

# SHROPTALK



The Newsletter of the Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association

Summer 2023



National Show & Sale Champion and Interbreed Sheep Champion: a Millenheath shearling ewe (see page 3 for the show and sale report).



The SSBA is seeking  
a new  
Breed Society  
Secretary

Please see page 6  
for more details

## PRESIDENT'S SUMMER UPDATE

2023 seems to be hurtling past, and many of you will already have started on the next (sheep) year as your tups went to work.

The President's Notes cannot fail to mention the weather, which has confounded us again. We made our silage and some hay in May, which turned out to be one of our better decisions. In contrast to 2022 there is plenty of grass and the tugging paddocks are in good order. We have a promising crop of Shropshire x NZ Romney lambs demonstrating the value of the Shropshire ram in a commercial setting.

Very welcome news is that our ram 0598, who went to RamCompare last year with Terminal Sire index of 324, has completed his season's work with his index slightly increased to 329, the highest for all Shropshires. He has the chance of being kept on for another year. We are looking forward to seeing more data on his progeny.

### NATIONAL SHOW AND SALE

The Show and Sale is well reported elsewhere in *ShropTalk* but I want to say

that it was an absolute pleasure to attend this year. We are indebted to Jeanette Hares for leading the team of organisers and helpers. Thanks to all of them, and to the Judge, Gail Sprake, and our Inspector Liz Bowles. The Show and Sale Steering Committee recently met with Halls to discuss improvements for next year, and I am pleased to report that Halls are very keen to work with us to develop the Show and Sale further.

### THE SSBA'S COUNCIL

I had hoped that Council's workload would reduce as the year progressed but we have continued with agendas full of important business.

There will be a number of vacancies on Council in November. If you are interested in serving and want to know more, please don't hesitate to call me.

### SHOWING

The regular showing season has now passed, and I would like to congratulate everyone who has competed in Shropshire classes this year. There are still a few shows to come with 'Any Other Native

Breed' classes, including Usk. My entry is in. Also on 9th September are new Shropshire classes at Frome. It's too late too late to enter now, but please do go along to support if you can.

### EXPORTS

As I write this, a strong consignment of Shropshires is being assembled ready for export to Ireland and the Continent. We are one of only two sheep breeds that we know are exporting this summer, and it has taken a huge effort by the Export Committee to get to this stage.

There is continuing interest in the use of Shropshire in trees and in vineyards. SSBA will be represented at the Agroforestry Show at Bishopstone, near Swindon on the 6th and 7th September. Helen Carroll (Adelaide Flock) will be making a presentation on the 6th and I am sure she would value your support.

As I hope you should already know, we are looking for a new Secretary. If you would like to know more, please ring me.

Rob Kerby

## NEW MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE

Don't forget that the SSBA now has an excellent selection of branded clothing, embroidered with the SSBA's logo to which can be added your own flock name.

This range is available as a click through link from the Merchandise Page on our website [www.shropshire-sheep.co.uk](http://www.shropshire-sheep.co.uk). A "wardrobe" of suitable, high quality clothing has been selected including T-Shirts, polo shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, fleeces, jackets and caps. The SSBA is not putting any mark-up on these items, as Council decided that the on-line shop should be set up as a service for our members.

## ADVERTISING SHEEP VIA "SELL MY LIVESTOCK"

If you are placing a sales advert for your Shropshires on the website Sell My Livestock, be sure to tick the "pedigree" box.

This ensures that your advert will be approved by our Sales Officer and then allowed onto our exclusive Shropshire Sheep portal. This will give your advert the added advantage of being visible directly from the SSBA's website through the Sheep For Sale page.

## SHOW POINTS TROPHIES

The closing date for all show points competitions is 30th September 2023. Forms must be sent to the Awards Officer, Anne Harvey, by this date.

## SHOW SUBSIDY

To encourage more breeders to exhibit their Shropshires at the larger shows, the SSBA offers a subsidy of £5/sheep for two-day shows and £10/sheep for longer shows. Subsidy claim forms can be downloaded from the SSBA's website. Forms must be completed and sent to the SSBA's Treasurer by 31st August 2023.

