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CLUN FOREST SHEEP BREEDERS SOCIETY LIMITED

Registered in England No. 438563

NEWSLETTER

June 2015

Message from the Chairman

As all of you will know Sandra Williams has been our Society Secretary for four years. Due to career commitments Sandra resigned as Secretary last year but continued to 'hold the fort' into this year. We are now in the process of a handover and I would like to extend our thanks to Sandra for doing a great job and being central to the success of a number of ventures for the Society: guiding the change in the Autumn Sale format to a single male and female sale, holding a flock competition for the first time in ten years and the setting up of the Society website. I would also like to welcome Fiona Williams (no relation!) who has agreed to pick up Society administrative duties (the many and varied) in the short-term. Fiona will see us through to the Autumn Sale or until a more permanent arrangement can be made. Fiona's details are at the foot of the page and she will be happy to help so please get in touch with Fiona as you need to. To mark the change we also have a slightly different format to the Newsletter. If you have news to share then please let us know. We can include it in a future newsletter and also make sure that it is uploaded to our Society website.

Roy

Summer Shows 2015

We hope to see as many Cluns forward as possible at the summer shows again this year to build upon the 'missionary' work done by Del Knowles, Daryl Brown, the Vincent family, Mike and Evie Eckley, John Shepperson, Torz Brown, Cameron Hendrie, Brian and Dunja Roberts, Steph Thackery, Cameron Hendrie, Brian Davies, and the Spice family.

Many Cluns are shown in the Any Other Native Breed Classes. With this in mind and to encourage more exhibitors we have put up the Court-Llacca Perpetual Challenge Cup for the Exhibitor who gains the most points in UK shows that don't have a specific Clun Class. So keep a note of what you've won during the year for submission in late

September. The Ram of the Year, Female of the Year and Exhibitor of the Year for shows with designated Clun Classes (Three Counties, Royal Welsh, Burwarton, Newbury) have also been updated to make it more competitive and inclusive. If you contact me on mike.eckley@btinternet.com I can send you the rules and regulations of the Ram, Female and Exhibitor of the Year Trophies.

We also want to encourage our next generation of breeders, so if you know of anyone who has entered a 'Young Handlers' Competition in any of your local shows this summer, then take a digital photo and email it in with their details and we'll get it onto the website. Last Year Monty Davies of the 'Aber-Rheon Flock' had great success at the summer shows and is pictured below winning the Intermediate Young Handlers Class at the 2014 RWAS with 'Big Bill' (pictured).



Mike Eckley's 'Big Bill' expertly handled by Monty

Finally, in response to the increased interest in the Clun as a wool producing breed, the Society have arranged 'Special' certificates at the Three Counties Show and the Royal Welsh Show for the Highest Placed Clun Forest Fleece in the 'Open Fleece' Competition.

Mike

FLOCK BOOK

As you are probably by now aware we are in the process of a change in Society Secretary so there has been some delay on the Flock Book. The aim is to get the 2014 Flock Book out by the Royal Welsh and well in time for the Autumn Ram and Ewe Sale. The Flock Book will include new flocks from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales – so real progress. We are also seeing the return of a few flocks who haven't registered for a couple of years, which is great news. My contact details are below and my address for future reference is:

3 The Orchard, Newcastle on Clun, Craven Arms, Shropshire. SY7 8QL

Please don't hesitate to get in touch. *Fiona*

Overseas News

Following successful exports of livestock to both France and Holland last year we are hopeful that this could well be repeated in the future, with Del and Daryl of the Wrotham Flock hoping to send some ewe lambs to Flo Garde-Dalton of southern France this autumn. If you are exporting please inform the Society and we can provide you with the Official CFSBS Export Certificate. Last Autumn's Dutch export, which comprised ten shearling ewes from Andrew Smith of the Burrington Flock and Rex and Debbie Vincent from the Pixie flock, have all lambed successfully. I am looking forward to attending the Premier National Show at Kootwijkerbroek in central Holland in August this year where I have been invited to judge. *Mike*

clunforestsheep.org.uk

Our website has now been up and running since August last year and we are receiving up to 500 hits per month from all over the world. It is still a work in progress but Georgie Hollis has done a fantastic job to date in terms of giving the Society an online web presence. We hope that this will grow and grow and help to keep our members informed and up to date. Also if you search on Facebook there is an active Clun Forest Sheep Breeders and Admirers page which allows for positive discussion and the sharing of ideas and photos of Cluns throughout the world. With 97 members currently it's well worth a visit – check it out on Facebook. *Mike*

AUTUMN SHOW AND SALE

Last year the Society successfully held a single Ram and Ewe Sale. One of the highlights included Mark Lloyd's Shearling Ram selling for £1200 to Kathleen Davies of the new 'Foxglove flock', Hungerford. We will be repeating the same format this year at Ludlow Market on **Friday 11th September 2015**. There will be classes for males and females of all ages. We will be sending out the entry forms at the beginning of August. Entries this year are to go directly to McCartneys to be received before the 21st August. This will give all concerned opportunity to check entries before the catalogue goes to print and is subsequently distributed to potential buyers and is made available on the Society website. *Fiona*

Promoting the breed

At the last Committee meeting we discussed various means of PR and propaganda including: an information leaflet available over the summer period, some new Breed Society mugs and tie, and the possibility of making an official CFSBS calendar for 2016. If you feel that you can assist with developing any of these or have an idea to promote the breed then just drop us a line. *Mike*

AWARDS DINNER & AGM

Following on from last November's Awards Dinner which was a great success we hope to be doing a similar event this autumn to celebrate the year's achievements and exchange a story or two! What is more the Society will be celebrating its **90th** year, so even more reason to mark the occasion. We will be getting in touch for ideas and preferences in due course. Reminder of last year's event below to get you in the frame of mind! *Roy*



2014 Cup Winners, AGM & Lunch