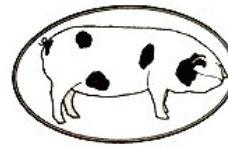


# Spot Press

Volume 17 No.1

SPRING 2007



## GOSPBC Take On Tesco

Things are hotting up in the battle to preserve the integrity of GOS pork and bacon. With the unprecedented success that our favourite breed has enjoyed over the last 15 years as the public has discovered that pork does not have to taste like cardboard, it was inevitable that the supermarkets would try and muscle in. With their centralized buying habit, they could not cope with the fragmented supplies from hundreds of small producers.

Thus it was back in 1999 that the Club's committee decided to try and register GOS meat products as a speciality food in Europe. We employed a consultant and put together what MAFF (as it then was) described as the best application ever received by them. Because GOS breeders were spread across the British Isles, it was no use just applying for a PDO or PGI as these were limited to small geographic areas. Thus we selected a

TSG (Traditional Speciality Guaranteed) which would protect the integrity of the product irrespective of where it was produced. (The criteria we specified was that the pigs must be pure bred pedigree GOS and birth notified and that the pigs must be raised in non-intensive systems).

Sadly, because our continental cousins had not thought of it first, they balked at protecting a breed in this way and we had to wait until 2004 before they budgeted sufficiently for Defra to be able to lodge the application in Brussels. According to their own publicity, the EU Commission should respond within six months but it was over 30 months before they came back to us and only after we raised the issue in



Parliament and then threatening to declare UDI on behalf of the GOS.

They responded at the end of last year with a series of questions most of which are straightforward. However, they did ask for further proof of the special nature of GOS pork. After consulting with Defra, it became clear that we would need to commission special tests to demonstrate conclusively the superiority of the product and Prof Jeff Wood at Bristol University kindly offered to do the work. Unfortunately, the cost was to be £10,000.

*Cont on p.2*

## GOS Workshop First Since 1999

Taking place at Shuttleworth College, Biggleswade, Beds on Sat 14th April, this will be the first GOSPBC workshop since 1999 so it should not be surprising that it has attracted a lot of interest.

The Club wishes to thank the College authorities and Guy

Kiddy for kindly allowing us to hold the workshop in a central location with every facility and live pigs! An almost unique situation.

We have put a limit on places for practical reasons but there are still some places left so do contact the Secretary urgently if you do

wish to attend. A full programme appears inside.

We are lucky to be able to draw upon so much knowledge and experience among our speakers. Those who attend will surely enjoy a real bargain!

### Inside this issue:

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- **Committee—Simon Mounteney (Suffolk) tel 07810 550954 e-mail: simon@pighouse.freeserve.co.uk**
- **Committee—Marlene Renshaw (Lincs) tel 01507 533209 e-mail: gospigsrus@aol.com**

## GOSPBC Take on Tesco (cont.)

At the AGM in February, it was agreed to commit up to £3,500 to achieve this. By then we had a verbal agreement by Defra (since confirmed) to support the work to the tune of £5,000 and the Traditional Breeds Meat Marketing Co Ltd committed £1,500 and we were hoping that the RBST would join in. They have since confirmed that they will support the research with £1,000. That means that the GOSPBC is committed to £2,500 + VAT.

Bristol University are now gearing

up to commence the work that they specialize in which we believe will secure lasting protection from the supermarkets for the benefit of all GOS breeders.

But it won't just be the supermarkets. Once in place if you suspect that someone down the road is passing off pork from crossbred or unregistered pigs as GOS at a Farmers Market or through a butchers, you can complain to Trading Standards quoting the TSG and they will be obliged to investigate.

**We appeal to members to contribute whatever they can to a fighting fund to ensure that we can continue this fight to protect the integrity of real GOS pork and bacon.**

### Appeal to Members

The commitment by the Club to support this action represents over 20% of Club assets.

Last year the Club made a profit of £1,135 (following a loss the year before of £1,105).

This compares with Tesco profits announced in April 2006 of £2,210,000,000—**£2.21 billion!** And then of course there's the other supermarkets too.

**To help to mitigate this commitment by the Club, we are asking if members would consider making individual contributions to a fighting fund.**

Anything you can afford will help. Please just write a cheque or PO made payable to GOSPBC and send it to the Treasurer:

**Mr Stephen Booth, Broadoak Farm, Chapel Lane, Warburton, Lymm, Cheshire, WA13 9TY.**

Mark your envelope, 'Fighting Fund'.

We will acknowledge **all** those who help through these pages—**Thank you!**

## New Website Up and Running - [www.oldspots.org.uk](http://www.oldspots.org.uk)

**F**ollowing the difficulties experienced with the last web provider since news that Carol Knights had resigned, we pulled out all the stops to ensure that come the deadline set—28th February, we had a 'new' website up and functioning so that to the casual visitor, nothing had changed.

Special thanks to our new web master, Richard Carter, who seems to specialize in pig sites also running the BPA site and those for the Berkshire and British Saddleback clubs. Thanks too to Simon Mouteney who helped to secure continuity through the transfer of the domain name.

We set up a new Forum (sadly without the transfer of old information) and contributors must register their details again before being able to add messages, but at least members can exchange views and ideas still. All this was

achieved against a tight time frame with many other things going on at the same time. The words on the website are the same as on the old one (mostly written in 1999!) and the committee are com-

**“... see what other features we could/should include and then contact one of the committee members and tell them.”**

mitted to developing a brand new site at the end of the summer of this year.

