

Spot Press



Volume 19 No.1

SPRING 2009

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GOSPBC 1 - Waitrose 0

The war with Waitrose lasted just over a year with a resounding win when LACORS finally published their revised interpretation with effect from 30th January 2009. This is published in full inside.

This guidance is for Trading Standards Officers to use when considering complaints. It effectively says that for a piece of pig or sheep meat to be described as coming from a particular breed, it must be the result of breeding together two registered pedigree animals of that breed. If only one such parent is registered pedigree, then the produce must be labelled 'Cross-breed Gloucestershire Old Spots' etc. Elsewhere, phrases such as 'sired by' can be used but the main description must be 'cross-breed'.

This applies of course, not only to the main supermarkets but to everyone selling meat to butchers, farm shops, at Farmers Markets or via the internet.

That means that if you suspect someone of selling something that does not comply with this, you can ask your local Trading Standards to check it out. TSOs are busy people (checking movement records etc!) and if we sit back and do nothing, nothing will happen. It's down to all of us and everyone else with pedigree stock to be vigilant and report abuses in meat labelling.

It also means that you too must be scrupulous in what you say and do. The simplest way to



achieve this is to Birth Notify every pedigree piglet born. This means that with the ear - marking, there is traceability back to you and you can use the BPA facility to download the meat certificates to back your claims.

The final document was the result of extensive consultations with the farming industry and the retail sector and incorporated everything we asked for. It was finally published after it had been approved by the Food Standards Agency and Defra.

It covers not only GOS but all breeds of farm stock other than cattle. So it applies to any other pig or sheep breeds you may keep.

We would like to thank those who supported the Club in these negotiations - the MPs, Tony Baldry and Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, the RBST, the BPA, all those who have so far contributed to the fighting fund, all those who supported what we were doing on various web chat rooms and the media who gave us coverage.

AGM & Members' Day

Following a decision at last year's AGM, we've moved from a bald AGM at Stoneleigh in February to a combined AGM and visit to the famous Daylesford Farm Organics near Stow-in-the-Wold in Gloucestershire on April 6th. Details inside. Do JOIN US, please.

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**WE APOLOGISE FOR THE LATENESS OF THIS EDITION
BUT HAVE ADDED 4 EXTRA PAGES TO COMPENSATE!**



Club News

Minutes of the 2008 AGM

Gloucestershire Old Spots Pig Breeders' Club
Annual General Meeting
The Jersey Pavilion, Stoneleigh Park, Warks.,
Sunday 24th February 2008

In attendance:

The President, Mrs J A Sims; The Chairman, Mr A J Robinson; The Vice-Chairman, Mr D Overton; The Secretary, Mr R H L Lutwyche; The Treasurer, Mr S Booth and 11 members as per the attendance register

Apologies:

Apologies were received from: Mesdames Alayne Addy; Carole Barr; Elizabeth Best; Isobel Cameron; Julie Dronfield; Gabriel Dudley; Jane Fox; Liz Harty; Jennifer Gracey; Helen Lightfoot; J Lovegrove; Sally Lugg; Joan Page; Susan Snaith; Joyce Spackman; Pat Stancomb; Lynne Stanley; Andrea Stephenson; Pamela Treadgold; Sarah Webb. Messrs Adrian Ballard; Paul Barratt, A Birts; Richard Bowen; Mick Bradshaw; Hunter Brown; R J Cotham; Nick Davies; A Denning; M J Dickinson; David Fenton; James Grindal; Joe Henson; Paul Hinsley; John Lay; Ian Manley; R Marshall; Charles Martell; Carl Meldrum; Stephen Milner; Harold Moss; Simon Mounteney; Richard Murphy; Bill Nickson; Chris Penrice; Alan Phillips; Ben Pimlott; R E Ray; Rob Shortman; Nigel Smith; Stephan Smyth; Del Tapping; William Walker; Jim Whitson; Donna Lucking & Clive Counsell; Ken Thomas & Fran Foxon.

Minutes of the 2007 AGM

These were accepted as an accurate record of proceedings, proposed by Mrs Viv Coates; seconded by Mr Dave Overton. The Minutes were signed by the President.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report

2007 has been another successful year for the GOSPBC.

Following the 2007 AGM, the committee agreed to produce a new website to be launched on February 28th, following the threat to pull the plug on the existing site. Unfortunately we were unable to retrieve the previous site's information but the new one is gradually being extended and hopefully improved. To date we are approaching 50000 hits. I am also pleased and surprised to see a reduction in the site costs despite building a new website from scratch. My thanks to Richard Carter, the Webmaster, especially for building a new site from scratch in a matter of days so that we had a continuous web presence when the plug was pulled on the old site.

A successful workshop was held at Shuttleworth College on 14th April. My thanks to Guy and Melany Kiddy, and to those who helped on the day.

The Club raised £10,000 to conduct trials at Bristol University following a response from the EU Commission to the TSG application. These went ahead with successful results. The report has been submitted to DEFRA to lodge with Brussels. Special thanks to Founder Members, Tillie and Hunter Brown of New York for their very generous response to our appeal.

The Breeds of Gloucestershire Show and Sale was cancelled at the last minute following the F+M outbreak in Surrey. Pigs already in the market were safely returned home. As a token of goodwill exhibitors' fees were returned and a donation made to Voyce Pullin to help offset their costs.

The FMD outbreak and severe weather conditions took their toll on the 2007 show season. The Elwes Cup went ahead at the Royal Show, our thanks to Viki Mills for stepping in at the last moment to judge the competition a day early when the show was due to close after only three days. Congratulations to Malcolm and Su Hicks who won both the Elwes Cup and Northern Championship with their July gilt Windmill Dolly 3. Circumstances were such that the Southern Championship was cancelled despite every effort being made to find an alternative venue.

The Club successfully challenged the RBST's plans to remove the Breed's minority status before the results of the BPA bloodline survey were known. This survey has now taken place and we await the final results.

Cont. opposite

Club News

2008 AGM Minutes, Chairman's Report Cont.

The Committee are developing plans to celebrate the Breed's centenary in 2013. Any thoughts or suggestions would be very welcome.

The Committee agreed to appoint four new honorary memberships to Viki Mills, Anne Petch and Dave Overton for their work in saving and promoting the breed and to Tillie & Hunter Brown for their generous support of the Club's activities.

To close I would like to thank Richard Lutwyche for his endeavours on our behalf and the Committee for their support and council through the last year.

AJR

Accounts to 31st October 2007

These are published on the following page.

The accounts were adopted proposed by Mr Eric Freeman, seconded by Mrs Marlene Renshaw.

Election of Officers

The existing officers were re-elected en bloc as the only nominees. Mr Eric Freeman & Mrs Anne Nicholls were elected to fill vacancies on Committee.

