

# *Southdown News*

Newsletter of The Southdown Sheep Society

Issue 30

Autumn 2020



*As 2020 draws to a close, we wish all members of the Southdown Sheep Society 'compliments of the season'. Stay safe and stay well.*

## Looking back on 2020

**Long-standing member and past President Mrs Lesley Mead is well known to many Southdown members and a familiar face on the show circuit. After a year like no other, Lesley looks back on 2020.**

What will make us remember 2020? Not a lot, I would imagine. No wonderful experiences, but days at home doing odd things to fill the days and yet the days have seemed to fly by.

My lambing was spread over too many months. At scanning time just about half were empty! So very unusually I put the tups back in and so had the first lambs in January as usual and the last at the end of



*First ride on a tractor.*

April. That last ewe was most odd as I obviously knew when tups came out and she overshot that date and for several more days I wondered if she was ill as she seemed to get fatter and fatter and drank a lot of water. Anyway, one morning she lambed easily and it's a super ram lamb and I shall keep him for a future stud ram. During my elongated lambing of course the pandemic arrived and so I didn't start leading the lambs, nor getting my lovely trimming guy to come to do that either. He sheared the shearlings though, and I wondered in the later months whether to get the lambs sheared too. I didn't but wonder if I should have done as I had rather too many incidents of fly strike. I do not understand why they get a patch on the top of their shoulders/back of neck where their wool is totally clean. I think that we probably coped with the early shows being cancelled as we thought it would all go away before the later ones would be held. And so when it got nearer to the autumn our moods were not so good. As I write this there are three shows already cancelled for 2021.

Many firms that have no doubt made lots of money are the telephone companies. It has been a wonderful opportunity to catch up with pals and associates from the past - the long distant past in my case. Although the TV programmes have been fairly dire, there have been channels when one could watch old programmes/films when the actors/actresses were real stars - glamorous, beautifully dressed and adorable. I won't comment on the so called stars of today.

I have also learnt a lot about the wars - being the daughter of a farmer whose relations were in fact all farmers, none of my relatives were in the forces and so the details of many parts of the war were never talked about. The nearest to being in the forces my father and uncles came I would imagine was to go to the local aerodromes at night to the officers mess for a few swift nips of scotch.

Like many folk this last few months I spent a lot of time in the garden but have not had much success. My tomato plants have produced masses of fruit, but I have to say that I don't like the yellow variety very much - pretty tasteless. But I haven't had one decent lettuce, nor a decent beetroot and very few cucumbers and even less courgettes. The only apple tree I have was in full beautiful bloom when we had a blast of cold weather and winds and that killed all the blossom, so very few apples, but apples have been plentiful in many of my friends' gardens so I have had plenty to use. However, the friends who have had lots of beans, lettuce, courgettes and beetroot all live too far away for me to have baskets of their goodies.

Without really setting out to do so, I have reduced my flock by quite a lot. Luckily I have had contacts for stock and haven't needed to advertise nor take any to sales. I did however buy two shearlings that were three quarters my blood lines. As the Spratton flock has been sold, I had the one opportunity to buy back some of my bloodlines or wouldn't have another chance. I am pleased I did. Also, I have been sorting out the breeding of the sheep of my pals that need a ram shortly and so have been delving back into their pedigrees to see which are suitable. Very interesting and time consuming!



*Lesley with her first flock of sheep.*

As I have already said the most dreadful thing of all is that there have been no shows to go to. To start with we all felt the whole thing would not take long to be sorted but as the months went by and it was obvious this wouldn't be the case it got more depressing. I know that one or two digital shows have been held but there is no way at all that any animal can genuinely be judged from a photo. And going to a show is more than just hoping to win a class, albeit very important, but seeing the other stock is important to compare them with your own. And of course to see all the other competitors, of all breeds and types of animals, to share an evening meal, a drink and then to have a night in our wonderful lorries, trailers, and tents. All of this has been greatly missed.

Still, to end on a more cheerful note, I have made some sloe, some damson and some blackberry gin this last week. I find the very best way to drink this is at supper time with a small tot of the gin topped up with tonic water. Very refreshing, and leaves one still sober to go to check sheep at night time and to shut the poultry in.

*Leslie Mead*

## From the Chairman

Welcome to the Autumn newsletter in what has been an unprecedented year for us all, the bright spot of which has undoubtedly been the sheep trade which has seen prime lambs remain above £2/kg pretty much every week since early April.

While for many members prime sheep prices may be a step removed from their daily life and involvement with sheep, the strong trade has, without a doubt, resulted in an increased demand for Southdown rams, with a number of reports reaching me of commercial customers seeking out Southdown sires for use in large commercial flocks.

Many of these requests for rams have come from farmers wanting rams to use on ewe lambs, something our breed is ideally suited for and which continues to gain popularity, particularly in a year such as this when commercial breeding females have been such a strong trade.

From the Society's perspective Council has continued to operate much as usual as have the committees, with meetings taking place by conference call and Zoom throughout the summer and autumn.

I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made in a number of areas of important governance and Society activity, including updates to the Society's Articles of Association which were approved at the AGM in September.

Likewise, Council has also updated the Society rules to better reflect the needs of members, and the show and sales committee has overhauled the Society's policy on selecting new judges. All of these will be detailed further in future communications.

In the meantime, the communications committee has met and discussed a number of areas, including the results of the member survey which is reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

Also, on the agenda for this committee was discussion around next year's Society publications and the decision has been taken once again to combine the Society's 2021 Year Book and the Spring Newsletter, as happened this year.

This will allow significant savings on both printing and postage at a time when the need for the Year Book is much reduced due to there being significantly fewer public events next year.

From a financial aspect the Society is likely to make a small surplus this year as a result of cost savings made due to Covid-19. On the back of this Council has carefully considered Society fees and chosen to hold all fees at present levels as a gesture of support to the membership in these difficult times.

Council is also currently considering a number of ideas for regional events next year to enable members to socialise in a responsible manner within regional groups in the expected absence of many summer shows and other events in 2021. More news on this will come in the spring, once plans are firmer.

It just leaves me to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and a successful lambing next Spring.



Jonathan Long  
Chairman, Southdown Sheep Society





## Introducing two new members of Council who join the Council for the first time following successful election at the 2020 AGM

### Brian Alderson

“From playing rugby in my twenties and thirties with and against many famous names from the rugby world, like one of my heroes, Bill Beaumont; to keeping a small flock of 20 breeding Southdowns, in Ledbury in my early years of retirement: how one’s pastimes change over the years!

As soon as we started breeding sheep as a hobby some five years ago, it soon became obvious that my partner and I were going to enjoy every minute of our time looking after our small flock of Southdowns. This coupled with the fun, and camaraderie, from competing at local agricultural shows, soon made the Southdowns a big part of our daily lives.

Some 30 years ago, I started my own business, which is still going strong, and is now run by my two sons. For a few days a month I now enjoy performing my consultancy role within the business, as a non-executive director.

Combining my business experience with my passion for our Southdown flock, I believe I can bring a variety of useful skills and new ideas to the Society and the Council. I will endeavour to support the council as best as I can as it continues to promote, develop and market the Southdown breed; whilst helping to ensuring the Society keeps developing the Southdowns as a viable commercial alternative and as a pedigree breed.”



