

Southdown News

Newsletter of The Southdown Sheep Society

Issue 31

Spring 2021

Incorporating The 2021 Year Book



CARCASS WITH CHARACTER



Chaileybrook 20/00697 by Dartagnan.
Sold for 880gns at the Fantastic Fifty Sale,
December 2020. Top priced female
sold at auction 2020.

Chaileybrook 19/560.
Sold for 820gns at
Worcester Premier Sale 2020.
Top priced male
sold at auction 2020.

Chaileybrook Beaujoulais,
retained stock sire.
An outstanding Percheron grandson.
First crop sons for sale this year.

MV Accredited. Enquiries welcome, males and females usually for sale



Jonathan Long
Chaileybrook Southdowns
Tel: 07974 303306
Email: jonathan@mooandbaa.com

From the Chairman

Welcome to the Spring 2021 Southdown Sheep Society Update. Once again, this publication combines the spring Newsletter and the Society's 2021 Year Book.

As we all continue to navigate through these uncertain times the decision to combine these publications has been made due to the absence of events this summer.

Sadly, this absence of events extends to many of the major summer shows and includes the Royal Welsh Show which had been the intended venue for the Society's National Show this year. It is hoped that the Royal Welsh will be able to host the National Show in 2022.

On a more positive note, the Society's Premier Sale at Worcester will take place on Saturday 7th August offering members and others the best opportunity to source top genetics to add to their flocks.

Meanwhile, discussions are underway for the Society's involvement in a sale at Melton Mowbray too. Final arrangements for this sale are at present still to be confirmed, but more information will be made available via the Society's website as soon as it becomes available.

It is also hoped that the Society's AGM will be able to take place as an in-person event this year after last year's virtual event. Further details are available elsewhere within this publication.

With the sheep industry having enjoyed a resoundingly positive year and prices across the prime, cull, breeding and store sales continuing to soar, members are hopefully seeing good returns on their investment in their stock.

I would urge everyone to take a critical look through their flocks and take advantage to these strong prices to cull any animals which are not up to scratch. After all, it costs as much to keep a bad sheep as it does to keep a good one!

Where sheep farming heads in future is still unclear and the impact of changes to support and environmental payments will be borne out over the next five years.

The big question within the industry is undoubtedly whether the prices achieved over the last 12 months can be maintained in the long-term? But it has to be hoped that the shift in consumer buying habits witnessed during 2020 and early 2021 can be sustained and results in a long-term shift in farm-gate returns.

As a breed the Southdown has a valuable part to play in the UK sheep sector and demand for commercial rams during the autumn of 2020 was strong in many parts of the country as increasing numbers of farmers looked to capitalise on the breed's abilities.

With this in mind it is important that as breeders we focus on the commercially relevant and functional traits within the breed. Sheep which are easily born, have good early growth and excel in a variety of environments and systems with an ability to finish quickly and with minimal inputs should be the focus for all breeders.

While the show ring may be the focus for many breeders, we must all remember the reason for showing; to promote the breed and our flocks. This promotion is only worthwhile when the sheep we present are of a type that is in demand within the wider industry. As a breeder in another breed reminded me a few years ago 'you can't pay the bills with rosettes'.

It only leaves me to wish all members a healthy spring and summer and both myself and my fellow Council members look forward to seeing many of you at Society events later in the year.



Jonathan Long

Chairman of Council



Front page photo credit. www.heidicrundwellphotography.co.uk

LADYWELL SOUTH DOWNS

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

Sutherland Southdowns

Flock No-896

Est 2005

Home to numerous interbreed title winners

Amy Readhead-Higgins,

House Farm, Leiston, Suffolk, IP16 4TW

07850 830030

Amy.readhead@gmail.com

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SOUTHDOWN PEOPLE

President Elect – Duncan Crundwell

The Society's 2021 – 2021 President Elect is Duncan Crundwell. Duncan has served on Council for six years, he and his wife Monica have been members of the Southdown Sheep Society since 1999. Their Ladywell flock of Southdowns was started in 1998 with ewe lambs from the Seven Sisters flock at Beachy Head.

Duncan says "since then we have improved our flock by purchasing good rams from established breeders which has led to success in both shows and the flock competition. Thanks to my wife Monica who always pays special attention to the presentation of our Southdowns. We have remained a closed flock on the female side.

