



Whitefaced Woodland Sheep Society

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Newsletter 106 – February 2018

From the Chairman...

Here we are, in late February already. I'm sure you are all as fed up with the wet weather as I am. As I write these notes, though, there is hope of some dry weather coming.

As most of you will be aware, there has been a lot of discussion on where we should hold our annual sale. After two committee meetings and finally a vote, it was decided to stay at Holmfirth with a much improved format.

I have been busy for the last few months looking to buy a bungalow and hopefully in the last few days I have been successful. With a bit of luck, I shall be moving to a new home in the next few months.

As we move towards spring, I wish you all a good lambing time, with not too much stress.

That's all for now. Take care,
Neville

Data Review

In order to meet new data protection regulations, we need your **POSITIVE CONSENT** to the use of your details as outlined below. We are doing this in stages, so some of you will already have received a request and for others it will accompany this Newsletter.

Please ensure you return the form, either by e-mail or post – and thank you to those of you who have already done so.. It's not something we enjoy doing, but it needs to be done!!

This is our Privacy Policy Statement:

“The WWSS holds basic contact details of members and enquirers and details of their sheep, together with publicly available information from shows and sales. We hold no financial data, apart from current subscription status. This information is used to produce certificates and our annual register, and to send out our newsletters. It is occasionally circulated to members. It is never sold or made available to other bodies. You may ask to see the data we hold on you, or ask for it to be changed or removed.”

Please return completed forms to Ann or Rachel by e-mail or post – contact details on page 4

Annual Show and Sale

Holmfirth, Sunday 30 September

NEW FORMAT AND CATALOGUE

The Show will be followed by a Sale of Whitefaced Woodlands, in catalogue order. There will be a commercial sale after the pedigree sale, but no fat lambs will be sold from the field. To ensure that we can produce the catalogue in time, **Sale entries will close on Friday 14 September**. If you know someone who might like a catalogue, please let me know

Should you need animals inspecting, please will you make sure this is done before the end August. Please note that the Committee has decided that there should be two inspectors for ewes as well as for tups.

Rachel

The Show

1. An innocent in Derbyshire

In a field somewhere in the Hope Valley
[Richard] *They are not looking too bad these sheep of yours have you thought of taking them to a show—it's Hayfield on Saturday and Sunday?*

[Me] Hmmn.. I'm not sure really. I'm quite new to this and I really don't know what I'm doing. I don't want to look a fool and take along some rubbish and I have no idea what to do either, so I'd be embarrassed plus I don't have a trailer, so I can't get them there anyway.

[Richard] *They're unlikely to win anything but you never know – and you won't disgrace yourself. It will help you to get to know the other breeders too. And Whitefaced Woodland owners don't go in for any nonsense about washing them, white coats, or such-like, so you won't have to do much preparation. And if you never start you'll never learn. I can pick them up for you in my trailer as I'm going to the show and I can show you what to do. But I'm not saying you should go – it's up to you.*

[Me] Well.... perhaps I could take this ram lamb?

[Richard] *You might as well enter several classes. Let me see.... How about a ewe lamb; a ram lamb; a shearling ewe and also an aged ewe?*

[Me] Well if you think so...

[Richard] *OK I'll see you bright and early on show day to load them up*

Later that night

[Me, thinking] Oh no! I've no idea how I can round them up—I've got no dog. Plus I've recently weaned them so the lambs and ewes are in separate fields. The ewes are not coming to the bucket consistently and the lambs don't even know what a bucket is yet. I'd better get up super early as I don't want to look an idiot and not have them ready when Richard arrives....

2. An innocent at the show

Very early Sunday 17th September
(show day!)

Erect a temporary pen by the gate between the two fields. Coax the ewes and shearlings into it using the corn bucket. Get the ewe I need and 7 others but fail to get the shearling – she is one of 7 stubbornly roaming free in the 2 ¼ acres.

Decide to cut my losses with the adults for the time being and using these 8 penned sheep I try luring the lambs into a new pen in the field on the other side of the gate. Remarkably this actually works (Phew, they're still small enough to want to be with each other and near their mums so aren't too much trouble). OK. So far not too bad – now to catch the remaining shearling....

Acting as sheepdog and running manically, I catch three more of the ewes, but not the relevant shearling. Play sheepdog again with the remaining 4 freedom fighters and in a final desperate panic I manage to pen the required shearling ewe. Catch breath and avoid a coronary. Then spend a happy hour wrestling with sheep, hurdles and gates so that eventually I have the four relevant sheep (and only the four) in two pens on the same side of the gate. Relax for the first time. Richard arrives.