## REFERENCE GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE FOR THOSE HIRING RAMS OR USING AI

Anyone hiring a ram this season, or breeding their sheep by artificial insemination, rather than natural service, should check out the SSBA's quick reference guide to how any such matings should be recorded on Grassroots.

The Ram Hire or AI Quick Reference Guide, written by Registrar Alison Schofield, can be downloaded from the SSBA's website.

It is essential that you follow the guidelines given by Alison, or you will not be able to Birth Notify offspring from hired rams or AI sires when the time comes.



*The Champion Shropshire at the National Show and Sale was a shearling ewe from the Millenheath Flock of Jeanette and Robert Hares. She is pictured with Jeanette Hares, SSBA*

## PIDDINGTON EWE AUCTIONED FOR COPPAFEEL CHARITY



A shearling ewe from Sue Farquhar's Piddington Flock was sold at the National Show and Sale to raise money for the Coppafeel Breast Cancer Awareness Charity. The ewe made 500gns - the top price for a female at the event. Pictured above are (left to right) Sue Farquhar, Sue's granddaughter Ellie Butcher, with Joanne and Owen Powell (the purchasers).





# NATIONAL SHOW AND SALE REPORT 2023

**THE Traditional Native & Rare Breeds Show and Sale was held at Halls Auction Centre on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Again, Shropshire female numbers forward increased, whilst ram numbers were much the same as last year. This year's judge was Gail Sprake, former chair of RBST and well known around the showing world. She was shadowed by Shropshire member, Tom Sellers.**

## THE SHOW CLASSES

The only older ram forward was a 2 shear, Silligrove Jed (122ART21) from Jan Freeman's flock. He was sired by Brereton Torry and fully justified his first prize.

The shearling ram class was won by Millenheath Michael (624TW22) from C & J Morris's flock. He was bred by the Hares family by sire Millenheath Murray. Jan Freeman's Silligrove Stanley (149ART22), again sired by Brereton Torry, was second with Sue Farquhar's Piddington (042DH22) sired by Roydon Rogan third.

The ram lamb class first and second were provided by P Woodfield's flock. Marsh Fields Peanut (021AKP23) and Marsh Fields Walnut (023AKP23) were both sired by Redstreak Falmouth. In third place was Robert Webb's Clipston 461PC23 sired by Apiary Bart.

The older ewe class was won by A & M Webb with Ushers 1022KX21 with Ushers 991KX20 in third place. They were sired by Ushers Gravity and Stonegrave Archie respectively. In second place was Goblindale 178AAG21 for Peter Harris.

The ewe was bred by C & R Coleman with Rosaline Cladius the sire.

The Hares family's Millenheath Flock then took over the show with first, second and third in both the shearling ewe and the ewe lamb classes.

The shearling ewe class had 24 entries, the largest ever at the event in recent times.

Millenheath 625TW22 won followed by 653TW22 and 605TW22. The winner was sired by Millenheath Murray with the other two by Alderton Minty.

The ewe lamb class was won by Millenheath 690TW23 with 662TW23 second and 663TW23 third. All three were sired by Hayne Oak Cracker.

The Shropshire Championship went to the Millenheath shearling ewe with the Hares' ewe lamb reserve. The best opposite sex to the champion was P Woodfield's ram lamb. The Millenheath shearling went on to win the Sheep Interbreed Championship.

## THE SALE

Moving on to the sale, the ram sales were up by 4 in number compared with 2022, but the average ram price was down by £200, although this reflects more ram lambs being sold. There were buyers for quality sheep at good prices and for bargains with several good flock ewes returning home.

The top price was 880 guineas for the shearling ram winner, Millenheath Michael from C & J Morris's flock. This was sold to Liz Bowles for her Hayne Oak Flock. Jan Freeman's senior ram, Silligrove Jed went for

520 guineas with 400 guineas for Silligrove Stanley and for Stonegrave Vunipola from the Dorrell family.

The top female price of 500 guineas was paid for the shearling ewe from Sue Farquhar. The proceeds from this sale were donated to Breast Health Awareness following Sue's diagnosis. The champion and reserve were next highest with the shearling ewe making 420 guineas and the ewe lamb 460 guineas.

