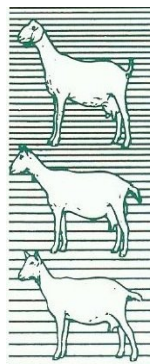


BRITISH GOAT SOCIETY



May 2014
Monthly Journal
Volume 107

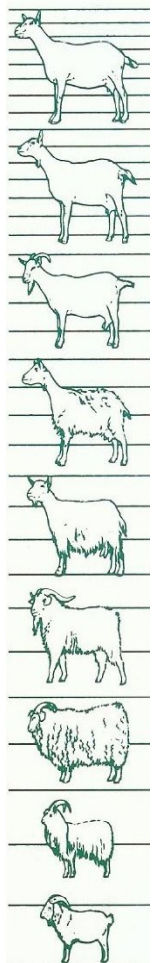
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Copy Date

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.

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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

Boer Goat kids of Judith Hall. Read the Herd Diary page 87. Photo Judith Hall.

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

It is with deep regret that my first chairman's notes start with the sad news of the death of Margaret Grant (Kattern Herd) our thoughts go to Ian and family.

At the committee meeting on the 3rd May following a deposition from Gordon Smith the committee are looking at easing the rules on the CAE bloodtesting to allow for biannual testing. Many thanks to Margaret Hardman, Nick Parr and Richard Pemble for working on this. Also many thanks Agnes Aitken for all her hard work as the chair of the committee, as I write this I am preparing for my first show of the season at Newark.

I am looking forward to meeting the membership at shows and meeting, and if I do not know you please come and introduce yourself to me.

Wishing you all the best for the coming year.

Colin Newton

CAE BLOOD TESTING JANUARY 2014 REVISED PRICING FROM THE SAC

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 £7.00

4-9 samples £6.30

10 + samples £5.60

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Email: psghs@sac.co.uk Your vet will charge for taking the blood samples.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Mr Voigtlander, USA;
Mrs Gilfoyle, Lincolnshire;
Mrs Harding, Somerset;
Mrs Molineux, Yorkshire;
Mrs Preece, Ceredigion;

Mrs J Jones, Somerset;
Mrs D James, Warwickshire;
Mrs Lumley, Suffolk;

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Dear Members,

At the Committee meeting on 3rd May, Colin Newton was elected the next Chairman. Colin breeds and shows the Lyncol herd of goats. The new line up of your committee with contact details appear on page 84.

The first show results have reached the office. If you are showing this season please allow time for kid registrations to be processed. I trust the show season will all go well for you.

Your pictures and articles are welcome any time for the Monthly Journal and very much appreciated.

Best Wishes
Jane

Margaret Grant

Ian Grant would like to thank everyone for their condolences,
thoughts and prayers
at the loss of his dear wife Margaret

Show Updates

Show Name	Show Date	Judge	Entries Close	Secretary Name	Phone
Northumberland Male & Youngstock	1st June	Miss P Newton	28th May	Mr R Wood	07814485824
Bill Quay Community Farm Male & Youngstock	1st June	Mr B Perry	28th May	Mr R Wood	07814485824
Monmouthshire	28th Aug	Mrs M Hardman	25th July	Mrs V Bull	01981580710

HERD DAIRY

My name is Judith Hall I live on a 5 acre smallholding with my husband Tiff & our youngest son. The house is a Victorian grange which was divided into 2 houses in the early 1900 & our eldest son, his wife & our 2 grandchildren live in the other half

We moved here in 1994 and started keeping goats 2 years later, dairies at first & then Boer goats when I wanted more goats but didn't want to milk any more as I was working full time as a nurse.

We started with 1 100% buck & 3 graded females & gradually built up the herd from there.

We are both retired now and keep the goats as our hobby. We kid between 12 and 15 each year now which is enough for us to manage, I was asked to write a month's diary and decided to do it over kidding as very little different happens most months, so here we go.

This takes account of the days up to and including kidding and a little time after.

Thurs 21st Jan: Vaccinated all kidding goats with lambivac. Fed them then went along the line vaccinating, done in 10 seconds!! No one noticed the needle going in, too busy eating. Will remember that.

