

# Southdown News

Newsletter of The Southdown Sheep Society

Issue 28

Autumn 2019

## Ladywell Tops Flock Competition



[www.heidicrundwellphotography.co.uk](http://www.heidicrundwellphotography.co.uk)

### A word from the 2019 Flock Competition winners:

“We are very proud to have won the 2019 flock competition and have always found it to be a very useful way of discussing the flock with an experienced judge. We would encourage other flock keepers to enter this competition as a good way of maintaining the high standards of the Southdown Breed.”

Duncan & Monica Crundwell  
The Ladywell 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.*

## 2019 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 online 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> 2019, 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 this year's 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

### Imports and Exports

Members are reminded that the Office must be notified of any intended exports and imports. The rules as published in the current Flock Book state that "an export certificate must be obtained from the Secretary at a cost of £10 per Southdown and the sum of 5p in every pound of the sale price shall be paid within six months of the sale".

This zootechnical (export) certificate for pure-bred breeding sheep, their semen, ova and embryos 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 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 charge for a brief advert on the website for three months is £10.

### 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.

### 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 included with this newsletter, so please do complete and return to the office if you can, and have not already done so.

## 2020 FLOCK BOOK

If you are registering lambs in 2019 then these will appear in the 2020 Flock Book. Don't forget to include details of ewes put to the ram in 2019, 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.

## An update from Council

Following the Autumn meeting of the Society's Council on October 30<sup>th</sup> I felt it would be appropriate to bring you up to speed with some of the matters discussed at the meeting along with decisions made and briefly introduce the current office-holder team.

It was pleasing to chair a positive meeting at which all those present were clearly committed to helping drive the Society forward in a pro-active manner under the leadership of the office-holders.

Our current office holder team includes Michael Sprake as president, Howard Wood as vice-chairman, Neil Stainthorpe as treasurer, Les Newman as president elect and myself as chairman.

These are all people with a dedication to the breed and the Society and all of whom have a desire to see the Society thrive for the benefit of all members. Our membership is a broad church of opinions and aspirations; this diversity, both in terms of members and their sheep is the breed's greatest strength.

Equally dedicated are the wider team of Council members who are your democratically elected management team responsible for all aspects of running the Society's affairs. We are lucky to have a broad range of experience and skills around the Council table to be able to call on.

In this vein one of the major items agreed by Council in October was the establishment of three core sub-committees to aid decision making on key matters. The first of these is the Communications and Publications committee which will be responsible for overseeing all Society publications and communications, including the Society Year Book, Newsletters and presence at events.

The committee will, in the short-term, be focussing on the Year Book to ensure it best reflects the Society to the wider sheep community. This is the Society's main outward facing communication of the year. Other items under consideration will be how the Society can best leverage social media as a promotional tool and the role of the Society's website.

Anyone wishing to advertise in the Year Book should contact Gail in the Society's office for more details of the opportunities available.

The second committee is the Finance committee. Under the chairmanship of the treasurer this committee will be

reviewing all aspects of the Society's finances, including allocating budgets more clearly and ensuring the Society continues to operate at best value within its means.

And the final committee is a show and sales committee to oversee all aspects of showing, judging and Society sales. This committee's major action points for the immediate future include the consideration of new judges for the judges panel, the establishment of regular judges workshops and the upset prices at Society sales as well as the appointment of judges at the request of individual shows.

All of these committees will work closely with Gail, ensuring a coordinated approach to all Society matters across the course of the year.

A 'task and finish' group, headed by the president will also be reviewing the Society's Articles of Association, rules and the standing orders of council to ensure they are all fit for purpose.

In addition, the Council discussed the need for the Society to have a clear strategy to help direct its management and this is another topic which be a key focus in the coming months.

The Council also discussed the publication of minutes from its meetings and agreed that in future an update of Council decisions (much like this) would be circulated to members in the days following Council meetings, with full minutes published via the Society's website once they have been approved at the next meeting of Council.

Other topics of discussion included the Society's National Show in 2020 which will be held at the Royal Welsh Show. It was confirmed that there would not be any opportunity for extra classes and that members would still be restricted to three pens per exhibitor and should be mindful of this when making their entries.

A number of judging appointments were made for shows and sales next year, with these made by Council in this instance as responses were required before the Show and Sales committee would have had an opportunity to consider them. These will be made available once individual judges have confirmed their acceptance with the relevant organisations.

*Jonathan Long  
Chairman of Council*

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## Southdown Sheep Society Council members 2019 – 2020

**Chairman of Council:** Jonathan Long

**Vice Chairman:** Howard Wood

**Honorary Treasurer:** Neil Stainthorpe

### **Members of Council**

#### **Retire 2020**

Duncan Crundwell  
Paul Humphrey  
Miriam Parker  
Howard Wood

#### **Retire 2021**

Lindsay Dane  
Patrick Goldsworthy MBE  
Tim Morris  
Nick Page  
Neil Stainthorpe

#### **Retire 2022**

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

**President:** Michael Sprake

**President Elect:** Les Newman

## Letter from Flock Competition judge

Dear All,

It has been an honour and a great privilege to judge the Southdown Sheep Society flock competition this year, a task which I have greatly enjoyed doing. It is also very encouraging to see that the number of entrants for this year's competition have increased making it a truly competitive competition.

I had given myself a week's holiday to visit everyone's flocks. Travelling from the north down through the Midlands, out to East Anglia (as far east as you can go I think). Down into Kent and along the south coast, then across country up into Wales and on into the west then back up north finishing my visits on the edge of the North Yorkshire Moors.