For this we want your input. What new features would you like to see included? The Gloucestershire Old Spots is one of the most successful breeds in modern

history and deserves a website reflecting that. The new site will be expanded with more photos and more information. Club ties and the Club's book will be featured with on-line sales. Members will be able to renew their membership on-line and new members join that way. More information will be included such as the Cyclic Breeding System and an extended pedigree of any boars available via AI. But what else would you like to see?

Please when you get a chance, look round other websites (not just pig ones) and see what other features we could/should include and then contact one of the committee members and tell them.

We currently achieve over 1000 hits a week—not insubstantial for a pig club. Interest in the breed is huge—let's build a web presence that is worthy of a wonderful breed.

## Breeds of Gloucestershire Sale – Sat 4th Aug - Cirencester

Following the success of last year's inaugural event it has been confirmed that the Club will again participate to provide a vehicle for GOS breeders. We shall be alongside Cotswold sheep, Gloucester cattle and pure bred waterfowl and poultry. A number of stalls will create a Farmers Market to compliment the Show & Sale.

One major improvement will be that we shall move to the other side of the market where the smallholders' equipment was last year and hurdle pens and a ring will be erected to accommodate all the pigs on one level.

Pigs may arrive during the Friday evening or on Saturday morning. All pigs entered will be card graded and all are invited to take part in show classes judged by Judith Sims.

The sale conducted by auctioneers, Voyce Pullin, will take place at 12 noon on the Saturday, leaving plenty of time for purchasers to get home with their chosen lots.

Last year's event attracted 29 entries which sold for very much better prices than were achieved at the BPA Show & Sale at Ross-on-Wye. In addition, entry fees for Club members are only £8 per pig whereas BPA charge £25 with a refund of £12.50 for all pigs forward.

Schedules and entry forms are enclosed. **Entries close on June 14th without exception.**



*The GOS Champion in 2006 Windmill Gerald 17 with breeder/owner Malcolm Hicks being congratulated by judge, Dave Overton. The boar went on to make top price of 440gns. Photo by Richard Lutwyche*

## Club News & Information

### Club Constitution

At the AGM the Club's Constitution was amended in two sections to bring it up-to-date.

Firstly, the Merchandise Officer was removed from the list of committee members since the Club ceased offering merchandise to the public. The second measure was to formalize the status of the two Hon Vice-Presidents, Judith Sims and Richard Lutwyche, since their appointment in 2002.

A copy of the up-to-date version is enclosed with this newsletter—please keep it safely in case you need to refer to it in the future.

### Members' Details on the Website

Those who have ventured onto the website will have seen a small but growing list of members in the relevant section. Some have queried as to why not all current members are so listed. From the information received during the handover from Carol Knights, no signed authorities were included. Accordingly it was felt that under the Data Protection

Act, we were unable to publicise members' contact details without their specific authority to do so.

Thus in the letter sent to all paid-up members following the AGM in February, there was a form on which to update contact details which included an opt out if members did **not** want their details given out or entered on the website.

Those members returning the form, who keep registered pigs and who do not tick the relevant line are all being added to the Members' section on the website.

**If you have not returned this form (which must be signed) then please do so and your details will be added.** If you have mislaid the form, please contact the Secretary for a replacement.

### Public Liability Insurance

As advised in the last letter to members, all Full Members of the Club, (UK-based paying £20 or £25 annual subscriptions) are now covered for public liability up to £2m while showing their pigs at shows. This is an automatic benefit of belonging to the Club.

Some shows do ask for evidence of cover and if you need such evidence, please send a note to the Secretary with £5 to cover administration costs, and a copy will be sent to you.

### Is Your Sub Fully Paid?

Subscription levels were increased in 2006 and members were urged to update their standing orders and many have. However, from the records received at the handover, as of 25th March, no fewer than 56 members have been reclassified as Associate instead of Full as they have still only paid £15. Accordingly, they are not insured (see above) and will not be added to the Members List on the website.

Seven former Joint/Family members have been reclassified as Full members as they have only paid £20 this year. Fifteen Associate Members have dropped off the list as they have still only paid £10. If this applies to you and you would like to update your Standing Order, please apply to the Secretary for a mandate to complete and return.