"Having been involved in livestock farming for the past 56 years, my passion has always been the breeding of native breeds of both cattle and sheep. My first introduction to Southdowns was in the 60's when we used Southdown tups on Romney ewe lambs for easy lambing.

With my two daughters Heidi, Sophie and Sophie's husband Ian, and granddaughters Edith and Martha, there is always help at hand."



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.

2021 LAMB REGISTRATIONS

More and more members are choosing to register their lambs online using the Grassroots Online 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 online 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 2021, and at the latest, by December 31st. Whilst we try to turn around all registrations promptly, there may be a delay in processing registrations at busy 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 membership 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 "All sheep sold for export must have a Zootechnical Certificate in accordance with current legislation. The Zootechnical Certificate must be obtained from the Office, at a cost set by the Council. A registration fee per head as notified to members will be charged for all sheep imported into the UK. A three-generation pedigree must be provided to the Society for all imported sheep. Please contact the Office for further information."

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 Grassroots Online.

All members for whom the Society has an email address receive the Society Enewsletters throughout the year. Enewsletters give 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 2021 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

WEBSITE ADVERTS

All adverts will include the flock name, breeder's contact details including telephone number/s and email, and a brief outline, totalling no more than 475 characters, including spaces, of what is available for sale.

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

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

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, DATES AND EVENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK THE SOCIETY WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PAGE FOR REGULAR UPDATES, OR CALL THE SOUTHDOWN OFFICE.

NSA NEEDS EWE!



With many key political changes taking place over the next few months, NSA is working hard to ensure the UK sheep sector and its farmers are supported. NSA values every member from all corners of the UK and recognises there has never been a more important time for us to be united in our work to protect and strengthen our industry.



Phil Stocker

Phil Stocker, NSA Chief Executive



NSA: Your voice for sheep farming matters

The National Sheep Association (NSA) is an organisation that represents the views and interests of sheep producers throughout the UK. It is funded by its membership of sheep farmers and its activities involve it in every aspect of the sheep industry with both pedigree and non-pedigree, commercial flocks and smallholders all at the centre of its work.

NSA was both relieved and pleased that a trade deal was secured at the end of 2021 allowing continued trade with the EU, a vital market for the UK sheep sector. Focus of policy work now turns to ensuring initial disruptions to the UK sheep sector are minimised whilst new systems are introduced and adopted.

As well as this important work, NSA works tirelessly on longstanding challenges and opportunities, promoting sheep health and the role of sheep meat in a healthy diet and supporting and encouraging the industry's next generation onto the sheep farming ladder.

NSA believes the highly distinct nature of the UK's sheep sector, with rich breed diversity and high welfare production methods is something to be proud of and firmly believes this is an asset the industry should be promoting to a population that increasingly is asking for produce with good environmental, animal welfare and people credentials.

As well as acting as a voice for the sector to policy makers, consumers and more, NSA's vision is also for the people involved in keeping sheep being enthusiastic, knowledgeable and aspiring to best practice and for that reason NSA encourages you to consider becoming a member today.

The wide range of benefits available to members include:

- Sheep Farmer Magazine, published six times a year with the latest news and technical information
- Weekly Email updates to keep members abreast of what is happening in the sheep sector
- Free legal helpline offering 30 minutes free legal advice to help member's businesses
- Free or discounted entry to NSA regional and national events
- Opportunity to sell pedigree breeding stock at NSA ram sales
- Use of the NSA lambing list service, providing help at lambing time
- Regional meetings, a diverse range of farm walks, meetings etc

With so much work to be done to secure a positive future for the UK sheep industry there has never been a better time to join the association. For information on how to subscribe to NSA membership please visit

www.nationalsheep.org.uk/membership or contact NSA Head Office on 01684 892661.

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

East Midlands Group

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

Simon & Wendy Everdell

01984 624760 / 07732254957
wendyfirman@hotmail.co.uk

East Anglia Group

Co-ordinator: **Lindsay Dane**
07548 669529
lindsay.dane@icloud.com

West Midlands Group

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

Beds, Bucks, Herts Group

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

Wales Group

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

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

Tel: 01827 715733 Mobile: 07722793842

e-mail: keith@stoneridgesouthdowns.co.uk

www.stoneridgesouthdowns.co.uk



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SOUTHDOWN SHEEP

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SATURDAY, 7th AUGUST 2021

The Auctioneers

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Website: www.mccartneys.co.uk Email:

worcester@mccartneys.co.uk

Southdown Sheep Society sales in 2021

Southdown Sheep Society official sales provide the best opportunity to purchase veterinary inspected, high quality sheep from leading Southdown flocks.

