

BRITISH GOAT SOCIETY



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May 2011
Monthly Journal
Volume 104

Page no 93–124

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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

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Front Cover Picture

Ch Kattern Georgie Q* BrCh BS041437D

Winner of the Ashdene Metaphor award for the highest milk recorded yield in 2010

With a yield of 2468kg in 365 days. Owned by Mr I & Mrs M Grant. Photo Brian Perry.

The BGS Monthly Journal (ISSN 2044-7426) is published by the British Goat Society and is available to most classes of members, otherwise it is available for an annual subscription of £20.00 or £2.00 per single copy. There are usually 11 issues per year.

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I have recently been contacted by a firm of Solicitors in Ilminster, Somerset to inform us that the British Goat Society is the sole beneficiary in the last Will and Testament of a Mr Geoffrey Michael Hill. Mr Hill was not a member of the British Goat Society.

I do not know at this time what the value of the estate is as it involves the sale of a property, but we do know that it will be fairly substantial. The Solicitor has advised that it could be up to twelve months before we receive the money.

Clearly an amount of money like this will require a great deal of thought and care. We must plan how we will use the bequest for the benefit of the Society in the long term. It certainly demonstrates how helpful legacies are. I will keep members informed as more details are received.

The second point I wish to report on is that at the Committee meeting held in London on 16th April 2011 I was re-elected as Chairman. This will be the start of my 10th year as Chairman of the British Goat Society. I have spent a great deal of time thinking about the future and reached the conclusion that by the end of this period it will be time for me to stand down and take a back seat. I informed the Committee of my intention at the meeting.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Chairman and will write more on this matter at a later date. It is certainly not a job for the faint hearted! I would, however, like to thank everyone who has offered support throughout the years and helped to make my job much easier.

Richard Wood
Chairman

NEW MEMBERS

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

Mr B Wakefield Derbys; Mrs Dean, Cambridgeshire;
Mrs L & Mr S Dodd, Cornwall;
Mr & Mrs Everitt, Surrey; Mrs Kerfoot, Lincolnshire; Mrs Harvey, Hampshire;
Miss Scott, Wiltshire; Ms S Stangeland, USA
Mrs Toussaint, Surrey

PRICES FOR 2011

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|------------------------|--|
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|------------------|--------|
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| | |
|------------------|--------|
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| | |
|--------------------|--------|
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| 6months to 2 years | £16.00 |
| Prefix | £22.00 |

Bulk registration prices apply to BGS members only, when over 10 females are registered at the same time.

Registrations through a BGS Affiliated Society cost double, with the exception of a registration of a male goat between 6months & 2years when the cost is £75.00

Transfer of Ownership £6.00

Bulk transfer prices apply when more than 10 are transferred at the same time

Transfer prices apply to non BGS members also

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Dear Members,

The winner of the Ashdene Metaphor award for the highest milk recorded Champion in 2010 with a yield of 2468kg in 365 days was Mr I & Mrs M Grant's Ch Kattern Georgie BS041437D Q* BrCh was and not as published previously.

The show and lactation certificates for last year will be going out shortly. Champion and Breed Champion certificates have been issued.

PUBLICITY CO-ORDINATOR

There were various super BGS goodies for sale which will soon be available to order online from the BGS shop or from Jane at the office. We now have BGS metal badges, goat tea-towels, colourful goat breed posters (all breeds not just dairy), a fantastic selection of clothing with the BGS logo, plus you can have your own herd name (or whatever you like) embroidered on to the items, BGS mugs (with our logo) and Mary Allen's brilliant "A History Of The BGS" articles which have been updated and expanded by Ros Earthy and turned into an A5 book format by Richard Pemble. This is a real treasure for goat history enthusiasts. I can't recall us having such a great selection of items available before. We also have a good selection of books and DVD's already in the shop.

GOAT DAIRY TRADE ASSOCIATION

The Goat Dairy Trade Association (GDTA) was set up in February 2010. It represents the interests of UK companies trading in goat dairy products, including drinking milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, cream and other products such as fudge with a goat dairy content.

The primary aim is to raise the profile of this important niche industry, to protect its interests and to ensure that it has a voice in all matters that might affect its future development.

The GDTA provides guidance and advice on regulatory developments of relevance to goat dairy product trading, help with any quality or hygiene problems and advice on food safety management. It also provides a discussion forum for its members.

For further information contact: E-mail: info@gdta.co.uk

GDTA, 7 Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DP

Tel: 020 7253 2114 · Fax: 020 7608 1645

(published in the Provision Trade Federation Yearbook & Directory 2011)

Dear Editor

I write concerning Felicity Stockwell's letter in the April Journal and her objections to Ruth Goodwin's review of her recent book. I can well understand Ms Stockwell wishing to protect her book but I do not read Ruth Goodwin's review in the same critical light that she clearly does. Mentioning that a book is aimed at beginners might, far from being a criticism, be considered a point of great merit. I have known Ruth for well over 30 years in which time (and indeed for over a quarter of a century prior to that) she has given unstintingly of her time and knowledge to the benefit of beginners and old pros alike. I think we are all entitled to our own views and must be careful not to "cast aspersions." I am sure Ms Stockwell is doing sterling work; I know that Ruth has and for over half a century it would seem!

