

Southdown News

Newsletter of The Southdown Sheep Society

Issue 29

Spring 2020

incorporating The 2020 Year Book



www.heidicrundwellphotography.co.uk

BRANT SOUTHDOWNS



*Brant 19/00656 reserve champion
and top priced ram lamb Worcester 2019*

*THE BEST OF TRADITIONAL AND MODERN BREEDING
SUITED FOR BOTH PEDIGREE AND COMMERCIAL USE.*

MV ACCREDITED

FANTASTIC 50 SALE

WORCESTER, 5th DECEMBER 2020

SID COOK, BRANT SOUTHDOWNS

TEL: 07802 695325

From the Chairman

Welcome to the Spring 2020 Southdown Sheep Society Update. As you will notice as you read this publication it is, in fact, a hybrid of the spring Newsletter and the Society's 2020 Year Book.

In light of the current Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant cancellation of all major events this summer, Council has, after much careful consideration, taken the decision not to publish the Society's Year Book this year.'

As you will all be aware, the Year Book is produced as the Society's outward facing publication, aimed at both potential members and commercial sheep farmers.

With no events taking place, there is little/no requirement for an outward facing publication. Council, therefore, has agreed to re-purpose relevant and previously unpublished content from the Year Book for this Update.

As a result of the cancellation of the Royal Welsh Show, and with uncertainty around the likelihood of any shows going ahead later in the year, there will be no Society National Show this year. The 2021 National Show will take place at the Royal Welsh in place of this year's event.

At the present time the situation around sales remains unknown. Plans for the Society's sales at Worcester and Melton Mowbray are continuing and the Society is keeping in close contact with the auctioneers/organisers of those sales and will inform members of any changes to arrangements as soon as things become clearer.

Other sale options are also being considered, but again at this time the situation is largely unclear.

Likewise, plans for the Society's AGM in September are continuing and members will be kept abreast of any changes to that event.

In the meantime, the Society office continues to run as usual and both Gail, myself and all Council members are available to answer queries which members may have at this time.

All members and regional groups are advised to keep up to date with, and follow, government advice regarding gatherings and meetings.

On a different note, the outlook for our breed continues to grow stronger, with the introduction in the Agriculture Bill of provision for support of holdings maintaining populations of native breeds.

Moreover, it is becoming increasingly apparent that the future of the sheep industry will mean focussing on systems more reliant on grazed forages and less on purchased feeds.

There is a place for purchased feeds and where they can deliver an economic return there is no reason to shun them. However, there is an increasing place for forage-based systems which make minimal use of purchased feeds.

In that respect the Southdown breed, with its well-recognised ability to thrive off forages, both good and bad, while also being able to rapidly convert concentrate feeds to lean meat gain, is in a prime position.

Across our breed there is great diversity of genetics suited to a wide range of situations and that is, without doubt, one of the breed's major strengths.

It leaves me to wish you all a safe and healthy spring and summer and I look forward to hopefully seeing many of you once we are able to operate on a more normal basis.



Jonathan Long
Chairman
Southdown Sheep Society



Families to have faith in



Chaileybrook 15/00010
Breed champion Royal Three Counties 2019
Female and reserve overall champion 125th anniversary National Show 2016
Breed champion Royal Bath and West and Royal Three Counties 2016



Chaileybrook 18/00308
Percheron x Chaileybrook 15/00010
Reserve interbreed champion Hanbury Show 2019
Breed champion Royal Bath and West
and Hanbury shows 2019



Chaileybrook 18/00297
Percheron x Chaileybrook 15/00010
Breed champion Tenbury Show 2019
Top price Worcester Premier Sale 2019



Jonathan Long
Chaileybrook Southdowns
Tel: 07974 303306
E: jonathan@chaileybrook.co.uk

SOUTHDOWN PEOPLE

President Elect – Les Newman



Our 2019-20 President Elect is Les Newman. Les has been a member of Council for seven years and brings experience as a Chartered Accountant in practice. Les is married to Tricia. They have three children and six grandchildren (increasing to eight in the next two months all being well). Les and Tricia have a 40 acre farm in the village of Carleton Rode, South Norfolk, with further temporary grazing within ten miles to manage their flock.

Their original Southdown flock of five ewes was purchased in 1989. Over the years they have acquired rams from many established breeders to improve their flock. The Newmans have been showing Southdowns (and also some Shropshires) with some success over the last 25 years with some breed champions and other prizes achieved. Ewes from the Southdown flock have started several flocks and also added to existing flocks around East Anglia.

