

# Castlemilk Moorit Sheep Society



Newsletter

April 2007

---

**Chairman:** George Browning – Telephone: 01926 632246  
Email: [georgebrowning@feldon-forest-farm.co.uk](mailto:georgebrowning@feldon-forest-farm.co.uk)

**Secretary:** **Sheila Cooper** – Telephone: 01676 535242  
Hillcrest Farm Coventry Road Berkswell Nr Coventry CV7 7AZ  
Email: [sheilacooper@bryncrib.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:sheilacooper@bryncrib.freeserve.co.uk)

**Web Site:** [www.castlemilkmoorit.co.uk](http://www.castlemilkmoorit.co.uk)

---

## Directions:

### Urgently Required

Roger Pittaway agreed to become our Newsletter Editor at last year's AGM. However, he moved house, sold his sheep and left the Society after editing only one Newsletter. I am unable to take on the extra work of Editor myself and am desperate for a volunteer. I can produce some of the copy but need someone to put it all together. I will be pleased to talk to anyone who thinks they may be able to help: Telephone: 01676 535242

Arrive at **Junction 6 on M42** (Coventry /Birmingham Airport/NEC etc) take A45 in the direction of Coventry – **stay** in left hand lane and take first left sliproad off - signed Brownhills /Leamington/Kenilworth/ Balsall Common etc - at traffic island (Stonebridge island) turn right on A452 in direction of Kenilworth etc – Kenilworth Road. At next traffic island straight on (**50mph - there are cameras!**). Past Blooms Garden Centre on right look for next turn left into Park Lane – on to T junction – left into Lavender Hall Lane. On through Berkswell village – at X roads straight across – up hill – as it flattens out look for house on right with two sets of white gates – Hillcrest Farm is the **NEXT** gateway on right – gate will be closed enter and close behind you please.

### Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place at Hillcrest Farm, Coventry Road, Berkswell, Nr Coventry, CV7 7AZ on Sunday 20 May 2007. Please arrive at 10.30 am for tea/coffee and biscuits before an 11.00 am start. I will provide a light picnic lunch and would, therefore, appreciate confirmation of attendance or apologies by Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May.

### The Breeding Programme and Semen Collection Project

We have managed to identify some rare line rams and ewes and have been able to move a few to new owners, where their first offspring are expected any time now. All owners have been enormously helpful and enthusiastic in their support of the Programme and we hope to find more rare line animals during the next few months in time for the 2007 tugging season. Dawn Teverson and Claire Barber at the RBST have also been very supportive especially with

organizing the ram semen collection project. We had hoped to keep the two programmes entirely separate but it has proved impossible as most of the rare animals are wanted for semen collection as well. There have been a few anomalies within the semen collection project with several rams either not jumping or with semen of poor quality and not, therefore, able to be frozen. We have visited Innovis at Bromesberrow and observed the process of semen collection. We found no reasons for questioning the way the animals or the collection process are handled at the facility and we feel that some rams just find the whole process rather 'upsetting'. The result of 'poor quality' semen does not mean that the rams are incapable of successfully producing lambs at home. Semen suitable for successful freezing has to be of excellent quality.

We have also identified some rare line animals with genetic faults, mainly poor mouths. *Jeremy Roberts has kindly agreed to give us a short presentation on this very important subject at the AGM.*

Dawn Teverson is coming to the AGM to give the Society an update from the Trust's point of view – she has agreed to a question and answer session so please have your questions ready.

### **SHOW DATES 2007**

Leics. County	6/7 May
Devon County	17/19 May
Herts. County	26/27 May
Staffs. County	30/31 May
Bath and West	30 May/2 June
Kenilworth Show	3 June
Three Counties – <i>Rare Breeds Sun 17 Castlemilks will be there!</i>	15/17 June
Cheshire County	19/20 June
Shropshire/West Mids	23/24 June
Royal Norfolk	27/28 June
Royal Show	1/4 July
Kent County	13/15 July
Weald and Downland Rare Breeds	22 July
New Forest Hants County	24/26 July
Bucks County	30 August
Moreton-in-Marsh	1 September
Melton Mowbray Show / Sale <i>CMSS will be there – offers of help appreciated</i>	7/8 Sept
Berkshire County	15/16 Sept

***If you require any additional information please contact Sheila: 01676 535242***

### **Membership Fees 2007/8**

For those of you who did not return your standing order forms the Society will be pleased to receive your 07/08 membership fees by 1 May 2007 or at the latest at the AGM on May 20 2007. Postage is increasingly expensive so please make an effort to pay promptly so that we can keep our annual fees at their present reasonable rate.