## Workshop Programme

### Gloucestershire Old Spots Pig Breeders' Club

## Spring Workshop

**Shuttleworth College, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire**

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> April 2007**

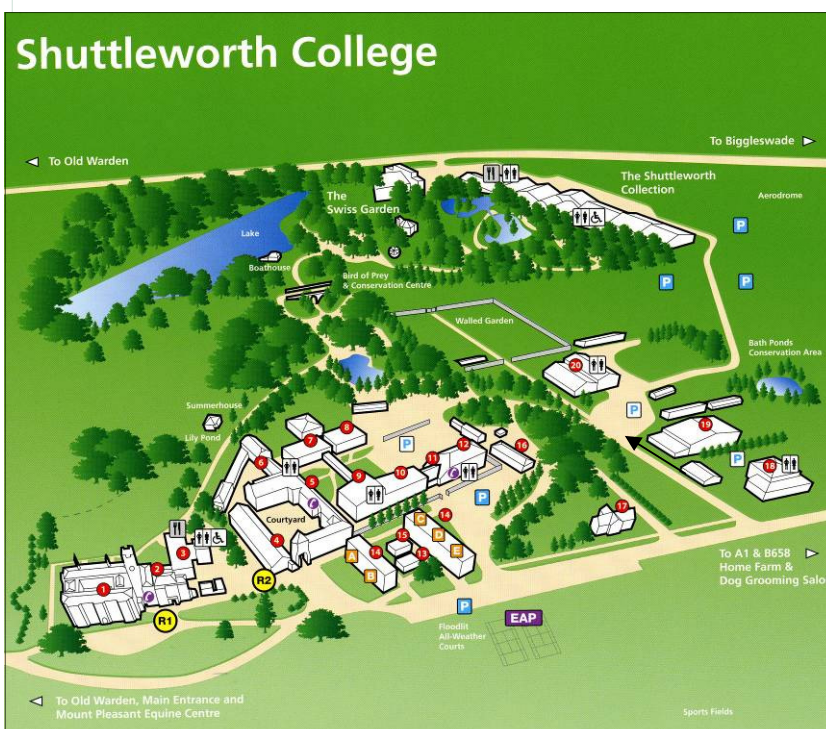
### PROGRAMME

10.30	Arrive – coffee
10.55	Selecting Pigs for Breeding – Guy Kiddy & Andrew Robinson
11.40	Disease Prevention – Guy Kiddy & Stephen Booth
12.10	Tattooing Techniques – Andrew Robinson
12.50	Lunch
13.40	AI – Guy Kiddy
14.15	New Transport Regulations – Guy Kiddy
14.35	Cyclic Breeding – TBA
15.15	Tea and depart

Demonstrations, wherever possible will include practical hands-on experience for delegates.

Please wear clean clothing not soiled from your own pigs.

Bring clean Wellingtons and appropriate clothing for outdoors.



When you arrive at the College, you will be coming up the drive from the right on this diagram. Before you reach the main buildings, you want to turn right and park in the area marked on the diagram in a sandy colour with P and head for building numbered 20 with the toilets symbol. Note you cannot gain access to the site via the Shuttleworth Collection. Go past there for about a mile to Old Warden Village and follow the signs to the college.

# Workshop Location

## Shuttleworth College

Old Warden Park, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire SG18 9EA  
www.shuttleworth.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0) 1767 626 222 Fax: +44 (0) 1767 626 235