I got a new puppy last November, Bedlington terrier x Whippet and he is lovely, grey coat with a lighter grey to white beard. He is coming up to 5 months old the end of June & is growing well. He comes when called and sits on command except when he comes down

with me to feed the goats, he runs up & down the fence barking. The goats take no notice of him at all, but I think that will change when they have got their kids, Muffin beware!! He thinks they should be playing with him.

Our grand daughter is 9 and grandson 6 and they are both very helpful when they come home from school. I collect them most days as my daughter in law is studying for a degree so they have plenty of time to help with the goats. We had cctv set up in the goat shed last year but not working so well this year, we do have the microphone though which is a great help during the night.

Thurs 30th Jan: Tiff going to hospital for 2 days today for check-up of long standing problem so bale of hay moved by tractor and put into bottom barn for me to use while he is away. 2 dairy goats cleaned out new straw all round in pens and also in Boer barn so all nice and clean for me.

Fri 31st Jan: Up earlier than usual as feeding on my own 1st goat due tomorrow so will be keeping a close eye on her, they usually kid within a couple of days either side of due date. Daisy May, one of my dairy x Boer milkers has not eaten her breakfast and is standing alone in a corner of their day room. Given her a dose of colate rapide to keep her energy levels up, collected logs for the fire and filled up feed bins with goat pellets. We have them specially made for the Boers by a local mill so have to have a ton at a time, lots of feed bins and old freezers to keep the bags in over winter to prevent vermin

Herd Diary

getting to them. Went to check Daisy May at 1 pm and she has kidded a female kid, cleaned her up and she is up on her feet looking for a feed, she weighed in at 4.2kgs dipped her cord with strong iodine and cleared mums teats. Have moved them back into mums pen in night quarters, made sure kid was going in the right direction for a feed and then left them to rest and get to know each other. I did think she might have twins this year but not bothered as a good easy kidding. Walked down to check on Boers bottom barn, all ok so went and lit fire and had good warm before evening feeds, Daisy May's kid feeding well.

Sat 1st Feb: Up early again (not early risers now we are both retired) and fed all goats. Will be checking them more frequently today as 5 goats due today and tomorrow. All looking blooming but no signs of labour.

Evening feeding uneventful, no one in labour. Microphone is very good for nighttime, can hear any unusual noises & then check cctv. No kids today.

Sun.2nd Feb: Morning feeds done, no signs of labour. Tiff home today so we share the checks for the rest of the day. Hope the 10 due don't all come at once. We have 3 mothering pens which are semi permanent, sides built in with barn gates can be hung on hinges when needed. They have all been cleaned out, disinfected & bedded with wood shavings & straw with gates on for nearly a week now. I think we need to put up another temporary pen using hurdles, get the floor cleaned, disinfected & bedded, I

have a feeling we may be needing it. Mums & kids stay in the pens at least 48hrs & 3 days if possible.

Mon.3rd Feb: All the goats come up to feed this morning, no signs of labour, continue to check them regularly throughout day. Fed them pellets & plenty of hay this evening, no change but all their udders are looking very tight.

Tues 4th Feb: Sege has only taken a small amount of feed this morning & has now taken herself away from the rest of the herd. Need to keep a close eye on her. Checked her again at 10.30, definitely in labour, looking uncomfortable with her ears sticking out, 1/2 to 1hrly checks from now on. Poppie also looks as if she has started, standing apart from the others with her ears lifted.

12.25pm: Sege kidded a male, closely followed at 12.55 & 13.30 by 2 females. 3.2kgs, 3.4kgs & 4.0kgs respectively. All moved to a mothering pen, the kids cords dipped with strong iodine solution & mum's teats cleared, then she is given a drink of warm water, a small feed of oats & fresh hay. They are then left for a short while to all have a rest. I find the kids sometimes need a rest before they are ready to suckle. I check them again in about ½ an hour, picking the kids up & assessing if they have full tummies, if they do then fine if not I will help them to find the teat or if they are very lethargic then I will milk some colostrum off mum & feed it to the kids from a bottle, but this is rare

If you have any questions about feeding your goat, then our Nutrition Team is always happy to help!

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HERD DIARY

they have usually been up & sucked by the time I check them.

14.15pm: all kids up & fed with lovely little fat tummies. Placenta passed & cleared away into a plastic bag & into a bin with a well fitting lid.