I must say that the standard and quality of all the sheep on display was excellent and that every flock without question that I visited, contained individual animals that I would have liked in my own flock.

This obviously did not make my task easy. Having said that, this being the Flock Competition I was looking for uniformity throughout the flock. Be it ewes, shearlings, lambs or rams and not a collection of different superb individual animals.

Uniformity only comes with time unless you have been careful with your foundation stock and this was evident in flocks which had recently sourced animals from a number of sources and which had not yet left their mark on the flock.

Also in general I would remind members it is easier to breed faults into the flock than get them out, so please try not to breed with animals with obvious faults i.e. teeth, pasterns and open fleeces which were some of the faults seen in some individual animals.

I would also advise anyone who enters the Flock Competition to look at how the competition is scored and that they are able to provide animals in the required categories to score maximum points.

I would like to thank all the flock masters for penning up all the various groups of sheep in their flock so that I was able to handle and inspect their sheep at close quarters. It is only by handling the sheep that their true worth and uniformity can be seen and I did handle a lot of sheep!

I do hope that everyone feels that after my visit, their flock inspection was carried out thoroughly and that I allowed plenty of time.

I must also thank all the entrants for their hospitality. I was awash with tea, buns, meals and offers of accommodation, which without I am sure it would make the competition much more difficult to run. Thanks also to the Welsh Regional group committee for inviting me along for a meal and a chat.

The competition was a close run thing with only the odd point separating flocks. Unfortunately not everyone can win, but my congratulations go to all the prize winners and their excellent sheep. To those that didn't pick up a prize remember you have to be it to win it and your time will come!

If any of the entrants wish to discuss their individual results please feel free to give me a ring.

Regards,

*Neil Stainthorpe*

## THE SOUTHDOWN SHEEP SOCIETY FLOCK COMPETITION 2019

**Judge: Mr Neil Stainthorpe**

- Class A** Flock of 40 ewes or over  
Winner is awarded the  
**Berkhampstead Rose Bowl and £25**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Goodwood Estate Co. Ltd**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> E Sargent**
- Class B** Flock of 10 – 39 ewes  
Winner is awarded the  
**Gaddesden Trophy and £25**  
**1<sup>st</sup> DG & MY Crundwell**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> A Glaves**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Howard Wood**  
**4<sup>th</sup> A Readhead-Higgins**  
**5<sup>th</sup> B Slack & K Gibson**  
**6<sup>th</sup> L Levell**
- Class C** **NOVICE** Competition, not to have won a first prize  
Winner is awarded the  
**Frank Grantham Trophy and £25**  
**1<sup>st</sup> G & L Richards-Davies**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> K Phillips**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Harry Wood**  
**4<sup>th</sup> L Chiswell**  
**5<sup>th</sup> C Pope**
- Tufton Beamish Trophy to the Champion Flock**  
**DG & MY Crundwell**
- Reserve: Goodwood Estate Co. Ltd**  
**Hobgen Salver** for the best intake of shearling ewes  
**E Sargent**
- Miller Hallett Trophy** for the best ewe lambs  
**A Glaves**
- Paynter Wool Trophy** for the flock with the best wool  
**DG & MY Crundwell**
- Noakes Trophy** for the best three lambs of each sex,  
sired by a named ram, present and shown  
**E Sargent**
- The Jim Cresswell Trophy** for the best ram or group  
of rams  
**G & L Richards-Davies**
- The Beryl Marsh Trophy** for the best newcomer  
**G & L Richards-Davies**
- All trophies to be awarded at the Southdown Sheep  
Society Field Day 2020**

### DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2020

- Southdown Sheep Society National Show at Royal Welsh Show July 20-24<sup>th</sup> 2020
- The Early Premier Breeders Show & Sale will be held at Worcester Market on Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup> 2020
- Traditional Native Breeds National Show and Sale at Melton Mowbray September 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 2020

## SOME BEGINNERS Q AND A'S

In September I was approached by a potential new breeder with some experience of sheep keeping, but little knowledge of Southdowns. They asked a lot of questions by email and I felt the following **personal** responses/answers to her questions may be useful to other new breeders.

### **I am interested in showing, but because I work full time I am not sure I would have enough time?**

Showing is time consuming. There is the preparation and feeding as well as the attendance at shows (mainly May-Sept). There are also primestock shows in November and December.



*A lot of time and effort goes into showing*

### **How do I start showing?**

A good starting point is to visit some shows and/or actually show at a small local event (there is nothing like learning by doing). Get the dates especially entry dates in the diary and work back from that.

### **What's involved in pre-show preparation?**

There is an article by Jonathan Long in the 2018 Southdown Autumn Newsletter (page 19) which describes the comprehensive approach he takes to prepare for showing. Whilst some other breeders take such a thorough approach. It is not always necessary. As I show mainly at the Society shows/sales, I use a more minimalist approach thus: I plan roughly what sheep I want to show (and/ or sell) and check the dates of the event especially entry dates. Some of the events have quite early closing dates for entry. Others allow entries quite close to the show date e.g. three weeks. As I usually only "show" at Society sales my own process is based around the Society's two main sales in August and September.

I get those showing/sale sheep shorn early e.g. March. I know it seems mad as an outstanding sheep/Southdown should stand out, but appearance matters more than it should at shows and sales so longer wool makes the sheep look bigger and, when trimming, gives more to work with. About 2-3 months before the planned event I separate the "show team" out, and check through the basics: feet, teeth, udder/testicles and general "style" and condition. I will probably lightly trim feet if they need

it. The sheep are then preferentially fed. This usually means the best quality grazing available and some hard grub c. 200-300 g/day (depending on animal size (e.g. less for lambs)). About 14 days before the show I will re-check their feet and then a week or so before they are due to be trimmed they are washed.

