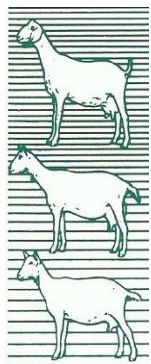


BRITISH GOAT SOCIETY



June 2013
Monthly Journal
Volume 106

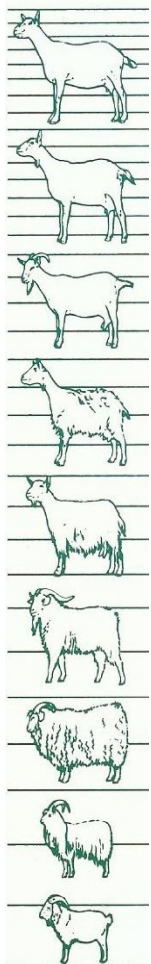
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Tel/Fax 01434 240 866

Email: secretary@allgoats.comWebsite: www.allgoats.com**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

“Shetland” a BT type nanny kid sired by Teilos Arwyn. Photo Rachal Norman

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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Email: secretary@allgoats.com**Contents**

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Goat Health & Welfare: Mr Nick Clayton, MRCVS,

29 Winfield, Newent, Glos. GL18 1QB
E-mail: nickclayton2@mac.com

BGS AUTUMN CONFERENCE
Hosted by the
SCOTTISH GOATKEEPERS FEDERATION

On
SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2013
At Camperdown Wildlife Park, Dundee DD2 4TF

AGENDA

10.30am	Arrival Tea/coffee & Biscuits with music by Adrian & Margi Simper
11.00am	Ian Gill, MRCVS
11.45am	BGS Question time
12.30pm	Lunch, hot buffet followed by raffle draw
1.30pm	Cheryl Paul, STV reporter
2.15pm	Nick Canning, Nutritionist East Coast Viners
3.00pm	Tea/Coffee, Cake and depart

The cost for the day, including tea/coffee & lunch will be £12 per person.

Cheques made payable to the Scottish Goatkeepers Federation.

Please send by 23rd September to: Lisa Sinclair, Millstane, Meikleour, Perth, PH2 6EH
(enclose s.a.e. for confirmation). Tel: 01250 884358, E-mail: lisa.sgf@tesco.net

Bookings will not be accepted without payment.

Camperdown Wildlife Park is situated off the A923 Cupar Angus Road, just off the A9
Dundee Kingsway and is clearly signposted.

The Conference will be held in the Learning Room.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Messrs D & S Friend, Devon; Mr McHugh, Co. Donegal;
Mrs Charman, Guernsey; Miss Powell, East Sussex; Heeley City Farm, Yorkshire;
Mrs Whitby-Last, Aberdeenshire; Ms Kelso & Mr Jacobson, Dorset;
Mrs Hill, Yorkshire; Miss Jones, Wrexham

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Dear Members,

The show season is well underway with results coming into the office. The first supplement will be published with the July Monthly Journal. Your photographs will be much appreciated for publication.

When using Grassroots online for registrations and transfers, please remember to print off the invoice for your transactions otherwise they remain and will be added to your next transaction payment. This applies to both payment methods of PayPal or cheque. For your convenience, if you plan to register or transfer an adult female who has kidded or a kidded adult female has died at or since kidding, could you remember to register the kids first, before listing the transfer or recording the death so that the female remains listed as alive and or owned by you in your herd.

Applications for registrations and transfers through the post continue to be perfectly acceptable.

Best Wishes
Jane

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Dear Editor,

I am writing to invite comments from readers as to their feelings in relation to securing a change in the frequency of CAE testing for our dairy stock from an annual test to one every two years.

This request, to explore a move to biennial testing, is not new as it has been well aired at several BGS conferences in the past decade and seems there to be verbally met with positive interest from members present, followed then, by a benign attitude of the reigning BGS Committees to discuss it further.

The incidence of CAE in the National herd is now very low and in over 20 years of testing herd in our herd, we have never had a reactor and I am sure this is likewise true for the majority of readers for their herd tests over the last two decades or longer, yet we are expected to annually meet expensive veterinary bills in relation to tests, why?

If members wish to test their herds every year, for example if they seek export status, then that remains their prerogative. However exporters are in a minority and it is the membership who show their stock and travel to males for mating that are having yearly to foot enormous veterinary bills to secure annual CAE free status certification, when the incidence in the national herd is virtually zero due to several decades of rigorous and expensive testing and culling.

I feel it is time that the BGS committee took a sensible, realistic and proactive approach to supporting goatkeepers in these worsening financial times and mov-

ing to a biennial testing scheme would be one step in showing support for the members who have elected them.

