

Southdown News

Newsletter of The Southdown Sheep Society

Issue 32

Autumn 2021



The Prescoed Flock



NOTES FROM THE SOUTHDOWN OFFICE

The Council of the Southdown Sheep Society meets at least twice a year and the Notes from the Office aim to keep members updated on some of the important issues raised and discussed within Council meetings.

LAMB REGISTRATIONS

More and more members are choosing to register their lambs online using the Grassroots system. Please email the office if you need a reminder of your password.

There is a User Guide available to download from the Southdown Sheep Society website, together with some FAQs. To access the online Flock Book simply follow the link from the Society website.

2021 Lamb registrations

Members should make every effort to register lambs as soon as possible to avoid omission from the next edition of the Flock Book. Please note that all late registrations (ie after the year of birth) remain eligible for registration, but at the late fee charge of £20 per registration.

All lamb registrations should be with the office by November 30th 2021, and at the latest, by December 31st

Whilst we try to turn around all registrations promptly, there may be a delay in processing registrations at busy time in the Southdown office.

The Southdown Office is closed for all but emergency enquiries for two weeks over Christmas and New Year.

Please note that registrations cannot be processed until payment has been received and subscription is paid up to date.

2021 REGISTRATION CHARGES

on line registration fee per ewe lamb	£4
on line registration fee per ram lamb	£10
paper registration fee per ewe lamb	£5
paper registration fee per ram lamb	£15

late registration fee on line and/or on paper £20 per animal pedigree print-outs at time of registration cost 50p each, print-outs requested later are charged at £1 per copy.

PLEASE NOTE – COUNCIL HAS TAKEN THE DECISION TO INCREASE REGISTRATION FEES FROM JANUARY 1ST 2022. DETAILS OF THE NEW REGISTRATIONS RATES ARE INCLUDED ON PAGE 6 OF THE NEWSLETTER

Imports and Exports

All sheep sold for export must have a Zootechnical Certificate in accordance with current legislation. The Zootechnical Certificate must be obtained from the Office, at a cost set by the Council.

A registration fee per head as notified to members will be charged for all sheep imported into the UK. A three-generation pedigree must be provided to the Society for all imported sheep.

This zootechnical (export) certificate for pure-bred breeding sheep, their semen, ova and embryos certificate should accompany the animal (or germinal product) where they are traded or entered into the European Union to allow an entry or registration of those animals in other breeding books or breeding registers.

The Southdown Sheep Society therefore fulfils its obligations as a Defra recognised Zootechnical Organisation by issuing the export pedigree certificate to allow entering of pure-breed breeding sheep in flock-books.

Stock for sale

Members may use the Society website to advertise stock for sale at any time. Simply email the office with details. The basic charge for a brief advert on the website for three months is £10, see the more detailed article in this newsletter for further website sales options.

Getting it right

Do we have your correct information? Please try and update the Office with any changes of address or contact details. If you spot any errors or inaccuracies in the information included for you in this year's publications please let the Office know.

Email

If your email address changes, please remember to inform the office, this can be done via Grassroots.

All members for whom we have an email address receive the Southdown Enewsletter throughout the year. The Enewsletter gives the office a chance to share information with members on a more regular basis in between the paper newsletters in Spring and Autumn. If you would prefer not to receive our eNewsletters then please let the Office know.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Many thanks to all those members whose subscriptions are already paid up to date. Just a reminder that the annual membership subscription is £40.

Standing Order instruction forms are available to download from the website or from the Office. Please ensure that when making a BACS payment, or setting up a Standing Order for subscription payment, that you include your name as a reference with the payment. Just occasionally it is impossible to trace the source of a payment!

BACS payment details

Account name: Southdown Sheep Society
Sort Code: 60-02-13
Account Number: 51501376

GIFT AID

Are you registered with the Southdown Sheep Society for Gift Aid? If you are a tax payer then you membership contribution is worth 25% more to the Society as we can claim Gift Aid on your subscription payment. You can download a Gift Aid form from the website, or simply call to request one from the Southdown office.

2022 FLOCK BOOK

If you are registering lambs in 2021 then these will appear in the 2021 Flock Book. Don't forget to include details of ewes put to the ram in 2021, and the sires used, as this information can then be included in the forthcoming Flock Book. A brief email over to the office with this information is all that is needed.

From the Chairman

Welcome to the Society's autumn newsletter after what has been a more 'normal' summer with a number of summer shows going ahead and Society sales operating with full attendance once again.

Both Society sales at Worcester and Melton Mowbray saw strong demand, with ram prices exceeding 1000gns at both venues and females well sought after.

For the first time in 18 months, October saw the Society's Council meet on a face-to-face basis and a productive meeting resulted in a number of developments which sub-committees are now putting into action.

It is pleasing to see that membership continues to grow, a trend that extends back a number of years and was maintained through 2020, despite the challenges posed by Covid-19 and the lack of social and showing activities for members. This continued growth is a reflection of the breed's increasing popularity across the country, which bodes well for the future. I'd like to welcome all new members to the Society and wish them well with their new found interest for the breed.

For new members, it's worth noting the Southdown Sheep Society is the sole DEFRA recognised zootechnical organisation for the registration of Southdowns in the UK and welcomes registrations of Southdowns of all types and colours, provided the animals' parents are already registered with the Society.