I do like the idea of including more goat-keepers under the banner of the BGS and applaud Ms Stockwell for encouraging people to join. Why, however, anyone interested in goats would not be interested in the Year Book is rather beyond me! There are always articles on management and many other interesting topics from art, cookery, dairying, puppy rearing, feeding, fibre, meat, calf rearing, to soap making and travel... well you name it and there is a place for it in the BGS Year Book; including shows. I look forward very much indeed to an article from Ms Stockwell in the next edition; that would be great.

Whilst on the subject of your excellent and varied Journal I appreciated both David Will's letter and Nick Clayton's article on Scrapie. I loved the photos of Mylerstow Morchique (and with Grass Roots I was able to look up her pedigree immediately) and also of Hilary Matthews feeding a kid. The rest of Steve Considine's article was amusing (though he of all students ought to know that Didgemere Dream wasn't a Saanen!) and John Matthews article on health status was very thought provoking.

I also congratulate Messrs Doubleday and Smith for qualifying for the Breeders Cup when they live in far flung Kent and the geographical distribution of the cup doesn't always make it easy for breeders living on the fringes to qualify.

Keep up the good work

Yours Sincerely

Michael Ackroyd.

Goat Breeding Takes Time by Dave Dowdy



Goat breeding takes time, so it is not until several years have passed that we can know how well a project has gone.

Around 5 years ago we got a request from an Australian who wanted to buy goats for an orphanage in Iganga, Eastern Uganda. We sold him two goats, and added a third free. Sister Elizabeth Achieng had difficulty arranging for transport, so I was asked to drive them there myself. I was impressed by the keenness of Sister Elizabeth and the preparations that had been made for the goats' arrival, but concerned that they had no experience of looking after such animals.

Since then I have driven past the St Philomena Orphanage

several times, on my way to Mbale, and wondered how the goats got on. So I was very excited to receive the following news:-

... Just thought I would let you know that the goat project at Iganga went very well. Sr Elizabeth has bred about 20 milking goats that have been placed with other orphanages. The small children thrived wonderfully well on the milk and the goats are now a very important part of the Babies Home farm. Thanks again ...

It doesn't always work out so well, but when a breeding programme takes off, the effects spread a long way.

www.joygoats.org.uk



Dipper says to Guilden Bluesun, "leave some for me"

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OUT OF THE ORDINARY

The study of pedigrees has for many years been a hobby of mine and over the years I have looked at, and written, many hundreds of them.

It started way back in my teenage years when I became involved with my Uncle 'Steven's' Pedigree Southdown sheep flock.

My early schooling was at boarding school, with many holidays spent with relatives when my parents were out of the country. As a result of being in contact with farming family from grandparents to uncles and aunts the holidays were spent being 'entertained' by and mixing with livestock. Talk of tups and stallions around the meal table was not uncommon, as a result my interest was first sparked and grew over many years into the fascination it is today.

I learned about breeds and breeding, the finer points of line breeding and the avoidance of inter breeding and inbreeding. Yes there is a difference which many seem to realise too late and to their cost.

One of my aunts who lives and farms with her husband in Studley, Warwickshire, kept beautiful white goats, only two of them but it was they, Lucy and Lilly that stole my heart at the tender age of nine years old. I was allowed to help feed and brush them, which they seemed to enjoy and, over time, learned all about them and their origin coming from Switzerland many generations back in their ancestry. As my paternal grandmother was Swiss born and bred, and having relations living there I wrote

to cousins to find out more about the origin of this breed of pure Saanen goats. The correspondence shows the original goats were wild goats off the hills which were tempted by food and eventually over a number of generations tamed and bred from. My cousins still own a few of their grandparents goats which have been kept as a closed herd over many generations, recently a young wild male was caught and has settled in well with their females.

It has been said that the 'Dutch White' is a Saanen. No, this is totally incorrect. The Dutch White was taken to Switzerland by Dutch settlers and in some instances was bred with the Saanen, these goats have only a limited amount of Swiss blood. The original goats differ totally in size, shape and conformation, so the Dutch White is an inbred goat of the two breeds and not a true Saanen but a crossbred goat.

Unfortunately being liked by some owners more than the true Saanen it has reached the stage where, in this country, there are now very few pure bred Saanen still in existence, making the closed herd book of the BGS an obsolete function.

The whole object of closed herd books is to protect a pure breed, as the Saanen is no longer a pure breed because of the Dutch White blood introduction I see no reason to keep it as a closed herd book any longer.

When it was first raised that the Dutch White goat be allowed into a closed herd book for registration, a number of pure

OUT OF THE ORDINARY

Saanen owner/breeders raised the Dutch White's claim to belong to the Swiss Saanen breed but were shouted down by force of Dutch White owners, as a result it was put into a closed herd book by force of BGS officials against the will of the Saanen owners at the time.

It was this action that led me to delve deeper into these two breeds and their origins. My Swiss cousins have worked tirelessly on my behalf researching the Dutch White introduction and the facts speak for themselves.

The Dutch White has some Saanen blood yes, but is NOT a pure Swiss Saanen goat in its own right but a cross breed, and as such should be considered for registration, as are other crossbred goats.

It is sad that the pure Swiss Saanen was treated in this manner, I know of owners who refuse to register stock because of the mixed blood in the herd book but still remain true to the pure breed, some lines

have undoubtedly been lost as a result of the action taken years ago which is a shame, more blood lines will undoubtedly vanish in years to come. I fear the true Saanen in this country is doomed to extinction swallowed up by crossbred white goats of indeterminate origin, as no one seems to know the true origin of the Dutch White which could also be a mixture of blood lines.

