

Spot Press



Volume 21 No.1 SPRING 2011

AGM & Members' Day

Our big day out is nearly here! Full details inside and a booking form that you need to sign and return STRAIGHT AWAY please. As you will see we are being royally entertained by our host, Lord Gainsborough, who has generously offered to pay for our lunch as well as take everyone on a conducted tour of the beautiful Exton Park Estates set in a lovely part of the country in Rutland.



Barnsdale Lodge Hotel in Rutland where we meet on April 10th.

In the afternoon we will have our AGM and this will be followed by an open Forum at the request of several members. Here members can quiz Club officials and raise concerns about anything relevant to GOS pigs. One of the big talking points since December has been the way that the BPA have introduced new charges and doubtless members will want to discuss what can be done about the situation.

Wherever you are, you would be foolish to miss this opportunity to come together and enjoy a day out, meet fellow members and discuss issues that are important to you and the future of the GOS breed.

In Memoriam by Terry Williams

No Movements yellow, white, pink and green, the prettiest you've ever seen.

No 'When did we wash the trailer out and tell me what's the date?', 'I wish you wouldn't shout love, I'm in an awful state'.

No 'Back up now' - no room to spare! - 'You'll never get the back down there!'.

No Push and shove and swearing too, and 'quickly close the gate' and 'you'd better hurry up dear it's getting awfully late'.

No 'It's too late now, the water's cold, you should've got here when you were told'.

No Vet with accent that's not quite right, looks in pen, oh, what a sight! it's coat's too dull, it's eye's not bright, 'ell numaro mooch rouga' she says, the number ain't right.

No Meat Inspector with his cheerful grin, 'it's got a clot, it's far too thin, I'm going to chuck it in the bin!'

No Radio One, no crash, no curse, no song.

All is silent, dark and cold.

Everything is quiet, now the abattoir's been sold.

In the style of Thomas Hood's 'November' (1799-1845) inspired by the latest threat to our abattoirs

Terry, a long-standing member from Wrexham, tried to enter Julie Dronfield's competition highlighted last time but was reliant on his grandchildren to send the email without success.

The siblings' lack of inclination, it causes me such aggravation,

Gone awry have all our plans, I leave this missive in your hands.

Inside this issue:

Club News	1-9
Rare Breed Pig Keeping	10-11
Show Dates	12-14
The Showing Bug	15-17
Club Shop	18
Advertisements	19
Members' News	20



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Club News

Princess Freda Line

The farrowing that the Club arranged with one of the few Princess Freda sows still existent on the British mainland ended up with a litter born in late December. Three gilts were born (along with one boar) and these have been registered and sold to Judith Sims' Winterwood herd. She intends to keep one and may offer the other two for sale to breeding herds at some stage in the future. The sow was going to be retired but we believe that she may be sold to a new breeder in Herefordshire in the hope that another litter or two may be produced. This particular line of Princess Freda females is quite distant from the other line represented in Devon, Yorkshire and Shropshire and it is important to try and maintain as much diversity within the breed as possible. The Club is most grateful to Miss Elizabeth Hurley for her co-operation in this project which has helped to maintain the national herd in good health for the future.

Primrose Line

Hopefully the last phase of this project may be in sight. At the time of writing, a litter is expected from a gilt which will be the result of deliberate in-breeding and if this results in piglets being born without recognised birth defects, then the Committee will consider revising its advice on the use of boars out of Primrose line sows.

There is some evidence of a small increase in incidences of birth defects in some herds. This is to be expected as more pedigree GOS are being bred from today than at any time since the 1920s. As numbers increase, so the likelihood increases of seeing defects such as hernias, blind anuses, hermaphrodite pigs etc. This is inevitable with increased populations and providing it remains at a low level across the national herd, there is no cause for concern. Of course, within a small herd, such happenings can be greatly worrying but many such pigs can successfully be finished to pork weight. Keep a careful record of your breeding programme and identify if any particular matings seem to cause any such problem. If you are concerned, contact your BPA Breed Representative in the first instance.

RBST Show & Sale

Many of the 'old-timers' will remember with nostalgia the long-running RBST Show & Sale at Stoneleigh Park which ended with the FMD disaster in 2001. News has just reached us that the event is being resurrected and will take place on 30 Sept and 1 Oct. As a result, the BPA have abandoned pedigree sales at Ross-on-Wye and will instead incorporate their autumn event within the RBST Show & Sale. At the same time, the Melton Mowbray Show & Sale (9 & 10 Sept) is also being designated an RBST event.

We have looked into having a GOS sale within the Melton Mowbray event but facilities are limited and the Lops have first call on the obvious pig pens and sale ring which are limited in size. It would mean any GOS entered being accommodated among the sheep with inadequate rings for showing and selling. In the circumstances, the Club feels it is best to concentrate on the Stoneleigh event being central to the whole country and see how it pans out. It is appreciated that breeders in the eastern part of the country would prefer an event closer to hand but Stoneleigh is a lot easier than Ross or Cirencester for them and the response on the Forum when asked how many would support the Melton Mowbray event was hardly overwhelming.

Hopefully, the Stoneleigh event will allow proper showing and even card grading as was conducted before for those breeds that chose it and vendors may benefit from having buyers of all species drawn to the event which was certainly the case at the old S&S. Whether the social life will be quite as good remains to be seen but times have changed and one shouldn't expect to be transported back to an earlier era just because the Show & Sale is coming back to Stoneleigh. Instead of being held in the cattle sheds at the NAC, it will be in the Rugby Market section.

The Club's own S&S within the Breeds of Gloucestershire event will still take place on 6th August at Cirencester and the BPA Spring Sale is scheduled for 30th April at Chelford Market in Cheshire.

White Coats for Shows

Members can now order white coats from the Club with the Club logo embroidered onto the breast pocket. Available in a range of sizes between XS (32/4) and 2XL (52/4) they will help GOS showmen stand out from the crowd. They are not on the SHOP section of the website yet but members can order them direct from the Secretary at £30.00 each plus p&p. If you're one of those contemplating showing for the first time or someone whose old coat is beyond its best, email or phone the Secretary now. Allow 21 days for delivery.

Get smart for the 2011 show season - support the Club and wear the logo and see how the other breeds go green with envy!

TSG News

The latest addition to the growing list of TSG-approved herds and outlets is Mrs Judy Hancox's Buttsfarm herd at South Cerney near Cirencester, Gloucestershire. As well as being a rare breeds farm open to the public, there is a very popular Farm Shop on site where all Judy's GOS produce is processed and sold. Not only is it a busy retail shop but husband Gary, who runs this side of the business, supplies a number of local and London-based hotels and restaurants including John Torode's (*BBC1 Masterchef*) Smiths of Smithfield.



Pigs are finished in a large, airy barn.



Sows run with boar in large paddocks until it's time for them to be housed for farrowing.

As well as fresh pork in the form of joints, chops etc., the butchers, make a wide variety of sausages and dry-cure their own bacon on site.

Other rare breeds from the farm also provide much of the beef and lamb sold.

With 11 sows and two boars, Judy struggles to keep the shop supplied and occasionally has to buy in birth notified weaners from trusted local suppliers to supplement the home grown herd.



Part of the pork display at The Butts Farm Shop where all the Traditionally Farmed GOS Pork produced on the farm is sold.

Isn't time you looked at applying for TSG approval? All you need to know is on the website - www.gos-tsg.com. Terms and Conditions, charges, what is involved and even an application form to download and submit. Go for it!

As the market tightens up during the recession, you will find that those with the sort of reassurance that a Protected Food Name offers will be able to sell when others can't and usually at better prices. Remember that the TSG is a guarantee to consumers that the produce is something truly special, that the husbandry represents the highest standards available and that everything is done on a local basis—low Food Miles. For consumers looking for something special, what more could they ask for?

New Poster for TSG Sales Outlets

A specially designed A3 sized poster has been produced and is sent out to all retail outlets approved to sell Traditionally Farmed GOS Pork. It is intended to help get the message across to shoppers just why TSG-approved GOS produce is so special. The posters are produced in-house and encapsulated to meet hygiene requirements for retail premises.