As you will have seen from a previous e-newsletter, the legal action brought against the Society by members of the Harmer family has been concluded. However, I would like to take this opportunity to make it clear the Society has not made any contribution to the legal costs incurred by the Harmer family in bringing this action against the Society. The Society's insurers did choose to make a payment towards the Harmer family's legal costs, but this was a decision the Society had no influence over and does not in any way reflect the potential outcome should the case have gone to court.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the Society's president elect, Sarah Mitchell, to Council for her term of office. I have no doubt that Sarah's experience in the breed and the wider industry will be invaluable over the next two years.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for their support of the Society and the breed and to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, as well as a successful 2022 lambing whenever yours takes place.

Best wishes,



Jonathan Long
Chairman of Council



Some thoughts from our President

With the beginning of the shepherd's year we put our tups in on the 17th October and after a slow start all went well, fingers crossed for a good scan in January.

I think the last 18 months has been a wakeup call to us all with little in the way of social events and shows, which, are so important to the wider farming community. Markets have managed to continue trading, although under strict Covid restrictions, again missing the social side of a day at the market which is so important and enjoyable. Let's all hope 2022 will see us getting together with some normality.

Our Southdowns have fared extremely well in a year of phenomenal grass growth, finished lambs through our box sales were all sold by the end of September. It is very rewarding to get such good feedback from our butcher and customers of some 20 years enjoying our Southdown lamb which, they say is consistently good quality with a unique taste and tenderness. A great compliment for the breed which will ensure it's future.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas, New Year and a trouble free 2022 lambing.

Duncan Crundwell



Southdown Sheep Society Council Members 2021 – 2022

Chairman of Council: Jonathan Long

Vice Chairman: Howard Wood

Honorary Treasurer: Neil Stainthorpe

Members of Council

Retire 2022

Sidney Cook

Edward Harmer

Justin Harmer

Stephen Humphrey

Jonathan Long

Les Newman

Retire 2023

Brian Alderson

Rob Beaumont

Paul Humphrey

Miriam Parker

Michael Sprake

Howard Wood

Retire 2024

Lindsey Dane

Patrick Goldsworthy MBE

Tim Morris

Neil Stainthorpe

President: Duncan Crundwell

President Elect: Sarah Mitchell

Call the midwife... no I mean the vet?

“Why is it that the one ewe with the most complicated lambing decides to lamb at 2am on Saturday, when you are already knackered after two other tricky lambings?” I asked myself at 2am one Saturday.

The glib answer of course is “It’s a sheep, of course it will do that”.

Then I think: it’s the weekend*... It’s the middle of the night... I don’t want to wake the vet up... It will be a huge bill. So, I leave it for a while and have another feel and see if I can do something about it at 3am. Come 3am nothing



has happened... oh well, I will leave it till 5am at least the sun will be rising, I might have had a bit more sleep and if I can’t do anything to help then it won’t be too early for the vet. Besides like me she must be at work by 5am or 6am at the latest so at least I won’t have that out of hours charge...

Inevitably it all goes wrong. The vet comes out, the lamb(s) is/are dead, the ewe is knackered, needs five different medicines and then decides to die three days later and you end up with a dead lamb and dead ewe to dispose of and a large vet’s bill in a month’s time.

So where did it all go wrong. It was thinking right at the start about the vet’s sleep and the vet’s bill, rather than the ewe and the bigger picture of a happy ewe and a lovely set of twins that win rosettes and sell for lots of money that could offset the vet’s bill. Early and prompt intervention should save lives and hopefully money.

Yes, the vet will cost more – the out of hours call out charge is typically about 30% more than the normal emergency call out fee. But early support from the vet will give a much better chance that the ewe will survive and a reasonable chance that the lamb(s) will be okay too. You also have the added benefit of handing the stress over to the vet, your lambing hand is kept fresh for another hopefully simpler lambing and you might get a bit more sleep. The other consideration is that the vet should be equipped to do a Caesarean section which might be less stressful for ewe and lambs and more economical than an hour of wrestling.



Does this dilemma resonate with you? Then do have chat with your vet’s practice about their thinking, their hours and fees.

Typically, vet’s normal hours are 8.30 to 5.30. The extra cost of a vet’s out of hours fees are not likely to be that much more than the cost of disposing of a dead ewe. And away with too much sympathy for the vet’s sleep – yes,



they may be a bit grumpy and it would be wise to offer them some tea/coffee when they arrive, but if they are on-call, they are on-call, and they and you will get far greater satisfaction with a live result than tackling a forlorn hope with DEATH(s) at the end of it all.

*Actually Friday and Saturday nights are not so bad for the vet as they usually catch up on sleep the following days. Sunday and other day’s of the week are more of a challenge as they then often have to work their normal day.

Patrick Goldsworthy

*Acknowledgements: Tonia Simms BVSc DBR MRCVS
Farm Vets at Hampden Veterinary Hospital*

WEBSITE ADVERTS

The cost of placing an advert on the website is **£10 per advert**. All adverts will include the flock name, breeder's contact details including telephone numbers and email, and a brief outline, totalling no more than 475 characters, including spaces, of what is available for sale.