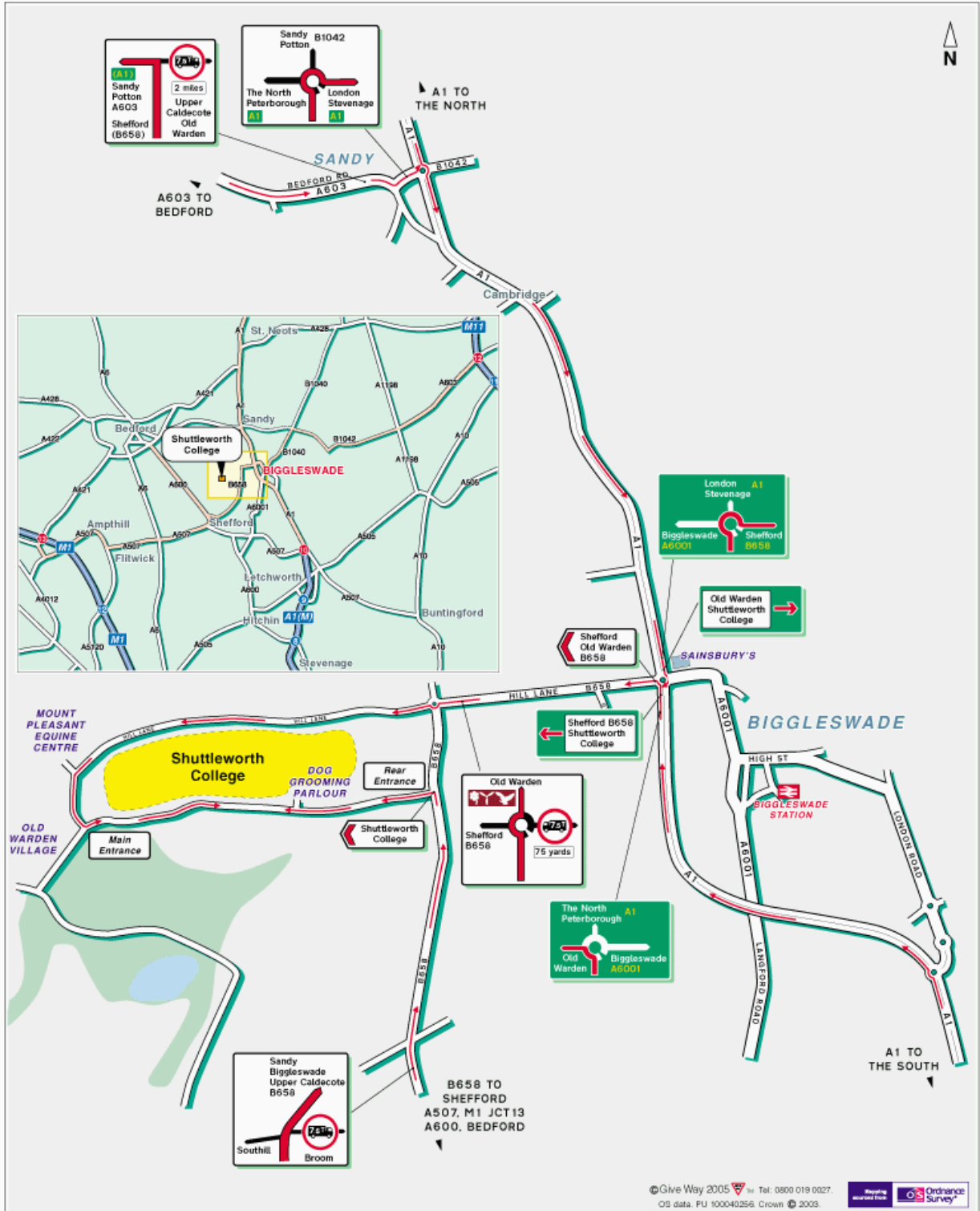
### Public Transport



**By Rail, Biggleswade Station.**  
Approximately a 5 minute taxi ride away.  
For information on train operators and times  
phone National Rail Enquiries on 0845 7484950.



**By Air, Luton Airport.**  
Approximately 30 minutes drive away.



## Show Calendar 2007

SHOW	CONTACT	SHOW DATE	CLOSING DATE	CLASS	JUDGE	GOSPBC PRIZE
Newark & Notts	Mrs Laura Brunton 0870 224 1035	May 12-13	March 26	Any Traditional Breed	N Hunkin	N
Royal Ulster	Ms Sonya Watson 028 9066 5225	May 16-18	March 26	GOS	P Fowlie	B
Devon County	Mrs Sally-Anne Daniel 01392 434575	May 17-19	March 22	GOS	P Waddington	S CofC
Staffordshire	Mrs S Mann 01785 258060	May 30-31	May 1	GOS	Mrs J Brett	N CofC
Suffolk	Miss E Payne 01473 707115	May 30-31	April 13	Any Coloured Breed	J Collings	N
Royal Bath & West	Mrs E Yeoman 01749 822200	May 30—Jun 2	April 2	GOS	Mrs M Renshaw	S CofC
South of England	Mrs E J Cuff 01444 892700	June 7-9	April 1	Any Traditional Breed	J Cloke	S
Royal Cornwall	Mr C Riddle 01208 814489	June 7-9	April 17	GOS	Mrs A Petch	S CofC
East of England	Mr B Hayward 01733 234451	June 15-17	May 14	GOS	D Overton	N CofC
Three Counties	Miss F Parker 01684 584901	June 15-17		GOS	J Herbert	S CofC
Cheshire	Mr Nigel Evans 01565 650200	June 19-20	May 7	GOS	M Snell	N
Lincolnshire	Miss H McGurk 01522 522900	June 20-21	May 1	Any Traditional Breed	S Loveless	N
Royal Norfolk	Mrs Mary Wright 01603 731965	June 27-28	April 13	Any Coloured Breed	Mrs V Mills	N
Royal Show	Livestock Office 024 7685 8273	July 1-4	April 27	GOS	A Robinson	N or S* CofC
Great Yorkshire	Ms Amanda West 01423 541000	July 10-12	June 5	GOS	Mrs J Sims	N
Royal Lancashire	Livestock Office 01254 813769	July 21-22		GOS	S Hull	N
Royal Welsh	Mr Ben Williams 01982 554403	July 23-26	May 11	Any Other Traditional Breed	T Osborne	S
St Mellons	Ms Karen Meakin 01495 755267	Aug 8	July 9	Any Traditional Breed	Miss A Uglow	B
Anglesey	Mr Aled Hughes 01407 720072	Aug 14-15	July 10	Any Traditional Breed	P Brier	B

## Show Calendar 2007

SHOW	CONTACT	SHOW DATE	CLOSING DATE	CLASS	JUDGE	GOSPBC PRIZE
North Somerset	Ms Katie Hutchings 01934 513975	May 7	April 2	All Breeds	Mrs A Petch	S
Lambourn	01488 648609	May 6	April 14	Traditional Breeds	Ms S Brickell	S
South Suffolk	Mr Geoff Bailes 01638 750879	May 13	April 20	All Breeds	Mrs F Slade	N CofC
Dorset Rare Breeds	Ms Freda Hennessy 01308 863332	May 28	April 23	Traditional Breeds	Mrs V Mills	S
Royal Welsh Small-holder	01982 554408	May 19-20	April 7	All Breeds	Kevin Matthews	
Honley	Mrs Linda Babbings 01484 662513	June 9	May 30	All Breeds	D Tweed	
Kent	Mrs Frances Day 01622 630975	July 14-16				S
Mid-Devon	Mr C M Branton 01884 821815	July 28	June 11	Traditional Breeds	S Richards	S
Singleton	01243 811363	July 22		Traditional Breeds		S
Ryedale	Ms Pat Harris 01653 697820	July 31	July 1	Coloured Breeds	M Renshaw	B
Thornton-le-Dale	01653 668218	Aug 8	July 29	Coloured Breeds	Mrs V Mills	B
Cranleigh	01306 712050	Aug 5	June 15	All Breeds	A Mitchell	S
Shuestoke & Whiteacres	Ms Kathryn Furness 07815 080350	July 28	July 14	All Breeds		
Oswestry	01691 654875	Aug 4		All Breeds	J Herbert	
Tockwith	Mr Norman Waller 01423 358588	Aug 4				B
Trawden	Mr P Wilson 01282 863077	Aug 5				B
Filongly	Ms Cheryl Brookes 02476 460287	Aug 12	Aug 1	All Breeds	A Robinson	
Okehampton	01392 434075	Aug 9	July 9	Traditional Breeds	T Wheatley-Hubbard	S
Hatfield House	Miss J Siburn 01451 822640	Aug 17-19	Aug 3	GOS	J Cloke	S
Melplash	01308 423337	Aug 23	July 20	Traditional Breeds		B
Dorchester	01305 264249	Sep 1-2	Aug 1	All Breeds	G Hinks	S
Penistone	Mr T Booth 01226 767989	Sep 8				B
Westmorland	Ms Christine Knipe 01539 567804	Sep 13	Aug 21	All Breeds	J Appleton	N
Newbury	01635 247111	Sep 15-16	Aug 1	All Breeds	Kevin Matthews	S
N = Northern Championship	S = Southern Championship	CofC = Champion of Champions	B = Breed Champion Rosette			

