

SHROPTALK



The Newsletter of the Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association

Autumn 2021



Stonegrove Trigger - the Shropshire Breed Champion at our National Show and Sale, held at Shrewsbury. This shearing ram also took the Sheep Interbreed title at the event. He is pictured with William Dorrell of Stonegrove Livestock. See page 2 for more details.

PRESIDENT'S AUTUMN UPDATE

Hi Everybody,

Welcome to the Autumn *ShropTalk*.

After the lock down of last year, 2021 has been far busier. We had our National Show and Sale at Shrewsbury, followed by a smaller sale at Worcester. Reports on both appear later in this newsletter. It was great to see everyone again and even more so your sheep. Fewer animals were forward than previous years due, I think in no small way, to the uncertainty about when people could circulate again. Thank you to everyone that donated their time and effort to make both of these events a success. We are always looking for help at these Sales and the saying "many hands make light work" is never more true. If you feel you can offer your time, please contact the Secretary.

Some agricultural shows took place and there was a very interesting Open Day held at both Sue Farquhar's and the Clay family's farms. Amongst things on offer the two flocks could be viewed and a very interesting talk by a vet. From sampling George Clay's apple juice from the trees the flock graze amongst, through to a very competitive competition and Ellie Butcher's

lemon drizzle cake. A good time was had by all. Thanks go to both families for all the work to make it a success.

Although seemingly impossible at the beginning of the year with all the regulation changes because of BREXIT, we have managed to export some ewe and ram lambs to Ireland. Thank you to everyone that put their sheep forward and those that inspected the sheep and donated time to make it work. How Sue Farquhar and Claire Jakeman have any hair left is beyond me.

Whilst on the subject of BREXIT, back in November 2020 we, among many other breeds, discovered that we would no longer be able to register sheep based in the EU. There is an article in this edition on the History of Exports and registering non-UK sheep. Not only the history but what has gone on behind the scenes to move forward and help our EU members. Written by me, I really enjoyed researching the history of exports and designing another logo.

Another article I have written shows my love of the history of the breed and details the Archive Project. I, with help from Simon and
Continued overpage!



The SSBA's Annual General Meeting is being held at the

**'English Winter Fair'
Staffordshire County
Showground**

In the **Young Farmers
Pavilion**

**On Saturday 20th November
2021**

Each member has received a detailed invitation to the AGM within the Membership Renewal Packs. Your RSVP for the AGM needs to be returned to the Secretary by Friday 12th November.

Start time of meeting is 10.30am for 11am so please support the Shropshire Sheep Classes which will be commencing as part of the Live Sheep section from 9.30am – 12.30pm (pausing, and then recommencing at 1.15pm)

The Society will refund **one** ticket per flock at a price of £10.00. Tickets available from:

www.staffscountyshowground.co.uk

NATIONAL SHOW AND SALE

President's Update continued/...

others have completed a long overdue job. We now need someone to take over and move this forward with collection of cuttings, photos etc. Anybody out there please contact me to discuss in more detail.

We are trying something a bit different this year with the AGM by holding it at the English Winter Fair, Staffordshire Showground. Details appear on page 1. It should make an interesting day out.

A bit of sad news: After six years Ruth, our Registrations Clerk, is retiring from the job. She was there when we moved onto the Grassroots system from our "in house" system, and together we got it all working well. This year she has dealt with the conversion by Grassroots onto the new online system and more recently the move of our accounts onto Quick Books. I, for one, will be very sad to see her go and on behalf of the Society want to thank her for all the work she has done over the years and wish her good luck in the future. She will carry on until we have a replacement in post, and to this end I am taking some of the Flock Return burden from her. Please note the new address to send your Flock Return to and, if at all possible, please complete the Flock Survey on-line. Details of how to do this will be sent with your Flock Return. There is also an advert in this edition for the position of Registrations Clerk. If you feel you would like to take it on please contact me.

After the disappointment of England in the Euros the domestic football season is now underway and finally after 16 years I can support Leeds in the Premiership. The start of season hasn't been quite as good as I had hoped, but it is early days.