Southdowns hold their own at the 2019 Winter Fairs

At Winter Fairs across the UK, Southdowns left their mark with breeders proving once again that the Southdown is a noteworthy breed that can hold its own against all other breeds.

The Royal Welsh Winter Fair saw an encouraging number of Southdown entered in both the live and dead classes, and the breed featured in the line-up of winners in all classes entered.

Breeders from Sussex dominated the class for the pair of Southdown lambs, with Nick Page and the Goodwood flock standing first and second in that class, with Messrs Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer from Lewes, and Huw & Kate Williams from Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire also featuring in the line-up of winners.

Sussex breeders Stephen & Paul Humphrey's pair of

lambs (up to 90kg combined weight, any breed or cross, not containing any continental breeding) were among the ribbons in the pairs class, taking home a creditable third prize. In the carcass class it was Dylan Williams, from Ceredigion, whose single Southdown lamb was placed second in the class, with Messrs Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer following on with a third placing.

The breed featured prominently at the Stafford Winter Fair and once again it was the team of Southdowns from Nick Page of Goodwood Estate Company Ltd whose sheep dominated the Southdown pairs class. Long-standing breeder and supporter of the winter fairs, R O Cox followed on with a third place rosette in the pairs class. Mr Cox was the breeder who kept the Southdown breed in the public eye in the carcass class, achieving a 4th place in a large line-up of lamb carcasses.

Sutherland Southdowns

Flock No-896

Signet Recorded



Reserve Interbreed Champion –
Tendring

Breed Champion – Rutland

Res Breed Champion –
Hadleigh & Rutland

Male and Res Breed Champion –
Nottinghamshire Show

Res Male Champion - Royal Norfolk

Visitors welcome

Amy Readhead-Higgins
House Farm, Leiston, Suffolk, IP16 4TW

07850 830030

Amy.readhead@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook

Extraordinary General Meeting

The Society EGM on Thursday 16th January which was called to vote on three resolutions, resulted in one resolution being passed and two being defeated.

Ordinary resolution one was passed, while special resolutions one and two were both defeated.

Society chairman Jonathan Long said the results should not be seen as a victory or defeat for any members or group of members. "These were important votes on the governance of the Society. It is important that everyone in the Society respects the outcome, no matter their personal views.

"It is now time for everyone to focus on the tremendous good that exists within our breed and our Society and to work together to forge an even greater future for the breed we are all so passionate about.

Everyone should focus on the important thing, the sheep this Society represents," he added.

2020 Southdown Sheep Society Annual General Meeting and Field Day

Saturday September 19th 2020

**at Woodlake Park Golf and Country
Club, Glascoed, Usk,
Monmouthshire, NP4 0TE**

*by kind invitation of Howard Wood
and family*

Cyril Wise – Fairlea Flock

The Society was sad to learn earlier in the year of the passing of honorary life member Cyril Wise of the Fairlea flock at the age of 90.

Cyril was a well-respected breeder who for many years ran the only flock of Southdowns in Scotland and sold rams successfully at Kelso Ram Sales.

Having founded the Fairlea flock in 1973 with purchases from Findon Fair the flock quickly became well known within the breed and along with his wife, Dorothy, Cyril travelled the country both showing and selling, making regular appearances at the Royal Show for a number of years, particularly in the mid and late 1990s.

Sadly, the couple lost their flock during the foot-and-mouth outbreak in 2001 and took the decision not to restock. A long-standing Council member Cyril was president of the Society 1989, hosting the Society's AGM and Field Day that year at home in Dumfries.

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	01892 863448
Paul Humphrey	01243 811518
Miriam Parker	07740 122958
Howard Wood	07773 230921

Retire 2021

Lindsay Dane	01353 721216
Patrick Goldsworthy MBE	07711 416312
Tim Morris	01923 852358
Nick Page	07973 488410
Neil Stainthorpe	01757 705911

Retire 2022

Sidney Cook	01522 788295
Edward Harmer	07859 254676
Justin Harmer	01273 965904
Stephen Humphrey	01243 811685
Jonathan Long	07974 303306
Les Newman	01953 860373

President: Michael Sprake 07766 220760

President Elect: Les Newman

THE BURCH DARE PERPETUAL CHALLENGE TROPHY



Throughout the year, points are accumulated by members by their participation in shows. Points are awarded too for the Flock Competition. The principle behind the allocation of points remains true to the wishes of the Burch Dare family's wishes as set out in 1934.