Poppie is definitely in labour so 1/2hrly checks from now on. I allow my goats to kid where they want to & then move them to the mothering pen, I find this less stressful for them than being shut in a pen as most of them have a favourite spot in the barn. We put plenty of clean straw down every morning & I poo pick at least twice a day when they are kidding. If I am with the goat then the kids get an added comfort of a clean dry towel to arrive on.

18.15pm: Poppie produces 3 males in quick succession 3.9, 4.0 & 4.2kgs. Moved to mothering pen & kids cords treated. I save small spice pots to fill with strong iodine so that the whole cord & the base of the cord is fully immersed in the iodine. It means I very often end up with brown hands for the duration of kidding but I have not had any infected cords or joint ill. Poppie is given her drink & feed after a safe kidding, her kids are already up & on the search for a feed. No one else looks in labour at present so can go & have tea. Tiff goes to check on the goats at 21.00pm & comes to tell me Pasque is sitting there with 3 new born kids round her! 1 female & 2 males, 3.0, 4.8 & 4.3kgs Moved to mothering pen, cords treated & mum given her care. Poppie has passed the placenta & all 3 of her kids have fed & are now sleeping all

curled up together under the heat lamp. We use a heat lamp for the 1st few hours to help the kids to dry off quickly, especially if mum has got 3 to care for.

Hope we get a few hours sleep tonight.

Wed. 4th Feb: Had all night in bed, after breakfast started morning feeds which take a little longer now as there are 3 separate feeds to do in the Boer barn as well as the milkers. All the kids look very healthy & bouncing, heat lamp off now. All the adult goats are looking good, no signs of labour & Sege, Poppie & Pasque all looking ok & feeding their kids well. Pasque has passed the placenta, but no sign of it in the pen, doing her own housekeeping!! Worm these 3 this morning, I use Eprinex pour on after kidding, they can then be moved out of the pens after 24hrs. The kids will be tagged before letting them out, must be getting older as can't remember now which kid goes with which mum. I used to be able to identify them by the slightly different ways they were marked.

Getting a pen ready in the milkers barn to bottle feed some kids. I only leave 2 kids on mum & take the extras off at 4 days. I take the odd sex or the largest off & bottle feed them, that gives the smaller ones a better start on mum & others take to the bottle easier as they get hungrier quicker. I have also set up a temporary mothering pen with hurdles in a corner of the Boers barn cleaned, disinfected & bedded the floor, as I don't like being without an empty pen, someone always surprises you in that situation!!

Regular checks made on Boers, between

cleaning out a milkers pen & tidying the boys pens.

19.00pm Clover looks like she is in labour, more frequent checks needed, good job we got that extra pen ready. I leave the goats alone as much as possible when they are in labour, over the years I have found goats do better alone, more like their natural state, where they would find a safe quiet place to give birth.

20.15pm Clover kidded 3 males, 2.9, 3.6 & 3.6kgs, moved to temp. pen, cords treated & mum attended to. All quiet for the rest of the day.

Thurs 6th Feb: Morning feeding & milking done. The first 9 kids ear tagged & then let out with their mums. Sege's male & one of Poppie's males taken up to milkers barn into bottle feeding pen. A heat lamp is on to give them an extra bit of comfort & they are soon curled up together asleep in a corner. I will offer them a bottle every 4hrs. It usually takes them 8 to 12hrs before they get the idea but after that no problem. Ideally it is good to take them from mum late evening & by morning they are ready for a feed & take to the bottle really well. I use Caprilac replacement milk powder very successfully. Primrose is now standing alone & frequently changing her weight from one hind leg to the other. Amelia, a goatling, is looking off colour, lethargic & has a "prickly" coat. Given a dose of wormer, Vecoxan & an injection of antibiotic. Tiff has started cleaning out the 2 empty mothering pens. It's then my job to spray them with

Vercon S & bed them up with wood shavings & straw, making sure I keep the gates closed or I get crowded out with goats trying to eat the fresh straw. If we put it in their hay racks they completely ignore it!

