



# British Rouge Sheep Society Newsletter

## Winter 2020

### **Secretary**

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### **Honorary President**

John Smithson

### **Chairman**

John Gate

### **Vice Chairman**

Ian Teasdale

### **Members of Council**

Ian McConnell

George Knox

Jayne Tannahill

Firstly, I must apologise for this late newsletter, December being more hectic than usual mainly because here at Langford we have been continually moving 1500 sheep around water-logged fields, plus we have had the usual Christmas turkey mayhem!

Enough of my problems, as most of you are probably aware by now; we have just lost a great stalwart of our breed in Percy Tait.

Percy and his team of Jan and Will have done a tremendous job representing the Rouge breed (and other breeds) especially on the show circuit. It has been my privilege to judge his sheep on numerous occasions. His sheep not only winning breed titles, but going on to win interbreed, giving great press coverage. At this point I must apologise for missing Percy's funeral, unfortunately this was due to miscommunication.

During the past couple of months I have visited various primestock shows, and note with interest how much the Rouge breed is starting to appear even if it is only in the background, to the Beltex cross lambs. The same is also happening at the livestock markets. This is all positive news for the breed moving forward.

It was decided at our last council meeting that the society should try and produce an annual year book; at this point a big thank you must go to Jayne Tannerhill for taking on this task. Hopefully first copies will be ready early spring.

Any interesting items about the breed will be much appreciated by Jayne and also by Pat for the newsletter.

Wishing everyone a prosperous New Year and of course an excellent lambing season.

Regards

*John Gate*

**The Year  
Letter for 2020  
is**

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## Rules for Shows and Sales

### **INSPECTION POINTS**

Your sheep will be rejected from Society Sales or Shows for any of the following points  
THESE ARE ONLY GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. For having an undershot or overshot jaw
2. For having poor conformation, or for being underweight for age.
3. For having badly formed legs or feet (too twisted or too straight) or for poor locomotion.
4. For having black wool (including marks and spots in the fleece)
5. For not being true to type.
6. For having ill health, or for giving reasons to believe that the animal is not capable of breeding.
7. For NOT complying with the Society's rules for the showing and selling of sheep.
8. Members are respectfully reminded that teeth grinding is a severe contravention of desirable welfare practices. Disciplinary action will be taken against any member found to have carried out this practice.

### **PRESENTATION OF SHEEP AT SHOWS AND SALES**

1. Sheep presented at Shows and Sales at one year of age or older must be shorn bare after the 1<sup>st</sup> January and before being presented at their first show of the current season.
2. Rouge lambs are not to be faked in any way by carding comb, shears, etc., except to tidy up head, throat and chest, square tails and take long ends off under the belly and around the legs. **NO OTHER PART OF THE LAMB MAY BE TOUCHED.** (see diagram)
3. Hair on faces and legs may be removed and the faces and legs may be washed and or lightly dressed with colourless oil, but may not be artificially coloured in any way. The use of hair removing substances is strictly forbidden.
4. All male sheep to have two correct testicles, no rigs or chasers to be shown or sold.
5. No lambs to be born before 1<sup>st</sup> January. If born before this day, they become a Shearling on reaching 1<sup>st</sup> January and must be tattooed/ear tagged with the appropriate letter. The Society reserves the right to make spot checks on lambing dates.

### **RULES GOVERNING THE SHOWING OF BRITISH ROUGE SHEEP**

All persons exhibiting Rouge Sheep at shows where sheep are shown under the auspices of the British Rouge Sheep Society must be fully paid up members of the Society and sheep must be registered with the Society. No exhibitor shall present a sheep before a judge at any Show where the judge has or has had a financial or breeding interest in that animal at any time.

The Society may appoint an inspector to inspect lambs for dressing at the National shows and reserves the right to appoint an inspector at any show where sheep are shown under the British Rouge Society rules.

The Royal Highland Show

The Great Yorkshire

The Royal Welsh Show

*The Royal Ulster Show – to be run under the rules and conditions of the Northern Ireland Rouge Club.*

**ANY LAMB INFRINGING DRESSING REGULATIONS WILL BE INELIGIBLE TO COMPETE WITHIN THE SHOW CLASSES OF THAT SHOW OR AT ANY SALE UNDER ROUGE SHEEP SOCIETY RULES. THE DECISION OF THE SOCIETY INSPECTOR SHALL BE FINAL.**

The Society, its representatives or the disciplinary committee shall be absolved of any liability for any action taken as a consequence of their decision.