Both performance recorded and MV accredited stock are available at Society sales, giving potential buyers and unrivalled selection of quality stock.

Saturday August 7th - The Premier Breeders Show & Sale at Worcester Market

Closing date for entries: July 12th

www.mccartneys.co.uk

September 11th – 12th Traditional Native Breeds National Show and Sale

at Melton Mowbray

www.meltonmowbraymarket.co.uk

For more details or to request a paper catalogue please contact the auctioneers or the Southdown Office. Catalogues will be available on line.

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 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 2021.

BRANT SOUTHDOWNS



BRANT 19/00623 BY BRANT 04/909, EXPORTED TO THE THOMAS FAMILY, FRANCE.

*THE BEST OF TRADITIONAL AND MODERN BREEDING
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MV ACCREDITED

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YES IT'S PRECIOUS AND WE VALUE IT

- ✓ JOIN OUR SOUTHDOWN DUVET WOOL BUYING SCHEME
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- ✓ BRITISH WOOL WILL GRADE YOUR CLIP AND THEN PAY YOU DIRECTLY AS THEY USUALLY DO
- ✓ WE WILL THEN PAY YOU A PREMIUM OVER THE BRITISH WOOL PRICE

CONTACT US FOR DETAILS AND TO JOIN THE BUYING PROGRAMME

JESSICA CROSS

jessica@southdownduvets.com or 01404 861 117

And did you know that Southdown Breeders are invited to take advantage of 20% off all Southdown bedding: duvets, pillows and mattress covers?



The RIDINGS FLOCK 40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



We have contributed to taking the Southdown sheep from rare breed status to show elite with careful selection in conformation, growth and milkiness over four decades.

We have won more supreme champions and groups at county shows than anyone in the country over the last 15 years with home-bred Southdowns. Show performance is combined with the highest Signet performance recording.

Here's to the next 40 years of the Ridings, Offham, Hamsey and Mill Laine flocks...

OUR 2019 RESULTS

HEATHFIELD – supreme

HERTFORDSHIRE – reserve supreme

NOTTINGHAM – reserve supreme

SOUTH OF ENGLAND – interbreed group

BATH AND WEST – lowland pairs and supreme interbreed group

NORFOLK – supreme

KENT – part of reserve interbreed group of four



Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer, Elizabeth Sargent, Edward Harmer
Offham Farm, Lewes BN7 3QE. Tel - 07980 624 196 / 07976 068 094

GOODWOOD

Flock no. 00783 Est. 2002

*From sale
leaders ...*



Sold for 760gns at Southdown Premier Sale, Worcester 2019



Sold for 600gns at Southdown Premier Sale, Worcester 2019



QUALITY STOCK ALWAYS AVAILABLE

Enquiries welcome Contact: Nick Page Tel: 01243 75
Mob: 07973488410 Email: farm@goodwood.com

SOUTHDOWNNS

Breeding for the future



... to show winners

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Suppliers of Quality
Southdown Lamb to The Ritz



Love Sheep. Hate Fly.

Personal Experiences¹ of Fly Strike (Blowfly)

God, I hate flystrike. The smell, the pain, the suffering, and the fact that you always spot the twitching sheep at twilight or when you are on your way out.

My first experience of commercial sheep keeping - 600-900' foot up on the edge of Dartmoor 40 years ago with Suffolk and Texel crosses - did not prepare me for the joys of Southdowns and lowland farming. So, I was totally unsuspecting for the late April experience in my first year of Southdowns. Now every year I get a little better at staying on top of the issue, but it's never perfect.



Living next to Grafham Water, I am in a very high-risk area, and matters are not helped that I am – for historic/logistical reasons near the back of my shearer's queue. Fly here in some seasons can strike from mid-April and through to late September. It is always a risk in warm/mild muggy weather and especially when the sheep are "dirty", so I take quite a precautionary approach.

