



# Whitefaced Woodland Sheep Society

## Annual General Meeting September 2009

### The Annual General Meeting

will be held at Melton Mowbray Market,  
Scalford Road, Melton Mowbray,  
on Friday 11 September 2009 at 5pm

#### AGM AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2008 AGM
3. Matters arising but not on this agenda
4. Chairman's report of the year
5. Accounts and Treasurer's report
6. Election of Officers
7. Subscription level for year 2010/11
8. Location and date of 2010 AGM
9. Selection of judges and inspectors
10. Hill Register
11. Any other business

*Draft Minutes of the 2008 AGM were contained in Newsletter 64. If you need a copy, please ask Ann.*

#### Agenda Item 6

Clive Hill wishes to stand down as Treasurer. We should welcome offers to take on this post. The other Officers have agreed to stand again: Rob Ford (Chairman), Paul Dixon (Vice Chairman), Rachel Godschalk (Secretary), and no other nominations have been received.

#### Agenda Item 7

The Committee proposes that the annual subscription be raised to £10 from September 2010 and Life membership to £100.

#### Agenda Item 8

The Committee proposes that the 2010 AGM should be held at The Hope Show in Derbyshire on August Bank Holiday Monday.

If you cannot be at the AGM, but have any thoughts or opinions on any of the above – or indeed on anything concerned with Woodlands and the Society - please let Rob Ford or Rachel Godschalk know beforehand.

### Subscriptions for 2009/10 are now due

Still at £7.50 for the current year! If you have not already paid, please send to Rachel Godschalk at the address overleaf, or pay her in person at the AGM or the Annual Sale at Bretton Mill.

### Chairman's Report of the Year

Twelve months seems a long time when looking forward as newly elected Chair and it certainly seemed a long time in passing! Punctuated as the year was with some quite significant achievements obtained by the combined efforts of the Society's committee and members in the advancement of our special breed, which retains tremendous loyalty from its 100 plus breeders (see Census below), I report as follows:

**Hill register** - A good deal of work has been done, starting with a trial inspection of a 250 flock of woodlands on a northern hill by Geoff Dowey and myself, to see how an inspection prior to register entry regime would work in practice on a mixed flock drawn from unregistered hill and RBST flocks. There followed a series of trials with various register systems and then by way of a departure, a meeting with RBST (Ann Godschalk and myself) whereupon it was clear that we, the Whitefaced Woodland Sheep Society, could work in association with RBST on the formation of a Hill Register. This was consolidated by a further meeting in July with Tim Brigstocke and Dawn Teverson of RBST and Rachel Godschalk, John Jones and myself of WFWSS. The outcome is that we are now in a position to carry out inspections of foundation stock for the Hill Register, with the register maintained by Grassroots (who maintain the A Register in the Combined Flock Book). With a registration system common to both A Register and the Hill Register, it will be possible for stock to move between registers clearly and without controversy. Crucially, the Hill Register costs are low.

**Website** - Special thanks are very much due to Rod Corderey for setting up and maintaining the Society Website and for ensuring that it's the first site you get on your screen when you enter the immortal words *whitefaced woodland* in your search engine (or whatever it's called). The site has great potential as a stock exchange portal and for the display of show photographs and probably a lot more.

**Shows** - There are 14 shows with woody classes and all so far this year have managed at least two competitors, with Hope last week notching up six. Some of the east county shows need a little more support though. Thanks to Caroline Lewsey for providing the splendid rosettes for the show champions. And thanks of course to James Gill, Karen Dowey, Paul Thorpe and others for showing us what a whitefaced woodland sheep looks like at its best.

**Breed promotion** - Your Society mounted a stand at The National Sheep Association's promotional event NSA North with livestock provided by Rachel, thanks Rachel (and for all those miles you travel to shows and events and for squeezing members so politely for their annual subs.) and with Ann, Paul Dixon and myself in attendance. These events are useful in maintaining the breed's profile I feel and for the same reason, entries were placed in the Farmers Guardian pull out and keep Breed Directories. These are rather costly exercises and have unknown benefits and we may be wiser doing more by way of exhibits at the shows.

**Newsletter** - This has been produced by Ann Godschalk at regular intervals and members have said how much they like reading its fairly light hearted approach which is good news in itself. So very special thanks to Ann for her dedication and professionalism throughout the year. And thanks to Philip Onions for his valuable and ongoing contributions to our understanding of the breed's origins.

**Census** - Something of a milestone is this I feel. Apart from a rough estimate made at Bretton Mills about 4 years ago, we really have little idea as to how many Woodies there are out there. Grassroots carries out a census every 3 years and one is due next year; but this is only of registered animals. I'm hoping that we will find that there are still the estimated 3000 on the hill and elsewhere. Thanks then to John Jones for sending out the 140 or so forms. The difficult bit is still to come though with the counting and analysis.

**Annual sale** - We owe a lot to Paul Dixon for bravely chancing the weather and Defra restrictions for persevering with this important field sale year on year and especially this year with Neville Belfield's major dispersal on offer. What an opportunity this will be to pass into the wider community some of Neville's excellent stock. We will be there to inspect pens post sale for the Hill Register, if buyers wish.

**Treasurer** - Clive Hill is leaving us with a healthy bank balance and clear set of accounts and so thanks Clive for steering us through the financial wilderness over the last, what is it? 5 years and for not putting our money in a high interest Icelandic savings account. We do need a new Treasurer so all those of you out there who can use a calculator please step forward.

**Projects for 2010** - I would like to see our Society....*get the Hill Register established and respected amongst commercial woodland breeders / increase our membership / purposefully seek to establish additional commercial flocks / raise the woody profile, specifically at shows / seek a dedicated woody finisher and lamb retailer / develop the texwood (texel sire x woodland) as a breeding mule and first cross finished lamb*

Best regards to all, Rob Ford

**WHITEFACED WOODLAND SHEEP SOCIETY**  
Accounts 2008/2009

Opening balance £1903.26

**INCOME**

Subscriptions  
(1x life, 40x ordinary) £ 379.50

**EXPENDITURE**

Newsletter expenses £ 22.68  
Sheep North £103.50  
Show rosettes £ 27.50  
£ 153-68

Income *less* expenditure £ 225.82

**Closing balance £2129.08**

About £150 of expenses relating to the WFW Census is yet to be paid, together with the promotion in *Farmers Guardian* of around £150. We decided during the year to hang fire on investing a lump sum until we were more certain of our position, particularly as regards the Hill Register. Perhaps we should now look at investing say, £1000, in a higher earning account or bond, as we are currently in a fairly healthy position.

Clive Hill



*James Gill with his aged tup, winning Champion of Champions at the Hope Show this year. Bred by Paul Thorp, it is rumoured that several breeders will have their eye on this tup when he comes up for sale at Bretton Mill on 26 September.*

[Photo: Martha Ford]

**C O N T A C T   D E T A I L S**

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