



Whitefaced Woodland Sheep Society

Web site: www.whitefacedwoodland.co.uk

Newsletter 77 - October 2011

Chairman's Report of the Year

Another eventful year and with plenty of shows bearing fruit this year in the form of new entrants, increased numbers and most importantly, new breeders being introduced to the breed.

The last event was of course the annual show and sale at Bretton, which had a good turnout of ewes this year. Quality stock was on offer with a complete dispersal from breed legend Harold Hodgson who has retired from sheep keeping after 70 years! All of Harold's stock went to good homes. I am pleased to hear that Philip Onions has arranged to visit Harold and to obtain from him words of wisdom based on his lifelong experience. I understand that Harold knows where the last of the Limestones was buried. Now there's a worthwhile project for the DNA profilers at RBST to pick up!

Edward Lees topped the chart with a pen of 10 x 2 and 3 shear ewes finding their way to Wales at £162 a head. Plenty of tups on offer as well with no less than 18 in the show line up. Neville Belfield (last year's winner) presented the Ken Wild trophy to a winning shearling from Simon Burford, which went on to sell for just under £1000 along with a WWSS registered shearling from Neville selling for a similar amount.

Good stock always sells well. We saw £115 plus at Melton (Julie Beardwell) and £147 at Skipton for one of Dave and Debbie Wardell's RBST registered shearling ewes.

Last year's highly successful on farm event at Pikenaze hosted by the Doweys is to be repeated in a week's time at Stott Hall Farm, hosted this time by Paul Thorp and Jill Falkingham. Jill has been talking of involving some discussion on Woodland wool and I'll be bringing along some of this year's fleeces for scrutiny and would invite others to do so as well.

I'm standing down as Chairman this year after the 3 year limit prescribed by our Constitution. But hope, if duly elected, to be VC (groans), in which role I would like to reconnect the Society with the various Institutional bodies who keep Woodlands but who tend not to be members of respective breed societies. I would also like to see a farm based workshop on tup selection for members who register with RBST. It's clear that the closed RBST registered flock has considerable asset value to the breed because it has been effectively separated over 30 years now from the "original" population.

See you all at Stott Hall then.

Rob Ford

Open Day at Stott Hall Farm

As you know, this will follow the AGM. If you haven't yet done so, please let Jill know straight away if you are planning to attend. Her mobile is 07730 402812, or e-mail jillyf1@fsmail.net

Subscriptions for 2011-12 Annual subscriptions were due on 1 September at £10

Most of you have paid – but if you haven't yet, please see Rachel at the AGM, or post a cheque to her.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 10.30 am on 22 October 2011 at Stott Hall Farm, Rishworth, Sowerby Bridge, HX6 4QY (Directions to Stott Hall Farm are on page 4)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2010 AGM
3. Chairman's report of the year
4. Treasurer's report and Accounts
5. Election of officers
6. Resolution: *'To create a position of Honorary President'* Proposed by Paul Dixon.
7. Resolution: *'That the Whitefaced Woodland Sheep Society make every effort to represent the views and ideals of all breeders of Whitefaced Woodland sheep and organise the activities of the group; meetings, shows and the judging of such shows, to represent and facilitate the participation by a majority of the RBST Combined Flock Book registered flock owners and the hill flocks seeking registration at the present time.'* Proposed by Avril Harrison
8. Discussion of the Breed Standard
9. Location and date of 2012 AGM and Committee meetings
10. Any other business

Draft Minutes for 2010 were sent out with Newsletter 72. If you need a copy, please ask Ann.

Treasurer's Report and Accounts

Well, the end balance is looking healthier than last year's, thanks to the sales of mugs and calendars and also registering stock before the Bretton Mill sale. I think the design of T-shirts is next on the agenda, so if anyone has any ideas or designs they want to share, please forward them to me and we'll put them to the Committee meeting in February. The calendars were a success this year and hopefully will be again next year. Thanks to those who sent pictures to Paul – if it wasn't for those, we wouldn't have a calendar.

Karen Dowey

Summary of Accounts

Opening balance **£1806.82**

Income

Mugs and calendars	496.82
Memberships (incl. 2 life)	640.50
Registering tups and ewes	155.50
Direct credit from RBST	<u>100.00</u>
	£1392.82

Outgoings

Society banner	146.88
Calendars	225.00
Newsletters and postage	112.51
Committee meeting	19.05
20 mugs	71.76
Show rosettes and postage	<u>27.75</u>
	£602.95

Income less outgoings **£789.87**

End balance **£2596.69**

Agenda item 5

Chairman Rob Ford and Vice Chairman, Paul Dixon, retire this year. Paul Dixon is proposed as Chairman, by Philip Onions, seconded by Rob Ford. Philip also proposes Rob Ford as Vice Chairman, seconded by Ann Godschalk. Rachel Godschalk (Secretary & Membership) and Karen Dowey (Treasurer) are eligible to stand again. There are no other nominations.

Agenda item 7

This resolution is supported by a letter from Pam Crosby, Dave and Debbie Wardell, Helen and Chris Wray and Ric Halsall:

“There is a great deal of concern about the direction the Whitefaced Woodland Sheep Society is moving – the focus of the present leadership is on the promotion of unregistered flocks particularly in the close knit “Woodland” area of Penistone and the Derbyshire side of the Pennines.

The organisation of the group and the showing of sheep are dominated by the folk who own these flocks and live within this area, to the neglect of the greater number of Woodland breeders across the rest of the country.