1. Ewes and hogs are daggled. I usually do the ewes about two-three weeks before lambing and the hogs when they come back from grass keep in mid-April. (NB I may not always do the rams – more an oversight than anything)
2. I treat everything in late April/Early May – it depends on the season as to how promptly I do it. But with my shearers usually not coming until the end of June (Ideally, I would like them shorn at the end of May) it seems sensible to make sure they are covered until shearing.
3. After shearing I wait at least two-three weeks and then make a judgement on the weather and the shittiness of their bums. Some years I do not need to re-treat shorn animals until August. Usually, I treat their backsides with Crovect every 4-6 weeks and use a "Clik" product on their backs. If I am going away for a holiday I may treat/retreat early to minimise risks.
4. Remember the rams... they are often in a separate group, so can be overlooked. And do treat their heads. Bloodied heads from fighting are often a site of infestation.

Fly Treatments

"Crovect" (and other brands) contains cypermethrin – is my preferred product* that works on live infestations – so I always have some in stock. The label claims to give 6-8 weeks cover but I have found it lasts for 4-6 weeks depending on "fly pressure" (weather/dirty bums) and quality of treatment. Withholding period is eight days. Blue dye

*There are also a number of treatments based on another synthetic pyrethroid – deltamethrin. I have not used any of these, they claim a slightly longer efficacy 8-10 weeks, but many have a longer withholding period (35 days).

The "Clik" family are based on dicyclanil. This is an insect growth regulator that stops the larvae developing, but does not control live infections.

There are three "Clik" products:

Original "Clik" (50g dicyclanil /100 ml) claims 16 weeks efficacy, but in practice sheep may need treatment after 12 weeks. Withholding period 40 days. Pink dye

Clik Extra (65mg dicyclanil/ml) claims 19 weeks efficacy... I have not used this, but I suspect it may need to be treated earlier. Withholding period 40 days. Pink dye



Clikzin (12.5 dicyclanil mg/ml) claims 8-week efficacy (definitely a bit longer than Crovect) Withholding period 7 days. Pale green dye.

NB The concentrations of dicyclanil do not directly correspond to the products efficacy/ longevity as the additional co-formulants in the preparation affect the performance of the product.

Other thoughts on the products

- Do read the label and/or the product information on the Noah Compendium: www.noahcompendium.co.uk
- Discuss your fly prevention and treatment protocol with your vet.
- “Clik” is absorbed and moved around the lanolin in the sheep’s wool i.e., “sort of systemic” so coverage while thorough need not be as good as “Crovect”.
- “Crovect” has very limited mobility within the fleece and only works where the animal has been treated.
- If you only want one product: you must have a cypermethrin or deltamethrin based product as they are the only ones that controls live infestations.
- Be careful with type of gun/applicator you use. “Crovect” is oil based so can cause damage to some plastic guns/their tubing. And choose the right “nozzle” for the job in hand.
- Do your best to dag and clean off dirty bums. In most cases I would be using Crovect in a shitty area as there is a higher risk of there being live maggots.
- Check the website www.farmanimalhealth.co.uk for more useful information especially the blowfly forecast.
- When the label says, “Do not shear for XX days”, it’s not just to protect the shearer as some products can cause skin reactions, it’s to warn you that the product will no longer work as it’s been shorn off!
- Long term it may be worth thinking about the quality and density of wool and breeding lines. Anecdotally tight and/or longer fleeces (as opposed to open fleeces or tight skin) are much better at resisting flies wanting to lay eggs. Get a feel for the fleeces of your sheep, check your rams especially. My limited experience of New Zealand (A longer lankier staple) and French lines (a coarser fluffier wool) is that they have longer and less dense wool. A longer staple may help but they both seem less tightly knit. Also, I suspect that there are some families/ breeding lines that through their smell, dirty bums, “pissy-knickers” or wool length may be more susceptible to fly.
- Best solution: change your altitude! Flocks at 600-900’ feet above sea level very rarely experience flystrike... it’s usually too cold for fly.

Health Safety and the Environment

- All products pose significant environmental risks – e.g., fish kill - to water quality. Avoid treating before rainfall. Allowing sheep in or near watercourses. Take care to protect water and drains when disposing of containers and washings.
- All products advise substantive operator PPE and care when handling treated sheep. It may not always be practical to adopt these protocols, but you should be aware of yours/operators skin sensitivity issues. Always wash splashed hands/skin and change and wash clothes and PPE after treatment.