The sheep are then trimmed – professionally – I have



*There is lot of skill to expert trimming*

the kit and can do a bit of light trimming, but I have not yet acquired sufficient topiary skills. Trimming costs between £20-35/head and there may be a mileage/call out charge if the trimmer has to come a long way or has to do only a few sheep. Trimming needs to be done about a week or less before the event. The expert topiarists will be doing this on the day before and some more on the day... some of which I suspect is nerves or they would rather talk to their sheep than other exhibitors! If you want to keep the sheep clean post trimming it may be good to get coats/covers, and change the diet to hay to minimise the risk of scouring.

### **How do I get better quality sheep\*?**

That's a can of worms! What does one mean by a "better quality sheep"? Is it about lamb/meat production over a lifetime or is it about a good specimen... for the purpose of this question I will focus on the "showing" elements.

First of all make sure the sheep are physically good sheep. Though written primarily to support Society Sales, the Minimum Standards and Recommendations on the website are a good starting point. Additional guidance is in preparation, but not yet available. This will be more about the physical attributes/structure of the animal and applies to all sheep whatever the breed. Then, having established that the animal is a "good sheep" have a look at how well the animal meets the "breed description and characteristics". Additional advice on this is also in preparation. There is also a third factor that will become apparent as you show. This is the "charisma" or star quality: the look, "cat-walk style" and arrogance of the animal. Inevitably many aspects of the breed are down to personal choice – there are many shades of mouse brown - so ultimately you need to decide what type of Southdown you like. I am not sure there is that much satisfaction – unless winning is all that

matters - in showing sheep and winning rosettes if you think the animal looks like a llama, bat or an elephant. Remember that the sheep that wins its class is the one that one judge thinks is the best on that day in that group of sheep. Different judges will choose different sheep and on a different day the same judge may prefer another sheep.

\*Probably the best way of getting better quality sheep is to keep asking questions and learn the basics of sheep keeping from other shepherds and sheep keepers and thus build your own experience and judgement. Possession of show rosettes is probably a good indication that the sheep are "better than"... but that is not an indication that a sheep is "good quality". Besides many breeders have very good sheep, but rarely if ever show.

### **Does showing affect prices?**

It would I think be to fair to say that at the Society's two major sales Worcester in August and Melton Mowbray, in September, that animals with rosettes especially first prize and show champions attract a premium price. I would also suggest that animals in show condition i.e. prepared and groomed will sell and/or sell better than sheep fresh from the field.

### **Do you have wash and trim to show Southdowns?**

No it is not compulsory, but nearly everyone does. It is an advert for the breed and their flock. However, it is not always necessary to conduct a Rolls Royce job. It is less likely that a judge will select a poorly prepared sheep as the first prize winner, unless the class is very small and/or the primped sheep has some very obvious and fundamental flaws. Do watch out though, a few shows specify "untrimmed" sheep.

### **How can I be successful in the showing?**

Put succinctly to me by one respected judge and former breeder, success in the show ring depends on three things: good sheep, good preparation and good showmanship. And another senior judge would add a big "good sheep" will often win over a smaller "good sheep".

### **Who does the Signet recording measurements, is a vet involved?**

Almost all the measurements are done by the breeder, however, the "scanning visit" is conducted by an AHDB technician... a lot cheaper than a vet and more competent/experienced in this type of scanning (measuring the fat and eye muscle content over the rib). The technician also has the specialist equipment needed. Not all flocks that are recorded are scanned every year - most do, but some take a year off for logistical reasons. Signet records for each animal will show if the animal has been scanned. If you are buying from a Signet recorded flock they will have access to these records and can provide them if you ask.

### **Does it cost more to buy a Signet recorded animal ?**

Yes and No. For example my best performing ewes e.g. in the top 10% of the breed are worth more to me than my "average" ewes so I will expect a premium for them. Likewise if I want to buy a top performing animal I will be prepared to pay more for that animal. Other breeders

price their animals differently and their prices may take account of their flock's reputation and history, the rarity value of their genetics etc.

### **What is involved with Signet recording?**

Currently c. 10-12 breeders record through Signet. Most breeder's aims in recording are two-fold i) to identify superior performing sheep within their own (and other) flocks i.e. grow faster have better muscle: fat ratio, maternal ability etc... For example, answering the age-old questions such as "is it better to keep a big single or a smaller twin?" and/or "which twin should I keep?".



*"Scanning the eye muscle measures fat and muscle depth"*

ii) the second reason is to be able to promote Southdowns as Terminal Sires to commercial flocks who (should in theory at least) want a high performing ram to get better faster growing lambs out of them. And "in theory" again farmers and breeders should be willing to pay more for a ram with good performance figures. Speaking personally, I have bought and not bought rams from certain breeders because of their performance figures or lack of performance data.

### **Which flocks choose to record?**

It is mainly larger flocks > 20 ewes that record. This is principally due to the economics i.e. the cost of recording. The annual fee is £228 (+VAT) for flocks of up to 100 ewes and there is an additional charge for ultrasound scanning and independent weight verification at 16-21 weeks of £175 (+VAT).

Some larger flocks do not record because as well as the costs there is additional paperwork and recording e.g. eight-week weights etc.