Descriptions may include pedigree information or other relevant details, including show results and one photograph is included within the £10 charge. Additional lines of text (no more than 125 characters including spaces) may be purchased for £3/line and additional photographs can be added for £/photograph.

Where breeders wish, they may also submit a private catalogue of their animals for sale in pdf format to be included with their advert at a cost of £25. All catalogues must include wording which indemnifies the Society.

Adverts remain on the website for three months. These may be added at any time. Please email the office with details.

DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2022

At the time of going to print, we remain confident that there will be a range of interesting events and activities on offer in 2022.

2022 events include:

- NSA Scot Sheep – June 1st at Tealing, by Dundee
- National Sheep Association National event – July 27th at Malvern, Worcs
- Southdown Sheep Society National Show at Royal Welsh Show on 18th – 21st July
- The Early Premier Breeders Show & Sale at Worcester Market in early August
- Traditional Native Breeds National Show and Sale at Melton Mowbray in September
- The Southdown Sheep Society Field Day and Annual General Meeting in early Autumn – venue to be confirmed

REGISTRATION FEES

There has been a small increase in the registrations fees. This comes into effect from January 1st 2022.

The new rates as are follows:

Online registrations: ram lambs £12, ewe lambs £5
Paper/office registrations: ram lambs £18, ewe lambs £7
Late registrations: £30

Advertise your flock

As a member of the Southdown Sheep Society there are a number of ways in which your flock, or individual animals, may be advertised:

2022 SPRING NEWSLETTER/YEAR BOOK

The Society's spring 2022 publication is an ideal opportunity to advertise your flock.

This full colour, A4 publication is sent to all Society members.

Advertising rates for members are as follows:

Full page £80

Half page £40

Please note that quarter page adverts have been discontinued.

INTERACTIVE MAP ON THE WEBSITE

The usual £10 per box for the breeders' listing (to include name, address, flock and contact details) is still be available at the current price: this includes a flag on the UK map on the Society's website, and a boxed entry in the annual Year Book.

The deadline for copy is January 31st 2022

OBITUARY – NORMAN READ

It is with much regret that I have to report that Norman Read has passed away on July 25th after a short illness. He started his Marlton Southdown flock in 1996, and had many successes over the years. There is a very happy photo on the front of the 2000 year book, showing him at the National Rare Breeds show in 1999 with the Champion ram lamb and Reserve champion ewe lamb.

He didn't like driving and so didn't come to as many shows and sales as his pals would have liked, The Briggs family who lived nearby would take him to various sales if they could persuade him to go with them.

We spoke often over the phone and if I heard Terry laughing heartily I would be almost sure it was Norm on the other end of the line.

He had a wonderful recall of the breeding of flocks and who bred what and if I ever thought of buying something new, I would ring him and he would know what went back to a ram from such & such a flock, years previously.

God Bless him.

Lesley Mead

Why we Performance Record our Sheep

We have performance recorded our Bluefaced Leicester Sheep since we started in sheep in 2009. We enjoy the competitive element of improving the flock and have found that the higher index sheep are stronger, healthier and a pleasure to keep.

We make Shetland Mules from our BFL tups and some neat little Shetland ewes. These Mules are put to the Southdown to make meat lambs that grow fast on grass.



In autumn 2020 we used our first high index Southdown across over half of our total flock. We compared records from 2020 lambs and 2021 lambs....then we realised the impact that a good Southdown can have.

The 2021 lambs were finishing a month earlier than usual, cost less in creep food, vaccines, worming, strike treatment, etc. We weaned fairly early and we're selling

meat lambs in June onwards, leaving much more grass for the ewes.

Previously, we had viewed the cost of performance recording (and MV Accreditation) as a constant drain on our flock's financial performance.....but we now realise



we have been viewing it in the wrong way. The costs of the health schemes are more than covered by the increased productivity of the flock.

It is impossible to pick out high index sheep by eye....even for experts. With changes in farm subsidy and pressure to produce food as efficiently and environmentally responsibly as possible, our performance recorded sheep are nicely placed for a successful future.

IM and HB Jackson, Acer 01441.



A little bit about us: We are fairly recent members of the Southdown Sheep Society, registering our first lambs in 2020. We have a background in veterinary and building work. Our sheep are a hobby which has developed into a career. We have kept sheep for 14 years, starting with two pet ewes, we now have nearer ninety! We attend Sheep Veterinary Society, NSA and AHDB events, to keep us on a steep learning curve. However, nothing beats practical experience and, as we approach "retirement" age, life has never been better and sheep work is increasingly enjoyable.

Champion leads Southdown Premier Sale at 1250gns

The champion from the pre-sale show led the trade at the Southdown Premier Sale, Worcester, on Saturday 7th August, with bidders following judge Nick Page's selections throughout the sale.



Chaileybrook 20/00669

family. This son of French import Dartagnan is out of a Percheron daughter from the same family as the 2500gns breed female record holder. He found a new home in Scotland with James W Brown & Others, Isle of Arran.

The other at 1000gns was one from young breeder Sophie Long's Littlebrook flock in the form of Littlebrook 20/00657. Sired by French import Breton, this triplet-born shearling is out of an Ibanez daughter and heads to North Yorkshire with Brian and Anthony Glaves for the Brompton flock.

