



Whitefaced Woodland Sheep Society

Web site: www.whitefacedwoodland.co.uk

Newsletter 86 – September 2013

Annual Whitefaced Woodland Show and Sale

On Saturday 28 September – at Bretton Mill Farm, Haigh, near Barnsley. This year it's in a different field, on the opposite side of the M1, but still right on Junction 38. Aged and shearling rams compete for the prestigious Ken Wild Trophy. **Judging begins at 11 and the Sale starts at 12 noon.** There will be two ewe classes: *Pen of six or more Woodland ewes born in 2012* and *Pen of six or more Woodland ewes that have reared a lamb in 2013*. Paul Dixon advises that there will be a good selection of tups, draft ewes and shearlings. For more details contact Paul on 01484 683543 or 07720 765094.

Annual General Meeting and Farm Open Day

Sunday 6 October at Plover Hall, Gilmonby, near Barnard Castle DL12 9LU. Meet at around 11 o'clock for coffee or tea. **The AGM will start at 11.30**, to be followed by lunch. This should leave the afternoon to look at sheep, and try your hand at assessing and judging Woodlands in an informal setting.

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) and continue for a mile to a big stone barn on the roadside.

Contact details: e-mail: AnnGodschalk@whitefacedwoodland.co.uk
Phone 01833 628130, mobile 07985 096230.

AGENDA

- 1.Members present and apologies
- 2.Minutes of the 2012 AGM
- 3.Chairman's report of the year
- 4.Treasurer's report and Accounts
- 5.Election of officers
- 6.Whitefaced Woodland Register
- 7.Web site
- 8.Open day/ Social event
- 9.Any other business

Agenda Item 2: minutes were circulated with Newsletter 83. A limited number of copies will be available at the meeting.

Agenda Item 4: Statement of Accounts

Opening balance		£2537.65
<u>Income</u>		
Life memberships	£200.00	
Membership	£395.00	
Registrations	£ 45.00	
Calendars	£278.50	
Mugs	<u>£ 14.00</u>	
	£932.50	
<u>Outgoings</u>		
Calendar	£209.23	
NSA stand	£210.00	
NSA stand	£264.00	
NSA membership	£ 75.00	
Rosettes	£ 21.20	
Newsletter & postage	£ 51.65	
2 banners	<u>£310.00</u>	
	£1,141.08	
Excess of outgoings over income	£208.58	(£208.58)
Closing balance		£2329.07

Considering we went to two shows and had new banners, this was not a bad result. Membership increased by £20 plus the two life memberships.

Agenda Item 5:

Paul Dixon has agreed to stand as Chairman for a further year. No other nominations received. Rob Ford and Philip Onions wish to stand as joint Vice Chairmen. [See *Woody elections* below]

Agenda Item 6:

After the Committee Meeting on 7 September, the Secretary sent this letter to all who had been WFWSS members for the last 5 years, and all who had registered Woodlands in the CFB since 2008:

“Following a meeting with the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST), I am writing to ask for your views on registration. With the number of breeders we have, it is important to work together to promote the breed.

It is strongly felt that both breeders registering with the RBST and hill breeders are missing out. If the two registers were merged, the Registration Committee could reduce registration costs substantially, and allow current RBST flocks access to new breeding stock. This would also open up a market to breeders who do not currently register, and help new breeders to select quality stock.

The proposal is:

“That a new committee, representative of all Whitefaced Woodland breeders should amalgamate both the Grassroots system of registration as it stands, and the Whitefaced Woodland Sheep Society (WWSS) register for the good of the breed.”

Please could all who wish to express their view (either agree (YES) or disagree (NO)) do so by the end of September to me in writing (or by e-mail). All views will be counted as votes at the AGM on 6th October at Plover Hall, Gilmonby.”

Agenda Item 7:

Rod Corderey kindly set up the website for us some years ago, and updates it as required. He also owns (and pays for) the domain name *whitefacedwoodland.co.uk*. Rod suggests that we work out what changes we should like to make and then he will then tell us what can be easily achieved and what is more problematic. So – ideas welcome, please...

Woody Elections

Philip Onions has agreed to join me as present incumbent Vice Chairman in a shared post. It will be my final year anyway as VC and ninth as officer since being a founder member all of eight years ago.

Philip’s agenda for the next 12 months (if we are jointly elected of course) is to pursue the cause of amalgamation of the two woodland registers.

Mine will be to boost registrations, especially ewes which are under represented on the WWSS register, so that a critical mass is achieved sufficient to enable outward movement to new breeders, who in my experience, often prefer to see stock registered.

We will both need lots of support and encouragement along the way so please don’t stint in providing this. If anyone wants to register stock by the way, I and others will be on hand at Bretton for inspections prior to and indeed after the sale. Other than that, please give me a call and I’ll arrange for an on farm inspection visit

There are some good registered tups on offer again this year at Bretton: a couple from James Gill, three from Neville Belfield, two from Amanda Windsor, two or three from John Jones and I believe one from David Wardell. Ask Paul Dixon for details or contact the owners direct. (The field sale at Bretton is as usual just off J38 on the M1 on the **Barnsley side** this year)

See you at Bretton then and the Open day / AGM. With all good wishes’

Rob Ford

A personal plea from Philip Onions

It is a universally accepted truth amongst all the Woodland breeders that I’ve spoken to recently that having two registers for our breed is not only divisive but self destructive to our breed. So surely the time has come when we must end all this nonsense and bickering and come together for the good of the entire breed and all the breeders and all their sheep!