### **NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE**

The Secretary would be pleased to receive offers/nominations from members to stand on the Committee. We only meet 3/4 times each year on a Sunday. During the winter months we usually meet at the Cotswold Farm Park by kind invitation of our President Joe Henson and during the better weather at various locations by arrangement. It would be very pleasing if members who have not sat before would volunteer. Some new blood and ideas would be welcome.

### **Photographic Competition**

**Extended closing date May 10th email to [photos@castlemilkmoorit.co.uk](mailto:photos@castlemilkmoorit.co.uk) or bring them with you to the AGM and hand to SUE ROBERTS in a sealed envelope with your name (*not on the photograph*) and photos inside !! ALL are welcome to enter complete novice snapper to very experienced photographer.**

### **Jeremy and Di Roberts**

Jeremy and Di successfully moved house at the beginning of 2007 following a prolonged and stressful 'moving' saga. Hopefully the building works and alterations have, by now, been completed. It only remains for the gardens to be brought up to Di's exacting standards. The Committee and members would like to take this opportunity to wish them good luck, good health and happiness in their new home.

## Thanks

I would like to place on record my personal thanks to all the people who have eased my path through my first year as Secretary. John Sanders and Jeremy Roberts were certainly a hard act to follow but they have cheerfully and competently answered all my queries and questions during numerous telephone calls throughout the year. Their knowledge and experience has been invaluable especially for the Breeding Programme. I could not have done it without them! Thanks also to Sue Roberts who has collated data for the Programme making life a great deal easier – I just wish my IT skills were a mere fraction of hers!

Lastly thank you to our President, Joe Henson, George Browning our Chairman and the rest of the Committee. I am grateful for their support and depth of knowledge of Castlemilk Moorit Sheep. I eventually hope to get there myself.

I am doing an Ecology and Conservation Certificate at Warwick University this year and handed in an essay for my Spring Assignment on the Castlemilk Moorit Sheep describing their History, Genetic Makeup and the ongoing Breeding Programme and our attempt to secure a healthy and bio diverse future for our breed. I did most of my research at Stoneleigh reading all the available articles and information about the breed. I am pleased to report it went down very well and I received masses of brownie points! Sheila

## And finally...A little bit of information from the past...

An occasional topic of conversation among Castlemilk owners has been the size of our sheep. Are they bigger now than the original rescued individuals? Is this desirable or a problem?

I came across this from the 1990 society newsletter and thought it might be interesting if anyone has similar statistics for their current flock. We would love to hear from you if you have any similar data.

*1990 measurements supplied by the ever helpful Di and Jeremy Roberts*

<b>Birth weight or within 24 hours:</b>	
Single males	Avg 3 kg range 2.75 - 3.25
Twin males	Avg 2.25Kg range 2 -2 .5
Single female	(only one) 1.75 kg
Twin females	Avg 3 kg range 2:25 - 3.75
<b>Weight at c3 months, (93 to 110 days):</b>	
Males	Avg 18.5 range 11 - 24
Females	Avg 19.4 range 13 – 22.5
<b>Weight at c 6months</b>	
All	20 -28 kg
<b>Ewe weights, mid summer just before weaning</b>	
2-year-olds	Avg 28Kg
3-year-olds	Avg 31 Kg
4-year-olds/older	Avg 34 kg
<b>Ram weights, mid-summer</b>	
2-year-olds	42kg
Older	45 Kg

**We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM on Sunday May 20 2007. Please come armed with any queries you have. Also bring details of sheep WANTED and FOR SALE.**