



Whitefaced Woodland Sheep Society

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Newsletter 104 – August 2017

Annual General Meeting and Farm Open Day

Sunday 24 September at Plover Hall, Gilmonby,
near Barnard Castle, Co. Durham DL12 9LU.
Meet at around 11.30 for coffee or tea.

The AGM will start at 12 noon, to be followed
by lunch. This should leave the afternoon free to
look at sheep; we are hoping to have our
Mortham ewes inspected. Also, à propos Rob
Ford's recent questions on cross breeding, come
and see how our recent experiments are turning
out!

**Please let us know if you are coming, so that
we provide enough lunch!** Also, any vegetarian
or dietary requirements. Seating is likely to be on
hay bales, so you're advised to bring a blanket to
sit on... warm clothing would be wise too...

Turn off the A66 into Bowes and at the mini
roundabout in the village go downhill. (Left turn
if coming from Scotch Corner, straight on if
coming from the west.) Follow the lane down,
over Gilmonby Bridge and keep left. Take the
next left (signposted "Rigg 1.5 miles No through
road") and continue for a mile to a big stone barn
on the left beside the road.

Contact details: Phone: 07985 096230, e-mail:
AnnGodschalk@whitefacedwoodland.co.uk.

The AGM Agenda is on page 3

Annual Subscription still only £10!

2017/18 subscriptions are due on 1st September

Please see Rachel at the AGM or Holmfirth, or
post to her at the address on the back page.
We can also accept BACS payments – please ask
Karen or Rachel for our bank details

Annual Woodland Sale Sunday 1 October

at Holmfirth Auction Mart
Riverside, Woodhead Road, Holmfirth HD9 2PR

Show classes for aged ram and shearling ram,
and presentation of the Ken Wild Trophy

Also: Pen of 6 or more Woodland ewe lambs
Pen of 6 or more Woodland ewes born in 2016

Please note that Judging begins at 11am Sale starts at 12 noon

To enter, or for further details, please contact
Paul Dixon at William Sykes
Telephone 01484 683543
mobile: 07720 765094

As last year, we shall be putting coloured tape on
tups' horns. Red tape will indicate that the tup is
Society inspected and registered ("The Hill
Register"). Blue will be used for any tup
registered with RBST in the Combined Flock
Book. Each tup will also be given a number to
help potential buyers identify it when animals are
moved from the pens to the ring.

**It will no longer be possible to
inspect tups for registration on Sale
Day. If you need sheep registered,
please contact the Secretary
urgently, to arrange an inspection**

RBST Combined Flock Book (CFB) Meeting on 18 August

Robert and Angela Crampton kindly agreed to attend this meeting for us, and Robert reports:

Introduction, given by Dr Richard Small

This is the first RBST meeting on the CFB since 2013 and of the 8 listed rare breeds in the CFB, 7 were represented, with a total of 21 people attending including Angela and myself. Breeds in the CFB are: Boreray, Castlemilk Moorit, Manx Loaghtan, Norfolk Horn, North Ronaldsway, Portland, Soay, and WW.

Breed Update by Field Officer – Tom Blunt

The results are based on a 2013-2016 survey of breeders. The RBST Whitefaced Woodland (WW) breeders all returned their surveys, whilst some breeds did not return any!

The RBST takes the average number of breeding females and males. For the WW this was 16 females per flock and 1/1.5 males. Hence the WW remains in Category 3 vulnerable (500-900 breeding females), whilst the Boreray has increased from 1 Critical to 3 Vulnerable.

Registration Cost Increase

The RBST member fees have not changed for 16 years, hence from the 1st November 2017 there will be a small increase.

WW Females by paper, £5.60, via internet £4.00

WW Males by paper £11.70, via internet £10.70

No cost for transfers even though Grassroots make a charge.

(I note from the RBST web site non-member registration costs are much higher, existing costs are £3.25 for females and £21.45 for males, plus initial Flock registration of £10.50)

Gene Bank

To protect the UK's rare breeds the RBST has a semen and embryo bank. This a constant process of adding to and using but is limited by cost. The cost to collect semen is £900 and embryos £3,280 - a bit expensive. The WW have a full bank of 20 semen sample but no embryos.

AI in sheep is poor and expensive. Fresh samples are much more successful than those from frozen. The aim is for AI in sheep to be a successful as cattle. (Leaflet copies available.)

Breed Presentations

Each breed gave a short presentation about the breed and their society. Each is at a different stage in terms of age, number of shows, marketing and member involvement.

A few interesting points:

A general problem found by most societies is keeping records up to date, change of ownership, deaths in particular.

One group even keep sheep for the wool not breeding.

One gave a trophy for the best lambing percentage whilst another gave a trophy for the highest number of shows attended.

The best has to be the Portland leaflet and Judges guide (copy available).

In my presentation, I gave an update of the Hill Flock Book and that we have 924 registered females and 168 tups. I mentioned our Flock Books Vol 1, Vol 2, and Vol 3 out soon, breed standards, our new web site and shows. No one apart from the RBST was aware we have a separate register: the Hill Flock Book.

New RBST Communications Officer.

Elizabeth (Beth) introduced herself. She asked each society secretary to send her their newsletters. She will be updating Facebook and the RBST web site.

