



Whitefaced Woodland Sheep Society

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Newsletter 95 – August 2015

From the Chairman...

Hello everyone

Sorry I missed the last report but with a tup not working and more than usual returns, lambing seemed to go on forever this year. Hope you all had a good time and the weather was kind. Then to North Sheep which of course I also missed - this time though silage. The sheep still got there thanks to Chareen who, with Ann and John, had a busy day on the stand. I've had several people since say how well the sheep looked and they were impressed by the crossbreed lambs so thanks to all involved in that.

The show season is in full swing now with a few new faces in the line up and doing well in prizes which is always good to see. Woodlands are usually one of the biggest breeds at most shows I attend - let's keep it that way.

Robert and Angela Crampton's son has offered us the use of the golf club he runs, as a fund raiser for the new Grassroots system we bought earlier in year and which Ann is getting to know at the minute. The club is in Meltham near Huddersfield which is obviously good for me! There is no set format at the moment, but what do you all think? Ideas or comments to myself or Rachel please. We said at the time we had the money to buy the system but we all felt it was important to replace the funds ASAP. So please all comment on this idea or even better if you have any ideas of your own...

Anyway, better get back to work and get this to Ann so she can spell check and add punctuation to it!

Good luck with rest of show season and I look forward to seeing you all at some point.

Take care, Paul

Woodland Lunch?

Ashley Crampton, who has taken over the running of Meltham Golf Club, is giving us the chance to hold a fund raising event there. The Golf Club is between Huddersfield and Holmfirth and its restaurant seats about 100 people. He is offering to serve a traditional Sunday lunch, so we could have a Woodland 'get together', include family and friends, and raise some cash at the same time. At the moment, he has a two Sundays available in October (which may be too close to our AGM), with more available in the New Year. As Paul says, nothing is decided, so let him have your thoughts on this, please.

The **Hope Show** is on Monday 31 August. Schedules and entry forms can be downloaded from www.hopeshow.co.uk and should be returned to the Livestock Secretary, Elise Priestley at Dale Cottage, The Dale, Stoney Middleton, Hope Valley, S32 4TF by **17 August**.

Qualifiers to date for the Whitefaced Woodland Championship – the 'Champion of Champions' – are listed in the Show Results on page 4. The Champion and Reserve from Mottram Show and from the Woodland classes at Hope itself will also be eligible.

Farm visit and AGM

A reminder that our Annual General Meeting is on Sunday 4 October at Glencoyne, Can and Sam Hodgson's farm, near Glenridding on Ullswater. Lunch will follow the meeting, after which we are promised a farm visit and the chance to see their livestock, which few of us have done before. It might be a slightly longer drive for some, but well worth it - or take the opportunity for a weekend break in a very pleasant part of the country!

Through the Mist

Doing these flock profiles is sometimes like driving down a misty road in autumn; one rarely goes into a profile completely blind, one usually knows the person being visited, briefly, one's seen them at shows or sales or one knows them by reputation, but one has never seen the whole picture. So it was with Tony Redfern and his father in law and business partner Simon Burford; I have met them both and seen Tony winning the Ken Wild Memorial trophy at Bretton Mill, but that doesn't mean that I knew what to expect exactly. Of course I knew they had some good sheep, that was a given, but were they just selecting a good sheep from hundreds? Or did they have just a small handful of excellent Woodlands amidst hundreds of Swaledales? I just didn't know quite what to expect.



Tony being awarded the Ken Wild Memorial Trophy in 2011 at Bretton by Neville Belfield

It is also rare to go to a farm and get to see the whole flock all in one go. Usually I'm shown just a few sheep at a time, rarely the whole flock at once; so the visit is a journey too, just like driving through patchy mist as the truth about the flock is revealed.

Well it wasn't quite that way with Tony, but the first thing he did say to me was that these weren't his best sheep. He then told me what a mess the building was in that we were going to use to look at them and when I asked if I could take a few pictures of the pens, he laughed and said no, not this rubbish (or words to that effect). But here's

the thing, these old dusty pens were beautifully made. They were not just a load of old broken pallets like the ones we use, these were made by a craftsman. Someone had taken a lot of time and trouble to make proper joints and bevel all the edges. What Tony dismissed as rubbish was anything but!