### Rob Beaumont

“I have been self-employed since 1986 when I left my last job to set up my own business producing quail eggs for the London markets. Three years later I purchased just under 60 acres of bare land in Lockinge. I then set up a large free range egg business that ran alongside the quail farming.

It was in 2004 when we suffered major damage in a storm that the whole farm had to change course. It was my wife Jan that chose the breed of sheep we would have on the farm. So out went the quail and chickens and in came the Southdowns. We also set up the kennel and cattery business that now provides our main income streams.

The sheep were initially here to keep the permanent pastures in check, but as I took a greater interest in the Southdown breed and its history I became hooked.

Initially the pedigree breeding side was of interest then came the Signet recording. I have been recording the flock since 2010 and have put rams forward into the Ram Compare project, where they have proven themselves to be justifiably referred to as a “Terminal Sire”. I look forward to bringing some of my life experiences to the running of the Society.”



## From The President



On 3<sup>rd</sup> October we put the final batch of nine Southdown ewes to Webb Ellis Cotton. One returned on 23<sup>rd</sup> October but has now held so we should have a close batch of lambs from late February to mid-March. Our other 14 Southdown Ewes were put to Cotton and Sheepcote Dennis. Towards the end of the month we sold a shearling ram to a North Norfolk breeder with approximately 100 Southdown and Southdown cross ewes. He should be on duty with three other Southdown rams. A further two batches of lambs were taken to the abattoir for private kill for box sales and these were mainly the Southdown crosses that arrived in March and April this year.

It was good to read that the Prince of Wales was to introduce a flock of 400 Southdown Ewes to Sandringham to ensure a plentiful supply of mutton. Alas, I was reading from the 1898 Southdown Flock Book that I had recently purchased being part of those sold on behalf of Mark Hawtin.

Another point of interest for the judges amongst us was the Lewes Show and Sale in 1915. One of the classes was for an entry of 100 Ewes to be judged by Messrs. Walter Langmead and John Tompkins. There were 13 entries of 100 sheep. I wonder how long it took them to judge them and it does make dealing with a class of 18 Southdown Ewes look simple.

Moving on to the Flock Books for the 1920s, modern technology was taking over as telephone numbers appeared for the first time in the Flock Returns.

Best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year and I hope that you are able to have some enjoyment whatever else is going on in the world around us and best wishes for your 2021 lambing in the New Year.

*Les Newman*

## 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 Pedeweb system. Please email the office if you need a reminder of your Pedeweb password.

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

#### 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 30<sup>th</sup> 2020, and at the latest, by December 31<sup>st</sup>.** Whilst we try to turn around all registrations promptly, there may be a delay in processing registrations at busy times 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.**

### 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.

### Imports and Exports

Members are reminded that the Office must be notified of any intended exports and imports. The rules are published in the current Flock Book and on the Society website.

The 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 breed society 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 Pedeweb.

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!

And finally....if you have not yet updated your Standing Order Instruction, please inform your bank that the annual subscription is £40, due on January 1st.

### 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 your membership contribution is worth 25% more to the Society as we can claim Gift Aid on your subscription payment. A Gift Aid form is downloadable from the website.

### 2021 FLOCK BOOK

If you are registering lambs in 2020 then these will appear in the 2021 Flock Book. Don't forget to include details of ewes put to the ram in 2020, 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.

### Update for members

As members know, the Southdown office uses the pedigree recording system supplied by Grassroots in order to manage all pedigree breeding records, the membership database and accounts.

Grassroots will be moving to a cloud-based platform in 2021 and this means that we shall be moving our book-keeping system over to Xero.

Members will notice very little difference, but when the office is transitioning from the old system to the new, there may be a short delay in the processing of payments.



## 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:

### 2021 SPRING NEWSLETTER/YEAR BOOK

The 2021 publication will be a similar format to 2020, with one publication comprising the Spring newsletter and the Year Book. This will be an A4 publication, in full colour.

Please note that all adverts included in this publication will also be included on the website.

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 31<sup>st</sup> 2021

### WEBSITE ADVERTS

All adverts will include the flock name, breeder's contact details including telephone number/s 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 £3/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. Please email the office for more details.

### Southdown Sheep Society Council members 2020 – 2021

**Chairman of Council:** Jonathan Long

**Vice Chairman:** Howard Wood

**Honorary Treasurer:** Neil Stainthorpe

#### Members of Council

##### Retire 2021

Lindsay Dane  
Patrick Goldsworthy MBE  
Tim Morris  
Nick Page  
Neil Stainthorpe

##### Retire 2022

Sidney Cook  
Edward Harmer  
Justin Harmer  
Stephen Humphrey  
Jonathan Long  
Les Newman

##### Retire 2020

Brian Alderson  
Rob Beaumont  
Paul Humphrey  
Miriam Parker  
Michael Sprake  
Howard Wood

**President:** Les Newman

**President Elect:** Duncan Crundwell

### BARCLAY SOUTHDOWNS

FLOCK NO 573  
1995-2020

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF BREEDING  
TRADITIONAL SOUTHDOWNS



Henley Show Champion Sheep  
2014-2015-2016  
Champion Fleece 2016 2017

Quality Grass fed Southdowns Bred for Meat & Wool

All Enquiries to:  
Graham Ryves-Webb  
07964 294438  
grw\_southdown@msn.com

## A small flock leads to crafty activities



Southdown Sheep Society member Claudia Camilleri-Goldup is based in Kent and set up her Purty's Flock in 2014. Since then, her interest in all things 'sheep' has taken her down some interesting paths.

Claudia explains: "I am a small hobby breeder of pedigree, traditional Southdowns that was originally started from the gifting of a couple of tegs from a local secondary school's Young Farmers Club closure.

My small flock has steadily grown over the last few years. As also a WW2 re-enactor of Woman's Land Army(WLA), ATS, Nursing and Civilian Corps, owning my own livestock has been very educational in learning traditional skills and husbandry.

I use my wool for many traditional crafts such as stuffings in pin cushions, pillow fillings, greeting card decorations and I have dabbled in spinning and felting.

During the early days of lockdown I took the decision to revert back to my original vocation as an artist full time as usually this had been kept as a hobby and also for competition in many different areas including County shows, decorated egg classes at poultry shows, national and federation, where I produce fine art on blown eggs!

One piece of work I created in watercolour during lockdown was my Southdown ram.



The techniques used to create the life-like look of the wool was challenging to say the least and took many hours to paint! This painting has now been printed onto limited edition 5x7" greeting cards and A3 poster prints.

All these areas hold themselves together and has keep me focused through challenging times."

<https://www.facebook.com/artistclaudiacamilleri/artistclaudiacamilleri>

**Home front home crafts by Claudia**



## JOHN HAWTIN

1938-2020

Many stockmen throughout the country will be very sorry to hear that John Hawtin, a greatly respected farmer, has passed away having fought a long period of illness. John was born into a building family in Northamptonshire in 1938 but went to an agricultural college to follow his own plan to farm. Over the years he has kept a variety of animals, being a great Rare Breed Survival Trust (RBST) supporter and being on the Council for many years. There is a photo in Lawrence Anderson and Valerie Porter's 1994 book 'Saving the Breeds' showing John as a young man at a meeting sporting a beard, and I wonder how many of us would have recognised him.