Spotting and treating fly struck animals

- I. Look for uncomfortable sheep twitching and fidgeting, a lot of tail wagging, getting up and down, stamping of feet. Teeth grinding (a sign of pain)
- II. Act quickly. Fly strike can spread incredibly quickly so the sooner you can treat the better. A tiny 1-2” spot can be a huge area 12-18” or more in 24 hours.
- III. Often (or Sod’s law) it is the weakest or runtiest animals that get fly either that or the one(s) you are getting ready to sell or show. Of course, if you have washed your sheep, you may have washed out the fly treatment...
- IV. Cut the wool right back to the skin around the affected area. Use clippers or dagging hand shears and follow any staining, look for at least 2-3” of clean skin/shorn wool away from the infestation. Do check the whole animal as there can be other patches. On the spine it can spread to both sides. The fly juice/sheep sweat acts as a magnet for other flies.
- V. Remove any maggots by scraping the dagging shears along the skin to squeeze out any maggots. (Do enjoy cutting the maggots in half!) Depending on the scale and severity of infection, treat the affected area with iodine and/or “Crovect”. I may use a “scrubbing” brush or T-bar nozzle to apply the “Crovect”. For small shallow areas iodine is usually sufficient. Also, if you are worried that you may have missed any areas use Crovect.
- VI. Depending on the severity of the infestation consider using pain relief (Seek vet’s advice on suitable options – Metacam - is the current product of choice). And possibly even antibiotics again check with the vet, but this is not usually needed.

- VII. Think about/remember withholding dates. Eight days for “Crovect” and probably a month for pain relief.
- VIII. Check the rest of the flock. if there is one, there may be two or three others, but if you have caught it early enough it may be just the one. And it may be time to treat or retreat the whole flock. If you have only recently treated. Ask yourself... did I miss that one or was my application not up to scratch.

My programme roughly (based on end of June shearing)

All adult sheep, hoggs– Clikzin on back; Crovect on bum end of April/early May. Crovect on bum, early June

Jan born lambs – close to market- Clikzin back and bum end of April. If being retained, then Clik all over in early June.

March born lambs – Clik all over early May... re-treat early Aug with Clik for retained breeding stock/ slow growers. Meat animals either Crovect or Clikzin.

Survivors

Most sheep if treated promptly recover. Weight loss can be quite dramatic 4-5kgs gone in two or three days. So fattening lambs may have to wait for 1-2 months before they are fit again for market. That said, a lamb with a penny-size spot treated promptly with iodine, may well still be fit for the butcher/market next week/tomorrow.

Depending on the severity and scale of infection the damage may or may not be permanent or long lasting. Certainly, areas where wool was cut back will be visible until after shearing the following year. Some animals will always have a rough area of poorly grown wool, some have no signs at all. I have one ewe where there was deep infestation a (miss with Crovect) on her rump that has a permanent visible scar. Ewes may have areas around their tail which have had fly that you have missed... but have cleared up on their own.



Photo: Dr Peter Bales / www.smallshepherdsclub.org.uk

Sometimes the infection is just too bad, and fly can occasionally kill and certainly will kill weak lambs if untreated. So fly season is upon us now. At the moment the sun is shining, and I should be out there treating my sheep rather than writing this article... and you should be out there checking all is in order, rather than reading an article that may be “teaching old shepherds to suck fly eggs”.

Patrick Goldsworthy

1 Some words of warning from the author. I was asked by a customer – who was returning to Southdowns and sheep keeping after some years away, if I could give them some notes on health care etc. As a result, I started compiling my own thoughts and experiences on different aspects of sheep care. So, these thoughts are largely my own and based on what I have learned from reading around the topic, talking to others and my own experience. They are not necessarily “best practice” but are “what seems to work for me” now.

**Southdown Sheep Society Council members
2020 – 2021**

Chairman of Council: Jonathan Long
Vice Chairman: Howard Wood
Honorary Treasurer: Neil Stainthorpe

**Members of Council
Retire 2021**
 Lindsay Dane
 Patrick Goldsworthy MBE
 Tim Morris
 Nick Page
 Neil Stainthorpe

Retire 2022
 Sidney Cook
 Edward Harmer

Justin Harmer
 Stephen Humphrey
 Jonathan Long
 Les Newman

Retire 2023
 Brian Alderson
 Rob Beaumont
 Paul Humphrey
 Miriam Parker
 Michael Sprake
 Howard Wood

President: Les Newman
President Elec: Duncan Crundwell

More helpful than Facebook (probably)... and no Trolls!

Ever wonder where to get more information about the nitty gritty of sheep keeping?
Here are some helpful technical sites that will probably be more reliable and helpful than Facebook!