Regular checks for rest of the day & at 18.15pm found Soli had given birth to 1 male kid, 3.9kgs. I am a bit concerned as she scanned for twins, no membranes hanging from her & she is squatting frequently but not passing any urine. In my experience all these are signs of a malpresentation. Have moved her to a pen, collected my kidding bucket, a large one with a lid containing everything I need for kidding, & a bucket of warm water, Wash my hands & arms & get plenty of lubrication gel & while Tiff holds Soli's head I gently insert my hand. As I thought there is another kid there but I cannot feel a head, 2 feet are presenting & feeling up the legs they are front feet, so where is the head? I eventually feel the head laying right back over the left shoulder. The feet are still in a good position so I carefully cup the head in my hand & gently see if I can realign it onto the feet. This has not been difficult to do & a 2nd male kid delivered, 3.8kgs. Cords treated & mum given her treats, eaten all her oats & has drunk $\frac{3}{4}$ of the bucket of water.

The 1st kid has been up & fed for a while now but the 2nd kid is not attempting to stand, legs stretched out straight & head laying right over left shoulder, looks very odd. Nearly an hour since delivery & still no attempt to stand so I milked

GUERNSEY GOATS IN THE USA TODAY

*Above: Guernsey buckling
Below: Guernsey doe*



GUERNSEY GOATS IN THE USA TODAY



*Above: Guernsey Goat Breeders of America stand at the American Dairy Goat Association convention
Below: Stumphollo does and doelings Owned by Mrs Joan Stump.*



GUERNSEY GOATS IN THE USA TODAY

*Above: Sunnypatch does owned by Karla Stucker
Below: Pirucreek does owned by Michael Naumes*



GUERNSEY GOATS IN THE USA TODAY

*Above: Anins kids owned by Nina Schafer
Below: Pirucreek kids owned by Michael Naumes*



GUERNSEY GOATS IN THE USA TODAY

The Golden Guernsey Goat has status of a rare breed, with the Rare Breed Survival Trust, and a breed which was found to be one of only 3 stand alone breeds via maternal DNA typing done through the Spanish Government. That is right, not found to be related to another breed via the dam's line.

The Guernsey Goat here in the USA is a new breed that comes from the parent breed of Golden Guernsey Goats of the British Isles. These wonderful goats that come in colours from very pale flaxen to a deep red bronze, white spots and roaning allowed, are crossed with alpine type dairy goats here in USA.

Because of importation restrictions no new animals can come from the UK to North America. But luckily, before the restrictions tightened this to a closer, Mr. Allen Skolnick of South Wind Farms (a standard bred Horse breeder in New York) fell for these beautiful goats and brought a small herd of Golden Guernseys to New York via embryos.

To this date South Wind Farms has not sold any purebred Golden Guernseys does within the USA.

Due to the lack of availability to obtain purebred Golden Guernsey does, goat breeders in USA have been using an upgrade breeding program, like other breeds have done/ do within the American Dairy Goat Assn. (ADGA).

How did this all come about you ask? Well Joan Stump, an Alpine breeder of

note in PA helped by persuading Mr. Skolnick to sell the extra purebred Golden Guernsey bucks to goat breeders here in USA, rather than to zoos as display animals. So yes we can describe Mr Skolnick as the father of the Guernsey Goat breed here in the USA.

The first breeders to work with establishing the Guernsey breed included: Joan Stump (StumpHollo) PA, Diane Gray (Blue Collar) WA, Dar Addington (Palomino) WA, Blackwell Family (SolidRock) WA, Kate Posey (SnowBird) WA, SouthWind Farms (SWind) NY, Norris Barrow (Dreamsend) NC, Nina Schafer (Anins) CA with semen importation by Linda Campbell, VA.

Joan Stump started promoting the Guernsey Goat breed at ADGA conventions in 2003, and the Guernsey breed has been promoted at every ADGA convention since then. Live Guernseys on display at conventions in Santa Rosa, CA - Grant Rapids, MI & Boise, ID.

A breed club was formed (The Guernsey Goat Breeders of America, GGBoA) to promote the breed. With an important task to work toward acceptance of our breed under the ADGA umbrella as one of many important goals.

The GGBoA has applied for ADGA acceptance and now awaits ADGA to accept a database showing the 200+ animals with 4 generations of meeting breed standard to gain ADGA approval.