He farmed at Olde House Farm in Spratton from 1961, a 350 acre mixed farm and his South Devon and Traditional Hereford cattle herds were registered as Olde House herds, his Berkshire and British Lop pigs and Ixworth chickens and Brecon Buff geese were also under that name. He also bred Shropshire, Cotswold, Portland and Greyface Dartmoor sheep flocks.

He married his wife Penny in 1962 and they had four children, Clare, Katie, Charles and Mark (who have produced seven grandchildren between them). In 1986 John bought a few Southdowns from Jayne Paynter for Mark and named them the Spratton Flock. When Jane Paynter later decided to retire, John purchased the entire flock. John and Mark have been very successful breeders. John loved the annual Rare Breeds Show and Sale at Stoneleigh and later at Melton Mowbray and for many years was Chief Steward. He was Director of the show in 1982-93. They showed many ram lambs and ewe lambs over

the years and had very good days winning and selling there. In 2015 the Spratton Flock won the Southdown flock competition and also the Paynter Wool Trophy. When John and family moved to Stowe Heights Farm at Stowe 1X Churches he displayed many enamel signs and vintage tractor seats round the farmyard, with many advertising objects in cabinets indoors. John and Penny used to travel many miles throughout the country to sales to obtain these items. John was a life member of the RBST, and a valued supporter of the Southdown Sheep Society and he valued his Hereford cattle and Southdowns which he kept until quite recent months. He was never actually on the Hereford Council but worked tirelessly to save the rare blood lines of the traditional breed.

He displayed his family's abilities of building as he did many carpentry jobs about the farm repairing gates and building troughs and chicken coops. He built many bird boxes as he was very fond of the countryside and planted many, many trees at the two farms and encouraged wildlife generally.

A real gentleman who enjoyed a pinch of snuff, he was a helpful person to members of all the different breed societies he belonged to. He enjoyed a chat on the telephone to discuss many topics and to catch up with the results of the latest show or sale. He encouraged young folk with an interest in sheep to have a flock of their own and hired out many tups to shepherds who didn't really need to buy a tup at the start of their breeding career.

John will be greatly missed by his family and many of us who were privileged to know him.

*Lesley Mead*

## DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2021

At the time of going to print, the UK remains in various stages of 'lockdown' due to the ongoing Covid-19 global pandemic.

Therefore no dates for the 2021 Southdown diary have yet been confirmed, but we remain hopeful that at least some events will be able to take place.

### 2021 events to be confirmed include:

- Southdown Sheep Society National Show at Royal Welsh Show in 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 at Woodlake Park Golf and Country Club, Glascoed, Usk, Monmouthshire, NP4 0TE, *by kind permission of Howard Wood and family*
- The annual Flock Competition takes place in the Autumn. The 2021 judge is Mr Antony Glaves. Entry forms will be available from the website in due course

## Member Survey 2020

Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey. This was the first member survey for over ten years and the first one that had been mainly conducted online – through Survey Monkey. Because of limitations with the the service provided by Survey Monkey it was necessary to conduct the Survey in two parts.

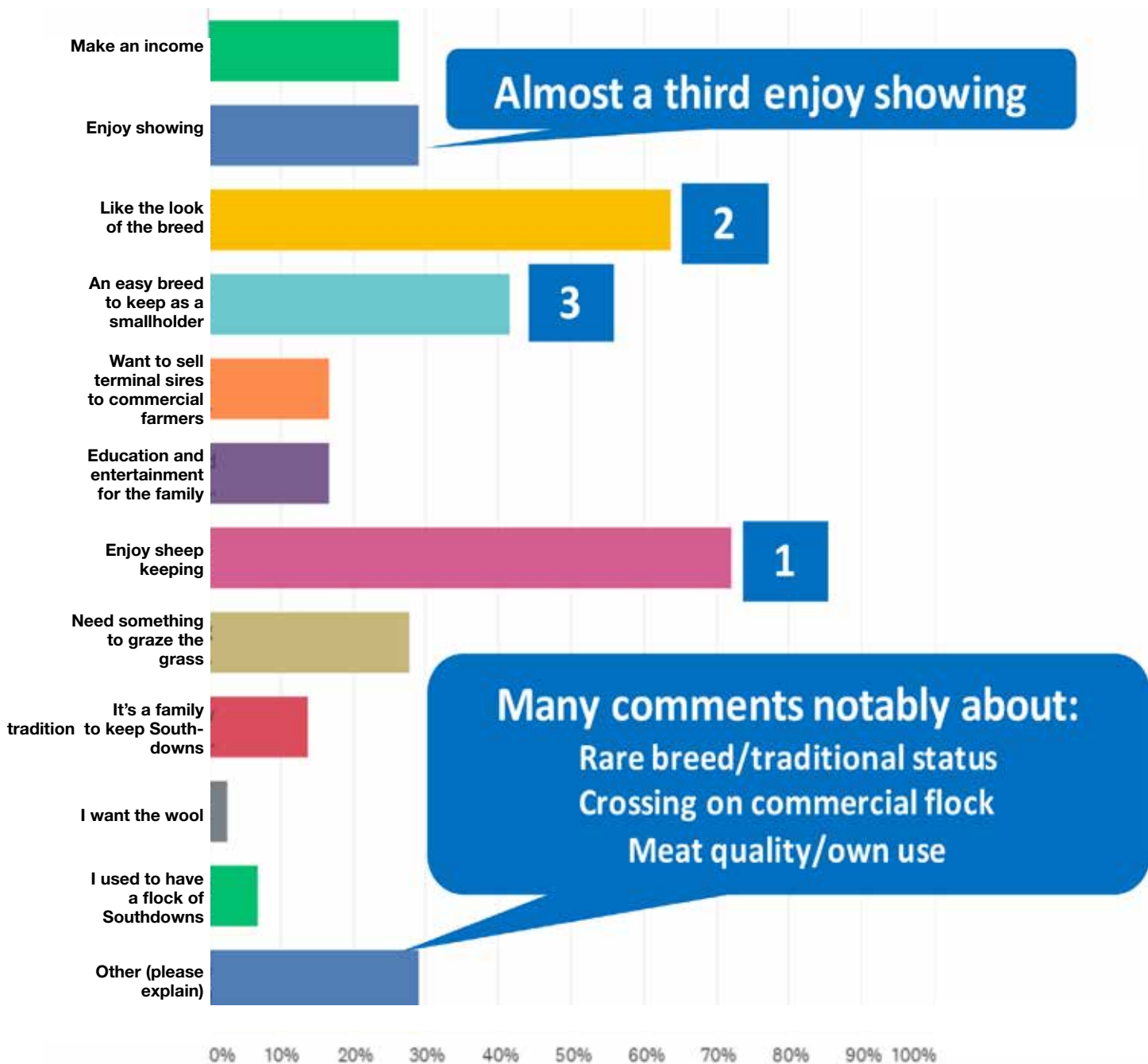
The findings of the survey were reviewed and endorsed by the Publicity & Communications Committee and have been presented to Council.

In reviewing the results it is important to remember that the survey only represented the views of respondents who would - through their participation - be a self-selecting sample. Nevertheless it was felt the views expressed could be regarded as reasonably representative of the Society as a whole.

