

BRITISH GOAT SOCIETY



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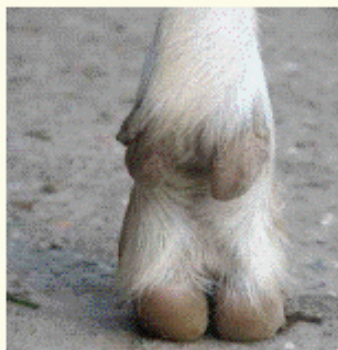
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Copy Date

Copy date is the first day of the month preceding publication

All copy and advertisements to reach the editor in good time

Your classified ads, photographs and news are most welcome

Classified Advertising Rates

Up to thirty words just £10.00. Thereafter 25p per word. For boxed adverts please add an extra £5.00. For boxed and displayed add £10.00 to the above rates.

Prices include vat at the current rate and includes free entry on the BGS website.

Adverts must be sent to the BGS Secretary by the 1st of the month prior to publication.

For information on other adverts please contact the Secretary at the BGS Office.

CAE Testing

To obtain the cheapest rates, you should find out from your vet how much it will be to test blood samples locally or alternatively instruct your vet to send blood samples to: SAC Veterinary

Services, Veterinary Centre, Drummonhill, Stratherick Road,

Inverness IV2 4JZ

Front Cover Picture

Llandudno forms the back drop for life in the snow for the Great Orme Goats of North Wales, photo by Mark Harrod, as seen on BBC Wales web site.

Sent in by Shane Llewelyn Jones.

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

May I begin by wishing all of our members a very happy New Year.

The prolonged cold spell certainly presented a challenge to all of us. Frozen water buckets, ice and snow all combined to ensure feeding the animals became more like an assault course challenge than a gentle hobby! The British Goat Society office was cut off from the rest of the World for several days.

I was extremely saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs Stephenson from Huddersfield. Together with her late husband Lionel and their daughters they established the Coalpit herd of British Alpines and enjoyed great success throughout the north of England for a great many years. Mrs Stephenson was always a welcome addition at any goat keeping event. Her hospitality was second to none. I will always remember taking a goat to one of their stud males one cold and wet autumn. I was treated to a wonderful evening meal along with the family and made to feel at home. I am sure that members will join with me in sending our condolences to Maxine, Chris and all of the family.

Our Secretary and several members including Committee members are very busy proof reading the next Herd Book. This will be the first one published since installing the Grassroots software. There have been the inevitable teething problems but we hope to get these ironed out to make its publication in the future much more straight forward.

The Year Book is well underway and will be published at the correct time. I would like to thank our Hon Editor, Michael Ackroyd, and all of the contributors and advertisers for their hard work and support.

Richard Wood
Chairman

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a warm welcome to new members who are:

Mr. Bridgewater, West Sussex;
Landmatters (Ms. J. Coglin), Devon;
Mr. Snape & Mr. Morris, Oxfordshire;
Mrs. Whitewick, Hampshire;
Mr. Sharp & Mr. Forrest, North Yorks;
Mr. Brannigan, Northern Ireland;
Mr. Mulcahy, Co. Limerick;

Mr & Mrs Davies, South Yorks;
Mr Kanishov, Ontario Canada;
Miss R Payne, Okanagan USA;
Miss Duerden; Lancashire; Mrs Rogers,
Hampshire; Mr O'Mahony, Co. Kerry;
Mr & Mrs Hall, Yorkshire; Mr & Mrs
Sawkins, Somerset; Miss Covus, Kent;

CAE BLOOD TESTING

The Scottish Agricultural College at Inverness offers BGS members a reduced cost per blood sample if submitted on a BGS form. These forms are available from the office or to download from www.allgoats.com.

Charges are made to the vet practice and are as follows (per sample plus VAT):

1-3 samples £6.70
4-9 samples £6.00
10 + samples £5.30

Samples should be sent to: Premium Sheep & Goat Health Schemes SAC Inverness, Drummondhill, Stratherrick Road, Inverness IV2 4JZ

CAE BLOOD TESTING

For members who are currently using the BGS CAE Monitoring Scheme
Reminder letters will be going out shortly. Please remember your certificate runs until the date stated and blood tests should be taken between 1st January and 30th April.

For details on the BGS scheme please contact the office.

The Scottish Agricultural College runs a separate scheme at present. Their contact details are above. The SAC website is also a good source of information. The address below is a good starting place.

<http://www.sac.ac.uk/consulting/>

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Dear Members

Happy New Year! If you were in an area that had snow over Christmas and New Year, I trust it was not too difficult for you or your goats. I am sure for some of you the new generation of kids will soon be arriving. If you have any photographs of your goats that can be published in forthcoming Journals, they would be most welcome. Your articles and experiences also.

There are a few members from whom prompt payment would be appreciated, for online transactions carried out through Grassroots in November & December!

Registration & Transfer forms are available to download from the website. These forms are also available on request from the office. The new prices are available from the website and are also printed on page 23 of this issue.

An index for all the show results appears at the end of the enclosed booklet.

I would like to find out who is our oldest Affiliated Society. If you think you might be the one, please contact the BGS office!

