

# **JACOB SHEEP SOCIETY**

## **Northern Region**

Minutes of the Spring Annual General Meeting of the Jacob Sheep Society Northern Region which took place on Sunday February 19th 2012 at The Fox and Hounds, Langthorpe, Boroughbridge at 11.00 am.

### **Attendees:**

Gavin Haworth, Kate and Paul Metcalfe, Dennis and Kathleen Lowther, David and Jean Oxley, Lynn and Simon Baguley, John and Freda Fozzard, John and Wendy Atkinson, Barbara Johnston, Mary Rudd, Mike Hurford, Beryl Thompson, Ron Verity, Clive Richardson, and Betty Palmer.

### **Apologies:**

Apologies for absence were received from Stephen Dodsworth, Becky Haworth, Trevor and Pat Black, Leigh Wilson, Howard Walsh, Stroma Bedell, the Saxby family, Mr. & Mrs. Pigott, Mandy and Peter Ellis, Steph Sleightholme, Ross Sleightholme, and Florence Verity.

### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

Gavin read out the minutes of the previous meeting. Ron Verity proposed that they were accepted as a true record of the meeting, and this was seconded by Simon Baguley.

### **Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

- Clare and Emma have kindly agreed to take responsibility for organising the after-show party for members and friends at the Great Yorkshire Show this year.
- Jerry Strong, the Jacob Sheep Society treasurer, has agreed that a reasonable level of fund-raising within Regions is acceptable to cover Regional operating costs. Gavin expressed his thanks to Dennis and Kathleen Lowther for organising the afternoon's entertainments.
- Following the November Council Meeting, a brief update was given on the current situation with the former secretary.
- Gavin congratulated Beryl Thompson on her election to the Jacob Sheep Society provisional judges' panel.
- All Regional sales will be classed as official sales in 2012.

### **Open Day:**

The 2012 Northern Region Open Day will be held at Hellifield by kind invitation of the Saxby family, and a Sunday around the end of May was suggested as an ideal date. Gavin to liaise with Richard and his family to agree a date as soon as possible and get it publicised on the Northern Region page on the J.S.S. website. Activities will include stock judging as well as an auction. John Fozzard suggested a judging competition for junior and senior members paired together, and Barbara Johnston suggested judging sheep in full fleece then, following shearing, judging them again clipped bare. Other suggestions for activities included a wool on the hoof competition, a foot trimming demonstration, guidance on show preparation, and advice on showing sheep. The Northern Region committee to meet shortly to plan the day.

### **Skipton Show and Sale:**

Gavin reported that Arwel Jones has accepted the invitation to judge the 2012 sale, and Wyn Harries has agreed to be one of the inspectors. The other invited inspector, David Tuffney, has declined the invitation. Following discussion, nominations and a vote, Margie Rushbrooke to be invited to be the second inspector. Clive Richardson to be the adjudicator.

Closing date for entries to be brought forward a week to enable Gavin and Becky to check the entries and put together the catalogue ready for circulation.

Rejected sheep to be identified by a coloured tag around their neck and their removal to separate pens at the auction. Rejected sheep to be sold at the end of the sale in catalogue order.

Following discussion about the splitting of the ram class, Clive Richardson proposed that if there were enough ram entries the class should be split into shearling rams and older rams at Gavin's discretion, and this was seconded by Mike Hurford.

It was agreed that more help from the auction mart's drovers on sale day would be helpful and would reduce the responsibility on volunteer helpers. Gavin said he would speak to the auctioneers about it.

After considerable discussion, it was agreed that registration certificates should be handed in to the auction office and that it is the buyer's responsibility to ensure they get their certificate when they pay in the office.

### **Flock Assessment 2012:**

Gavin announced that we are required to organise a flock assessment for members this year and John Fozzard volunteered to help with the organisation. Following nominations and a vote, Jackie Lewis, proposed by John Fozzard and seconded by Betty Palmer,

was chosen as the judge and she will be invited to select a co-judge and suggest suitable dates in October that do not clash with other Regional events. John Fozzard reported that a minimum entry of ten flocks was required to make the assessment viable. It was agreed that some guidelines on what the assessment entails may encourage more entries, and the provision of special prizes for juniors involved in the assessment would be an encouragement for them. The actual classes to be agreed later.

### **Breed Promotion:**

John Fozzard, joint Regional representative on the Breed Promotion Committee with Freda, gave an update of activities:

- The committee are promoting products with the Jacob Sheep Society logo on including tea towels, hessian bags and carrier bags.
- Kent Wool Growers are producing soap featuring a Jacob sheep which retails at £1 a bar.
- John Fozzard and Beryl Thompson will be representing the Society at the Wool Fest event, being held at Cockermouth, Cumbria, in late June.
- At the Countryside Live Event at Harrogate on October 20th - 21st, for the first time there will be a class for the best pair of Jacob wethers to be shown unwashed and untrimmed. The class is being sponsored by a wholesale butcher and prize money is £50 first, £40 second, £30 third, £20 fourth and £10 fifth.
- Fenland Sheep Skins have ceased trading but their business is being taken over by a firm in Devon who will cure Jacob skins for members for £26 - £35 a skin.
- The Royal Mail are producing a series of postage stamps featuring six breeds of sheep, including the Jacob.

Clive Richardson proposed a vote of thanks to John and Freda Fozzard for their work representing the Region at National Breed Promotion meetings, and this was seconded by Betty Palmer.

### **Wool Cup:**

Beryl Thompson reminded members that more entries for the Wool Cup competition were needed, and reported that this year the three entries making up the Regional entry will also all be judged as individual entries for the Aileen Kennedy cup.

### **Shows in the Region:**

Gavin reported that entries at the agricultural shows in the Region were needed if we are not to lose the Jacob sheep classes. This year Emley Show are putting on Jacob classes for the first time as opposed to Jacobs being shown in the other breed section.

### **Correspondence:**

Gavin said he had received an e-mail from Jean Blacknell asking if there were any possible nominations from the Northern Region for the Pat Bromley trophy awarded annually for the young person deemed to have done the most to promote Jacob sheep.

Jean Blacknell also wanted members to be aware that bursaries are available for those wishing to hold young handlers Open days.

**Date of the Autumn Meeting:**

Gavin to select a suitable date towards the end of October, preferably after the Flock Assessment competition but before the November Council Meeting. Possibly 28.10.12.

**Any Other Business:**

Mike Hurford showed members some wool from his own sheep spun for him by the Halifax Spinning Mill, near Goole, and available for sale.

There being no other business the meeting was closed and Gavin introduced Janet Shead from Massey Feeds who gave an informative talk on sheep rations and feeding techniques.