Club News - AGM

As has been previously announced, the AGM this year is on Sunday 10th April at Exton Park in Rutland by the kind invitation of Lord Gainsborough. A booking form is enclosed which please complete and return straight away.

The day is planned as follows:

10.30-11.00

Arrive at Barnsdale Lodge Hotel, The Avenue, Exton, Oakham, Rutland LE15 8AH.

11.15 Tour of Exton Park

1.15 Return to Barnsdale Lodge for a buffet lunch kindly provided by Lord Gainsborough

2.15 AGM followed by an open Forum on GOS-related issues

3.30 Tea

4.00 Depart

Barnsdale Lodge do have accommodation and can be contacted on 01572 724678 or via enquiries@barnsdalelodge.co.uk or www.barnsdalelodge.co.uk

There are other hotels etc in nearby Oakham which can be found via the internet.

As stated above, Lord Gainsborough is very kindly providing all the refreshments (except for any drinks selected during lunch) and there is a nominal booking charge to cover the cost of administration.

AGM Agenda

At Barnsdale Lodge Hotel, The Avenue, Exton, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 8AH

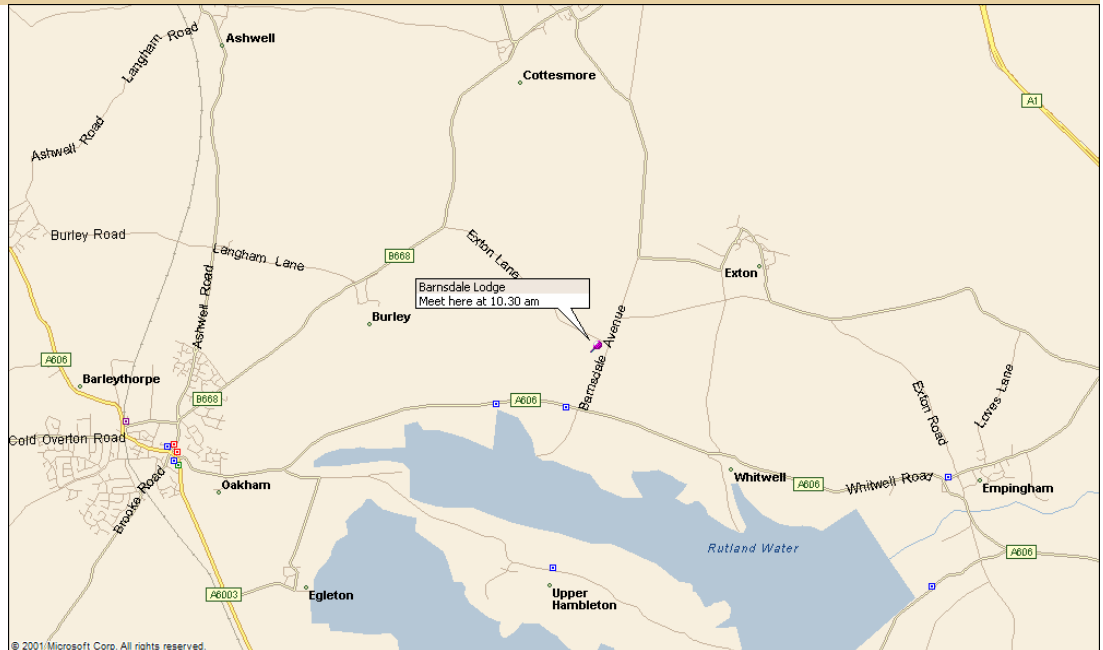
Sunday 10th April 2011 at 2.15pm

- I. Apologies
- II. Minutes of the 2010 AGM
- III. Matters Arising
- IV. Annual Report
- V. Accounts to 31st October, 2010
- VI. Election of Officers*
- VII. Election of Hon Auditor



Richard Lutwyche, Secretary

The AGM will be followed by an open Forum giving members the opportunity to question members of the Committee and Officers and to make points relevant to the management of the Club. This is staged on demand by several members.



Club News - AGM (cont.)

Minutes

Annual General Meeting

Ludlow Food Centre, near Ludlow, Shropshire

By kind invitation of The Earl of Plymouth Estates

Sunday 11th April 2010 at 11.00am

MINUTES

Twenty four Club members and family guests were in attendance. The President, Mrs Judith Sims, took the Chair.

The President, Mrs Judith Sims, handed over to her successor, Mr Dave Overton, who thanked his predecessor for her six years of service to the Club as President and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Mesdames Peggy Darvill, Julie Dronfield, Gillian Herbert, Sally Lugg & Viki Mills.

Messrs John Corsan, Peter Firth, Tim Guilbert, Guy Kiddy, Chris Penrice & Alwyn Williams.

Miss Mandy Garbutt & Mr Paul Mohin.

2. Minutes of the 2009 AGM

These were accepted as a true record of proceedings and were signed by the President.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Annual Report

This was published in the current edition of **Spot Press** and at the request of Members, the Chairman and Secretary expanded on both the situation regarding the TSG and Bramley Old Spot. The report was accepted and forms part of these Minutes.

5. Accounts to 31st October, 2009

The Treasurer, Mr Stephen Booth, took members through the accounts for the period. These showed a loss during the year of £4,029.24 due to legal costs incurred in challenging the Bramley Old Spot Trade Marks. The Committee were addressing the shortfall through the planned draw and by an agreed budget. The accounts were passed unanimously.

6. Election of Officers

Mr Eric Freeman had not sought re-election.

Other Committee Members were re-elected *en bloc*.

It was confirmed that Mrs Anne Nicholls had taken over as Vice-Chairman.

7. Election of Hon Auditor

Mr Frear was re-elected unanimously.

8. Any Other Business

Mr Martell asked if the Club's committee were aware that experiments had shown that runts very had weak hearts shown through a heart murmur.

Cont.../overleaf

Club News AGM (cont.)

Minutes (cont)

Discussion took place on the Club's initiative to prove or disprove the problems with boars bred from Primrose line females. If initial unrelated matings all proved clear, it was agreed that a closer inbreeding experiment should be arranged before a revised recommendation could be given.

The situation with the Princess Freda line in mainland Britain was also discussed. Sows/gilts had been identified in Devon and South Yorkshire from Endsleigh breeding and in Gloucestershire from Foston breeding. The Secretary was in touch with the breeder in Gloucestershire with a view to breeding a further litter and having the gilts birth notified in an effort to increase numbers.

Mr Freeman proposed that the Champion of Champions competition be moved to the Three Counties Show until such time as the Royal Show might be reinstated. This was agreed.

The Secretary announced the launch of the fund-raising draw and distributed tickets to all members present to sell. It was agreed that different members would undertake sales at various of the earlier shows.

It was further announced that the Committee had agreed to publish and circulate free of charge to all members a 2011 Year Planner providing useful information.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.10pm followed by lunch, a presentation on behalf of the Earl of Plymouth Estates and a tour round the farm shop and associated workshops.

The accounts which form part of these Minutes appear opposite.



Publicity King

When it comes to gaining publicity, there's no one better than our own Eric Freeman. There's not many farmers who feature in a top title like *Real People* but Eric pulled it off when they picked up on his story from several years ago about his piglet, *Valentine*, born with a heart-shaped spot on the flank. So the issue published for this year's Valentines Day caught the mood with the story told again and this time, Eric got paid for it too! If you see any opportunities for publicising the breed, even in the unlikely places, take a leaf out of Eric's book—there's no such thing as bad publicity—or so they say!



Valentine swine!

When **Kay** fell for a piglet at her dad's farm, she realised it had a really big heart...

Closing the gate, I plodded across the yard and headed towards the fields. 'Morning!' I called to my dad, Eric, 76.

'Hiya, love,' he grinned, filling a bucket with water and sloshing it across the yard.

As a teenager, I'd been more into high heels than horses. So I hadn't appreciated growing up on Byfords Farm in Gloucestershire with my mum, Di, Dad and three brothers. In fact, I'd have given anything to swap being woken up at 6am by a cockerel for a lie-in!