Best Wishes

Jane

LETTERS

Dear Editor

Scrapie Monitoring

I write in support of David Will's letter in the December Journal. My vet with whom I have been a client for 30 years, has never seen a case of scrapie, although this could be, because any suspect animal is quietly disposed of. Here in Wales, as in other areas, goat keeping has declined considerably, but those people who still carry on and the few newcomers are just not interested in scrapie, CAE or registration. The problem now is that there is a dearth of males, good or otherwise, which undo all the improvements in the quality of stock achieved over the past 40 years. With only a handful of stud fees it is very expensive to keep a male.

Show Results

May we please return to the format we have had over the past few years. They are so convenient to consult. The new booklets look fine but are completely impractical.

Yours sincerely

Ian Grant.

LETTERS

Dear, Editor

I write in response to the letters printed in last month's journal. I'd like to say thank you to those that took the time to reply and for all the positive phone calls following my letter and the response letters that were printed.

I would like to respond to some of the issues raised in Mr Will's letter to the editor. I personally feel that any health scheme that promotes the health & well being of any livestock, be it goats or any other animal, can only be a positive one. There are pros and cons of any health scheme or any group we choose to belong to.

There are always rules and regulations for every one of us in our every day life, what ever we are doing. Be it the use of a mobile phone in a car or where we can walk a dog!! Some will agree and some won't, we are not all made of the same mould, thank goodness!!

One of the points I agree with is regarding the no contact rule of scrapie and non-scrapie animals, but what I would say is that those of us on the scrapie scheme can say our herds over time have been tested free from scrapie.

I myself am not the biggest fan of all the rules and regulations we have to adhere to, but I have made the decision to try and obtain the highest health status for my herd. It's everyone's individual choice for what health status they wish to follow for their herd. I don't feel I can comment on the remarks made whether a vet or fellow members would know scrapie if it hit them in the face, as I

haven't been trained in the veterinary field. One thing I would say is that veterinary surgeons train for a very long time at a high level, more than most of our GP's. (Some more than others).

Leading on the from above comment, for example: be it vets or us members, who would know if cattle had TB, if they weren't tested? I would have thought no obvious signs could be seen till it was too late, therefore doing the national herd a lot of damage. Who is to know if our goats have scrapie? Unless they are tested, until it is too late, and therefore damage could have been done to our herds. It wasn't too long ago that a disbanded herd with TB infected goats was sold to different herds around the country, look at the upset, damage and heartache that caused for people and herds. Therefore what I'm trying to say is that I believe there is a need to test our herds for infectious diseases, which can only be beneficial to our national herd.

I fully understand that goats don't have to come from a scrapie herd or be registered with the BGS to be exported to some parts of the world. If I was to be importing goats, be it from where ever in the world, I would personally want to be 100% sure they had the best health status, for my own inner peace and for other's within the national herd.

I find it hard to believe that anyone abroad would want to buy a non-pedigreed/registered animal from this Country. If they're paying for the animal, and the transporting of the animal from the UK to its destination, I'm sure

LETTERS

the £20.00 registration fee for a male kid, would not be the chief concern.

The cost has risen by £5.00 on the price of registering a male kid, which is the first rise in many years. Taking it from £15.00 up to £20.00; the rise is less than you pay for half a bag of goat food. If the animal is worth keeping, it is worth registering with the BGS in my mind. Of course there will always be people who maybe don't require the animal to be registered; that is their choice and yours as the breeder.

Maybe we are all partly to blame for people not wanting to pay a true price for males, as a male is half the herd, and without good breeding we would go backwards.

I do understand that many goods herds over the years have been based on a family or families of goats, but what I was trying to say is that what males we do have left in this Country, are halved due to the fact of the different health status. (Scrapie and non-scrapie)

I personally feel that males should be brought out of the scrapie scheme, to enable us as goat breeders to have access to as many good stud males as possible. The gene pool for every breed is becoming smaller and small year after year.

Kind regards,

Shane Ll-Jones.

BOOK REVIEW BY RUTH GOODWIN

**Raising Goats, Meat – Dairy – Fibre,
by Felicity Stockwell**

**Paperback, published in 2009 by The
Good Life Press, price £10.95**

This is a book for beginners, and sets out to supply enough information to get you started, be it with a couple of pets, a small productive herd, of even getting your feet on the commercial ladder.

The first chapter deals with legalities – which nowadays, sadly, are numerous. The CPH (County Parish Holding) number, the Herd number, movement documents, identification (and here there is a mistake in the text – while it is necessary to have electronic ID for sheep, it is NOT necessary for goats). Record keeping – the Herd register, Medicines records, requirements for if you want to sell food products for human consumption, and so it goes on – all necessary stuff nowadays.

Chapter two is about buying and keeping family goats. – dairy, fibre, meat and rare breeds and how much you might have to pay for them. Housing, fencing, and breeding are all outlined, including the coming on heat of the female and how to choose the male. You may well be puzzled, as I was, on this last point – the authoress wisely suggested that the chosen male should have been tested, and found negative for caprine arthritis encephalitis (CAE). Her next point – “Is he MV tested?” This, I think, must be a slip – presumably MV refers to maedi-visna, the closely related disease of sheep, but

BOOK REVIEW BY RUTH GOODWIN

not goats!