A delay in acceptance by ADGA was

GUERNSEY GOATS IN THE USA TODAY

caused by the fact the British Goat Society has different registration handling. Until last year nothing showed on the BGS (British Goat Society) registration papers as to IF an animal conformed to Breed Standard.

The GGBOA acknowledged achievements by members and founders by awarding founders awards to Joan Stump, South Wind Farms, Diane Gray & Linda Campbell.

A pamphlet giving tips & suggestions on how to fit a goat in full coat for showing/judging was produced. Guernsey Goats come with everything from a short silky coat to a full curtain of flowing locks. It was hoped that Guernsey breeders would delight in the lovely flowing coats and display/show their animals that way.

BGS (with Christine Ball the BGS overseas representative at the forefront) has been a great help to the US breeders in doing registrations etc, However some breeders have not kept up their registrations with BGS.

In an attempt to insure all goats in USA with Guernsey blood are recorded / registered, and allow for show sanctions, milk production awards, all further avenues to promote the Guernsey Goat in the USA, Melvin Tom Schafer & Nina Schafer (myself) set up a not-for-profit registry.

So the American Guernsey Goat Registry (AGGR) was formed last year. Costs are as low as possible \$5 registrations, no cost to record herd name/prefix. Free

transfers if done at time of registration. Many Guernsey goats otherwise not kept track of are now registered with AGGR.

In Oct 2013 the first Guernsey Goat Show was held in the USA. Excitingly 9 breeders were in attendance or had animals with their herd names shown. The largest class had 10 animals, Recorded Grade aged does.

The Champions of the day were:
Junior Grand Champion Guernsey: Pirucreek Verace, owned/breed by Michael Naumes; Res Junior Champion Guernsey: Pirucreek Muffin, owned/breed by Michael Naumes

Senior Grand Champion Guernsey: Anins Cameo owned by Michael Naumes, breeder Nina Schafer and Best Udder; Senior Res Champion: Anins Crumpet owned by Michael Naumes, breeder Nina Schafer

Senior Grand Champion Recorded Grade Guernsey: Snowbird Cassidy owned by Jane & Mike Hulme breeder Kate Posey; Res Senior Champion Recorded Grade Guernsey: Anins Elfwood owned by Jane & Mike Hulme, and Best Udder: Breeder Nina Schafer

Now let's talk production, the Pirucreek does (owned by Michael Naumes. See table on next page.) have production records (recorded in pounds) as well:

Comments from the presiding judge about the breed Dan Laney: First Impressions of the Guernsey Breed: They are a rather fine-boned animal,

GUERNSEY GOATS IN THE USA TODAY

	Days In Milk	Total Milk lbs/kgs	Fat	Protein
Anins Cameo				
Lactation 2	176	1780/809	57	38
Lactation 1	305	2160/982	82	50
Lifetime	481	3840/1791	139	88
Anins Crumpet				
Lactation 2	179	1270/577	48	38
Lactation 1	304	1530/695	72	50
Lifetime	483	2800/1272	110	88

deer-like in some ways, yet not fragile by any means. They are alert, graceful and rather animated on the move. They come in a variety of color patterns: golden to deep red, some with white patches on their face or body but not facial stripes, large black spots or black stockings. Their hair coat can be short with a dorsal stripe and leggings of longer hair length, all short, all long or a combination. I found them to be calm in the ring (unless dam raised). For the most part they appeared to be rather long in the pasterns and while some appeared to be very productive they were lacking in over-all udder support, particularly the laterals. However most seemed to have good medial suspensory ligaments and teat delineation, although some teats seem to be rather bulbous in shape.

Note:

Udder support (particularly in rear width and arch in the escutcheon) and feet (heel depth, pasterns, toes a bit tighter) seem to be the two areas that need the most attention at the moment for breed improvement."

With Guernsey's milk proving to be sweet to the taste and having a high

cheese yeild, 4 dairies on the west coast either specialize or incorporate Guernsey milk in their products.

Memorial Day weekend 2014 in Boise ID will be the location of the second AGGR sanctioned show. Hopefully the breed will be as well represented as it was in Oct 2013.