Tony being presented with the Ken Wild Trophy in 2014



This early discussion set the tone of the whole visit because it soon became clear to me that Tony is a perfectionist. As his sheep came in and we started to inspect them I soon came to realise that the reason Tony is at the top of his game is because of attention to detail. Quite frankly, I would be happy to own any of his sheep.

Talking with Tony as we went through the first flock, I grew to realise that Tony was not just looking for big impressive sheep (show stoppers if you like) Tony wanted his flock to be good commercial sheep

Well we all want that don't we? Well no, not really, some of the farms that I have visited before have a commercial flock and a show flock. The commercial sheep do one thing and the show flock, another. Not Tony's flock, Tony is building a whole flock of good commercial sheep. He does not really show his sheep except at Hayfield (to support his local show) and when selling tups at Bretton Mill, yet here he stands his ground against some of the best Woodlands anywhere and wins. What does that tell you? Well it tells me that this is one of the most consistent flocks that I have ever seen anywhere...and then we moved on to the next flock his "better" sheep and guess what folks, yes they were better as a whole, but once again they were consistent with the first

flock and all the time it was clear that this was down to attention to detail. It was like coming out of the mist and seeing a bright clear view in front of me. I finally understood why Tony wins at Bretton Mill. Tony Redfern is what we up here call “real”; he is a real stockman.



Flock Profile

Date of Profile: 13/11/14

Contact Details

Name of Flock: Barnsfold

Flock Prefix: Barnsfold

Name of Breeder: Tony Redfern & Simon Burford

Address: Booth Farm, Kinder Rd, Hayfield

Telephone: 07813 054283



Flock Details:

Size of Woodland Flock: Major

Small 1-20, Medium 21-50, Large 51-100, Major 101+

Breeding Policy

Tony Redfern is looking for good sheep first and foremost, solid but not necessarily heavily boned. Actually Tony is not a fan of heavy boned Woodlands, he thinks that they tend to be too heavy and that makes them down on their pasterns and dip in the backs. He wants his sheep to have tight fleeces and look “clean”, by which I understood him to mean even coated, without tufts and lumps of wool sticking out here and there.

All morning I only saw one sheep with any colour on its face and that only had the slightest freckling, so clearly pink noses count for something.

Tony is looking for broad sheep and longer sheep, but he doesn’t want them too deep in the body. The result of this was a very even size to all the ewes, not too big and not small. It’s meaty sheep he wants, not bone, belly or wool



In selecting tups, Tony is very particular, he does not want them too heavy, down on their pasterns or dipping heavily in the back. Again he is looking at sheep that will produce meat, not wool, bone or fat. As for horns, these are last on Tony’s list for importance.

Farm Details

Size of Farm: d

Group a 1-20ha, b 21-50ha, c 51-100ha, d 101- 500ha, e 501-1000ha, f 1001+ha

Land Classification: LFA

Other Breeds of Sheep: Swaledales, Gritstones and Woodland Halfbreds



Description of farm:

The farm is divided between two main sites. Each site is high up on the hillsides above Hayfield and towards Kinder Scout. The In-bye land is green and lush compared to the steep hillsides above. The soil is acidic and poor and in places, wet and soft. While some fields are well drained and firm, others are very wet.

The Woodlands are kept mainly on the higher ground where, Tony says, they tend to go to. When gathering them apparently the Woodlands are right on the top, while Swaledales come down the slopes to the lower ground.

Management:

The management of the Woodlands is in line with them being a commercial flock; they are only fed extra as really needed to keep costs down to an absolute minimum. They are bred and managed to maximise outputs from the poorest of land relying on conformation and good breeding to do the work for them.

Philip Onions

Show results

Honley Show

Judge: David Shirt

Aged ram: Chareen Kaye

Shearling ram: Paul Thorp

Tup lamb: Casey Campbell

Aged ewe: Paul Thorp

Shearling ewe: Richard Smith

Ewe lamb: Casey Campbell

Chareen took the Championship with her aged tup and Paul took Reserve.