But now, with a part-time job as a carer, a husband and three daughters, coming to the farm every morning was my escape.

And living five miles away meant I could pop in whenever I wanted. Divorced from Mum in 1988, Dad had never remarried, so I'd keep him company most mornings, helping to feed the horses, cattle and chickens. But the pigs were my favourite!

Today I'd brought my girls, Natasha, 22, Courtney, 16, and McKenzie, 10, because Dad had

called saying one of his 300lb Old Spot pigs, Mandi Lou, had given birth to a litter of seven – four males and three females.

Dad knew I loved the pigs, and we couldn't wait to greet the new piglets.

It was a chilly February morning in 2008, so I blew on my hands to keep warm. The pigs were suckling in a nursery pen under a heat lamp in a shed in the yard.

'Oh!' I gasped. 'They're gorgeous.' 'Ahh,' cooed Natasha. 'So tiny.' They looked so snug, nuzzling their mother, but I couldn't resist picking one up. I leaned over, selecting the one in the middle.

'Eeee!' It squealed, trying to wriggle out of my grasp. It was so small it fitted neatly in my hands. Dad sold most of his pigs, but once in a while we'd keep a sow to breed.

Looking at the little cutie in my hands, I prayed it was a girl so we'd be allowed to keep her.

'It weighs less than a bag of



Dad and me

sugar,' I chuckled as Dad walked in.

'She's just a pig,' laughed Dad, confirming it was a girl. 'You soppy thing.'

'Not just any pig,' I smiled. 'Look – she's got a heart on her backside!' Sure enough, on her bum was a black spot in the shape of a heart!

'Trust you to notice,' laughed Dad. 'Well, as it's Valentine's Day next week, let's call her Valentine.'

A week later, on Valentine's Day, I took the kids back to say hello.

Over the next month, we watched her grow from a squealy piglet into a quiet, laidback sow. But as soon as Valentine was weaned, Dad sold her to Wick



Natasha with Valentine

Court Farm in Arlingham.

'Bye bye, lovely,' smiled Natasha, sad to see her go, but happy she was moving to a farm open to visitors.

'She'll break a few hearts,' I said. 'I wonder if she'll get a Valentine's card?' giggled McKenzie. 'Roses are red, piglets are pink...'

It's now two years on, and I've heard that Valentine's doing well and has even had a few litters of her own. So, she obviously found romance in the end!

Kay Gough, 44, Long Hope, Gloucestershire

OINK, OINK!

Endless LOVE

WHAT A CARD!

make sure it wasn't rude!

GOSPBC
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
For the year ending 31st October 2009

	<u>2008/09</u>	<u>2007/08</u>
RECEIPTS		
Subscriptions	6,848.57	6,224.73
Donations and Fundraising (including grant)	26.00	20.28
Workshop	135.00	0.00
Show & Sale (including AGM)	210.00	240.00
Interest received	112.82	349.39
TOTAL INCOME	<u>7,332.39</u>	<u>6,834.40</u>
MERCHANDISE SALES		
Sales	368.45	41.00
Less: Cost of Sales		
Opening Stock	0.00	0.00
Purchases	-611.94	0.00
Stock written off	0.00	0.00
Closing Stock	363.78	0.00
(Loss)/ Profit on Merchandise	<u>120.29</u>	<u>41.00</u>
PAYMENTS		
Printing, post and stationery (including newsletter)	3,515.81	3,669.65
Room Rental	0.00	128.76
Show and sale costs	0.00	682.15
Insurance	330.00	330.00
Secretarial Honorarium	1,000.00	850.00
Advertising	226.53	210.96
Sundry expenditure	5,917.48	2,428.53
Computer and website costs	237.00	11.70
Rosettes	205.10	159.80
Donations	50.00	240.00
Total Expenditure	<u>11,481.92</u>	<u>8,711.55</u>
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	-4,029.24	-1,836.15
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT START OF YEAR	8,112.10	9,948.25
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	-4,029.24	-1,836.15
BALANCE OF FUNDS C/FWD AT END YEAR	<u>4,082.86</u>	<u>8,112.10</u>
Represented by:		
Bank accounts	3,647.11	10,219.04
President's fund	643.54	633.66
Stocks Held	363.78	0.00
Creditors	-551.57	-455.60
Subscriptions in advance	-20.00	-2,285.00
	<u>4,082.86</u>	<u>8,112.10</u>

Current year sundry expenses includes £5,548 of legal costs (prior year £2,283)

Club News AGM (cont.)

Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 Oct 2010

Our 20th Anniversary year was another busy period for the Club and saw progress for us and the breed on many fronts. Here is a brief reminder of some of the highlights by month.

December 2009 – Our New Patron

In December it was confirmed from Buckingham Palace that HRH The Princess Royal had graciously agreed to become the Club's new Patron. No other pig-related organisation enjoys royal patronage and we are extremely grateful to Her Royal Highness for agreeing to support our work in this way.

January 2010 – New Heights

The results of the 2009 Bloodline Survey were announced which confirmed that, for the first time since the early 1920s, the Gloucestershire Old Spots breed was the most populous breed in the UK in terms of the number of pedigree registrations that took place, overtaking the Large White.

June 2010 – At Last!

At our invitation, the new Secretary of State for Defra, Caroline Spelman, came to our lines at the Three Counties Show at Malvern to publicly announce that Traditionally Farmed Gloucestershire Old Spots Pork was now fully approved as a Traditional Speciality Guaranteed product. This is only the second TSG awarded to the UK and the GOS is the first breed of any species in the world to be awarded a TSG. After 11 years and a great deal of work with the small team at Defra, the award was a major achievement for the Club.

June 2010 – Birthday Celebrations

Also at the Three Counties Show, the Club organised a celebratory dinner for members with guests including Sir Henry Elwes, Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire who proposed the toast to the Club and Mr Neil Styles representing the Styles family. Delicious GOS belly pork was served as the main course and after the speeches, a local folk group entertained everyone with a selection of mainly pig-related songs to round off a most enjoyable evening. As part of the celebrations, a special birthday cake, made and iced by Anne Nicholls, was cut and divided up among exhibitors of all breeds in the pig lines. Sir Henry returned the following day to present the winner of the Champion of Champions, Judith Sims, with the Elwes Memorial Cup.

June 2010 – New Display Materials

The RBST had generously confirmed a grant for new display material to help promote the breed and its new TSG status and two new pop-up banners and a more substantial display unit were unveiled at the Three Counties Show. The two pop-up units will be appearing at more shows around the country and the major display will be on show at this year's AGM.



Our new Patron meeting our new President at the Great Yorkshire Show. Photo by Libby Brett.

members including John Corsan from Somerset who won the first prize of a holiday in the Scillies. Nearly 3,800 tickets were sold in all realising a net profit to the Club of just under £3,500. Thanks must go to the many Club members who made a real effort to sell lots of tickets that made this a huge success. Also to the very generous donors of some wonderful prizes that made selling the tickets so easy. The effort put in was entirely worth it as, after a difficult financial year last year, the accounts have come back into profit.



L-R Dave Overton, President, Caroline Spelman, Sec of State at Defra, Richard Lutwyche Secretary and in the foreground, Anne Nicholls, Vice-Chairman.

July 2010 – Our Patron Visits the GOS Ring at the Great Yorkshire Show

HRH The Princess Royal made a special detour during her visit to one of the biggest shows in the calendar at Harrogate to come to the GOS judging ring to congratulate our President, Dave Overton, on the award of the TSG. While there she met a number of GOS members including our youngest exhibitor, Sarah Whitley, whose gilt was in the ring competing for the Breed Championship.

July 2010 – The Grand Draw

The final day at the Great Yorkshire Show saw the draw taking place for a large number of very desirable prizes. Many of those who won were Club

September 2010 – New Website

The Club launched a second website www.gos-tsg.com aimed at providing information for keepers of GOS, retailers and others and promoting the outlets that sell Traditionally Farmed Gloucestershire Old Spots Pork for the general public. With lots of links for the main website www.oldspots.org.uk the new site gives lots of factual information and producers can download application forms to apply for inspections. Approved retailers can also now order food grade labels to put on packs of TSG-approved meat which can be used in chillers and freezers.