For more information on the Guernsey Goat consider viewing:

<http://americanguernseygoatregistry.webs.com/>
<http://guernseygoats.org/about/breed-history/>
<http://www.southwindfarms.org/GGGoats.htm>
<http://www.goldenguernseygoat.org.uk/>
<http://stumphollo.com/>

Nina Schafer

(Guernsey breeder since 2005)

200mls colostrum from mum & fed him from a bottle. He is sucking really well but very difficult to feed with his head over his shoulder. 22.00pm he is still not standing, I feel there is something very wrong but will give him a chance as he is feeding so well. I have got a box ready with a hot water bottle wrapped in a towel & covered with a puppy training

down the barn but she needs some help. Out comes the kidding bucket again while Tiff goes & gets a bucket of warm water. Wash my hands & arms & apply plenty of lube for an internal. She is fully dilated with head & feet presenting but the head is very wide at the brow & also needs rotating a little to get the kid in a better position. Once rotated, Primrose



pad & take him up into the kitchen where it is warm & will be easier for me to feed him through the night. I feed him again at 01.00 with colostrum from mum & settle him in his box, he can only lay on one side as his head gets pushed hard down into the towel & he has difficulty breathing.

Check on Primrose before we go to bed, she is still on her own but not distressed in any way.

Fri. 7th Feb. 03.30am Woken by loud agitated bleating. We get up & go to look, its Primrose, very restless, continually squatting with a small mucous show. She has calmed down a bit since we arrived

starts to push well & delivers a 4.6kgs female, closely followed by an even bigger male, 5.4kgs. Primrose now happily licking her kids & alls well. She is a 6yr old & has always had easy kiddings. She knew she needed help this time as she is a very quiet kidder. Eventually got back to bed at 05.00 after seeing both kids sucking well.

Up again at 07.30 to bottle feed. Had a bleary eyed breakfast then out again at 08.30 milking & feeding. Briar has not come up to the trough to feed, she is a big goat but this year she has got very big & for the last 3 weeks when not feeding she has been lying down a lot, even wee-

ing lying down. She is looking very tired today. The vet is due to visit today to see one of my males who has split his horn lengthways, I will see if she will induce Briar as she is due today but as yet no signs of labour. Seen by vet & she has been given an injection to induce labour. Poor Briar she looks very tired & not herself at all but no signs of toxæmia. I think she may have quads, she was scanned for 3 but she has never been as big or as uncomfortable as this before.

14.00 Andrea has lost a lot of clear fluid & mucous but no signs of pushing as yet. Regular checks on Andrea but still no signs of 2nd stage labour.

17.30 signs of Andrea getting distressed, very restless & losing a lot of fluid some of which is myconium stained, a sign of foetal distress. Internal examination done, Andrea is very tight & the kid has a wide brow She kidded for the 1st time last year, twins with no intervention but smaller kids, around 3kgs, the kid I am feeling this year is much bigger. I am going to call the vet for this one.

Arianne arrives at 18.30, gives Andrea an epidural injection & then gets ready to examine her. Andrea is fully dilated but it is a big kid, lots of lube & effort on the part of vet & goat & at 20.00 a large 5.2kgs kid is delivered. He has a really wide brow & is very lively but appears to be very myconium stained. As it has been a difficult delivery & the scan showed 2 Arianne feels to see if there are more kids & brings out a decomposing kid with a lot of foul looking fluids. Tiff clears this away while

Arianne is getting antibiotics, anti-inflammatories to give to Andrea, I am with the goat & looking after the kid when she suddenly collapses on me, definitely in shock & most possibly toxic shock from the decomposing kid. I am so pleased I called the vet for this one as she is able to give the medications intravenously with the subsequently faster effect.

We have got Andrea & her kid settled after her traumatic kidding, tidied up & cleaned everything in my kidding box. All is quiet so go & have a cup of tea before we start late evening feeds.

Go down to The Boer barn at 22.45 to find Arnica has delivered 2 kids, both up & have already fed, she must have kidded very shortly after we went to have that tea!! She has a female 3.3kgs & a male, 3.9kgs. Moved to a pen & the cords given an extra special clean & a good soaking with iodine as not sure how long they have been born. It is the sort of kidding we would like all our goats to have & is good to have after poor Andrea. We are now walking round like zombies, doing everything automatically, hope we haven't forgotten anything. Get to bed well after midnight, no signs of Briar kidding & I hope she doesn't yet as all 5 pens are full. Tomorrow will have to be another let out day.