Please will you write to me - Gordon Smith at Gildy Den Farm, Monikie, Dundee, Angus DD5 3QL or email me at gildyden@mac.com - with your personal views on this issue and I will co-ordinate the responses which I receive and hopefully use them to initiate action by the Committee of the BGS into addressing the present situation, given the now high achieved status of the national tested herd in respect of CAE

Annual testing is no longer merited in my opinion, a view which I know is keenly aired by many other goatkeepers who like myself are seriously beginning to question the pros and cons of continued goatkeeping and the soaring costs which the hobby entails.

Yours sincerely,
Gordon Smith

Dear Editor,

The Toggenburg Breeders Society National Show will be held as usual in conjunction with the South Western Goat Show at the Bristol Sales Centre on 7th July 2013

The Toggenburg classes at Newark have nothing to do with the Toggenburg Breeders Society.

Thank you.

Fay Ogden (Chair TBS)



Phil Ormerod of Pasture House Farm, Skipton Photo: Mrs Ormerod

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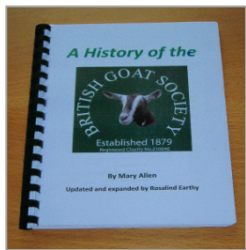
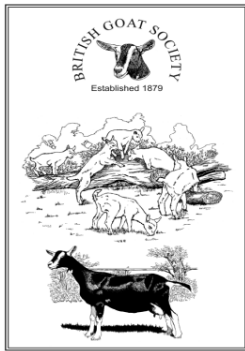
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BGS Merchandise



Top left: Clothing available from KMK Productions.

Top right: BGS Badges. Above left: T-towels. Above right

Clothing comes with the BGS logo embroidered as standard. Your own herd name can be printed on the front and/or back of the clothing. Available are T-shirts, Polo shirts, Rugby shirts, Hoodie, Fleece, Mug, Mouse Mat.

Catalogue & order form available from the office. Direct link shortly from the BGS website.

Badge price (including P&P) £3.95 each (10 or more £3.50 each to affiliated societies/clubs, plus postage cost)

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Contact the BGS Office for all the items above.

PROPOSED REGULATION CHANGE

In accordance with Rule 16 the following Regulation change which has been duly proposed and seconded will be first discussed at the Committee meeting on 31 July 2013 and a vote will take place at the Committee meeting on 16 November 2013.

Reg 22. (10) Delete the sentences 'Subject to the award being claimed by the owner or breeder of the dam, it shall be published in the next available Herd Book, but not entered on the goat's registration card. This award may be claimed from 1st January 1994 and qualifying progeny must have been born after 1st January 1990. A certificate will be issued to commemorate each award.'

and replace with:

'This award will automatically be credited once a dam has the qualifying progeny whose achievements have been published. The goat's name will appear in the next available Herd Book but will not be entered on Grassroots or the goat's registration card. A certificate will be issued to commemorate each award. This award became available on 1st January 1994 and for the dam to qualify the progeny must have been born after 1st January 1990.'

Reg 24. Delete the last sentence of this Regulation: 'The responsibility for claiming the appropriate award shall be with the owner or breeder of the goat who will be required to forward the necessary information to the Secretary.'

and replace with:

'Awards will automatically be credited except for male goats born prior to 1st January 2009 where the breeder, owner or other interested party will need to supply the necessary information to the Secretary.'

Proposed: Margaret Hardman

Seconded: Richard Pemble

2013 AFFILIATED SOCIETIES CONFERENCE

The Chair, Mrs A Aitken, welcomed everyone to the Affiliated Societies Conference and introduced the panel of Mrs M Hardman and Mr N Parr.

The following resolutions were passed for further consideration by the BGS Committee.

Proposal from the British Toggenburg Society

"The British Toggenburg Society proposes that the BGS change the regulations which relate to the claiming of cumulative awards to make the award automatic, to replace the current system which requires a claim from the owner or breeder. With the purchase of Grassroots the technology should now be available to enable this to be achieved."

Proposal from the Kent Goat Club

"The Kent Goat Club proposes that male awards i.e. breed champion and champion status are updated automatically in line with female awards that are currently updated on the Grassroots system without the need to apply for them manually".

Proposal from the Grampian Goat Club

"The Grampian Goat Club proposes that in order to help preserve, encourage and promote the exceptional blood lines of quality UK male goats, the BGS to help financially towards the collection and storage of semen from these males. Owners of males to apply to BGS for financial support. Semen to be held in a central location and the BGS to explore the feasibility of acquiring a dry shipper for use by female goat owners so they can have access to these straws, regardless of their geographical location".

