



Whitefaced Woodland Sheep Society

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Newsletter 102 – Spring 2017

Editor's Bleat

It must be spring! The robin in the barn is singing like mad to attract a mate and the wagtails are chasing backwards and forwards along the roof. Huge numbers of starlings suddenly swoop down from the trees and turn the fields black. Even our grass is thinking about growing... I just hope it continues – we should start lambing this week.

They won't be our first lambs, though. Two of our Woodland shearlings shocked us with a lamb each on 4 January –an acceptable Woodland-looking tup lamb and a really nice gimmer – tight skin, straight legs and wide shoulders. But she has black feet and no horns, and we still can't work out what sort of cross they can be...

Our Secretary reports that the revised web site is making progress, though she could still do with some photos of Woodlands in the landscape (as opposed to show winners).

Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting and accounts are included in this Newsletter. We hope to hold the AGM in early September again this year and Rachel and I have agreed to host it.

NSA has instigated a project called *British heritage sheep – new tastes from old traditions* aiming to expand the 'mono-product' of standard lamb, in the way that artisan cheeses and real ale have been developed in the recent past. Directed at farmers, retailers and chefs, marketing would focus on:-

- age (particularly hogget and mutton),
- breed (traditional British breeds only)
- specific landscapes (eg Yorkshire Dales, South Downs).

NSA wants to fund a feasibility study. We completed a questionnaire, expressing our interest in the project, whilst explaining that we are a tiny Society, so unable to contribute financially. More details from NSA – Laura Williams
laura@nationalsheep.org.uk

North Sheep

We shall have a Society stand with sheep and information at North Sheep on Wednesday 7 June. This will be held at West Shields Farm, Tow Law, Co. Durham DL13 4LN. The hosts, WH & J Smith and Sons run a sheep enterprise of 1350 commercial ewes alongside 300 suckler cows. As well as a huge variety of trade and breed society stands, topical seminars and workshops will run throughout the day.

We intend to show both pure bred Woodlands and commercial crosses. If you are free to come and help promote the breed and the Society to the wider farming community, please let Rachel or Paul Thorp know.

Shows in 2017 offering Woodland classes

Honley Show, Honley, West Yorks. Sat 10 June.
Contact: Paul Sykes 07775 898647
www.honleyshow.co.uk

Judge: John Jones

Royal Three Counties Show - Rare Breeds Day on Sun 18 June. Contact Fiona Parker on 01684 584901 or e-mail: fionap@threecounties.co.uk

Judge: Rob Ford

North Yorkshire County Show, Northallerton. Sun 18 June. Contact: Len Cragg 01609 773577. Schedule and entry forms on line at www.northyorkshireshow.co.uk.

Judge: Richard Smith

Harden Moss Sheep Show and Sheepdog Trials, Holmfirth. Sun 18 June. Contact: Christine Smith 01484 680823.

Judge: Harold Smith

AG

Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate. Tues 11 to Thurs 13 July. Contact: Amanda Stoddart-West on 01423 546231 or amandaw@yas.co.uk. www.greatyorkshireshow.com
Judge: Tessa Wigham

Ryedale Show, Kirkbymoorside. Tues 25 July. Contact: Mrs A Welham 07967 198011 ann.welham@cundalls.co.uk or download entry form at www.ryedaleshow.org.uk
Judge: Casey Campbell

Halifax Show Sat 12 August. Contact: Mrs Lizzie Greenwood on 01422 825324 or sheep@halifaxagriculturalshow.co.uk
Judge: Neville Belfield

Mottram Show, Mottram, near Glossop. Sun 20 Aug Contact: Angela Oldham 0161 351 1263. www.mottramshow.co.uk
Judge: Angela Crampton

Hope Show. Mon 28 August Champion of Champions follows regular WFW classes. Contact: Elise Priestley: livestock@hopeshow.co.uk
Judge: Karen Dowey;
Championship: Clive Mitchell

Penistone Show. Sat 9 Sept www.penistoneshow.com. Contact: Mrs Earnshaw 01484 766542. E-mail: elaine.29@hotmail.co.uk
Judge: Sam Hodgson

Hayfield Country Show, High Peak. Sun 18 Sept www.hayfieldshow.co.uk Contact: Sarah Mellor 01663 746580 or sarah.mellor4@btopenworld.com.
Judge: Paul Dixon

“**Best of Breed**” rosettes – this year a striking purple and gold – are offered for the Champion at each of the above shows. Champions and Reserve Champions may compete for “Champion of Champions” at the Hope Show in August.

The Points Trophy is designed to reward an exhibitor who has shown at many venues with consistently good results. Points are awarded in each class as follows:
3 points for a 1st, 2 points for a 2nd, 1 point for a 3rd, with an additional 2 points for the Champion and 1 point for Reserve Champion.

Karen Dowey’s **Under 25s Points Trophy** for younger members is calculated and awarded in a similar way

Revised Breed Standard

This Breed Standard, which has been under revision for some time, was approved by the Society’s Committee at its meeting on 13 November 2016

Breed Standard

The Whitefaced Woodland is one of the largest of British hill breeds, strong-boned and robust with good conformation. Both sexes are horned, the male having heavily spiralling horns. The tail has a distinctive muscular appearance, and it is traditional to leave the rams’ tails long, but to dock the ewes’ tails somewhere between the legal minimum length and the hock. The wool is white and finer than that of many other hill breeds, the staple length being 15-20cm (6-8 inches), and the Bradford Count is 44-50, although the wool on the bitch is coarser.