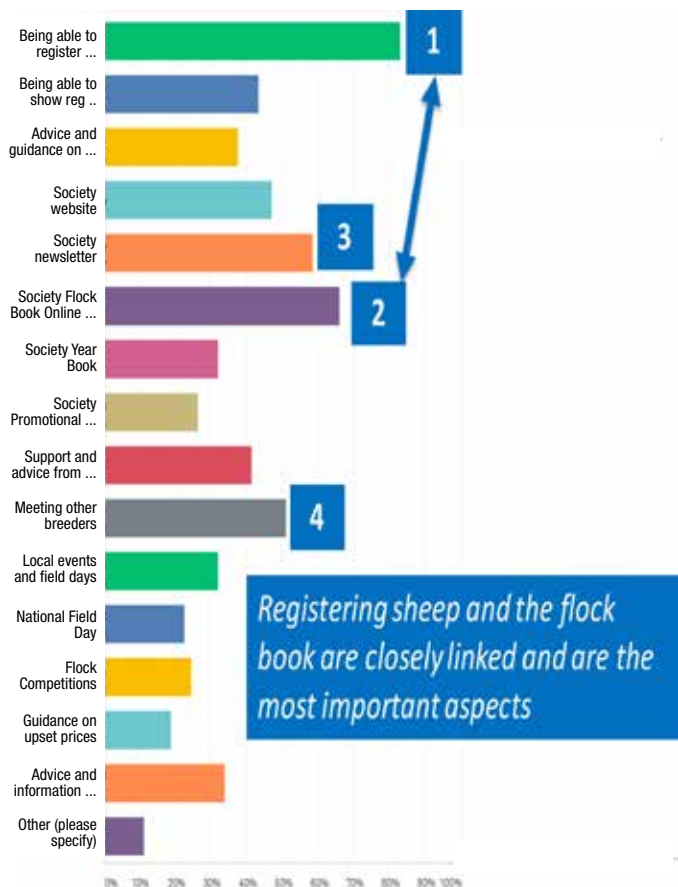
A summary of the key points from Survey is provided below and a more detailed report of the survey’s findings is available on the society website.

- 72 members (22.5%) had responded to Part One – About your Flock, a “Very Good” response in the nature of these surveys.
- 53 (16.6%) had responded to Part Two – About the Society.
- “Good” in the nature of these surveys less than 10% would have been worrying... it was a harder survey to respond , due to the need to express an opinion and Q5 which may have deterred some from completing the survey.
- Seven members had submitted a paper response.

### What are your reasons for being interested in Southdown sheep?



### What aspects of the Southdown Sheep Society are important to you?



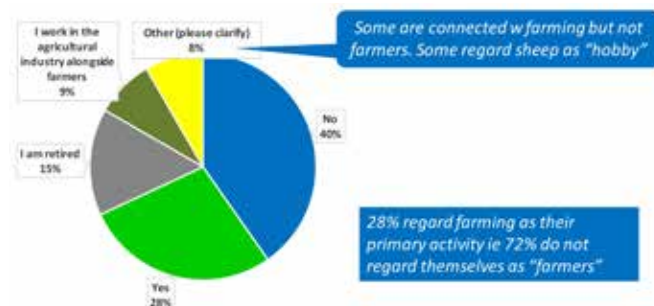
- Most keep sheep because they enjoy sheep keeping and like the breed.
- 40-50% highlighted showing as an activity they have participated in.
- 47% of members keep other breeds, especially rare breeds - this was surprisingly high.
- After the Flock Book (paper and online), the newsletter is the most valued publication.
- Least important were the eNewsletters.
- 91% of respondents considered the balance of publications was about right.
- 25% have opinions as to how to do things differently. These were mainly to do with editorial content, lack of regional activities and some wanted the Society to move to entirely electronic communications.
- Approximately 10% of members are not connected to the web.

The Publicity & Communications Committee felt reassured that the Society had got things about right and would be taking on board some of the suggestions made. In particular and especially in the light of likely Covid 19 restrictions in 2021 they would be exploring ways to improve activity in some regions.

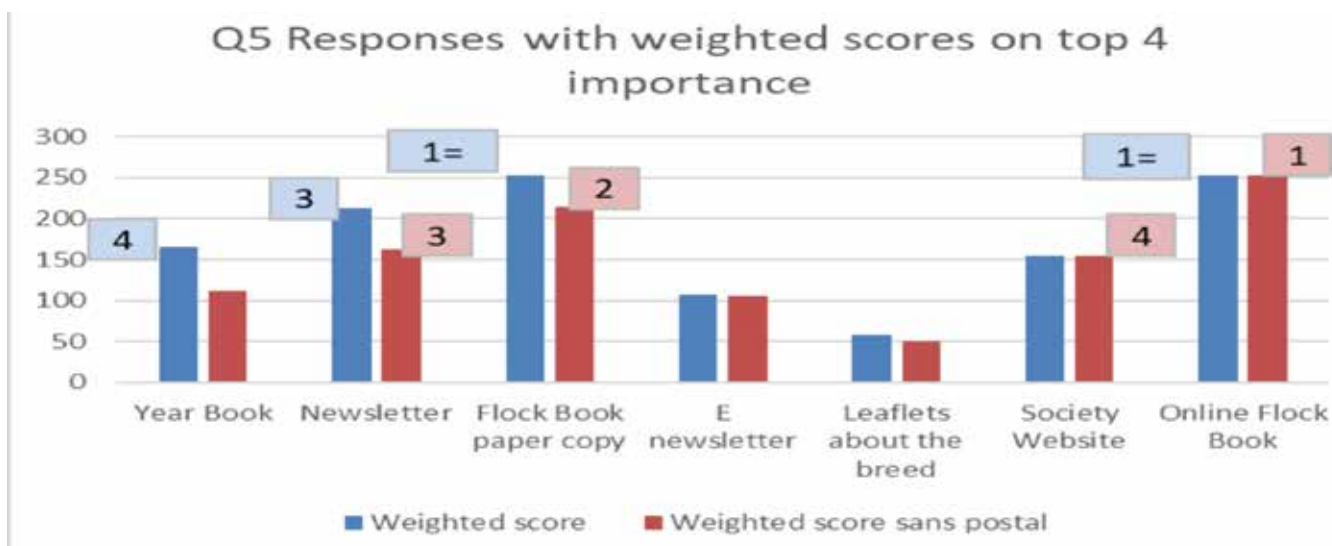
A finally... congratulations to Alison Allen and Mark Robertson as the lucky winners each of a polo shirt in the prize draw. Their names were pulled 'from the hat' by Publicity & Communications Committee Chair Howard Wood.

- The membership is 'diverse' (although not in societal terms).
- c.70% of flocks have one person in charge.
- 64% of members are aged over 45 years.
- 71% of members have smaller flocks of less than 20 breeding ewes. Only 28% of member regard farming as their primary activity.
- 62% of members do not receive the Single Farm Payment.

### Do you regard farming as you primary activity?



### Which of the following "publications" from the society are the most important to you, please rank these in order of importance to you





## The Findon Sheep Fair

The Findon Sheep Fair has existed in the village of Findon in West Sussex for many centuries, but as with all events in 2020, pandemic restrictions meant that it was unable to take place in its usual format this year.

When the Findon Sheep Fair started in 1261 it was granted a charter from Parliament to allow it to be held on Nepcote Green, Findon, always on the second Saturday in September each year.