The 2019 results are as follows:

Winner: Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer

Runner-up: Griff & Lynda Richards-Davies

Third place: Mrs Elizabeth Sargent

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.

2020 LAMB REGISTRATIONS

More and more members are choosing to register their lambs online using the Pedeweb system. All paid up members should have received details of their password and information held on line. 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. Email the office if you need a reminder of your log-in details.

Lamb registrations

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

All lamb registrations should be with the office by November 30th 2020, and at the latest, by December 31st. Whilst we try to turn around all registrations promptly, there may be a delay in processing registrations at busy time in the Southdown office.

The Southdown Office is closed for all but emergency enquiries for two weeks over Christmas and New Year. **Please note that registrations cannot be processed until payment has been received and subscription is paid up to date.**

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 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.

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 2020 membership subscription (£40) is now overdue.

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

SELL YOUR STOCK ON THE SOCIETY WEBSITE

Members may advertise stock on the Society website at any time. The cost of placing an advert is £10 per advert. All adverts will include the flock name, breeder's contact details including telephone number/s and email, and a brief outline of what is available for sale. Please note that no show results or photographs will be included. Adverts remain on the website for three months. Simply email the office with details.

PLEASE NOTE

AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS ALL DATES PRINTED IN THIS PUBLICATION WERE VALID. HOWEVER, DUE TO CURRENT RESTRICTIONS AS A RESULT OF THE ONGOING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, MANY FURTHER DATES AND EVENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK THE SOCIETY WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PAGE FOR REGULAR UPDATES, OR CALL THE SOUTHDOWN OFFICE.

Blackfriar Southdowns

Established 2015 (flock no 1237) with foundation female bloodlines with New Zealand genetics from Southern Cross flock along with other select purchases



Sires currently being used:

Chaileybrook 18/00302 (*Percheron Son*)

Ridings Magician (*Male Champion Lincolnshire Show 2018*)

East Dean 18/03598

Blackfriar 18/00172 (*Ibanez Son*)

French Import FR200221 40053 (*Sire of the Reserve Champion and top price at Melton Mowbray sale Sept 2018*)



We will have a selection of females for sale at both the Society's Premier Sale at Worcester and Melton Mowbray. Stock also for sale privately off farm

Visitors welcome by appointment

Will Morton

44 Bobbin Lane, Lincoln, LN2 4ZB

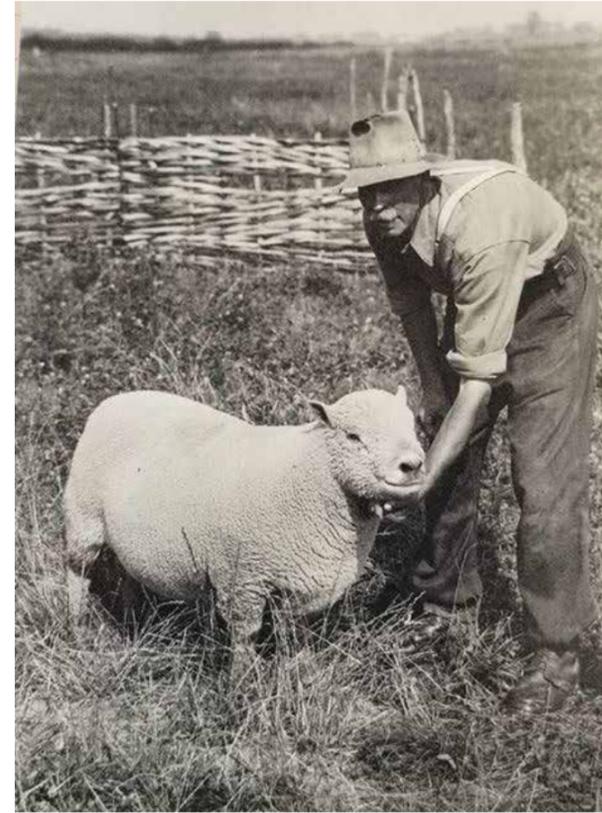
07793977092

will_morton05@hotmail.com

From the Southdown archives

The office was recently sent some images from Scott Glasspool whose great grandfather was a shepherd for the Barnham Flock (Flock No. B17).

This flock was owned by W T Forse of Barnham Court, Barnham, Bognor Regis, Sussex. Our records tell us that this flock was founded in 1935 with the purchase of 50 ewes from M Tupper & Son, and 10 ewes from The Lady Ludlow. According to the 1935 Flock Book, 60 ewes were put to the ram in 1935.