The remaining true blood lines which we need to protect from further damage and ensure they are kept as pure goats must be a priority to all pure goat owners and their purity guarded at all costs from inbreeding with other breeds.

Owners who believe that maintaining pure bred stock against all the odds are the true goat keepers of our heritage and the only stalwarts who can carry these true bred goat lines through to the future.

Mrs J Riddell

SHOW 2011 SEE PAGE 114 FOR BGS AWARDS AT SHOWS IN 2011

| Show Name | Show Date | Judge 2011 | Entries | Secretary Name | Phone |
|----------------------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| | | | Close | | |
| Anglo Nubian Breed Show | 2nd July | Mr M Ackroyd | 17th June | Mrs V Hardy | 01623 555 155 |
| Glendale Show | 29th August | Mr C Nye | 5th Aug | Richard Wood | 01661 823733 |
| Latheron Show | 9th July | Mr R Wood | | Ms D Meikle | 01847 851 448 |
| NIGC Harvest Show (m&f) | 2nd/3rd Sept | Mr S Thomas | 13th Aug | Mr G Ringland | 02840671422 |
| NIGC Spring (m&f) | 20th-21st | Mr R Wood | | Mr T Hanna | 02870 836228 |
| NIGC Autumn Show (m&f) | 5th/6th Aug | Mrs H Matthews | 30th July | Mr D Galbraith | 02870836228 |
| NIGS Male & Youngstock | 13th August | Mr T Hanna | 1st Aug | Mr W Anderson | 02897541641 |
| Northumberland Male & Youngstock | 4th June | Mrs S Prior | | Mr. R. M. Wood | 01661823733 |
| Cardigan County Agric | 27th July | | | Mr A Evans | 01239 891 637 |

Photo Shoot with the Financial Times

I received a phone call on Wednesday 23 February from Christine Woodward, the Secretary of the Derbyshire Dairy Goat Club, to say that the Financial Times had been in touch to ask if we could arrange for them to come and photograph some goats in the area together with members of our Club. The FT had obtained Christine's number via the BGS Publicity Officer Ros Earthy.

Christine contacted Jacky Snell to ask if we could use her premises and her goats to which Jacky kindly agreed. We knew that Jacky's goats would all be looking well and the goathouse tidy and clean. Christine then roped in a few more members who would go to make 'the picture' together with her grandchildren and Jean's grandchildren (they wanted goats and children for the photo – what a combination!)

We duly descended on Lindway Lane Farm – the home of the Lindway herd of British Toggenburgs for 12noon on Friday 25 February. Fortunately it was dry but a distinctly cool day. Lindway Lane Farm is pretty much off the beaten track probably about 25 mins drive from Chesterfield and 10 mins from Matlock. It is near the top of the lane with views for miles around. The goats are housed in a cruck barn which dates back to the 16th century and have access to a number of smallish paddocks for grazing amounting to just over two acres.

The first thing that I noticed when I walked into the goathouse was the beautiful smelling hay which the goats were eating. As expected the goathouse was

tidy, the goats were all well bedded down and in excellent condition (especially considering the time of year) and a credit to Jacky's management. Peter Marlow, the photographer from the Financial Times, was about 15 mins late which gave us a chance to look round and have a chat. The farm is somewhat off the beaten track and Jacky and her husband John had been snowed in for 11 days before Christmas.

The first thing Peter did was have a walk round to pick a spot for the photo-shoot, in fact, he decided on two areas – one outside the barn and the other one inside. Then he had to sort out the equipment he needed which included two spotlights for the outside photo. It was then a case of Peter organising everyone round the steps and once they were in position Jacky and myself went to get the 'stars' out – Lindway Candace and Lindway Clio. Peter then started taking photos – this seemed to go on forever – the youngest children becoming bored and moving around – well you should never work with animals or children! In this case he said the animals were great but the rest of us.....

We then moved inside the barn where the light was not particularly good so one of the Lindway goats had a spotlight erected in her pen which she was not too sure about but at least she didn't vandalise it. We were then 'arranged' and Candace made another appearance. Unfortunately, the spotlight did not cast the right sort of light so a light reflector was fetched from the car, the spotlight removed and

Photo Shoot with the FT cont'd

Jacky's husband, John, then spent the next 20 mins holding the reflector. There was a lot of shuffling around as Charlotte's pink coat was reflecting the light too much so she had to be moved from the door then someone else got obscured and so on. Eventually, he gave up and I think one of the outside photos will be used.

Once everything had been cleared away Christine, Jacky and myself had a chat with Peter in the comfort of the farmhouse. Apparently the Financial Times are doing a series of articles about 'small organisations' and a local goat club falls into this category. We were asked a number of questions eg how long has the Club been in existence, why did we start keeping goats (the phrase 'because we are mad' leapt to mind but we all resisted saying it out loud), the number of members, number of goats kept. We did try to steer the conversation round to the more serious aspects of goats and their produce, however, his remit was not angled that way. We did, however, disprove two misconceptions that Peter had (a) that goats do smell, and (b) that goats' milk has a strong taste.

Postscript –It was in the FT and an outside photograph was used. The accompanying very short article was well written and certainly was good publicity for the DDGC

Photo page 108

Margaret Hardman

Biography– Ursula Williams

Goats became a lifetime inspiration in the work of one of Britain's best-loved children's writers, according to a new biography.