Southdown Sheep Society member Graham Langford explains: "The only previous time the show had been cancelled prior to this year, was in 2001 due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak. Harris Fun Fair has been coming to the Sheep fair for hundreds of years and the Harris family lived in the building on the left up and down one side with the sheep wattles housed down below. This is how the building received its current name of the "Wattle House".

The photograph shows the opening and closing ceremony which was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> September to maintain the Parliament Charter for holding the Findon Sheep Fair on the prescribed day in September each year.

Graham explains: "I took along some Southdowns and our grandson Matthew Holmes was asked to go in the pen with the sheep. As well as Matthew, we have Simon Stace the Chairman of the Sheep Fair committee on the left, and Robert Harris fairground owner on the right, declaring the Fair opened and closed in order to maintain the charter for years to come."



### Welcome to New Members

Mr C J Taylor, Malmesbury, Wiltshire  
Matthew Bruce, Rochester, Kent  
Patrick & Amanda Rolfe, Haslemere, Surrey  
Mr L Tovey, Maidstone, Kent  
Fleur Morfoot, Dereham, Norfolk  
William Dearing, Maidstone, Kent  
Amanda Wickwar, Alton, Hants  
Avril Giessing, Pyworthy, Devon  
Tony & Amanda Cox, Scaldwell, Northampton  
Mat & Mary Smith, Dover, Kent  
Dave Harrod-Edwards, Christchurch, Hampshire  
Etchden Court Southdowns, Ashford, Kent  
R Arnison-Newgass, Romsey, Hampshire  
JM Holdings (John Gray), Killwinning, North Ayrshire  
Tom Chester, Tutbury, Staffs  
Jennifer Payne, West Meon, Hampshire  
O Sullivan & D Tilley, Farnborough, Hampshire  
Robert & Lorna Pheasant, Burntwood, Staffs  
Simon Kirby, Wadhurst, E Sussex  
Mr & Mrs Pullen, Rowlands Farm & Foresty,  
Llandrindod Well, Powys  
Jack Williams, North Petherton, Somerset



### We welcome Southdown Breeders

The Small Shepherds Club was founded in 1977 to help shepherds in Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire with all aspects of keeping sheep from good husbandry to legal issues. Today with almost 300 members we provide free training as well as a great forum for small scale sheep keepers to exchange ideas and for help and advice.

If you want to know more?  
Visit [www.smallshepherdsclub.org.uk](http://www.smallshepherdsclub.org.uk)



## Southdown National Premier Sale at Worcester

The 2020 National Southdown Sale at Worcester took place on August 8<sup>th</sup> in compliance with strict Covid-19 guidelines and restrictions. There was no pre-sale show, but breeders gathered, at the appropriate social distance, to bid keenly for the animals that were presented for sale. Further breeders chose to place their bids via telephone.

The Premier Sale saw a top price of 820gns for a shearling ram from Jonathan Long's Chaileybrook flock, Bishops Frome, Herefordshire.

Chaileybrook 19/00563 is by homebred sire Chaileybrook 13/0001 which was reserve champion at the 2015 National Show and carries French breeding on both sides. Buying him and a further two tups from the Chaileybrook pen at 600gns and 500gns were Roger and Tom Elliott for their commercial flock Brockhall, Northamptonshire.

Next best with a call of 700gns was Brant 19/00635 from Sid Cook, Brant Broughton, Lincolnshire. This one is homebred on both sides and carries Wattisfield breeding on the dam side. He sold to Jean-Claude and Isabelle Thomas, Les Archers, Le Chatelet, France, who sought him out on the strength of his pure English bloodlines. This ram will head to France later this autumn to work in the Thomas family's pedigree flock, once he has passed relevant health tests.

Leading the females on offer at 380gns was a shearling ewe from Georgina Helyer's Langford flock, Salisbury, Wiltshire. This one is by Goodwood Chas and out of a homebred ewe by a Southern Cross sire. Taking this one was J F Abbott, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Best of the ewe lambs was a call of 350gns for the sole entry from Nick Page's Pilly Green flock. This one is by a Ridings sire out of an East Dean ewe and sold to Andrew and Emma Bishop, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

Sale leader in the ram lamb section at 300gns was Sheepecote Everard from Ben Slack and Katy Gibson, Ashbourne, Derbyshire. By Holly Bar Rascal, this one is out of a homebred ewe by Lincwold Prince II. Taking this one home was Patrick Goldsworthy, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

Averages: 6 flock ewes £150.50; 26 shearling ewes £239.07; 11 ewe lambs £233.86; 6 shearling rams £567; 3 ram lambs £252 (McCartneys, Worcester).



*Leading trade for Southdowns at Worcester on Saturday was the 820gns shearling ram from Jonathan Long's Chaileybrook flock.*



*Brant 19/00635, shearling ram*



*Pilly Green ewe lamb*

## Selling Your Butchers Lambs Through Live Markets



One of the disappointments for those of us not living in the sunny South East is that there is not much of a premium at the local markets for “Southdown Lamb” in fact it is often the reverse.

There are many reasons for this:

- Historically Southdowns have been too fat and “fat” though delicious and essential for a tasty moist joint is definitely a bad thing these days,
- Cosmetic: buyers can’t believe that a lamb that small (short in the leg) can be that heavy,
- Ignorance: they have never seen a Southdown before...
- Less demand from overseas buyers who prefer smaller lambs but with Brexit etc that market is declining,
- The economics of meat processing this is probably the main reason (see later),
- Woolly heads can be more difficult to electro-stun,
- Entire ram lambs are not as popular as wethers and ewes, and even more unpopular after September.....

Southdowns are at the smaller end of the terminal sire market and most are never going to weigh as much as Suffolk or Texel crosses. The professional meat buyers especially for the UK home market are looking for larger lambs e.g. 44kg. From their perspective, the larger lamb is much better value as the “fixed costs” of butchering and transport are spread over a larger carcass. My private butchery charges are now £42.65 (kill & dress, MHS and levy). That works out at 2.66/kg for 16kg of meat or £1.93 for 22kg of meat... with a .72p/head difference (of course their butchery costs will be much lower). So you can see why a buyer purchasing 1000s of lambs every week would prefer a bigger carcass.

There is still a market for smaller - not too well-finished lambs, certainly buyers are keen for any lambs in the spring market and local butchers might like a smaller lamb as a small whole leg is not as dear for the cash

struck consumer as a large leg. However, the market is small and therefore it may be necessary to keep the number of entries taken in to a modest number so as not to flood the market (and to spread the risk).

Talking to my local auctioneer he strongly advises:

1. Talk to your market/auctioneer let them know what’s coming in each week (however many) and get feedback from them on what buyers are looking for.
2. Don’t over finish your lambs - fat is waste and has to be trimmed off. It is then an extra cost to slaughterhouses and needs to be disposed of. NB This also applies to cull ewes .
3. Bigger lambs tend to sell better.
4. Limit the numbers you take in as a batch, so you don’t over supply the market with standards.

