



WHITEFACE DARTMOOR SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter May 2024

Dear Member

How have we got to May already! It's certainly been a long winter and I think we're all ready for some summer sunshine now.

If you're planning on bring sheep to our Annual Show and Sale in August there are a couple of things to highlight. The date for this years Show and Sale is Friday 23rd August 2024 and not the last Friday in August, as was previously published. The other reminder is about a change to the shearling ewe class (Class 8 on the booking form that was previously 2 – 4 shearling ewes). This is now 1 – 2 shearling ewes and these animals will be judged individually in the concourse area after the ram classes have finished and not in their pens as has previously been the case. It is hoped that by showcase the best quality young sheep on offer this will increase their profile and lift prices. More about the Show and Sale entry details are included in this Newsletter.



Phil Coakers Runnage ewe lambing
outside this spring
(copyright Phil Coaker)

We will be holding our own Whiteface Dartmoor 'Novice Young Handler's class at two of the one day Shows this year. These will be at Chagford Show on 15th August 2024 and Kingsbridge Show 7th September 2024.



(copywrite Murray Garrett)

The class will be open to anyone under 16 years of age who has an association with a paid up Whiteface Dartmoor member.

The class will be open to any age or sex of registered Whiteface Dartmoor animal, but it must not be an animal that is already being shown in the Show by an adult.

For more information about these classes please speak with our Chairman Phil Abel (01822 810211) or our Vice Chairman Kevin Wreyford (07971 910174)



(copywrite Simon and Fliss Smaridge)

Other items in this Newsletter include:

- New Secretary required
- Ewe lamb and ram registration forms (attached)
- Show and Sale entry form (attached)
- Flock Survey (for those with sheep)
- List of dates for both Shows and Whiteface Dartmoor events

Hope to see you all at the various events taking place throughout this year.

Roy Endacott

Secretary

New Secretary required

Seven years after stepping in to take on the role of secretary with the Whiteface Dartmoor Sheep Breeders Association, Roy has decided that he will be stepping down from the role at the Annual General Meeting in January 2025. We are therefore starting the process now to ensure we have a new Secretary ready to take over in January. If you are interested in taking on this role or would like to know more about what's involved please give Roy Endacott, our current secretary, a call (tel. 07816636435). Having the opportunity to shadow Roy at the Show and Sale and Annual Dinner would be invaluable for anyone looking to take on this role. There is an honorarium payment of £600 a year available. We can't function as an organisation without someone filling this role, so please give this matter some serious thought.



Roy will be looking to take things a little easier from January like his trusted sheep dog Badger

(copyright Roy Endacott)

Show and Sale

As previously mentioned, our Annual Show and Sale is taking place on **Friday 23rd August 2024** at Exeter Livestock Centre. The revised entry form we used last year is attached (and is available on our website). We



Alison Thomson ewe lambing outside this spring
(copyright Alison Thomson)

are putting the Catalogue together in-house again this year, so please don't send/take your entry form into the market. They need to be posted or emailed to Clive Wilton - details are on the entry form. Where people provide ear tag numbers for ewes and ewe lambs, we will be including their pedigrees in the catalogue, along with the pedigrees of all the rams entered. Ewes and ewe lambs entered without ear tag numbers provided will be shown in the catalogue as before with the breeders name and flock name only. Where ear tag numbers are provided, this should help buyers find new bloodlines to complement their own flocks' genetics.

We will not be inspecting the breeding ewes this year at the Show and Sale as the whole process is proving too difficult with ewes

arriving late and pens interspersed with all the ewe lambs and shearing ewes. However, we have inserted a statement in the rules on the form this year that states the seller must only present sound breeding ewes and they must be prepared to stand behind all their ewes or provide a full refund if a dispute arises. By signing the form the seller is agreeing to abide by this rule and gives any buyer some re-assurance when buying from our Premier Sale that all stock are of a high standard (or they will get their money back if any faults are found).

Devonshire Stables have kindly agreed to be our main sponsors again this year for the Show and Sale. They will be sponsoring all the Registered Whiteface Dartmoor Classes and we thank them for their continued support.

Devonshire Stables is a family run business in the heart of North Devon with over 15 years' experience in building timber equestrian and agriculture buildings. They provide a free delivery service across the counties of Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, Dorset, Gloucestershire and South Wales, and also deliver across the country for an additional delivery/installation fee. See www.devonshirstables.co.uk for more information.



Kivells continue to kindly sponsor the crossbred classes and we thank them for their support.