October 2010 – BPA Show & Sale

Whilst we did not have the Supreme Champion for the second year in a row, GOS did realise some very good prices and were keenly sought after. Among those selling so well was the top-priced boar of any breed which was Messrs Wild & Webster's Theoaks Patrick 180 which reached 500gns.

Ongoing:

Bramley Old Spot Pork

Having last year won the case overturning the registered Trade Mark for Bramley Old Spot Pigs, the Club continues to build its case for overturning the TM for pork and pork products. The hearing is due to take place early in 2011.

The Club continues to work extensively with Defra and Trading Standards to try to ensure the integrity of GOS produce on sale to the public.

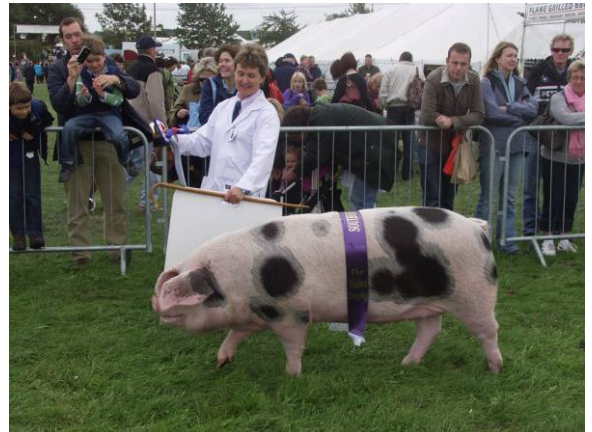
Show Highlights

Once again, numbers of GOS forward at the shows were disappointing and 2010 saw Malcolm & Su Hicks cut back to just one major show and the announcement that Dave Overton & Anne Nicholls were retiring at the end of the season. What was good however, was a new draft of enthusiastic showmen who we hope will take up the challenge in 2011 and beyond. These include Mandy Garbutt, Sue James, Simon Beech, Oliver Whitely, Sarah Whitley, Judy Hancox and Sue Cooke. The show ring is still an excellent shop window and the breed should be better represented than it has been in recent years. If anyone else is interested in 'having a go' there's a wealth of advice and help available from members of the Committee. Either contact them direct or post your queries on the Forum.

Champion of Champions 2010 – Mrs Judith Sims, Clevedon, Somerset with Winterwood Princess 196

Northern Champion – Mr Dave Overton & Mrs Anne Nicholls, Dorking, Surrey with Exfold Princess 203

Southern Champion – Mrs Sue James, Chippenham, Wiltshire with Foscothe Princess 17



Sue James was delighted to win the Southern Championship in her first show season. Photo by Richard Lutwyche

Conservation

As an ongoing project, the Club has continued to run trials using a boar out of a Primrose sow. So far, no major problems have been reported but further work is ongoing and it is hoped that it will be completed before May 2011,

Further, it was noted that whilst the Princess Freda line was not numerically threatened overall, the population in mainland Britain had fallen to around four sows and thus the Club approached one owner of two older sows to breed one of them again and to birth notify any gilts born to help repopulate the line. This is now in hand with a litter due at the end of December 2010.

Outlook for the Future

Undoubtedly, there will be a contraction in the number of herds and pigs as the increase in costs especially in feed, bedding and diesel, all take hold. Whilst the GOS is not immune from such pressures, it does seem to be holding up quite well with breeding and finishing stock still in demand. Undoubtedly the TSG will help and as more herds become approved and the trade and public become aware of the situation we will surely see better prices for such produce. What is certain is that the GOSPBC will continue to be at the forefront representing members' interests and promoting the breed and protecting its integrity.

Rare Breed Pig Keeping

In 2003, the GOSPBC published the above titled book which was very successful with the entire print run of 1,000 selling out. There had been plans to update and republish but it is surprising how quickly things change and how much is now out of date. Furthermore, when it was produced there were virtually no other titles on the market geared for small-scale pig keeping enterprises but today that has changed and the budding pig keeper has a wide selection to choose from. So, instead of risking substantial funds on a revision and reprint, we shall reproduce the book over a number of issues of Spot Press and hope that members will find the enterprise to be helpful to them. Here is the first of these 'essays' concerning your foundation stock and their selection. Incidentally, the GOSPBC is the only such organisation to publish a book intended to help novice pig keepers demonstrating its commitment and leadership in the field.

REGULAR BREEDING and why it's so important by Dave Overton

Having a small herd of GOS with boars at stud, I get a regular flow of telephone calls from keepers of just one sow to arrange for a visit to the boar.

Asking about their previous litters and when they were born, I sometimes get the reply, "Oh, I have decided to breed one litter from my sow a year". In asking "why?", I get many varied reasons but the most frequent include the following:

"I can't cope with more than one litter a year whether it's selling for pork or bacon."

"It won't harm the sow."

"She's more of a pet than a breeding machine."

Now, I'm sure there are breeders out there reading this who'll say, "I only breed once a year from my sow". All I can say in reply is congratulations and I'm glad you haven't had any problems!

REGULAR BREEDING

When we talk of regular breeding from our sows, we are thinking of serving the sow at the first heat after weaning - usually 4-7 days - whatever the age of the piglets when they are weaned - which will give you roughly two litters a year. (Commercial pig farmers wean early and endeavour to get 2.5 litters a year or five litters every two years).

The exception to this rule is when the sow, at weaning, is in poor condition in which case you can delay the service for 3 or possibly even 6 weeks to enable her to put back some body weight.

Having said that, if you really can't cope with two litters a year, with careful management you can extend the period to two litters every 18 months by keeping the sow on a maintenance ration with plenty of exercise while she is empty but to achieve this, your sow management must be of the top quality or problems will arise.

THE PROBLEMS

One of the biggest and most common problems to arise from leaving a sow empty for too long is that she will get overweight, not only her body condition but internally too when her ovaries become encased in fat which can lead to atrophy of the follicles. Although she will continue to come on heat regularly and the service is seen to take place, the fact that no eggs are being shed from the ovaries means that she cannot conceive.

One of the main conditions which takes place when the ovaries are too fat is that cysts form on them. This also occurs in cattle which, being larger, can be treated by the vet manually rupturing them allowing the ovaries to function - an option not available in the smaller internal organs of the pig resulting in the sow becoming barren.

As with over feeding, so under feeding too can lead to fertility problems. Because the ovaries are being starved of nutrients, the eggs are not shed and due to the resulting unhealthy state of the uterus, cysts can then develop on the ovaries.

A REGULAR LITTER BREEDER

So, as you can gather, you can ruin a breeding sow with kindness as well as with cruelty. In my opinion, it is therefore a great deal easier to keep your sow breeding regularly. This, in turn, reduces the cost of each pig reared as the costs of keeping the sow will be spread over so many more pigs.

With the increasing demand for GOS pork and bacon, I am sure outlets can be found for these extra pigs. Just apply a little market research.

In summary, I recommend that you aim for your sow to have two litters a year to keep her **A REGULAR LITTER BREEDER!**

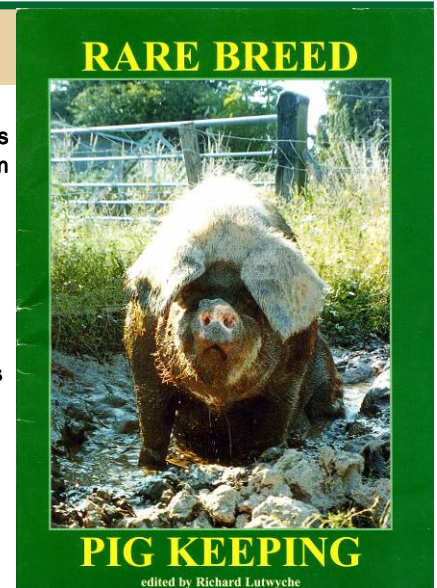


Photo by Richard Lutwyche

PIG BREEDING CYCLE - HELPFUL HINTS FOR BEGINNERS

by Anne Petch

Separate gilts selected for breeding from boars by 16 weeks of age. Gilts are best reared in pairs. If this is not possible, house a single gilt on a public part of the farm or holding so that she can see and hear people and animals.