Myself and the dogs have also been out and about competing at agility, with some success and a couple of wins. The dogs were all very excited to be back so we had some very wild runs. Flame has also just finished filming on a TV series which will be shown in the new year. Things are slowly getting back to normal. Look after yourselves, your family and your sheep.

Alison Schofield

After a year's absence through Covid19, The Traditional, Native and Rare Breeds Show and Sale were held at Halls Auction Centre in Shrewsbury on 24th July 2021. Numbers were again lower with ongoing personal health concerns for some members and other sales opportunities being taken by some flocks.

The Show began at 9.00am with Robert Brookes, a long-standing member of SSBA, as judge. Rosie Lee was head steward with help from several young assistants.

The older Ram class was taken by Piddington Varec (12DH19) from Sue Farquhar, sired by homebred Ram, Piddington Nico.

The Shearling Ram Class was won by Stonegrove Trigger (555XP20) from Stonegrove Livestock, sired by Millenheath Monument. Goblindale Commander (115AG20) from C & R Coleman was reserve - again, sired by a Millenheath Ram, this time Marshmallow. The Ram Lamb Class was won by Issa Casper (495AED21), from Lily Davies, one of our younger members. Casper was sired by Roydon Ramble. Reserve was Clipston Pete (378PC21) from Robert Webb. Pete was sired by Apiary Bart.

No senior females were forwarded. The Shearling Ewe class was a clean sweep from Stonegrove Livestock with the first three prizes. The winner was Stonegrove 541XP20, with 547XP20 in reserve and 579XP20 in third. The First and Third were again sired by Millenheath Monument, with the Second by Westwood Keystone.

More success followed for Stonegrove Livestock in the ewe lamb class with First and Third. The winner was 683XP21, again sired by Millenheath Monument. Reserve was Clipston 380PC21, from Robert Webb's flock, sired by Piddington Varec (see above).

The championship went to the Stonegrove Shearling Ram with the Piddington Senior Ram as reserve. The Stonegrove Ewe Lamb was the best opposite sex to the Champion. The Shropshire Champion went on to be Interbreed Champion.

Moving on to Sales, prices were up from 2019 with demand for quality. The figures are summarised here. The top price was 700 guineas for the Champion. Sue Farquhar's reserve Champion Senior Ram sold for 550 guineas with the reserve Shearling Ram from the Colemans selling for 500 guineas. Overall, 10 of the 12 Rams forward found new homes.

Top price in the females was 400 guineas for a Stonegrove Livestock ewe with the other 3 ewes from that flock averaging 270 guineas. The Champion ewe lamb from Stonegrove made 350 guineas with ewe lambs from Clipston and Piddington making 250 guineas and a non-MV ewe lamb from the Showle flock of the Clay family's making 240 guineas.

20 of the 23 females forward were sold with Shearling ewes up by 66 guineas on average, and ewe lambs by 56 guineas. Thanks to Jonny Dymond for his efforts as Auctioneer and to the many SSBA members who had contributed their time to the event.

Les Newman

National Show and Sale Shrewsbury 2021 - Show Results

Senior Rams

1. S Farquhar - Piddington Varec

Shearling Rams

1. Stonegrove Livestock - Stonegrove Trigger
2. C&R Coleman - Goblindale Commander
3. L Davies - Issa Benn

Ram Lambs

1. L Davies - Issa Casper
2. R Webb - Clipston Pete
3. J Hares - Millenheath Malcolm

Older Ewes - None entered

Shearling Ewes

- 1, 2 and 3 Stonegrove Livestock

Ewe lambs

- 1 and 3 Stonegrove Livestock
- 2 R Webb

Champion and Interbreed Champion

Stonegrove Trigger

Reserve Champion

Piddington Varec

Best Opposite Sex to the Champion:

Stonegrove ewe lamb 683XP21

Reserve Champion:
Senior Ram Piddington
Varec.



Best Opposite Sex
to Champion:
Stonegrove Ewe
Lamb 683XP21.



JUNIOR MEMBERS' NEWS: TUSHBROOK FLOCK

CHOOSING how to lamb my flock for 2022 had to be thought of well in advance of the breeding season this year to fit in with my full time job which I took on when I left college nearly a year ago. As I only have a certain amount of holiday, I had to plan so I knew I could take time off work to be there and give the ewes and lambs the attention they need.