Proposal from the Durham Dairy Goat Society

"The Durham Dairy Goat Society proposes "Given the cost of membership fees and ever increasing costs related to keeping goats, might the BGS consider making the Monthly Journal available on line, thus saving on printing, postage and the office workload.

This could be done by offering members a choice, with those wishing to read the Journal in this way paying a reduced membership fee, for an individual password to access this option, or paying more to choose the hard.

Proposal from the Northumbrian Dairy Goat Society

The Northumbrian Dairy Goat Society proposes that the BGS offer reduced subscription rates to members opting to receive electronic versions of letters, certificates, documents, journals, year books, herd books etc in place of posted hard copies. This could benefit both members and the society through:

- 1) reduced membership fees
- 2) increased net fee income for the BGS if the membership fee reduction is less than the total postage cost,

Of course existing arrangements should remain an option.

2013 AFFILIATED SOCIETIES CONFERENCE

Proposal from the Gloucestershire Goat Society

The Gloucestershire Goat Society proposes that "When a milking goat in the AOV classes has gained as many Certificates of Merit as a milker in Breed Classes needs to gain Breed Challenge Certificates she should be allowed to include CM after her name as the others have BrCh. Of course that would include her also achieving a * or Q*. This would increase the value of CM's and be of interest to future students of pedigrees".

The following resolutions were not carried.

Proposal from the Pennine & Bingley Goat Club

"The Pennine and Bingley Goat Club propose a rule change on the award of a star * to: When 18 points are obtained in a competition held in accordance with Regulation 20 (1). subject to the butterfat percentage being not less than 6.5% of the total of both milkings".

Proposal from the Sussex County Goat Club

The Sussex County Goat Club proposes the following resolution

"As most Affiliated Societies are struggling for members, the Sussex County Goat Club requests that when the British Goat Society acquires a new member, that these new member or members are advised of any Affiliated Goat Clubs that may be near and of interest to the new member. New BGS member names are printed in the Monthly Journal but, quite correctly, their addresses are not".

SHOW UPDATES

Monmouthshire 29th August

Judge Mr T Garry Entries close 26th July Contact: Mrs Williams Tel: 01981 580 710

John O' Groat Show 29th June

Judge Miss D Oliver Contact: Miss Meikle Tel: 01847 851 448

Diploma Show:

Turriff Show, 6th July, Contact Ms Paterson Tel: 01466 81 866

1st February: The month started with good news, the CAE test has come back negative for all 32 samples sent in. I train vet students from Nottingham university on the Broiler chicken side of our business every fortnight and the 5th year students took the samples under the supervision of my vet – great experience for them and a really nice concept that I am being paid by the vets to do my work!

2nd February: Blood mineral status sample results back today and more good news, all well within required levels. We regularly use Laparoscopic artificial insemination after synchronizing the females and the blood mineral status is crucial to getting consistent fertility results. The samples are taken in January so that if anything is lacking we have 6 months to sort things out. We feed a lot of Lucerne haylage and the goats graze a purpose grown herbal lay so we find that additional mineral feeding has become unnecessary.

3rd February: Not such a good day today, have taken Bala my favorite BS milker to the abattoir this morning - she is dry and we have been unable to get her in kid this year either by artificial or natural means. The vets diagnosed an infection but no amounts of antibiotics have helped. We are a farm, so barren animals have to go – she has been to over 40 shows with me in the last 3 years – I held her whilst they put her down but couldn't look her in the eye.

4th February: The lorry that was booked to collect 20 round bales of lucerne haylage from Yorkshire was delayed and

unable to collect my load today – typical as I am down to the last bale of the current stock. Drove to Yorkshire and back at 4am in the truck and 12 ft. trailer to collect 3 half tonne bales to keep me going until lorry available again next week. Using back loads on transport saves money but you are never the priority if something goes wrong.

5th February: Colin Newton will be glad to know that I am getting better at trimming feet now; I shouldn't have to stalk him at every show to get him to sort out my mistakes. I am getting plenty of practice, as there are 32 goats at home. Dairy goats consist of 4 milkers (3 BS and 1 AOV), 3 goatlings (1 BS, 1 BT, and 1 AOV) and 1 male (BT). We have 3 pedigree 100% Boer goatlings in kid to my Pure Boer male by Lap AI, 10 Boer cross BS kids in kid to the Boer male and 8 younger BT cross Boer kids that will be mated this autumn. The Boer cross girls are all here to be used as embryo recipients from the 100% females this September.