Chapter three deals with feeding. “Feeding your goats economically throughout the year” – what a lovely idea!! Picking and drying suitable wild food are included, and this, if possible, would certainly help a little – but there is no getting away from buying good hay and concentrates. I was surprised to see that raw beans are among the plants listed as poisonous. There follows an account of how to trim hooves, groom, bath, vaccinate, worm, and de-louse your goats.

Chapter 4 is about keeping dairy goats. While we all do things differently, I suppose, there are a couple of points in the section on milking technique which are contrary to what I have always been taught. On page 56 the statement is made, regarding the milking bucket, “that stainless steel is best but a small plastic bucket kept solely for the purpose will do equally well.” I would say that stainless steel is essential and that plastic is quite wrong due to the ease with which it can get scratched, and hence impossible to sterilise adequately. On page 59 “get the milk to the house and strain and refrigerate it as soon as possible.” No! Putting a churn of warm milk into a refrigerator will not cool it adequately or quickly enough. Stand the churn in cold running water until the milk is cold, and then put it in the refrigerator.

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As the authoress says, the Dairy Hygiene Regulations, which can be found on the DEFRA website, must be complied with (i.e. you must register with and be approved by Environmental Health) if you want to sell, give away or barter your milk. They do not apply however, if milk is only for consumption by the occupier of the premises. On page 71, she writes “it is actually illegal to give the milk to your family too”, but a study of the “exemptions” from the regulations indicates that these exemptions apply also to members of the occupiers household.

Chapter 5 is entitled “Meat and Skins” and deals with the rearing of kids intended for meat, their slaughter and what to do with the meat, and the skins, if you want these to treat and use.

Chapter 6, “Goats for fibre” covers Angora, Cashgora and Cashmere goats, their general care, and shearing, then spinning the fleece.

Chapter 7 is a veterinary chapter, also a list of poisonous plants is included. It covers the general observation of the health and condition of the goats and the use of a thermometer and a stethoscope to check the temperature, and the rate of the heart beat, respiration and rumen contractions. Problems before, during and after kidding are dealt with. Reference to “purple spray” may puzzle some newer goat-keepers as it has been turquoise/green for some years now,

“it” being a wide-acting antibiotic aerosol spray, very useful to obtain from your vet and keep by you for superficial injuries and unhealthy looking hooves, as well as disinfecting the navels of newborn kids. A wide range of problems are dealt with, including hoof-trimming, vaccination and worming. I would have liked to see more information on the life-cycle of worms parasitic in the gut, as an understanding of how the infective larvae come to be on the grass eaten by the goat would help. Under the section on loss of appetite, it is suggested that a small amount of ivy or honeysuckle may tempt the goat to eat. Both of these are included in the list of poisonous plants! However, my poisonous plant book indicates that a **small** amount of either of these will not be harmful, and I have heard it said that “if a goat is still alive it will eat ivy”.

Chapter 8 deals with zoonoses (animal diseases which humans can catch) and the importance of hand-washing after handling animals is stressed.

The book closes with some cheese-making recipes, and finally a list of contact addresses. Inevitably such addresses go out of date with time – the British Goat Society’s has already changed, the new one and all other Affiliated Societies’ addresses can be found on the BGS website, www.allgoats.com

ENTEROTOXAEMIA IN GOATS

BY DAVID HARWOOD BVetMed, MRCVS

The term “enterotoxaemia” in goats usually refers to infection with one of a group of bacteria referred to as *Clostridia*, and these organisms are part of the normal gut flora, aiding in the process of digestion. This is an important factor when developing an understanding of this disease at the outset, you don’t buy it in with a purchased goat, your goat doesn’t pick it up at a show, it doesn’t pick it up from another goat in your herd – most goats will already have a low harmless level of infection in their gut. Your primary aim is to keep that level under control!

Clostridial infection is not just confined to goats; in the UK all ruminant species and also camelids such as alpacas and llamas can develop disease. In sheep for example, there are approximately 8 different clostridial diseases that most shepherds vaccinate against (using the so-called “4, 7 or 8 in one” vaccines, named after the number of clostridial disease that are protected by the vaccine). If you have mixed species on your unit – then ensure (with your veterinary surgeon) that any clostridial disease preventative programme you have, covers all susceptible species.

Luckily for us, goats suffer from very few of the many diseases caused by *Clostridia*, although they are particularly susceptible to disease caused by *C. perfringens* Type D – “enterotoxaemia.” Tetanus may also be a problem, but the gas-gangrenous conditions such as Blackleg,

Malignant Oedema, Black Disease, and Braxy etc are rare.

***Clostridium perfringens* Type D enterotoxaemia**

Clostridium perfringens Type D is the same organism responsible for causing Pulpy Kidney in sheep, although the presentation in goats is quite different. It is important to stress yet again, that this infection is due almost entirely to an imbalance between the immunity of the goat and the level of infection of what is a normal inhabitant, in its gut. Precipitating factors include a sudden change in diet, overfeeding cereals, or the sudden introduction of lush grass or other vegetation. Stressful insults such as transport, pain or fear may also predispose to infection in a susceptible goat.