The NOAH Compendium www.noahcompendium.co.uk. NOAH is the trade association of the animal medicine industry. The compendium is an incredibly useful source of information of all the medicinal/pharmaceutical products from pain relief to wormers, from fly treatment to antibiotics. The compendium contains almost all the information about the products you may use, largely repeating the product label and providing a little bit of supplementary information.



NADIS www.nadis.org.uk the National Animal Disease Information Service is another incredibly useful source of information about all the different diseases, disorders and parasites that affect sheep. It has several articles and short online courses on key aspects of sheep keeping. It also carries information on seasonal forecasts for common worm hatches/burdens.



AHDB Beef and Lamb (formerly EBLEX and for even older readers the MLC) www.ahdb.org.uk/beef-lamb. The Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board is the industry body supporting farmers and growers through research and marketing activity and is funded by you... that's the 60p/head when animals are slaughtered. While its activities are targeted at commercial farmers it has much useful information including the future of the sheep meat market, advice and research on productivity, breeding and mitigating climate change.

Similar support is also available from QMS in Scotland www.qmsscotland.co.uk, HCC <https://meatpromotion.wales/en> in Wales and AgriSearch <https://www.agrisearch.org> in Northern Ireland.



SCOPS Sustainable Control of Parasites www.scops.org.uk is a cross industry organisation that sets out to promote best practice in the use of wormers in order to avoid or mitigate the risk of resistance in wormers (or being push -anthelmintics). Essential best practice advice for every sheep keeper.



Moredun Research Institute www.moredun.org.uk is a Scottish based research foundation which amongst other things conducts research into animal diseases. It carries similar information to the NADIS website, but can go into more depth with longer printable articles and may provide links to ongoing or recent research on some diseases.

Traditionally Short, Fat and Easy to Finish

Conserving the traditional Southdown

A relatively new flock based on Spratton (Broadreed), Holly Bar and Great Fen breeding lines conserving the older style of Southdown.
Ideal for smallholders... and vineyards!



Spratton Wren SB M56181
A very, very traditional ram



...and some of his progeny

Traditional rams and breeding stock available. All Signet Recorded.
Visitors and Enquiries Welcome

Heritage Southdowns



Flock No.1435 Est.2019

Patrick Goldsworthy MBE
Ambleside, Church Road, Grafham, Huntingdon, Cambs PE28 0BB
07711 416312
patrick@goldsworthy-uk.com



Auctioneers

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Farm machinery & livestock.

also hold

The biggest one day sheep fair in the South East

THE DOLPHIN SHEEP FAIR

at The South of England Showground, Ardingly

Thursday 16th September 2021

as well as

Special Early Breeding Sheep sale

at Hailsham Market, Hailsham

Saturday 31st July 2021

The joys of lambing shared through poetry

Written by Neil Andrew, the poem explores the joys of lambing found even in surprising places. Many thanks to Neil Andrew and NSA for permission to reproduce here.

The Joys of Lambing
You ask if I'm ready for lambing?
Oh yes, I've prepared the whole of the farm,
Spent a fortune on things like small rubber rings,
And those gloves that come right up your arm.
Lambing sheds disinfected, all the pens are erected,
There's lots of clean straw on the floor,
And to keep things going well,
There's more lubricant gel,
Than you'll find in an Anne Summers store.

What's that you asked, will the vet call?
Oh no, I've got every vet aid I require,
Expectations are high not one lamb will die,
And no students this year have been hired.
There's iodine for joint ill, and all germs it will kill,
And calcium for the ewes with ketosis,
There's needles and thread, for when
they push out their bed,
And drugs for coccidiosis.

You asked if I've had any mixups?
Just a few, but I cannot be there all the time,
There's been a few muddles, with singles triplets
and doubles,
But my fostering on's been sublime.
Now that old speckled ewe,
I'm sure she had two,
But she seems to have acquired yet another,
Perhaps she likes sharing, But I'm really past caring,
As long as they all have a mother.

What's that you ask, have I lost some?
Maybe, we've had our mishaps on the way,
Like skin over the nose, One got eaten by crows,
One got crushed when I threw in some hay.
And that Suffolk ewe there, She laid down on her pair,
One choked on wrap that's always a danger,
And one poor little sod got crushed by the quad,
When I drove too damn close to the manger.