The unlikely story is revealed in *Through the Magic Door: Ursula Moray Williams, Gobbolino and the Little Wooden Horse*, by Colin Davison, published by Northumbria Press in April 2011 to coincide with the centenary of Williams' birth.

Goats were not her first passion. Ursula and her identical twin sister Barbara both longed to have a pony when they lived at North Stoneham House, a crumbling, half-abandoned mansion set in large, overgrown parkland outside Southampton.

Their parents demanded that they should save up for one, and the means of doing so came about when the head game-keeper of the estate offered the family two white goats that the girls could look after.

'Pip' and 'Peter' soon produced a kid, and from that point the twins had a regular source of income from selling the milk to their mother. The girls themselves apparently turned their noses up at the product, although it proved popular with others, including the family cat.

Ursula's childhood experiences were extraordinary and exceptionally happy, and she used them many times in her stories. Not surprisingly goats feature in five of her first ten published books.

Biography– Ursula Williams cont'd

The very first, *Jean-Pierre*, written in 1930 when Ursula was just 19, tells the story of a little boy who goes missing in the Alps with his chamois goat, before both are found and tucked up safely into their respective beds.

The goats at North Stoneham were free to wander for much of the day through the wild and mostly unkempt park and woodland, grazing off the wild flowers and bushes – not always happily, it would seem.

Beware of this Animal (1963) is one of the later titles based entirely on their misadventures. It tells of a goat, also named Peter, a devil that creates havoc in gardens and allotments, butts those to whom he takes a dislike, and defies capture.

The eponymous anti-hero is fed rhododendrons mistaken for laurel, and has to be treated with castor oil, an incident repeated in two other of Ursula's stories suggesting that this really happened in the rhododendron- and laurel-filled woods of North Stoneham.

One of them, *A Castle for John-Peter* (1941) exactly repeats descriptions that its author left elsewhere of life at North Stoneham. So the original Peter looks a likely suspect as the inspiration of another incident in that book when a goat wanders into the kitchen and is taken upstairs to frolic around, but bounds downstairs and charges against a door, waking both the mother of the house and the maid.

"Horses were Ursula's first love as a girl, but she clearly retained a soft spot for goats, and admired their spirit of independence which is why she used them in her stories time and time again," Mr Davison said.

In *The Cruise of the Happy-Go-Gay* (1967), a goat is taken aboard the heroes' boat as one of the essentials – together with bull's eyes and paper doyleys. In *Pretenders' Island* (1940), one of the children uses a magic wish to produce a goat. And in *Tiny* (1971), an excellent short story written for children with reading difficulties, she uses the memory of her childhood cat who loved goats' milk.

Williams wrote nearly 70 books for children, including classics like *Adventures of the Little Wooden Horse*, *Gobbolino the Witch's Cat*, *Spid*, *Bogwoppit* and *The Good Little Christmas Tree*. She died in 2006 aged 95.

A ten-month touring exhibition celebrating her life and work runs at Hampshire Record Office, Winchester, until June then travels to Woking, Petersfield, Eastleigh and Tewkesbury.

Photos on page 109

From: Colin Davison, 1 Bakers Lane, Ashton under Hill, Evesham WR11 7ZS



Derbyshire Dairy Goat Club members at Lindwaylane Farm – the home of the Lindway herd



Children's writer Ursula Moray Williams, author of classics such as *Adventures of the Little Wooden Horse* and *Gobolino the Witch's Cat*.



Above: A sketch from Williams' unpublished humorous diary of a holiday in Switzerland, in which she and her sister often encountered mountain goats.

And right: from *Adventures of Anne and Grandfather*.





Two illustrations from her early books, Jean-Pierre (above left) Mountain Goats (above right)



Above left: Champion at Sydney Royal Show BA Corringale Beauty and above right, together with the Reserve Champion Osory Andalusia. Michael Ackroyd's article about the Sydney Royal Show begins on page 110

Sydney Royal Show

I was honoured and delighted to be invited to judge at the Sydney Royal Show for 2011, somewhat on the coat tails of my much more illustrious partner who had judged in 2009. Nick Parr had gone down very well in Australia and has made and kept many friends “down under” and had recommended them their judge for 2010, Colin Newton. For a show to be able to afford to invite a third British judge in a row speaks of both a healthy purse and a healthy interest in the views of the senior British judges. As I say, I was both honoured and delighted to be asked to judge.

Sydney Royal was established in 1822 and is thus older than very many shows in the UK; it is also very much larger. The show takes a full two weeks to run its course and is the absolute highlight of the agricultural calendar in New South Wales. Imagine one of our larger shows; Bath & West, East of England or the Royal Highland for example. Then double it or even treble it to get an idea of the mammoth size and scope of the Sydney Show. The show takes place in the Olympic Park and the goats have a very well equipped permanent building and a superb ring which is kept immaculate and has spectator seating.

I had an extremely competent muster of stewards; Yvonne Byers is the chief steward and is ably assisted by Linden Sly, Naomi Bishop, Greg Glassey, Julie McLean and Kathy Reidy; all good goat keepers of long service and all very willing and able. The shows own steward, Mal Morgan, is a great supporter of the goat section and his presence is on hand throughout the show. I must say that everybody made me very welcome and I didn't know anybody at all. My special thanks go to Ted Byers and to Michael and Isobel Hatelly who looked after me and ferried me about throughout the show.

I am very used to flying long haul but I still made sure I had a day in hand prior to judging, to recover from the long flight. That day was spent visiting the museums and galleries of downtown Sydney and enjoying some wonderful seafood.