**ERRORS OR OMISSIONS.** The Society cannot accept responsibility for any error or omissions.

## BREED PROMOTION

Just a reminder to all breeders who sell rams and ewes commercially, please share with your purchasers that there is prize money to be had at the following events in 2019

Royal Highland Show a Special Prize of £100 for the best Rouge Cross/s if placed first (from the classes 33, 35, 37, 38, 39 and 42)

Great Yorkshire a Special Prize of £100 for the best Rouge Crosses if placed first (from the classes 555, 556, 576, 577 and 578')

Royal Welsh Show a Special Prize of £50 for the best Rouge or Rouge Cross if placed first in class 1131.

Devon County a special prize of £50 for the best Pure or Cross Bred Rouge Ewe or Rouge Cross Lambs if placed first in class 320.

Along with £200 given to the Northern Ireland Club to be used in a similar way (being decided by the club)

## Great Yorkshire Show



A huge hug for the Champion

### Results

#### Ram Shearling or Over

- 1<sup>st</sup> A J Carter (CH)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> P H Tait
- 3<sup>rd</sup> P H Tait
- 4<sup>th</sup> A J Carter

#### Ewe

- 1<sup>st</sup> P H Tait
- 2<sup>nd</sup> L Daff & Waddell
- 3<sup>rd</sup> I Teasdale

#### Ewe Lamb

- 1<sup>st</sup> P H Tait
- 2<sup>nd</sup> M R Clough
- 3<sup>rd</sup> I Teasdale
- 4<sup>th</sup> L Daff & Waddell

#### Ram Lamb

- 1<sup>st</sup> P H Tait
- 2<sup>nd</sup> I Teasdale
- 3<sup>rd</sup> M R Clough
- 4<sup>th</sup> A J Carter

#### Gimmer Shearling

- 1<sup>st</sup> P H Tait
- 2<sup>nd</sup> L Daff & Waddell
- 3<sup>rd</sup> A J Carter
- 4<sup>th</sup> M R Clough



Judge George Knox making his decisions



1 x 2<sup>nd</sup> and 2 x 4<sup>ths</sup> for Erica Avis in the Carcase Competition at the Great Yorkshire.

Lambs were bred from Rouge cross ewes sired by Beltex

### Royal Welsh Show



**Knighton Sugarbabe**

**Champion in the A. O. B. Native Lowland Continental  
The Team Tait Rouge featured 1<sup>st</sup> in 4 of the 6 classes in this section  
(Aged Ram Shearling Ram Ewe and Ewe Lamb)  
Female Champion Male Champion and Reserve Male Champion**

## Carlisle Premier Sale 2019

The Annual Rouge sheep society sale at held at Carlisle on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August saw a top price of 2200gns achieved by the Female and Supreme Champion Knighton Urthebest from Percy Tait's flock. This gimmer was a substitute entry sired by Knighton Slowsuck and out of a homebred dam by Langlands Nicholas. She was purchased by Clanfield Texels from Oxfordshire.



Champion – sold for 2200gns

Best of the rams was the first ram lamb into the ring Wrights Victor from SJ Wright's Devon based flock. This son of Chauve Titanium out of Wrights Pandora sold for 1200gns to Messrs Carter from Dawlish, Devon.

Ian McConnell sold a gimmer for 1100gns, this was his Highland Show Reserve Champion Ian's Umama sired by Ballylane Scotman and out of Ian's Storm. Umama was purchased by Messrs Christie from Ballymoney, Co Antrim.

Percy's Tait's 3<sup>rd</sup> prize shearling gimmer sold for 1000gns to Messrs Workman from Co Monaghan, Ireland. This was Knighton Upandover by Tullyvallen Shumacher and out of the Munday Moriarty daughter Knighton Nell.

Another to sell at 1000gns was the 1<sup>st</sup> prize shearling ram and Reserve Male Champion again from Percy Tait's flock. Knighton Umberto was also sired by Tullyvallen Shumacher and out of a homebred dam and he was purchased on the day by Messrs McGourty from Co Leitrim, Ireland.