I spoke to the vet about best way to synchronise my ewes as we had not had much success with sponges in the past. Even though they synchronised them, they tended to hold to 2nd service making management hard to get them to lamb earlier so the lambs would be big enough to show. Even a few weeks made a lot of difference. We decided CIDRS would be the best option to try. I worked out the dates I wanted them to lamb to fit in with taking a week off and then another week off 17 days later.

The vet came to show me how to put the CIDRS in and let me have a go myself. He also left us with PMSG to jab them with when the CIDRS were pulled out 2 weeks later. The ewes came on heat 48 hours later and were served on Saturday 14th August with the odd one coming on a day or so after, making them due 7th-10th January.

15 days later, we changed the raddle colour from red to blue and 2 days after on day 17, only 3 out of a total of 13

ewes returned, which proved the CIDRS to be more successful than the progesterone sponges for them to hold first time.

I had the advantage of using 3 tups across my ewes in small groups which I believe to have helped them hold due to them all coming on at the same time and not tiring the rams out too much!

One ram was 4 year old Millenheath Mojo. Mojo had 4 ewes as I have used him for 2 years previously so I know he produces great lambs with excellent growth rates and is always successful at getting them in lamb.

Another was Tushbrook Gold, a homebred 2019 born ram sired by Mojo. I had used him as a lamb the year before so also knew he worked well and produces good stock. Gold had 5 ewes in total.

And finally, my new boy, Alderton Hazzard. Hazzard was born in January 2021 so as he's a lamb I didn't want to give him too many ewes, but also wanted to see what he could produce with his excellent bloodlines and Signet figures.

He also had 4 in total and none returned 17 days after the first service so we are pleased he has done the job successfully despite



Tushbrook Gold and his ewes.

his disadvantage of being slightly smaller than his ladies!

Overall, I am very pleased with how the CIDRS seem to have worked with what I have seen so far and would recommend to anyone looking to synchronise their ewes. We are keeping our fingers crossed for a busy day or 2 at the beginning of January.

Scanning will hopefully show the advantages of using PMSG as well as this is meant to encourage ovulation therefore will increase the chances of most ewes producing twins, the perfect number for the ewes to rear.

Ellie Russell

JUNIOR MEMBERS AT THE NATIONAL SHOW & SALE



Our breed society had a very strong Junior Members' section and many of them were in action showing their sheep at the National S&S in Shrewsbury (pictured above). Much of their enthusiasm is down to Youth Coordinator Rosie Lee (pictured right) with a ram lamb from her flock that was exported to Ireland this year. See page 6 for the full export report.



OFFICIAL BREED SALE AT WORCESTER

A Shropshire Breed Sale took place at McCartneys' Worcester Livestock Market on 14th August 2021. 20 sheep were forward after inspection with 9 males and 11 females. Buyers were in short supply.

Top price in the sale ring was 340 guineas for Sue Farquhar's Shearling Ram, Piddington Winston, by Piddington Nico. Ellie Butcher's Ram lamb, Hansnett Yarrow, again sired by Nico, sold for 250 guineas. A Shearling Ram from Robert Webb's Clipston flock and a Ram Lamb from Stephen Perrins' Marlpit flock were also sold. There was no demand for the Shearling ewes forward. Six of the seven ewe lambs sold with two lambs from the Clay Family's Showle flock making 160 and 140 guineas. A March born set of triplets from Stephen Perrins sold for 110 guineas a head. Thanks to Clive Roads for acting as Auctioneer. Hopefully more can be made of this event next year as McCartneys are pleased to support SSBA.

Les Newman

NEXT GENERATION RISES TO THE TOP

YOUNGER Signet-Recorded rams made a particular impact on the Shropshire Breed Improvement Scheme this year. Taking the top spot for the first time was Ushers Hector, a son of Stonegrove Archie, the previous "Number One" sire.

Hector was born in 2020 and used as a ram lamb. He scores highly for growth and carcass traits as well as maternal traits, such as prolificacy. He lies 24 points ahead of Usher Gravity, another son of Archie, born a year earlier.