Judging was spread over 3 days with well over 200 exhibits spread across some 50 classes including numerous Championships. It is a really big undertaking and the competitors are extremely keen and savvy so a judge needs to be on their toes. The style of judging in Australia is somewhat different. Although they do have milk tests they don't have a milking competition as such and yields are not given between full udder and milking out. I really didn't find this an issue. It was obvious which animals were working well for their living and which were not, and which few were over-stocked.

I wondered how I would get on without a judging book but I quickly discovered that I really didn't need exact dates of birth when all classes are age specific and the few questions I wanted to ask were quickly answered.

I would have to reluctantly say that I found the overall standard of show condition,

presentation and handling to be slightly higher than one tends to find in the UK. The level of focus was very high but I would say the camaraderie was good in the show lines, too.

The Australian exhibitors soon got used to me wanting to view the animals from the tail on as well as from the side. I handled all exhibits and bio security meant a quick gel rub between each exhibit. Placings were according to the numbers in the class so in the bigger classes I was not obliged to place to the end of the line; what a good idea. I did, however, still make brief comments to the unplaced exhibitors so they knew why they had not been called out into the winners' line. It all went very smoothly. I was also asked to make my comments over a microphone; again not what we usually do but no problem.

My Supreme Champion went to an absolutely tip top British Alpine called Corringe Beauty. She had size, frame, dairy quality, charisma, top condition and an absolutely first rate udder both full and empty. As someone who had been enough of an admirer of two UK Champion BAs in Sovereign Pearl and Nebo Natasha to get sons from them I feel happily able to say that Beauty felt to me like the 3rd best British Alpine I had ever seen. I understand all her breeding goes back to the UK and she has a key Australian doe in her pedigree some 25 times or more.

My reserve was a big and bold Saanen called Osory Andalusia. Although I had half a dozen other good goats that were perhaps better balanced than Andalusia none of them had her strength and power. She reminded me very much of Silverhoof Smarties. As I say there were other decent goats there but these two were the ones that made an impression on me. I was disappointed in the teat confirmation of the Anglo Nubians and I liked the new pure black Swiss type breed the Australian Melaan; very interesting. I believe that the main breed herd books are closed in Australia.

On my day off Ted Byers took me out for the day in to the country the other side of the razorbacks west of Sydney. We visited a farm he is involved with that has been leased by a government department with a view to helping both refugees and ex offenders get experience in agriculture, a primary industry. I found it very interesting. We also visited a lovely Angora herd on a beautifully situated farm. Most of the weather I had was sunny but this particular day there was some refreshing rain. Clearly in Australia both water access and water rights are absolutely core to the value of a small farm.

I really enjoyed my trip "Down Under" but it was also very good to get home and go and check my own stock in their stables at home. We don't get the same weather; we certainly can't get the same quality of hay and we don't have as many young people involved in our shows as they do in Australia. But after a day or two back in the old country I felt very happy with what we've got.

Michael Ackroyd

BBC 1 Countryfile, 9th January

This programme featured Sharon and Chris Peacock, who have 400 goats. They are meat producers. Goat meat used to be regarded as dry and strong flavoured – Boer goat meat is not like this. A South African breed originally, then crossed with dairy goats – but there is more meat on pure Boer goats. One thing, the males do smell! Adam Henson appeared on the programme – he has goats but to sell them as breeding animals. Chris showed trimming the feet which he does every three months. The Peacocks sell meat on the farm and by post. They can sell all that they produce. Will it ever take the place of beef or lamb? Goat meat is low in cholesterol and fat. A professional chef, Nigel, coats a goat shoulder in garlic and salt, and roasts it for two to three hours. The verdict? Very nice, definitely fit for Sunday lunch!

Rencontres Recherches Ruminants

This, the 18th meeting for French-speaking researchers on ruminants, will be held in Paris on 7th and 8th of December. If you wish to present a paper, a short version of your report must reach the organisers before 25th March, and a full text before the 13th May. To request the necessary form, e-mail; 3R@inst-elevage.asso.fr or tel: 33140045296 or fax: 33140045280 The postal address of the organisers is: Institut de l'Élevage, 149 rue de Bercy, 75595 Paris, Cedex 12. The conference site is: Centre des Congrès de la Villette, Cite des Sciences et de l'Industrie, Paris.
Website: <http://www.journees3R.fr>

Need to give a present?

Through Oxfam you can give a goat to a family in need in Nepal for £25 www.oxfam.org.uk/shop/oxfam-unwrapped-animal-lovers.

A bit more expensive: a pair of goat fur earmuffs for £225 from Maison Michel at www.brownsfashion.com If you are in charitable mode, the charity Kids for Kids which works in Darfur has a website: www.kidsforkids.org.uk and made a film about their work which you can see at www.information.tv, look at
C h a r i t y F o c u s