## Championships

### Champion of Champions

#### British Pig Association's Champion of Champions for the Elwes Memorial Cup and GOSPBC Sash & Rosette.

##### Qualifying Events -

May 6th	South Suffolk
May 17th	Devon County
May 30th	Royal Bath & West
May 30th	Staffordshire
June 7th	Royal Cornwall
June 15th	East of England
June 15th	Three Counties
June 19th	Cheshire County
July 1st	Royal Show

Final—July 4th      Royal Show

## Southern Championships

#### GOSPBC Southern Championships for the Sherriff Trophy and Sash & Rosette

##### Qualifying Events -

May 6th	Lambourn
May 7th	North Somerset
May 17th	Devon County
May 28th	Dorset Rare Breeds
May 30th	Royal Bath & West
June 7th	Royal Cornwall
June 7th	South of England
June 15th	Three Counties
July 1st	Royal Show (Qualifier can elect to compete in either Northern or Southern Championships)
July 14th	Kent County
July 16th	Royal Welsh
July 22nd	Singleton
July 28th	Mid-Devon
Aug 5th	Cranleigh
Aug 8th	Okehampton
Aug 17th	Hatfield
Sept 1st	Dorchester
Sept 15th	Newbury

Final—Sept 16th      Newbury

## Northern Championships

#### GOSPBC Northern Championships for the Myrtle Styles Memorial Trophy and Sash & Rosette

##### Qualifying Events -

May 6th	South Suffolk
May 12th	Newark & Notts
May 30th	Suffolk
May 30th	Staffordshire
June 15th	East of England
June 19th	Cheshire
June 20th	Lincolnshire
June 27th	Royal Norfolk
July 1st	Royal Show (Qualifier can elect to compete in either Northern or Southern Championships)
July 10th	Great Yorkshire
Sept 7th	Westmoreland (2007 Champion qualifies for 2008 Championships)
Oct 7th	East of England Autumn Exhibition (2007 Champion qualifies for 2008 Championships)

Final—July 12th      Great Yorkshire



## Tattooing Pigs by Bill Howes

### Equipment

- An assistant
- Marker spray
- Tattoo kit & ink
- Old toothbrush
- Pen & paper
- Old feedbag for testing numbers
- Hurdles to confine the pigs
- Any vaccines, wormers etc you may wish to administer at the same time.

### What we do is:

We select litters for tattooing when their ears are big enough to take the HDL letters and numbers. Because we use quite large tattoos, this means tattooing at 6-8 weeks' old but if you are using smaller tattoos then the pigs can be done at 3-4 weeks old when they are easier to handle.

Gather all of the equipment needed as close as possible to the pen of pigs. Make sure you can't lose the letters/numbers in the bedding if dropped.

Sort out the first letters/numbers and test on an old feedbag. It is very easy to put them upside down or back to front!

Remove the sow. However quiet she may normally be, she will strongly object to your manhandling her young and they DO squeal.

Confine the litter in a corner with clean bedding. This way they can easily be caught by the back leg.

The assistant has already written the sequence of numbers on the paper – it speeds up the process slightly and is less messy!

Spray the boars with a spot on the bum. These should be marked first.

The handler holds the pig by the back legs and the assistant counts the teats, checks the placement of them and looks for blind ones. Write the results, good, bad or indifferent against the corresponding number for that pig. Also note whether it is a boar or a gilt.

With the boars check that both testicles are in place and there are no hernias or other faults.

The handler cradles the pig in his arms and the assistant worms and vaccinates as appropriate.

The assistant then coats the toothbrush with ear-marking paste and rubs it well into the inside of the pig's right ear (as you look at the pig from above). Some will also add paste to the tattoo needles.

Align the tattooing pliers so that the head of it is within the ear. Squeeze hard so that the tattoo pins penetrate well into the ear (you should hear a 'crunching' sound!).

Re-coat the toothbrush with ink and apply to the outside of the pig's left ear.

Repeat the ear-marking process.

With the toothbrush again coated in ink, rub vigorously inside and outside of both ears of that the ink can soak into the perforations.

Spray mark the head end of the pig. This may sound unnecessary, but when they huddle together, the ink gets rubbed onto other pigs and it is difficult to tell who's been done and who has not.



**It should be noted that this is what we do. Adaptations should be made to suit your own circumstances.**

*(Photos by Marlene Renshaw)*



*Get plenty of paste on the brush*



*Apply paste to the tattoo needles*



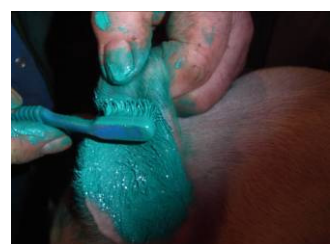
*Get plenty of paste on the ear*



*Squeeze the pliers hard*



*Apply more paste to the perforations*



## Ethical Behaviour at Shows by Frank Miller, British Lop Pig Society

Newcomers to pig showing, and even some more experienced exhibitors, seem to be unaware of the ethics involved in showing, and the time is probably right to offer a little advice on behaviour.