In third place is Ushers Hercules, a young ram also born in 2020 but sired by Ushers Finley. Cefn-Carnau, Kingfisher, Holloway, Alderton and Hayne Oak flocks have all bred rams in the top ten this year.

Turning to the top ram lambs, there are three flocks that have bred males with higher predicted Terminal Sire Indices than Hector. The top ranked Ushers Ivor, by Kingfisher Earl, has the highest TI Score of 327, while flock mate Ivan is ranked first for Maternal Index. In 2nd place for TI is Cefn-Carnau 598, by Cefn-Carnau Endeavor, while rounding off the top three is a son of Hector from the Alderton Flock.

Top Stock Sires 2021 Season

(Terminal Sire Index / Maternal Index)

1. Ushers Hector (296/289)
2. Ushers Gravity (272/257)
3. Ushers Hercules (264/227)
4. Cefn-Carnau Endeavour (256/172)
5. Kingfisher Earl (254/199)
6. Holloway Ray (249/198)
7. Alderton Thomas (248/179)
8. Alderton Mitchell (241/191)
9. = Hayne Oak Nelson (237/203)
9. = Ushers Finley (237/243)

Top Ram Lambs born in 2021

1. Ushers Ivor (327/256)
2. Cefn-Carnau 598 (325/199)
3. Alderton Hallmark (302/230)
4. Cefn-Carnau 630 (295/173)
5. Cefn-Carnau 623 (275/208)
6. Ushers Ivan (265/273)
7. Ushers Igor (264/214)
8. Alderton Hercules (261/253)
9. Millenheath 557 (245/205)
10. Ushers Issac (244/213)

For more information visit:

www.signetdata.com

or contact Pippa Geddes (01743 741689)

Ushers Hector - the top Stock Sire of 2021 for both Maternal Index and Terminal Sire Index.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT: PREGNANCY SCANNING EWES

PREGNANCY Scanning of ewes (by ultrasound) is an important tool for managing your flock though late pregnancy and into lambing.

- Scan about 8 weeks before you are expecting your first lamb. If you scan later it can be difficult for the scanning technician to determine numbers amongst twins and triplets. Most technicians like ewes to be at least 40 days in-lamb when they scan.
- Scanning will tell you, with surprisingly high accuracy, how many lambs each ewe is expecting.
- It enables you to make valuable flock decisions: you can immediately cull any older and "empty" ewes (or younger ones who have already had more than one chance) which will bring in some cash and leave more grass for the rest.
- Most important, once you know which ewes are carrying singles, twins and triplets you can tailor your supplementary feeding to the ewes' particular needs. This should enable you to avoid the perils of very big single lambs, leading to difficult births (Distocia) and twin lamb disease (Pregnancy Toxaemia) when a ewe has been under-fed for the number of lambs she is carrying, or producing tiny lambs which are difficult to get going and may not survive.
- The particular circumstances of each flock will be different, but for a typical

flock lambing indoors and feeding hay or silage with concentrates you might feed little or no cake to the ewes bearing singles, but more to the twins and quite a bit more where triplets are expected. For reference, in the week before lambing a 70kg ewe will require 14.4MJ/day of metabolisable energy if she is carrying a single, but 18.3MJ/day for twins and 20.3MJ/day for triplets.

- During lambing, if you have scanned you will have a very good idea about what each ewe will produce, which minimises uncertainty about a 2nd and 3rd lamb.
- There is of course a cost - around £70+VAT minimum visit, but this is a good investment even for a small flock.
- A useful resource for this is the EBLEX Better Returns Programme's booklet "Feeding the Ewe" which is available as a free download from the AHDB's website.

Rob Kerby



REGISTRATIONS CLERK WANTED!

Ruth Mawer, our Registrations Clerk, is retiring. We are therefore looking for a replacement to start in January 2022.

This is a paid role, currently receiving £3,000 a year. It mainly involves the processing of Shropshire Sheep pedigree registrations and the issuing of Pedigree Certificates, plus assisting the Registrar with the production of the annual Flock Book.

Computer skills are essential and a lap top will be provided by the SSBA.