Royal Three Counties Show

Five competitors took part in the Woodland classes on the Rare Breeds Day,

Winners were:

Ram: Stephen and Francine Burns

Tup lamb: Robert and Jean Price

Ewe: Robert and Jean Price

Ewe lamb: Robert and Jean Price

Group of Three: Stephen and Francine Burns

The Championship was won by Robert and Jean's aged ewe, Pentrenant Callie. Reserve was Stephen and Francine's tup.

North Yorkshire County Show

Judge: Karen Dowey

Ram: Angela and Robert Crampton

Tup lamb: Angela and Robert Crampton

Aged ewe: Tessa Wigham

Shearling ewe: Tessa Wigham

Ewe lamb: Angela and Robert Crampton

Group of Three: Dave and Debbie Wardell

At a much better attended show than last year, Tessa took the Championship with her aged ewe and the Reserve Champion was Angela and Robert's aged tup.

Harden Moss Sheep Show

Judge: Paul Dixon

Aged ram: Chareen Kaye

Shearling ram: Richard Smith

Tup lamb: Paul Thorp

Aged ewe: Casey Campbell

Shearling ewe: Paul Thorp

Ewe lamb: Casey Campbell

The Champion was Chareen's aged tup and Paul took Reserve Champion with his tup lamb.

Great Yorkshire Show

Judge: Chris Sully

Aged ram: Robert and Angela Crampton

Shearling ram: Richard Smith

Tup lamb: Paul Thorp

Aged ewe: Paul Thorp

Shearling ewe: Pam Crosby

Ewe lamb: Robert and Angela Crampton

Champion: Robert and Angela's aged tup

Reserve Champion: Pam Crosby's shearling ewe.

Diedre Halsall took all of the first three places in a well supported Woodland fleece class.

Ryedale Show

Judge: Paul Thorp

Ram: Dave and Debbie Wardell

Tup lamb: Richard Smith

Aged ewe: Siobhan Richardson

Shearling ewe: Richard Smith

Ewe lamb: Dave and Debbie Wardell

Group of Three: Dave and Debbie Wardell

Breed Champion was Dave and Debbie's 2-shear tup, Ryedale Edgar, who went on to take the Hill Breed Championship. Richard's shearling ewe was Reserve Champion:

The Champion and Reserve Champion sheep from each of these shows is eligible for the Champion of Champions at the Hope Show on August Bank Holiday Monday – 31st August.

Annual Woodland Sale

We are pleased to confirm that the Annual Whitefaced Woodland Show and Sale will take place on Saturday 26 September. The location will be Holmfirth Auction Mart. Paul Dixon is intending to use the field adjacent to the Mart for stores, and also hopes to pen the Woodland ewes there. Tups will be inside and sold through the ring. Contact Paul at William Sykes 01484 683543 or mobile 07720 765094.

Sheep for Sale

Dispersal of the Beckermond Flock

Ric and Deirdre Halsall have reluctantly decided to sell their flock. They currently have 15 gimmer hoggs and 49 ewes with lambs at foot. The breakdown of ages of the ewes is:

5 born in April/May 2010; 10 born in April/May 2011; 7 born April/May 2012; and 8 born April/May 2013. The remaining 19 ewes are pre 2010. There are also 3 tups born in 2011 and 5 tup hoggs. All are in the Combined Flock Book, either registered or birth notified.

Contact Ric on 01756 760296 (Buckden, Skipton) or e-mail richalsalls@aol.com.

White House Flock

Tessa Wigham has a choice of eight shearling rams for sale. Strong bone, good mouths, tight skins and up on their back pasterns. Can be fertility tested prior to sale. Price per head by negotiation. See Tessa's Facebook page for photos – Whitefacewoodland Whitehouseflock. Contact: Wighamtessa@aol.com, mobile: 07769 586907 or 01228 675304 (Irthington, Carlisle)

Large and strong three year old tup for sale, sired by Keresforth Ronnie. Contact: Peter Harkness - peter.harkness@pmh.uk.com or Ben Stayt – mobile 07795 816951 (Cheltenham area).

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