Heading to the same buyers was the next best priced male, Maria Cork's ram lamb, Yeaside 21/00024. This son of Brant 18/00528, himself an Ibanez son, is out of a Brant ewe by Sarkozy.

Following him came three at 850gns, with the first being another Chaileybrook shearling, Chaileybrook 20/00696. A Dartagnan son, he is out of a Tadpole daughter, going back to the historic French sire



Littlebrook 20/00657

The Frog. This was another to find a new home with James Brown & Others, Isle of Arran.



Chaileybrook 21/01023

Second at this money was Chaileybrook 21/01022 an ET-bred ram lamb by Percheron and out of a Sarkozy daughter. This one had been first in his class and reserve overall champion in the pre-sale show and was taken by Ray Edwards, Chumleigh, Devon.

And the final 850gns call came for his full ET brother, Chaileybrook 21/01023. This one had stood second in the pre-sale show and was the pick of A & J James, Shaftesbury, Dorset.

Young Sophie Long then wrapped up the leading male prices when taking 800gns for her third prize winning shearling from the pre-sale show,



Chaileybrook 20/00685

Littlebrook 20/00653. Sired by Breton this one is out of a former show gimmer by Percheron and was bought by Freddy Bethley, Newtown, Suffolk, for his High Green flock.

Females

A steady demand for females saw prices peak at 750gns for the first prize shearling ewe, Chaileybrook 20/00685 from Jonathan Long. Sired by the homebred Zidane, himself a former Premier Sale topper, she is out of an imported French dam and sold to Emily Yates for her growing Fulfen flock, Staffordshire.

Second best here was a 480gns call for the first prize ewe lamb, again from Chaileybrook. This was Chaileybrook

21/01027, a Breton daughter out of a dam by Ibanez and from the same family as the 2500gns breed female record holder. Buying her was David Cranston, Aberdeenshire.

Next up at 460gns was the second prize gimmer Glandore 20/00220 from Buckinghamshire-based Basil Cooper. Sired by Ridings Acrobat she is out of a dam by Ridings 11/00701 and sold to previous buyer Tom Chester, Staffordshire.

A gimmer from Goodwood Estate under the management of Nick Page followed then at 420gns, with this being Goodwood 20/15785, a daughter of Ridings 15/03130 and out of a dam by East Dean 11/00419. Buying this one were Sue and George Anstie, Newbury, Berkshire.

Heading the same way was Goodwood 20/15701 at 380gns, with this being a Southern Cross 15/00649 daughter out of a dam by New Zealand sire Southern Pastures 104/83.

And making 360gns was Beiliau 20/10598 from the Trumper family, Abergavenny. She's by East Dean 18/3644 and out of a homebred dam by Southern Cross 12/00353 and stood third in the pre-sale show. This one was knocked down to Ray Edwards, Devon.

Averages; six shearling rams £906.50, five ram lambs £701.40, 18 shearling ewes £308.58, three ewe lambs £308 (McCartneys).

Book the date!

The Southdown Sheep Society is pleased to confirm that the 2022 National Southdown Show will take place at the Royal Welsh Show which is scheduled to take place from 18th July to 21st July 2022.

The judge for the 2022 National Show will be Jonathan Long of the Chaileybrook flock and current chairman of the Society's Council.

Taking place across four days the Royal Welsh is one of the largest shows in the UK and boasts arguably the largest sheep section of any UK show, making it a fitting place for the Society's National Show.

The Society encourages all members to give their support to the National Show, whether as exhibitors or spectators.

Members are reminded that all animals entered for the National Show must be from current members of the Southdown Sheep Society and either be registered or eligible for registration with the Southdown Sheep Society. All animals must be owned by exhibitors for minimum of four months prior to show.

Save the date:

2022 National Southdown Show at the Royal Welsh Show on July 18th – 21st 2022.

Full details, including classes, will be published as soon as they are available.

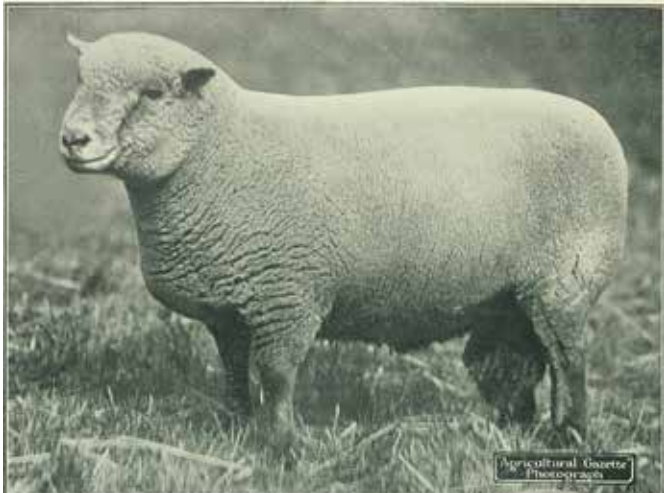
PICTS

PICTS

A CENTURY AGO

The Southdown sheep is one of the oldest UK sheep breeds and the Southdown Flock Book similarly boasts illustrious beginnings.

One hundred years ago the 30th volume of the Southdown Flock Book was published, and the Southdown breed, and the Southdown Sheep Society, were already well known throughout the world.