Election of Auditor

Mr Neil Frear was re-elected, proposed by Mr Stephen Booth; seconded by Mr Dave Overton.

Change in Constitution (Member's Resolution)

(1) To amend the Club's Constitution as follows: To amend paragraph 12 by adding the words 'of the Committee' in the last line so that the sentence reads: 'In the event of none of the above Officers being present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for holding the same, or shall be unwilling to preside, the members present shall choose a member of the Committee to preside.'

(2) To amend paragraph 14 to the following:

14 i. There shall be a position known as 'Patron' who shall be a figurehead for the Club.

There shall be a Committee of the Club which shall consist of President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman and six others elected annually. Extra members may be co-opted at the discretion of the committee up to a maximum of three.

In the event of the no nomination being received for election of Officers, the existing Committee has power to co-opt members to serve until the next Annual General Meeting.

There will be two Honorary Vice-Presidents who will be *ex-officio* on the main Committee and all sub-committees with full voting rights (providing that they do not concurrently hold any other office).

At every Annual General Meeting one-third of the elected Members of the Committee are subject to retirement by rotation or, if the number of either is not three or a multiple of three, the number nearest to one third shall retire from office. Such retiring members may choose to stand for re-election without securing further nomination or seconder.

Any fully paid-up member (of any category) over the age of 18 may stand for election to the Committee. In order to present themselves for nomination, they must request from the Secretary a nomination paper and secure from other paid-up members a nominee and seconder who shall also sign the nomination paper. Nominators and Seconders may not be fellow Family/Joint Members of the Nominee. The completed nomination papers must be returned to arrive with the Secretary at least 21 days before the date of the next AGM.

In the event of more nominations being received than places available on Committee, a secret ballot shall be held at the AGM to elect the Committee members.

The Committee may meet together for the dispatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit and determine the quorum necessary for the transaction of business. Questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes. In the case of an equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

The President of the Club shall be appointed biennially by the Committee at its meeting preceding the Annual General Meeting and such appointment shall be with effect from the relevant Annual General Meeting.

The Committee shall, triennially, elect one of their members to be the Chairman at its meeting immediately following the Annual General Meeting of the Club.

Cont. over

Club News

2008 AGM Minutes, Change to Constitution cont.

The Committee shall, triennially, elect one of their members to be the Vice-Chairman at its meeting immediately following the Annual General Meeting of the Club.

The Committee shall have power to appoint managers, officials, agents, auctioneers, judges and servants of all kinds and upon such terms and remuneration as it thinks fit and remove and suspend all paid officers and clerks and servants as it may consider necessary.

(3) To amend paragraphs 16 and 17 to the following:

16. The Treasurer shall be appointed by the membership for such time and upon such conditions as they may think fit, and any Treasurer shall have an *ex officio* place on Committee and shall not receive remuneration.

17. The Secretary shall be appointed by the membership for such time and upon such conditions as they may think fit, and any Secretary so appointed may be removed by the membership. The Secretary shall have an *ex officio* place on Committee.

Proposed by Andrew Robinson, seconded by Judith Sims and passed unanimously.

Any Other Business

The membership survey has been completed and was being considered by the Club's Committee.

The 2007 GOS Pig of the Year award was presented to Mr Malcolm Hicks by the President for his pig, Windmill Dolly 3 that had amassed most points during the show season.

Mr Overton proposed that the AGM be held in April annually and move around the country and incorporate a Member's Day to try and attract more members. Seconded by Mrs Nicholls; agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 13.02.

AGM 2009

Annual General Meeting

Daylesford Organic Farms, New Farm

Daylesford, Moreton-in-Marsh

Gloucestershire, GL56 0YG

By kind invitation of Lady Bamford

Sunday 5th April 2009 at 11.30am

AGENDA

Apologies

Minutes of the 2008 AGM

Matters Arising

Annual Report

Accounts to 31st October, 2008

Election of Officers

Election of Hon Auditor

Any Other Business

Richard Lutwyche

Secretary

Club News

Annual Accounts 2008 AGM

GLOUCESTER OLD SPOT BIG BREEDERS' CLUB				
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS				
for the year ended 31st October, 2006				
	2005/06		2004/05	
RECEIPTS				
Subscriptions		6,012		4,465
Donations & Fundraising		83		135
Show & Sale		203		0
Interest received		230		121
		<u>6,528</u>		<u>4,721</u>
TOTAL INCOME				
MERCHANDISE SALES				
Sales		195		1,723
Less: Cost of Sales:				
Opening stock	750		1,176	
Purchases	0		1,535	
Closing stock	(388)	(362)	(750)	(1,961)
		<u>(167)</u>		<u>(238)</u>
(LOSS)/PROFIT ON MERCHANDISE				
BOOK SALES				
Sales		302		500
Less: Cost of Sales:				
Opening stock	235		555	
Closing stock	(2)	(233)	(235)	(320)
		<u>69</u>		<u>180</u>
PROFIT ON BOOKS				
PAYMENTS				
Printing, post & stationery		2,989		3,016
Room rental		70		353
Show & sale costs		219		179
Insurance		0		350
Secretarial Honorarium		700		700
Advertising		162		114
Sundry expenditure		103		246
Computer & website costs		1,052		675
Donations		0		135
		<u>5,295</u>		<u>5,768</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE				
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR				
		<u>1,135</u>		<u>(1,105)</u>
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT START OF YEAR				
		8,033		9,138
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR				
		1,135		(1,105)
BALANCE OF FUNDS C/FD AT END OF YEAR				
		<u>9,168</u>		<u>8,033</u>
Represented By:				
Bank Accounts		9,850		6,870
President's Fund		606		593
Stocks held		390		985
Creditors		(1,183)		0
Subscriptions in advance		(495)		(415)
		<u>9,168</u>		<u>8,033</u>

*Checked by PCA
7.2.07*

Club News - Members' Day

Members' Day at Daylesford Farm Organics, Glos., GL56 0YG

In accordance with the decision at last year's AGM, this year's event has changed to incorporate a Member's Day at Daylesford Farm organics in the Gloucestershire countryside by the kind invitation of Lady Bamford.

Set up quite recently, Daylesford has been a huge success being an organic enterprise incorporating a high quality farm shop on site. This has been so successful that other Daylesford retail outlets have since opened in London. The farm is managed by Richard Smith who has managed herds of GOS before and there are a small number of GOS sows on site. The farm also boasts the largest herd of Gloucester cattle being milked for the production of Single and Double Gloucester cheeses.

The farm is very progressive whilst maintaining strict standards as would be expected from a major organic exercise. As well as celebrities and politicians, all members of the royal family, (and many foreign royals), have been given the same tour as we will enjoy on April 5th.