Because of this concern expressed over the past 3 or 4 months and the total dominance by the same problem in the last two newsletters we would like [this] motion to be put to the 2011 AGM”

Agenda item 8

The Breed Description is taken from the RBST/ Combined Flock Book:

“The Whitefaced Woodland is one of the largest of British hill breeds. Mature ewes weigh 60kg (135lb) but may reach 72.5kg (160 lb) in good grazing. Animals of this breed are strong-boned and robust. When left undocked, the tail is long.

The wool is white and finer than that of many other hill breeds, being suitable for the manufacture of knitting or hosiery wool. The staple length is 15-20cm (6-8 inches), and the Bradford Count is 44-50, although the wool on the britch is coarser.

The face and legs are mainly white, although a little speckling is permissible. The skin of the muzzle may be wholly or partly pink. The head is strong and the face and muzzle are broad. Both sexes are horned strongly; the rams having heavily spiralled horns. The extreme Roman nose should be avoided.”

A Standard for showing was published in the Society’s March 2004 Newsletter:

“Whitefaced woodland sheep should be strong boned and have good conformation. Both sexes are horned, the male having heavily spiralling horns. Horns should emerge flat from the head and not appear goat like. Trimming of horns to prevent intrusion into the face is permissible. Sheep with horns removed may also be shown.

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 sheep should have a broad white face with pink nose. Some speckling on the nose and face is permissible, though this should be discouraged.

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. Backing down is **not** permitted. Oiling of horns is also acceptable.”

Suggestions received at that time were:

1. Change emphasis on speckling – suggest “*Speckling on the nose and face should be discouraged*”
2. Modify rules on washing – suggest replacing “Only the face, feet and legs may be washed, **not** the fleece”, with “*Sheep may be cleaned before presenting to remove soil and stains.*”

Sale reports

Eleven shearling ewes were forward at **Melton Mowbray**. Top price paid for the two blue carded animals was 110gns (£115.50), with an average price of £91. Sadly, the red carded 3-shear ram only made 90gns. The Goodchap Memorial cup and picture were not presented this year, as there was only one entry for the Show.

The best price for a shearling ewe at **Skipton** was 140gns (£147), with all five selling at 100gns or above (average £120). Five ewe lambs made between 65 and 75gns ((£68 - £79) and the only ram lamb, £84. Two shearling rams sold for £55 and £58 and a 3-shear for £84.

Some 200 Woodlands were forward at Bretton Mill, including a dispersal sale of 55 ewes and lambs from Harold Hodgson. Harold Hodgson won the aged tup class, and then a line up of 18 shearling tups presented a real challenge for judge Neville Belfield. Even ‘old hands’ reckoned they hadn’t seen such a gathering!

Results were:

- 1st Simon Burford
- 2nd Paul Thorp
- 3rd Edward Lees.

Simon Burford thus won the coveted Ken Wild trophy, though Beth Wild could not present it personally, as she had broken her ankle. We send her our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

The Champion tup sold for £950, the highest price of the day, just beating a Neville Belfield shearling at £920. Draft ewes reached £162 per head, for a pen of ten, the next highest being £132. Shearling ewes reached £112, and James Gill’s outstanding tup lamb made £450.

Analysis of prices:

5 aged tups: highest: £380, average: £141
15 shearling tups: highest: £950, average: £237
42 tup lambs: highest: £450, average: £55.70
8 wether lambs: average: £37.90
67 draft ewes: highest: £162, average: £96.10
22 shearling ewes: highest: £112, av.: £103.70
32 ewe lambs: highest: £79, average: £56.90
Seven tups did not reach their reserve price.

Hayfield Show

At the last show of the season, James Gill took the Championship with his shearling tup, and went on to win the Interbreed. Simon Burford’s gimmer lamb was Reserve. The other Woodland classes were won by: Chereen Kaye (shearling ewe), Simon Burford (tup lamb,) Richard Cottrill (aged ram), and James Gill (aged ewe).

Stock for Sale

RBST registered aged tup for hire this season. Contact RobFord@whitefacedwoodland.co.uk for details or 01538 398290 (Leek, North Staffs)

John Illingworth is selling 14 ewes at Bakewell High Peak Livestock Society Sale of Breeding Hill Sheep on Saturday 15 October. See the Bagshaw catalogue at www.bagshaws.com He also has 2 registered tups for sale but was too late to enter them at Bakewell Phone John on: 01625 430584 (Macclesfield Forest) or e-mail john.illingworth@cdssltd.com

Jo Taylor at Christmas Hill Farm, Lakenheath has for sale:
12 in-lamb CFB regd WFW ewes, proven breeders of show quality stock: 3x 2009 born, 4x 2008 born, 2x 2007 born, 1x 2006 born, 2x 2005 born. Also two registered shearling rams and approx 20 high quality birth notified ewe lambs. For further details please contact Jo Taylor 01842 862702, 07733 258494 or email christmashill@btconnect.com

Woodland Calendar

Paul Dixon has again produced a Woodland Calendar for us. Copies will be available at the Open Day – at £6.50. They will also be available from Paul at Wm Sykes & Son at 38 Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth. Tel.: 01484 683543. Please add £1 each if you need them posted.

To find Stott Hall Farm

Come off the M62 at Junction 22 and head towards Halifax on the A672 for about three miles, passing a large reservoir on your right. When you get to the end of the reservoir, you will see a dam wall with a little car park and just after here there is a right turning (signposted with a brown picnic sign) which you take. The road drops down under the dam wall and curves around to the left, away from the dam wall and you'll see some large boulders on your right, turn in here and follow the drive all the way up, under the eastbound carriageway, then turn right into the farm yard.

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

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