

Chapter Two - Things Move On

As the British Goat Society moved into the nineteen hundreds regulations were changed or tightened up and more classes added at shows, so that by the 1920's the BGS was starting to look like the organisation we know today.

The Herd Book had been appearing quarterly, with the Prize Record (i.e. the show results) and Index of owners at the back. From 1924 transfers of ownership were also included. The 'general section' of the Herd Book referred to most goats as 'Anglo Nubian-Swiss' with a sprinkling of 'Anglo-Swiss' and 'Anglo-Toggenburg'. By 1924 these names disappeared. A Foundation Book was introduced for prize-winners of 'adult classes open to general competition' or progeny of goats gaining a * or Q* in milking competitions. Kids from unregistered females by pedigree males were also registered in the Foundation Book.

BA, BS and BT sections of the Herd Book were opened in 1925 –initially with goats transferred from the general section of the Herd Book after being inspected by two BGS judges and confirmed as being of correct breed type. Inspection was necessary as there were still too few to register on parentage alone. In 1928 kids with breed parents were being registered directly into the Herd Book just as they are today. Thus, by 1925 the Herd Book closely resembled what we have in 2010. However, it is worth mentioning that goats which today we would not find acceptable, were still accepted for Breed Section registration as being of a good breed-type. For example the 1926 Year Book says in the 'Description and point of the British Alpine' that 'The body colour is black, with or without white on the stomach....'

At leading shows classes were being put on with AN, BA, BS, and BT as recognised breeds. From 1908 silver medals were awarded to Champions, and bronze medals to Breed Champions.



A 1922 example of the original design for the BGS bronze medal.

The fainter engraving says 'Vacca pauperis' but the back records that it was won by 'the Hon. Misses Cross'. The medal is therefore a tangible example of the lofty aims and membership found in the early BGS. By the 1930s the horned goat and vacca pauperis inscription had been replaced with the more elegant design of two goats of obvious dairy type.



A medal of the later type.

Challenge Certificates, Breed Challenge Certificates and Dual -Purpose Challenge Certificates were available after the Great War. Some of the cups still awarded come from this date and commemorate well – known breeders/ prefixes of this time.

Initially a star was awarded to prize winners and was therefore a passport to admission to the Herd Book. From an early date milking competitions had been a feature of shows as a means of assessing an animal's performance. These were of two types – Quality and Quantity. In Quantity competitions the points were determined by the weight of milk and the time since kidding, with all goats gaining eleven points or more being awarded a star. The milk was not analysed. At first only 8.5 points over 24 hours were required for a star. This was later raised to 11 points. Quality competitions had points awarded in the same way but milk was analysed and a further five points being given for each quarter pound of butterfat. A Q* was introduced in 1916 requiring 18 points with 4% butterfat at both milkings. Only goats entered for the Quality competition could enter for the Dual Purpose Challenge Certificate.

Official milk recording was introduced in 1922, the yield being published in the Herd Book, as a means of measuring a goat's performance without the need to go to shows. By the mid-twenties several milkers had given over 4000lbs in lactations of less than 365 days, and gallon-a-day milkers were becoming commonplace. At this time lactations were recorded from October to October, in line with the 'herd averages' given to cattle herds by the milk recording bodies.

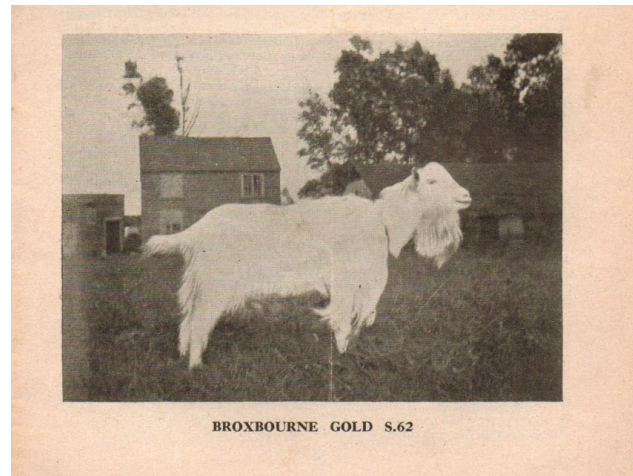
In 1921 the first Year Book was published - edited by the newly appointed Hon. Secretary, T.W. Palmer. The

Monthly Circular became the Monthly Journal in 1924.

Imports

The 1920's also saw a more 'professional' approach being taken to imports. T.W. Palmer and H.E. Hughes went to the Continent in 1922 to select eight male and nine female Toggenburgs from Switzerland and eleven male and eighteen female Saanens from Holland. Earlier importations had been made by individuals, but for this one, and for the later one in 1964, there had to be liaison between the Ministry and the Society. The Ministry had to be satisfied that there was need for new blood and that no diseases not yet in the British Isles were introduced. Milk yields were improved by this import but hind-quarters and pasterns, especially of the Saanens were disappointing. We can now see that only six of the Toggenburgs and nine of the Saanens made any significant contribution to future bloodlines, although Wonderstrike - one of the imported Saanens - gave the highest recorded milk yield of 4059 lbs 10oz in

365 days. Two years later this record was bettered by Springfield Precocity with 5050 lbs 15oz. Wonderstrike was the dam of Broxbourne Gold (born 1924) who became one of the foundation sires of the Saanen breed.



Broxbourne Gold S.62 (from the Monthly Journal February 1953)

Also in 1924, with the co-operation and (surely unusually) the financial aid of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Stud Goat Scheme was introduced. Its aim was 'to improve, by means of breeding, the productive quality of milch goats kept by small-holders, cottagers and other persons of similar position'. This was done by providing the services of good quality males at a subsidised fee. Males were inspected before inclusion on the list and premiums were paid for selected males. This valuable service was very much in line with the original aims of the Society. For eleven years Thomas Palmer was solely responsible for undertaking the inspections – his tour of England and Wales lasting up to three weeks.

In 1926 the Herd Book was reduced to two copies a year. Early naming allowed for affixes as well as prefixes, and there was no limitation to the length of names. Thus AN 1262 was called Herne Bay Black Prince and HB6102 was tastily named Morden Chocolate Cream. However numbers were not permitted in names.

Another feature which seems unfamiliar today was the 'Probationers' Record of the English Section of the Herd Book'. Rule 54 stated:

Goats before being entered in the Probationers' Record of the English Section of the Herd Book, shall be inspected by two or more recognised Judges present at the same time, who shall report as to the suitability or otherwise, of the goats inspected. No kid under the age of six months can be inspected. (Applications for inspection or the

Probationers' Record should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary.)

Entry into the English section was 'When the goat itself. And its sire and dam, grandsires and granddams, are entered in the Probationers' Record' or 'When both sire and dam are entered in the English Section of the Herd Book'.

The English Section was entirely distinct from the General Section in which, of course, we would find registered the goats which would today compete as Any Other Variety.



EMERALD.

No. 1, Probationers' Record of the English Section of the Herd Book. Born 1911, has had 27 kids. Owners, The Misses M. and V. Window Harrison.

Emerald. No 1 of the Probations' Record of the English Section of the Herd Book. (From the 1926 Year Book).