The shop itself is a revelation, stocking not only meat and dairy produce from the farm but a wide range of top quality foods that attract customers from far and wide.

The farm is easily reached from both Moreton-in-Marsh and Stow-on-the-Wold and this is an opportunity to have a guided tour of this important estate whilst getting together with other GOS keepers from around the country.

A light lunch is provided and a special trailer is being hired in for the day and the cost to members and their guests is £10/head, payable in advance. Please complete and return the enclosed booking form. In the event of over-booking, applications will be treated on a first come, first served basis.



The entrance to this famous farm shop. Photo by Richard Lutwyche



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The Day's programme is:

- 11.00 Tea on arrival
- 11.30 AGM
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13.30 Tour of the farm and shop
- 16.00 Depart



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Club News

New Club Tie

Your committee have decided to improve the Club tie on offer to members with a bold new design giving a high quality polyester Club tie which should be available to purchase at the AGM. It will also be added to the online shop for all members unable to attend the event. In striking navy blue and bottle green stripes with silver dividers, the tie features the Club logo below the knot and the Club's name in silver at the bottom. This is a distinctive design which will stand out and we hope that members will be proud to wear it at every possible occasion.

The cost to members is £12.75 to which must be added £1.20 p&p if ordered on its own.

Remember that there is a range of quality clothing featuring the Club logo embroidered onto it available to order at all times via the website. The remaining small stock of ties and sweat-shirts was offered on the website Shop at discounted prices to clear stocks.



Artist's impression

Improvements to the Website

The Club's website is an ever-improving resource that continues to grow and develop. The new site was built from scratch in February 2007 and already includes a whole host more information than ever appeared on the old one. Please do take time to look around the site and make use of the information thereon.

Recently the Forum has been redesigned and, as recommended by James Tucker from Suffolk, much of the discussion area has been divided up into Frequently Asked Questions by subject matter. Thus anyone looking for information can look here first to see if the matter has been covered already before asking a new question. Some subjects may be under different headings, so again, do look around and familiarise yourselves.

This development coincides with a new feature aimed at first time pig keepers. Mandy Garbutt from North Yorkshire, herself a relatively new pig keeper, has written the first of a series of essays designed to help the new keeper through the proper process before they proceed. The intention is that this is a free resource which anyone can use which will hopefully make the readers more disposed towards GOS pigs. There is a huge interest in pig keeping at the present time and sales of breeding and fattening stock are buoyant and we want to keep it that way. Mandy's guidance is published in this edition too as will her ongoing essays.

Members' List on the Website

The current list can be found under the CLUB tab under OUR MEMBERS and is a useful way of attracting enquiries from potential keepers in your area. At present, only a relatively modest proportion of our members appear under this heading and we need a signed form for Data Protection purposes before we can add your details as well. You will shortly be able to download this from the same page on the website when you should fill it in, sign it and return it to the Secretary. Your details will then be added on receipt. Alternatively contact the Secretary by phone or email and a form will be sent out to you.

RBST Grant to Improve Publicity

We have received notification from the RBST of grant funding to produce a new breed leaflet and some display material for use at shows etc. The existing leaflet has been largely unchanged since it was first produced in 1990 and now needs a revamp with updated text and new photos. We shall also be commissioning some new 'pop-up' displays to engender interest at shows and other events. Many thanks to the RBST for agreeing to this help.

Show & Sale

Make a note for your diary—this year's event is on Sat 1st August at Cirencester Livestock Market. This year, the auctioneers, Voyce Pullin, are publishing the schedule and taking entries and you can contact them at the number below. There will still be a GOS Show & Sale but the event is expanding to take in other rare breeds. There is a section on the website with further details including location maps etc.

Contact Voyce Pullin on 01454 269486.

GOS Club Workshop - Sat 25th April

The GOSPBC committee have been concerned for some time at the quality of some breeding stock being seen at shows and at sales in recent times. Coupled with the huge increase in the number of keepers of pedigree GOS pigs, it was considered helpful to many such keepers to hold a workshop, firstly to impart knowledge on what is and what isn't an acceptable pedigree animal and secondly to encourage more people to show their stock. Although the GOS is now the most populous breed of pig in the UK, there are fewer exhibitors than for most breeds and some of the leading shows in 2008 season saw only one exhibitor in the GOS rings. This is not a good shop window for the breed and risks breed classes being withdrawn so we need to encourage everyone to 'have a go' and pit your pigs against other club members' animals for an independent assessment of their worth at shows around the country.

The workshop will be held near Lymm in Cheshire with easy access from the motorway network. It is hosted by the Club's Treasurer, Stephen Booth and his wife Stephanie to whom we extend sincere thanks. Stephen keeps GOS and Saddlebacks among various traditional breeds on the farm and his daughter Mandy has a burgeoning herd of Large Blacks so there will be plenty of pigs to provide practical demonstrations.

A splendid buffet lunch and tea and coffee will be provided within the price and in order for the opportunity to learn to be effective, numbers will be limited so do book early.

The day's programme is as follows:

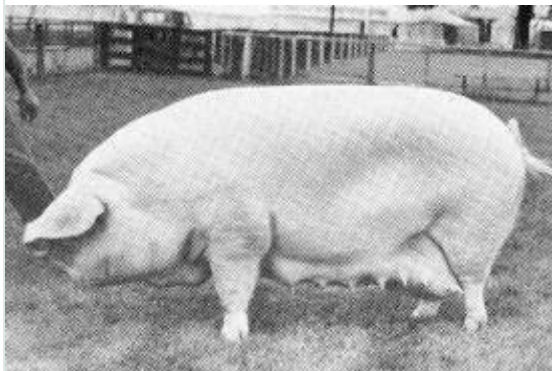
- 10.45 Tea and introduction by Stephen Booth
- 11.15 Pedigree Pigs—learning to recognise good points and faults by Jenny Brett
- 12.00 Delegates judge a selection of pigs
- 12.30 Lunch
- 1.15 Tattooing techniques—hands on workshop with Andrew Robinson
- 1.45 Training pigs for the show with Stephen and Mandy Booth
- 2.15 Washing your show team and presentation for show by Mandy Booth
- 3.00 What the judge is looking for by Judith Sims
- 3.30 Tour of the farm with Stephen Booth
- 4.00 Tea and depart

If you wish to attend, please complete and return the enclosed application form ASAP. Cost is £12/head for Members & their guests.



The last pig workshop at Broadoak Farm organised by the British Saddleback Breeders' Club in 2006. photo by Richard Lutwyche

Pigs from the Past



Quenington Muriel 30, Breed Champion RASE 1964 for Cecil Painter.