Thank you again to Jonny Dymond for his auctioneering skills and to the Halls Sale Team and last but not least to the members of SSBA Council for their efforts in organising a successful show and sale for the members.

Les Newman

**Sale Averages:** Adult Rams top 520gns, 1 average £546; Shearling Rams top 880gns, 5 average £462; Ram Lambs top 350gns, 8 average £271; Adult Ewes top 300gns, 3 average £299; Shearling Ewes top 500gns, 28 average £293; Ewe Lambs top 460gns, 11 average £240.

56 head average £295. 14 males and 42 females sold.



*A shearling ewe from the Goblindale Flock in the ring.*





Reserve Champion: Millenheath ewe lamb 690TW23 with breeder Jeanette Hares, sold for 460gns to Owen Powell.



Best Opposite Sex to the Champion and winner of the ram lamb class, Marsh Fields Peanut, purchased in the sale by SSBA President, Rob Kerby, for 300gns.



Highest priced animal in the sale ring was Millenheath Michael, pictured with his owner Janet Morris. Michael was bred by the Hares family and sold to the Hayne Oak Flock for 880gns.



**OFFICIAL SHROPSHIRE  
SOCIETY SALE  
AT WORCESTER  
MARKET**

**Saturday 30th September**  
Entry forms available from  
**McCartneys' website:**  
**www.mccartneys.co.uk**  
Closing date for entries: 1st September

**SHOW CLASS RESULTS FROM THE  
NATIONAL SHOW AND SALE**

**Adult Ram**

1. Silligrove Jed (122ART21)

**Shearling Ram**

1. Millenheath Michael (624TW22)
2. Silligrove Stanley (149ART22)
3. Piddington (042DH22)

**Ram Lamb**

1. Marsh Fields Peanut (021AKP23)
2. Marsh Fields Walnut (023AKP23)
3. Clipston (461PC23)

**Adult Ewe**

1. Ushers (1022KX21)
2. Goblindale (178AAG21)
3. Ushers (991KX20)

**Shearling Ewe**

1. Millenheath (625TW22)
2. Millenheath (653TE22)
3. Millenheath (605TW22)

**Ewe Lamb**

1. Millenheath (690TW23)
2. Millenheath (662TW23)
3. Millenheath (663TW23)

**Shropshire Champion** and winner of the Morley Trophy and Interbreed Sheep Trophy;  
Millenheath Shearling Ewe (625TW22)

**Reserve Champion:**

Millenheath ewe lamb (690TW23)

**Best Opposite Sex to the Champion** and winner of the Roydon Trophy;  
Marsh Fields Peanut (021AKP23)

**Best Prepared Pen of Shropshire Sheep** and winner of the Southworth Trophy;  
Goblindale Flock (the Coleman Family)

**Winner of the Halls Trophy** for the highest priced animal from a small flock of 15 Registered Ewes or fewer, sold through the ring;

Charles and Jan Morris (Apiary Flock)  
Millenheath Michael sold for 880gns



# LONG SERVICE AWARD FOR YVONNE CLINTON PALMER



Yvonne Clinton Palmer was presented with a prestigious Long Service Award from the breed society at this year's Stafford County Show. Yvonne judged the Shropshire section there, and is pictured above in the centre, amongst the Shropshire exhibitors and some of their sheep.

Yvonne's connection with Shropshires stretches back 33 Years, when she formed her Clinton Flock (flock letters HE), which was based near Leighton Buzzard in Bedfordshire. She was a keen exhibitor herself, winning many trophies over the years and competing at the highest level, including the Royal Show at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire (sadly no longer held). Yvonne began judging Shropshires and continues to do so although she dispersed her own flock some years ago. Congratulations on your award, Yvonne!

## NEW SHROPSHIRE ENTER NATIONAL RAMCOMPARE TRIAL



Three more high genetic merit Shropshire rams have been selected by AHDB for RamCompare, the UK's national progeny test. RamCompare uses nominated Signet performance recorded rams from various terminal sire breeds on commercial farms across the UK. Data is collected from birth to slaughter from lambs managed in a commercial environment.