Jayne Tannahill sold her ram lamb Sunrise Vivaldi for 850gns to Messrs Ireland from Ribble Valley. Vivaldi had won 1<sup>st</sup> prize at Ballymoney Show this year and was sired by Monfin Godfrey. His dam, Ballylane Sue, was purchased for 700gns at this sale in 2017.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> prize shearling ram Glenkeen Unstoppable from John Harbinson sold for 750gns. Unstoppable was sired by Kindella Enforcer and out of the 1000gns Ballylane Still who has been successful in the show ring. This shearling was purchased by Messrs Boow from Millom, Cumbria.

The Male Championship was won by AJ Graham with their ram lamb Tullyvallen Victorious sired by Ballyhivistock Upperclass and out of Tullyvallen Trixie. This lamb went on to sell for 700gns to Messrs Kennedy from Co Waterford, Ireland.



Male Champion – sold for 700gns

Rou-Tex sold to a top of 550gns for Ian McConnell's 2<sup>nd</sup> prize ram IML/V00149. This shearling was out of Bennachie Marigold and was purchased by Messrs Knaggs from Darlington.

Averages: 7 Shearling Gimmers £975.00; 11 Ewe Lambs £275.86; 1 Aged Ram £262.50; 12 Shearling Rams £463.75; 15 Ram Lambs £368.20; 9 Rou-Tex £338.33

## Northern Ireland Premier Sale



**Champion – Robert Calvin (Ballyhivestock Flock) – Ewe Lamb**  
**Reserve Champion – AJ Graham (Tullyvallen Flock) – Gimmer**  
**Best of Opposite Sex – George Knox (Kinsella Flock) – Ram Lamb**

Top price of the day was 1450gns for Tullyvallen Van Gogh, a February born ram lamb from the Tullyvallen Flock of AJ Graham and selling to A.Christie and J.Harbinson for their pedigree flocks, earlier in the day this lamb stood 2<sup>nd</sup> in his class, the flock also sold ram lambs to 1100gns x2, 550gns. Other Ram lamb prices – Simpson&Calvin 520gns, 480gns, 420gns, Jayne Tannahill 440gns,& George Knox 380gns. Shearling ram section Sunrise Unreal from Jayne Tannahill took the top price of 480gns selling to Mark Orohoe, ROI..

Leading the way in the female trade was a ewe lamb from the Ballyhivestock Flock of Simpson and Calvin, this ewe lamb won her class and went on to be awarded Overall Champion on the day and sold for 900gns. Shearling Ewes reached a top of 520gns for a Tullyvallen gimmer from, AJ Graham, the flock also sold gimmers at 450gns and 380gns. The Kerr Family, Moira, also sold gimmers at 450gns, 420gns.

The sale seen a near 100% clearance rate in both males and females with sheep being bought by purchasers from Scotland, England and ROI.

## Ballymena Sale



**Champion – AJ Graham (Tullyvallen Flock) – Ram Lamb**  
**Reserve Champion – George Knox (Kinsella Flock) – Aged Ram**

## December NI in Lamb Sale



**Champion – AJ Graham (Tullyvallen Flock)**  
**Reserve Champion – George Knox (Kinsella Flock)**

## Show Flock Winners



### Champion Flock 2019

Knighton Flock owned by the Tait Family

### Reserve Champion Show Flock

Fairyglen Flock owned by the Kerr Family

### Balmoral

Champion: Fairyglen Flock owned by the Kerr family

Reserve Champion: Tullyvallen Flock owned by the Graham family

### Royal Highland Show

Champion: Knighton Flock owned by the Tait family

Joint Reserve Champion: Ian's Flock owned by the McConnell family.

### Great Yorkshire Show

Champion: Knighton Flock owned by the Tait family.

Reserve Champion: Millcroft Flock owned by the Carter family

## Rouge in the News hitting some of the top prices.

Rouge cross sells for £120

Date: Friday 7th June 2019

Harrison and Hetherington presented 1,106 prime lambs, 752 prime hogs and 1,007 cast sheep at Kirkby Stephen Mart on Tuesday. Topping the prime lambs at £120 was a 37kg Rouge cross from Messes Barker, Middle Bank End Farm, which was bought by Yorkshire Halal Meats.