Foston Princess Joan 11, RASE Breed Champion 1985 for Andrew Robinson

Winterwood Princess 12 RASE Breed Champion 1979 and 1980 for Ray & Judith Sims.



Merchandise - Support GOS - Wear the Logo!

With the show season just around the corner, now is the time to order your GOS bespoke clothing. You can order using the enclosed order form or via the website where you have the added advantage of being able to pay by Credit or Debit card using *PayPal*. The bespoke range with the Club logo embroidered on every item is high quality clothing that should last and last so go for it!

Bespoke Range All Including The Club Logo Embroidered Onto the Garment

Photos Show Garments Without the Logo.
All Garments Suitable for Both Sexes.

ADULTS PREMIUM FULL ZIP FLEECE

Sizes Available: XS 36" / S 38" / M 40" / L 42-44" / XL 46" / 2XL 48" / 3XL 50-52" / 4XL 54"

Colours Available: BLACK / NAVY / ROYAL / RED / BOTTLE GREEN / CHARCOAL / MAROON

Members' Price: £30.50 each



PREMIUM SWEATSHIRT

Sizes Available: XS 36" / S 38" / M 40" / L 42-44" / XL 46" / 2XL 48" / 3XL 50-52" / 4XL 54"

Colours Available: BLACK / NAVY / ROYAL / RED / BOTTLE GREEN / HEATHER GREY / MAROON

Members' Price: £18.85 each



PREMIUM PIQUE POLO SHIRT

Sizes Available: XS 36" / S 38" / M 40" / L 42-44" / XL 46" / 2XL 48" / 3XL 50-52" / 4XL 54"

Colours Available: BLACK / NAVY / ROYAL / RED / BOTTLE GREEN / HEATHER GREY / MAROON / WHITE / SKY BLUE / YELLOW

Members' Price: £16.50 each



CLASSIC PIQUE POLO SHIRT

Sizes Available: XS 36" / S 38" / M 40" / L 42-44" / XL 46" / 2XL 48" / 3XL 50-52" / 4XL 54"

Colours Available: BLACK / NAVY / ROYAL / RED / BOTTLE GREEN / HEATHER GREY / MAROON / WHITE / SKY BLUE / YELLOW / KELLY GREEN / ORANGE / PURPLE / CHARCOAL

Members' Price: £13.99 each

Availability on all above items: Normally 14-28 days from order. . Note P&P charges applicable on order form.



POLYESTER CLUB TIES

The ALL NEW Club Tie available in April. Order now and be among the smart set for 2009!

Members' Price: £12.75 each

Check out our online Shop where there are further items including SALE lines offering great value for money.



Who's This Bloke Then? By Viki Mills

The youngest of three sons, Richard Lutwyche spent his early years in Surrey, where his father was Farm Manager on two adjoining farms totalling between 500 and 600 acres. Twenty five men were employed on the farms in the 1950s, including 3 cowmen who looked after a large herd of British Friesians. The herd, being milked three times a day, were the proud holders of the Surrey Milk Recording Cup for over 20 years.

But it was the other livestock on the farm that gave Richard his main interest. A herd of 70 Pedigree Wessex Saddleback sows had been established and expanded after an earlier experiment with Landrace had been abandoned. "The sows were kept entirely outdoors except for farrowing, when they and their litters would be turned out again as soon as the piglets were 10 days old." Most of the progeny was sold as pedigree breeding stock, with a thriving trade in any miss-marked females put to a Large White boar, (usually from the famous Whitley herd of Major Elliott), and sold in-pig to produce blue & white fatteners for the swill trade. Any excess would be sold in Guildford and Reading markets.



Cranleigh Show in the 1960s with the subject, aged around 14 just entering the ring for the Wessex Saddleback breed championships. Lutwyche senior is in the foreground with the trilby hat and the exhibitor on the right is Mr F G Luff of the Wardley herd.

The Hersham herd of Wessex pigs enjoyed success in the show ring in an era when the famous herds such as Chancellors, Welwyn, Merrywood, Hewsons, Garth etc. dominated with Richard accompanying his father and the pigs to shows from an early age. Richard says: "I have always been closely involved with shows and one in particular sticks in the mind. It was the late 1950s and I would have been 8 or 9. We normally showed pigs within about an 80 mile radius of the farm but for some reason had entered a team at Peterborough Show (before it grew up into the East of England).

"The pigs and pigman, (Boris, a Latvian refugee), had gone up the day before and father needed to be there for 9 o'clock to help with the showing so we set off at around 3 or 4 in the morning in a series 1 Land Rover. There were no motorways and the journey was long and tedious. The first reason it became noteworthy occurred between 5 and 6 am on the southern outskirts of Bedford. We had seen hardly any traffic and had just overtaken a milk float when we were stopped by the police for speeding. Well, you're lucky to exceed 55 mph in a proper 'Landy' of that vintage but father had been clocked (on an otherwise deserted road) at 38mph in a 30 limit. He was not amused and was in a foul temper for the rest of the journey.

"On arrival at the show, to avoid the thunderous silence, instead of watching the Wessex being judged, I wandered off to see what else was there when I came across a sight I had never seen before and, sadly, never have since. In a ring were three or four enormous round sows with a thick curly coat - Lincolnshire Curly Coats. They were spectacular - like porcine dinosaurs. Nobody else was watching them - Landrace, Large White and even the Wessex drew the farmers but not these most distinctive creatures. They certainly made an impression on me so much so that anyone who claims that the modern crop of imported Mangalitzas has anything more in common with the old Lincoln than a gene that causes a curly coat is sadly deluded. They were enormous, fat, slab-sided brutes that would have been an enigma today but even so didn't deserve to just disappear.



Richard in 1989 when he set up The Cotswold Gourmet to pioneer the marketing of meat from pure bred rare breeds.

"Of the hundreds of shows I've attended both before and since, this one stays lodged in the memory because of those two incidents"

On the arable part of the farm wheat, barley and oats were grown mainly to be used in feed for the livestock. The owner of the farm also had a wholesale vegetable business for which potatoes and January King cabbages were grown. Richard has vivid memories of cold early mornings starting in the dark at 7.00am, cutting the latter, and packing them into 200 bushel boxes (12 cabbages to a box) for collection at 9 o'clock. Back breaking and finger numbing.

Despite their farm upbringing neither Richard nor his elder brothers were encouraged to have a career in agriculture. One brother went into the Police and the other the Fleet Air Arm. After leaving Strode's School, Egham, Richard went into the Army for 3 years as a Rifleman in the Royal Green Jackets. He then worked in a bank and at Lloyds Register of Shipping in the City before moving into marketing when he joined the Feltham office of a lighting manufacturing company where he met the girl, Valerie, who was to become his wife of 30+ years (so far).