If there is anyone within the Society who would like to know more or maybe consider the position, or if you know of anyone else who may be interested, please email the Registrar, Alison Schofield, for more details:

Registrar@shropshire-sheep.co.uk

SHROPSHIRE SHEEP ARCHIVE PROJECT

WHEN I became President, one of the things that became very apparent early on was that lots of people were holding documents, photos, newspaper cuttings, old minute books, export certificates etc which together formed a very important archive of the Society. I decided to do something about it.

Firstly, together with Simon Mackay, we did an inventory of the Society-owned flock books, and now know how many, and where every book is. I had already, a number of years ago, scanned every flock book.

Next the minutes: I scanned all the old minute books that we have in a fire safe here, dating back to the formation of the Society. I spent a lot of time reading them, which is so very interesting. Simon scanned more recent minutes that he has. Pippa Geddes already has the modern minutes in digital format.

Old export certificates have also been scanned dating back to the late 30s, and continuing throughout WW2 to the 70s. The early certificates written in the wonderful flamboyant script of the day.

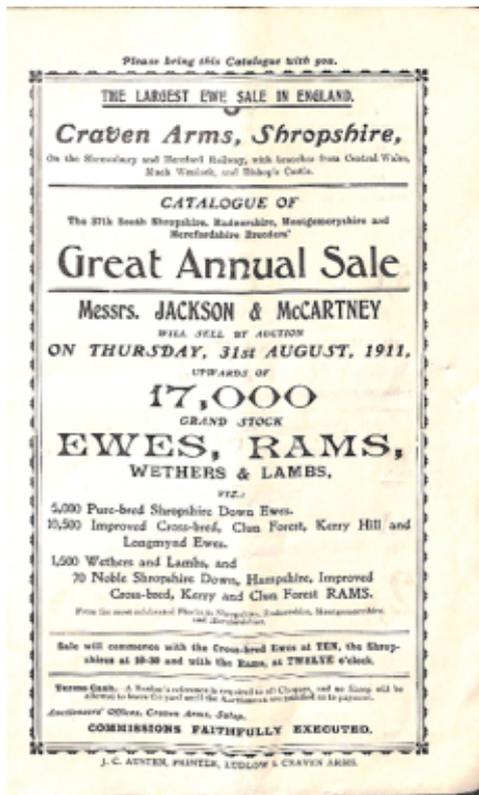
The Newsletters were next. The modern ones that Pippa edits are already digital. However, we knew some were produced back in the 80s and with the help of Sue Shimwell's extensive personal archive I have scanned as many of the old ones as possible. Sue's archive also helped with some missing minutes.

Several people over the years have been collecting newspaper cuttings, articles and photographs. Special thanks to Pippa and Claire Jakeman for putting a lot of this information into scrap books. At the Show and Sale back in July, I finally managed to collect together in one place all the old scrap books and boxes of cuttings, photos and Shropshire "stuff" from various people. - a total of two boxes and five carrier bags.

All of this information has now been sorted, put into scrap books and photo albums and scanned. This took longer than expected as reading articles and looking at photos is fascinating.

Amongst the papers is a judge's book from the Society's show and sale in 1946, and a catalogue from the "Largest ewe sale in England". This sale, in 1911, had over 17,000 ewes of various breeds and included over 5,000 Shropshire ewes. There was a page of train times to Craven Arms and an advert from a hotel advertising "Well Aired Beds". How people got sheep to the sale was vastly different to how it is now - trains were

the norm. The sheep were penned in "Mrs Hide's field adjoining the railway station".



Above - the first page of a catalogue from 1911, promoting the "Largest ewe sale in England", held at Craven Arms.

Below: Details of special trains laid on to convey sheep to this sale.

On the morning of Sale A SPECIAL TRAIN will leave Knighton at 6-30 a.m., Bucknell, at 7 a.m., calling at Hopton Heath and Broome Stations to convey Sheep to this Sale. A Special Train will also leave Knighton at 5-55 a.m., calling at Tisbury, Pembridge, Kingsland, Leominster, Woolferton and Ludlow, arriving at Craven Arms at 9-30 a.m. Those consigning Sheep by these trains should advise the respective Station Masters a few days beforehand, stating the number of trucks they will require. The Railway Companies have special instructions not to keep the trains waiting after the scheduled times at which they are due to leave the respective stations, those having Sheep to load must therefore have their sheep at the station ready for loading upon the arrival of the trains.