She will come on heat at about 5 months old and can be mated at 6, but it is best to wait until 8-10 months as she is still growing; indeed, she will not have reached her mature weight until her second litter.

Swill is Unsuitable and Illegal



At this time she should be receiving 4-5 lbs of good quality 14-16% protein meal per day, or equivalent. Swill is both unsuitable and illegal for pigs. We have found that by increasing the ration by 2 lbs a day, (6-7 lbs given a day), for 14 days during the service period, helps to improve the conception rate. The gilt should be wormed a couple of weeks before mating, be well, fit and in 'comfortable' condition. Grossly overfat or very thin 'under done' gilts often will not breed until the correct condition is reached.

The selection of a suitable boar is important, a young boar should be paired with gilts, older boars are usually used only on sows. A large, heavy boar can damage a small gilt's back and legs and may easily damage her internally; this is particu-

larly nasty as it may not be obvious straight away.

Rather Like a Leap-Frog!

Pigs come on heat every 21 days and stay on for between one and three days. The changes during heat are various. the vulva swells and becomes very pink, she will stand to back pressure, (both hands spread out halfway along her back and weight applied, rather like a leap-frog!). At this test, if ready for service, she will stand rigid, her ears half way up! Temperament may also change. Placid sows can become agitated and rather fidgety; rather flighty sows can be quiet and tractable. Gilts which have been kept on their own may not be so obvious but after a few days near a boar, or even penned next to a sow who is cycling regularly, will soon do the right things.

She will be at the height of her heat a few days after the reddening begins. When standing to back pressure she should be 'introduced' to the boar who will 'talk' to her, chase her around a bit and prod her in the tummy with his snout. If properly on heat, she will stand still and allow the boar to proceed. If not, she will keep on the move or even try and bite him, in which case take her out and try again half a day later.



Photo by Claire Wilson

If standing, the boar will mount her. Care must be taken to see if she is served in the correct place, the boar may aim too high or too low. The service will take 10-20 minutes. Once the boar is in position he may appear to go to sleep, but things will be happening! He will deliver approximately 200cc of seminal fluid, (compared with 5cc from a bull and 1cc from a ram), followed by a tablespoon of 'bumpy' jelly which blocks the passage to retain the fluid. After serving, leave the gilt in a quiet pen alone and re-serve 6-9 hours later - two services per heat will usually suffice. I try to give an extra one for luck! Repeat the tests 21 days later for a couple of days. If all is as before, repeat the mating. If nothing happens, she is pregnant. Some people adopt a 'help yourself' system of running the boar out in a field or big pen with his gilts. This can be a very hit or miss method of operating and where a bunch of sows come on heat together, the boar may stick to one favourite, or try and spread himself around all of them, resulting in a lot of small litters or returns, or go off the idea altogether! Avoid mixing strange pigs or any other stressful situations during the early stages of pregnancy as pigs can re-absorb their litter or part of it if badly upset. Deep mud, crowding, being chased by silly dogs or children, scrambling up or down steep banks, kicks from ponies or cows, bad feeding, certain drugs, low flying hot air balloons, fireworks and 'man handling' can all induce abortions during the last few weeks.

Usually, none of these happen and everybody is happy and settles down to wait for the arrival of the litter 115 days after service or, put another way, 3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days. They can be a few days either side of the farrowing date, old sows tending to be later each time.

2011 Show Dates

Where Club rosettes are presented for the following:

Northern Champion Qualifiers

Southern Champion Qualifiers

Best G.O.S.

Shows with * are also qualifiers for the GOS Champion of Champions

MAY

1st Sunday **Lambourn Country Show** Southern Ch. Qualifier
Brian Coventry, Field Barn Farm, Winchester Road. Kingleston, Newbury, Berkshire.
Tel. 07919 851111 brysheraoay@sky.com

2nd Monday BH **North Somerset Show** Southern Ch. Qualifier
Tim Ledbury, Mutual Barn, Udley Farm, Westhay Road, Wrington, Somerset. BS40 5NP
Tel: 08456 342464 tim@nsas.org.uk www.nsas.org.uk

7th-8th Sat & Sun **Newark and Notts.** Northern Ch Qualifier *
Claire Izzard, The Show Ground, Winthorpe, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 2NY
Tel: 08702-241035 claire@newarkshowground.com www.newarkshowground.com

8th Sunday **South Suffolk** Northern Ch. Qualifier *
Geoff. Bailes, 35 Dalham Road, Moulton, Suffolk, CB8 8SB
01638-750879 geof@southsuffolkshow.co.uk

19th-21st Thurs. to Sat. **Devon County** Southern Ch. Qualifier *
Miss Sally -Anne Daniel. Westpoint, Clyst St. Mary, Exeter, Devon EX20 1DJ
Tel: 01392-841142/07889-260446

21st-22nd Sat-Sun **Welsh Smallholders Show** Southern Ch. Qualifier*
Rhian Davies, Tel: 01982-554408 rhian@rwas.co.uk

30th Monday BH **Dorset Rare Breeds Show** Southern Ch. Qualifier
Freda Hennessy, RBST Dorset Show Office, Lilac Cottage, Corscombe, Dorchester, Dorset. DT2 ONU
Tel: 01935-891448 fredahennessy@aol.com

30th Monday BH **Surrey County Show** Best G.O.S.
Mrs Sonia Ashworth, SCAS. 8 Birtley Courtyard, Bramley, Guildford, Surrey. GU5 OLA
Tel.01483 890810 scas@surreycountyshow.co.uk

JUNE

1st-4th Weds to Sat. **Royal Bath & West.** Southern Ch. Qualifier*
Mrs Yeoman, The Show Ground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA4 6QN
Tel. 01749 822200 www.bathandwest.co.uk Closing date 25/3

1st-2nd Weds to Thurs. **Staffordshire Show** Northern Ch. Qualifier*
Mrs S Meller, County Showground, Weston, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST18 0BD
Tel: 01785 258060 enquiries@staffscountyshowground.co.uk www.staffscountyshowground.co.uk Closing date 30/4

1st-2nd Weds to Thurs. **The Suffolk Show.** Northern Ch. Qualifier
Miss E Payne, The South Suffolk Showground, Bucklesh, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP38UH
Tel: 01473 707115 www.southsuffolk.co.uk Closing date 15/4

JUNE (cont.)

9th-11th Thurs to Sat. **Royal Cornwall.** Southern Ch. Qualifier*

Christopher Riddle. Royal Cornwall Showground, Wadebridge, Cornwall, PL27 7JE

Tel: 01208 814489 www.royalcornwall.co.uk. Closing date. 16/4

9th-11th Thurs. to Sat. **South of England.** Southern Ch. Qualifier *

Mrs.E.Cuff, The South of England Centre, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH17 6TL

Tel: 01444 892700 www.seas@btclick.com Closing date 30/3

17th-19th Fri. to Sun. **East of England** Northern Ch. Qualifier

K Buttriss, E of E Showground, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, P\$E2 6XE

Tel: 01733 234451 www.eastofengland.org.uk Closing date 17/5

17th-19th Fri. to Sun. **Three Counties** Southern Ch. Qualifier*

Miss F Parker The Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire WR13 6NW

Tel: 01684 584901 www.threecounties.co.uk Closing date 12/4 **ALSO FINAL OF GOS CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS**

21st-22nd Tues to Thurs. **Cheshire County** Northern Ch. Qualifier

Nigel Evens. Clay Lane Farm, Morton, Winsford, Cheshire, CW7 2QH

Tel: 01565 650200 www.cheshirecountyshow.org.uk Closing date 8/5

22nd-23rd^h Weds & Thurs. **Lincolnshire County** Northern Ch. Qualifier

Aimee Chamberlin & Nicole Christian, Lincolnshire Agr. Society, Lincolnshire Showground, Grange-de-Lings, Lincoln, LN2 2NA

