

Chapter Five - Controversy and Change 1945 to 1950.

The war years had brought about a change in the type of BGS member. From being mainly breeders of large herds aiming to improve yields and breed type, there was now a preponderance of goat-keepers whose interests were more economic. Their interest was how to make goat-keeping more cost-effective and to make best use of the products of the goat. For instance there were moves afoot, if not for actually setting up commercial herds, at least to set up 'groups' which would buy milk from small producers and process it. Meanwhile membership had trebled from over 900 in 1939 to over 3000 in 1945.

This growth in membership resulted in a vast increase in clubs. Almost every county now had one holding frequent meetings aimed at imparting the basics to this new type of goat-keeper. Rationing was still in force so how to grow and provide extra food was an important topic. So was 'housing' as a typical 'herd' might now consist of two milkers, a goatling and a kid kept in a shed at the bottom of the garden, with their food carried to them. Large herds which roamed several acres and foraged for themselves were becoming a thing of the past.

The affiliation of these new clubs to the BGS posed a problem. It was impossible for them all to put a delegate on the BGS committee although the rules at the time allowed them to do so. The number of delegates had to be limited to avoid them outnumbering the elected committee members. In addition these delegates requested that their fares be paid, as recently allowed to the committee. However, the Secretary was having enough trouble finding funds to pay the expenses of the elected committee and, as the delegates were not elected by the full membership of the Society, the request was not successful.

An EGM was held in 1946 to institute the Affiliated Societies Conference which was to be held annually with the main aim of selecting six delegates for the BGS Committee. As today, each Affiliated Society could send two members to attend. The first Conference elected six delegates from a total of twelve nominations, discussed ways of funding delegates' fares and noted that although petrol was available for attending agricultural shows this did not apply to 'goat-only' club run shows.

At this time the Affiliated Societies meetings were held in London on a Wednesday with the BGS AGM and an 'open conference' and brains' trust on the following day but at a different venue. Hardly a 'user-friendly' arrangement! Committee meetings were held almost every month with nine or ten a year. General meetings were also held outside London, for example in Taunton and York in 1946, with discussions but no resolutions.

In 1945 the rules governing the selection of judges were changed so that after being nominated by the general

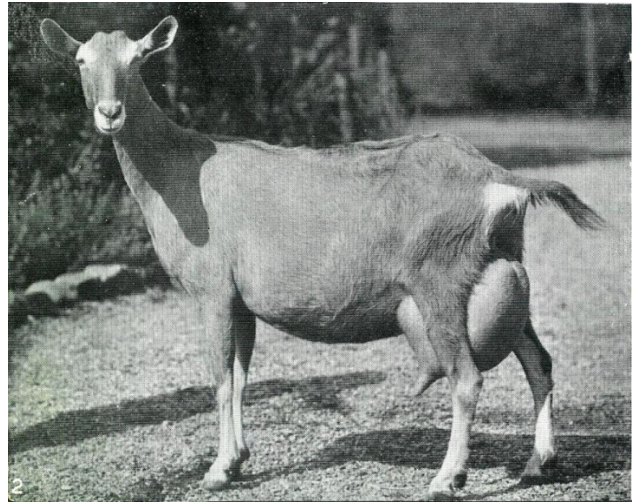
membership they were then given the licence by the Committee for three years (or one for a visiting Judge from abroad). Judges had to be members of the BGS and their licences were reviewed and renewed every three years. No more than fifty judges were to be on the panel at any one time (in practice thirty seemed to be the more usual figure). Shows began again in 1945 when Mr Jeffery judged the Suffolk Agricultural Show on June 6th, although they did not return to pre-war numbers until 1947 when the Dairy and Royal shows re-started. Clubs were starting to put on their own shows at which the best exhibit could win a BGS Diploma. However, the conformation of the exhibits was not considered to be as good as that of the goats exhibited at the between-the-wars shows. There was a lack of uniformity and conformation to breed-type although yields were comparable. Entries were large - a milker could be entered for two milking competitions, for Quantity (giving a * award) and Quality (giving a Q* award). At Surrey in 1948 there were 347 goats present, generating 573 total entries. In the same year the Dairy Show, now at Olympia, introduced separate Milking Competitions for each breed, and all milkers had also to be entered in the Inspection class.

The Prize Fund was still being well supported, the funds raised going towards the purchase of medals and other show related expenses. Bronze medals were still being given and some successful breeders and owners choose not to take the actual medal which enabled it to be used again. At this date the BGS bought six weigh buckets and two publicity stands to be circulated around the shows, thus both supporting shows and generating knowledge about the Society.