Dairy Industries International

The January issue tells of the purchase by Swiss dairy Emmi, of the production rights for one of the top brands of goats cheese, “Le Petit Chevrier”. Formerly made by the Bettex dairy, which has 500 milking goats, this cheese comes in cream, soft and semi-hard varieties with a range of flavours, one of which is apricot. Bettex, a market leader for goat milk products in Switzerland also produces goats milk and yogurt, and has a growing export trade to France. Milk and yogurt production will remain with Bettex, who currently process one million litres a year, and owner Richard Bettex is doubling the size of his herd. The February issue says a lot of interest has been shown in Heiderbeck's launch of a premium goat cheeses selection into Germany, from a specialist dairy in Lombardy that matures all its goat milk products in limestone caves. The high fat Stracco di capra has a red mould and is matured for 45 days, while Deliziola di capra is a strong piquant

blue mould slicing cheese. In this issue also is an account of the Agri-food Industry Suppliers Meeting in France. One of the exhibitors was Dairygold Food Ingredients France, who make, among other things, a range of cheese powders which can be used to boost flavour or replace natural cheese in a variety of dishes. One of these is goats cheese powder. www.dairyindustries.com

G r e a t O r m e
cashmere goats did damage.
30 goats were found in the grounds of a school and they had eaten the special Bardsey Island Apple trees and damaged a greenhouse. Herd numbers have risen dramatically since they were introduced there 200 years ago, but last year the goats were injected with contraceptives which reduced the number of kids born by nearly two-thirds, from the usual approximately 60 to 23. Some goats were relocated a few years ago to reduce the population from the number then of 220.

Animal Health and Welfare including goats.
The Animal Health Agency and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency were the two principal DEFRA executive agencies which worked to combat animal diseases. They merged on April 1st to form the Animal Health Veterinary Laboratories Agency. The budgets have been devolved – England will have £105 million and Scotland and Wales £21 million each. Research and surveillance will continue to be centrally funded in Great Britain, which will work closely with Northern Ireland, which is already separate in this respect.

Bluetongue.

The UK is moving closer to regaining bluetongue free status. We could qualify for disease-free status as we have been free in recent years, but the government does not want to do this yet so that we can continue to keep our option to vaccinate against bluetongue open. The EU Agriculture committee has now voted to enable vaccination to be done outside restricted zones, but this has not yet been approved by the full EU parliament, and cannot anyway come into force until June. It would be vital to use inactivated vaccines. Disease-free status would enable exports of livestock but import controls would remain.

New Moredun Magazine

Issue 1, Winter 2010, is a fascinating read, but actually only mentions goats specifically in connection with Caseous Lymphadenitis (CLA). This bacterial disease, as many members will be aware, causes abscesses in the lymph nodes and internal organs, and causes wasting in life and carcass condemnation at slaughter. It was brought into the UK in imported goats in the early 1990's and quickly spread to sheep. Moredun researchers have identified a potential vaccine in a specific toxin from the bacterium, and this has been successfully used in sheep against an experimental CLA infection.

Further information:

www.moredun.org.uk/research

To obtain a copy of the magazine:

<http://www.moredun.org.uk/publications/moredun-magazine>

SHOWS 2011

| Show Name | Cup | Show Name | Cup |
|--|-----|---|------------|
| Alresford Show | 1 | Aberdeen and Angus | 15 |
| Ayr County Show | 1 | Royal Welsh Smallholders & Garden | 15 |
| NIGC Spring (m&f) | 1 | Bakewell Show 181st | 17 |
| Norwich & District September Dairy | 1 | Swaffham & District Goat Club-Dairy | 17 |
| Ayrshire Goat Club (M&F) Show | 2 | Todmorden Agricultural Show | 18 |
| Cornwall Male and Youngstock Autumn | 2 | Norwich & District Spring Dairy | 19 |
| Devon & Somerset Male & Youngstock | 2 | Stokesley | 19 |
| Nottinghamshire (M&F) Show | 2 | Grampian Goat Show (M&F) | 20 |
| Frome Agricultural and Cheese Show | 3 | Honley Show | 20 |
| Scottish Goatkeepers Federation Spring | 3 | NIGC Harvest Show (m&f) | 21 |
| Ashbourne | 4 | Anglesey County Show | 22 |
| Edenbridge and Oxted | 4 | Monmouthshire Show | 22 |
| Cheshire County Show (M&F) | 6 | Tendring Hundred Show | 23 |
| Hambleton Dairy Goat Show | 6 | Sedgefield | 24 |
| Royal Highland Show | 6 | Stithians Agricultural Show | 24 |
| Royal Norfolk | 6 | Suffolk Show | 25 |
| Rutland | 6 | Tregaron Goat Show | 25 |
| Scottish Goatkeepers' Federation | 6 | Kent County Show | 26 |
| South Western Goat Show (m&f) | 6 | Moorgreen Show | 26 |
| Surrey County Show | 6 | Emley Agricultural Show | 28 |
| Ayrshire Goat Club Spring Show | 7 | Melplash Agricultural Society Show | 28 |
| Derbyshire County | 7 | Great Eccleston & District Agricultural | 29 |
| Dumfries & Lockerbie Agricultural | 7 | Cambridgeshire Male and Youngstock | 30 |
| Kent Dairy Show | 7 | Epworth (Dukeries) | 30 |
| Royal Cornwall Agricultural Show | 7 | Malvern Dairy Goat Show | 31 |
| Royal County of Berkshire Show | 7 | Usk Show | 31 |
| Royal Welsh Show | 7 | East Anglian Summer Show | 32 |
| South of England | 7 | Leek & District Show | 32 |
| Yealmspton Agricultural Show | 7 | Highland Goat Club Spring (M&F) | 33 |
| East of England Autumn Exhibition | 8 | Moreton-in-Marsh | 33 |
| Border Union Show, Kelso | 9 | Anglo Nubian Breed Show | 34 |
| Three Counties Show | 9 | Brecon County Show | 36 |
| Dorset County | 10 | Cleveland County Show | 36 |
| East Of England Show | 10 | British Alpine Breed Show | 37 |
| Royal Bath & West | 11 | Cheshire Dairy Goat Society | 41 |
| Okehampton Show | 12 | Kent Male & Youngstock Show | 42 |
| Halifax Agricultural Show | 13 | Black Isle Show | 46 |
| Lincolnshire Show | 13 | Devon County Show | 16, 29 |
| Newbury Show | 14 | British Toggenburg Breed Show | 38,45 |
| | | Great Yorkshire Show | 6,33,37,39 |

A list of all the BGS Challenge Cups, above, is available on the website or on request from the office.