Sustainable Breeding Strategies by Ruth Dalton Field Officer

This was a fairly lengthy and complex presentation covering Geneped Analysis (Genetics) – core concepts, maximum avoidance of inbreeding and use of mean Kinship. In conclusion, the RBST will decide later this year which software they will use for a future breeding database.

Conclusion

For our first visit (travel and meeting took 13 hours) to the RBST at Stoneleigh, it was very interesting. Stoneleigh for those who have not been is massive, not only a show ground with permanent buildings (probably bigger than the Yorkshire Show Ground) but home to many organisations like the Kennel Club and the UK's Animal Research Centre.

The RBST to me, even though a registered charity is more like 'a job for the boys political department'.

Though no one commented on the fact, the Hill register is now bigger than the RBST register and I cannot see this changing due to the high cost of registration. Hence the breed, in the eyes of the RBST, remains stagnant and vulnerable rather than growing and thriving.

Robert Crampton August 2017

Show Results

Ryedale Show

Judge: Casey Campbell

Aged or shearling ram: 1. & 3. Richard Smith,
2. Karen Dowe

Ram lamb: 1. Karen Dowe, 2. & 3. Richard
Smith

Aged ewe: 1. Richard Smith, 2. Chareen Kaye,
3. Karen Dowe

Shearling ewe: 1. Karen Dowe, 2. Chareen
Kaye, 3. Richard Smith

Ewe lamb: 1. Siobhan Coates, 2. Richard Smith,
3. Chareen Kaye

Group of 3: 1. Richard Smith, 2. Chareen Kaye,
3. Dave & Debbie Wardell

Best woolled sheep: Richard Smith

Richard won Champion with his aged tup and
Karen's shearling ewe took Reserve.

Halifax Show

Judge: Neville Belfield

Aged ram: 1. & 2. Robert & Angela Crampton;
3. Karen Dowe

Shearling ram: 1. & 2. Robert & Angela
Crampton; 3. Karen Dowe

Ram lamb: 1. Robert & Angela Crampton;
2. Thomas Thackeray; 3. Karen Dowe

Ewe to have reared a lamb: 1. & 2. Thomas
Thackeray; 3. Laura Gilbertson

Shearling ewe: 1. Thomas Thackeray; 2. Karen
Dowe; 3. Robert & Angela Crampton

Ewe lamb: 1. & 2. Robert & Angela Crampton;
3. Thomas Thackeray

Group of 3: 1. Robert & Angela Crampton;
2. Thomas Thackeray; 3. Laura Gilbertson

Robert and Angela took Champion with their
aged ram and also "Best Lamb" with their ewe
lamb. Thomas's shearling ewe was Reserve.

Young George Thackeray was 2nd in the 2-6 year
old Young handlers class.

This was only the second year for Woodland
classes, but well supported with at least 5 entries
in every class, and 13 shearling ewes forward.

Mottram Show

Judge: Angela Crampton

Aged ram: 1. Karen Dowe; 2. Richard Smith;
3. Paul Thorp

Shearling ram: 1. Karen Dowe; 2. Paul Thorp;
3. Richard Smith

Ram lamb: 1. Richard Smith; 2. & 3. Paul Thorp

Suckling ewe: 1. Thomas Thackeray; 2. Paul
Thorp; 3. Laura Brown

Shearling ewe: 1. Karen Dowe; 2. Richard
Smith; 3. Thomas Thackeray

Ewe lamb: 1. Karen Dowe; 2. Thomas
Thackeray; 3. Paul Thorp

Group of 3: 1. Richard Smith; 2. Thomas
Thackeray

Karen's aged tup was Champion; Thomas's ewe
was Reserve.

Hope Show

Judge: Karen Dowe

Aged ram: 1. & 3. Richard Smith, 2. Robert and
Angela Crampton

Shearling ram: 1. & 2. Robert and Angela
Crampton, 3. Paul Thorp

Ram lamb: 1. Robert and Angela Crampton, 2.
Paul Thorp, 3. Richard Smith

Aged ewe: 1. & 3. Paul Thorp, 2. Richard Smith

Shearling ewe: 1. & 3. Robert and Angela
Crampton, 2. Paul Thorp

Ewe lamb: 1. Paul Thorp, 2. Robert and Angela
Crampton, 3. Casey Campbell

Paul's aged ewe won the Championship and
Richard's aged tup was Reserve.

Champion of Champions

Champion and Reserve winners from all the
shows with Woodland classes so far this year.

Judge: Clive Mitchell

Richard's aged tup took Champion of Champions
Paul's shearling ewe was Reserve.

AGENDA for the A G M

1. Members present and apologies received
2. Minutes of the 2016 AGM as circulated
3. Chairman's report of the year
4. Treasurer's report and Accounts
5. Election of officers
6. Whitefaced Woodland Register and Flock Book
7. System for inspection
8. Flock Profiles Book
9. Social events and fund raising
10. Any other business

Item 2: The draft minutes were circulated with
Newsletter 102. Please bring your copy with you
Item 3: The Chairman will report at the meeting
Item 4: Accounts will be available at the meeting
Item 5: Paul Thorp stands down as Chairman
after his three year stint. Neville Belfield, our
current Vice Chairman, is proposed as Chairman
by Paul Thorp, seconded by Rachel Godschalk.
John Jones has been proposed as Vice Chairman
by Paul Thorp, seconded by Ann Godschalk. If
you have additional suggestions for either post,
please contact the Secretary without delay.

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