

## **Chapter Seven - Financial problems 1960-1970.**

By the sixties the Society was beginning to settle into a routine. In Miss Rigg it had a Secretary who had the Society's interests very much at heart. Her sister kept goats and she herself, as well as dealing with the normal business of the Society, was very involved with publicising goats' milk and its health benefits. She was the major organiser of the publicity stands at both the Royal and the Dairy Shows. Making the public aware of the benefits of goats' milk to those suffering from infantile eczema and duodenal ulcers and providing sufficient, well produced milk to satisfy the demand were major concerns of goat-keepers at this time. Breeding for both showing and the export market continued as usual. All seemed to be going well, but things were not as rosy as they appeared.

The Society's finances were not in good shape, (a problem which would recur several times in the future).

Membership was declining and printing and postage costs were rising fast. Other outside influences such as strikes upset the necessary smooth running and efficiency of the office work. Economies were needed and further income had to be generated somehow, as there was insufficient 'cushion' to provide the services the Society wished to offer to its members. To address these problems some changes were introduced which remain today. Committee meetings were reduced from six to three (today there are four), and the specialised committee work was delegated to three sub-committees – namely the Finance and General Purposes, Herd Book and Milk Recording, and Publicity and Publications.

The six representatives elected from the Affiliated Societies tended to come from the Southern Clubs which found it cheaper and easier to get to London. However in 1965 all Affiliated Societies were grouped into one of seven geographical areas, the Clubs within each area nominating and voting for a representative.

The Society's cups were another source of anxiety. Insurance costs were rising and, from 1969, it was decided that the BGS cups were no longer to be handed out unless the winner was prepared to pay all costs of postage, packing, insurance and engraving. Instead silver coloured prize cards were given to all cup-winners. Two years previously it had been decided not to accept any more cups without reference to the Committee. The Breeder's Cup and the Stud Goat Cup had both originally been awarded based on points gained at six shows in each season. This was now increased to nine shows.

The first subscriptions rise of the decade came in January 1961 when the category of Subscribers was discontinued and the rate for full members was raised. This resulted in an Affiliated Societies' resolution 'that the Society overhauls its machinery and formulates a new policy in keeping with its present day needs'. A questionnaire was

circulated to all members and as a result the Society received suggestions such as recognition fees for shows; show reports as a supplement; a reduction in the length of the Committee reports and a larger number of technical reports in the Journal. Rules and Regulations should be published in the Year Book biennially (instead of annually – although if necessary amendments could be published in the alternate years). This would alternate with the list of members and their prefixes.

A further membership re-shuffle in 1966 saw the introduction of Family and Junior members (with fewer privileges and no publications) and an increase in Associates' subscriptions. The combined Jan/Feb issue of the Journal was introduced as a cost cutting measure. There was also a change to a local, cheaper printer but postal strikes made keeping to deadlines difficult. The Journal, in particular, appeared erratically which left too little time to reply to letters, but too much when placing advertisements for stock. The Herd Book was to run from December 1<sup>st</sup> each year instead of 1<sup>st</sup> January. This enabled it to be published earlier.

The Year Book changed its Editor as well as its printer. For fifteen years Miss Rigg had combined the roles of Editor and Secretary but was becoming overworked so an Hon Editor was appointed in 1966. With the combination of a new editor and a fresh printer a 'new look' Year Book appeared – stapled, not bound, different cover, and with all the photos collected together in the centre pages. This last feature was not repeated in future issues.

Despite all these efforts printing and postage costs continued to escalate and industrial action disrupted the attempted efficiency of the office. A further, complex, resolution for new subscription rates was circulated to members in 1966 - eliciting 38 votes for the amendment. It seems that, even then, the BGS members were apathetic about voting! Money was still tight and a raffle run by Mr. H. Hornby raised £420.

Members continued to give generously through the years (many rounding-up their cheques sent in for registrations and other services). By the end of the decade the Prize Fund had ceased to be a separate entity and, together with the Propaganda fund and various other funds raised for specific short-term projects, it was amalgamated into the General Fund. A franking machine had been bought and in 1964 the Secretary requested members not to send stamps...there was a limit to the number she could find homes for and postal orders and cheques should be used for all payments over 1/- (10p!)

Despite these problems refinements to the Regulations continued to take place. In 1961 the 'Dual Purpose Award' changed its name to the Inspection-Production Challenge Certificate. In the cattle world dual purpose now referred to crosses between beef and dairy animals, whereas in goats it was a combination of the points received on inspection and those from the milking competition. The former DP line-up became the Championship Parade. IPCC winners needed 18 points.