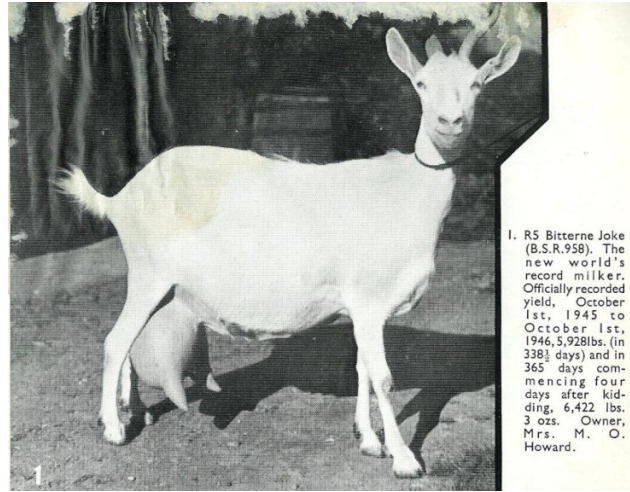
Radical changes in the system of Milk Recording sparked much controversy. Originally the recorded period for the R prefix was a lactation year running from October to October. From 1947 the goat's lactation yield (365 days from the fourth day after kidding) was to provide the figure, although for the October 1945/46 yields under both systems were published. The change was controversial because, to enable comparisons to be made between the old (which actually covered two part lactations and a dry period) and new systems, it involved a new method of awarding Rs. The Oct/Oct lactation year gave an R2 for yields between 2000 - 3000lbs. To gain an R2 with the new system a goat had to give not less than 2500lbs during those 365 days.

The Milk Marketing Board was still limiting the numbers of herds they would accept and official recording was expensive. This made club recording an attractive option. Club Milk Recorded yields were now recognised - with a C prefix - and a list of C yields was printed in the 1949 Herd Book after the official yields.

A world Record yield was set in 1946 by R5 Bitterne Joke with 5928 lbs in 339 days. The following year RM5 Malpas Melba gave a yield of 5993lb 6oz, her final World Record yield being 6661lbs 3oz in 365 days. Northmoor Gazelle, the first post-war full Champion, gave a World Record 24 hour yield of 23lb 13oz at the 1948 Royal Show. By February 1946 Hindrance of Weald had given a record lifetime yield of 36392lbs 15oz in 3946 days. The Malpas Melba Trophy was donated in 1949 for lifetime yields of over 20,000. The first winner was Malpas Melba herself!



*R3 Northmoor Gazelle * (BTR398) Highest Recorded British Toggenburg yield 1944-45, 3482lbs 4oz in 361 days*



I. R5 Bitterne Joke (B.S.R.958). The new world's record milker. Officially recorded yield, October 1st, 1945 to October 1st, 1946, 5,928lbs. (in 338½ days) and in 365 days commencing four days after kidding, 6,422 lbs. 3 ozs. Owner, Mrs. M. O. Howard.

The return of shows meant the * and Q* could be awarded again. The regulations were revised so that instead of a succession of generations achieving an average of not less than 4% butter-fat over two milkings being shown as a string of Q*s a number would follow to indicate the generations. Thus three generations of Q* winners would become Q*2 rather than Q*Q*Q*. From July 1st 1945 the Section Mark and Double Section Mark were introduced to give an indication of the R value of a male's dam and sire's dam.

In 1946 paper rationing became easier and, in May, the Monthly Journal returned to its old format including a front photograph. However since membership was three times up on pre-war figures pages had to be limited. The more numerous Affiliated Societies could only be allowed two entries a year and were limited to 200 words. To make the most of available paper, the small print was retained.

The Herd Book became an annual publication in 1947 and ceased to include the Prize Record as this duplicated information printed in the Monthly Journal during the summer months. In the final years of the Prize Record there had been comments on each winner, including kids, but there had been fewer inspection classes then! Show reports now had to be trimmed due to paper allocation and financial restraints. The list of winners of 'non-show' Trophies appeared in 1946 and Championship winners a year later. The Herd Book was still quite a thick volume as, in both 1947 and '48 there were over 3000 Transfers of Ownership.

In 1947 Herd Book entries were given H or P after their registration numbers to denote horned or polled. The following year horned goats were again allowed to be registered – rekindling the debate on the probable connection between hornlessness and sterility. In the 1958 Year Book Mr Egerton was defending hornlessness writ

ing *'Fables and old wives' tales are dangerous things. Better, surely, is it to class it with data of which we do know, and if you look up the Herd Books you will see that the heaviest milkers have been naturally hornless, with hardly any exceptions, so why not link it with MILK if you must link it with anything?'* (His comments are offered as a matter of interest, not to re-ignite any discussion!)

The Herd Book lost its separate, paid, editor as the funds were needed to provide a rise for the Secretary and staff.

A Stud Goat Folder was published in addition to the Stud Goat List to give details of males not on the Stud Goat Scheme.

Good news from Malta appeared in the 1949 Year Book when the Director of Agriculture, Malta, reported that the 'Goats for Malta' had been a success having resulted in over 600 services and in offspring with improved yields. It had therefore been of great benefit to local farmers and several more S and BS males were exported to Malta.