If the organism is allowed to multiply rapidly in the gut, it produces increasing amounts of a powerful toxin that is absorbed into the blood stream causing toxæmia, with damage to brain, heart and blood vessels, in addition to severe damage to the gut wall itself.

Age group affected – disease can in theory develop at any age, but is less common in young kids.

Clinical signs – there are 2 main presentations:

Per-acute –goats can simply be found dead without any other apparent signs.

ENTROTOXAEMIA CONT'D

Acute – the most common presentation in which diarrhoea or in more severe cases dysentery (blood in the faeces) is seen. As the condition develops, a large amount of mucous and shredded gut wall may also be passed. The rapidly increasing toxæmia results in other signs including collapse, shock, and nervous signs including convulsions, affected goats may be very vocal, suggesting severe abdominal pain.

Disease in live animals is fairly characteristic, and is normally confirmed on its clinical appearance and the elimination of other possible causes of dysentery and diarrhoea. Faeces samples sent to a laboratory may be tested for the presence of toxin, and the post mortem features are fairly characteristic.

Treatment – success depends on the stage the disease has reached before treatment begins. Your vet must be contacted as a matter of urgency if you suspect that your goat is affected to ensure a rapid treatment regime is begun. Fluids either orally or intravenously are always effective, with pain relief and anti-inflammatory agents. Pulp Kidney antiserum (containing Clostridium perfringens toxin) may also be useful.

Prevention - there is an effective vaccine available. As already stated, goats suffer from only a small number of the clostridial disease that affect sheep, and your veterinary surgeon will normally advise that you use a “4 in 1” vaccine such as Lambivac. This vaccine used to be licensed for use in goats in the UK,

but the company decided (on economic grounds) not to re-license it – and currently NO VACCINE is licensed for goats. There is however overwhelming evidence that this 4 in 1 vaccine is likely to be the most effective tool in controlling enterotoxaemia. One important point to bear in mind however is that goats do not appear to be able to produce such good immunity to clostridial vaccines as sheep, (another reason for using a vaccine with only minimal components thus ensuring that the goat’s immune system is directed to the important clostridia and in particular *C perfringens* Type D). For goats that have never been vaccinated previously, the manufacturer’s recommendations for sheep must be followed and this will include two initial “priming” doses. Unlike in sheep however – it is important that goats then receive a booster dose **every 6 months** – ensuring that this dose is given 4-6 weeks pre-kidding in pregnant does, thus ensuring high levels of clostridial antibody in colostrum.

Moral:

All goat keepers should have an awareness of this disease, particularly:

- The preventative measures available.
- The importance of early recognition of clinical cases.
- The importance of early veterinary intervention if enterotoxaemia is suspected.

COMING SOON

Publications and Posters.

There have been a number of requests for posters. We now have an A3 laminated poster of breeds of goats (including Old English, Angora, Bagot and Pygmy). These can be ordered for £10 to include postage.

History of the BGS

I have also been doing a bit of writing. With Mary Allen's permission I have reproduced her History of the British Goat Society articles into book form. There is also an extra chapter to bring it up to date and additional illustrations. Cost is not yet confirmed, but likely to be approximately £10.00.

A– Z of Goats

The other project is an A-Z of goats and goat-keeping. This is five sides of A4 paper and aimed at primary school age children. It is supposedly written by my kids Alice and Zinnia (you have been warned!) so is not high-powered but may well sell on publicity stands. It will probably cost about £2.00.

Neither of these are official BGS publications, but any profit will go to the BGS and it would be helpful to have an idea of how much interest there will be in them as this may influence how we get them reproduced, and, in the case of the book, the sort of cover used.

Replies to me in the first instance please. biblinros@yahoo.co.uk or 016973 23755 or my post to address at the front of the journal.

Public Address System

Finally, I am keen for the BGS to purchase a portable public address system. Many shows have some forms of commentary while judging is taking place but the goat classes often take place in a quiet corner. It seems to me that we are missing a good public relations opportunity and retired goatkeepers might be delighted to do the commentary, and have valuable insights to give. However we don't want to spend money if there is no demand for a PA system. Could we have comments before the next Committee meeting which takes place on 5th February.

Many thanks.
Ros Earthy

Moorgreen Show 2010

Hetherton Korensa
won the CC & BTCC

PROGENY OF MALE – MALE NOT PRESENT BY PETER RICHTER

When asked at the Grampian Goat Club Show during June 2010 to judge a class 'Progeny of Male – Male not Present', it got me thinking. The more I thought about it, the more I liked the idea of the class. We have Male Shows, but what do they prove? On the face of it, not a lot – only that the male is sound and conforms to the breed standard. As the number of male shows is dwindling, it is presenting us with the problem of how best to 'grade' the male. Many males are obtaining awards which they possibly would not have received were there more competition. On this basis, we produce male awards, albeit with a proportion of the female award added in. Does this tell us which male is the best to use on our females to achieve the ultimate? I think not.