Cont. opposite

The beginning of his long involvement with rare breeds came in 1971 when he took on the task of organizing a Pets' Corner and exhibition of British breeds of pig at the Egham and Thorpe Royal Agricultural Show at Runnymede. Researching this project he learned of the demise of 3 former British pig breeds: the Lincolnshire Curly Coat, Dorset Gold Tip and Cumberland. He also encountered his first Gloucestershire Old Spots with the loan of a sow and litter from Jim Sherriff from St Albans which he had to go and collect, house overnight and then return after the show. "She was a very laid-back animal and obviously made a big impression on me at the time!"

Richard subsequently became Chairman of the Chertsey Agricultural Show at the age of 22. He has been a Council member of the Surrey County Agricultural Society who stage the largest one day show for over 30 years and recently was elected a Council member of the Three Counties Agricultural Society for whom he runs their successful National Rare & Minority Rare Breeds Show in June.

His work with the lighting company led to Richard moving to the main office in Malmesbury, Wiltshire. In 1973 he met Michael Rosenberg for the first time and joined the RBST as a Life Member. In 1985 he was one of the Founder Members of the Gloucestershire Support Group and took over as Chairman within the group's first year. Later, he was the organiser of the Group's very successful Rare Breeds Shows at Hartpury in the early 1990s.

When in the late 80s Richard's job with the lighting company came to an end he used his redundancy payment to set up The Cotswold Gourmet to pioneer the marketing of meat from Rare Breeds. This involved collecting stock from breeders, taking it to the abattoir who would then deliver carcasses to the butcher where he had it cut and packaged to be sent out by courier for the mail order business that he had built up, describing each breed and the flavours of the meat. Later, arising from the establishment of that market for meat from pure bred stock, working with Geoffrey Cloke and Brian Lloyd-James, he established the Traditional Breeds Meat Marketing Scheme (TBMMS). It was at a workshop at Judith and Ray Sims' farm in Clevedon in 1994 that Richard first introduced the butcher, Gary Wallace, manager of Chesterton Farm Shop who became the first to be recruited into the Meat Marketing Scheme. The Cotswold Gourmet was the second.

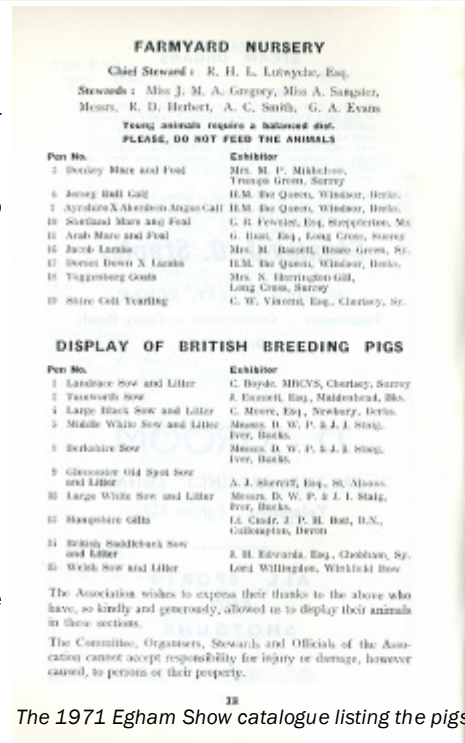


Richard as he appeared recently on BBC TV's Victorian Farm series promoting GOS pigs.

ment to make concessions not to slaughter rare breeds on contiguous premises during the 2001 Foot & Mouth epidemic which has since evolved into the Breeds At Risk Register.

The RBST's TBMMS also expanded during this period and eventually, with the involvement of Peter Symonds, the largest breeder of Traditional Hereford cattle, became a separate company. In 2002 Richard left the RBST to become the General Manager for the Traditional Breeds Meat Marketing Company and has continued in this role to the present day, creating and developing an effective and enduring market for rare breeds that has been a major factor in their conservation. The sheer number of breeds of cattle, sheep and even GOS pigs having moved off the rare breeds' categories since its creation is testament to this.

In addition to his work for the GOSPBC Richard has since 2004 been appointed Secretary of the British Saddleback Breeders' Club when it was effectively moribund, and produces the newsletters for two more breeds - the Tamworth Breeders' Club and the British Lop Pig Society. He has written several books on pigs and has two more due to be published next year. He shoulders an impressive workload, about which I have never heard him complain, and he should indeed be proud of his contribution to the popularity of the Gloucestershire pig breed in particular and to the wider field of British livestock generally.



The 1971 Egham Show catalogue listing the pigs on display.



Show Calendar 2009 - Major Shows as Compiled by the BPA

SHOW	CONTACT	SHOW DATE	CLOSING DATE	CLASS	JUDGE
Newark & Notts	Claire Izard 0870 224 1035	May 9-10	March 27	Any Traditional Breed	P Reeder & J Millard
Royal Ulster	Ms Sonya Watson 028 9066 5225	May 13-15	March 20	GOS	A Robinson
Devon County	Mrs Sally-Anne Daniel 01392 446000	May 21-23	March 13	GOS	TBC
Staffordshire	Mrs Mellor 01785 258060	May 27-28	May 1	GOS	Mrs M Renshaw
Suffolk	Miss E Payne 01473 707115	May 27-28	April 17	Any Coloured Breed	Mrs V Mills
Royal Bath & West	Mrs A Harper 01749 822200	May 27-29	April 17	GOS	Mrs M Kiddy
Royal Cornwall	Mr C Riddle 01208 814489	June 4-6	April 17	GOS	Mrs S Barnfield
South of England Ardingly, W Sussex	Mrs E J Cuff 01444 892700	June 11-13	April 1	Any Traditional Breed	Mrs C Vaughan
East of England Peterborough	Mr K Buttriss 01733 234451	June 19-21	May 18	GOS	W A Ugflow
Three Counties Malvern, Worcs	Miss F Parker 01684 584901	June 19-20	April 17	GOS	S Booth
Cheshire	Mr N Evans 01565 650200	June 23-24	May 9	GOS	K Matthews
Lincolnshire	Miss H McGurk 01522 522900	June 24-25	April 29	Any Traditional Breed	Mrs F Slade
Royal Norfolk	Miss M Wright 01603 731965	July 1-2	April 10	Any Coloured Breed	M Snell
Royal Show Stoneleigh, Warks	Livestock Office 024 7685 8273	July 7-10	April 22	GOS	Mrs J Sims
Great Yorkshire	Ms A West 01423 541000	July 14-16	June 3	GOS	D Overton
Royal Welsh Builth Wells	Mr B Williams 01982 554403	July 20-23	May 6	Any Other Trad Breed	J Collings
Royal Lancashire	Livestock Office 01995 643215	July 24-26	June 21	GOS	P Fowlie
St Mellons	Ms K Meakin 01495 755267	Aug 12	July 31	All Breeds	TBA
Anglesey	Mr A Hughes 01407 720072	Aug 11-12	July 7	Any Traditional Breed	C Penrice
Hatfield House	Miss J Siburn 01725 517071	Aug 21-23	July 18	GOS	R Overend