First Prize Two-Shear and Champion Ram, Royal Show at Derby, 1921, exhibited by Lady Ludlow.

And one hundred years ago the world was an interesting and very different place.

Here are just a few 'highlights' of what was happening in the world in 1921, when previous generations of Southdown breeders were publishing the 30th Flock Book:

- Adolf Hitler had become Chairman of the Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (Nazi Party) in his rise to power and prominence in Germany
- In China, the Communist Party of China was formed with Mao Tse-tung (Zedong) as a founding member
- Ku Klux Klan activities had become violent throughout the Southern United States
- Russia was in the grips of The Great Famine, one of the worst famines in modern times, due to the failure of crops.
- The Irish Free State was created, as Southern Ireland, and in London on 11th November the British Legion held the first official Poppy Day.
- Foot & Mouth Disease was prevalent in some countries around the world

According to the Southdown Flock Book, Foot & Mouth Disease had restricted exports in 1921: 24 rams and ewes were shipped to Peru, 19 to the United States of America, 5 to France, 4 to Japan and 1 to New Zealand.

The preface to the Flock Book noted that "Southdowns at sales showed a considerable decrease in prices over 1920 figures, chiefly attributable to the unprecedented drought, fall in value of wool, and increased competition in the mutton market, but it is satisfactory to note that the Breed suffered less from the Depression generally speaking than any other of the pure breeds of English sheep".



First Prize and Champion Ram, Chichester Show & sale, 1921, exhibited by Lady Ludlow.

Sale prices are quoted: at Chichester, the best price for rams was 80 guineas (roughly equivalent to £4000 today); the prize-winning pen of 50 Regular Draft Ewes were sold for £4 12s. per head (equivalent today to approximately £251 per head).

It was reported that in 1921, twenty-three new flocks had been accepted, bringing the total number of flocks registered in the present volume to 199, with a total of 49,937 ewes and 490 ewe lambs being put to the ram in 1921.

Prizes were given for Southdowns at all the principal shows in 1921, these included the Royal Agricultural Society, Royal Counties, Bath and West, Sussex County, Tunbridge Wells, Royal Norfolk and Suffolk - the prize money awarded is listed as totalling £184 17s. 0d. (which is approx. £9744 in today's money!)

A browse through the 1921 Flock Book throws up names which are recognised by many members, their names immortalised in the silverware that bears

their names: Langmead, Miller-Hallett, Bird, Dare, Tupper, Filkin, Virgil Pomphret and Hobgen. Each trophy awarded each year bears with it a substantial piece of Southdown history, and heritage.

Flock names too are part of the illustrious history of the long-established breed and breed society:



First Prize Shearling and Champion Ewes, RASE Show at Derby, 1921. Exhibited by Sir Jeremiah Colman, Bart.

Eartham, Gaddesden, Goodwood, Gatton Park and Broadreed.

The first flock listed in this Flock Book, and in many others, is the flock belonging to His Majesty The King, Sandringham, Norfolk. In 1921 The King is recorded as putting 200 ewes to the ram and using six rams.

The highest number of ewes put to the ram by one breeder in this year was 1070; this was flock number 290, belonging to Richard Brown of Landport, Lewes, Sussex. Many breeders are listed as putting well over 500 ewes to the ram.

The Flock Competition in 1920 attracted 20 entries, the Flock Book notes that this is the "highest number secured since (they) were instituted". One hundred years ago the three categories were rather different: Class A was for flocks of 350 ewes and over, Class B for flocks of under 350 and over 150 breeding ewes, and Class C for flock of under 150 breeding ewes.

One feature that has not changed in 130 years is the fact that each volume of the Southdown Flock Book



Mr R. S. Hicks, President 1921

includes a photograph of the current President. The 1921 Flock Book featured Mr R S Hicks who is listed as Reginald S Hicks of Wilbraham Temple, Cambridge, he put 399 ewes to the ram in the year in which he was President.

In the forthcoming Flock Book to be published early in 2022, we shall include the photograph of our current President, Mr Duncan Crundwell, building on 130 years of previous records and history.

[I can recall Hugh Clark of the Moulton Flock talking about many of the flocks and breeders who are included in the 1921 Flock Book, and whose flocks were still going strong when he founded his own flock in the 1950s. A browse through past Flock Books is a worthwhile way of spending a wet afternoon....or an evening by the fire. Editor]

The 2021 Southdown Sheep Society Field Day and AGM

The 2021 Southdown Sheep Society Field Day and Annual General Meeting took place on Saturday September 18th at Woodlake Park Golf and Country Club, Glascoed, nr Usk, Monmouthshire, by kind invitation of vice chairman Howard Wood and his family.



Field Day host – Vice Chairman Howard Wood

Approximately 50 Southdown members and friends gathered for an informative and enjoyable day.

Following a welcome and introduction from Howard,

Dr Hilary Jones MRCVS gave a presentation on topical sheep issues. There was no shortage of questions once Dr Jones gave members the opportunity to seek her advice on anything sheep and veterinary related.

The annual Field Day gives members the chance to meet up, swap stories, and see first-hand other flocks of sheep. Howard's Prescoed flock runs alongside the Windrush flock belonging to his son Harry, grazing beautiful hillsides within the Black Mountain range in South Wales. It was a perfect day for walking steep hillsides, the sun shone in a clear blue sky and the view stretched for many miles.