The advice I got when I first started breeding goats was to look at the male's dam (if she was still alive) and his siblings and offspring if possible. However, this is not always possible as it might mean travelling to each corner of the country. Furthermore, males are becoming fewer and further between anyway.

Grampian Goat Club has a brilliant idea – to judge the offspring of the male without him being present, this to include progeny obtained by A.I. I was presented with three groups. They were all what I call 'good' goats. I ignored the awards that I had already given and judged them as groups. I selected as first a group of three goatlings, out of three different dams but like three peas

in a pod and all good goatlings. The second and third groups were good, but not as even as the first. This proved to me that in the first placed group, the male's genes were strong and he would be likely, all things considered, to produce similar offspring when used on other females. This obviously cannot be an exact science, but it has to be a step forward from choosing would-be sires from a show catalogue.

I think that if the BGS were to adopt this class on a trial basis, we could perhaps provide a balance for the dwindling number of males at male shows.

* * * * *

N.B. Further to the above, it has been decided by Scottish affiliated clubs to trial the above class at 2011 shows. The class will be held at all shows, i.e. female and male shows. It will be very interesting to see what exhibitors think of the class and also to assess results at the end of the season. The class will not come within the scope of the BGS show recognition, but who knows what the future may hold?

Agnes Aitken, Grampian Goat Club Show Secretary

Recognised Shows for 2011

Show Name	Classification	Date	Judge 2010	Close	Phone
Alresford Show	AW	3rd October	Mr P Cox	13th August	01420 562137
Anglesey County Show	AW	9th August	Mrs M Hardman	5th July	01407 720072
Ayr County Show	A&C	14th&15th May	TBC	14th April	01290421541
Ayrshire Goat Club M&F	AA/W	m/f 17th July	Mr P Cox	4th July	01292541982
Ayrshire Goat Club Spring	AW	15th May	TBC	14th April	01290421541
Bakewell Show 181st	AW	3rd & 4th August	TBC	15th July	01629 812736
Balmoral Show	A	11th-13th May	Mr N Parr	18th March	02890665225
Border Union Show, Kelso	A,C & W	30th July	TBC	27th June	01573224188
Brecon County Show	AW	6th August	Mr G Godfrey	9th July	01559370529
Castlewellan & District	A&C	16th July	TBC	22nd June	02840630536
Cheshire County Show	AW	21/22 June	Mrs M Edgington	9th May	01565650200
Cheshire Dairy Goat Society M&F	AW	m/f 22nd June	Mr R Wood	9th May	01614303805
Cleveland County Show	AW	23rd July	Mr T Baker	1st July	01642312231
Cumberland County Show	AW	16th July	TBC	16th June	01697747397
Derbyshire County	AW	26th June	Mr G Godfrey	17th June	01246854898
Dorset County	AW	3rd & 4th Sept	Mrs H Mathews	3rd August	01305 264249
Dumfries and Lockerbie	AW	5th/6th August	Mr C Newton	11th July	01461 201199
Edenbridge & Oxted	AW	28th/29th August	Mrs J Martin	TBC	01437 645 843
Epworth (Dukeries)	AW	29th August	Mr T Baker	12th August	01777 707453
Frome Agricultural & Cheese Show	AW	10th September	Mr R Pemble	18th August	01249 716350
Great Eccleston & District	AW	16th & 17th July	TBC	2nd July	01995679204
Great Yorkshire	AW	12th-14th July	Miss D Oliver	10th May	01423546231
Kent County Show	A,B & W	15th-17th July	Mrs H Matthews	13th May	01622630975
Kent Dairy Show	A&C	16th July	Mr S Thomas	27th May	01322614882
Kent Male & Youngstock Show	A,B & W	m/f 19th June	Mr C Peck	8th June	01622859439
Lawford Summer Show Day 1	AW	20th August	TBC	1st July	01206 230560
Lawford Summer Show Day 2	AW	21st August	TBC	8th August	01206 230560
Leek & District Show	AW	30th July	Mr D Will	30th June	01782550028
Lincolnshire Show	A,B & W	22nd-23rd June	Mr T Baker TBC	21st April	01522252900
Malvern Dairy Goat Show	AW	17th-19th June	Mr A Morrey	12th April	01684584900
Melplash Agricultural Society	A&C	25th August	TBC	22nd July	01308 423337
Newbury Show	AW	18th Sept	TBC	1st August	01635 247111
North Wales Goat & Smallholders	AW	10th August	TBC	5th July	01248 853 743
Northumberland County	A,C & W	30th May	Mr A Morrey	30th April	01434604216
Norwich & District Male & Ygstock	AW	m/f 16th July	Mr D Brace	1st July	01263710245
Norwich & District September Dairy	AW	17th/18th Sept	Mrs S Prior	30th August	01263 710245
Norwich & District Spring Dairy	AW	7th/8th May	Mrs M Edgington	24th April	01263 710 245
Okehampton Show	AW	11th August	TBC	14th July	01363 866 161
Royal Highland Show	AW	23rd-26th July	Mr A Morrey	21st April	0131 3356213
Royal Welsh Show	AW	18th-21st July	Mr R Wood	27th April	01982554403
Royal Welsh Smallholders & Garden Fe	AW	21 & 22nd May	Mr T Hanna	Mar/Apr	01982554408
Rutland	AW	5th June	Miss P Newton	15th May	01572787567
Scottish Goatkeepers' Fed Autumn	AA/W	20th August	Mr G Dale	TBC	01382 370259
Scottish Goatkeepers Fed Spring	AA/W	28th May	Mrs M Hardman	TBC	01382370259
South of England	AW	9th-11th June	Mr C Peck	1st April	01444892700
South Western Goat Show	AW	m/f 26th June	Mr S Thomas	20th May	01934824437
Stithians Agricultural Show	AW	11th July	Mr R Wiffin	6th June	01566781742
Stokesley	AW	17th September	Mrs S Prior	29th August	01642 712541
Surrey County Show	A,T14	30th May	Mr T Garry	22nd April	01483890810
Tendring Hundred Show	A,C & W	9th July	Mr C Peck	17th June	01206231821
The Royal Norfolk	AW	29th/30th June	Mr T Garry	30th April	01603748931
The Suffolk Show	AW	1st & 2nd June	Mr R Pemble	1st April	01473707115
Three Counties Show	AW	17th-19th June	TBC	12th April	01684584900
Westmorland County Show	AW	8th September	TBC	15th August	015395 67804