Sat 8th Feb: Up not so bright & early but we have been down a few times to check all is ok. After breakfast, morning feeding & milking done. In between all the happenings of the last 3 days I have managed to worm the females that have kid-

ded & we only have to eartag the kids then we can let out 2 more mums with their kids. We now have 4 kids to bottle feed 4 times a day. There are only 2 more to kid this week now, the other 2 are not due until the beginning of March.

Another 2 mums & kids let out of pens, both cleaned out while I do the bottle feeds.

We are now back on track. Briar is still sitting down a great deal, no signs of kidding yet, & we have a good look at the crop of kids we have so far this year. They are all running around playing & are looking healthy & fit, I would have liked a few more girls, 14 boys & only 5 girls so far, but as long as they are fit, unlike the boy I have in the house. He is still feeding really well but there is definitely something wrong other than his neck. I don't think it is SBV as his joints are not rigid all the time only when they spasm. He does not appear to be in any pain so will continue to care for him until Monday when I can take him to the vets, have him put down & then send to AH-VLA for post mortem. We are lucky in that we only live an hour away from the Ipswich lab which has remained open & I do like to know what has caused any problems we have with the goats. It is a closed herd, Scrapie monitored, CAE accredited & Johnes monitored with SAC & will definitely want this kid tested for SBV as we chose not to vaccinate against it.

Today has been quieter, catch up with some routine jobs around the holding & a mountain of washing collected over the

last week. Good job we are on cheap electricity all weekend!! By 16.00 I have washed & dried 2 lines full, caught up with a bit of housework & got a proper meal prepared for tonight. Tiff has been checking on Briar & Belladonna throughout the day. I am going to switch the telly on & sit & do my ironing.

20.00 We have had tea & decide to an early evening feed as we are both tired. Milk first then go to feed Boers. Briar has produced 1 male kid, 3.9kgs. We continue feeding whilst watching for the next kid as again she was scanned for 3. Nearly an hour & still no sign of any more kids. The 1st one is up & looking for a feed but Briar is uncooperative. Think its time to intervene & see what is going on. Briar is 6, has kidded 5 times without difficulty, I am feeling a small kid, a head with only 1 foot forward, I cannot reach the other foot but there is plenty o room so I deliver the kid with one leg back with no problem, a female 3.2kgs. I feel again & there is a tail presenting, extended legs, another female, 3.8kgs. As Briar has made no attempt to push between me delivering her kids I decide to check to see if we have all of them. There is another kid I can just feel it, but no head presenting & I can't feel a tail. I locate 2 legs which I identify as front legs so gently feel around for the head, Briar is such a big goat I have plenty of room, eventually find the head tucked right down in between the 2 front legs. I think this is one of the most difficult malpresentations as the head is reluctant to stay in the correct position once righted but as I lift this head up

Briar gives a really good push which shifts the kid up. As I am able to position the kid correctly in the birth canal & we have a 4th kid, a male, 4.4kgs. A first time set of quads for Briar, no wonder she sat down a lot they are all reasonable weights. We had sets or quads before but not Briar. She is now looking much happier & is actually up on her feet caring for her kids. 3 out of the 4 are all up looking for a feed. They are all moved to a pen, cords treated & mum given the usual care. 2 of the kids have already fed, the last kid born is up on its feet, it has loose detrusor ligaments so will be 1 of the kids taken off to be bottle fed as he will need more time for his legs to strengthen up.

Sun. 9th Feb. At last bedtime, just after midnight as I have made sure all 4 kids sucked well before I left them. An uneventful night. We still have Bella to kid but she is up feeding in the trough with the rest of the goats. 2 more mums & kids let out of pens today. I love watching the kids running & jumping, I could watch them all day. Evening feeds done, quiet in the Boer barn. The boy in the house is still feeding well but no other progress, a visit to the vet tomorrow.

Mon 10th Feb:05.30 heard Bella mewing & then she sounds as if she is pushing. Up dressed & down to barn to find she has had her kid, a male, 4.9kgs, who is looking for a feed already. Another thank you to the microphone. Moved to pen & all the usual things done. A busy 10 days but I still get a buzz at kidding time, I never get tired of it, Tiff says it

reminds me of my time as a district midwife, before I had my children, when I was called out at any time to deliver a baby. I enjoyed that too so I suppose this is an extension of that time.

