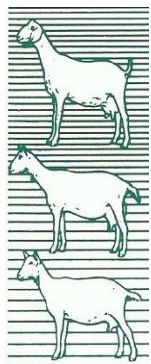


# BRITISH GOAT SOCIETY



July 2014  
Monthly Journal  
Volume 107

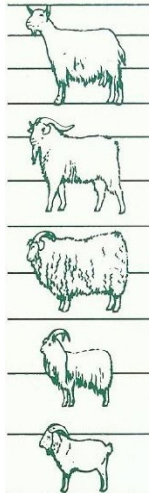
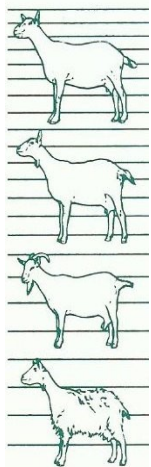
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**Front Cover Picture**

Leatland Sonya Best In Show at the Royal Cornwall. Photo Brian Perry

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## **CHAIRMAN'S NOTES**

**M**any thanks to all the members that have wished me well as the new chair. I will do my upmost to serve the society as well as I can.

The committee are still looking for idea's for the use of some of the legacy left to the society by the late Mr Hill. Any thought's on this matter can be forwarded to either myself or to Jane for consideration by the committee.

The reworking of the monitored herd system is underway to try to allow for bi-annual testing for c.a.e. Many thanks to Nick Parr, Margaret Hardman & Richard Pemble for their work on this so far (any reworking of our rules & regulations to this length is a mammoth task). We are well into the show season and show results are being put on the website as soon as it is possible to do so.

Best Wishes

Colin Newton  
(Chair)

## **RENEWAL OF JUDGES LICENCES**

**T**he names of Members, who are willing to continue to serve as BGS Judges for a further three years, are listed below. The renewal of licences will be considered at the BGS Committee meeting in November.

Any representation appertaining to the renewal of these licenses must be submitted to the BGS Office within 21 days of publication of this Journal. It was agreed at a committee meeting on 02/12/2000 that copies of any letters will be sent to the judge. Committee members would receive full copies if they attend the Committee meeting, but these letters would then be collected after voting had taken place.

Copies of any such representations will be submitted to the Judge concerned within a further 14 days of receipt at the BGS Office.

The Judges have a right to reply in writing, which must be received at the BGS office by Friday 24th October or to attend the Committee meeting in person.

These members are willing to serve for a further three years as BGS judges:

Mr M Ackroyd, Mr T J Baker, Mr P Cox, Mr T Hanna, Mrs H Matthews, Mr C J Nye  
Mr S R Parkin, Mr B Perry, Mrs S Prior, Mr G Ringland, Mr G Smith.

## NEW MEMBERS

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

Mrs Shevelan, Lancashire;  
Mr & Mrs Travers, Derbyshire;  
Mrs Hewson, Leicestershire;  
Mr Addlesee, Lincolnshire;  
The Nicoll Family, Angus;  
Master Locking, Essex;  
Mr Abbott, Suffolk;  
Mrs Ashton, Lancashire;

Mrs Ellaby, Monmouthshire;  
Mr Memory, Hampshire;  
Mr Bull, Wiltshire;  
Mrs Tasker, Sussex;  
Mr & Mrs Pickett, Hampshire;  
Mr McIlwrick, Lincolnshire;  
Mrs Cunningham, USA

## SECRETARY'S NOTES

Dear Members,

The second show supplement is included with this Journal. It would really help with show results if exhibitors checked catalogues for the correctness of goats names, registration number and especially kidding dates. The latter can change between entries being submitted and the actual show and thus is an important part of show result verification.

Please allow two weeks for paper applications for registrations and transfers to be returned to you.

There are many good photos in this edition which is your magazine. Your articles and photos are always welcome.

I hope you enjoy the 1924 Archive taken from the 1924 Year Book and the Minutes for the 1924 AGM.

The BGS Year Books are available on CD covering 1921 to 2010. Herd Books Volume 1 to 137. Each cost £25.00

Monthly Circulars/Monthly Journals Parts 1 & 2 are available on CD. Part 1 covers 1873 to 1989 and Part 2 covers 1990 to 2012. The cost of these CD's are £25 for one or £40 for the set together.

