

Dear Member,

Since my last newsletter we have endured the wettest summer on record, a list of cancelled events and an astounding sale at Ludlow on the 1st of September. During the last six months 25 new members have joined the Society – may I welcome you all and wish you all the best with your sheep.

On the 9th June our stand visited Scotsheep at Ayr – our first trip over the border. The welcome was great and the day a terrific success (in spite of the rain) the stand was busy all the time. Our thanks to Derick & Lindsey Steen for supplying some terrific sheep and to our Secretary Pam, who made the long journey, to Yvonne our President and to Cath Kewley one of our members fairly local to the area for manning the stand. Next stop was the NSA Sheep Event at Malvern on July 4th with again some excellent sheep displayed by Alan Brimble, Glenro Flock. Again our thanks to all who manned the stand. The feedback from these events showed that the demand for Kerry sheep far exceeds their availability at present. If any members have sheep to sell, especially breeding and aged ewes please get in touch with myself or Pam, our Secretary.

There is no doubt that the success of the Kerry's in the shows stimulates many people to want the breed. Again the Kerry sheep have dominated the shows, both large and small. I congratulate Neil Radnor of the Radnor flock and Robbie his prize winning ram for all his successes in winning Interbreed Champion at many shows. Also to Geraint Roberts, Pengwern flock for his success and his crowning achievement in winning the Daily Post Showman Shepherd of the year in Wales with an outstanding points margin – he was runner up last year missing out by one point. To cap it all for the Roberts family, daughter Alys won the Young Handlers Award at the Royal Welsh Show. My thanks go out to all the other competitors – without you we would not have a Kerry class in many shows. I am a firm believer in the small shows as they give us the start to progress up the ladder. I take this opportunity to list members successes this year and if I have left anyone out please accept my apologies but please inform me for the record.

Staffordshire Show: Champion - R & J Price, Pentrenant Flock; Reserve Champion - N Radnor, Radnor Flock

Three Counties Show: Champion - N Radnor; Reserve Champion - R & J Price. Interbreed - N Radnor

Royal Welsh Show: Champion - GW Roberts, Pengwern; Reserve Champion - O S Jones, Fronarth Flock; Interbreed Pairs - G Roberts & S Jones

Anglesey Show : Champion - GW Roberts; Reserve Champion - GW Roberts; Interbreed Group - GW Roberts

Pembrokeshire Show: Champion - N Radnor; Reserve Interbreed Champion - N Radnor

Bath & West Show : Champion - A Brimble, Glenro Flock; Reserve Interbreed Champion - A Brimble

Brecon County Show : Champion - N Radnor; Reserve Champion - N Radnor; Interbreed Reserve - N Radnor

East of England: Champion - D Whybrow; Reserve Champion - D Whybrow

Newark & Notts: Champion Any Other Breed - S Hill, Pendin Flock

Monmouthshire Show: Champion - N Radnor; Reserve Champion - N Radnor, Reserve Interbreed - N Radnor

Royal Norfolk Show: Shortwool, Reserve Champion - M Beesley, Ashampstead Flock

Flint & Denbigh Show: Champion - GW Roberts; Reserve Champion - GW Roberts

Merioneth County Show: Champion – GW Roberts; Reserve Champion - GW Roberts; Interbreed Hill - GW Roberts

Eglwysbach Show: Champion - GW Roberts; Reserve Champion - GW Roberts; Interbreed & Group - GW Roberts

Oswestry Show: Champion - N Radnor; Reserve Champion - GW Roberts; Reserve Interbreed Group - GW Roberts

Llanrwst Show: Champion - G W Roberts; Reserve Champion - GW Roberts; Interbreed Group - GW Roberts

Border Union Show: Any Other Breed Reserve Champion - R Innes, Huntsman Flock

Goosnargh & Longridge Show : Non Primitive Champion, & Reserve Interbreed - Y Brown, Dodford Flock

Great Eccleston Show: Reserve Champion Rare Breed - Y Brown

Kington Show : Champion - N Radnor; Reserve Champion - N Radnor; Interbreed Champion - N Radnor

Llanfyllin Show: Any Other Breed Interbreed Group Champion - C Tibbott, Y Felin Flock

In the last 2 Council meetings we have discussed the Grassroots System for Registrations. Following a special meeting , when Libby Henson presented the system, it was decided that it would be advantageous to the Society in the long run and would facilitate and reduce the limited time for registering sheep for the Flockbook. This would see the flockbook out much sooner than at present. There was careful consideration, as the software does not come cheap – the cost of £2034 vat incl and an annual fee of £250 + vat. It will be a wise investment and will save a great deal of time in checking as the system is self correcting. There is an added software package called Pedeweb which will be presented for discussion to the AGM by Libby Henson from Grassroots whereby members will be able to register their flocks online at a cost of approximately £400 +vat per year to the Society. In 2011 1508 Ewe lambs were registered @ £2 a head, total £3016. This already covers the cost of the programme. While on Finance, the Society has a £7000 deposit with the National Savings as a contingency fund. It is also hopeful that as many members as possible will join the Gift Aid Fund.

This year's AGM & Dinner will be held at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells, Powys on Saturday 10th November, this was considered to be the best venue of the four options available.

This year's sales have hit the roof. The previous record for a ram of £1750 from AT Bound, Cefnbach, Llanidloes, which has stood since the early 90's was shattered 4 times with a ram from GW Roberts, Pengwern then Neil Radnor's Robbie going for £2000 followed by the Ludlow sale of £2200 for a ram from J & P Owens, Woodhouse and £2400 for a ram from FW Jones, Plaish flock. Two went over to Ireland and 2 to Daylesford Organics, Moreton-in-Marsh. The ewes saw the record broken when a yearling ewe from GW Roberts, Pengwern made £1600. This year's Ludlow sale was outstanding with the following averages:- Rams av £537, Ewes av £287, Yearling Ewes av £464, Ewe Lambs av £229, Ram Lambs av £271. A large consignment were bought by Daylesford Organics for their new Kerry Flock.

The Kerry's at Melton Mowbray of which 16 were sold av price £218.79. Top price of 800gns was realised for a ram, no further details are available at the time of this letter going to print. The Carlisle sale is yet to come!!!!

Members please note that the final date for your Flock Returns and registrations has been brought forward to the 30th November as you will note the flock returns are enclosed in this package, if you have bought ewe lambs or ram lambs please ensure that the vendor is aware that it is their responsibility to register these sheep. Finally the Flock Competition is due to start shortly, this year's judge is Mr Gwilym Pugh, Four Crosses. Please take note of the rules and I wish you the best of luck. Any problems please ring either myself or the Secretary.

Regards

John Harris, Chairman