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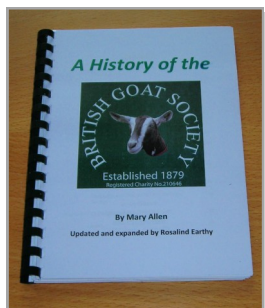
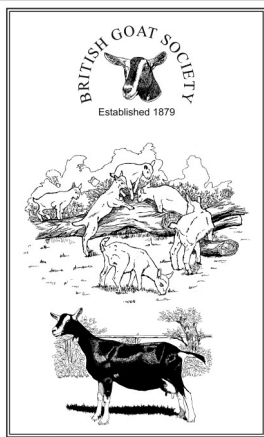
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BGS FORUM REPORT NO. 1 BY CHRISTINE BALL

We have decided to share some "questions, answers and information" from the online "BGS Forum" in the Monthly Journal as a regular feature. The group is private to protect our posts from spam.

The Forum was created on Nov 29th 2010 for paid up BGS members. At the time of writing in April 2011 we have 60 members and hopefully many more will join in due course. Two of our BGS Hon Vets (John Matthews and David Harwood) are already members and our BGS Health & Welfare Officer Nick Clayton (also secretary of the GVS) will be with us shortly. So this is a great facility for getting expert opinions on your veterinary queries.

More can be found out about the Forum (it aims etc and contacts) by looking at a page on the BGS website <http://www.allgoats.com/BGSForum.html>

We hope those of you who have no access to the Internet will find this interesting & useful and maybe members who do have access but have not yet joined us will consider doing so. You can send and receive posts to the Forum in your Inbox. Or log onto our Yahoo website where you can also access photos, links, etc.

At the time of writing this summary there have been about 450 posted messages, so what is printed is just a selection. The selection has been made to try to provide something which is interesting, informative and will hopefully encourage you to join in.

On Dec 12th 2010 our first emergency posting appeared:-
HELP Please! Sick kid. I have an 8 month old kid who this morning was found looking very unwell with signs of blood round her

nose, temperature very slightly raised and not much interested in food, also giving an occasional cough. I've rugged her up, given a dose of antibiotics and returned her to the others. Checked on her again and also checked round the paddock. There is some congealed fresh blood where she has been standing and it appears to have come either from her nose or more likely she has coughed it up, her membranes are pale. Any ideas please. Fay

● Thank you to those who replied, I am pleased to say that the little one is improving daily. I did have the vet out and the only thing that came to light appears to be some infection in her throat area, she is on antibiotics Metacam and has also had a boost of multi-vits. She still has an odd cough but is eating again and everything is working as it should. Fay

Sorry to say I lost the kid, she was really sick this morning and on the way back from the vets started to cough up blood, by the time I got back to the surgery she was in distress and was admitted. She didn't recover and a PM revealed a small piece of wire lodged in the throat which had ruptured the aorta, there was an old clot round it that had been there a while. Could possibly come from the hay, Chinese lantern?.. Fay.

Sadly this did indeed prove to be a very thin piece of wire from a Chinese Lantern that had got into the hay. Since then Fay has managed to publicize this in local newspapers and on local radio. The NFU has been campaigning to ban these Lanterns that contain wire frames. C.

An interesting discussion on disbudding took place in a later post in which our Hon Vets took part.

With reference to disbudding - it is generally advised that kids are presented for disbudding at under 1 week - this will ensure that in all

cases there will be minimal bud development, and hence an easier and more effective procedure can be carried out. Others in this thread quote older ages (e.g. 3 weeks) - fine in some but not all cases. Once the bud begins to develop, the procedure can become more risky as to be effective the horn base has to be destroyed to prevent re-growth. This is easily achieved with no bud, but if you have to gouge out a bud first, more pressure may need to be applied, and the hot iron may have to be applied for a longer period of time - both of which can potentially damage an underlying brain - the skull is "paper thin" compared to e.g. a calf. Hope this helps? David Harwood

- Anke Sieker wrote: Disbudding has to be done by a vet under general anaesthetic (in UK)

- David Harwood wrote: Yes - this is important. The current legislation states that disbudding in the UK must be undertaken by a vet using general anaesthesia. I appreciate that in reality this does not always happen, but fundamentally this must always be borne in mind. Different vets will have differing approaches, some will use local anaesthetic, but that is their professional opinion and approach. In theory it is illegal for an owner to disbud their own goat - this discussion could go on forever - but this is the law we currently have. It is 30 years old - and clearly out of date, and does need reviewing.