Smaller Shows as Compiled by Miranda Squire

SHOW	CONTACT	SHOW DATE	CLOSING DATE	CLASS	JUDGE
Lambourn	01488 648609	May 3	April 12	Traditional Breeds	M Crockford
North Somerset	Ms K Hutchings 01934 513975	May 4	March 28	All Breeds	A Gready
South Suffolk	Mr G Bailles 01638 750879	May 10	April 18	All Breeds	R Swanton
Royal Welsh Small-holder	01982 554408	May 13-15	April 3	Any Traditional Breed	C Penrice
Dorset Rare Breeds	Ms F Hennesy 01935 891448	May 25	April 21	Traditional Breeds	N Hunkin
Surrey County	Mrs S Ashworth 01483 890810	May 25	April 17	All Breeds	A Mitchell
Three Counties Rare Breeds	Miss F Parker 01684 584901	June 21	April 17	GOS	Mrs J Brett
Kent County	01622 630975	July 17-19	May 15	All Breeds	B Upchurch
Singleton	01243 811363	July 19	July 1	Traditional Breeds	D Staig
Mid-Devon	Mr C Branton 01884 821815	July 25	June 11	Traditional Breeds	TBA
Ryedale	Ms P Harris 01653 697820	July 28	July 7	Coloured Breeds	A Robinson
Shuestoke & Whiteacres	Ms K Furness 07815 080350	Aug 1	July 14	All Breeds	TBA
Oswestry	01691 654875	Aug 1		All Breeds	G Parker
Cranleigh	01306 712050	Aug 2	June 15	All Breeds	B Upchurch
Thornton-le-Dale	Mr N Hargrave 01653 668218	Aug 5	July 25	All Breeds	B Card
Filongly	Ms C Brookes 02476 460287	Aug 10	Aug 1	All Breeds	TBA
Okehampton	01392 434075	Aug 13	July 14	Traditional Breeds	T Wheatley-Hubbard
Melplash	01308 423337	Aug 27	July 25	Traditional Breeds	TBA
Dorchester	01305 264249	Sep 5-6	Aug 1	All Breeds	A Acreman
Westmorland	Ms C Knipe 01539 567804	Sep 10	Aug 17	All Breeds	W Gregory
Penistone	01226 767989	Sep 12	Sep 1	All Breeds	A Warriner
RBST (at Dairy Event)	Mrs V Mills 01363 82465	Sep 16-17		All Breeds	J Cloke
Newbury	01635 247111	Sep 19-20	Aug 1	GOS	TBA

Many thanks to Miranda Squire of the Middle White Breeders' Club for compiling and providing this information.

Code: Background Colours

GREY = Northern Qualifier; YELLOW = Southern Qualifier; GREEN = Northern & Champion of Champions Qualifier; PINK = Southern & Champion of Champions Qualifier; TURQUOISE = Champion of Champions Qualifier + either Northern or Southern Qualifier. Spotted Background = Venue of Finals. No background = Championship rosette only.

Are You Ready to Start Keeping Pigs? by Mandy Garbutt

This is the first in a series of articles that also appears on the GOSPBC Website intended to give guidance to people thinking about keeping pigs for the first time. If you have comments, suggestions or ideas about this series, please go onto the Forum on the website and add them.

So You Want to Keep Pigs?

Part 1 - Getting Started by Mandy Garbutt

If you're reading Spot Press or browsing the GOS website the chances are you're thinking about getting some pigs or you have already taken the plunge and bought your first weaners. We remember how daunting and exciting it was when we first started and hopefully we'll be able to help you through keeping your pigs using the experiences we have had keeping GOS here at Fowgill Farm in North Yorkshire. Even now we continue to learn what makes our animals happy and makes them produce good pork and bacon.



Our first GOS weaners April 2004

What you have to decide is whether or not you're the right person to keep pigs and why you want to. There are several reasons people want to keep pigs ranging from they just like pigs; they have some land that wants rotavating; they want to know where their meat is coming from or they want to help conserve rare breeds. Whether you intend to keep pigs as a hobby or a small business there are several factors you really need to consider before starting your venture.

Firstly, do you have adequate resources to finance your pig venture even as a hobby -there can be some steep costs including fencing, shelter, transport, food, bedding and storage? Will you be able to finance suitable land with secure fencing, adequate shelter, and access to water?

Secondly, can you give the time and commitment to your pigs? Animals are a big responsibility; pigs need attention at least twice a day, 365 days a year so you can check on their food, water, health and well being. Will you be able to tend to them morning and evening? Will you have a back up plan to slot into place if you became ill or unable to look after them?

Thirdly, are you physically able to look after pigs? Pigs are very strong animals and even young weaners can soon knock you over as they clamour for their food. Can you shift barrow loads of muck, move bales of straw and heavy sacks of food? Could you cope with being outdoors throughout the year come rain or shine, in mud and all weathers?



Perfect conditions?

And then there's the 'red tape'. If you are thinking of keeping pigs you will need to comply with several legal requirements. You will need to contact your local Defra office or Rural Payments Agency for a CPH (County Parish Holding) number. When you get your pigs
Cont. opposite

you will need to speak to them again to obtain a 'herd mark'. This consists of two letters followed by four numbers and is used to identify your animals especially when they go to the abattoir and move to and from your holding.

You must keep a movement record book to record all movements of pigs on and off your property and each movement must be accompanied by the paperwork known as an AML2 form. You can obtain both the movement record book and the forms from your local Trading Standards Officers who are on the whole very helpful to beginners. After you've brought a pig onto your property, you cannot bring another one in until 20 days have passed (unless you have a separate isolation unit but these are generally only used by showing herds). You will also need to keep a medicine book even if you never need to medicate your pigs with drugs, you will need it to record the use of worming and parasitic control products and the applicable meat withdrawal periods. At least once a year you will need to make a stock count and record it in the back of your movement book; we do ours in the first week of January. All records must be kept for six years even if you stop keeping pigs and must be available for inspection on demand.

Finally do you have a good sense of humour and are prepared to take the ups with the downs of being a pig keeper? Believe me when you're on your hands and knees in the mud trying to coax weaners back to their pen after a breakout in a force nine gale and it's peeing down in darkest November, you do begin to question your sanity but then when you see the same weaners gambolling about their paddock playing tag with each other in the sunshine or you see your first litter being born it really does make it all worthwhile.