### **What do most breeders do with their ram lambs?**

Most ram lambs go to the butcher. In my flock I castrate any small lambs that I think will take too long to finish i.e. more than eight months. This is usually about 10-15 out of 45 ram lambs. I make selections of ram lambs to register based on their performance, looks and genetics. Out of the 45 ram lambs this means I keep 4-6 each year. I expect/ hope to sell half of these, some I may retain. Surplus unsold shearing rams are sent to slaughter. Most breeders keep too many rams. Less than 50% of ram lambs that are registered ever go on to do any work in pedigree flocks.



*The butcher is the best place for most ram lambs*

### How do breeders sell their surplus stock?

Breeders will do a mixture of Society auctions and sales off the farm. Except possibly in Sussex and Kent, it is unlikely that Southdowns will do well in general auctions for breeding stock. Some breeders organise an

occasional auction for themselves. Some breeders only ever sell off the farm.

### How long does it take to reach a kill weight?

Southdown "finished" lamb liveweights – depending on the breed "type" - vary from 32-44kg. Based on a 50% killing out percentage, this gives a carcass weight of 16-22kg. How long it takes a lamb to reach a finished weight depends on both nutrition and the breed "type". All lambs will finish more quickly with better grub. My first lambs this year weighing c. 36kg went at 130 days. Last year my larger lambs went at c 180 days while the less thrifty lambs went at 250 days (It was a particularly bad year...remember the Best from the East). An average for most of my lambs in a reasonable year would be 180 days.

### Would a Southdown ram be happy with 10 ewes?

The glib answer is that a Southdown ram would be happy to be bought and have his head scratched. Yes, though of course he would be happier with larger numbers. My ewes are usually sponged to synchronise oestrous, so I mate them in groups of 8-10. Very occasionally a ram may jump a fence to reach a ewe in season, but usually they want to stay with their own breeding group... and/or stand at the edge of the field watching the adjacent ram who is busy watching him.

### Do people rent out rams?

Yes a number of breeders rent out rams or provide board and lodging to visiting ewes. This is helpful in allowing smaller flocks to get access to - hopefully - better genetics than they can afford. It also makes life simpler for the smaller flocks as they don't need a separate "ram field". My standard hire cost is £50 for the first five ewes and £5/ewe thereafter. This is usually for 4-6 weeks hire and done on the basis that the hirer collects and returns the ram. Thus the hire cost for a 10 ewe flock would be £75.

If you are thinking of buying ewes in the autumn/winter do consider asking the breeder to supply them tuppéd.

*Patrick Goldsworthy*

## AROUND THE REGIONS

*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

# French National Southdown Show

In August I was honoured to judge the inaugural French National Southdown Show at Saulieu, in the Burgundy Region of France.

With just seven Southdown flocks in the whole of France entries were naturally limited, but the five breeders taking part were enthusiastic and presented their sheep in traditional French style, with little/no trimming and sheep being tied to a rail for judging.

Consisting of four classes, the show featured aged rams and shearing rams, and aged ewes and shearing ewes, with the rams shown singly and the ewes shown in pairs.

Classes were well supported by all breeders and in the male classes Benoit Poillot and family won both classes, with the overall male champion being their two-shear stock ram which was bred by Jean-Claude and Isabelle Thomas and had stood champion at Paris Show earlier in the year.

The female classes saw the Poillot family once again take the top place in both classes. The standard of sheep presented overall was pleasing and the top end of every class was strong.



Top five shearing rams

An interesting aside came after the judging when all breeders returned to Benoit Poillot's farm to inspect his 2019 crop of lambs for approval by the French Society. Every lamb to be registered was inspected by the Society's president Alexandre Pagnaud before receiving the Society's official ear tattoo, with those not meeting the standard not being tattooed.

Having visited France to view and purchase Southdowns many times over the last 20 years I am pleased to say I count many of the French breeders as firm friends and have the upmost respect for their commitment to the breed.

In 1957 there were more than 90 Southdown flocks spread across France. Both the Poillot and Thomas families are long-time breeders committed to the breed, with the Benoit Poillot's family having been breeding Southdowns since the 1940s.



First prize pair of shearing ewes

Jonathan Long

## NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the Society's new members:

S Abbot & D Dunstan	Dunstable	Bedfordshire	Jenni Metcalfe	Brecon	Powys
Coral Hannah	Bent	Dorset	J & R Mitchell	Leighton	
Deborah Cox	Lydd	Kent		Buzzard	Bedfordshire
Joshua Farrell	Wandsworth	London	Rebecca Neal	Bicester	Oxon
Neil Fisher	Barnsley	South Yorkshire	Nick Page	Chichester	West Sussex
Mr A G Game	Bury St Edmunds	Suffolk	Lee-Anne Skipper	Kent	
P E Goldsworthy MBE (Heritage Flock)	Huntingdon	Camb	Keri Strugnell	Godstone	Surrey
	Ticknall	Derby	Paul Taylor	Ellesmore	Shropshire
Mathilde Hallifield	Quernmore	Lancaster	Sarah-Jane Thompson	Helmdon	Northants
Miss Rose Hargreaves	Howden	East Yorkshire	Mrs J Wakeham-Dawson		
IM & HB Jackson	Melbury Abbas	Dorset	& Miss A Harmer	Lewes	East Sussex
Liam Jefferson			Messrs Watton	Northampton	
Mark Kemp &			D Whitcher-Christmas	Blisworth	Northampton
Ursula Lewis	Stockbridge	Hampshire	Daffyd & Deian Williams	Lampeter	Ceredigion
Keith Manning	Findon	West Sussex	RJ & C Windsor	Bickley Malpas	Shropshire
Alan D Manton	Storrington	West Sussex	Sue Woods	Sevenoaks	Kent



# Southdown Champion goes all the way to the top at the 2019 Southdown Sheep Society National Show at Royal Cheshire Show

The 2019 National Southdown Show attracted a record number of entries from a record number of breeders, some of whom had travelled many miles to compete in this year's National Show.