Andersey Farm



Quality Grass Fed Flock

MV Accredited
Offering commercial and pedigree stock



Signet Recorded

Signet

The Southdown Sheep Society

Pedigree Southdowns

Flock Number 883 Est. 2005

Andersey Farm Ltd, Grove Park Drive, Lockinge, Wantage, OX12 8SQ

anderseyfarm@gmail.com

07765 231876

(+44) 1235 771866

Welcome to New Members

Mr Shaun Hollyer	Ashford, Kent
Mr Phil Goulby	Dunstable, Beds
Alexander F Gibson	Taunton, Somerset
M Houghton	Wellesbourne, Warwick
Passmore Brothers	Wallingford, Oxon
Mrs Sally Mercier	Southwater, West Sussex
Miss Alice Middleditch	Sudbury, Suffolk
Maria Cork	Ashbourne, Derbyshire
Adam Budd	Maidstone, Kent
Edward Langrish	Rye, East Sussex
Pedro Moreira	Normandy, Surrey
Emma, William & Isabella Hurst	Stourport-on-Severn, Worcs.
Chris Watt	Driffield, East Yorkshire
Emma Dow	Petersfield, Hampshire
Ian Robertson	Chawton, Hampshire



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

LADYWELL SOUTHDOWNS

FLOCK 816

Award winning Southdowns from the heart of Kent.



Duncan & Monica Crundwell
Cobblers Yard Farm, Leggs Lane, Langton Green, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN3 0RQ
01892 863448 dgcrundwell@btinternet.com 07921471018

Holly Bar Flock - 738 20 years old this year



Holly Bar Leader

Pedigree includes bloodlines: Camber Castle – Manor – Brant – Broadreed – Moulton



Holly Bar Question

Pedigree includes bloodlines: Spratton – Camber Castle – Buckland - Brynglas

Our first sheep were two in-lamb ewes from the Buckland Flock from Miriam Parker, shortly followed by a few more in-lamb ewes from Broadreed Flock from Jane Paynter. Several years later we had the Hortesley Flock when Mrs Hayes retired. All the ewes we purchased went back to well-bred and respected stock. We were particular to select tups that also had respected bloodlines. We have always been proud of our flock, and are pleased to continue to breed today along the same lines.

Lesley Mead - Leighton Buzzard (01525) 270135

Lesleyhollybar@btinternet.com

DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2020

July 20th -23rd

2020 NATIONAL SOUTHDOWN SHOW

at The Royal Welsh Show, Builth Wells, Powys,
LD2 3SY Judge: J Long Esq.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE 2020 NATIONAL SHOW
HAS BEEN CANCELLED AND WILL TAKE PLACE
AT THE ROYAL WELSH SHOW IN 2021**

Saturday August 8th

**The Southdown Sheep Society Premier Breeders
Show & Sale**

at Worcester Market
Closing date for entries July 13th
worcester@mccartneys.co.uk

September 1st - Closing date for entries for
Southdown Sheep Society Flock Competition

September 11-12th

Traditional Native Breeds National Show and Sale

at Melton Mowbray
info@meltonmowbraymarket.co.uk

September 19th

Southdown Sheep Society AGM and Field Day

at Woodlake Park Golf and Country Club, Glascoed,
Usk, Monmouthshire, NP4 0TE
by kind permission of Howard wood and family.

October 19th

NSA Sheep 2020: celebrating the UK sheep sector
at Three Counties Showground, Malvern,
Worcestershire

November 27 – 28th

Winter Stock Festival

at the East of England Showground, Peterborough
for all details contact The East of England
Agricultural Society
livestock@eastofengland.org.uk
Tel: 01733 234451
www.winterstockfestival.co.uk

November 26th

South Eastern Prime Stock Winter Fair

at South of England Showground, Ardingly, West
Sussex, RH17 6TL
For more information contact Mary Masters on
01273 517824

November 20 - 21st

English Winter Fair

at the Staffordshire County Showground
For more information contact 01785 258060
Email: enquiries@staffscountyshowground.co.uk

November 30 – December 1st

The Royal Welsh Winter Fair

For more information contact RWAS
on 01982 554404/03
Email: livestock@rwas.co.uk

November

Ashford Cattle Show

For more information contact Hobbs Parker on
01233 502222
Email: Mark.Cleverdon@hobbsparker.co.uk

Please note: dates are correct at time of going to press.





The photo may be old.

But true CLASS is timeless.

Semen
from past &
present sires
available

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[@GreenlandsIns](#)



Contact...