Cream Teas

*First published in United Caprine News October 2010
USA. Article by Jeff Kliene on the visit of Steve
Considine's visit to the UK
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Most every student of composition has at some point been required to write an essay on what was done during summer vacation. This writer went back to England to visit John and Hilary Matthews, The Lymes Cottage, Toddbrook Farm, Chelmsford, Essex. Their British Saanens are consistent winners at BGS shows; Hilary is one of the most senior and respected BGS judges; John is an Honorary Veterinary Surgeon of the BGS; both are published authors on subjects pertaining to goats; and from a previous visit, I was aware that their archives of dairy goat materials may possibly be the most extensive of any private collection in the world. My pedigree research data often extended back to BGS imports and then went blank. I want to get behind that barrier and was quite certain the source materials for the quest were at The Lymes.

A well disciplined Brit will never show off. The art of being proper has been elevated to its highest level in that culture. So with no affected casualness, the first morning I was there John and Hilary randomly pulled materials that I would perhaps find of interest. They both lead very busy lives - he as a practicing veterinarian and she as business manager of a veterinary surgery with three locations and numerous employees. So I was left to amuse myself as best I could. Within a very short period of time, I was awed by an old scrapbook that I opened. It was none other than the

personal clippings of everything written by the scion of the British Goat Society himself, the Honorable Henry Stephen Holmes Pegler. The earliest of these dated to four years prior to the establishment of the BGS in 1879. A companion scrapbook contained original flyers promoting the 1875 Crystal Palace Show, as well as the published list of winners, the basis of the BGS Herdbook. The rough first drafts of *The Book of the Goat* were also included.

To a dairy goat bibliophile, this would be akin to a student of the American Revolution having private access to George Washington's personal papers and letters written during the winter at Valley Forge. Forget the Smithsonian, the British Museum or the Louvre. No security clearances; no annoying attendants hovering around, scrutinizing every move; just ultimate access to the primary source of materials of my dreams. The books I had only read about in the bibliographies of my oldest books were right there on the shelves within easy access.

Both John and Hilary were soon convinced that I was the easiest to entertain goat guest they had ever had. Hilary almost had to forcibly drag me to their goat barn to view the small herd. I had already alerted them to the fact that I don't like large urban areas and much preferred old ruins and buildings, flowers and gardens, of which the British have a great abundance, and seeing goats. In figuring out the game plan for my week with them, Hilary asked if I would like to visit the area where the

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landscape I had admired above their fireplace was painted. So the second afternoon, the two of us set off for Constable County. John Constable (1776-1837) was noted for the extraordinary color of his landscapes. He was the son of a miller who lived in Dedham on the border of Suffolk and Essex. Most of his earliest paintings were scenes near his father's business, Flatford Mill. "The Hay Wain" made him famous in Paris and heavily influenced later landscape painters in France. The countryside remains little changed from Constable's canvas legacy and was certainly my kind of sightseeing. On the way back into Essex, we detoured to see the restored Coggleshall Grange Barn, originally built in about 1235. It remains one of the largest and oldest barns in Europe. The supporting posts of its wood pegged superstructure are massive hand hewn oak trunks two feet in width. It is now part of the British National Trust.

After that brief detour, it was the hour for another venerated British tradition - afternoon tea. Few things are as quintessentially English as a "cream tea". Tea-rooms are nearly as common as pubs in every village. Hilary took me to a tea-room on a berry farm in Tiptree that specializes in preserves of all kinds. A cream tea is basically a pot of freshly brewed tea with a pitcher of cream at the side and served with two fresh, jam currant scones, traditionally topped with a jam or preserve of preference and crowned with generous dollops of clotted (Devon) cream. We split an order with an extra side of tea. I chose black currant

preserves. It was totally addictive. I asked about what makes the cream so thick and irresistible. From years of culinary reading I already was aware that "Devon" cream has achieved English heritage status, but I needed to know why. It is definitely not whipped cream. Even in vintage BGS yearbooks, numerous writers as far back as the 1920's would write of their success in marketing "cream" by post and making a modest profit on their small herd of goats, with customers being unable to distinguish it from a similar product made from the milk of cows. A well guarded secret seemed to surround the origin, as if its making were proprietary information. Hilary suggested that I ask when we got to Devon where she was to judge a buck and kid show over the weekend. Meanwhile, why not just enjoy the afternoon?