So, how can you get better prices for your butcher’s lambs:

1. Lamb earlier and/or push them harder to get the spring/early summer market.
2. Develop your private meat sales – private buyers like the status of knowing the shepherd, the quality of the Southdown and the taste of super fresh meat.
3. Keep the smaller lambs for private sales and save the bigger ones for market.
4. Try to find a local butcher who will value your Southdowns and work with them to get the finish they want (but remember most butchers buy from a meat wholesaler and don’t do their own slaughtering).
5. Breed bigger Southdowns: getting from 32kg to 36 kg or better still 38kg can make a big difference especially late season, but remember it’s no good if that extra weight is mostly fat.

*Patrick Goldsworthy*



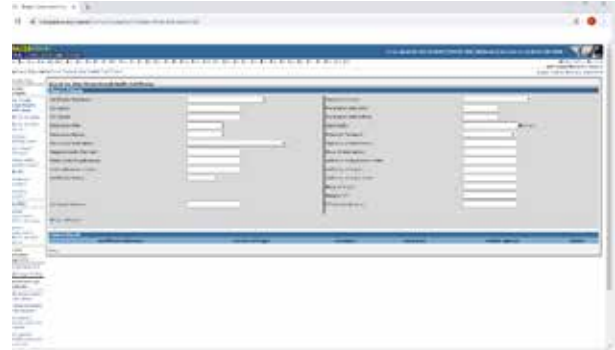
## The Joys of Exporting...

**Council member Patrick Goldsworthy used the downtime of C-19 Lockdown Part 1 to comfort himself by discovering the Joys of Exporting... he says it is almost as much fun tho' more stressful than reading 125 years of flockbooks!**

Occasionally the Society gets an email request asking if anyone is willing to export Southdowns usually to somewhere in the EU but occasionally further afield – I think there was a request from a University in Iran a year or two ago. I usually studiously avoid these as my impression, a correct one as it happens, is that it's a lot of hassle. Anyway earlier this year there was a request for a largish number of traditional (whisper very quietly “baby doll”) smaller Southdown ewe lambs, and by chance this year I had quite few traditional ewe lambs, so I thought what with Covid 19 lockdown and time on my hands etc “What the hell... it's always good to learn something new”.

Having clarified with the buyer exactly the type of Southdown she wanted – yes the smaller type and she was not worried if there was “Modern French” in the pedigree - I sent her my prospective list with an “off the farm” price, starting from £100<sup>1</sup>. I agreed with the buyer too, that she would pay all vet's fees, levies, organise transport and do all the admin.

I contacted my vet's practice to check what needed to be done: scrapie testing only and no MV tests<sup>2</sup>, and a pre-loading visit. I also got some estimates of costs – ouch - which the buyer who had imported before (“UK vets are very expensive” – there is some state support in Hungary) was willing to accept. We then agreed an outline payment schedule, i.e. a deposit for the basic vet's fees so that I did not end up with a huge vet's bill and no sales.



*The TRACES/ITAHC screen is very user friendly!*

### So Step 1 – Scrapie Genotyping

Almost<sup>3</sup> any sheep to be exported to the EU must have the Type 1 ARR/ARR scrapie genotype. Now scrapie testing was very much a UK “fashion” 10-15 years ago when I started the Webb Ellis flock. In 2008, I was prick testing - with a kit from Innovis - all my ewes and rams. In the following two/three years interest amongst Southdown breeders in scrapie testing all but vanished – there was no premium and a significant extra cost and so - as the test was not cheap - I stopped testing.

Now a word of warning here: there are two Scrapie tests – one by Innovis where you take the sample by pricking the animals nose, and another by SAC where a 5ml blood sample is taken by the vet who then sends the samples to SAC in Edinburgh. This latter test is the only one officially recognised by the EU for export purposes and it is quite a bit more expensive as the vet takes the sample and usually charges a bit more than the standard SAC cost<sup>4</sup> to cover their time, and admin fees.

We weren't too sure how many we needed to test (the buyer ideally wanted 8-10 lambs). Talking to Gail, whose All Saints flock used to be Scrapie Monitored (another SAC scheme which we won't go into here), her experience was that only c. 1/3 of Southdowns tested have the right genotype. So we decided to test all the ewe lambs based on two rams that were “traditional”.

I initially earmarked 27 “possible”, but one keeled over w coccidiosis, another was unthrifty and on testing day one escaped... so we tested 24 in all. Samples were sent off and then a three week wait, or as it turned out, slightly longer as the vet's office was shut due to C-19, so no one was opening the post and we all expected the results to be emailed... apparently not! After a few calls I was able to locate the results and discovered that only 5 (21%) had passed muster. One of the two rams must have had the ARQ/ARQ genotype as none of his progeny made the grade. And of course some of the lambs that I most wanted to retain were candidates for export. At least – I breathed a sigh of relief – I could console myself that I should be getting a good price... (It averaged out at £170/lamb off farm)

### Step 2 – Registration for Export with the Society

On receipt of the results the buyer was clearly relieved/ pleased she would be getting 5 lambs and was happy to pay the premium for the couple I wanted to retain. So the next steps were to register the lambs with the Society via Pedeweb... all very easy but then a further requirement was that the animals needed a Zootech certificate which includes the official Export pedigree information. Fees were also due to the Society - £20/head for the export certificates/pedigree and a 5% levy on the animal's value<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Those who have bought from me know that I prefer to work off a fixed price list – based on what I believe the animal is worth in the marketplace and what it is worth to me. So the ones I really want to keep are quite expensive... but there were also many “good value” sheep that are surplus to my needs.

<sup>2</sup> Some countries also require an MV test.

<sup>3</sup> Only Red Listed rare breeds may get away without being Type 1 but a special case has to be made.

<sup>4</sup> 20 self-administered Innovis prick tests works out at £18.50 + VAT/head. 20 SAC official scrapie tests worked out at £44.80+VAT/head including vet's time and expenses.

<sup>5</sup> These arrangements are expected to change in the New Year – see later

### Step 3 – The Ferry Permit

Fortunately this proved a dead end for me as I agreed with the buyer that she would organise this but initial enquiries highlighted that because of the “Hoo-Ha” over live animal exports P&O needed additional confirmation with a certificate/validation and ferry booking issued via the National Sheep Association. A brief gander at the ferry fees showed that car and trailer would cost c. £300 for a one-way trip

### Step 4 – Estimates and final payment

Initially I had agreed with buyer that she would pay in three instalments. 1. Initial vet’s fees and scrapie testing in advance before testing, 2. Off farm costs of animals a week before collection and then 3. The final vets bill following the completion of the export paperwork and receipt of the vet invoice. However the buyer offered to combine the last two payments to simplify things. As the vet’s costs had been estimates I got reassurances from the practice that they would stick with the estimate when their final invoice came through... thankfully they did. In spite of a slight delay – typically the buyers bank chose to do an in-house software upgrade while the transaction was being processed -the final payment came through the day after the sheep had left!

### Step 5 – Registering on TRACES

TRACES is the EU’s online platform for health certification for the importing animals, animal products, food and feed of non-animal origin and plants into and within the EU. Needless to say, as it is from the Commission, it is highly bureaucratic and not as intuitive as one would like. You can’t register on it until you have been pre-registered by APHA (Animal and Plant Health Agency) in the UK. When you register you get an acknowledgment email but until the UK then “confirms” that you are *bona fide* you cannot progress any further. It is at this point that I started contacting the APHA-CIT (Centre for International Trade) in Carlisle (I needed to nag them to confirm my application). They have different departments dealing with different issues relating to export.