### Judges

One of the greatest problems is that pig exhibitors are a fairly close, friendly group. One might therefore forget that your mate, who is currently the judge, could be compromised by being seen to be over friendly with you shortly before the show. Can you imagine the comments that might be passed if, half an hour before you and your pigs appeared before the judge, you were seen having a quiet drink with him/her, and you subsequently won? This could be made even worse if your pig had faults which everyone but the judge could see.

A sensible judge would avoid meeting with or talking to any exhibitor for the few days before the show. He or she would avoid the pig lines until a few minutes before classes start, when the steward would direct him/her into the ring without any opportunity to observe any pigs. The judge will then be seen to make his/her decisions only on how the pig performs on the day, in the ring. He/she will no doubt greet you when you appear in the ring, but you should not engage in any conversation save only to answer the questions that he/she might pose, such as how old the pig is and when it is due to farrow. The judge will not have seen the catalogue for the show, and some judges might ask the ring steward for the date of birth, rather than you directly.



*Walk by the pig's left shoulder with the board in your left hand and the stick on the right side of the pig, so that you are controlling it between the two. Go round the ring in a clockwise direction, so that the judge can see the pig without the board between it and him/her.*

If the pig that you are showing has been bred by the judge then it is imperative that you draw this to the attention of the ring steward before the classes start. Under these circumstances the judge will make his/her decisions about the order of the other pigs, without looking at yours, and then the ring steward will ask another judge to enter the ring and to place the pig of the judge's breeding in relation to the other pigs. This is designed to ensure that everything is above board and is seen to be so.

After making the awards the judge may come to you to tell you how your pig failed, in his/her opinion, which is usually good, impartial criticism and therefore useful. Even if you disagree with this criticism, and can see even worse faults in the other pigs present, you must not argue with the judge, but bite your tongue and listen carefully – you may actually learn something, even if it is what faults that judge considers important, a useful knowledge for next time you appear before him/her.

After all the judging is over it is usual for the champion to offer the judge a drink, either in the bar or from the secret supply in your show box. The other exhibitors in your classes would normally expect to be invited too, which avoids any suggestion that you are paying your debts to the judge!

### Your pig

No matter how good or poor your pig is it is important that it appears in the ring in a clean and 'cared for' condition. If you have washed your pig earlier and covered it with wood flour, then it is usually sufficient to brush out the wood flour completely, which will remove any dirt that has smeared the pig since washing. However, if this doesn't work then you should be prepared to sponge-off the dirt before bringing the pig before the judge. The judge will be an experienced exhibitor in his/her own right and will be tolerant of any dirt picked up getting to, or in, the ring.

Your pig must be completely under your control at all times and must not present a risk to you, other exhibitors, their pigs or the general public. This comes down to training before the show rather than expecting the pig to learn at the show. Again tolerance towards January born pigs will be exercised, but you should be constantly watching for risky situations.



*...but you should not engage in any conversation save only to answer the questions that he/she might pose, such as how old the pig is and when it is due to farrow.*

## Ethical Behaviour at Shows by Frank Miller, BLPS (cont).

### Yourself

Just as your pig should be clean and tidy on entering the ring, so should you. You should be washed and shaved/made up as appropriate. Your white coat should be clean. Gentlemen should be wearing a clean shirt and tie and pressed slacks beneath their white coat. Ladies should also dress appropriately to their own choice. Both sexes should be wearing sensible shoes.



*While in the ring watch your pig and the judge constantly.*

Your board and stick should be clean. They should not identify your herd or yourself (even though the judge probably knows already). Boards advertising a sponsor are acceptable, although some shows insist that it is only their sponsor who can advertise. A favourite trick in the past was to go into a class that Barclays Bank was sponsoring carrying a Nat West board and stick, which meant that Barclays immediately gave you a new board and stick, but those days have sadly gone and boards and sticks are becoming hard to find. If you make your own, why not emblazon it with "Gloucestershire Old Spots Pigs" as a form of advertising to the general public?

While in the ring watch your pig and the judge constantly. The former so that you are ready for misbehaviour, the latter so that you are aware of what he wants you to do. Walk by the pig's left shoulder with the board in your left hand and the stick on the right side of the pig, so that you are controlling it between the two. Go round the ring in a clockwise direction, so that the judge can see the pig without the board between it and him/her. The judge will ask you to stand the pig while teats and feet are inspected on both sides, and then to walk the pig towards him/her and away. He/she will then pass on to the next pig and you should continue to circulate the ring clockwise, constantly watching the judge. If you keep walking and watching you will not have time to engage in conversation with ringside observers or other exhibitors!

### Finally

Always remember to clap and congratulate the winners, no matter how disappointed or 'robbed' you have been. Always thank the judge at the end of the show. Judging is hard work and thankless, for you will inevitably 'upset' someone when you are judging, and a few words of appreciation go a long way. Who knows, he/she might remember you next time as being a good sport and this could help to sway his/her decisions about your pigs next time!