Tel: 01522-522900 livestock@lincs-events.co.uk Closing date 27/4

29th-30th Weds & Thurs. **Royal Norfolk.** Northern Ch. Qualifier

Mrs Mary Wright. The Showground, Dereham Road, Norwich, Norfolk,NR5 0TT

Tel: 01603 731965 www.royalnorfolkshow.co.uk Closing date 12/4

JULY

12th-14th Tues. to Thurs. **Great Yorkshire** Northern Ch. Qualifier

Amanda West. Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate, North Yorks. HG2 8PW

Tel: 01423 546231 Closing date 5/6 **ALSO FINAL OF NORTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP S**

15th-17th Sat to Mon **Kent County** Southern Ch. Qualifier

Mrs Francis Day, Kent Showground, Detling, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 3JF

Tel: 01622 630975 info@kentshowground.co.uk

18th -21st Mon. to Thurs. **Royal Welsh.** Southern Ch. Qualifier

Mr. Ben Williams Livestock Sec. Llanelwedd, Buith Wells, Powys LD2 SY

Tel: 01982 554404 www.rwas.co.uk

23rd Sat. **Mid Devon Show** Southern Ch. Qualifier

Miss C Branton, Dudleys Corner, Uplowman, Tiverton, EX16 7DS

Tel: 01884 821815 carolin@middevonshow.fsnet.co.uk Closing date 10/6

16th-17th Sat/Sun **Great Eccleston** Best G.O.S.

Mrs Tracey Bretherton, Eastbourn, Moss House Lane, Westby With Plumpton, Kirkham, PR4 3PE

Tel: 01772 673245

18th Sun. **Singleton Show.** Southern Ch. Qualifier

Mrs Sue O'Keefe/Mr Bushrod, Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0EU

01243 811363 singletonshow@aol.com

Tel:

Cont. overleaf...../

2011 Show Dates (cont.)

Any queries regarding the shows, please contact Judith Sims 07803 290577 judithsims@btconnect.com

26th Tues. **Ryedale Show** Best G.O.S.

Pat Harrison / Mrs. C. Thompson, Reagarth, Helmsley, York, YO62 5HX

Tel: 01653 697820 / 01439 77028

AUGUST

6th Sat. **Tockwith Show.** Best G.O.S.

Norman Waller, Tel 01423-358588 or www.tockwithshow.org.uk

3rd Weds. **Thornton le Dale** Best G.O.S.

Nick Hargrave, White House Farm, Kirby Misperton, Malton, North Yorkshire. YO17 6XR

Tel: 01653 668218 Entries close 10 days before. 26/7

6th Sat. **St Mellons.** Best G.O.S.

Miss Karen Meekin, 32 Freeholdland Road, Pontnewynyold, Pontypool Gwent.

Tel: 01495 755267 Closing date 30/7

7th Sun. **Cranleigh Show** Southern Ch. Qualifier

Mrs Judy Troughton, Oakapple Cottage, Stane Street, Ockley, Dorking, Surrey. RH5 5ST

Tel: 01306 712050 info@cranleighshow.org.uk closing date 14/6

11th Thurs. **Okehampton Show.** Southern Ch. Qualifier

Mrs. Gillian Oliver, P.O.Box, Okehampton EX20 4ZX

Tel: 01837 861322 okehampton-show@supanet.com closing date 13/7

19th-21st Fri/Sat. **Hatfield Show** Southern Ch. Qualifier

Miss Julia Sibun, 11 Bleriot Road, Upper Rissington, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL54 2NN

Tel.: 01451 822640 julia@jsibun.fsnet.co.uk Closing date 15/7

25th Thurs. **Melplash Show** Best G.O.S.

Mrs A Ford, 23 South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NT

Tel/fax: 01308 423337 office@melplashshow.co.uk closing date 15/7

SEPTEMBER

3rd-4th Sat and Sun. **Dorchester Show** Southern Ch. Qualifier

Livestock Sec. Agriculture House, Acland Road, Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 1ES www.dorsetcountyshow.co.uk Tel. 01305-264249 Mon

Weds Fri. AM only closing date 31/7

8th Thurs **Westmorland County Show** Northern Ch Qualifier 2012

Westmorland County Agr. Society, Lane Farm, Crooklands, Milnthorpe, Cumbria. LA7 7NH

Tel: 01539 567804 manager@westmorland.org.uk

10th Sat. **Penistone Show** Best G.O.S.

Tim Booth, Royd Moor Hall Farmhouse, Royd Moor Road, Thurlstone, Yorkshire.S36 7RD

Tel: 01226-767989 closing date 31/8

17th-18th Sat. and Sun. **Royal Berkshire (Newbury)** Southern Ch. Qualifier

Ian Wilson, Priorys Court, Hermitage, Thatcham, Berkshire, RG18 9QZ

Tel: 01635 247111 www.newburyshowground.co.uk closing date 1/8

ALSO FINAL OF SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIPS

OCTOBER

11th Sun. **East of England Autumn Show** Northern Ch. Qualifier 2012

Mrs M Kiddy, Solitaire Farm, Drove Road, Gamlingay, Sandy, Beds. SG19 3NY

Tel: 01767 650884 balshampigs@tiscali.co.uk

The Showing Bug by Dave Overton

As some of you will have read before, I purchased my first GOS in-pig gilt, Diklers Josephine 3rd, in the spring of 1982 at the NPBA Sale at Gloucester. The vendor was Mrs Jackie Bailey.

She farrowed in July a litter of 11, out of which I decided to rear 4 of the gilts. At the beginning of 1983 I thought I should try and find a boar. I contacted Mrs Bailey to get her advice and she suggested the best person who would be able to help me find a good one was Viki Mills. Viki not only found a boar but put me in touch with someone who had also purchased some pigs from Devon and was willing to bring my boar up as far as Berkshire which saved a long journey.

During the conversation about the boar Viki asked was I going to show any of the gilts, and I said I had not thought about it to which she replied "I think you ought to".

There was a nice little show to start at, which was held the 1st Sunday in May at Lambourn, Berkshire. The gentleman to contact was Maurice Duce and I would have to write to him first as he does not have a telephone and has to do all his telephoning from the local phone box. This is how I got into pig showing. Austin, a friend, and I then spent many hours training the gilts to walk so that we would hope to have a little control of them on the big day.

It had been a very wet spring that year and the first Sunday in May was no different. We started off early that morning, that is Austin, Tom and myself, and when we arrived at the showground, (which had been an airfield during the war), the official said "it was too wet to drive any further onto the showground and would our animal walk to the pig lines?" To which we said "yes." We unloaded the gilt and started to walk her over the showground to the pig lines, which was about a quarter of a mile. Austin and I at the front with pig boards and Tom keeping her moving from the rear. We arrived without incident.

We all had a lovely day and a 3rd Prize Card and made some new friends. The end of the day arrived and we started the walk back to the trailer as before, Austin and I at the front Tom at the back. Then it happened - our first of many embarrassing moments at shows, Austin and I pleased with our day walking along and talking with the pig between us, that is what we thought. We then noticed that everybody was laughing and wondered why. What had happened was the gilt had stopped for a convenience stop, Tom hadn't told us and we hadn't noticed so kept walking and talking but no pig between us. But never mind, I had been bitten by the Showing Bug.



Exfold Gerald 58, Interbreed Champion and top priced pig at the BPA Show & Sale, 2005. Photo by Richard Lutwyche

We showed at my small local shows for the next 2 or 3 years - Singleton Rare Breeds, Chertsey, Bishops Waltham, Hampshire and we persuaded Cranleigh to have pig classes again. All these shows gave me good showing experience.

The first time I went to Bishops Waltham, the pens were only wooden sheep hurdles in the open and consequently, it was a full time job to keep the pigs in. When it came to judging time there was no ring, just let them out and walk them round trying to keep them out of the trade stands. I don't think Health & Safety would like that today.

In 1986 after going to the RBST Show & Sale for the last 10 years as a spectator, I decided to enter two Jan Gilts.