 07979 856 281

 roland@greenlands.co.uk

GREENLANDS

SOUTHDOWN | FLOCK #794

Breeding and showing
Southdown Champions
since 2002

GOODWOOD SOUTHDOWNNS

Flock no. 00783 Est. 2002

Breeding for the future

*From sale
leaders ...*



Sold for 760gns at Southdown Premier Sale, Worcester 2019



Sold for 600gns at Southdown Premier Sale, Worcester 2019



*... to show
winners*



QUALITY STOCK ALWAYS AVAILABLE

Enquiries welcome Contact: Nick Page Tel: 01243 755150
Mob: 07973488410 Email: farm@goodwood.com



Suppliers of Quality
Southdown Lamb to The Ritz



SOUTHDOWNS

Breeding for the future



... to show winners

755150



Suppliers of Quality





The Southdown Sheep Society and National Sheep Association (NSA) have a long-standing partnership.



“We value NSA for all the hard work it does supporting the sheep industry. With uncertain times ahead we feel now is more important than ever to show your support too by becoming an NSA member and contributing to the important work of the organisation.”

Southdown Sheep Society.

Visit www.nationalsheep.org.uk/membership to find out more.

NSA MEMBERS PRIZE DRAWS

SIGN UP OR REFER A FRIEND TODAY TO BE ENTERED TO WIN A RITCHIE PORTABLE RACE

OUR MEMBERS MATTER

JOIN NSA TO SUPPORT OUR WORK PROVIDING A VOICE FOR UK SHEEP FARMERS.

your business your future

Prize draw terms and conditions at www.nationalsheep.org.uk/draw
A company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England. Registration No 37818. Registered charity in England and Wales (249255) and in Scotland (SC042853)

Events 'on hold' but negotiations continue

There are few things more important than health and wellbeing and, on behalf of NSA, I'd like to offer our condolences and best wishes to anyone who has been affected by coronavirus, and urge everyone to do what they can to stay well.

As write this, the UK is locked down and business activity has been severely restricted. Many shows, events and sales have been cancelled — all with huge knock-on effects for budgets, income and, in many cases, jobs. For us, in addition to the cancellation or postponement of a number of spring and summer meetings, it has resulted in plans for NSA Sheep 2020 and Scotsheep being disrupted. As we go to print, Scotsheep is still hoping to run, however, Sheep 2020 is being rescheduled for October 2020.

Assessing

So much is on hold, but policy development and trade negotiations will restart as soon as the situation allows. The marketplace continues, but in a very different guise. The catering trade has closed entirely, both here and on the continent, with a real challenge to switch catering supply chain volumes to retail volumes. Remember the statistics – 35% of Britain's sheep meat is exported, with 96% of this going to the EU. A loss of access to the EU market, or paying tariffs of around 48%, would create serious problems and could only be overcome by new free trade deals with nations outside the EU, or vastly increased self-sufficiency within the UK. Self-sufficiency is often scoffed at, and there is no doubt it would reduce competition and bring carcass utilisation challenges, and in normal conditions exports provide a solid base to market prices. Britain's sheep meat export and import volumes are rarely too far apart. This means we are in balance but, whenever exports become difficult, our domestic market becomes more important. There is evidence we are being nudged in this direction already, not just with coronavirus but with several major retailers making commitments to source 100% British lamb. Stronger retail commitments to British lamb can only

be met by supply commitments, with some changes to even out seasonal supply. And it's worth reflecting on the many demands that have been made from producers for supermarkets to support British sheep farmers and put British lamb on the shelves.

Commitments

While a sudden exit from the EU market was avoided in late 2019, it could end up looming large again as we approach the end of our transition period and exit the EU completely at the end of December 2020. That said, coronavirus-related delays now seem possible. Preparing for this possibility, as well as aiming to be wider global players, the UK Government, Department of International Trade (DIT), devolved administrations, and levy bodies, are busy reaching out to nations across the world – building relationships and preparing for new trade deals. But for sheep meat, replacing like-for-like export opportunities – particularly if a sudden change is needed at the end of December this year – is highly optimistic. Our starting position with the EU appears to be based on playing hardball: no interest in alignment; we will walk away if we don't get what we want; we will use our battleships to protect our fishing grounds. Contrast that with the narrative surrounding a US trade deal, where the language seems to be softening. We still hear about the intention to protect our standards and values, but the language is becoming more conciliatory, with Defra Secretary George Eustice suggesting we need to be more reasonable when it comes to chlorinated chicken. There are clear opportunities in the US for our sheep sector. But, if the US was to replace the EU as a major British sheep meat customer, how would it work? Air freight would be an option, although probably only for high-value goods. And this would not sit comfortably with creating a climate friendly reputation. Sea freight by container takes four weeks, so we'd need to be at the top of our game with shelf life – not impossible, by any means, but will take effort. Volatility and change has been predicted for some time. I think it's here, right now.