Judge Susan Harmer commented that it was "an exceptionally good turnout of Southdowns and the lines of sheep showed true quality from end to end."

Champion female and the overall Southdown Champion went to Anne Lambert's aged ewe, winning the Northumberland Perpetual Challenge Trophy (RASE).



National Show winners: L: Reserve Champion - Goodwood Estate Co. Ltd's ewe lamb. R: Champion - Mrs A Lambert's aged ewe

This ewe was sired by a Lunces Hall ram out of a homebred ewe and this was her first show outing.

The Reserve Champion in this year's National Show was awarded to Goodwood Estate Company Ltd's ewe lamb.

Champion male was Jim Cresswell's homebred aged ram, Wattisfield Tiptop, which took home the Hazleton Perpetual Challenge Cup (RASE) for the best opposite sex to breed champion. The judge commented that both these older animals were "powerful, well-muscled sheep with a leg in each corner".

In the shearling section Anne Lambert's ram was awarded first place. Chris and Dave Rhead's shearling ewe stood first in her class winning the Sheila Colman salver. The judge commented that "this ewe had both size and conformation combined with femininity".

The January/February born lamb classes were won by G & M Sparke's ram lamb and Goodwood Estate Company Ltd's ewe lamb. Both lambs were exceptionally well fleshed with excellent locomotion. The Cooper Perpetual Trophy for the best ram lamb was won by G & M Sparke's ram lamb.

The later born ewe and ram lamb classes were both won by Ruth Judson, with the judge commenting that they

"looked like peas in a pod, being in peak condition as prime lambs as well as potential breeding stock, and a credit to their breeder".

Both the pair of shearlings class, and the group of four, were won by Anne Lambert with Miriam Parker in a worthy second place. Mrs Lambert was presented with the Miller Hallett Perpetual Challenge Cup for the best group of four sheep.



Afternoon Tea followed the judging and presentation of National Show trophies.

In the interbreed competition, Anne Lambert's aged ewe went on to win supreme champion of the Cheshire Show 2019. The interbreed judge David Thornley, from Derbyshire, said "It was a very correct sheep for the breed with a good top and great skin." Under the same judge Mrs Lambert also won the Interbreed Group of Three.

The National Show was rounded off with a traditional Afternoon Tea, organised and beautifully presented by the West Midlands Regional Group.



## 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)

# Worcester Premier Show & Sale

Southdown trade topped at 900gns at Worcester with a shearling ram from Jonathan Long's Chaileybrook flock, Bishops Frome, Herefordshire. This one lead the prices after the flock had clinched three of the four class wins in the pre-sale show.



Leading Southdown trade at Worcester was a shearling ram, Chaileybrook 18/00297, selling for 900gns.

Topping the prices on the day was Chaileybrook 18/00297, a February 2018-born ET son of imported sire Percheron out of Chaileybrook 15/0010, herself a daughter of the flock's successful French bred past stock ram, Sarkozy. Backed by a formidable show winning pedigree, with both his parents being multiple breed champions, this ram had been champion at Tenbury the previous weekend and was knocked down at 900gns to Jessica Middleditch for her Wakes Hall flock, Norfolk.

Second best of the day in the males was a 720gns call for another Chaileybrook shearling, Chaileybrook 18/00300. This one is another by Percheron and is out of a Golden Valley ewe and had stood first in the shearling



Leading the Southdown female offering was a shearling ewe, Goodwood 18/012931, selling for 700gns.

ram class in the pre-sale show. He sold to the day's judge Steve Smith and his wife, Helen, for their Pen Parc flock, Welshpool.

And then at 520gns was Chaileybrook 18/00307, a full ET brother to the sale leader and also the flock's unbeaten show gimmer. This shearling was the pick of Megan Chilcott for the Huntspill flock, Somerset.



Pre-sale champion and winner of the shearling ewe class, Chaileybrook 18/00289

At 400gns was the day's reserve overall champion from the pre-sale show and the best of the ram lambs on the day, Brant 19/00656, a son of imported sire Ibanez and out of a Sarkozy daughter. This one sold to Chloe and Katie West for their Westmorr flock, Gloucestershire.

Close behind at 390gns was a shearling ram from Stephen and Paul Humphrey's East Dean flock, East Dean 18/3602. Sired by Goodwood Ebor and out of a dam by East Dean 11/00450, he was knocked down to Messrs Matthews and Llewellyn, Staffordshire.

Top call of the day in the females was a 700gns bid for a shearling ewe from the Chichester, West Sussex-based, Goodwood flock in the form of Goodwood 18/012931. Sired by Southern Cross 14/00529 and out of a dam by East Dean 11/00419, she sold to Keith Manning, Cissbury, West Sussex.

Then at 600gns was Goodwood 19/08127, a ewe lamb by Ridings 15/03130 and out of a homebred dam by Rene. She sold to Kathryn Wheeler, Herefordshire.

Next best at 520gns was the pre-sale champion and winner of the shearling ewe class, Chaileybrook 18/00289 from the Long family. Sired by Percheron this gimmer is out of a daughter of The Frog and was bought by Steve and Helen Smith, Pen Parc.