Andrea is not eating. Have kept her in the pen a bit longer because of her traumatic delivery. Given 1 dose of Colate rapide & 1 of Pro rumen yesterday & today but still not interested in her feed, I will let her out today, see if that will encourage her. She is now eating pea straw ravenously. Evening feed she is up eating with others in the trough. Strategy worked!!

The goats I assist with delivery all get a dose of long acting antibiotic post kidding & watched carefully for any signs of infection, they are all doing well with no ill effects.

Next week I will start the round of foot trimming, I do 3-4 a day, its not so hard on my back then.

The little boy with the neck was put down, tested negative for SBV, the conclusion, an early developmental problem.

The 1st week of March the other 2 goats kidded, we were checking them regularly & managed to miss them both! One had triplets, 1 female & 2 males & the other had 2 females, all are doing fine. That is the end of kidding for another year. It won't be long before I start thinking about which male is going to cover which female for next year's kidding. Doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself!!!!

Judith Hall

THE HIGH SCHOOL HERD

The party is over as they say! The time has come after nearly forty years to give up my beloved goats. Animals have always been so much part of my life. My father a veterinary surgeon had a practice in Knowle near Birmingham. I was born above the surgery. The house served as out home, surgery and waiting room. The front door was never locked and there were comings and goings day and night, week in week out.

The love of animals I must have inherited from my father. He kept goats as a boy and also we had goats to supply milk during the war.

My keeping of goats started in a London garden. It was then that I joined the Surrey Goat Club and it was there I was inspired by some famous goatkeepers living in that area. When we moved to

the West Midlands I was able to expand and keep a male. I would like to thank all the eminent goat breeders, who trusted me to have one of their valuable males. I enjoyed showing them and receiving admiring glances.

So much thanks goes to my husband, Douglas who has had to learn to like goats! He has built countless goat houses over the years and has done constant repairs. He has driven me hundreds of miles to shows and goat business all over the country.

Now the plan is set, we have purchased a house with a small garden in Bournemouth close to two of our daughters. The family say how wonderful for you not to clean out goats. They don't realise that I just love cleaning them out and caring for them. After the family, goats have been the most important

thing in my life. They have given me so much pleasure, the most satisfying feeling in the world has been to see the goats content and clean.

I don't want to get too old that I cannot cope and I am forced into a hasty position and hose, garden and the goats are too much. Everyone seems to agree it is the most sensible thing to do, but I would still like

to see how the latest kids turn out.



*Walking goats on Wimbledon Common
Two of my very first goats. The children not enjoying it as
much as me!*

THE HIGHSCHOOL HERD

This is the crunch - just who will take on my goats? Over the years I have sold goats to so many unsatisfactory homes. I can see it will be easier to find a good home for my milking machine.

Private goat keeping seems to be dwindling down every year. The young stock would adapt to a commercial herd, but the milkers would find it hard. My milkers are spoilt, having warm sugar beet and bran late at night and the best of everything.

My goats are descended from the Janson Herd owned by Hather Hanbury. It would be so nice for her line to carry on. I have always used good males that have been milk recorded. I am CAE tested and until only recently Scrapie Monitored.

My favourite goat, a three year old, is the apple of my eye. She is so affectionate and will come up to me and push herself against me. In all the years of goat keeping, I have only owned very few who show such response. It is going to be so difficult to say goodbye.

My father after being in veterinary practice and teaching in British Universities went to Mexico to assist with Veterinary

Education. While he was there going around a local street market, he found a monkey in a tiny cage in a bad way. He bought the monkey, treated it and became devoted to it. When he retired and had to return to England, he just knew there was no suitable home for his beloved monkey. He told me that was one of the hardest things he had done, to put the monkey down before returning to England.

I am just hoping there is somebody reading this that might help me find suitable homes for my goats. I really hope I shall



Highschool Downton. Sire : Montrue Mugai, Dam: Highschool Downstream

not have to follow my father's example. I would find it so hard to muster such courage.

I am planning to show this summer and then in September we shall move to Dorset.

Ada Cole.

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