Some members chose to take advantage of the tractor and trailer ride, whilst the majority opted to enjoy the sunshine and walk. This turned out to be a good plan since we had worked up an appetite to do justice to the delicious lunch that awaited us, prepared by Julie and her helpers.

The formal part of the day followed with the AGM after lunch. In the absence of the outgoing president Les Newman, the chairman Jonathan Long took the chair for the start of the proceedings before handing over to incoming president Duncan Crundwell.

Four Council members were successful in their re-election and the following were welcomed back to the Council: Lindsay Dane, Patrick Goldsworthy, Tim Morris and Neil Stainthorpe.

The AGM concluded with a number of questions that had been previously submitted.

The Field Day was rounded off with tea and cake, which has become the much looked-forward-to finale of all Field Days.



The Prescoed flock

The Lleyn Experiment

I don't want any other breeds to spoil the look of my mostly lovely Southdowns, but I have, for a long time, wondered about the potential of a Southdown on a Lleyn. I suspected it could be a useful commercial cross for me, especially as the local market prefers clean faces, longer legs, and a heavier carcase. I also thought it would be a good idea to "walk the talk" and show local farmers what a Southdown cross can do.



New-born Southdown x Lleyn lambs all legs and ears.

Luckily last summer I had an opportunity to buy some very economical Lleyms, so I thought I would give them a try and bought six full mouth ewes of the thinner type. The Lleyms – to me are not the best-looking sheep and more-flighty than a Southdown but so far, they have done reasonably well.

The ewes ran with two large performance recorded tups and scanned and lambed at 200%. One ewe lost both lambs due to ring womb, and another had a twin that was never quite right and died at six weeks (Lleyms are sheep!). So, the reared percentage was 150%, but better than my Southdowns. Lambing, apart from the ewe with ring womb was blissfully easy: the lambs almost flew out and they weren't small weighing 4-5kg but looked a

bit odd: all legs, ears and bright yellow. The ewes were excellent mothers and had buckets of milk.

As they've grown on the lambs have performed as well as the pure Southdowns and were going to make a greater weight 44-48kg when finished. As I was short of grass and the store price was good, I have sold most of them as stores rather than finish them myself, but and here's the test, I thought they were useful enough to buy another six, this time a slightly sturdier type of Lleyn with a touch of Texel way back in the breeding. And as a change I will be using a smaller more traditional type of ram on them to see if I can get them to finish at 40-44 kg.

One interesting observation is that the "experts" at



The nearly finished product at 40kg long legs and clean faces

AHDB are suggesting that future lowland commercial sheep farmers should be aiming for a smaller ewe (to minimise feed costs and carbon footprint) rather than the ginormous Suffolk/Texel x Half-bred, so I am wondering if the Southdown x Lleyn could feel this niche... we shall see.

Patrick Goldsworthy

Welcome to New Members

Donna Baines	Blidworth, Nottinghamshire	Charlie Kifford	Battle, East Sussex
Beck & Son	Bridgend, Wales	Jonathan Llewellyn	Crowfield, Northamptonshire
David Belfield	Buxton, Derbyshire	Mrs Sally Anne Martin	Wimborne, Dorset
Holly Broad	Tonbridge, Kent	Antonia McAlpine	Hungerford, Berkshire
Nigel Brown	Horton,,Buckinghamshire	Simon Miller	Newark, Notts
Lisa Marie Card	Pencader, Carmarthenshire	Mr & Mrs Needham	Spalding, Lincolnshire
Church View		Janette Palliser	Binsted, Hampshire
Developments	Market Rasen, Lincolnshire	Sara Somerset	Worthing, West Sussex
Sophie Davies	Revesby, Lincolnshire	William Somerset	Patching, West Sussex
Mr & Mrs A & D Green	Caernarfon, Gwynedd	Messrs A & J Struthers	Lanark, Scotland
Ms Karen Green	Bidford On Avon, Warwickshire	Tommy Thompson	Pimlico, London
Ms Florence &		Andrea Warden	Pontefract, West Yorkshire
Ms Edith James	Shaftesbury, Dorset		

Record price of 1140 guineas at the 2021 Melton Mowbray Show & Sale

It was the champion from the pre-sale show that led the way at the 2021 Melton Mowbray Show and Sale, the 18th Pedigree & Traditional Native Breeds National Sale, on September 10th and 11th.



Champion - shearling ram Sheepcote Elvis 20/00118 sold for a record 1140 guineas

Judge Jim Cresswell selected a shearling ram, Sheepcote Elvis 20/00118 from Ben Slack and Katy Gibson, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, as his show Champion. This ram is a son of Holly Bar Rascal 17/00262, out of Marshland Ragged Robin 15/00349. Following fierce bidding he was purchased by David Belfield for 1140gns and heads home to the newly formed Copse Field flock



Reserve Champion – shearling ewe Calley Castle Berry 20/00228

in Buxton, Derbyshire. Judge Jim Cresswell commented that his champion was a “well put together ram, a solid, traditional Southdown with a strong head and excellent conformation”.