Messrs Humphrey then sold a shearling ewe at 500gns, with this being East Dean 18/3648. By the homebred sire East Dean 14/01744 and out of a dam by East Dean 09/2131, she sold to Messrs Williams and Phillips, Llandeillo.

Another Goodwood shearling ewe then sold at 480gns, with this being Goodwood 19/12932, another by Southern Cross 14/00529 and this time out of a dam by East Dean 11/00419. She sold to Chris and Helen Owen, Pen Y Cefn, Caerwys.

Close behind at 460gns was Goodwood 18/10128, a daughter of Ridings 15/03130 and out of a dam by an imported sire. She was the pick of S and C Bufton, Llandrindod Wells, Powys.

**Averages: Seven shearling rams £537, four ram lambs £259.87, 27 shearling ewes £309.36, 26 ewe lambs £218.27, eight flock ewes £136.50 (McCartneys).**

# Melton Mowbray Show & Sale

The second official Southdown Sheep Society sale of the season took place at Melton Mowbray on Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup>, with the pre-sale show taking place the previous day.

Judge Jonathan Long selected a shearling ewe from Messrs D, S & P Humphrey as his show champion. This ewe, East Dean 18/03729, was sired by a Webb Ellis



*The first prize winners in the show:*

*Left to right:*

*P Goldsworthy – ewe lamb, and Reserve Champion second placed shearling ewe*

*D, S & P Humphrey's Champion shearling ewe, and shearling ram,*

*Ben Slack's ram lamb*



*G & M Sparke's ewe lamb, top price of the day*

ram, 16/00337, and out of an Ashmole ewe. In the sale the following day the champion sold for 280 gns to J & R Mitchell of Leighton Buzzard.

Reserve champion on show day went to a shearling ewe from Patrick Goldsworthy, Webb Ellis 18/496. This ewe was sired by an East Dean ram, and out of a home-bred ewe. She was knocked down the following day to K Taylor Jr, of Budbrooke, Warwickshire, for 250 gns.



*Judge Jonathan Long with the champions: left to right: P Goldsworthy's shearling ewe, D, S & P Humphrey's shearling ewe and shearling ram*

As best opposite sex to the champion, judge Jonathan Long selected a shearling ram from the East Dean flock of D, S & P Humphrey, 18/3661. This ram was sold for 280 gns to R Day of Halhoughton, Norfolk.

Top price of the day was paid for a ewe lamb, Northumbria 19/00113, this ewe lamb, a triplet bred by Messrs G & M Sparke, was sired by a Golden Valley ram 15/00456, and out of a Glandore dam. She was knocked down to Southdown member Will Morton for his Blackfriar flock, for 420 gns.

Close on the heels of the ewe lamb was a ram lamb bred by Ben Slack, Sheepcote Dynamite 19/00079. This ram lamb, placed first in the ram lamb class by the judge the previous day, was by a Holly Bar ram and a home bred female, and was sold to breeder R O Cox of Stoney Stanton, Leicester, for 400 gns.

Ben Slack's second placed ram lamb, Sheepcote Dalesman 19/00080, sold for 350 gns to G Hargreaves of Quernmore, Lancaster.

With a good number and range of Southdown sheep available for sale, buyers were discerning and selective in their purchases, favouring the younger stock that was entered in the sale.

## **Averages**

13 ewes, top price 280 gns,

average price £221

17 ewe lambs, top price 420 gns,

average price £209

5 rams, top price 280 gns,

average price £283

2 ram lambs, top price 400 gns,

average price £393

## 2019 AGM and FIELD DAY

The Society AGM held at The Sheep Centre, Malvern, on Saturday 7 September welcomed two guest speakers, NSA chief executive Phil Stocker and APHA vet investigation officer Alan Murphy.

Mr Stocker gave members and friends an overview of current NSA work, including its lobbying and youth work, alongside outlining both opportunities and threats to the sheep industry at the current time.

“It is clear there are a number of opportunities in all sectors of the UK sheep industry, be that in making better use of natural resources, improved marketing of all aspects of our produce or encouraging and supporting young people as they enter the industry.

“NSA is working hard on behalf of its members to ensure government and other regulatory and industry bodies understand the challenges facing the sector, while also making clear to sheep producers the potential opportunities available to them.”

Meanwhile, Alan Murphy talked those present through the benefits making use of post-mortem examinations could offer their flocks as well as highlighting when a post-mortem may not be appropriate for whatever reason.

“In many cases a post-mortem isn’t about finding out what an animal died from, but about understanding disease challenge in a flock and helping to protect the rest of the flock.

“To help farmers access APHA post-mortem facilities there is currently a free collection service in operation, helping ensure animals reach an APHA laboratory in good time,” he added.

Additional information regarding the free carcass collection service the APHA operates can be found on this link: <http://apha.defra.gov.uk/vet-gateway/surveillance/diagnostic/index.htm>

The afternoon saw the business end of the AGM, with Lesley Mead handing over the Society presidency to Michael Sprake and Les Newman stepping in to the president elect role.

Additionally, the Council election saw two new members join Council; Sidney J Cook and J Edward Harmer, while four existing council members were re-elected; Justin Harmer, Stephen Humphrey, Jonathan Long, Les Newman.

### The Cresswell Crook 2019

The Ridings Flock won The Cresswell Crook for 2019. The Cresswell Crook, is awarded to the most improved Signet Recorded Flock. The Lawton flock was the runner up. Congratulations to Messrs Wakeham-Dawson and Harmer for a second success, five years on from their first triumph and the first flock to win the Crook twice. Well done too, and commiserations for missing out, to Rob and Anna Paton.