Registration Forms

It's that time of year again for registering your ewe lambs and rams. Please find attached the two forms for doing this (the forms are also available to download from the website) and you can also register your ewe lambs via Grassroots if you prefer. The ram forms have to be returned by Friday 28th June 2024 to allow the Registration Officer time to coordinate with the Ram Inspectors to arrange viewings. The ewe lambs form has to be returned by 31st October 2024, but if you are looking to sell any ewe lambs at the Annual Show and Sale on Friday 23rd August 2024, please ensure they are registered before sending in your entry form.



Rob & Jan Phipps ewes lambing outside this spring
(copyright Rob and Jan Phipps)

Membership Secretary and Registration Officers Report May 2024

Its May 1st, my eldest sons birthday, and I'm celebrating twelve hours without rain. The last few days here have been terrible again, wind blowing and torrential rain, will it ever end? This winter has certainly tested everyone's resiliance, and tested the poor animals as well. Fingers crossed for better things to come.

Many of you are looking at our Facebook page, and making contributions of photos and videos, thank you, and keep sending things in to share please. Those of you who also follow "Thesheepgame" will also have seen some very nice footage of their Whiteface Dartmoors, and Cammy is again saying how much he likes them and what amazing sheep they are.

Your ram registration and ewe lamb registration forms are included with this mailshot, please return them to me for processing, or you can go onto the grassroots system and upload the information, which then comes to me for verification. If you have any questions or need any help, please let me know.

Members will also be shortly receiving their flock survey forms, which need to be returned in order to register lambs.

An exciting new option is now available to members, DNA testing for your Whiteface Dartmoor sheep. This is a voluntary scheme, but all information obtained will be added to an animal's pedigree. Testing done now will form the foundation of the scheme for the breed. Once the DNA profile of an animal is obtained, it will be possible to confirm if a particular animal is the progeny of that sheep. In the first instance, the most useful animals to test will be rams, as they have a higher number of offspring than a female, but members can test as many or as few animals as they wish. As I said it is voluntary. It will also be useful in a large flock with several rams to be able to confirm with absolute certainty, who the sire of a particular animal is.

The costs are as follows; Parentage testing,

Blood card £0.80

Test, £16.50

Postage, £ 1.00

Total £18.30

If you wish to have more than one test done, you only have to pay one lot of postage.

Full test including Parentage and scrapie, the cost of the test is £27.50, plus the cost of the blood card and postage making the total £29.30.

Anyone interested, please get in touch with me for your blood cards to be posted out once payment has been made.

I am pleased to welcome more new members who have joined since the December 2023 Newsletter went out.

Chris Jenn, Flock Number 302 MXB
Birch Farm, Greenaway House, Woolsery, Bideford

Andrew Goddard, Flock Number 303
Wayside, Stamps Hill, Brixton, Plymouth.

Clive & Tina Hodge, Flock Number 304 Amytree
Ogofau Lodge, Pumsaint, Llanwrda, Carmarthenshire

Alice Smith, Flock Number 305 Bank Top
Bank Top Barn, Hilderstone, Stone, Staffs



What is that thing in the sky? Penny Shepherds ewes and lambs enjoying some evening sunshine.
(copyright Penny Shepherd)

As always, if there is anything you wish to ask, please get in touch, and I look forward to meeting up with many of you in the next year.

Anyone requiring Ties, badges or car stickers, please get in touch and help raise the profile of our lovely sheep.

Clive Wilton

Dates for your diaries

Show Dates for 2024

Devon County Show	16 th – 18 th May 2024
Royal Cornwall Show	6 th – 8 th June 2024
Mid Devon Show	27 th July
Totnes Show	28 th July 2024
Yealmpton Show	31 st July 2024
Okehampton Show	8 th August 2024
Chagford Show	15 th August 2024
Whiteface Dartmoor	23rd August 2024
Show and Sale Exeter	
Kingsbridge Show	7 th September 2024
Widecombe Fair	10 th September 2024
Melton Mobray	13 th – 14 th September 2024
Show and Sale	
Tavistock Goose Fair	9 th October 2024

WFDSBA Dates for 2024

General Meeting	9th May
Trustee Meeting	1 st Aug
WFDSBA Show & Sale	23rd Aug
General Meeting	26th Sept
Flock competition W/C	30th Sept
Annual Dinner	23rd Oct
Trustee meeting	14 th Nov
Annual General Meeting	16th Jan 2025