Best Wishes

Jane



## MAESGWYN HERD DIARY

**M**y name is Peter Mercer and together with my wife, Pat, own the Maesgwyn herd of pygmy goats. Our herd came into being 23 years ago and we have been breeding, showing and judging pygmies over that period. We have both been heavily involved with the Pygmy Goat Club and have held a variety of positions on the National Committee. Pat was membership secretary for

three years and editor of the quarterly magazine for six years. I was chair for nine years and have recently taken on the role of treasurer. We are both members of the judges' panel, which I chair, and play a leading role in training new judges. We both have backgrounds in education. Pat was an advisor and lecturer in Physical Education and later retrained for work in Special Education.



*Some of the Maesgwyn Herd*



## MAESGWYN HERD DIARY

After a short period teaching in schools I spent 30 years as a lecturer in Medieval History at university level. We are now both retired and live on a smallholding in West Wales near to Newcastle Emlyn.

I was surprised to be asked by Agnes Aitken to write a diary for the 'BGS Journal' but am pleased to do so. The request came at the end of April so May was the obvious month to chronicle especially as it was likely to be manic due to our commitments around the country during this month.

1<sup>st</sup> May. Began with a visit to the vet in Emlyn for the castration of our two male kids. One was a lovely example of the breed and would have made an ideal stud male. However, we already had a buyer for the pair who would provide them with a perfect home so opted to give him the good life. We always wait until they are 6 weeks old before surgical castration and choose to go down this route rather than ringing them. Trying to ring a week old pygmy is not always easy and certainly not always successful. The two boys were soon back in the paddock with their mothers and none the worse for wear.

On returning home from the vets we found the draft catalogue for the Royal Welsh Spring Festival waiting on our computer to be checked and corrected. This was immediately followed by the schedule for the Pembrokeshire County Show also for checking. We are responsible for the pygmy show at both of these venues so are heavily involved in the planning throughout the year.

3<sup>rd</sup> May. We travelled down to North Devon to lead a judges' training day on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Fortunately the weather was kind and we were able to conduct the hands on sessions outside. An enthusiastic group of trainees led to a pleasurable and successful day. Then it was back along the M5 and M4 in an attempt to get home before dark. Unfortunately I have since received a summons for speeding along the M4.

5<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup> May. A week at home catching up on chores and getting the goats into shape for the start of the showing season.

11<sup>th</sup> May. Travel to Wiltshire for judges' panel meeting. An interesting meeting with scrotal issues to the fore. Lively discussion on how a cleft scrotum should be judged and the problem for judges thrown up by the burdizzo method of castration. Amendments to our 'Guidelines for Judges' were also agreed.

12<sup>th</sup> May. Much of the day spent writing up the minutes and dealing with correspondence resulting from yesterday's meeting. These then forwarded to the members of the panel for comment before posting. E-mail certainly speeds up this process.

Rest of the week spent preparing goats that are entered for the Spring Festival. The kids are finally getting used to the lead. Whether this will translate to the show-ring remains to be seen.

16<sup>th</sup> May. Pat has been having trouble with her back for the last two weeks so decided not to take goats to the Festival



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## MAESGWYN HERD DIARY



as running the show will be as much as we feel we can manage. All that preparation for nought!

Travel to Builth and on arrival check the penning and allocate space before exhibitors arrive. 129 entries mean that space is tighter than usual but facilities at Builth are superb and we have enough room for a large indoor ring. Exhibitors begin to arrive from 2.00 pm and by the evening those travelling from some distance have their goats settled. This year we have exhibitors from Lancashire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Herefordshire as well as from various parts of Wales.

17<sup>th</sup> May. Up early to make final preparations for the show. We have some quality goats present so a testing time for the judge. Judging doesn't finish until 5.30 in the evening but the exhibitors appear to be happy with the outcomes. Most of my day was spent on the microphone, delivering a commentary for the spectators.



*Best In Show: Ryfield Francine*

18<sup>th</sup> May. We always use the second day of the show to promote the breed and disseminate good practice. During the morning I gave a power point presentation on pygmy goat keeping in Speaker's Corner and Pat launched her new book entitled "Pygmy Goat Keeping: A Practical Guide". Over the weekend the book is very well received with 23 copies sold.

In the afternoon all of the exhibitors participate in a display of goats to support a talk that I give in the show ring. This year we provided an opportunity for children (under supervision) to lead and present a goat.

## MAESGWYN HERD DIARY



*Talk in the Ring on Sunday Afternoon*

Arrive home at 8.30 on Sunday evening totally shattered. Unpacking left until Monday.