*Your white coat should be clean. Gentlemen should be wearing a clean shirt and tie and pressed slacks beneath their white coat.*



*Always remember to clap and congratulate the winners, no matter how disappointed or 'robbed' you have been.*

*Photos by Richard Lutwyche from Hatfield Show 2004 & 2006 and the Royal Show 2006*

## Chairman's Message by Andrew Robinson

Dear Members,

Eighteen years after we first met in Gloucester, I again find myself Chairman of the GOSPBC. These have been years of great change for both the GOS and the pig industry in general. Certainly the Gloucester's role has changed from that of a "crossing" breed to one which is primarily bred pure. Something which 20 years ago would be unthinkable. Last year we achieved 1000+ herd book registrations and also 1000+ birth notifications for the first time since the 1920s.

The AGM was its usual poorly-attended gathering despite our large membership. It is disappointing that we received only 4 nominations for the 7 committee places. Three members were invited to be co-opted to committee, of which two—Anne Nicholls and Eric Freeman have accepted. My thanks to them both. The AGM unanimously agreed to dedicate further funds to the registering of a protected status for GOS meat [see notice elsewhere]. We all felt this was very important and to the benefit of us all. Our committee are widespread throughout the country and are available for help and advice; phone numbers and e-mails are here in Spot Press and on the website.

The new website seems to have been well received and has had over 4000 hits in the first month. These are early days but as the months progress we should see a bank of information build up. Unfortunately we were unable to recover the information from the Forum on the previous site.

It is my sad duty to report the death of one of our Honorary Life-Members, Gordon Cullimore.

The Cullimore's association with the GOS goes back nearly 100 years. Gordon's father had pigs inspected when the GOS Pig Society was formed in 1913, and was a council member. The Walgaston herd had a major impact on the gene base of the breed as 10 of our female lines are bred from the Walgaston Muriels and Princesses. [see article in Spot Press, March 1992]. We offer our condolences to his family.

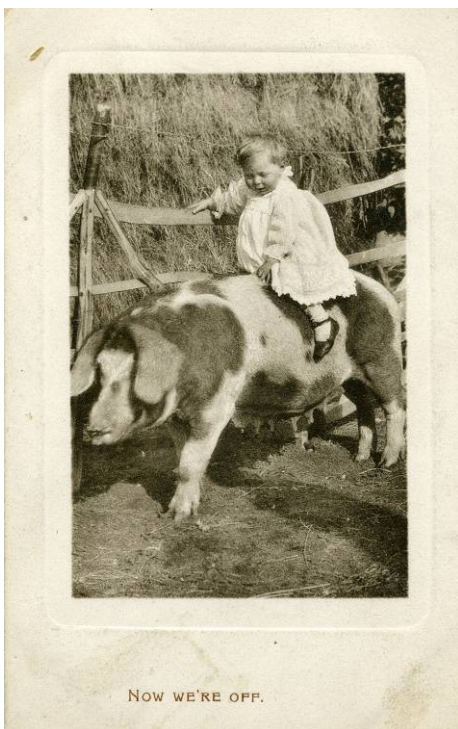
Plans are in place for the work shop at Shuttleworth College by kind invitation of Guy Kiddy. This will be a useful day for both information and practical demonstrations. I hope to meet some of you there who are at the moment names on a membership list.

The show season will shortly be with us and I wish those of you showing every success. A list of shows is included in this issue.

To close, should anyone have any query please feel free to contact me at any [reasonable!!] time.

Kind regards

*Andrew Robinson*



### Is This The Earliest Ever Photograph of a GOS Pig?

This is a postcard showing a fairly unprepossessing example of a spotted pig. The postmark on the reverse shows it was posted in Berkeley, Gloucestershire on September 10th 1908—five years before the GOS Breed Society was formed. Berkeley was close to the centre of the area where the breed was founded (and where the Cullimore family (see above) always farmed).



Gordon Cullimore pictured at Eric Freeman's dispersal sale in 2005. Photo by Richard Lutwyche

## Members' Advertisements

### FOR SALE

**Eric Freeman has 6 Princess gilts** (by Cugley Sambo 151 out of Crofter Princess 651) born last July and eligible for registration in pig to a Hampshire boar and due to farrow end April. (They were put in pig to book into a pedigree sale in April which has since been cancelled).

Eric Freeman  
Near Newent, Glos  
Tel: 01452 790272

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**We have a litter of Winnal Sambo and Meurig Princess Joans** which should be ready late May to early June.  
email at:

[oldspot@dottihicks.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:oldspot@dottihicks.wanadoo.co.uk) or phone 01239 851895 and speak to either Gerry or Dotti for any additional info. (Ceredigion)

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**I can supply on a pretty regular basis,** pure and crossbred weaners - is there anybody who would be interested in a steady supply of good quality pigs to run on? Willing to sell per kg liveweight.