Phil Stocker NSA Chief Executive



Biscombe Pedigree Southdowns



Flock No. 500 Established 1993

**Prize winning flock
Quality grass fed
stock for sale**

“what you see is what you get”

1st FOR LAMBS



BISCOMBE 186



BISCOMBE 185

**WINNER OF BOTH MALE AND FEMALE LAMB CLASSES
125TH ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL SHOW**

Inspection invited by appointment

Neil Stainthorpe, Biscombe Lodge, Thorpe Wood
Selby, North Yorkshire, YO8 3RX
Telephone 01757 705911 Mobile: 07340 377367
neil.stainthorpe@btinternet.com

The Southdown Sheep Society Flock Competition

The annual Flock Competition is an ideal opportunity to gain an appraisal of your flock, on a one-to-one basis with the Flock Competition judge.

The judge for this year's competition is Antony Glaves. A knowledgeable and experienced judge, Antony's Brompton flock was founded in 1999.

Whilst the judge has to compare all flocks and select the winners in the respective classes, at the same time the judge is able to offer an informed opinion and answer any questions you may have. The Flock Competition judge is always an experienced sheep keeper and the experience of taking part in a Flock Competition should be an enjoyable and educational experience.

It should be pointed out that the competition judges the whole flock, and therefore breeders with individual, different groups of sheep within their one flock will necessarily be disadvantaged. The judge is looking to see a flock, rather than a collection of different animals.

The judge follows a marking scheme approved by Council where points are awarded across a number of sections:

A	quality of flock ewes	/35
B	intake of shearling ewes	/35
C	uniformity	/35
D	ewe lambs	/20
F	rams	/60
E	wool	/15
Total		/200

Noakes Trophy: Three ewe lambs & three ram lambs sire by a named ram and shown /100

Flock Competition entry forms and rules can be downloaded from the Society website, or email or call the Office if you would like a paper copy sent to you. The entry fee is £25 per flock, and the closing date for entries is September 1st 2020.

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



STONERIDGE



SOUTHDOWNS

FLOCK No. 664

LIMITED NUMBER OF QUALITY STOCK FOR SALE

Keith & Annette Stickels

40 Wakeford Close, Ridge Lane, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV10 0RE

Tel: 01827 715733 Mobile: 07722793842



Pedigree & Commercial Livestock Auctioneers

5 SUCCESSFUL LIVESTOCK MARKETS

COTSWOLDS TO MID-WALES

SOUTHDOWN SHEEP

NATIONAL SHOW & SALE – WORCESTER

SATURDAY, 8th AUGUST 2020

FANTASTIC FIFTY SALE – WORCESTER

PRODUCTION SALE FOR CHAILEYBROOK & BRANT FLOCKS

SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER 2020

The Auctioneers

Tel: 01905 769770 Fax: 01905 769772

Website: www.mccartneys.co.uk Email: worcester@mccartneys.co.uk



Thank you to Heidi Crundwell for allowing us to use her lovely lamb pictures throughout this newsletter. The four-legged animals remain blissfully unaware of lockdowns, self-isolating and social distancing, no matter what the two-legged animals have to face during the Covid-19 pandemic.

NORTHUMBRIA SOUTHADOWNS

Breeding for Success on the Show Circuit and in the Sale Ring

Northumbria Zeus 19/00118

Champion Ram Lamb - National Southdown Show 2019

Northumbria 19/00113

Top Price - Southdown Society Sale 2019

Messrs G & M Sparke - Warren Farm, Stewkley, Bucks
Tel: 07968 182020 - Email: g.sparke@btinternet.com - Visitors Welcome



Auctioneers

South East Marts

Hailsham Market

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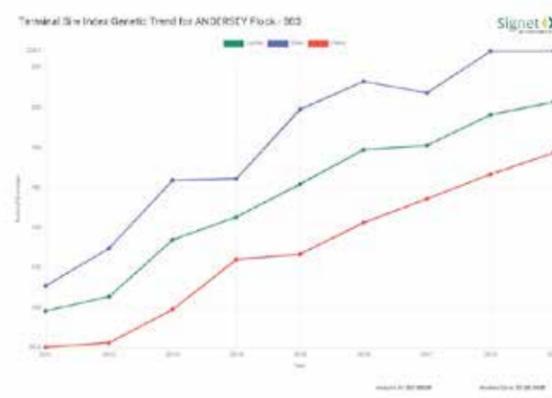
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RamCompare and Recording: What it means for one Southdown breeder

Participation in the RamCompare project was a great way of showing commercial breeders the quality of the breed for Southdown breeder Rob Beaumont who has supplied three rams to the RamCompare project so far.