### Step 6 – Completing the TRACES Paperwork

The next mission is completing the application for an “Intra Trade Animal Health Certificate” (ITAHC), and it is not actually paperwork but several tabs of on-screen data relating to the Traders (exporter/importer), the Consignment (the lambs), the Transporter, and the Route. The font on the EU screen is quite small but CIT provide a helpful step-by-step guide with relevant screenshots to show how to complete this. Importantly you will need the relevant “authorisation numbers” for the importer, transport vehicle and driver. All of whom have to be pre-registered with TRACES.

### Step 7 - The Journey Log 1235 miles £555 one way

To complete the first part of the TRACES process a journey log has to be provided by the transporter and entered into the TRACES system which “sort of” auto-populates the information (based on start point and end point). At least that was how it seemed to me as a novice. It then emerged that there was separate Log document outside the TRACES software that needed to be reviewed and approved by CIT staff (clearly we don’t trust EU software or animal hauliers to do the right thing). I am sure the paperwork is easy to do if you have done it 100 times, but at this stage I was beginning to lose the plot! (Life could be worse, I could be living in a flat in London during lockdown). I did my best to cut and paste the information into the form, make estimates of journey times... all to no avail. CIT staff told me I had underestimated journey times and that the 1hour break would need to be at a completely different location to that planned by the transporter.

I then realised that - given this was the EU and our Civil Service -it didn’t really matter what actually happened so long as they paperwork looked right!

### Step 8 - Getting the animals ready

Do check your animals are fit. And get them in a few days before travelling so they are on - and used to - dry food. Give them a good look over and check their feet in case there is any lurking scald. And if there is be very careful where you put the blue spray... no point causing any further alarms and excursions. Finally do not over feed them for the journey as there is a greater risk they will scour.

### Step 9 – The Vet Inspection

A vet inspection has to take place within the 24 hours before departure to ensure that the animals are correctly identified and fit to travel.

My first experience was made a bit more difficult by the fact that my export vet having been on C-19 furlough, was then on leave so I was not able to talk through what needed to be done until 24 hours before the inspection. During the discussion, it emerged that Blue Tongue was an issue (see next step) I will mention it now but I did not discover this until the final part of the inspection questions which also required that no new animals could be brought onto the holding for 21 days before departure... Fortunately there had been no new arrivals. Phew!

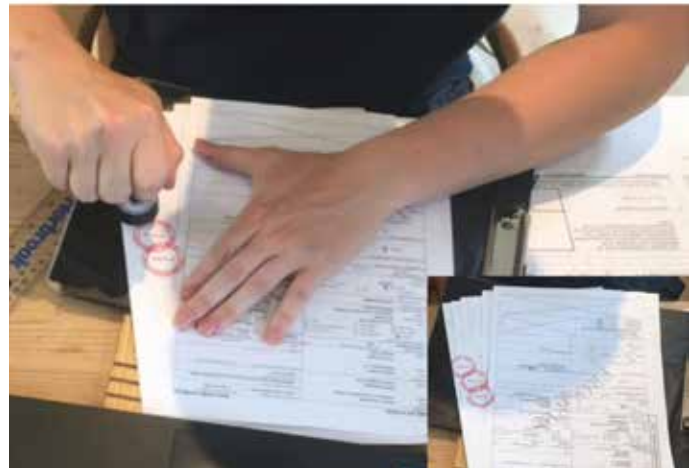


Lambs getting ready to go

The vet conducted a good visual check of the five lambs and then randomly selected one lamb for a more thorough inspection, checking its respiration, heart, and temperature, fortunately no problems there.

### Step 10 - The Blue Tongue Bit Part 1

As mentioned earlier one thing that emerged during the 24 hours before the vet's visit was that the trailer – already on its way across Europe - needed to be treated with an insecticide in the UK as on its return journey it would cross through countries where there was a blue tongue<sup>6</sup> risk. Clearly at the proverbial 11<sup>th</sup> hour it was unlikely that I would be able to treat the trailer with the requisite insecticide. After discussion with the vet - who spoke to staff at CIT and cleared the arrangements in advance - it was agreed that I would inform the transporter that it was their responsibility to treat the trailer. A letter stating this was prepared. As I knew the driver spoke no English I used Google translate to turn it into Hungarian... and at least the driver - when he did arrive seemed to know what it was all about...



*Fan stamping in action and the finished article*

### Step 11-The Vet's paperwork

The vet had pre-prepared much of the paperwork, but then needed to go through everything one more time and check all was in order and to get his and my signature on the final documents together with the official “stamp” and then ensure all the relevant documents were “fan-stamped”. Multiple copies were needed, so it was fortunate that I had a scanner/photocopier (and ink and paper), to produce the extra copies.

### Step 12 - The UK Movement Form

Of course every animal leaving a UK holding needs to have a UK movement form... what was less clear was the destination address and whether a Hungarian holding number would be relevant. After yet another call to APHA (or was it ARAMS), it was confirmed that for the purposes of export the destination would be the Dover P&O ferry terminal. So that form was duly prepared in readiness for departure. At last by c. 3pm on the day of departure all was ready and all that was needed was the haulier, who, as part of his round trip, was delivering some Valais Blacknose sheep to the border country in South Wales. Only three hours away, so he was due with me at 6pm, or so I thought.

### Step 13 – The Lost Haulier

Come 6pm no haulier... I am not sure if I have mentioned it earlier but I had no contact numbers for the haulier, the reason - quite simply - was that he spoke virtually no English (and the only Hungarian word I knew was goulash which incidentally as well as stew is also the word for herdsman!). I had provided detailed instructions on how to get to my place in Cambridgeshire with a local map (of course this was in English) therefore it was felt best to do everything via text messages relayed via the buyer in Hungary on WhatsApp. I checked: “All was well... the driver had just gone past Liverpool”

Cripes!!! I realised the driver had put in the first line of my address in his SatNav – my house is called Ambleside – and so set off for the Lake District. A series of messages were exchanged, and the driver was given my post code again. And SatNav reset to take him South East rather than North, eta now 10pm.

### Step 14 - Thunderbirds to the Rescue

Come 10pm I get a message saying he has arrived... but there is no sign of him outside. Further explanations emerge. He is at an Applegreen petrol station. Well there was one 3 miles away so I said I would drive out to find him, and lead him back to my place. I get there but there is no sign of him. Very strange. I message again. He is adamant that he is where he said he was! We persuade him to ask the petrol station to tell him where he is. The petrol station writes out their address. He photographs it, sends it to Hungary who then forward it on to me. The petrol station is in the wilds of Peterborough 40 minutes away. (Apparently his sat nav only took the first three characters of the postcode!). So off I go again and at last we meet up... and he follows me home.

### Step 15 - Loading

This bit is quite simple. Driver backed trailer into barn. Lambs were carried into trailer. Trailer loaded with extra bedding and hay. I offered the driver (and his wife) coffee, and cautiously - as we were in mid-lockdown - a bed for the night. But no time for goulash chit-chat. He wanted to be on his way to Dover and would sleep in the car while he waited for the ferry. He left at midnight.