We have also had some fantastic material donated to the Society.

Claire and Graham Jakeman have donated a lot of old books and material which mention Shropshires.

The sister of Alan Cheese, a past vice president of the Society, has donated his Shropshire archive. He ran the flock at Shugborough Hall in the late 70s and early 80s and amongst the archive are letters and photos regarding the possible importing of Shropshires from Sweden and Denmark, plus acceptance to judge at the Royal Show by breeders from those countries. He also has a woodcut print of Mr T Mansell's "Royal" Shropshire ram from 1872, ten years before the formation of the SSBA.



Above: Mr T Mansell's "Royal" Shropshire ram (1872).

Finally, and for me the most interesting, was a book, a photocopy of which has been given to the Society by the family of Mr John Barnett, Norton Wood Farm, Market Drayton. This book is Mr Barnett's personal flock book. It spans the time Mr Barnett, a

prolific local showman, had Shropshires from 1891 to the outbreak of WW1 in 1914. This page (pictured above) lists three shows plus prizes won. These shows no longer exist. His first entry into the flock book was in flock book 17 shown below. The book contains all the rams he has used, when and on which ewes plus all the show results and the sheep he has bought and sold. Absolutely fascinating.

1891	Stockport
2 ^d	ram lamb
HC	ram lamb
HC	ewe lambs pens
1892	Warrington
HC	ram lamb
C	ram lamb
HC	ewe lambs pens
1893	Sandbach
1 st	ram any age
1 st	shearing ram
R	ram lamb
1 st	shearing ewe pens
1 st	ewe lambs pens

102	
Mr. JOHN BARNETT, Norton Wood Farm, Market Drayton, Shropshire.	
(First Entry)	
This Flock was founded in 1881, by the purchase of 5 Ewes from Mr. George Lewis, Ercall Park, and 2 Ewes from Mr. J. Bourne, Arlow Farm.	
The present number of the Flock is now 25 Breeding Ewes and 6 Shearing Ewes.	
1891—Barn Rector the Second (6676)	1895—Oakley Ercall (9149)
1892—Barn Rector the Second (6676)	1896—Naird Duke (8648)
1893—Oakley Ercall (9149)	1897—Naird Duke (8648)
1894—Oakley Ercall (9149)	1898—Norton Wood Stamp (10039)

All this information is now filed, scanned and will be available to view soon. What we, as a Society, now need is someone to take the archive forward. Someone who is passionate about documents and history, who will look out for anything modern and ancient to do with the breed and add to our collection.

If you want to do this, please contact me as I feel I have now done my bit for the history of this fantastic breed of sheep.

Alison Schofield

THE HISTORY OF EXPORT AND SHROPSHIRE IN EUROPE

Ireland

In the SSBA's first flock book in 1883, there are five Irish flocks listed, four of which are in the present day Republic of Ireland.

By partition in 1921 there were 12 Irish flocks of which 10 were in the newly formed Republic.

From this moment onwards flocks formed and then registered from the Republic of Ireland have never been treated differently from the rest of the UK.

Exports to other countries

The first exports from the UK to other countries happened in 1902 when several sheep were exported to North America and countries such as South Africa, Australia (including Tasmania), New Zealand, Jamaica and Russia. Ewes were registered for the first time just for export. 738 Ewes and 24 Rams were exported that year. Export regulations were written and amongst the various rules for filling in the forms etc. was the first reference to registering foreign sheep.

"No Sheep shall be eligible for Entry in the Flock Book unless application for entry shall be made whilst in the United Kingdom, or unless satisfactory reason be given for such application not having been made."

During the First World War nearly 500 sheep were exported mainly to South America with some to Jamaica, the USA and Canada. Again in the Second World War sheep were exported to South America, quite a feat.