The top price per kg was 340p for a pen of 35kg Beltex cross lambs which sold for £119 to Vivers Scotlamb, Annan.

Cast ewes, Rouge: £128, £118.50, £102.50 Skelcies Hall. Texel: £125 Wyvill Grange Farm; £116.50 (2), £110.50, £99.50, £95.50 Holms of caaf Dalry; £104.50 Terrys Farm; £100.50 Stoneriggs; £98.80 Wharton Hall.

**THAINSTONE, Aberdeen and Northern Marts (1<sup>st</sup> November 2019) sold 4,264 Store lambs, Island Sheep and Breeding Sheep.**

**Ewe Lambs (81) sold to £86 for Texel's from Newton of Crathie, Ballater.**

**Store Lambs (2,353) sold to £97 for Beltex's from 1 Georgetown Cottage, Ballindalloch.**

**Island Lambs (1,195) sold to £70 for Continentals from Rosebank, Twatt**

**Island Gimmers & Ewes (226) sold to £139 for a Texel ewe from Glenisla, Gulberwick.**

**Breeding Sheep (357) sold to £140 for Rouge Cross Gimmers from North Fornet, Auchronic.**

Kirkby Stephen Auction Mart

6 January at 11:01 -

Report from last Monday night

2800 prime lambs overall average 214.02p/kg

SQQ 218.33p/kg

Beltex lambs topped at £126.80 and 299.5p/kg

Texel to £115.00 & 275.8p/Kg

Dutch Texel to £114.80 & 247.3p/kg

Charollais to £108.80 & 247.3p/kg

**Rouge to £107.80 & 291.4p/kg**

Suffolk to £107.30 & 218.6p/kg

Badger Faced to £100.00 & 256.6p/kg

BFL to £100.00

Blue Texel to £97.80 & 238.5p/kg

## When you google Rouge Sheep you get some interesting reading

An experiment was undertaken to compare the productivity of crossbred ewes, produced by crossing Texel sires with Rouge de l'Ouest (Rouge) dams and Rouge sires with Texel dams, relative to purebred Texel and Rouge ewes. The purebred and crossbred ewes were crossed with Rouge and Texel sires. The proportion of productive ewes was similar in the purebred and crossbred ewes with an average figure of 0.92. Irrespective of crossing sire, Rouge ewes produced 0.48 more lambs per ewe lambled than Texel ewes ( $P < 0.001$ ). The two crossbred ewe types (Texel X Rouge and Rouge X Texel) each produced similar numbers of lambs (on average 1.92 lambs per ewe lambled). Individual heterosis values for ewe fertility and prolificacy were small and not significant (-1.67 for the proportion of productive ewes and -3.14 for the number of lambs born per ewe lambled). Maternal heterosis values were also not significant but were of larger magnitude (6.26 for ewe fertility and 3.12 for prolificacy). Lamb mortality (number of lambs born dead per ewe lambled) at birth was similar for purebred Rouge (0.44) and Texel (0.30) ewes and was significantly reduced by crossbred matings and mating the crossbred ewes (individual heterosis -30.68,  $P < 0.10$ ; maternal heterosis -80.23,  $P < 0.001$ ). Individual and maternal heterosis values for lamb growth rate from birth to six weeks were 8 ( $P < 0.05$ ) and 4 ( $P > 0.05$ ) respectively. Lamb growth rate from birth to weaning was significantly lower in lambs from Texel ewes compared with those from the other genotypes ( $P < 0.05$ ). Individual and maternal heterosis values for live-weight gain from birth to weaning were 5 ( $P < 0.10$ ) and 5 ( $P < 0.01$ ). The results of the current study demonstrate the superior performance of purebred Rouge ewes compared with purebred Texel ewes in terms of prolificacy and lamb growth rate from birth to weaning. However, both breeds had high lamb mortality at birth. Crossbreeding led to the production of hybrid ewes which had relatively high prolificacy with low levels of dystocia and lamb mortality.

## A Tribute to Percy by a Family Friend



Percy was a modest man. Yet, as we've heard, he achieved so much in his life. Where's his gong from a grateful nation? Well perhaps he didn't shout loudly enough about his achievements. Wasn't his style. But recognition there is. In the hard-won trophies that adorn his cabinets, from the killing fields of the racetrack to the sublime but nevertheless competitive fields of rare breeds rearing. And recognition that so many of you are here today to say a final farewell. When you get to 90, the field is thinning out, so to speak. So many of your contemporaries have passed on. The fact that so many of you are here today is a great tribute and I'm sure is a great comfort to Diane.