Pigs in Clover!

On the lighter side of keepings pigs – we found one of the ladies in the above picture laid out on her side in terrible distress. We took her temperature, rubbed her stomach as it seemed incredibly bloated and just as we reached for the mobile to call the vet she gave the most tremendous fart you ever did hear, got up and sauntered off. We later discovered she'd been in the sugar beet store and scoffed heavens knows how many!!!

So do you still want to keep pigs? We would highly recommend going on a pig keeping or smallholder's course or visiting a nearby pig keeper. This way you can get first hand knowledge of keeping pigs. Courses and nearby pig keepers can be found by contacting the breed societies or in any of the smallholding publications available. Members of the Gloucestershire Old Spots Pig Breeders' Club can be found by region on the GOSPBC website - www.oldspots.org.uk/members.asp

Pig keeping isn't for the faint hearted, they take time and hard work but if done well are a rewarding and enjoyable pursuit. In future issues we intend to go through some of the different aspects of keeping pigs and we'd welcome any questions you might have.

If you want to know the legal guidelines for keeping pigs, a good starting point is to download a free brochure from Defra giving a lot of useful information: http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/id-move/pigs/pdf/new_owner_guide.pdf

Part 2 'Land & Housing – Getting Prepared For Your Pigs Arriving' will be available on the website in April 2009

War on Waitrose - The LACORS Ruling in Full

LACORS GUIDANCE ON LABELLING OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS FOR ALL SPECIES OTHER THAN BEEF SOLD BY BREED: 30.1.2009

Query

1. LACORS has been asked to provide guidance on appropriate labelling and descriptions to be applied to meat other than beef (e.g. pork chops, pork joints, lamb chops, lamb shanks etc) and meat products (e.g. bacon) to which a specific breed (e.g. Gloucestershire Old Spot Pig*- note the abbreviation GOSP is used to describe this breed in this guidance) is attributed either on the labelling or in accompanying promotional material or both.
2. An examples of the type of product in question is set out below:

Gloucestershire [Front Label]

Old Spot

6 dry cured unsmoked thick cut back bacon rashers

Gloucestershire Old Spot [Back Label]

English free range unsmoked thick cut cured bacon back rashers

Produced using pigs bred from pedigree Gloucestershire Old Spot sires

[further detailed text explains the origin and unique characteristics of this particular rare breed]

3. At issue is whether the consumer is adequately informed as to the true nature of the product before making a decision to purchase. There is no problem where the product results from the mating of a pedigree boar and sow of the same named breed but there are issues when the sow is not from the same pedigree breed itself but is a commercial hybrid or another specific breed.

Advice

1. LACORS takes the view that product labelling by breed should be sufficient to explain to the consumer what the true nature of the product is and to enable what appear to be identical but which in practice are different products to be adequately distinguished. It is a basic principle behind food labelling and consumer protection legislation that sufficient information is provided so that the consumer is not misled.
2. In this respect the consumer will wish to be aware of the origin of the product, that is to say whether the resulting product is derived from the mating of a pedigree GOS boar with a pedigree GOS sow or the mating of a pedigree GOS boar with a commercial hybrid sow.

3. It is therefore recommended that a clear and prominent reference to the exact parentage should be provided on the label. This must be means of the following types of statements (using bacon as an example):
 - A. Gloucestershire Old Spot Cross Breed Bacon
 - B. Cross Breed Gloucestershire Old Spot Bacon
 - C. Produced from Pigs Sired by Pedigree Gloucestershire Old Spot Boars
 - D. Produced from Pigs Bred from Pedigree Gloucestershire Old Spot Sires
 - E. Produced from Pigs Bred from Pedigree Gloucestershire Old Spot Boars** all text in the same size font and style **
4. Statements A and B are more likely to be considered to be the true names of the products whereas statements C, D and E are more likely to be considered to be statements accompanying and expanding upon the true name. Statement A or B should be used, whereas Statements C, D or E may be used in addition to either A or B.
5. Any reference to a specific breed should refer to an animal registered by an officially recognised registration authority licensed by DEFRA, for example the British Pig Association.
6. If the produce is not from two pedigree registered pigs (or other species) of the same breed, any photographs or illustrations shown on labels, point of sale materials, advertisements or supporting literature should be clearly captioned with the words in paragraph 3 (A or B) above. Such captions should be clear and in the same weight and size of font as the most prominent font used elsewhere on the packaging.
7. The names and qualifying statements should be given prominence in the label.
8. This guidance applies equally to produce labels where such products are sold loose or pre-packed or pre-packed for direct sale and the same information about the true nature of the product should be repeated by means of accompanying tickets or generic notices where applicable and on any promotional literature or advertising material. It would be best practice to follow this guidance in catering establishments.
9. Any trade mark applied to the products should not be similar to the name of the breed in question.
10. Although this guidance uses Gloucestershire Old Spot pigs as an example the same basic principles apply to other species and breeds.
11. This guidance has been developed and approved in consultation with the representatives for the farming and supply industry.

share\foodandfeed\labelling\labellingguidance\040708gosp.doc

Please remember to abide by these rules in any meat marketing you undertake and if you believe someone else may not be compliant, contact your local Trading Standards and ask them to check it out. If necessary, refer them to this document.

Another Chance to Attend the Pig Butchery Course

Pig Butchery Course—Discounted Price for GOSPBC Members

A Pig Butchery Workshop is taking place in south Herefordshire on Sun 3rd May 2009 run by the Traditional Breeds Meat Marketing Company. Starting at 10.00am it will cover:

1. Health & Safety; Cleanliness; Tools; Knife Sharpening
2. Breaking down the carcass; de-boning and trimming and tying joints
3. Sausage making
4. Curing bacon

The day ends at 4.00 pm and the fee includes lunch and a pack of useful information.

The course is mainly demonstration-based but there will be opportunities for delegates to try their hand at various stages. Limit of 12 delegates, minimum 16 years of age. The course is aimed at smallholders, pig keepers, pig enthusiasts and food lovers.



The first Pig Butchery Workshop held in February. Photo by Richard Lutwyche

The course leader is Mr Joe Arquati, Master Butcher and manager of Llandinabo Farm Shop in Ledbury. Joe was formerly a lecturer at Smithfield College, London.

The cost is £120 + VAT (£138.00) per delegate **but members of GOSPBC get a discounted price of £105 + VAT (£120.75)**. Fifty per cent deposit with booking refundable if cancelled by 17th April 2009. Cheques made payable to 'Llandinabo Farm Shop' and sent to: TBMM Co Ltd, Freepost (GL442), Cirencester, Glos. GL7 5BR.