Finally you asked if I'm tired?
You could say, can't remember when I last slept an
hour,
I dozed off on a bale, got woken by hail,
And I smell like I need a good shower.
When morale is getting low, there's gin flavoured by
sloe,
If only this wind would stop blowing.
All the ewes scanned to have one, should be out in the
sun,
And they will be when it stops bloody snowing.

Welcome to New Members

Miss Neve Tuckley, Warwick
Mrs Laura Jackson Smith, Herstmonceux,
E Sussex
Sian Thomas & Paul Cleaver, Caernarfon,
Gwynedd
Heath Tunstall, Bracknell, Berkshire
Andrew Wishart, Canterbury, Kent
Lillian Robinson, Church Stretton, Shropshire
Miss Danielle Harley, Builth Wells, Powys
Kate Burdge, Usk, Monmouthshire
Ms Gerry Parker, Wilden, Bedfordshire
Rebecca Smith, Dorking, Surrey
Kitty Jenkins, Bodmin, Cornwall
Emma Whitehead, Wilsden, West Yorkshire
W Ketley, Colchester, Essex
Stephen Whitby, Buxton, Derbyshire
Mrs Dawn Burdge, East Harptree, near Bristol
Steph Chandler, Petersfield, Hampshire
Gillian Gribble, Chiddingly, East Sussex
Miss Vicky Webster, Easingwold, York
Jayne Jones, Oswestry, Shropshire
Keith Butler, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham
Harry Wade & Danni Quadling, Dereham,
Norfolk
Mr & Mrs A & D Green, Caernarfon, Gwynedd



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

RamCompare 2021 Update

RamCompare has just completed its fifth year and has been extremely successful having collected data from a total of 283 pedigree terminal sire rams. Included in this vast dataset of over 26,000 commercially reared lambs are 291 progeny from six different Southdown sires.

With continued support from Southdown pedigree breeders, Patrick Goldsworthy and Rob Beaumont, three new Southdown rams were provided to Mint & Mustard Ltd, one of our commercial farm partners for the 2019 breeding season. Results from last year's progeny from all rams on test will be released on 20th May.

Progeny growth is monitored from birth, with all abattoir kill data collected as standard. These rams sired over 100 lambs last season and we look forward to seeing how the rams on test last year rank through their carcass trait Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs), traits attributed to all rams who participate in the RamCompare project.

What does RamCompare mean for Southdowns?

In previous results, we showed that there is a consistent £4 per lamb difference in progeny value between rams. Remembering that this project only uses high-ranking performance recorded terminal sire rams; this difference could be a lot more when using non-recorded or low performing rams.

Rams who excel in their carcass value traits have rated highly with their Muscle Depth EBV, CT lean Weight EBV and CT muscularity, suggesting strong links between these traits.

- The Fat Depth EBV and CT Fat Weight EBV are good predictors of fat class.
- The Scan Weight EBV is a strong indicator of on-farm growth and days to slaughter, where a difference of 14 days or more was evident across all farms in terms of average progeny finishing time.
- The Scan Weight EBV links to the carcass weight of lambs, so helps to improve carcass value.
- One key finding is that the best rams from all breeds are comparable, so using EBVs to select superior genetics is more important than switching between breeds.

The results published so far have demonstrated that Southdown rams on test have been 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, middle and haunch) with primal data from Southdown rams excelling in a greater muscle yield in the middle (loin) primal. Given the range of breeds tested, including many highly muscled continental sires - this is a great achievement.

Focus on overall carcass value through both weight and overall conformation is of interest in this project and is assessed alongside speed of finish (days to slaughter). Each year rams on test are ranked according to their EBVs for the current year and alongside all rams included on test to date, providing two different charts.

RamCompare has shown the value of selecting



East Dean Dean AI Sire for 2020 progeny



Webb Ellis 968:180474 natural service sire for 2020 progeny

rams using EBVs and commercial ram buyers are becoming more aware of EBVs and are using them to inform their selection decisions.

Farm case studies are written to highlight individual rams which have excelled and are published alongside the results in May, they can be read at www.Signetdata.com.