I first came across Percy and Di back in the early 80's. A winter sunshine holiday for the gullible in a newly minted paradise called The Gambia. Sunshine there was, and across the other side of the swimming pool a glamorous couple who I would come to know as the Taits. Every so often, Percy would sit bolt upright, pause for a moment, and then sprint into the hotel.

It wasn't long before I'd be doing the same thing – a condition that could only be relieved by something we came to know as the Gambia cocktail – a fierce looking drink comprising black charcoal powder.

My other memory of that holiday was the departure lounge at the airport in Banjul where they'd installed a new toy, a security gate. They insisted on passengers passing through even though they were departing. Percy was stripped down to his underpants and he was still setting off the alarms before the security men acknowledged that he was bionic.

Percy had retired from racing by then. The mortal danger he faced out on the track and a growing sense of self-preservation that comes with age – and perhaps a nudge from Diane – persuaded him to hang up his helmet and get into business selling Suzuki cars.

I remember he kept one of his racing bikes in the showroom at Alcester and I asked him whether he was ever tempted to take it out for a spin. "You've got to be joking, the roads are far too dangerous". What, compared to the racetrack? "Too right", he said. "At least we were all going in the same direction".

Percy and Di worked hard to build up a business of several garages, living a comfortable life in the countryside. It was when the garages were sold that Percy pursued what I believe was the real love of his life. Farming. Sheep farming in particular the rearing of rare breeds.

Now I've got to be honest, I'm partial to a roast lamb dinner but I remember one day Percy taking me round his lambing shed and picking up a newly born in his arms. He asked me to stroke it and then to smell my hand. The oil of the wool coat does remind you of the taste of lamb and for a long time after, I couldn't eat lamb, and I believe Percy never did.

The last time I saw Percy was a few weeks ago. I found myself in the vicinity and rang Di. She said to come around but did warn me that he wasn't too good, that he was suffering from pretty severe dementia. I think the message was – don't expect too much.

Percy was on a daybed, watching television. As I entered the room, a remarkable thing happened. Di said 'Percy, it's Bob' and Percy looked up, took a couple of seconds and a big smile crossed his face. We spent a good hour chatting about old times, as if a drawer of memories had been pulled out. I'm so glad I made that phone call and dropped in to see him.

Years ago, a service sheet for a funeral was cold and impersonal. The name of the deceased, a hymn or two and a reading, all in black print and containing nothing of colour and character.

This order of service is something to keep. It encapsulates the contrasting life of a remarkable man who achieved so much more than most, and was above all, a loving husband and a real gentleman.

## Yearbook for 2020 Advertisement opportunity

At the last council meeting we decided that we would try to create and publish a Rouge Yearbook containing pictures and reports from the years sales, shows and any events where Rouge sheep featured. The yearbook is in the final stages of completion and we had decided to open it up for members to advertise their flock within the yearbook, the cost of which is -

£50 plus vat full A5 page

£25 plus vat 1/2 A5 page

It would be great if people felt they could support this new project as a way of getting our breed out there and also having year records to look back on for the future.

Please get in touch with Jayne on 07872832334 or email info to [jayne-pollock@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jayne-pollock@yahoo.co.uk) and Pat on 07803897419 email [Secretary@rouge-society.co.uk](mailto:Secretary@rouge-society.co.uk) who will organise invoice and payment.

## From the office

There is also the facility to put up your own advert with sheep for sale on the website, one or two of you have used it this year. I continue to get enquiries for rouge sheep females and males and I pass on details of breeders in their area, it would be nice if I could get feedback if these come to fruition.

I have tried to kept the breed in the media by updating the face book page regularly, **However I can only continue to promote the breed with your help I need stories from you.** Anything that I can post however small. Sale Reports from your local Markets, pictures from farms, lambing sheds, shows, sales. Stories from your own experiences or from buyers.

I would like to thank you all for your help and support, and look forward to the year ahead.

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Have a great lambing in 2020

Regards  
Pat