

President's Message

Dear All

The Coronavirus pandemic has affected the lives of everyone throughout the world, and some more than others in a way that even the most far-fetched science fiction movie would have struggled to have as a story line. Here on the beautiful Isle of Arran we have not suffered the health problems in a way that I know many others have but I hope obviously that the situation continues to improve and we can all start to return to a somewhat more normal daily routine soon.

Returning to join the Society as Secretary and Treasurer is Colin Douglas who many of the "older" members will remember well. Colin was the breed secretary until 1998 while working as the computer Guru for Swans and then Lawrie & Symington in Lanark before moving on to work with the Scottish Rugby Union. Having now retired from the SRU we are delighted to have him back in the fold and I can assure you Colin will keep the society moving in a very efficient manner.

As a result of the "Lockdown" the May council meeting was held by Zoom and this proved a very successful way to get council members to a meeting where previously travel could be a problem.



The meeting was the most productive council gathering that I've attended and I wanted to keep all the members up to date with decisions that were made.

Obviously all shows, trade events etc have been cancelled and it was decided to use monies which would have been spent on these events to hire a marketing company, Jane Craigie Marketing to raise the profile of the breed in a way that we have not done before and we hope to see this publicising the Border Leicester breed and Society through various channels starting in early August.

Secondly Council decided that a new Website should be commissioned to again promote our breed and provide a platform for members to advertise Flocks, sheep for sale and indeed anything relevant to the Border Leicester brand. To help the Secretary and to oversee these and all the

Society's social media Jennifer Struthers (BL46P) and Susan Kinloch (BL245) have taken on the joint role of Publicity Conveners and please do contact them with any queries, requests and above all else any publicity, photographs, videos, information that could be used, we need a lot more input from members to make the most of these upgraded media channels.

Katie Summerfield (BLB19) has taken on the role of Membership Convener and will again help Colin with any matters relating to new and existing members.

Sue Martyn (BL12Y) our extremely hard working Vice President has taken on the role of Editing Convener and along with Mary Laidlaw (BL96M) and John Barrowman (BL32U) have spent a lot of time recently proof reading the flock book which will be ready for printing shortly once the Printers are back up and running from the Lockdown. Sue will also help Colin with any registration queries which arise.

I have taken on the role of Finance Convener and will assist Colin to see that the Society can operate within budget and make money available for projects such as the website and marketing campaign.

With the recent cancellation of Kelso and Built Ram sales Council has been working closely with the relevant auctioneers to ensure suitable alternatives are put in place and full details of all confirmed sale dates and venues are listed in this Newsletter

Similarly it is intended to once again run the National Flock competition, probably in the autumn if the Pandemic situation allows, details will be circulated as soon as we have anything definite to work with.

In the meantime I look forward to getting out and about and attending as many BL events as possible once conditions improve.

Wishing you all a safe time while keeping our wonderful breed.

Pete Brown

Sales Dates as currently confirmed:

Centre	Date
Exeter	19/8/2020
Lockerbie	11/9/2020
<i>(Change of venue because of the cancellation of Kelso)</i>	
Melton Mowbray	12/9/2020
Lanark	16/9/2020
Built Wells	Cancelled
Aberdeen	22/9/2020
Ballymena	28/9/2020
Welshpool	30/9/2020

Welcome to our new Secretary

To those of you who do not know me and to those of you who do, it is great to return.

As you will now know I have experience of the Auctioneering sector and pedigree sheep lines especially with The Society of Border Leicester Sheep Breeders. For the younger members amongst you the Flock Book was never published in the past using Grassroots it was published by myself doing a manual check of the registration forms. The Flock Book will be out very shortly, due to the pandemic it was difficult to get a printer to start work on the book, this year however I have asked the printer to bring some uniformity to the fonts and type size within the Flock Book. I started my working life at John Swan & Sons, St. Boswells in 1970, before moving to Lawrie & Symington, Lanark in 1984, at that time L&S had Markets in Lanark, Edinburgh, Peebles, Biggar, Forfar and Hawick in addition they run a weekly sale through Electronic Auction Systems Europe. In 1995 I left L&S to join Scottish Rugby Union as Ticket Office Manager

My time at Scottish Rugby gave me a great insight into big business and hopefully I can bring this to the table. Finally, a huge thanks to Council who have been a tremendous support on my return undertaking all sorts of duties, whither checking photos, membership, prizes, website, facebook, finances, the lot.

We have always been lucky to have had a good number of breeders on Council who have always been willing to take on and help with the various duties.

Lastly to the membership I may not have met you but whither in contact by phone or email it is always a polite and friendly conversation. So, thanks to you all for your support.

Colin



100 Club

I found the 100 Club to be another new worthwhile initiative. Where 50% of the monthly funds go towards a cash prize with the 50% balance going to the Border Leicester Society. Anyone can join for £5 per month by standing order. (Pay more and you can have more than one number). It is not limited to Border Leicester Members so encourage family and friends to join as well.

Tag & Tattoo Reminder

I would like to take this opportunity to remind breeders that any Border Leicester lambs born in 2020 which you would like to birth notify or register should have been tagged or tattooed by the 15th June. The year letter for 2020 is **S**

Birth Notification

Since coming back from retirement I didn't really have much knowledge of Birth Notification, however I do feel it is a very valuable tool both for yourself and the Society moving forward. The Grassroots system is very good and the ladies running it have been most knowledgeable and supportive. Birth Notification is free and can be done online, even if you decide down the line that you are not going to register that animal. When registrations do come around it makes the whole process more streamlined. There is a huge amount of data that we can analyse from Birth Notifications which is important to The Society going forward, I would ask for your co-operation in completing the Birth Notifications.

Data Update

I am aware in the time since many of you have joined the Society you will have changed your contact details, mostly email addresses and mobile numbers. It is my intention to come up with a plan for you to provide changes in your contact details to me, these will strictly follow the GDPR rules. These changes can be made in Grassroots as well as the Society's official website. I only say this as I have become aware that both websites (Grassroots and Border Leicester Society) do not mirror each other.

Registrations, Subscriptions & Flock Book Contributions

I would remind members that they must pay their Annual Subscription & Flock Book Contributions and make registrations by 1st December. Subscriptions, Contributions and Registrations can be made on line through Grassroots, it is an easy process and payment can be made by BACS, Paypal etc. Also a polite reminder to members that if you sell sheep privately or through Non Official Society Sales you should pay a levy of £5 per head (plus v.a.t). Transfers of sheep through Grassroots can only be processed by the vendor and not the purchaser.

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