“The Southdown is a valuable native terminal sire breed with great conformation, eating quality and ease of finishing. Unfortunately, they are too often overlooked by commercial breeders who are easily distracted by the hype surrounding Continental breeds,” explains Rob. “I felt that participation in the RamCompare project would show the Southdown can more than hold its own.”



Rob started the Andersey flock in 2005. Following a switch out of poultry, he wanted something to graze his 57 acres of permanent pasture. Liking the look of the breed, he chose the Southdown and purchased his first ewes from R Backshall (Caesars), since then he has grown the flock to 87 ewes using tups from five different flocks including East Dean and Southern Cross.

Signet performance recording has been an important component in his breeding and selection policy from 2011.

Figure 1 Figure 1: Improved performance has been achieved by good sire selection, ruthless culling and careful selection of female replacements

“The Signet recording scheme has been invaluable,” says Rob. “It does what it says on the tin ‘you record’, and then you make decisions based on that data. It’s helped me choose and retain the right ewes and rams. The scheme now publishes data on a monthly basis, which is a great

improvement, as in the past with results published only three times year, I lost one or two good animals to the butcher.”

Looking ahead, Rob has mixed views about the future for sheep farming and the Southdown.

“I believe that the next generation of sheep farmers realise that to be viable, sustainable business they need to remain informed. An ability to use scientific data from performance recording to identify the best animals for their flocks, and the data from RamCompare to make informed breed comparisons becomes essential. When you look at the Southdown, using these tools, it is clear they can more than hold their own as a Terminal Sire Breed.”



Southdowns fare well in the 2019 RamCompare Trials

Southdowns have fared well in the 2019 RamCompare trials, with three rams tested in the 2019 season all recording promising results.

The three rams tested last season were, (AI sire) Ridings Daniel, (with semen kindly provided by Patrick Goldsworthy) and two natural service sires from Rob Beaumont's, Andersey flock - 883:170607 and 883:170545.

Conception rates were good, the AI ram had 36 progeny and the two natural services sires had 68 and 76 lambs respectively – so they have been well tested on their respective commercial farms, explains project leader Bridget Lloyd.

“In all three cases, the rams have thrown lambs that are well-muscled across the loin relative to their size. This was noted when lambs were ultrasound scanned at 90 days of age and was picked up again later, when carcasses were broken down into primals (front, leg, loin and flank).

“Ridings Daniel, had the highest breeding value for carcass weight of the three sires – throwing carcasses 0.4kg heavier than the project average – and this led to him being the highest rated of the three Southdown sires tested.

“The two Andersey rams, both had slightly better conformation – with 883:170545 being ranked 20th out of 211 rams tested on the project to date for carcass conformation EBV. Given the range of breeds tested, including many highly muscled continental sires - this is a great achievement,” she explains

The other Andersey ram, 883:170607, had progeny that finished extremely fast – and ranked 22nd overall for days to slaughter.

While all three rams tended to have more finish than many of the other rams on test, and thus more positive EBVs for fat classification, it was within the primal data that their muscle yield became apparent.

“The high conformation of Andersey (883:170545) is one of the top rams in the overall project for the weight of meat in the middle primal, i.e. the loin, when assessed on a weight adjusted basis. This attribute is a function of both a high yield of meat in the loin and a reduced yield in less valuable areas, such as the shoulder,” adds Mrs Lloyd.

“Caution should always be taken in making sweeping statements on the basis of results from just three rams in a single trial. However, these results show the carcass value generated in breeding lines that have been assessed and selectively bred using Signet's ultrasound scanning and recording services, as well as the place for Southdown rams in modern, commercial sheep production.”

With 18,500 lambs recorded over four years, RamCompare is one of the UK's largest and most high profile sheep research projects.

Established to find the most profitable terminal sires for UK lamb production, data is collected on nine partner farms – with a series of on-farm events explaining the role of genetics in ram selection delivered across the UK this summer.