Buyers followed the judge’s selection throughout much



First prize ewe lamb High Green Darcey 21/00068 and first placed ram lamb High Green Dylan 21/00065

of the sale, with the Reserve Champion of the pre-sale show, Calley Castle Berry 20/00228, selling for 310gns to long-standing Southdown breeder Mr R Cox, of Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire. This ewe is sired by de Pibrac Max 17/00257, out of home-bred Calley Castle Holly 18/00127.

Three females shared the top price of the day: a shearling ewe from the Calley Castle flock, Calley Castle Rhubarb 20/00226, sired by de Pibrac Max, out of Wattisfield Rosemary 17/00321, was knocked down to Mrs S Lea 370gns.

Young flock master and breeder Freddy Bethley from Nowton, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, saw buyers compete for both his shearling ewes. High Green Cleo 20/00044, sired by Webb Ellis Collier and out of a home-bred dam, High Green Aurelia 18/00015, shared the top female price and was purchased for 370gns by B Alderson and J Murphy, whilst High Green Coral 20/00048, sired by Brant 18/00508 and out of Beckbred Top Totty 13/00015, was knocked down to the same buyer for 280gns.

The first placed ram lamb in the pre-sale show was also from Freddy Bethley’s High Green flock. This ram lamb, High Green Dylan 21/00065, a triplet sired by Brant 18/00508 and out of a home-bred ewe, High Green Tootsie 17/00003, was purchased by O T Jones & Partners for 320gns and heads back to join their Anglesey flock on the Isle of Anglesey.

The third female to share the day’s top price was a ewe lamb from the Blackfriar flock of Will Morton from



Ewe lamb Blackfriar 21/00634 which sold for 370 guineas, the highest priced ewe lamb

Lincoln. This ewe lamb, Blackfriar 21/00634, is sired by Blackfriar 18/00244, out of a home-bred ewe Blackfriar 19/00363. She was purchased for 370gns by young flock master Arthur Lomas of Leicestershire.

It was the first placed ewe lamb in the show that made the second highest ewe lamb bid on the day. High Green Darcey 21/00068 from Freddy Bethley's flock was taken home by Mr Williams following his winning bid of 300gns. This ewe lamb is sired by Webb Ellis Collier 17/00411 and is out of a home-bred ewe, High Green Abigail 18/00020.

A trio of shearling ewes from the Avenue Farm flock of Mrs Lorraine Clements found eager buyers: Avenue Farm Lacey 20/00327 was the second prize shearling ewe and was purchased by J B Thompson for 260gns; Avenue Farm Lucy 20/00290 at 240gns was knocked down to D, S & P Humphrey, whilst Avenue Farm Lucinda 20/00331 was bought for 190gns by Mr R Cox of Stoney Stanton.

Averages: one aged ewe 80gns, fourteen shearling ewes 247.50gns, eighteen ewe lambs 179.45gns, four shearling rams 528.75gns, two ram lambs 247.50gns.

2021 SOUTH OF ENGLAND SHOW (11th, 12th and 13th JUNE)

The Trustees of the South of England Agricultural Society made the difficult decision to cancel all livestock and equine showing classes for the 2021 show due to the COVID-19 restrictions making showing virtually impossible.

Instead, the SEAS Livestock Committee organised a static display in order to educate the public with livestock displays around the show. The Southdown Sheep Society was invited to take part. Three members of Council 'local' to the South of England Show, Duncan Crundwell, and Stephen and Paul Humphrey, organised the Society's presence there for the duration of the Show. In the sheep section there were demonstrations of how to prepare sheep for the show ring, how to

halter train and how to show sheep. There were also demonstrations on putting commercial sheep through a drafting system with a commentary to explain to the spectators what was happening. Butchers' lambs and the different cuts of meat were also explained to them.

The event was a ticket only event with numbers limited each day to ensure social distancing could be maintained, and it was run in a COVID-19 safe way with stewards ensuring there were restricted number of public in the building and a "way in" and "way out" one way system. The Show was a sell-out and the Southdown Sheep Society stand generated considerable interest.



Stephen and Paul Humphrey



Paul Humphrey

First Southdowns CT Scanned in the UK

In July 2021, Patrick Goldsworthy took seven Southdown ram lambs on a day trip to Stratford upon Avon to be the first ever British Southdowns to be CT scanned. The story board below explains the process and what was involved.

“I am always interested in trying something new and wanted to see what was involved, how well they did and how it affected their performance data so with the help of Sam Boon at Signet, I selected some of my better ram lambs to see how it all worked.”

“There were some important first steps: lambs need to be carefully selected; be performance recorded, and had to be ultrasound scanned and weighed (>35kg) BEFORE being taken for scanning and they had to be starved for 4 hours before scanning.



SRUC's impressive mobile scanning unit is towed by a hired lorry unit



Step 1 Lambs unloaded



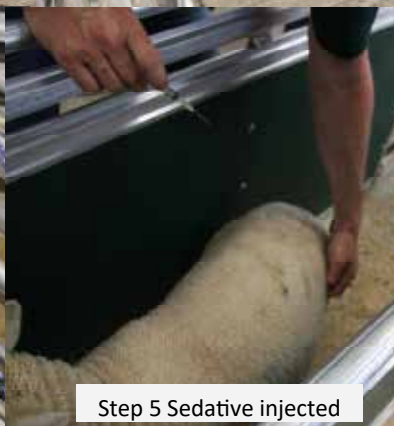
Step 2 Into the holding pen



Step 3 30 mins settling



Step 4 Weighing and EID reader



Step 5 Sedative injected



Step 6 Rolled onto cradle



Step 7 Tightly secured



Step 8 On the lift



Step 9 Into the scanner

Southdown People

introducing the President Elect Sarah M. Mitchell

"I was born Sarah Mitchell, in 1958, so I have showed my idleness, by keeping my maiden name when I married David. As I was the first child, my maternal grandparents wanted the birth 'under their eye' so St Mary's, Portsmouth, was my lambing shed (where I was born). Then 'home' to Nottingham and the fraternal engineering business which consisted of British Leyland cars, diesel engines, petrol pumps and a Massey Ferguson dealership.