We the breeders must come together and unite as one. We need to decide the future of our own sheep through reason and compromise. We must take control of our own registration process, the rules that govern it and the costs. We want the RBST on our side, we want to keep working with the Grassroots system and all their valuable work and we absolutely must keep all the good work that Ann, Rachel and others have done with the WWSS register as well. I absolutely do not want the WWSS and the RBST to break apart, but it is for the breeders themselves to take on the

responsibility for our own register, a single united register for both RBST members and WWSS members, run by the members for the members. All the members of the Woodland breeding world.

So after years of conflict we've come up with a proposal that we're putting to all Whitefaced Woodland breeders, whether they currently register with the CFB or the WWSS. We want to set up a management committee, or a council or a sub committee (call it what you want because it is going to be your registration governing body) who will be democratically appointed with members who must be either RBST members or WWSS members, or members of both groups. This committee will set the rules for registering all Woodlands on one register. They will work to push down registration costs. They will be charged with making the register inclusive and will also have to balance this with improving the breed's standards. It is going to be a difficult task, but I really encourage Woodland breeders especially from the CFB register, to put themselves forward to stand for a place on the committee, if we are able to set one up. And that is the first problem. We need everyone to agree first that we form such a register in the first place. Now of course we don't have to do any of this. We could just carry on with two separate registers. We could just carry on the way we were going or we could just split into two breeds. If that's what you want.

In my opinion, that would be criminal as the breed is small enough as it is, we don't need to split it up and to do so will not help anyone. I beg you all to think long and hard about this and then hopefully you will all see that the time has come for us to do this and by having people on this committee from both groups, hopefully, we can iron out our differences. Take care all of you.

Philip Onions

Show results

Ryedale Show – Judge Jeff Dowey

Ram: Paul Thorp
Ram lamb: Paul Thorp
Aged ewe: Paul Thorp
Shearling ewe: Dave Wardell
Ewe lamb: Paul Thorp
Group of three: Paul Thorp
Paul's ram won the Breed Championship.
Reserve Champion was Dave and Debbie's shearling ewe, which also won the RBST trophy and Best woolled class.

Mottram Show – Judge Tessa Wigham

Aged ram: Paul Thorp
Shearling ram: Karen Dowey
Ram lamb: Jeff Dowey
Aged ewe: Paul Thorp
Shearling ewe: Karen Dowey
Ewe lamb: Jeff Dowey
Group of three: Karen Dowey
Reserve Champion was Paul's aged tup and Champion was Karen's shearling ewe which went on to win the Interbreed Championship.

Hope Show – Judge Craig Bradbury

Aged ram: Paul Thorp
Shearling ram: Dave Wardell
Ram lamb: Neville Belfield
Aged ewe: Jeff and Karen Dowey
Shearling ewe: Mary Morton
Ewe lamb: Jeff and Karen Dowey
Breed Champion was Jeff and Karen's aged ewe and Reserve was Mary Morton's shearling ewe.

Jeff and Karen's aged ewe was judged by Martin Warburton as **Champion of Champions** for 2013. Reserve was Chareen Kaye's aged ewe.

Report on Malham Show from Robert Crampton
Our tup lamb came second in the Rare Breed Any Age Tup section. There were 10 entries and the winner was a coloured Ryeland tup. In the Ewe section, we came 4th out of 10. Here is a photo of our tup lamb.



Subscriptions for 2013/14
are now due
still only £10
Please contact Rachel Godschalk
Her new address details are
on the back page

Stock for Sale or Wanted

Two shearling rams for sale

Ryedale Dominator (W11718) and Ryedale Duke (W11717) both CFB, RBST registered. Ryedale Dominator will be for sale at Bretton Mill, he has won best shearling male, reserve champion male and best CFB homebred sheep at The Great Yorkshire Show, best shearling male at Hope, plus numerous awards at local shows. Ryedale Duke can be sold privately, he is a good strong animal, well handled and quiet. Both are by Grangefarm Bigcroft Billy (W11013) out of good well bred ewes. Contact Dave or Debbie Wardell: 01751 472089, email. d-wardell@hotmail.co.uk

RBST registered shearling ram for sale (W11910) from the Glebethorn flock. Contact:: Judith Hawkhead, 01347 824534 or : judith.hawkhead@york.ac.uk. (North Yorkshire).

A mutton renaissance

Following a recent request for information on Woodland mutton, Rob Ford replied thus: "I always thought from reading that mutton was a by product of wool production via wethers being kept for up to six years for the annual wool crop and then the heavy load of mutton.

I guess that unlike other hill breeds, the woodland was treated thus after the introduction of superior wool grade by the Merino in the 18th century. However, when the wool trade ceased to be significant, presumably so did the adjacent mutton trade especially as housing of sheep and transported corn meant that lamb was available over an extended season and refrigeration meant that winter salting was no longer necessary.

My own experiment in mutton produced a 5-year old wether at 110lb (50kg) carcass weight.

All mutton nowadays is of course cull ewe and the market price is underpinned almost entirely by the trade generated by preference for more flavoured (and cheaper) meat from those of us of Indian sub continent / afro caribbean / african heritage. Strong texels go to well over £100 and on this observation, I can't see much virtue in the renaissance scheme unless it's primary purpose is to bypass the halal / kosher process of inhumane slaughter.

[Personally, I would rate our Boiled leg of mutton with caper sauce (a Jane Grigson recipe) very highly. Next time, I'll publish Philip Onion's thoughts on mutton – with a distinct historical flavour! Ed]

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