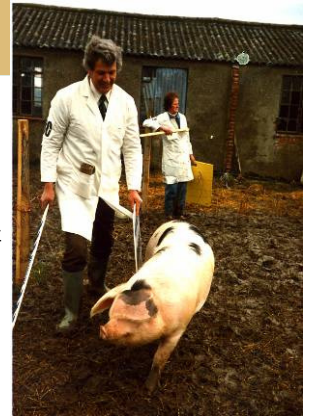
We were now with the Big Boys

of the GOS world and what a surprise it was when the judge, the late Geoffrey Cloke, made them 1st & 2nd in the class not only that but we got Breed Champion as well. That called for a celebration that night.

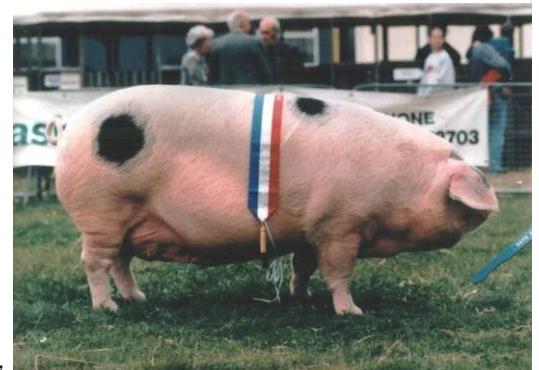
At this point I would like to say to anyone who is thinking of starting showing to do so as you will enjoy it and the other exhibitors will be very welcoming and helpful.

A story to illustrate this is in my early days of pedigree pig breeding, I had a young boar for sale. There was a Rare Breeds Sale at the East of England Showground and I decided to take him there. After arriving and getting him washed and brushed up we went for some breakfast. At another table sat two ladies that we knew were well known pig breeders and Judges but we had never spoken to them, they were Joan Staig & Rachel Wylie, They both came over to me and said "You own the GOS boar, don't let him go cheap because he is the best GOS boar we have seen about this year" This I thought was a very kind thing to do and as I say, pig people do look after newcomers.

Another story that comes to mind is one year we were setting off to the Bath & West Show and whilst loading the pigs we thought one of the gilts looked as though she was



The Exfold show team debut at a very muddy Lambourn Show 1983



Exfold Princess 31 winning the Interbreed Championship at Devon County Show, 1997.

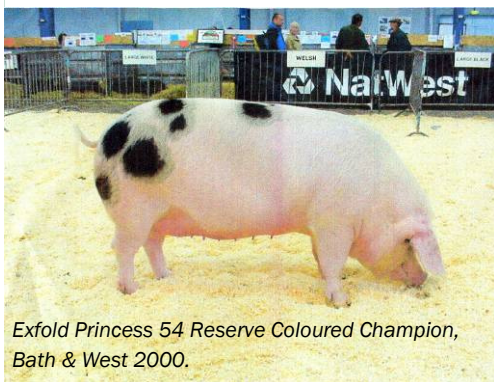
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The Showing Bug (cont.)

knew she was. We unloaded her but as soon as she was on the floor her ear started to wave and no way was she going to move. We thought we would just have to leave her there while we unloaded the rest but during this time along came Will Newth. He was about 10 years old at the time and he said "Shall I put her in her pen?" We explained that she was hogging and would not move he said he would try. The next thing Will was walking her to her pen as good as gold, after that Will was in charge of her for the rest of the show.

During the years before all the regulations came in about transporting livestock, we saw many different and amusing means of trailers. A caravan with the back cut out and a ramp put in its place. A Reliant Robin (otherwise known as a Plastic Pig—Ed) which had its engine and bonnet removed and a drawbar fitted, the drivers and passenger doors were still in place and the pockets in the doors were full up with sheep droppings,

The story that still makes me smile is of the lady who drove a Citroen 2CV and a very small trailer in which she brought her Tamworth sow. The tailboard was made of a frame and just 3 planks of wood with gaps in between. When it came to the time to load the sow back in the trailer a carpet was placed over the tailboard, the sow was then walked up to the trailer, the lady would then place the sow's feet one by one onto the planks.



Exfold Princess 54 Reserve Coloured Champion, Bath & West 2000.

Once the pig was in it was told to sit so that the tailboard could be closed. The sow had to sit, as the trailer was not long enough to shut the tail board if she was standing. Off they would go with the sow looking out over the sides of the trailer.

By 1987 Anne (Nicholls) had joined the Exfold pig showing team and we started to exhibit at a few county shows, the South of England being one of them. It was at this show in 1988 that we won our first Interbreed Championship. Unfortunately I was not there at the time, as I was at home recovering from an operation. It was Anne's and Austin's hard work and skill that got that one (but it was my pig!).

It was in the early 90s that we started doing a lot more showing. Devon Show being one - this show we always enjoy being the first one of our season, meeting up with friends and comparing our stock with everybody else's.

It was at this Show in 1997 that our sow Exfold Princess 31st was made Reserve Interbreed Champion, and then went to the Royal Show and won the Elwes Trophy for Champion of Champions. The next year the same sow was Interbreed Champion at Devon Show, and this year she was only reserve in the Elwes Trophy, beaten by her daughter, Exfold Princess 54th. This was one of our proudest moments.

Our next good moment was at the Bath & West in 2000, having won the Breed Championship with Princess 54, we went forward to the Interbreed. That year being Millennium, the judging of the Interbreed was different; all the breed judges took part giving a score out of ten, but excluding the breed that they had judged in the classes.

The scores were counted and Exfold Princess 54th was placed 4th as there were over 200 pigs at the show that year it gave us great satisfaction.

Hatfield Show in 2004 is another one of our great moments when another of our Princess gilts, Exfold Princess 122, came good, winning Breed Champion, Best July Gilt and Interbreed Champion.

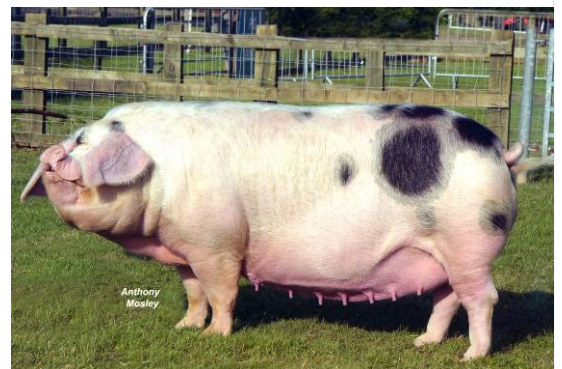
These are just three of the moments in my 25 years of showing, there were many more i.e. the Elwes trophy wins, being Interbreed Champion at the South of England 2 years running, making a total of 4 times in all, and in 2005 winning Interbreed and top price at the BPA Show & Sale and many more. And also joining in the celebrations of other exhibitors when they had won.

Over the years I have had success with several female lines. The Princess family has been the one that I have had most winners from. You will see I have a chart to show you that from one good sow, with careful and skilled breeding and selection, (and a bit of luck), you can over the years produce successful showing pigs.