That evening we had been invited for dinner by a fellow member of the Mid Essex Goat Club, Ruth Tyler of Tetherdown Farm, a retired very successful breeder of British Toggenburgs, including a Best Of Show win at the Royal in London - the most coveted of awards within the BGS. I had met Ruth on my first visit to Essex six years ago and immediately bonded to her no nonsense, outrageously outgoing personality. The intervening years had only heightened that admirable trait. The English are sometimes dismissed for a lack of culinary forte and too easily dismissed as the land of rather bland tables of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding. Ruth dispelled that misconception.

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tion in one long, lingering feast of several courses. She had cooked up a storm with fresh parsnip soup for a starter, then a homemade salmon mousse, chicken breast in herbed cream, steamed vegetables, and a ginger rhubarb crisp. With coffee, there was an assortment of English cheeses. The conversation generally flowed around goat shows: the ADGA national show, then about to begin, and reminiscences of BGS shows over many decades.

The next day I was able to devote my interest entirely to research. I traced back pedigrees of two key BGS Saanen bucks imported to the U.S., Thundersley Petrol (born 2-21-42) and Mostyn Messenger (born 2-8-1948). Their predecessors in turn were among 18 does and 11 bucks imported via Holland by the British Goat Society in 1922. These imports became the keystones of the Swiss or Saanen section of the BGS Herdbook. Photos of these ancestral Saanens often displayed the prominent, much maligned Roman noses transmitted by the Gold Crown breeding in many U.S. Saanens. Thundersley Petrol made the Gold Crown herd. Two does from that 1922 importation were owned by Mrs. A.W. Abbey: S23 Hyacinth and S24 Snowstorm. Hyacinth was a mere four generations behind Thundersley Petrol. Sometime midday, I began the perusal of two further battered old volumes John thought I might find of interest - little did I realize what further treats were in store for me. One was the herd ledger of the Didgemere Herd and the other Mrs. A.W. Abbey's personal scrapbook.

Arthur Abbey worked for a major London auction house, such as Sotheby's or Christie's, and could afford to maintain his wife, Beryl, in great affluence in Didgemere Hall, Roydon, Essex, a few miles northwest of London, during the prosperous period following WWI. She was fond of breeding dogs and discovered quite by chance how litters thrived on goat milk. In 1918, the elderly woman who sold her the milk decided to sell her goats. Beryl felt she had no option but to buy a goat. The gardeners and stable workers were highly prejudiced against this acquisition. Beryl decided to care for the goat herself. In her own words, "The goat was dreadfully lonely and did not hesitate to say so in unmistakable terms, which, seeing this did not tend to increase her popularity, I decided it must be remedied, so I bought another to keep her company ... and I found myself - rather against my will I admit - getting fond of them." While visiting the zoo, she noticed a placard announcing a goat show and decided to stop by. It was love at first sight upon seeing a British Alpine goatling named Preference, exhibited by Miss Pope, a venerable early breeder within the BGS, and not at all eager to sell Preference. Much persuasion, and most likely a hefty amount of cash, tipped the day in Beryl's favor and her life long love affair with British Alpines began. Her husband catered to her whims and would give her more goats for birthday presents. Her success as a breeder and exhibitor were immediate.

Perhaps some readers are a bit confused

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as to why a discussion of Saanen pedigrees segued into successes breeding British Alpines. In way of explanation, breeders within the BGS had no problem with registering

twin progeny, one white and the other sundgau in different books, in this case British Saanen and British Alpine. It mattered little to them which book (s) the parents were in. In fact, it could even have been a British Toggenburg. One registered each animal according to its color. This practice continued through 1935! The BGS only grudgingly grants the importation of one "Alpine" type doe in 1903, Sedgemere Faith, a sundgau with a pied face. She not only was the granddam of British Alpines, but also put the milk in Anglo-Nubians! As there were no Alpine bucks to mate her, she was in her lifetime often bred to Saanen bucks, and an occasional Toggenburg or Nubian. The 1922 importation of Saanens was a boon to British Alpine devotees. Mrs. Abbey's herd ledger documents the color transitions between books. For example, Didgemere Demure 3Q* B.S. 94, born 4-9-1927, bred to a pure Saanen buck, produced twin does on 1-5-1933. The white one was registered as a British Saanen; the sundgau was registered as British Alpine. Mrs. Abbey is most remembered as the "Godmother of British Alpines", however, her success with pure Swiss Saanens was also very admirable. In Volume 40 of the BGS Herdbook a total of 14 Swiss Saanens are listed; 12 of whom bear the Didgemere prefix. Miss Motsyn Owens is generally considered the "Godmother

of Saanens in Britain" and was a frequent buyer of Didgemere stock. The ledger itemizes sales as far afield as Trinidad and Tanganyika.

