



Romney Sheep Breeders Society

Spring Newsletter 2020

TRAINEE JUDGE - MIKE MUMFORD 1970

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**Please read a message from the
Chairman Adam Rawlinson.
2nd April 2020**

Dear Members

Only a few weeks ago the council met and discussed plans for the coming year including such items as events, genetic improvements and flock book records. It seemed Brexit uncertainty was (possibly) “done and dusted” and only the bad weather remained to prevent us looking forward to an exciting summer.

Yet, all of a sudden, our lives have been turned upside down with Covid-19 and we are all striving to maintain some day to day sense of order.

At the time of writing (2nd April) it looks likely that the majority of shows and summer events either have been or will be cancelled. Further, Ashford and other markets

are not selling breeding stock. Thankfully the sale of finished livestock is still possible.

Personally, I see a single light at the end of the tunnel in all this, in that once the virus is behind us all, then the country will likely contemplate how our food and produce is provided. Hopefully the importance of domestic food production and security will rise up the political and public agenda, along with appreciation of the farming community.

In terms of RSBS activities it has been decided to delay the AGM until later in the year and of course any matters appertaining to events and functions are “on hold”.

Our secretary continues to deal, on a day to day level with any inbound enquiries and matters where current restrictions do not have an effect.

One thing that can carry on is the planning and preparation for the adoption of the electronic flock book another is the updating of the website.

Of course, we all continue to do our bit for the society by managing the flock and breeding for health and positive traits. So, all breeders need to be thanked for the work they do.

I would however like to take this opportunity to again particularly thank Julie Lukehurst our secretary for her hard work and diligence as well as those in the society who assist her when needed.

As and when some assemblance of normal service resumes we will of course “regroup” and assess priorities and book our AGM.

Until then please let the secretary or myself know if you feel there are any

matters which need specific attention prior to meetings being reconvened.

Adam Rawlinson, Chairman.



It has been a very worrying time for all of us. I hope that all Romney Sheep Breeders are remaining safe and well especially through this lambing season. The weather being the kindest it could be so far!

I have been busy with many tasks set and met a few challenges along the way but office remains open to anyone who needs anything!

AGM

Unfortunately due to the recent events the provisional date for the AGM which was to be held on the 7th May 2020 is cancelled until further notice.

We are hoping to re arrange the new date towards the end of the year before the Show and Sale.

We hope that it will be able to use The Conningbrook Hotel, Ashford, Kent TN24 9QR again.

I have also enclosed a nomination form, so there are opportunities to canvas members who would like to join council and nominations placed forward.

Please note- retiring members if you wish to stand again get nominated.

There will be places on council to fill - Retiring in 2020 are Helen Langrish Martin Holgate Howard Bates Adam would have been

retiring but continues to be Chairman at present.

A council meeting will be arranged as soon as we are able to do so or if you are technology minded we could have a Zoom meeting which works really well.- watch this space!

Electronic Registrations



We are now moving forward with sheep registrations.

You will no longer complete paper registrations. You will recording your information on line electronically.

We are going to have **ED Brant** from **Signet** available to help you through this and a guide will be attached to the newsletter she will be able to show you the site and give some training for those that are unsure.

<mailto:Ed.Brant@ahdb.org.uk>

The registrations will be done through the Signetdata website.

All lambs will have to be notified in the year of birth eg 2020 and then if you want to then choose what you want to register this can be done later with any of the notified lambs only.

All historical data will be uploaded onto the web site. This will mean you will now have an electronic flock book.

Instructions on the PDF of how to? So you can get the idea!



submitting-lambing
-records.pdf

The site at present is being populated and you will receive instructions shortly of how to add your own flock registrations which will be sent to all members when live..

You will no longer receive a flock book but a 'Romney Year book' which will include details of council, judges etc.. this will be out later in the year.

This is a big move forward for the Society and we will give support where needed to start you off.

You will be advised of the cost when we go live.

You can still upgrade and your Natural England certificates will be made available.

I would like to say a massive thank you to Julie Murray who collates the flock book from your registration paperwork that you complete. She has done this task which has been challenging to say the least. Well done Julie!



Events and shows

Mixed emotions at shows being cancelled this year or delayed to the end of the year!

The Sheep Event

Monday 19th October 2020(new date)

Annual Dinner

31st October at The Swan, Small Hythe Rd. Tenterden, Kent. 6pm more details in the next newsletter

Romney Photo Shows

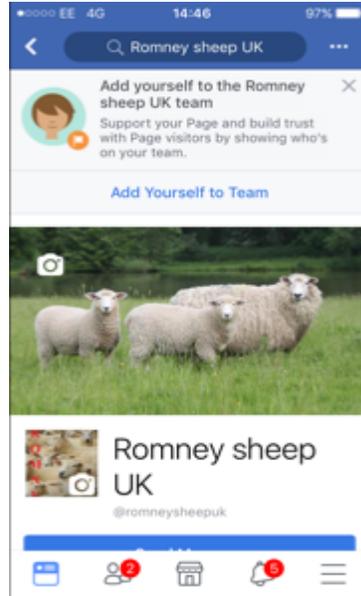
Why don't you do some showing this year and get your Romneys out there! But in photo format! I have attached a schedule which is also on our Romneysuk page which is updated regularly Entry is free and I have had some amazing pictures already! Rosettes 1st-3rd



Merchandise

We now have
Trailer stickers 10" across (place on your trailers/Trucks)
£10 each (going fast)
To order
Half zip fleeces with Logo
£36 each
Polo shirts with logo £18
Romney tweed Ties £45 each
Car stickers £2 each

They make a fun gift in this difficult time.



Use this Facebook page. It has regular updates and keeps breeders in the loup of what's happening news and views plus pictures too!

We have 1000 followers +

We are updating our website and Web site advertisements

Many of you will have placed an advert on our website but it could be time to refresh and update your advertisement If you send a advert to me with a cheque for £15 this will be sent to be uploaded until you change your advert or update your advert.

Don't forget this is an annual fee to keep the website running some of you still need to pay for this as your advert is on the website.

If you so not pay it will be removed by July 30th

Moving with the Times

We have had an opportunity to apply for an SVS 2019 Research Grant, will which Identify genetic diversity in the locally adapted

Romney Marsh breed of sheep – protecting genetic resources and helping mainstream sheep farming in the UK with

Professor Emeritus Dianna Bowles OBE - York university

We hope to nasal swab test, three flocks of 8 female,unrelated sheep, that have not used NZ bloodlines. Three flocks have been selected and it is hoped that the application for £3000 will be granted. I have received the cooperation of two flocks with the third to be asked if they would participate. They only want heritage/traditional sheep.

All swabs will be posted for the results.

This scheme was done with the Herdwick society with interesting results and we were invited by professor Emeritus Dianna Bowles to participate.

If you are intrigued for more information. I am happy to send this to you to read.

I will update you of this project in the next newsletter.

Other matters

<http://ahdb.org.uk>

A technically informative site. where you can get your movement certificate during the Covid -19 outbreak. NSA are also doing certificates check their website for details and download a copy.

Best wishes and good luck with lambing

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Secretary*

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