nominations to the Secretary by 20 November 2025.
16. Any other business – must be previously notified in writing
17. Date of next meeting