## Ever thought about exporting sheep?

Occasionally the office receives an enquiry from potential breeders beyond the UK. We try hard to match up the enquiry with members who might be able to meet the requirements.

Exporting sheep is not for the ‘faint-hearted’ and it does require time and dedication to the task, but there is a feeling of satisfaction once an export is successfully completed.

There are some basic specifications – all sheep exported to the EU must be the genotype ARR/ARR, and this has to be verified by a blood test which can only be done by a veterinary surgeon, so there are cost implications even before an animal is sold. An additional blood test is required for breeding rams, and a veterinary examination is required not more than 24 hours prior to departure.

If you would like to find out more about what may be involved with exports, or would potentially be interested in having your contact details passed on to any EU enquiry, please let the office know.

### Tidy up your flock records

Why not spend some of the long winter evenings ‘tidying up’ your flock?

It’s easy to do online. You can record deaths and transfers easily using Pedweb.

Any purchases can only be added to your flock in the office, or by the vendor noting the transfer.

The details are then collated in the office and your flock can be brought completely up to date, it makes registering next year’s lambs much easier when you come to do in online.

## OBITUARIES

### Miss Sarah Cartwright

The Southdown Sheep Society was saddened to learn of the death of Miss Sarah Cartwright in October. Sarah started her Broomcroft Flock in 2002 and was for many years a keen supporter of the breed, especially in the South West. She was a founder member of the regional breeders’ group and worked tirelessly to ensure that events were well planned and well organised.

### Gerry Armstrong

Honorary Life Member Gerry Armstrong passed away earlier this year.

Gerry and Jean founded their Torbury Flock (Flock Number 120) in 1972, purchasing ewes from the Chailey Flock and a ram from the Eartham Flock. The flock moved with them from Hampshire to Herefordshire and later to Wales. Much in demand as a judge and called upon for their advice and expertise, Gerry very much felt it was his life’s work to bring the Southdown into the future and both Gerry and Jean rightly assumed a place within the Society as ‘elder statesmen’.

The Society loses a little segment of history with the passing of Gerry. Sheep remained close to his heart, and at his funeral it was stated that Gerry would wish to be remembered as “shepherd”. The Society extends its condolences to Jean, son Keith and all the family.

# SHOW CHAMPIONS ROUND UP

*Well Done and Congratulations to those breeders whose flocks have featured in the Interbreed line-ups around the country during the 2019 show season:*

## **2019 National Southdown Show at Royal Cheshire Show**

Interbreed Champion: Mrs A Lambert

### **Bath & West**

Interbreed Champion lowland pairs and Group of Three

Messrs Wakeham-Dawson and Harmer

### **Cardigan Show**

Reserve Champion interbreed

Champion Interbreed Group of Three

G & L Richards-Davies

### **Chulmleigh Show**

Reserve Interbreed Champion

A & C Brown

### **Clynderwen Show**

Reserve Champion Interbreed Group of Three

Reserve Champion Pairs

G & L Richards-Davies

### **Devon County Show**

Reserve Interbreed Champion

A & C Brown

### **Heathfield Show**

Interbreed Champion

Mrs E Sargent

### **Hertfordshire County Show**

Reserve Interbreed Champion

Messrs Wakeham-Dawson and Harmer

### **Honiton Show**

Reserve Interbreed Champion

A & C Brown

### **Hanbury Show**

Reserve Interbreed Champion

JMA Long

### **Kent Show**

Interbreed Champion Group of Four

Mrs E Sargent & Mrs A Lambert

### **Llandeilo Show**

Reserve Interbreed Champion Group of Three

G & L Richards-Davies

### **Newark and Notts**

Reserve Interbreed Champion

Messrs Wakeham-Dawson and Harmer

### **Nefyn, North Wales**

Reserve Interbreed Champion Group of Three

G & L Richards-Davies

### **North Devon Show**

Reserve Interbreed Champion

A & C Brown

### **Royal Norfolk Show**

Interbreed Champion

Mrs E Sargent

### **South of England Show**

Interbreed Champion Group of Three

Mrs E Sargent

### **St Clears Show**

Champion Interbreed Group of Three

G & L Richards-Davies

*Please note: Whilst we try very hard in the Office to note all Interbreed champions in shows up and down the country, we rely on our members to let us know of their successes. Please keep in touch with the Office to tell us about significant results. If the Office is not aware of your results, then we cannot include them.*

# East Midlands Group

## Annual BBQ at the 2019

### Lincolnshire Show

"It was great to see so many regular faces and some new ones too at our annual get together BAABQ! Everyone contributed to the burgers and beers and we were entertained by some 'Victorian' musicians. Looking forward to seeing even more of you next year - please come along, it really is a great show."

*Sophie Arlott*



*Members and friends at the Lincolnshire Show BaaBQ*

# AROUND THE REGIONS

## West Midlands Southdown Group

### Shivering and Trimming!

In early May 19 members attended the West Midlands Southdown Sheep Group Spring Gather with several new faces welcomed into the fold. The group was generously hosted by Tom and Helen Lakin of the Heltom Flock, Bwlichgwyn, Wrexham. The village is alleged to be the highest in Wales and despite being sunny and dry it was definitely a day for thermals and soup!

Back by popular demand the focus of the meeting was the preparation of lambs for showing and this was led by champion sheep exhibitors Chris and Dave Rhead of the Lightoaks Flock, Lask Edge. Chris started with the key No-Nos that exhibitors should avoid. "Sheep for showing must not be thin, dirty, lame or have illegally short tails and they must also have as many of the Southdown Breed Points as possible." Chris and Dave then outlined their preparation process and the discussion ranged from the choice of shampoo, single or double bow shears and straight or cranked shears through to halter training and fleece fix.