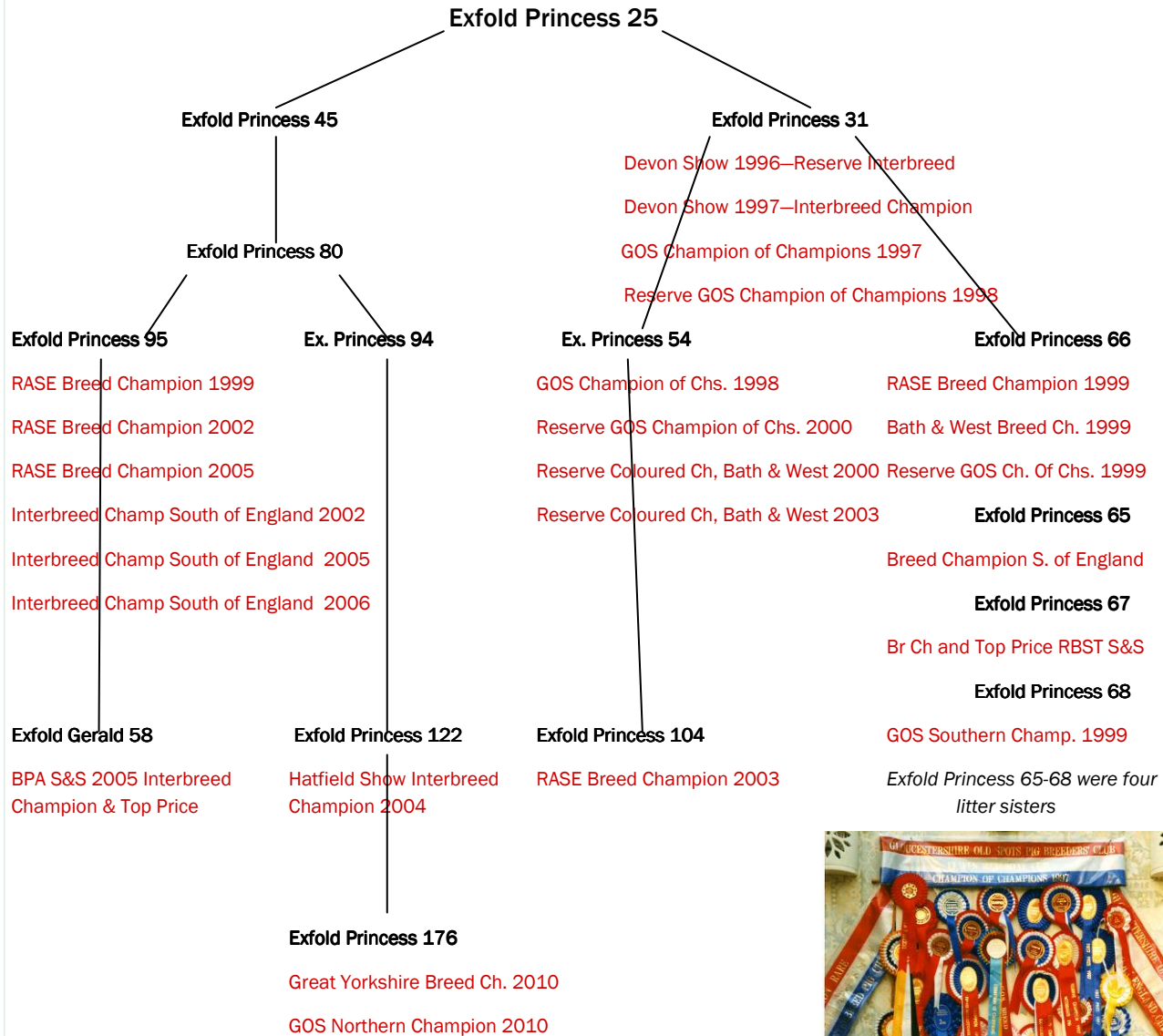
I hope this has made you think YES we will go showing. You will find it to be good fun, in spite of the hard work in the preparation at home and at the show, the rewards will compensate. Not only the prizes you win but the people you meet and the tips and knowledge you gather will make it a great experience and a wonderful chapter in your life's book.



Exfold Princess 67, Breed Champion at the RBST Show & Sale. Photo RBST Library



Exfold Princess 95 RASE Breed Champion 1999, 2002 & 2005. Photo by Anthony Mosley.



Exfold Princess 65-68 were four litter sisters



The 1997 haul of rosettes and trophies—one of the Exfold herd's best years.



The exception that proves the rule, Exfold Josephine 132 Interbreed Champion at Hatfield Show 2004



Miss Leslie loading her Tamworth into the infamous trailer.

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Members' Price: £13.99 each

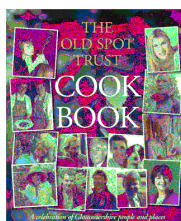
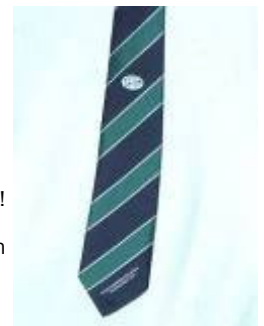
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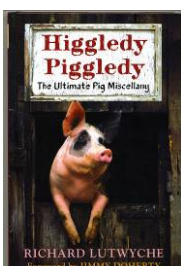
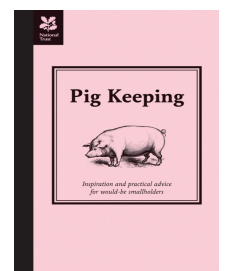


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Check out our online Shop where there are further items including SALE lines offering great value for money.

Advertisements

FOR SALE

We have several litters to be weaned at the end of April and the beginning of May. Boars and gilts available at the moment. Birth notified so could be registered.

Several different lines available so contact me for more information.

Please email GeorginaMathews@oakhousefarm.freeserve.co.uk or phone 01473 747 388 for more details. We are based near Ipswich, Suffolk

GOS weaners available start of April 2011.

Sow is Kinnernie Ellen and boar is Foston Gerald 25. All strong and healthy with fantastic spots. Kept outdoors. Will be wormed, tagged and birth notified before they go. 9 gilts and 1 boar available

Please e mail for further info. (elisabethmccaig@gmail.com)

Maiden gilt born 18-5-10. Dam Winterwood Princess 176, Sire Waterpitdown Rufus 86. Birth notified and will register when sold. Born in a litter of 10/10.

Contact 01769 540409
Sarah Thatcher

FOR SALE

Weaners for sale ready in 3 or 6 weeks. Pedigree, wormed and will be birth notified. £45 ono. Can deliver within reason. Tel 07879677041
Simon and Julie, Church End Pigs, Cheshire

I have two lovely GOS sows that are not in pig. I am happy to give them to anyone who would be prepared to look after them. We live near Edenbridge in Kent. 01342 850526

Well grown Sambo boar with show potential for sale. Born 27/07/10 and showing eagerness to start work. Birth notified and eligible for registration upon transfer.

For more details please contact John or Helen Lightfoot 01452 700510 or email helen.lightfoot@tiscali.co.uk

Gloucestershire

Hi, all of our GOS herd is being sold, due to personal reasons. Gilts, Sows, Boar (proven), weaners, sow & weaners, fatteners. Including housing, troughs, drinkers. More info : 01503 250 000, leave message. Jayne Rogers

Cornwall

FOR SALE

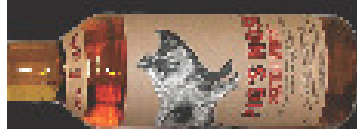
I have a litter of 5 gilts and 5 boars that are currently 2 weeks old. Princess Mary/Gerald. Nicely spotted, some good looking pigs. Will be birth notified. Ready early May. Due to time wasters deposits will secure. Charlotte www.new-close-farm.co.uk

I have a young Patrick boar for sale He is reared to TSG standard and used to an electric fence Has good growth rates untried but ready for work soon. R006982GS Bramblebee Patrick 160 £200- meat boxes and sausages always available Most lines kept

We have a good selection of meat weaners available. From the 28,4 27 in total, deposit secures We have Star Antoinette x Patrick And Princess x Gerald Boars and Gilts. Meat Boars from £45- at 8 weeks.

Wormed and tattooed Maybe an odd one for registration And more due this mth and next mth As well as a selection of breeding stock Based in Wisbech Cambs PE14 Call Paul Day on 01945 772921

Weaners for sale gilts and boars. 2 weeks old at moment ready to go in 6 weeks time. We live in Ashbourne Derbyshire, Please contact Geoff on 07813918747 or 01335 350250



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SPOT PRESS

The Summer edition will be published in July 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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Members' News



Irene Hares from Alveston, South Gloucestershire sent in these photos showing the joys of bottle feeding orphaned pigs. On left, Michael Lockwood shows how to keep three happy at a time while Angela Hares (right) makes one wait its turn.

News from near Banbury, Oxon., where Peter Walker has had a sow farrow two consecutive litters of 20 and 19. The world record (held in the UK) is 37 in a single litter so that is not under threat but has anyone had two such large litters one after the other?

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