Registering Sheep from Mainland Europe

In 2013, after several Council meetings we allowed French sheep to be registered under the general rules for entry into the flock book. Les Newman and Liz Bowles took on new roles as French Co-ordinators. These actions were taken because French Shropshire breeders would otherwise have no way to maintain the pedigree status of their stock. We have continued to register French sheep since then.

After agreement at the 2013 AGM, we changed our Export registration certificate to comply with the EU Zootechnical regulations and became a DEFRA Zootechnical recognised Society.

In 2017 we were asked by a breeder in Wallonia, Belgium to register the offspring of his imported sheep. To do this we had to apply to DEFRA who then applied to the Belgian authority to ask them if we could. Permission was eventually given and we started registering his sheep.

It was at this stage we decided to split the flock book and all European sheep (except Ireland) would be registered in this new section.

Last year we were asked to register sheep in Spain. After initially saying no, permission was granted by the Spanish authorities in September 2020.

Changes Post Brexit

To be able to export sheep after BREXIT, the EU granted the UK Third Country Status in the middle of 2019. However, it wasn't until the summer of 2020 that we discovered what changes we had to make to our Export Certificate. After a frantic month of negotiation with DEFRA, we were in the first tranche of sheep breeds (about 8) that gained Third Country Status.

In November 2020, at a Webinar hosted by NSA, most breeds discovered that after leaving the EU at the end of the year they would not be able to register any European sheep including those from the Republic of Ireland.

We contacted all our EU members and warned them of what was happening, asking them to register all the sheep they could before the end of the year and letting them know we would look at how these sheep could be registered in future. Talking to other breed societies, discovering what they will do, we found that most were setting up European Societies based in Ireland to look after their EU members. This is the route we decided to follow.

Formation of a new European Society

Move forward a few months and after many Zoom meetings and a lot of hard work by a small group of people spearheaded by our Irish Co-ordinator, Adrian Norton, a proposal was put to Council to form a European Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association (ESSBA).

This Association, the formation of which is to be funded by the SSBA, will look after the registration of EU Shropshires.

Based on registration numbers from the years prior to BREXIT, the Association should be self-financing after formation and this is the expectation. However, in the early years some funding might still have to come from the SSBA. The advantages of setting up this society are many and some are listed below:

- Ensure that the SSBA maintains some level of control over the European flock book.
- Ensure that the investment of European Members in Shropshire Sheep is protected.
- Ensure that there continues to be a European Market for sheep to be exported from the UK.
- Ensure that a replacement flock outside of the UK is maintained.
- Ensure that the breed continues to be showcased and marketed around Europe as a British Breed.

This proposal was passed and now the hard work really starts with forming a company in Ireland and all that that entails. As well as that, new pedigree certificates and a new logo have had to be created. Luckily a few years ago when European registrations were increasing, the SSBA took the decision to split the flock book so that major job is complete.

Alison Schofield

On behalf of all members of the SSBA, the Council would like to thank Alison Schofield and Adrian Norton for the hard work they have put into the establishment of the new ESSBA.



EXPORT REPORT 2021

THIS has been one of the most challenging exports for a long time. Because of Brexit, everything has changed. Europe has not geared up for importing and as you can imagine they are in no hurry to do this.

I received enquiries from mainland Europe but unfortunately could not convert these into orders at this time. But I'm happy to report IRELAND came in to save the day, as this would have been the first year we would have missed in over 25 years of exporting. We received three orders: Already a member, Simon Brown, who took delivery last year of some fabulous sheep to go into his plantation. Simon is a commercial farmer and has a variety breeds of sheep. I've received very happy reports that he's delighted with the job they are doing and on the meat front as well. Simon has received 10 ewe lambs and 1 ram lamb this year.

Peter Whooley came to us via recommendation from Simon and he ordered 20 ewe lambs and 1 ram lamb. These will also be going in his large plantation. I'm looking forward to hearing from Peter in the future on their performance. Brendan Kirk who many of you may know has been a member for many years has also taken delivery of a really nice ram lamb to add to his flock. Our market is growing in Ireland and we look forward to progressing this avenue. I would like to thank the breeders for committing to these orders as it was very late in the year and the hassle of finding their way round the new forms coupled with the last minute dash to the Assembly Centre to get these orders away was a challenge.

Claire Jakeman

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