<sup>6</sup> Blue tongue is an infectious viral disease of cattle sheep and camelids carried by the *Culicoides* midge. It is an occasional problem in the UK <https://www.nadis.org.uk/disease-a-z/cattle/bluetongue-in-cattle-and-sheep/> and is mainly a concern in central and southern Europe.

The last major concern was in 2007. Defra monitors the risk to the UK and outbreaks in Europe here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bluetongue-virus-in-europe>.



### Step 16 – Journey

At last I could relax, during the next 36 hours I got updates of the journey. They were crossing the channel at 9am, in Belgium at 12.30, in the middle of Germany at 7.30pm. Finally landing at their new home, happy though hungry at 1.00pm. approximately 36 hours later. Shortly afterwards a Hungarian state vet visited to check all was in order with the sheep. (Note as far as I am aware the vet's visits for both import and export are provided free by the Hungarian state... a good example of the not so level playing field!)



*Newly arrived lambs tucking into Hay-lash*

### Step 17 – The Blue Tongue Bit Part 2 – where it all gets very Yes Minister

During the journey across Europe I had been getting some messages that there had been a glitch in the EU TRACES system. I had put these down to the fact that the journey was taking place over the weekend and that various bits of the TRACES software had not caught up with each other. So as far as I was concerned all was in order.

However, a week later, it emerged that the verbal agreement on Blue Tongue arrangements reached by my vet with CIT staff had not been agreed by a more senior manager and as a result CIT were refusing to sign-off on the final part of the export form for TRACES. A furious senior CIT staffer roasted my vet as he was worried that this discrepancy would jeopardise Brexit talks!

CIT needed to know the exact name of the insecticide used to treat the vehicle. A photograph of the insecticide label was provided by the driver, but this was not good enough. The vehicle had been treated with a Hungarian insecticide - chemically similar to ones on the official UK list (which incidentally was thirteen years out of date) but NOT a UK insecticide. This was especially daft as all these insecticides are EU approved in the first place, besides how would a Hungarian driver be able to get hold of, let alone read the label of a UK product! Things momentarily got very heavy, but at last c.10 days later, common sense prevailed, and CIT finally pressed the Go button. And we **could all really relax!**

### Lessons learnt

It is definitely a lot of hassle... and probably worth it, if only for the sense of achievement in navigating EU and UK bureaucracy.



*5 months later, lambs (and their ears!) have grown well on the prairies of Hungary*

The costs of transport and vet's fees make the animal's actual cost negligible in the greater scheme of things.

It is very complicated and despite best laid plans, things Gang aft a-gley.

It doesn't matter what actually happens so long as the paperwork looks alright.

It is probably worth prick testing rams to know their genotype.

If there is an export client it really helps to plan ahead i.e. at mating time to make sure that the combinations used have a chance of producing ARR/ARR type animals.

The staff at CIT are mostly very helpful, clearly it being the civil service there are some jobworthy types. And, due to Brexit, the Brit officials are keen to be more perfect than the Germans and as pernicky as the

French. I am sure our leaving the EU will make exports so much easier... ho ho ho!

Just because we are in the EU (or one leg in, one leg out), it does not make it any easier in fact it will almost certainly make it even more complicated!

The Society rules and fees for export needed updating; a paper on this was put forward to the October Council and the changes will hopefully be reflected in the next set of rules.

It would be worth considering charging an admin fee.

As always, Gail Sprake at the Southdown Office was incredibly helpful and supportive... Many thanks Gail!

## REGIONAL GROUP CO-ORDINATORS

*There is a regional Southdown Group within easy reach of most members of the Southdown Sheep Society. All members are welcome to attend any of the regional meetings. For more information about what is going on in your region, feel free to make contact with the breeders listed below.*

### **South West Group**

Co-ordinators: **Adam & Caroline Brown**  
01398 361245  
adamandcaroline@googlemail.com

### **Simon & Wendy Everdell**

01984 624760 / 07732254957  
wendyfirman@hotmail.co.uk

### **West Midlands Group**

Co-ordinator: **Miriam Parker**  
01743 884483  
miriam@livestockwise.co.uk

### **Wales Group**

Co-ordinator: **Lynda Richards-Davies**  
07791 596865  
lyndafree16@aol.com

### **East Midlands Group**

Co-ordinator: **Sophie Arlott**  
07899 833157  
sophie@arlott.net

### **East Anglia Group**

Co-ordinator: **Lindsay Dane**  
01353 721216  
lindsay.dane@icloud.com

### **Beds, Bucks, Herts Group**

Co-ordinator: **Lesley Mead**  
01525 270135  
lesleyhollybar@btinternet.com

### **South of England Group**

Co-ordinator: **Paul Humphrey**  
01243 811518  
pmhumphrey62@gmail.com

## Good vibes lead the day at 'Sensible Seventy' Sale

Around 30 Southdown breeders old and new gathered at the inaugural Eastern Regional sale in Grafham informally known as the Sensible Seventy\* on August 15th.

Friendliness and "talking sheep" were the order of the day - "it was just like old times" said one long serving member, another said "it was good to see so many proper Southdowns".

Top biscuit of the day was the caramel Hobnob, with Tunnock's Caramel coming second, while many mint Clubs were left behind as they just aren't the biscuit of yore.

A good number of sales were made particularly of older and shearling rams (77% clearance) and older ewes (82% clearance) as buyers and sellers adapted to the novelty of the guide price and sealed bid approach. For sellers it felt like Christmas as they opened their envelopes!

Top price of the day £330 went to a Webb Ellis shearling ewe with a top 5% EBV, she was purchased by Walcis Farms, while local mixed farmer Clive Pullin picked up 10 rams of all ages paying £300 for a two-year old East Dean ram. East Dean also had the top ram lamb price for East Dean "Watch Out" (there's a Humphrey about) bred from their Montecristo sire.

Lesley Mead was pleased to buy back some Holly Bar breeding with two Spratton shearlings, and she also put together a consortium of "flock book" collectors to buy the 89 books collected by John and Mark Hawtin. Almost all the Hawtin Southdown memorabilia found a home, the one exception being a rather ugly Southdown faceplate/

paperweight. The remaining Spratton ewes were sold to Louise Chiswell, later that day.

Most of the All Saints older ewes went back with Drew Coulter who popped down for the day from Peebles. And nearly every seller had a buyer for their stock.

"All in all it was a thoroughly worthwhile event and thanks to everyone who took part and helped make it happen. Lots of valuable lessons have been learned and most importantly everyone seemed to enjoy themselves," said organizer and host Patrick Goldsworthy.

"I will wait and see how the land lies for 2021, though I would certainly consider organising it again; the sealed bid methodology worked well, sellers appreciated not having to specially prepare stock and buyers benefitted from sensible clear pricing, an informative catalogue and free biscuits!"

Sellers made a voluntary donation to the society raising over £200 for Society funds.

### **Sales**

9 older ewes; 12 shearling ewes; 4 ewe lambs; 4 older rams; 6 shearling rams, 3 ram lambs

\*Actually there were 69 head on the day!

### **PostScript**

If any other breeders or regional organisers want to organise their own regional sale Patrick would be happy to share his experience and "expertise" with them. All he would hope is that participants agree - in advance - to make a voluntary donation to the Society equivalent to the 2% levy.



## People, Sheep, Signs and Buckets at the Sensible Seventy - 15 Aug 2020



Photos © Rose Sawkins 2020

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