Mum did not enjoy suburbia, so every school holiday we went south to Havant in East Hampshire to stay with my mother's parents, where I/we wandered about the harbour and farm land. As Doctor Dewhurst's grandchild, or Miss Dewhurst's daughter, which raised an eyebrow with the incomers, *I could not get away with very much.*

So, when Mum and Dad decided to move south when I was 15, having been expelled from boarding school, sorry but it wasn't for anything that would have made The Sun, I left school. For GOOD!

We settled at Moor Farm, Godshill, on Isle of Wight, the house was falling down, there were no fences, nor any water tanks, as the place had gone bankrupt three times since The First World War, and looked it.

Someone other than myself decided to buy a complete flock of Southdown Sheep, from Steven Ross M.P., in late Autumn, the sheep were as fat as only Southdowns can get, and in lamb to a ram that looked like he had intragryral panniers, as he had been picketed, and fed chocolate digestive biscuits. These were to work with 20 Hereford cross Friesian single suckler cows, to get the new grass leys in good heart. Of the 33 ewes bought, three lambed unaided. In my previous life I had a cat or two, and two tortoises.

The saviour of this potential disaster, was Bill Buckett, who was about 66, born into a large

family of mixed farmers, on the Island. He lived till he was 92, and only used his cigarette lighter three times a day but smoked like a chimney.

The sheep breed of the Isle of Wight at the time was the Dorset Horn and no one knew what Southdowns should be on the Island, so someone was needed to explain the breed points. First point of call was the Breed Secretary, Clive Pritchard, who contacted John Randall and as time went on the flocks worked together. With Godshill supplying wether lambs for Smithfield Shows, and Godshill borrowing breeding tups, but as time went on David (John's son) got delegated to sorting out the sheep.

In the mean time I became a Nursery Nurse, then Nanny, after which I tried nursing, which showed how potentially lethal dyslexia could be, I move numbers as well as letters, horizontally and vertically.

After that I went to Sparsholt (Hampshire) Agricultural College which was my next step and did a N.C.A. (National Certificate in Agriculture), then several years working at home and anywhere I could, from the Orkney Isles to back down south and back to Sparsholt, for the A.N.C.A. in sheep, and then more jobbing around. I had a year working around New Zealand, much of this time was learning how not to do things.

So I have had a lot of fun with sheep over the years, being Breed Champion at the Royal Show and working for a pension fund but then to be told by the manager he would not employ me long term, not because I could not do the job, but because the other workers 'wives would not like it.

David, Michael (our son) and I make a reasonable team. The Southdowns will outlive us, which is what farming is all about and leaving everything better for your successors and breed itself).

And the sheep came too...!



Photographer: Emma Shaw Photography

Member Mark Robertson & Dr. Katy Leckie, now Mr & Mrs Robertson, married at Curds Hall Barn, Little Fransham in Norfolk on 25th September 2021.

“Planning a wedding during lockdowns and a pandemic was very difficult but we always knew we wanted the sheep to be part of our special day. The year we purchased the sheep for my mother, Alison’s birthday, was the year I met Katy so the sheep have always been involved (for better or for worse....thinking about that sheep that one that always wants to get out, weekends spent moving sheep and the 2am ‘pass me the lube’ moments! (Lambing that is)!

For the wedding, we took Barbra, who was our first ‘1st placed’ ewe at the Suffolk Show; we took Delia her beautiful daughter, Agnes who loves a cuddle, and Eric our first homebred ram who Katy has a particular fondness of, all of which have been to shows and fetes so are very used to people and having a day out. Because I didn’t really want coloured bottoms

for the pictures, I made an executive decision not to paste Eric in the weeks leading up to the wedding - I have a feeling come February next year I may regret that! Our good friends and fellow Southdown breeders, Fleur & her mother Jane, did an amazing job looking after the sheep for the day and taking that stress away from us, the sheep were a real crowd pleaser for our guests and children.

Our bagpiper for the day really enjoyed them too, he may have played with Rod Stewart on tour, but playing in front of sheep is something he had not done before. Somehow I remember we got onto a conversation on using sheep skins for bagpipes, I wonder if a Southdown sheepskin produces a better tune on the pipes?

For anyone thinking about having sheep on their special day, do it! Speak to the venue and make sure you get the correct licences to do it along with public liability insurance, our venue Curds Hall barn were very accommodating, and we can’t wait to get more pictures from our photographer”.

Southdown Sheep Society

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This newsletter is published by the Southdown Sheep Society.
The views contained within it are those of the authors and they should not be construed as the opinion of the Society.