Shearling ram Alderton 1040LU22 (pictured top left), by Ushers Hector, has a Terminal Sire Index of 295, which puts him in the top 5% of Signet-recorded Shropshires for growth and carcass traits. He will be used by Alwyn Nutting at Glascoed Farm, near Newtown, Powys on his flock of Aberfield ewes.

Two-shear Hackford Athelstan, by Cefn-Carnau Endeavour, has a TI of 269, putting him in the top 10% of recorded Shropshires. Bred by Peter Greenow, the ram was a stock sire in his Hackford Flock last season and will now be used in the Exelby family's flock of North Country Mules near Ripon in Yorkshire.

Two-shear Ushers Igor (pictured below left) by Kingfisher Earl, has been used for two seasons in Stephen Perrins' Marlpit Flock, prior to joining RamCompare. The ram has a TI of 264, putting him in the top 10% of recorded Shropshires. He will be used by Duncan Nelless at Thistleyhaugh Farm, near Morpeth, Northumberland. The farm runs a flock of Lleyn ewes.

To date, eight Shropshires have participated in RamCompare. A total of 447 Shropshire-cross lambs have been followed through to slaughter, with nearly 80% attaining U or R carcass grades. A fuller report will be published in a future *ShropTalk*.





# PROMOTING THE BREED FAR AND WIDE

THE SSBA's breed stand has been exhibited at three major events organised by the National Sheep Association: Welsh Sheep, North Sheep and Sheep South West.

The first, during May, was Sheep South West near Honiton, Devon. Liz Bowles kindly organised and manned the stand for us there.

Next up was Welsh Sheep (top picture) which was held near Newtown in Powys. Tom Sellers put up the stand with help from Jan and Charles Morris. They worked throughout the day promoting the breed, with assistance from Peter Tavernor. Tom also provided the sheep for the stand.

The third event was North Sheep (picture below right), held near Ponteland in Northumberland. Liz Arrowsmith kindly provided sheep for the stand, which was manned by a team including Barry Hodson, Claire Jakeman, Anne Harvey, Gail Beattie and Douglas Collie.

**Thank you to all our volunteers who put in so many hours on behalf of the Society and Shropshire Sheep!**



Next month, Helen Carroll will be one of the speakers at The Agroforestry Show (6th and 7th September). This is taking place at Eastbrook Farm, Bishopstone in Wiltshire.

Helen will be participating in the session about Sheep Silvo Pasture, promoting the use of Shropshires for grazing in tree plantations. She has first hand experience of this, having grazed Shropshires in wooded areas of her farm for nearly 10 years.

## COULD YOU BE OUR NEW BREED SOCIETY SECRETARY?

As you may know our Secretary, Simon Mackay, stepped down in the Spring after 12 years in the post. I would like to thank him for his contribution to the growth of our Association over that period. We now have to appoint a replacement to work alongside our Registrations Clerk, Gail Beattie, and our Membership Secretary Janet Morris. This is an important position within SSBA and we would prefer to recruit from within the Association.

The role is mainly administrative, with duties including organisation and minute taking for the AGM and regular Council meetings, receiving and dealing with incoming correspondence and enquiries, liaison with judges and show secretaries, collating show results, organising the national Show & Sales, and holding and distributing the Association's stock of publicity materials and show stands. The Job Description is available on request.

It is a part-time role requiring a few hours work each week with increased time needed for meetings and events. Remuneration will be around £4,000 p.a., by negotiation, plus expenses. If you are interested in becoming our Secretary please let me know, and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask. We hope to have a short list of candidates within the next few weeks and will conduct interviews in September.

**Rob Kerby, President of the SSBA**, [president@shropshire-sheep.co.uk](mailto:president@shropshire-sheep.co.uk)  
Tel: 01633 451033, Mobile 07831 221114

**DON'T FORGET**  
IF YOU MAKE A  
PAYMENT TO THE SSBA  
BY BANK TRANSFER,  
PLEASE TAG THE  
BACS PAYMENT  
WITH YOUR FLOCK  
LETTERS

## SHROPTALK

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