The venue is on the main A49 road between Ross-on-Wye and Hereford and delegates will be sent a map—easy access from the M5/M50. Details of local B&Bs and hotels can be sent on request.

RECIPE - GOS Pork Loin with Scrumpy by Mark Hix

Serves 4

Ingredients: Loin of GOS, boned weighing 1.5–2kgs (3lb 5oz–4lb 8oz); salt & black pepper;

- 1 x onion roughly chopped;
- 1 x carrot roughly chopped;
- 1 x celery stalk roughly chopped;
- a few sprigs of thyme;
- 300ml (3/4 pint) scrumpy or dry cider.

For the celeriac and apple mash:

- 1 x celeriac peeled and roughly chopped;
- 60g butter;
- 2 x cooking apples peeled, cored and roughly chopped;
- 1 x tbsp brown sugar



Preheat oven to 220C, 420F or Gas 7. Remove rind with sharp knife and cut into strips to cook separately. Score the fat in a criss-cross pattern, season and cook in a roasting tray for 30mins turning halfway through.

Lower heat to 160C, 320F, Gas 3, add vegetables and thyme and return to the oven. Spoon some cider over the meat every so often until it's all used and drain off any excess fat into a container during cooking. Cook fat side up for at least 45 minutes.

Towards the end of the cooking make the mash. Cook celeriac in boiling salted water for 10-12 minutes until tender. Drain and coarsely mash.

While celeriac is cooking, melt the butter in a pan, add the apples and sugar and cook for 10-12 minutes, stirring occasionally until the apples are falling apart. If the mixture is wet, remove the lid and cook for a few minutes more over a low heat until it dries a little. Mix with the celeriac mash and season to taste.

Cut the pork into thick slices and serve with the celeriac mash and crackling.

Recipe taken from **British Regional Food** by Mark Hix £14.99

Members' Advertisements

WANTED

Weaners Wanted

Does anyone have any weaners available or know of anyone I could contact. I'm looking at NE England, Scottish Borders, Fife, possibly Cumbria. If you can give me any info or contacts I'd be very grateful. Thanks, Johnny jsl@jlogan.co.uk

Johnny

Weaners Wanted

I am looking for 4-5 weaners ready from 10th March - I don't want to travel too far. I live in Calne Wiltshire, nr Swindon.

Matt
call or email me. 07725 122700
oldspots@aol.com

Weaners Wanted

One or two gilts wanted to fatten. Leeds, West Yorks.

Graeme Birch
Graeme.birch@live.co.uk

Weaners Wanted

One or two gilts wanted to fatten. Wythenshawe, Manchester

Emma
emma_19_08@hotmail.com

WANTED

Weaners Wanted

One or two gilts wanted to fatten. Hertfordshire

Eve van Verdeghem
eve_van_verdeghem@hotmail.com

Gilts Wanted

Preferably born sometime from July-October '08 no preference on lines but do like well grown nice spotty examples. My boar is a Patrick x Princess Joan so as long as they'd compliment him am not fussy.

We're based in Derbyshire if anyone knows of anything suitable going.

carrhallpigs@live.co.uk

In-pig Sow Wanted

I am interested keeping GOS pigs and am looking for an in pig sow to get started with. Jon 07969 477 637

Weaners Wanted

One or two gilts wanted. Eccleshall, Staffs.

Peter Morgan
peter@ampmconsulting.org.uk

WANTED

Weaners Wanted

One or two gilts wanted to breed from. Suffolk

Julie Schwer
j.schwer@btinternet.com

Weaners Wanted

2 gilts and 1 boar for first time pig keeper Notts area.

rich@valrhonahouse.co.uk

In-Pig Gilt or Sow Wanted

Am looking for an in-pig female to buy. Must be in Scotland.

Lee.bastow@btinternet.com

Rufus Boar Wanted

Unfortunately, the in-pig gilts I bought weren't. They are now approaching 1 year old and need to go to the boar. I haven't been able to find one locally to hire so am now looking to buy. West Sussex

sara@strivs.demon.co.uk

PLEASE KEEP WATCHING THE ADS ON THE WEBSITE FORUM. THERE'S ALMOST NO EXCUSE FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO SELL YOUR PIGS.



whisky and wines @ Arkwrights

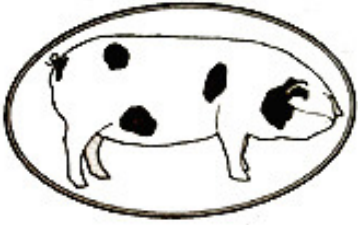
You've got the meat now get the drink!

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



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

GOSPBC Fighting Fund

In our effort to maintain the integrity of genuine pork from pedigree Gloucestershire Old Spots, we are undertaking considerable work to protect the real thing for the benefit of breeders everywhere. In response to this appeal please send **any donation** to GOSPBC c/o Mr S Booth, Broadoak Farm, Chapel Lane, Warburton, Lymm, Cheshire, WA13 9TY.

SPOT PRESS

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

Edited by Richard Lutwyche

We thank all those contributors listed within these pages.

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Get Showing - Have A Go!

Pedigree breeds such as the GOS benefit greatly from a strong turnout of quality pigs at the leading shows. It catches the eye and draws attention and that is what a good shop window is all about.

We have recently lost a generation of showmen who have retired from wide-spread showing. We need new blood and that means people who haven't shown before, 'having a go'! So make 2009 the year that you start. Schedules are coming out just now for all the shows with pig classes and you can easily get a copy by phoning the contact shown in the Show Guide inside this issue.

For the novice, the large shows can be daunting and quite expensive so start off at some of the smaller shows. You will find these to be friendly and helpful and you'll soon meet other piggy showmen and settle into the cosy, itinerant way of life that seems to be habitual for many people. Whatever the size of show, don't be put off. Read what you can, come to the Club's Workshop, make sure you comply with all the rules and talk to other exhibitors. If your pig is good enough, it'll win a prize. Whatever happens in the ring, ask the judge about what he or she thought of your pigs after the judging is over and take note of the comments. If they have criticisms, it's not because they're having a go at you but because they have seen something you may not have so use it as an opportunity to learn.

Here are some smaller shows for you to try:

May—Lambourn Show, Berks/Oxon border

May—South Suffolk Show

May—Surrey County Show, Guildford - Pedigree + Novelty Classes

June—Three Counties Rare Breeds Show, Malvern - Rare breeds take over for the third day of the show.

July—Kent County, Detling

July—Singleton Show, West Sussex

July—Ryedale Show, Yorkshire

July—Thornton le Dale Show, Yorkshire

July—Okehampton Show, Devon

September—Westmorland Show



Showing can become addictive

*Photo by
Richard Lutwyche*