

Dear Member,

Again it is time to put pen to paper. After a mild winter and very favourable lambing weather I trust that you all had a successful lambing season. I also hope that last year's prices will be maintained throughout 2012. At last November's AGM and Dinner at the Knighton Hotel, I suggested that due to the immense growth in membership during the last two years, and the scattered placements of our members, that a newsletter be sent out with the Flock Book and the second with the Sales/Flock Competition/Flock Return papers. So here we go!

With reference to the AGM & Dinner, the venue has always been in the Knighton/ Newtown area as this is the "home" of the breed. Council acknowledges it is difficult for all members to attend given that we have members from Devon to Norfolk, Hampshire to Scotland and overseas to Ireland and Europe. It is always very pleasing to welcome faraway members on the night. One great difficulty we have is a venue with the necessary facilities with ample accommodation.

The show season is upon us and many have asked about shows and judges. The Society has seven major shows where points are allocated to decide the Show Flock and Ram of The Year. They are Stafford, Three Counties, Royal Welsh, Burwarton, Anglesey, Pembroke and Kington. There are many others with Kerry classes including the Bath & West, East of England, Shropshire, Flint & Denbigh, Oswestry, North Wales Show, Aberystwyth, Monmouth & Eglwysbach. Many of these have developed due to Kerry breeders wishing for Kerry classes rather than competing in the A.O.B class. It would be pleasing if new members, who want to show, can contact their local shows to discuss the possibility of establishing Kerry classes, Council members are always willing to help you out.

Judges for the major shows are chosen by Council usually two to three years ahead, smaller shows twelve months in advance. Council has an 'A' list, 'B' list and a Probation list. Only those on the 'A' list are entitled to judge at the major shows. 'B' list judges are chosen for other shows but with experience are promoted to the 'A' list. The probationer list includes new members and juniors. Usually these are invited to accompany an experienced Judge to shows and get advice encouragement and guidance on judging points. If any juniors wish to be included on this list or new members please contact either myself or the Secretary. The Judges Selection Meeting for Shows and Sales takes place in January each year, when the three lists are reviewed and updated annually by Council.

The Kerry Stand will for the first time visit NSA ScotSheep 2012 which will be held at The Morrisons Farm, Dumfries House, Cumnock, Ayrshire on Wednesday 6th June. Please note that we will be situated in the Accredited Section and we will be very pleased to see you, it promises to be a very interesting day.

The Kerry Stand will once again be present at NSA Sheep 2012 at Malvern on July 4th please visit us and have a chat, alternatively if you would like to help on the stand please let our Secretary know, this is always a busy day.

This year's Main Sale at Ludlow will be on Saturday 1st September followed by the Rare & Traditional Breed Sale at Carlisle on Saturday 22nd September, where the 'Champions Cup' has been kindly donated by Gwilym Pugh. There will be inspections at both sales. Council would like to take this opportunity here to thank Mr Mason Weir, Dowthwaite Head Farm, Dockray, Penrith for sponsoring the Kerry Sale at Carlisle over the last few years.

All other sales will not be inspected and Council trusts that if in doubt buyers will refer to their Flock Book for breed type, faults etc, and seek experienced breeders advice if unsure. All Kerry Hill sheep sold as Pedigree must be registered with the Society and must have their breeding lines in the catalogue. Council would like to inspect all sheep in all sales but this is virtually impossible given the large number of new rare & Traditional Breed sales at venues all over the Country. We implore on buyers to buy carefully. To our North of England and Scottish members any sheep entered at Carlisle can be paint stenciled on the back or labeled as before, Council respects that the latter is the custom in the area and will adhere to the wishes of the vendors.

It has also been agreed in Council that all Society cups will be recalled at the end of July for valuation for Insurance purposes. We would therefore be grateful if those of you to which this applies, would return these cups to the Secretary when she contacts you.

This first newsletter will hopefully link our members closer together and if anyone would like to include snippets of news then please contact myself or Pam and we will include it in the next edition. It can also be a place where items can be advertised.

On looking back we had 60 members in 1988, now we are up to 241 and still growing. Wishing you all a successful spring and summer.

John Harris
Chairman of Council

FOR SALE

Ivor Williams P6 Livestock Trailer Length 6'x 4 3/4' wide, height 5' with dividing gate, single axle. Condition as new.

For further information please contact Gill Dutton 07535720817 (Shrewsbury Area)