“In 2019 we received over 200 ram nominations from which a team of 65-70 new sires were selected. The project has now tested 276 rams from 11 breeds, with Southdown's joining the project in 2018.

“To date we have used six Southdown rams through artificial insemination (AI) or as natural service sires. Progeny are assessed throughout their life, with abattoir data used to generate estimated breeding values (EBVs) for carcass weight, conformation, fat class and most recently, days to slaughter,” says Mrs Lloyd.

What have we learnt and what do we want to know?

The project has done a great job of enhancing understanding of traits measured on farm and at the abattoir, highlighting which on-farm traits are good indicators of value to the commercial producer and which carcass attributes may be better assessed directly using CT scanning or abattoir data.

The project clearly shows the variation seen in the value of sires. Extra value worth £3-£5/lamb or £600-£800/sire is commonly seen on farms, with the overall RamCompare breeding index doing a great job in highlighting the highest value animals.

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<p>The Gunton Flock (No. 64) Adam & Caroline Brown North Hele Farm Clayhanger Tiverton Devon EX16 7NZ 01398 361245 / 07879056338 adamandcaroline@googlemail.com</p>	<p>The Great Fen Flock (No. 529) Mr & Mrs L CDane South Villa 46 Great Fen Road Soham Ely Cambs CB7 5UH 01353 721216 / 07548 669529 lindsay.dane@icloud.com</p>
<p>The Spratton Flock (No. 308) J Mark Hawtin Stowe Heights Farm Stowe IX Churches Weedon Northampton NN7 4SQ 01327 340250 / 01908 366616 / 07789 646326 markhawtin@btinternet.com</p>	<p>The Sheepcote Flock (No. 1258) Ben Slack & Katy Gibson Old Hall Farm Piccadilly Lane Upper Mayfield Ashbourne Derbyshire DE6 2HP 07765 434794 ben.slack@benslack.co.uk</p>
<p>The Chelsea Flock (No. 222) C.G.F. & M. J. Ing Yew Tree Farm Weston Lullingfields Shrewsbury SY4 2AW 01939 260100 cgf.ing121@outlook.com</p>	<p>The Webb Ellis (No. 968) and Heritage (No. 1435) Flocks Patrick Goldsworthy MBE Ambleside Church Road Grafham Huntingdon Cambs PE28 0BB 07711 416312 patrick@goldsworthy-uk.com</p>
<p>The All Saints Flock (No. 291) Gail & Michael Sprake Meens Farm Capps Lane All Saints Halesworth Suffolk IP19 0PD 01986 782416 / 07885777921 / 07766 220760 gail.sprake@outlook.com</p>	<p>Looking to buy or sell stock?</p> <p>Take a look at the 'stock for sale and wanted' section on the Southdown website www.southdownsheepsociety.co.uk</p> <p>It's £10 for three months, and all it takes to set up is an email or a call to the Society office</p>

A SALE NOT TO BE MISSED

The Fantastic 50 sale from the
Brant and Chaileybrook Southdown flocks



SATURDAY
5th DECEMBER 2020
Worcester Livestock Market

Featuring 50 MV Accredited females including flock ewes,
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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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Sid Cook
Brant Southdowns
Tel: 07802 695325

YOUNG HANDLERS' PEN

Congratulations Charlie and Freddy



Charlie Tester

The Senior (Walnut) Trophy is awarded to Charlie Tester, from Barrow Upon Soar, Leicestershire, and the Junior (Oak) Trophy to Freddy Bethley, from Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Since Covid-19 restrictions prevented a face-to-face presentation of the trophies, these were posted out to the winners and they subsequently sent in an image proudly holding their trophies. Many congratulations to our winners!



Freddy Bethley

Calling all younger members

The Southdown Sheep Society is fortunate to have a number of younger members and we would love to see what you get up to with your flocks. Why not send in to the office your favourite pics of you with your sheep, and we will try to include as many as we can in the Autumn newsletter.

A rainbow in support of our NHS heroes

Thousands of children have been encouraged to make and display rainbow pictures in order to spread hope amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Drawings and paintings of rainbows have appeared in the windows of houses across the country.



Photo by Christine Long www.countrygirlmedia.co.uk

Young Southdown member and flock owner Sophie Long has come up with an ingenious way of reminding us all to stay safe, stay home and protect our NHS. What a brilliant idea Sophie!

Mark Robertson of the Brigg's Flock in Norfolk has also found a novel way of thanking the NHS.



Southdown Sheep Society

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