From 1963 a classification of recognised shows appeared in the Journal as follows: 'A' with Rosette, all Challenge Certificates and a BGS cup. 'B' as above, but without a cup. 'C' Rosette and Challenge Certificate for best exhibit and IPCC. 'R' Rosette. All the above shows included Milking Competitions. However from 1964 a 'C' show had Rosette and Breed Challenge Certificates only – not CC or IPCC. Unrecognised shows classified as 'D' had a BGS diploma awarded. From 1967 all recognised shows not sponsored by Affiliated Societies had to pay a recognition fee. From 1968 shows which held classes for adult males as well as milkers gave an award for Best Male Goat as well as Best Exhibit for the female.

In 1968 a milker awarded a CC or BCC in the ring had to gain a minimum of 18 and 16 points respectively in a Milking Competition at the same show for the awards to count towards her Championship or Breed Championship

In the Year Book (where a table of show awards had appeared since 1954) there were now columns for CCs and BCCs awarded and qualified. Recognised shows were also listed there with the number of goats that had entered. The index of the previous season's prize-winners appeared in the 1964 Year Book and occupied at least six pages, taking up valuable space which could have been used for practical articles. The index had been moved from the Herd Book because, by popular demand, the Transfers of Ownership had been reinstated there. For several years from August 1969 the Journal also carried the Stud Goat List in the August, October and December issues. This was because changes in the post of Secretary meant it was not possible to compile a separate Stud Goat Register. From October 1962 the MMB offered an alternative milk recording scheme. It had always required recorded goats to be ear-marked but agreed to accept the BGS ear-marks. A recorder visited every month and the 24 hour yield was multiplied by 30.5. The Herd thus had 12 butter-fat tests a year.

Extended lactations previously needed 3000lbs for the first 365 days. Any yield of not less than 4500lbs in the 730 days, of which not less than 1500lbs had to be given in the extended period, was also published in the Herd Book – as an extended lactation. This was now changed so that a yield sufficient to qualify for an R had to be given in the first 365 days and not less than 4500lbs in the 730 days of which not less than 1500lbs had to be given in the extended period. In 1968 to qualify for an R prefix a required, although all yields of 2000lbs and over were still published. In the same year AR39 Peatmoor Gretel won the Malpas Melba Trophy for the fifth year.



*AR39 Peatmoor Gretel \*2 BT2769 owned and bred by Miss E M Platten*

Other Regulation changes involved the introduction of the Sire of Merit (in 1967) for a male goat who had sired 5 daughters with R or \* awards. The recipient did not have to be still alive. Goats being registered without a prefix could now have names of up to twelve letters. Herd Book entries now included ear-marks where possible and SM males were listed with the Section Mark and Dagger males. Provisional numbers were no longer supplied for showing unregistered kids. Registrations could be sent in when the kids were a month old and RAF (registration

applied for ) put on the show entry form. If the BGS Secretary had not received the registration any subsequent awards were not recognised.

A further aim was added to the Society's 'Objects'. This was 'to further the well-being of the goat and safeguard from cruelty from whatever source'. A West Country member had been removed from the Society after a complaint hearing under Rule 8 following a case brought by the RSPCA. A Code of Practice was drawn up and published in the December 1971 Journal.

The BGS was by now some eighty years old and had a well-organised Herd Book. This covered the six established Breeds, with another section for goats which required a further generation to become eligible for the Breed sections, either through grading-up or because out-crossing between two goats from different Breed sections upset the number of great-grand parents for any one breed. There were also two further sections for grading-up and an Identification Register which enabled goats of unknown parentage to be shown, entered in Milking Competitions and start the grading-up process. Two other publications (the annual Year Book and the Monthly Journal – eleven copies a year) provided members with official notices, news and views, essential husbandry articles and often a lively letters page. More controversially many Journal pages in the summer months were taken up with the results of numerous shows.

These shows now ranged from classes held at the prestige shows such as the Dairy and the Royal covering several days, one and two day County and Agricultural shows to goats only shows usually run by Affiliated Societies. There were also Diploma shows which could incorporate recognised Milking Competitions. There were now approximately sixty Female shows recognised by the BGS each year and eight Male and Young Stock shows - almost all very well supported. With rigorous monitoring of looks and parentage in the early years, followed by judging to set breed standards thereafter, the Breeds were now established. Yields and conformation were much improved though butter-fats still often gave cause for concern and protein testing had yet to be undertaken. The time had come to discover how other countries dealt with all aspects of goats and goat-keeping.

The idea of an International Dairy Goat Conference originated from a committee member and her husband who frequently took holidays in Europe often seeking out goat-keepers while on their travels. They realised that an exchange of information on various aspects of goat-keeping such as dairying, breeding, disease and nutrition would probably be of interest and benefit to a number of countries where goats played a bigger role in food production, than they did in the UK. Our goat-keepers needed to expand commercially. As well as learning about diseases which might affect the goat there was the other side of the coin - how goats' milk and its products could best be used to improve human health in an increasingly allergy conscious world.