6th February: I arranged an AI course with Christine Ball today to be held here on 25th/26th September. There is a very nice new village hall just down the road from the farm for the theory sessions on the Wednesday afternoon, a Premier Inn 2 miles away is very local and set in converted stables around a very good pub for an evening meal and then we will have 20 plus goats synchronized to be inseminated on the Thursday practical session. Anybody interested should contact Christine Ball direct.

7th February: Hosted a visit from the Ukraine poultry industry today, always interesting as I can talk much faster than the interpreter can! Our Poultry farm was built as a show farm and we have filmed TV adverts here and hired the whole farm and animals out for clothing catalogue shoots so visitors are usually very complimentary and love to see the goats.

8th February: Excellent news today, Norwich Goat Club is having an early back to back show at the end of April! Really pleased as we keep hearing about shows that are being dropped. Have sponsored them £100 to show support – better than giving it to the taxman! I am hopeful that as my milkers will be kidded on 21st Feb (all synchronized) we will have a chance of catching some good fats at this show – better mention the plan to the girls!

9th February: Flew to Ukraine today, left home at 6am, got to Donetsk at 10pm after 3 flights – got colder and colder the further east I got. I have a contract to do consultancy work for a very large poultry company who slaughter 1 million chickens per month in some very difficult conditions weather and financially wise. As UK farmers we are being pressurized politically to reduce our already very low antibiotic usage – they use 10 times more antibiotics than we do – might have a vegetarian week!

10th February: Got a message in Ukraine today that the milkers who aren't due to kid until 21st Feb (12 days from now) are digging holes in their beds – may be

in trouble at home if they kid while I am over here – Sarah is looking after 80,000 chickens, 32 goats, 11 Lley sheep and cats and dog by herself this week whilst I am away.

11th February: I had a Skype conversation today with Ukraine with my 2-month-old grandson back in UK. I discussed with him about doing a junior handlers class at his 1st goat show, he woke up towards the end of the conversation! I think we should give a year's free BGS membership to all graduates from Agricultural and Veterinary College. We must find ways of getting younger people interested in goat breeding for the future – perhaps some of the inheritance the BGS is receiving this year could go towards this?

12th February: One of my Boer females isn't in kid. We had a blood test on all 3 pure Boer goatlings at 21 days (at great expense) that said they were all pregnant, the scanner couldn't see anything in her at 10 weeks but I had hoped he was wrong. The other 2 were scanned with twins and triplets – they are both pregnant fat, she is just fat! The Boers come in season very early so she will be penned with the male from 1st August – he won't mind! To register embryo transfer kids the dam must have reared a naturally born kid – a very good idea to ensure fertile and healthy breeding stock but a blow to my ET program. We want 36 good embryos to implant twins in 18 recipients ideally so no pressure there on the other 2 females!









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13th February: Sent email to Jane at BGS today to ask her to send all future monthly journals in a pdf file electronically. We run a paperless business. Yes we really do! I know it's not for everyone but if those people who use computers took the journal electronically the savings would be huge for the BGS and the environment.

14th February: Sent email to Colin Newton today asking if I could go on the judges training course – not because I want to be a judge any time soon – but because I want to understand better what we are trying to achieve conformation wise in the breeding program.

15th February: Still in the Ukraine with plenty of time for goat thoughts at night in the hotel – spent the evening planning show schedule for this year – not sure that I will get to all 21 shows on my list but I will have a very good go! Back to back shows are such a good idea, saves fuel, time, money, preparation and allow goats time to settle in.

16th February: I spent tonight going through the farm accounts for last year. I realized that the only cheques that I wrote in 2012 were for goat show entries. Accounts show farm turn over in excess of £1 million pounds – all electronic – except for goat shows! Again not for everybody but surely show secretaries would appreciate less paperwork and money straight in the bank from BACS entry payments. Its 100% safe and they only need to put account number and sort code on schedule?

16th February: I haven't seen my goats for a week now. Sarah says Witchety (Pennymuir) AOV 3rd kidder scanned with triplets is now wider than she is long. Really hope that she hangs on to kid until I get back.

17th February: Sarah emailed a picture of my 3 goatlings through today to cheer me up – sad I know but I really am very excited about them. Dalbury Ellie (BS) by Aphrodite Andros out of Montrée Bala and Dalbury Ellen (AOV) by Aphrodite Andros out of Kindur Marcie both won in very good company as kids several times last year as did the BT Kid Teilos Alicia that I bought from Shane Jones. Some people think that I cull too hard; Paul Mounter asked me when I first started if I was a goat breeder or goat keeper, as a farmer the answer was and still is breeder. Breeding policy here is “breed the best and cull the rest”. I also like “every pound is a prisoner”!