RamCompare Interim Year

Due to the enthusiasm, interest and goodwill of our farmers we have been able to support an interim year of additional data collection in 2021 using existing rams – along with a few new ones purchased in Autumn 2020. We continue to collect more data this year and thank all breeders for their continued support and enthusiasm throughout this project. Southdown rams have been provided again this season with lambs expected in the spring:



Andersey 883:180741 natural service sire for 2020 progeny

- Two rams from Rob Beaumont to Dupath Farm, Cornwall
- Two rams from Patrick Goldsworthy to Chawton Park Farm, Hampshire

While the first phase of the project comes to a close, there is real industry interest in extending this area of work and phase III, announced in April, will commence this mating season.

For more information please go to www.ramcompare.com or contact me on bridget.lloyd@ahdb.org.uk

Bridget Lloyd - On behalf of the RamCompare team

Larger Leaner Leggier and Muscled

Breeding for the commercial market

Eblex Most Improved Flock: Inaugural Southdown Winner

Rams selected for AHDB RamCompare Project

Melton Show and Sale 2019: Shearling Ewe: Second Place and Reserve Champion; Ewe lamb: First in Class

Flock Competition 2017: Runner Up Class A and Miller Hallett Trophy (Ewe Lambs)

Flock Competition 2015: Winner Class C Frank Grantham Trophy



Lawton Bobby M57558
Terminal Sire EBV in Top 10%
Maternal EBV Top 25%



Webb Ellis 18/368
Terminal Sire EBV in Top 25%
Maternal EBV Top 5%



Webb Ellis 13/146
Terminal Sire EBV in Top 25%
Maternal EBV Top 10%



High EBV Signet recorded rams, semen and breeding stock available
Visitors and Enquiries Welcome

Patrick Goldsworthy MBE
Ambleside, Church Road, Grafham, Huntingdon, Cambs PE28 0BB
07711 416312
patrick@goldsworthy-uk.com

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO MARKET YOUR BREEDING SHEEP THIS YEAR?

PERFORMANCE RECORD YOUR FLOCK WITH SIGNET AND REAP THE BENEFITS:

- › Reach new customers
- › Add value to your rams with EBVs
- › Market your top quality genetics using EBVs
- › Online reporting
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PROFIT FROM PERFORMANCE

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
W SIGNETDATA.COM
E SIGNET@AHDB.ORG.UK
T 02476478829

THE SOUTHDOWN SHEEP SOCIETY

Company No.35585

("the Company")

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The Annual General Meeting of the Southdown Sheep Society
will be held at Woodlake Park Golf and Country Club, Glascoed, nr Usk, Monmouthshire, NP4 0TE
on 18th September 2021 at 2.00pm
for the following purposes:**

1. Apologies for absence
2. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the AGM held on 19th September 2020 by Zoom.
3. To receive and adopt the audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020.
4. To receive and adopt the Annual Report of Council for the year ended 31st December 2020, presented by Mr Jonathan Long, Chairman of Council.
5. To welcome President for 2021/2022 Mr Duncan Crundwell.
6. To offer a vote of thanks to Mr Les Newman for his work as President for 2020/2021 and to appoint him a Vice President of the Society.
7. Announcement of results of postal ballot to elect Council members.

OPEN DISCUSSION

By order of the Council.



Secretary

Date: May 1st 2021

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

NOTE:

A member entitled to attend and vote may appoint a proxy to exercise all or any of his/her rights to attend, speak and vote at a meeting of the Company. A proxy need not be a member of the Company. Proxy forms may be obtained by contacting the Southdown Sheep Society Office, or will be available to download from the website www.southdownsheepsociety.co.uk

The Great Fen Flock (No. 529)

Mr & Mrs L C Dane
South Villa
46 Great Fen Road
Soham
Ely
Cambs
CB7 5UH
07548 669529
lindsay.dane@icloud.com

The Mymmswood Flock (No. 1121)

Peter & Ann-Mari Payne
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Blackhorse Lane
South Mymms
Hertfordshire
EN6 3NB
01707 644394 / 07946 446168 /
07852 136170
mymmswood@icloud.com

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

The All Saints Flock (No. 291)

Mrs Gail Sprake
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Capps Lane
All Saints
Halesworth
Suffolk
IP19 0PD
01986 782416 / 07885777921
gail.sprake@outlook.com

NORTHUMBRIA SOUTHDOWN

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



www.heidicrundwellphotography.co.uk

**2021 Southdown Sheep Society
Annual General Meeting and Field Day
Saturday September 18th 2021
at Woodlake Park Golf and Country Club, Glascoed,
Usk, Monmouthshire, NP4 0TE
by kind invitation of Howard Wood and family**

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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