At first it was intended to hold the conference in Cambridge in the summer of 1963 but organisational problems resulted in a change of venue and the conference finally took place in London in July 1964 largely due to the efforts of Mr. D Sawyer and Miss M.E.K. Pennington. The Conference was well supported both locally and by overseas visitors. It lasted five days and featured speakers from Switzerland, France, Germany, Israel and the U.S.A. as well as from the U.K. The July/August 1964 *Journal* informs us that the Conference received favourable mention in both *The Times* and *The New Daily* and printed some extracts from the papers. Since it was successful the decision was taken to arrange a follow-up conference in France in the late sixties - however it did not take place until the next decade.

Another Committee member - a Saanen breeder - also took regular holidays abroad, especially in Switzerland. For her the main attraction was the annual 'shows' - or regional assessment gatherings of goats. Each autumn all the animals from the surrounding area were brought to a central point, inspected and assessed by three government officials. Bonuses were paid to the owners of the highest rated animals and the results of the assessment were entered on the individual goat's official pedigree card. After visiting a number of these shows Mrs Winterton was

so impressed by the quality of these animals (strong legs and round well attached udders) that she became determined to import some. During the early sixties she consulted the Swiss authorities and sounded out the interest of various Saanen and Toggenburg breeders. Although there was limited interest the Ministry of Agriculture was adamant that the disease situation would not allow animals to be brought in from Europe. However a syndicate was formed and also a BGS sub-committee as the Ministry would only deal with the BGS - not an individual.

When Charolais cattle got the go-ahead to import a further approach was made to the Ministry, and in the autumn of 1963, the Swiss selected five Toggenburg and five Saanens (three males and two females in kid to unrelated males of each breed). Unfortunately a matter of days before the start of the quarantine period (a month in each country) the disease situation in Europe deteriorated again. The Journal for July/August contains a letter from Mrs Winterton:

*Dear Editor, - I am sorry to have to report that, owing to a number of delays, we were unable to import the Swiss goats before they kidded in the spring. We are now making every effort to get them this autumn.*



The following autumn ten fresh animals were selected and the Ministry gave the go ahead. Shortly after starting quarantine in Switzerland one of the Toggenburg females had an accident, but it was too late to be able to replace her. After a tense month the nine were flown to England and quarantined in London. At last, in early March 1965, they were due to be released and taken to a farm near Reading for collection by their new owners. Overnight it snowed...but not enough to deter goat-keepers keen to inspect the first goats to be imported since 1922. Within days of release the Toggenburg had kidded, producing one of each sex. The Saanens kidded, one with a single daughter and one with a male and a female. The Toggenburg breeders, whose need for fresh blood-lines was greater, had the misfortune to lose two of the males before they could be used. Unfortunately interest in the new stock was not as great as had been hoped, and, despite doing well in the show-ring, the imports were not sufficiently widely used to maximise the introduction of new blood to the gene pool.

The sixties also saw the import of the first Golden Guernseys which, at this time, were registered in the Identification Register. The Golden Guernsey Goat Club was affiliated in 1968.

During the late 1960's the BGS entered one of its periods of upheaval. Miss Rigg retired in February 1968 after seventeen years as Secretary to the Society and was succeeded by Mrs. Hayes. The office moved to Sussex and Mrs Hayes was getting to grips with the job when, after nine months, domestic problems made it necessary for her to resign. The office moved back to East Anglia and Mr. D. Savage (previously short-listed) took over. However the Committee was unable to provide financing for extra staff and he too resigned after seven months. In July 1969 a solution was found when Mrs May of Bury St Edmunds took over with the backing of her husband. The Mays were paid a fee to provide the secretarial services necessary to tackle the work which was now getting seriously behind. The financial situation had not been improved by the costs of the frequent moves of office. In 1969 the Accountants, despite having been supplied with the figures at the usual time, had failed to produce a Statement of Accounts in time for the AGM, and were replaced later that year.

The Royal Show settled into its permanent ground at Stoneleigh in 1963. The Dairy Show, on the other hand, was unable to continue to use Olympia and the final show, held in 1970, had no goatling classes. Instead the Coronation Bowl was offered that year to the Best Exhibit in inspection gaining a minimum of 18 points in the Milking Competitions. It was now necessary to find a show of similar standing, at the same time of year, to replace it. During the sixties the Dairy Show had also been a convenient venue for Licensed Judges to meet and discuss any problems they had encountered and put forward suggestions for improvement in the running of the

shows.

For several years in the late sixties goats had been displayed and their produce sold at the four day London Festival at Battersea. Interest in goat-keeping was increasing and one of the noticeable effects was the introduction of Rural Sciences at schools. Several such schools joined the Society, registering and showing their stock.

Mr. Jeffery had been President when the date for the International Dairy Goat Conference had been set for 1963, and was elected for an unprecedented third term when it had to be postponed for a year.

Amongst new members joining in this decade included Mrs P. Carter (Pamart), P. Cox (Domino), G. Godfrey (Mellan), and Mrs Hardman (Meadowview). Mrs Allen later took over her mother's Hayling prefix and the Ashdene prefix was also registered at this time.