18th February: Travelling home today, 3 flights home from Donetsk to Kiev, Kiev to Schipol and then Schipol to Birmingham followed by train back to Derby. Sarah meeting me at the station – missed her – a lot.

Just had message from Sarah, Dingle has had dead triplets in the night and Witchety has had live triplets at the same time, two Females and a male.

I walked back into a Boer 1st kidder having twin females which has cheered me up no end.

19th February: Very busy day today, 40000 cockerels going to the processing plant, student training, and meeting with rep from chemical company – then an hour on a spin bike tonight in the gym.

Chickens loaded and gone, students trained, rep happy with order, nearly died on bike in gym as no exercise for last week! Dingle not milking very much after loosing her kids but a bit suspicious that she is helping Witchety feed hers as I have left them in the same stable so that Dingle doesn't cry for her kids.

20th February: I have come to the conclusion having travelled abroad to quite a few countries that nobody can match Will Atkinson at Hill House Dairy or Di Rudkin in Cheshire at making soft goats cheese. Do I dare have a go at making some this year – probably not as don't like being beaten – and I would be by these guys!

21st February: Had a few minutes spare today so got my Buckling Guilden Glen out and trimmed his little boy curls off and gave him a bath. Really pleased how he has grown on over winter. He will be shown at around 6 shows this year, the only problem is that his pen mate is my Boer male who will have to accept Glen back from the shows without damaging him – that could be a challenge. I wish more shows would have male classes as the public really like to see the boys up close – my old male Kindur Charlie was interviewed on TV twice last year!

Just checked Wedgewood Ameretat (BS 1st kidder and helped her kid a male with a leg back, closely followed by another

male, both kids very big and strong. They are by LAP AI to Kindur Charlie so might well rear these 2 boys depending what Montrue Peace has this week.

22nd February: Another busy day, 40000 pullets going to the processing plant today, 100 tonnes of chicken litter going to the power station to be burnt as fuel and the small percentage of birds that have either died or been culled going to a rendering plant to be made into a powder that is used as a fuel by the cement factories in the furnaces. Peace kidded tonight, twins, male and female to Ashdene Mario, both very nice, I am very happy!

23rd February: Show schedules here for Norwich Dairy and Nottingham County shows – really looking forward to the show season this year. Sarah will only talk goats to me on a need to know basis!

Poultry sheds have been foamed, washed and disinfected today, this happens every 6 weeks and for a few pounds the contractors muck out the goat barn and foam, wash and disinfect everything for me at the same time – armchair goat breeding – cant beat it!

24th February: I am trying to get my Vets to send somebody on the Goat Veterinary Society disbudding course; they are actually very good at it with all 10 victims having no re growth last year. I have decided that none of my Boer goats will be disbudded – they have sensible curled back horns, as do the Boer crosses. The dairy goats will continue to

Dalbury Herd Diary

be done as I have seen too many farmers and animals with bits missing from horn accidents over the years. Boer first kidder just had a lovely big strong single male kid, she was a bit slow kidding and needed some Oxytocin to help things along but very active kid.

25th February: Contractors here today spreading shavings and maintaining poultry buildings, and any goat related maintenance at the same time.

Spoke to Will Atkinson at Hill House today regarding the 20 BT kids that I have ordered to be collected 15th March. These girls will be reared artificially with a view to being mated by AI on the course in September to the Boer. They will be run with the same male after insemination to produce crossbred Boer females for breeding with the males being reared by the dam for meat production.

26th February: I rang Gordon Webster today. He has 22 kids scanned to be born in March this year. I am stalking him with a view to buying a couple of show quality BT kids that will line breed to Guilden Glen. It was the depths of winter last year when I collected Glen from Aberdeen - but actually the weather made the journey quite exciting.

27th February: Four Lorries due here tomorrow with 80,000 day old chicks. Houses are ready and at 32deg. We spend half the year paying £30,000 for propane to heat the houses up and then £10, 000 for electric to run the fans to cool them down. Don't you just love the UK climate – mind you it gets twice as

hot and twice as cold in the Ukraine so we are lucky really!

28th February: Our cleaning lady asked Sarah what was in the “milk churn” that she dusts each week. Sarah explained that it was a goat semen tank full of goat semen straws – the “milk churn” hasn't been dusted since!

I would like to thank all the Judges, show secretaries, goat keepers and goat friends and especially Jane at the BGS for all there help and support – and wish everybody an enjoyable year – its spring tomorrow!

Ian Johnson

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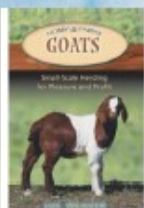


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