*Chris Rhead demonstrates the finer points of show preparation*



*Time for some hands-on practice*



*Chris Rhead's teach-in session*



*A two-man-job – putting the theory in to practice*

Following the theory session, everyone then had the opportunity for some hands-on experience preparing a lamb for showing. Helen and Tom had kindly washed four lambs a few days previously and bravely put the lambs in front of the group. The merits of each lamb, such as its adherence to the breed characteristics and relative conformation and degree of finish was discussed at length. Those new to showing were then given a brief introduction to carding and trimming and were allowed to try their hand and each were individually mentored by other more experienced members.

As usual, lunch was a 'bring and share' affair and the customary feast of biblical proportions was unveiled and enjoyed by all. The business meeting followed lunch and the group resolved to ensure that a similar level of hospitality and camaraderie should be afforded to Southdown exhibitors at the National Southdown Show held during the Cheshire County Show.

### **Forthcoming events around the regions**

*West Midlands Spring Gather ...will be something "Woolley" towards the end of April ...keep checking in on the Facebook Page West Midlands Southdown Group!*

#### **South West**

*Early New Year 2020: "Christmas" Lunch*

**Contact Caroline or Wendy for more information**



*Serious discussion over the trimming stand*

## New home and flock name for historic genetics

The eagle-eyed amongst you will spot that I have recently registered a new (second) flock 1435 – the Heritage flock. This follows the purchase from Mark Hawtin of the majority of the Spratton flock. Having followed and admired the flock and the work of Mark and his father John I was keen to keep as many of them together as possible in order to conserve a very traditional type of Southdown.



*Spratton flock on arrival at Grafham*

The Spratton flock was founded in 1987 when John bought some ewes for a young Mark from H J Paynter's Broadreed Flock and further stock was bought from M M Rosenbergh. Hearing on the grapevine – from their shearer - that the Broadreed was being dispersed, Mark purchased the remaining Broadreed stock in 2003. The Broadreed flock itself was the oldest flock in the flock book, and can trace its heritage back to 1898 purchasing ewes from JW Woods of Chilgrove and the Duke of Richmond. More ewes were bought, in 1905, 40 from Lord Northbourne) and in 1906, 25 from J Tomkins.

To increase the number in the Heritage flock, I have added in sheep of a similar type and breeding (Great Fen and Holly Bar) from my own flock and this year have put 21 Heritage ewes to the tup. My intention is to keep the Heritage flock to this slightly smaller type of Southdown.

## 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:**

### 2020 YEAR BOOK

The 2020 Year Book will be an A4 publication, in full colour.

Please note that all adverts included in the 2020 Year Book will also be included on the website.

Advertising rates for members are as follows:

**Full page £80    Half page £40**

*Centre pages, inside cover, front and back - please contact the Southdown Office for further details, and see the further information below. Please note that quarter page adverts have been discontinued.*

**2020 Year Book – premium pages, centre double page spread, inside front cover and inside back cover.**

It has been decided that these pages are on offer to the highest bidder.



*Broadreed Flock in the early 1900s – pic H J Paynter*

The shearlings weigh in between 51 and 55kg, my other larger more commercial Webb Ellis shearlings are 10-15kg heavier. Whilst I believe that there is and will be a demand for the larger type of Southdown, I feel also that there is still a good place for the smaller Southdown.

As I look at the Heritage flock - and the Spratton ewes still stick together as a “gang” – it helps me connect with times past, especially with my ancestors, as at the same time the Broadreed flock was being formed my Great Grandfather was keeping Southdowns at Yaldham Manor in Kent.

*Patrick Goldsworthy*

### Difficult Downsizing Decision

As a 10-year-old I woke up on Christmas morning to find two in-lamb Broadreed ewes in the garden. Almost 33 years later the decision to downsize the flock due to the retirement of my father and my increased work commitments has not been an easy one.

Both my father and I are delighted to have found a home for the Spratton Flock that will keep the nucleus of the flock together and help continue with the preservation of the often-forgotten traditional breed characteristics for years to come. We wish the Heritage Flock and Patrick all the best for the future.

*Mark Hawtin*

If you wish to place an advert on any of these pages please contact the office with your ‘silent bid’. All bids will be considered after the closing date for receipt which is December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019.

### INTERACTIVE MAP ON THE WEBSITE

The usual £10 per box for the breeders’ listing (to include name, address, flock and contact details) is still 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> 2020**

### 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 of what is available for sale. Please note that no pedigree information, no show results and no photographs will be included. Adverts remain on the website for three months. These may be added at any time. Please email the office with details.

# YOUNG HANDLERS' PEN

***"It's never too young to start"***

Proud grandma Mrs Lorraine Levell has encouraged granddaughter Ava Clements to get involved with the flock from an early age and is a firm believer that it is never too young to start.

Here Ava is lending a hand with the show preparation of the Avenue Farm Flock for Woodhall Spa Show.



*The Southdown Sheep Society is keen to encourage our younger members and breeders. Please keep sending in to the office pictures and details of our junior shepherds' successes and stories, we will try and print as many as we have space for.*

## **Southdown Sheep Society**

**Registered Office: Meens Farm, Capps Lane, All Saints, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 0PD**

**Secretary: Mrs Gail Sprake**

**Office telephone: 01986 782251 mobile: 07885 777921**

**secretary@southdownsheepsociety.co.uk**

**www.southdownsheepsociety.co.uk**

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