The financial circumstances of the Abbey family were greatly altered by the crash of 1929. A move was made to a much smaller property the end of the war in 1945, Mrs. Arthur Abbey did a motly spot entitled "Goat Keeping in Wartime". All the scripts were in the scrapbook I was privileged to read. Each bore a stamp from Home Service Programming verifying policy and security. The size of the listening audience was most probably the reason for *Practical Goatkeeping* going into a 2nd edition in March 1941, a 3rd in March 1942, a 4th in January 1945 and a 5th in January 1947. One may wonder how Mrs. Abbey found time to care for her goats with all this activity. During the war, there was a program called "The Land Army girls" which resettled young urban females into rural areas to help sustain agricultural production. Joan joined up with Downe Hall Farm and never left. Beryl herself would live to be 101 years old. When John Matthews was a young veterinarian assisting in a practice in western Essex in the 1970's, he was called to Downe Hall to work with the small herd of dairy cattle that Joan cared for. The goats were only a fond memory at the time; Beryl and Joan's meager income came from the cattle. John described their existence as an advanced state of "genteel decay". Upon Beryl's death, Joan turned over the goat related materials to John and Hilary, who had broad-

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ened the business connection into routine social contact while they resided in a nearby community.

Dinner that night, at my request, was “takeaway” fish and chips, the British are bang on with how they serve cod! John would be able to take time off from the clinic the next afternoon and it was decided that the three of us would go on an excursion to investigate Saanen heritage at Didgemere Hall. From years of veterinary calls, John knows most every scenic back road in Essex. The barley (corn to the British) was in full change and harvest was near. Quite by chance, we stumbled upon St. Andrew’s Church near Greensted, which is reputed to be the oldest wooden church in all of Europe and in continuous use for over 1100 years.

The original structure is vertical oak logs, chinked with mortar. To the right of the entrance is a wrought iron picket encir-



John & Hilary Matthews at Greensted Church

cling a crusader’s grave. The sexton’s wife was eager to tell us the legend of a vintage hewn oak cross grave marker, missing one arm and generously covered

with green moss. It seemed that a lusty young yeoman had fallen in love with the squire’s daughter. He was given a challenge task to cut a large amount of hay within a short time to prove his worthiness. In the frenzy of his scything, he miscalculated, deeply gashed his leg and bled to death. The gate to Didgemere Hall was locked and no one was at home at Downe Hall Farm. But at least, I was able to see the old dairy farm where John and Hilary originally were partners in a sizeable mixed breed goat operation. Its ambiance of a 1970’s back-to-the-land communal farm yet lingers. Hilary made yogurt and sold at local farmer’s markets to generate income. We had to hurry home for their other passion - football (soccer to Americans).

The British were playing a match in the World Cup that evening and I had more BGS Yearbooks to ingest.

John had to work the next morning. I needed to finish off whatever further research I would be able to fit in. Hilary was attending to details with the friend who would be living in and tending to the goats and property for three days. Early afternoon we set off for the Southwest of England. In southwestern Hampshire, the M31 motorway stalled just at the exit Hilary wanted to take south into New Forest and for cream tea at a special old estate home, transformed into a hotel. The New Forest, remains the largest area of natural vegetation in all of England. Herds of wild ponies have grazed on this common land since 1077, their owner’s rights protected by one of the oldest sets of laws in England. A

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wedding reception was in progress at the historic hotel and all we could get was a cup of teas or coffee. Hilary was eager to move on over into Dorset anyway; she had an itinerary we needed to keep. The New Forest detour turned out to be auspiciously perfect as the motorway back up from a fiery accident cleared up precisely at the further on exit at which we re-entered the M31. The rolling hills and wide vales of Dorset reminded me of upstate New York dairy areas in the Mohawk Valley. Our last stop of the afternoon was a World Heritage Site known as Jurassic Beach. The erosion of a limestone cliff in southwestern Dorset at the English Channel routinely reveals more and more dinosaur fossils. In fact, such fossils are so prevalent that hammers are rented by the day for visitors to scavenge for their own finds. The stately palisades of Lyme Regis are just beyond the beach. "Going to the sea" rates high right up beside cream tea as a venerable English tradition. As darkness fell we drove inland towards a rural 16th Century coach house inn where we were to spend the next two nights. The old stable block out behind had been converted into rooms to let. The menu in the inn featured locally produced products. I enjoyed a warmed goat cheese appetizer and baked sea bass.

To be continued in the next issue

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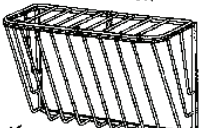



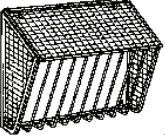
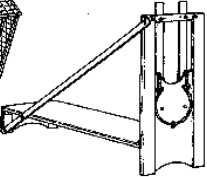


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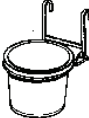

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Government Agricultural Websites

England

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm>

Scotland

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture>

Northern Ireland

<http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/fisheries-farming-and-food.htm>

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<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/>

Ear Tag manufacturers

Dalton Livestock: www.dalton.co.uk

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