



## The British Rouge de L'Ouest Sheep Society

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### **Formal AGM Notice**

## **Rouge Sheep Society 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting**

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2009

Starting at 6.00pm

at The Kings Arms, Market Street, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria CA17 4QN.

### **AGENDA**

1. Welcome by the Chairman
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the 2008 AGM (attached)
4. Matters Arising
5. Chairman's Report
6. Administration Report
7. Financial Report
8. Adoption of 2007 & 2008 Accounts
9. Appointment of Auditors
10. Appointment of Officers  
Chairman/Treasurer/Council representatives
11. Any other relevant business
12. Open discussion

# Minutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of The British Rouge Society

Held at Ross Park Hotel, Ballymena, Northern Ireland on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2008 starting at 7.00pm

## 1. Welcome by the Chairman

Mr John Smithson welcomed everyone to the 21st Annual General Meeting kindly hosted by the Northern Ireland Club and introduced the new breed secretary Mrs Sue Archer.

## 2. Apologies

Elizabeth Lee and John Lloyd, James and Debbie Siggs, James Redfern, Jeff and Sue Wilkinson, John Gate, Simon Wright, Ian Teasdale, Sam Bell, Sam Smyth and David Jane.

## 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2007

The minutes were distributed to all members by post. Adoption was proposed by Pam Imlah and seconded by John Watkins.

## 4. Matters arising

None

## 5. Chairman's report

Mr John Smithson gave a report of the show year which unfortunately it was very disrupted by the effects of blue tongue and the weather. The champion at the Royal Ulster was a shearling ewe from Michael Graham and reserve was George Knox's aged ewe. Sue Wilkinson took the Royal Highland Show championship with a ram lamb. The Royal show champion was Percy Tait with David Jane taking reserve and they did very well taking the interbreed championships with the pairs and threes. The sheep at the event at Malvern were kindly provided by David Jane at very short notice. The Royal Welsh show was dominated by David Jane taking the male and female championship.

The sales however proved far more productive with Michael Graham achieving a breed record of 1700gns at the Dungannon sale. There was a good trade to 650gns at Carlisle and the Bulth sale unfortunately did not attract the best quality and topped at 400gns. John Hall took the Carlisle fatstock championship with a pen of five rouge sired lambs to win out of 52 pens shown and sold to a record price from the centre.

John Smithson expressed disappointment for the past year as he had not been aware of the administration problems that were going to affect the future of the society.

The Society Council were thanked for all their hard work during the year going out to shows and sales and generally promoting the breed at every chance.

David Jane was thanked for providing the sheep at very short notice for the sheep event held at Malvern, Percy Tait was thanked for his efforts at the East of England Show and Pat and Roger Imlah were thanked for their work at Scot sheep.

Future:

- It is hoped to either revamp or relaunch the website with a new telephone number and new office address details announced shortly. New promotional literature will also be required.
- It is hoped to gather more new members with this excellent sheep and Titch Hamett has sold some sheep to a new breeder. Sue Wilkinson has sold two ewes to a young man who wants to join the society.
- All this gives hope and encouragement to go forward with confidence.

Mr John Watkins stated that John Smithson had a very tough year, with the weather and disease and looked forward to a brighter prospect for the forthcoming year.

Mr Michael Graham thanked John Smithson for his hard work during the year and thanked all council members for their time and effort.

#### 6. Secretary's report

Mr John Smithson decided not to read this out.

Financial report:

A brief summary would suggest that a small net profit of £1325.00 would be made in 2007. The Society reserves held in CAF are £48979.00. The accounts are not audited but inspected by the auditors. Pat Imlah suggested that Sue Archer contact the accountants and find out what stage the accounts are at and to contact Companies house to see if there is any leeway on late lodging. Michael Graham seconded this.

#### 7. Appointment of Officers

Mr John Smithson – 2 year post as Chairman

Proposed by Pat Imlah and seconded by George Knox

It was queried whether John would be willing to do a further term of two years. Mr Michael Graham suggested that John should see what his farming situation is nearer the time.

Mrs Sue Archer will be the Breed Secretary and Treasurer.

Sue asked that the Society arrange to use two of three signatories for the cheques as she did not want to be signing her own expenses cheques.

Bank mandates are to be changed as soon as possible.

### Council representatives

The ballot papers were not included with the circulation of the AGM papers. There are various posts to fill and it was suggested to co-opt a person from a nearby area to cover this. Pat Imlah suggested that things should be left for 3 to 6 months with council being 5 members plus chairman and vice chairman.

This was seconded by Michael Graham.

### 8. Appointment of Auditors

This is to be held in abeyance until further detail can be found out. Sue Archer to research.

### 9. AOB

- John Watkins mentioned the Border Leicester flock letters and designation letters which are index related.
- The flock book has not been produced
- Flock return – it has been suggested that a print out of all sheep held on the database for each breeder should be circulated to each member to return to the office once amended.
- There is a desperate need to know whether the flock numbers are increasing or decreasing
- Basco or Grassroots data system – to be looked into as it will be large investment – the system that is in place at the moment is very dated and not secure.
- Finances – the council needs to look into whether to raise the subscriptions or to raise sheep registration fees. The standing orders are set at £23.50 and if this is raised more members could be lost.
- The charges on birth notifications or full registrations could be changed
- It was suggested to use some of the reserves to cover these costs as members could feel they are being penalised.
- There is a good ground swell of enthusiasm for the breed again
- At present there is £2310 coming in from the interest on the reserves.

Mr John Smithson announced that the Show Flock for the year was:

First D R Jane (77 points) and second Graham & Knox (37 points)

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Mr John Smithson thanked the Northern Ireland club for providing such a superb venue and looked forward to working closer together in the future.