Chapter Three - The Record Breaking Years 1930 to 1939.

The Society had now become well established - with Royal Patronage (King George V at the beginning of the decade and King George VI at the end). Publications were the Herd Book which appeared twice a year, the Year Book and the Monthly Journal. There was also a Stud Goat Circular. In addition to a panel of judges (up to twenty-five were allowed) elected annually there was a register of stewards and speakers .

In 1930, on the resignation of Mr.T.W. Palmer, Mr. H. Jeffrey was appointed as Secretary, becoming the first paid official of the Society. In 1931 he edited his first Year Book. Mr. Palmer was elected Chairman of the Committee in 1933 – an office he held until 1955. In the mid-thirties, Holmes-Pegler again acted as Treasurer.

Milk recording 'classes' were abolished giving just one list, as at present, but there were still no butter-fat figures. The 'section marks' previously used to denote high yields were replaced retrospectively by an R in front of the yield. The Register of Merit (RM - although MR in its first years) and the Advanced Register were also introduced. A bronze medal was awarded to the goat giving the highest yield during the recorded year - such a yield to be not less than 3000lbs.

In 1939 the 'section mark' was re-introduced, this time for males, and denoting a male whose dam had an R and whose sire was entitled to a dagger, section mark, or double section mark. Males from RM or AR dams by a section mark or double section mark sire were themselves entitled to a double section mark.

There were further re-arrangements in the registering of graded-up goats. In 1935 goats previously selected by inspection and registered as BA, BS, and BT were transferred to a Register, i.e. BAR, BSR, and BTR, and new BA, BS, and BT Sections opened based on pedigree. Eligible animals were reinstated in the appropriate Section and, in order to distinguish these goats of satisfactory pedigree, the numbering of goats in all three sections began at 1001 Selection by inspection was then discontinued. The Registers contained animals with less than the recommended proportion of breed parents/ grandparents to those in the section- but the breeder had to declare that they conformed to breed type. For both Section and 'Register' the non-breed, i.e. grading-up, part of the pedigree could not contain parents or grand-parents which contained Anglo Nubian or Nubian blood for two or three generations in the pedigree.

Males were now only registered in the main Herd Book, no longer being registered in the Foundation Book. Nor were males from FB dams eligible for registration. In an attempt to improve the numbers of hornless goats, registered males had to be hornless. The description 'hornless' was dropped in Herd Book entries, with only

'horned' or 'disbudded' specified. The index originally listed owners, not breeders - with breeders (if different) being listed with the goat's details. Herd Book entries were 776 in 1930 and had risen to 924 by 1936.

Between the wars showing was a real adventure. The 'recognised' shows all took place at events such as the Dairy, Royal, and various county shows. There were 33 available in all in 1930. The Dairy Show was held at the Royal Agricultural Hall in Islington until 1938 when it was at Earl's Court. There was no show in 1939. County shows had no permanent showgrounds and moved to different venues each year. This had the effect of taking the shows to a different range of exhibitors as transport was a problem. In the twenties the usual method of getting to shows was by horse-drawn vehicle - or by train to the Dairy and Royal Shows. By the thirties motor vans gave the larger breeders more flexibility and enabled them to
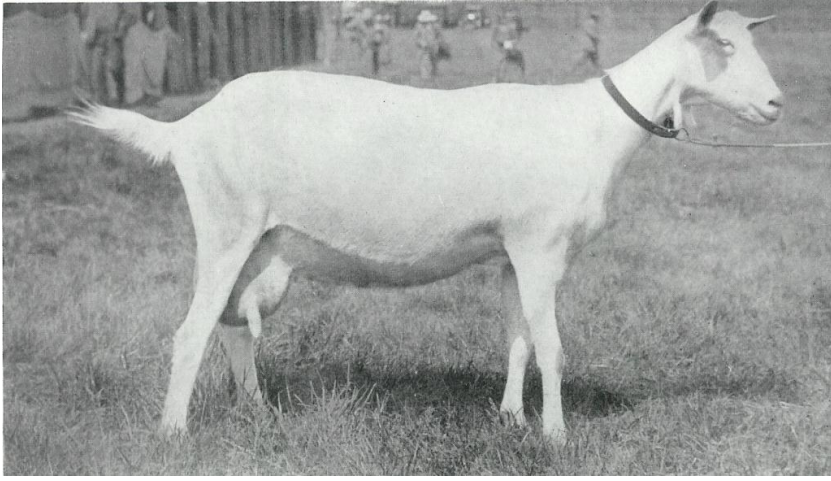
travel further.   Smaller breeders had to hire, and often share, a van. Although cars were becoming more common, trailers did not appear until the late thirties.

At the shows goats were tied in open fronted pens, arranged by breed, which made it very inconvenient for exhibitors with more than one breed. Penning by exhibitor was not introduced until the late thirties while vehicles were often parked some distance away. Only one free pass was available per exhibitor and women exhibitors did not sleep on the showground. Today's exhibitors have a good deal to be thankful for!

The show results were published in the Prize Record section in the Herd Book. At this stage only females were listed, although the list of regulations included those applying to male Champions and Breed Champions. However in 1939 the BGS ran a Male Goat Show at Roydon with bronze medals awarded for the best Adult Male and the Best Buckling. The goats were now recognisable as the various types we know today.

Yields were going up rapidly with almost every year a new record being set.   In 1936 Ch R5 Bitterne Penelope broke the world record with a yield of 23lb 7oz in 24 hours. By 1937 Mostyn Marigold had given a lifetime yield of 308821lbs 4oz. In 1932 the regulation requiring exhibits in milking trials to have kidded in the last twelve months was dropped and for a time there was no limit on how long it was possible for a goat to go without kidding and still compete.

The inter-war years were dominated by the influential female members, J.R. Egerton (Malpas) being one of the few prominent male members. Breeders such as Mrs. Abbey were ladies of education, acres, the means to hire goat-girls, and time. Often they also bred other animals such as horses or dogs. The Society's original aim of providing goats and/or milk for cottagers had proved impossible, although the Stud Goat Scheme was still in being. However the aim of improving the yields and conformation of the goat was an interesting and acceptable occupation - especially, perhaps, for spinsters denied by the Great War the expected 'occupation' of marriage. The milk which was now being produced by the bucketful was going to rear puppies and other young stock rather than cottagers' families.   Its health benefits had still to be fully recognised.

Ch RM5 Mostyn Marigold Q* HB 0008650P