- John Matthews wrote: I prefer all kids for disbudding within 4 days of birth, particularly males, although females are generally ok up to a week. Anglo Nubians may be an exception as they seem to have slower growing horns and it can sometimes be difficult to determine whether kids are polled or horned in very young kids. I think everyone occasionally gets regrowth, particularly with males, and it is usually a quick procedure to remove any scurs that are forming. The worst

time to disbud kids is around the 4 week mark when the buds are too big for the disbudding iron and too small to use a wire on. Kids of this age are best left until the horns have grown big enough to remove with a wire John Matthews BSc BVMS MRCVS

- John wrote again: As Christine says, loosely attached scurs can be twisted off using a pair of pliers or foot rot shears to hold them. If they twist off in one quick motion it doesn't hurt much. These scurs will then regrow. Scurs will also get knocked off when males bash heads. More firmly attached scurs can be removed by your vet under anaesthetic, using a wire. Bigger horns can be kept under control by removing the horn down to the sensitive part using a wire - if only the nonsensitive part is removed, no anaesthetic is needed. John Matthews BSc BVMS MRCVS

- Warmwell:-February 8th 2011 ~ Where are the vets to come from? The BVA are rightly concerned that "the announcement that the cap on tuition fees will be raised to between 6 and 9 thousand pounds a year could have a huge impact on the decisions of A-level students, "with fewer and fewer opting for an expensive veterinary science degree." Veterinary students of the future will graduate with at least £45,000 of debt in tuition fees alone. The BVA says, "Faced with these levels of debt, our concern is that those who do make it to graduation won't opt for the food animal practice and public health roles that attract smaller pay packages. We need to think carefully about how we can secure the future provision of large animal Practitioners."

- Re: Where Will Vets Come From? There is universal concern here - we are in danger of establishing a very elitist profession, whereby only those from a privileged background will be able to go to Vet School. Rest assured - on our behalf the BVA is mak-

ing strong representations to whoever will listen. The veterinary students union is also very active. Thanks for recognising this and for making it well known to your members.


David Harwood

There was a discussion thread about scabbi-ness on goats – possibility of orf. It is important to get a correct diagnosis. Wherever possible (although appreciate that it adds cost) - some of the conditions described here in this thread can look very similar to each other, but require different treatment regimes. If lesions in your goats begin to spread to others, or if you or your family have skin lesions yourself then I suggest contacting a vet as matter of urgency. Re nasal lesions - these scabs around the nostrils do appear to be quite common in winter, don't think we know the cause, and most seem to resolve naturally, no matter what you do! Orf is a much more serious condition, and can cause nasty lesions in humans (particularly young children). It would be unusual for orf to "start" around the nostrils, it normally begins in the mouth, gums, lips and tongue and may spread to nostrils in severe cases. It is a viral disease, with no specific treatment, cases will resolve naturally over time. Antibiotics prevent and control secondary infection, and creams / lotions may help. Avoid vaccination in goats UNLESS you have a proven problem - the vaccine used is a live vaccine. Remember - it is the same virus in sheep and goats - so infection can move between the two - most cases are introduced by the purchase of infected animals (that may not be showing signs). Re feet - you can get a combination of mouth lesions and foot lesions if the foot lesion is irritant, and the goat nibbles and chews it. One cause of lower limb lesions is Chorioptic mange - although it will normally spread and affect a number of animals together, rather than an individual. Dermatophilus is also a possibility in wet areas, but is

usually secondary to something else damaging the skin surface (and as the last post suggests, this can be excessive wetting of a skin area). David Harwood


Message from Christine Ball about the Farm Walk near Taunton.


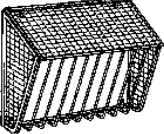
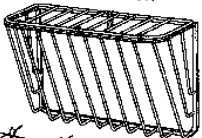
Fay Ogden & I attended the recent goat farm walk organised by the RABDF. I took the BGS publicity stands which we set up in the marquee where the talks were held. These are always interesting and well worth hearing. On this occasion one talk was by our Health & Welfare officer Nick Clayton who did an excellent update on goat health including the TB situation. We had an escorted tour around the commercial goat farm and super goatburgers for lunch courtesy of Chestnut Meats: - <http://www.chestnutmeats.co.UK/farmshop/index.php> We stayed in a lovely local B&B. A working farm (part of Prince Charles estate) and can highly recommend the facilities, service and the wonderful full English breakfast: - <http://www.bartletts-farm.co.UK/> This was the 4th annual goat farm walk (Helen Wallis, Nick Brandon, Tim Frost, Daniel Lucas) and I would urge more members to try and attend if they can. They are always interesting and it's a great day out: - [Http://www.rabdf.co.UK/training-and-events/forthcoming-events/commercial-goat-farm-walk](http://www.rabdf.co.UK/training-and-events/forthcoming-events/commercial-goat-farm-walk)


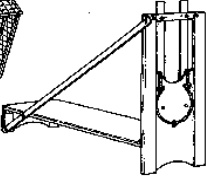








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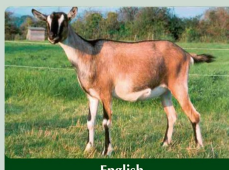
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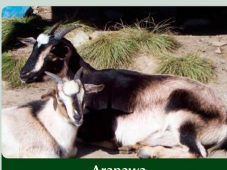
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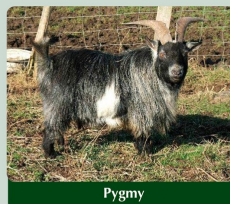
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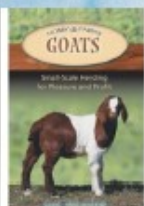


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