Richard *Hi there – how did the rounding up go?*

Me (lying) Oh fine, no problems.

At Hayfield Show

I've been to see a few shows in the past so there are some familiar faces (both breeders and sheep) but I'm taken a bit aback as there are loads of Whitefaced Woodlands (>10 in each class). I nervously watch the first class trying to work out what is going on. Frankly I haven't a clue, but I clap warmly when the winner is announced. For the second category I play being judge – with mixed success.

Now it's time for my entry, the ram lamb. I suddenly realise everyone is lining up so I get my lamb and muscle it over to the other exhibitors. Richard shows me how to hold the sheep – easier said than done. I'm towards the end of the line next to a guy who also got his first Whitefaced Woodland sheep from Richard.

Seeing my lamb alongside the others I instantly don't like the look of him so I'm not hopeful. Here comes the judge – a quickish look and feel and then he's gone. He identifies the top 3 or 4 from the class and they all go to the head of the line where the final selection takes place and a winner is announced. More warm applause.

Now for my “one horned wonder” in the aged ewe class; then my shearling ewe; and then finally my ewe lamb –this last is my best chance, in my opinion. But she has no intention of behaving. I’m leaning back desperately pulling her forward and she’s pulling with all her might trying to back out of the line. It’s a tiring stalemate. The judge seems to like her – he has quite a look – but I just can’t get her to stand right so the judge eventually moves on commenting “*I think that is as good and we are going to get from her*”.

And that’s it—it’s all over, bar the return journey.

Was it worth it? Yes. It was really nice to meet up again with some people from the society that I’ve met before and who have been very generous with their help. And it’s been a nice day at the show too, both sunny and warm (very different from when I’m writing this!). It’s good to get to know some new people and to get a few tips on all sorts of things. Plus I’m beginning to form an opinion on what I want my sheep to look and feel like. It has also been invaluable comparing my sheep with the others and getting a sense of where I stand and what I want to improve on. And lastly, I’m beginning to think “X” has some nice sheep perhaps I’ll ask them about one of their rams to breed off...

John Bland

Shows in 2018 offering Woodland classes

Honley Show, Honley, West Yorks. Sat 9 June. Contact: Christopher Taylor 07802 910644. Schedules at www.honleyshow.co.uk
Judge: Tom Davis

Royal Three Counties Show - Rare Breeds Day on Sun 17 June. Contact Fiona Parker on 01684 584901 or e-mail: fionap@threecounties.co.uk
Judge: Chareen Kaye

North Yorkshire County Show, Northallerton. Sun 17 June. Contact: Gladys Gouldthorpe on 07825 268053. Schedule and entry forms on line at www.northyorkshireshow.co.uk.
Judge: tba

Harden Moss Sheep Show and Sheepdog Trials, Holmfirth. Sun 24 June. Contact: Christine Smith 01484 680823.
Judge: Neville Belfield

Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate. Tues 10 to Thurs 12 July. Contact: Amanda Stoddart-West on 01423 546231 or amandaw@yas.co.uk.
www.greatyorkshireshow.com
Judge: John Jones

Ryedale Show, Kirkbymoorside. Tues 24 July. Contact: Mrs A Welham 07967 198011 ann.welham@cundalls.co.uk or download entry form at www.ryedaleshow.org.uk
Judge: Angela Crampton

Halifax Show Sat 11 August. Contact: Mrs Lizzie Greenwood on 01422 825324
e.greenwood324@btinternet.com or sheep@halifaxshow.co.uk
Judge: tba

Mottram Show, Mottram, near Glossop. Sun 19 August Contact: Angela Oldham 0161 351 1263.
www.mottramshow.co.uk
Judge: Karen Dowey

Hope Show. Mon 27 August Champion of Champions follows regular WFW classes. Contact: Elise Priestley:
livestock@hopeshow.co.uk
www.hopeshow.co.uk
Judge: Richard Smith
Championship: Mike Salisbury

RBST Traditional & Native Breeds Show & Sale at Melton Mowbray 7th and 8th September.
www.meltonmowbraymarket.co.uk
Judge: Rob Ford

Penistone Show. Sat 8 Sept
www.penistoneshow.com. Contact: Mrs Earnshaw 01484 766542. E-mail: elaine.29@hotmail.co.uk
Judge: James Gill

Hayfield Country Show, High Peak. Sun 16 September www.hayfieldshow.co.uk Contact: Sarah Mellor 01663 746580 or sarah.mellor4@btopenworld.com.
Judge: tba

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