



British Rouge Sheep Society Newsletter

Summer 2018

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Hi All

I am writing my report having just watched England beat Sweden, and Lewis Hamilton coming second at Silverstone. Not that I have nothing else to do but at 31 degrees outside the saying "Mad dogs and Englishmen" comes to mind.

What a contrast to lambing time from grass under water to no grass fortunately stock look reasonable well.

On the society, front things appear to be moving along smoothly, with the new website up and running and an advert planned for the Farmers Guardian pre Society sales.

Pat put a stand together for Scotsheep and all went well. Unfortunately, we have no stand at NSA event at The Three Counties Showground but I plan to go and try strategically distributing leaflets.

Good to see rouge sheep being represented at a number of shows, sometimes under any other continental breed and winning, and Messer's Carter's name appearing in the Farmers Guardian several times "Well done".

Sales at Carlisle and Dungannon will soon be with us, hope the weather will have cooled down. Look forward to seeing as many as possible at the Carlisle Sales and AGM.

Once again, any comments or suggestions please get in touch.

Regards

John Gate

Sale Dates 2018

- Carlisle 17/08/2018
- Dungannon 27/08/2018
- Ballymena 1/10/2018
- Built NSA 17/09/2018
- NI Club in lamb Dungannon 21/12/2018

**The Year
Letter for 2018
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Balmoral Show 2018

In May, Sue Wilkinson was a very able judge at Balmoral Show. There was a lot of quality stock forward to place, it was the girls that came out on top as last year.



Sues making her choice for a Champion



Sues Champion Fairyglenn Rhiana



Tullyvallen Twinkle

Royal Highland Show

The Judge was again Sue Wilkinson and her choice of Champion was the girls again.



Breed Champion
Fairyglen Prada



Reserve Champion
Ballylane T00

Sunday was the young handlers judging and it was good to see the rouge out there.



Sad Note

It is with sadness that we lost one of our well-known breeder David Riley Knocknamuckley Flock over in Northern Ireland this year.

The report in the local paper shows that he was a very special man, our deepest sympathy to his family and friends,



Former principal, RAF pilot and farmer will be 'fondly remembered'

A leading educationalist, former school principal and Ulster Unionist has passed away at the age of 89.

David Riley, a farmer from Knocknamuckley in Co Armagh who was vice-president of Lurgan Show, will be buried today following a funeral service at Seagoe Parish Church in Portadown.

Mr Riley was founding principal of Killicomaine Junior High School in Portadown, one of a number of schools in Craigavon that adopted the Dickson Plan, where pupils transfer from primary school to junior high at age 11 instead of taking the transfer test.

Kenneth Twyble, a former colleague at Killicomaine and fellow Ulster Unionist, said: "An amazing number of former pupils who are now adults are able to look back and be thankful for the sound foundation for life they received at his hands in Killicomaine.

"He will be sadly missed but fondly remembered by so many pupils and colleagues."

Mr Riley was a pilot in the Royal Air Force flying jets such as Vampires and Meteors in the early 1950s. He finished his career with the RAF as a flying officer.

He was a long-time member of Edenderry branch of the Ulster Unionist Party in Portadown and held directorships on a number of organisations.

A keen historian, Mr Riley also wrote extensively and had a book published on Seagoe Parish Church.

He was regarded as a backbone of Lurgan Show for decades and was honorary show secretary from 1983 until October 2001.

Writing on their Facebook page, Lurgan Shows said: "David has been in Lurgan Show forever and we will miss his advice and guidance.

"More importantly we will miss his kindness. Deepest sympathy to Stella and all the family."

Mr Riley is survived by his wife Stella, his six children, Marshall, Neil, Audrey, Douglas, Gilbert and Graeme as well as 13 grandchildren.

David Riley

New Website

Hope fully you have all seen our new website; it has a lot more functions than previously. Here are a few things you can do: download forms, advertise sheep for sale or wanted, post comments onto blog page and you can email me direct. Hope you all enjoy using it.



Scotsheep Stand 2018



Ian McConnell kindly provided the sheep for the stand this year and I put together everything else. We finally have our new popup banners as well. We had a great day with some interest in the rouge for crossing I think was assisted by the great lambs that Ian had provided.



The Beltex Society were awarding a prize for the best cross lambs sired by a Beltex at the event. Ian was delighted that his lambs won, the dam was a pure 5-crop rouge ewe. The quads she had two ram lambs were left on her and the two ewe lambs were bottle fed, Ian just wishes he had taken them also for the pen. That would have been quite an eye catcher. We were right down in Ayr West coast so we had quite a few buses from Northern Ireland on the day.

Personal Note

As I say any free advertising is great for the breed and the society, and I was deeply honoured to be asked to provide a piece for the Royal Highland Show Hoofbeat News. See what comes of showing sheep for many years.

Strathmore restaurant within the Lowlands Hotel

Pat Imlah— one of our senior sheep exhibitors – an 'Old Star'

Pat and her family first bought Rouge de l'Ouest back in 1985, adding Texels to the farm in 1991. At this time, they only took part in local shows, where they enjoyed both the time taken to prepare them to look their best, as well as the excitement of the judging on the day. They had been Members of RHASS, attending for a number of years before they finally plucked up the courage to take the sheep down in 2000. During this first outing they won several rosettes, as well as taking reserve Male Champion and at that point they were hooked. They have attended every year since, with one of the highlights being winning the breed Championship in 2013 and taking part in the interbreed event. Pat says there are many reasons why they keep coming back, but the main ones are the social aspect, as well as promoting the breed to people of all ages and walks of life. Every year Pat manages to find space in amongst the sheep stuff to take 'Pat's bar', as there is nothing better than sitting in the sheep lines catching up with friends from across the length and breadth of the country. Pat says "I would certainly recommend showing at the RHS to anyone. Yes it is hard work, but this is far outweighed by the people you will meet and the friendships that you form through the years"



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Missed from winter news letter.

Well done to Kings Flock Mr & Mrs Churchill with their rouge cross lambs at Devon County Show 2017.