19<sup>th</sup> May. I type up the results from the show and send them to our webmaster for the PGC website.

An uneventful week follows when we have time to spend with the goats and ensure that all the pens are clean before we go on our travels again.

25<sup>th</sup> May. A four and a half hour journey to Lancashire where Pat is due to judge at the Great Harwood Show. This involves a slow but picturesque journey through Mid Wales before we join the M6 for the last few miles. We arrive at 3.00pm and check into the Premier Inn at Chorley.

26<sup>th</sup> May. Pat isn't well enough to judge so I have to step in. Fortunately the exhibitors have no objection as the majority of them know both of us quite well. Agnes Aitken arrives an hour or so before we begin as she is to shadow me as part of her training to become a PGC judge. There is a good entry with some

quality goats forward and I am pleased to say that Agnes and I, while not always totally in agreement, are generally on the same wavelength. The Scottish shows are not yet able to attract large pygmy entries so it was an illuminating experience for Agnes with which she coped very well.



*Peter with Frances Mullin and Molly Iveson  
owner of the BIS Adult Female,  
Birkkrigg Coco (bred by Frances)*

27<sup>th</sup> May. Travel back to Wales. We are held up on the M6 for a while but otherwise an uneventful journey.

28<sup>th</sup> May. We have a visit from our daughter so the discussion turns from goats to University affairs as she has followed in our footsteps and teaches Psychology at Cardiff Metropolitan University. She arrives with her Airedale and her Welsh terrier so our little dog takes cover for a couple of days but he does benefit from a walk with them along Poppit sands.



**MAESGWYN HERD DIARY**

30<sup>th</sup> May. I complete writing this diary so that we can prepare for our next trip. On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June we set off for Cornwall where I am to judge the pygmies at the Royal Cornwall Show. After that we do hope to spend some time at home.

I am sorry that there is a limited amount in this diary regarding our actual goats but as you will have realised we haven't seen too much of them ourselves during the month. I hope that the photographs will help to make up for the lack of words.

**Peter Mercer**

**ROYAL CORNWALL**

*Leatland Leaf Reserve BIS at the Royal Cornwall. Photo Brian Perry*

**CHESHIRE COUNTY**

*Above: (right) BIS Montrée Maziwanto, (left) RBIS Kindur Martese. Photo Di Rudkin  
Below: Dalbury Flame (AOV) Best Goatling . Photo Rachel Norman*



**Cheshire County**

*Above: Abbotswell President BIS male Photo Di Rudkin  
Below: Kindur Ming (AOV) Photo Rachel Norman*







*Above: Aphrodite Andal Best Male Kid. Photo Rachel Norman  
Below: Treleth Dala. Photo Rachel Norman*



**SOUTH WESTERN**

*Above Best Female Kid Line up. Photo Rachel Norman*



*Above left: Toggenburg milkers; Above right : Willowbank Puck. Best Toggenburg Male. Photos Rachel Norman.  
Below left: Ysguborfawr Griff Toggenburg buckling. Below right: Brooks Hypori. Photos Rachel Norman*



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 Royal Norfolk  
 Royal Ulster  
 Surrey  
 The Bath & West  
 Three Counties  
 Tyneside at Hexham  
 Yorkshire

Supported local show among others was  
 Port Elizabeth, South Africa

**1924 Annual Report**

Membership 567  
 New members 67

New Affiliated Societies  
 were  
 The Dorset Goat Society  
 The Goat Breeders' Association of  
 Guernsey

Journal printing £165-6s-9d  
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**2014 SHOW UPDATES**

Westmorland Show 11th September; Judge Mrs V Hardy

**Diploma Show**

Guernsey Goat Society Annual Show 23rd August Contact: Ms C Turner  
 Tel: 01481265100

**Devon County**

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**Norwich Game Show**

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2 pure Saanen male kids. Born. 17.6.2014

Sire: Timyon Minibo S.43349D

Dam: Binary Ruby S.8095D. Whole herd CAE Negative

Contact: C. Pert 01603 279399. Email: [christine@davidpert.co.uk](mailto:christine@davidpert.co.uk) (Norfolk)

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*(Photograph in 2012 Year Book)*

*David Brace, Victoria House, Hilton Road, Fenstanton, Cambs, PE28 9LJ,*

*Tel: 01480 469499,*

*Email: david@nmeb.co.uk*

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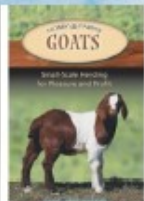


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