The head is strong and the face and muzzle are broad. The skin of the muzzle may be wholly or partly pink. The face is white, though very fine speckles are permitted on ewes. Black spots and black rings around the eyes are strongly discouraged. Eyes should be golden. The extreme Roman nose should be avoided.

Horns should emerge flat from the back of the head, and not appear goat like. Slabbing of horns to prevent intrusion into the face is permissible. Extremely wide horns are discouraged and goat like horns are not permitted.

The body should be heavy and deep with a broad, straight back. Narrow or angular shoulders are discouraged. Legs are strong boned and straight, with low pasterns strongly discouraged. Very light speckling on females is discouraged and no dark colouration is permitted on males.

The fleece is white, with no black or coloured wool permitted. Tufts of wool on the head are discouraged, as are beards of coarse hair on the chest, especially of rams. A “tight jacket” which does not part down the sheep’s back is preferred, but fineness and quality of the fleece will be to some extent dependent on the location of the sheep.

Showing standard: only the face, feet and legs may be washed, **not** the fleece. Light trimming of the fleece is permissible, so long as it does not detract from the natural appearance of the sheep, but backing down is not permitted. Oiling of horns is acceptable and sheep with horns removed may also be shown.

**Draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting of
the Whitefaced Woodland Sheep Society
held at 1 pm on 4 September 2016 at Pikenaze Farm, Glossop**

1. Present: P Thorp (Chairman), R Godschalk (Secretary), K Dowey (Treasurer), P Dixon, R Ford, N Belfield, J Jones, C Campbell, G Holroyd, R Crampton, C Kaye, L Brown, M Stotan, A Brown, R Warburton, J W Thorp, A Redfearn, C Hodgson, S Hodgson, J Dowey, H Dowey, J Fisher, A Godschalk
Apologies: J Bland, S Coates, P Onions, A Crampton, R & J Price, T Wigham, R & G Woollatt, I & A Fisher
2. Minutes of the 2015 AGM: were accepted
3. Chairman's Report: Paul opened by saying that it had been a strange year (mostly in terms of weather), but that there had been great quality and numbers of sheep at the shows. He introduced the points trophy (which has been designed to recognise both success with showing and attendance at shows), and a similar one provided by Karen Dowey for those exhibitors aged 25 years and under. He finished by thanking all the exhibitors and judges.
4. Accounts and Treasurer's Report: were accepted (see below). Karen added that it was excellent that all money had been recouped, and asked if the fundraiser lunch would be better at any other time of year.
5. Election of Officers: All officers were re-elected with the exception of Vice-Chairman. The vacant post was caused by the resignation of Philip Onions. Paul Thorp proposed and Paul Dixon seconded the motion to appoint Neville Belfield to the position.
6. Whitefaced Woodland Register and Flock Book: Volume II has now been published by Rob Ford (and was distributed), Volume I, which is a much larger tome should be available at Holmfirth on 25 September. All copies will be free to registering members. With regard to registration charges, it was agreed that these should remain the same.
7. Social events and fund raising: Robert and Angela Crampton, Ros Warburton and all donors were again thanked for the very successful lunch. We should certainly have another one, possibly every two years, and there was [inconclusive] discussion as to the best date.
8. AGM in 2017: Ann and Rachel Godschalk offered Plover Hall for the AGM next year (in the event that no-one new comes forward), and plan to have a stock judging day at the same time.
9. Any other business: Tups being sold at Holmfirth this year will have tape on their horns to signify registration (red for WFWSS, blue for RBST). Karen Dowey kindly offered to judge the pens of ewe lambs and shearlings at Holmfirth this year. It was mooted by Casey Campbell whether the winner of the Champion of Champions at Hope should judge the competition the following year. Opinion was divided as to whether this was fair – at present judges are selected who do not have entries.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.30pm

Statement of Accounts

	2015/16	2014/15
Opening balance	£1320.73	£2884.80
<u>Income</u>		
Life membership		£ 400.00
Annual membership	£.570.00	£ 410.00
Registrations	£ 344.00	£ 230.00
Calendars		£ 42.00
Mugs	£ 17.00	
Fund raiser meal	£1090.00	
Neville's donated tup	£1500.00	
Commission from tup sale	£....50.00	
Donations	£ 9.00	£ 9.15
	<u>£3580.00</u>	<u>£1091.15</u>
<u>Outgoings</u>		
Grassroots Breed Society Record		£1854.00
Grassroots annual maintenance	£ 270.00	£ 270.00
NSA membership	£ 100.00	£ 100.00
NSA stand		£ 243.00
Rosettes (for 2 years)		£ 55.91
Newsletters and postage	£ 167.51	£ 102.31
Open day	£ 30.00	£ 30.00
Overpaid internet bank refund	£ 15.00	
	<u>£ 582.51</u>	<u>£2655.22</u>
Cash in hand	£2318.22	£1320.73

C O N T A C T D E T A I L S

Chairman: Paul Thorp, Stott Hall Farm, Rishworth, Sowerby Bridge, Yorks HX6 4QY Phone: 07712 232087
e-mail: paul_thorp@icloud.com

Vice Chairman: Neville Belfield, 69 London Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 7RL Phone: 01625 425426

Treasurer: Karen Dowey
Pikenaze Farm, Woodhead, Glossop, Derbyshire SK13 1JD Phone: 07787 241960

Secretary & Membership: Rachel Godschalk
Plover Hall, Gilmonby, Barnard Castle DL12 9LU
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