Sharon Barnfield (Herefordshire)  
Tel: 01989 750079 e-mail:  
[sharonbarnfield@ukfarmers.com](mailto:sharonbarnfield@ukfarmers.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Two Dolly gilts, 2 Princess Joans and 1 Countess** all eligible for registration

Jonathan Crump  
Gloucestershire  
01452 740117

### FOR SALE

**Five weaners born 5/3/07** out of Ellen by Patrick - can be birth notified.

Ben Pimlott  
Staffs/Shrops border  
01630 673218

\*\*\*\*\*

**Gerald boar born 31/7/06** sired by Exfold Gerald 58, a champion GOS boar. Gerald boar born 2/8/06 by same sire.

Jacqueline Taylor  
Chipping, Lancs  
Tel: 01995 678038  
[steandjac@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:steandjac@tiscali.co.uk)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Weaners and store pigs for fattening** £45 each - 8 weeks old birth notified Gerald/Dolly

Sue McConville, Faygate, West Sussex  
Tel: 07920 108106  
[ross.mcconville@btinternet.com](mailto:ross.mcconville@btinternet.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Exfold Gerald 65 born Aug 05** - proven stock getter with good temperament. Has been shown.  
Dam - Exfold Princess 95 - was GOS Champion of Champions 2004

Dave Overton  
[exspots@beeb.net](mailto:exspots@beeb.net)  
Tel: 01306 627201

\*\*\*\*\*

### WANTED

**Wanted**—Secondhand pig arks and fenders

Sharon Barnfield (Herefordshire)  
Tel: 01989 750079 e-mail:  
[sharonbarnfield@ukfarmers.com](mailto:sharonbarnfield@ukfarmers.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

**We are looking to purchase a boar.** Our gilts are from Exfold Gerald, and Barvills Dahlia so do not want too closely related a boar. Our gilts were born 24/7/2005 and would prefer if possible a boar 12 to 18 months old. We live in Horley, Surrey.

Frances Garrett e-mail:  
[wingspeeksbrook@aol.com](mailto:wingspeeksbrook@aol.com)

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**I was wondering** if there was any GOS breeders in the South East who have a boar for hire. I need to serve my Princess Mary in about 3 weeks. I live in West Sussex.


Many thanks for your help. Does anyone have a couple of in-pig gilts for sale? I would like them to live together (except when they farrow!) Not really fussed about the breed line but as long as they are docile and of a good nature

Liz Andreozzi  
[liz@lavers16.freeseerve.co.uk](mailto:liz@lavers16.freeseerve.co.uk)

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**I have got a good Sambo boar** available for hire until the middle of June. He is currently visiting a couple of sows near Chelmsford.

Charles Adcock (Lincs)  
07974 193767  
01476 585160 evenings



*whisky and wines @ Arkwrights*

**You've got the meat now get the drink!**

What better accompaniment to a prime bit of GOS meat could there be than this Finest Pig's Nose whisky? This is just one whisky from our range of over 500. If you're looking for a comprehensive range of single malts, vatted malts, other spirits and wines then look no further. Visit us at:

**Arkwrights, 114 The Dormers, Highworth, Wiltshire SN6 7PE**  
Phone: (01793) 765071

**Or buy online at: [www.whiskyandwines.com](http://www.whiskyandwines.com)**



## Gloucestershire Old Spots Pig Breeders' Club

Freepost (GL442)  
Cirencester  
Gloucestershire, GL7 5BR  
Phone: 01285 860229  
Fax: 01285 860229  
E-mail: mail@oldspots.org.uk

We're on the web—  
[www.oldspots.org.uk](http://www.oldspots.org.uk)

### SPOT PRESS

The Summer edition will be published in July/August and we invite contributions and suggestions as to what you would like to be included.

Edited by Richard Lutwyche

We thank those contributors listed within these pages.

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**The Gloucestershire Old Spots Pig Breeders' Club** (GOSPBC) was established in 1990 to promote the qualities and values of the Orchard Pig, then a very rare breed. Now with over 350 members and more pedigree GOS being registered than almost any other breed, the Club and its members are now more important than ever.

What do you get from membership of the Club?

You receive quarterly, a copy of the newsletter, Spot Press, in full colour. You may advertise therein and on the website [www.oldspots.org.uk](http://www.oldspots.org.uk) free of charge. The website also supports a Forum for raising queries and points of view. If you wish to show pigs, you have £2m public liability insurance just by being a member. You can compete in the various club competitions listed in this edition. You can attend workshops and other events organized by the Club and enjoy discounted entries for the Show & Sale.

Help us to keep the GOS as the leading breed of the 21st century. Encourage everyone with an interest in the breed (especially those who buy pigs from you) to join the Club which can be done via the website or by requesting forms from the Secretary.

As you can see from this edition, the Club is very proactive in working tirelessly on behalf of the breed and all Club members.

## Cotswold Tourism Specifies GOS

Bosses of the latest initiative to bring more visitors to the Cotswolds area list 10 reasons in a newly published guide. These include visiting historic market towns to discovering a favourite country pub. Number 4 on the list is *Tasting a Gloucester Old Spot (sic) bacon sandwich*.

This, of course, is great publicity but is it practical (notwithstanding politically correct)? The number of pigs available in the Cotswolds area—stretching from Warwickshire to Bath—is not very high yet the annual crop of tourists visiting the area runs into hundreds of thousands. We may have record registrations, but there seems to be plenty of room for growth yet. Somebody reopen the old Harris bacon works in Calne—we're getting ready to meet demand!

## Photos Wanted

With a new website being designed and needs for publicity material worthy of such a growing breed, we need to build up a library of photographs. We need please on farm shots, sows and litters, pigs outside, pigs wallowing, rooting and at play. Whatever you have please do send copies to the Club, either by e-mail or as prints or slides which can be scanned and returned. We will acknowledge the source of such photos when they are used so please indicate your details when you send them. Please ensure that any photos you do submit are not somebody else's copyright, especially that they are not from a professional photographer.



GOS stores at Eric  
Freeman's farm.  
Photo by Richard  
Lutwyche