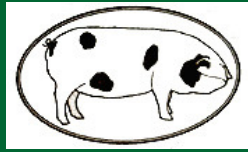


Spot Press



Volume 17 No.2

SUMMER 2007

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Foot & Mouth Ends Summer Activities

The outbreak of Foot & Mouth disease in Surrey caused stress and disruption to most with GOS pigs. Not least of those affected were the Club itself as when the news broke, arrangements were well underway for the Breeds of Gloucestershire Show & Sale at Cirencester.

The outbreak took place between Guildford and Aldershot in Surrey and has since been linked to a leak from the nearby Pirbright Laboratories where the government's Animal Health Institute is a leading expert on FMD working alongside the commercial firm, Merial, who produce virus commercially for vaccination.

Despite fears of outbreaks outside the original Surveillance Zone, it seems at the time of writing that the outbreak was confined to just two farms. A third was slaughtered out but post mortem tests proved that the stock there was not infected.

Show & Sale The Club's

Show & Sale was due to take place on Sat 4th August within the Breeds of Gloucestershire event. The market was open on Friday afternoon for the arrival of Cotswold sheep whose show took place on Friday evening plus Gloucester cattle and GOS pigs who wanted to arrive and settle the night before.

Sheep entries totaled 116 and around four cattle exhibitors unloaded on the Friday including one from Aberdeen who came with a bull in a Land Rover and trailer arriving at 7.00 pm having set off fourteen hours earlier. Not unnaturally, the driver having settled his bull, went off to get his head down.

Although more had been expected, just two GOS vendors arrived that evening. Stephen and Mandy Booth had traveled from the Manchester area and Judith Sims came up from north Somerset.

Your Secretary stayed until almost 8.00 pm when it was



confirmed that no more exhibitors were en route until the morning. At 9.50, a call came in from Jon Pullin of the auctioneers with the devastating news received from Defra that FMD was confirmed in Surrey. His message was simple—get back to the market and get those pigs back on the road.

Luckily I had both sets of mobiles and knew where the Booths and Judith were staying so it was straightforward to get in touch and get them back to the market to get home. I then phoned all the other vendors and officials to make sure that they didn't set off in the morning.

Back at the market, there was a lot of activity but no one could find the light switches. Several of the sheep people were on site and it became quickly apparent that a number of sheep and cattle exhibitors had gone home or off to B&Bs (cont on page 2)

GOS Workshop A Great Success

Saturday 14th April saw a gathering of over 40 delegates at Shuttleworth College in Bedfordshire for an excellent GOS management workshop. Members traveled from Devon, Cheshire, Lancashire and Sussex to be there.

Our thanks to Guy & Melany

Kiddy for organizing and running the event which proved very popular with those attending.

Thanks too to Andrew Robinson, Dave Overton and Stephen Booth for taking various sessions covering aspects such as ear tattooing, selection of pigs, preven-

tive medicine, AI, the new transport rules and Cyclic Breeding which were all covered during the day.

Everyone enjoyed a hot lunch even though the April weather turned out to be more summery than June or July's! A photo round-up appears on p.3.

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FMD Causes Chaos at Sale (Cont from front page)

and in many cases were uncontactable. In some, the organizers relied on vendors seeing the late evening news and coming back of their own accord.

Stephen and Mandy Booth arrived first and we started to load their gilts when the lights came on making life easier. Judith and her partner arrived a few minutes later and between us seven pigs were loaded back into their vehicles and were back on the road before 10.30. One of the cattle organizers works for the AHO and one of the sheep exhibitors had contacted her Trading Standards Officer at home and both said that providing the vehicle was on the road by midnight, the unbroken journey could be completed. Judith arrived back at 11.45, the Booths in the early hours.

I stayed on to help with loading sheep and cattle. Most vendors arrived before the midnight deadline including the driver from Aberdeen who could not possibly set off on a return fourteen hour journey so soon after arriving. A

saviour in the form of Club member, Joe Henson, from the Cotswold Farm Park arrived saying that he could take the bull back there until such time as movements were allowed again.

Overall, it was hugely disappointing that all the work and effort that had gone into organizing the sale had been for nought, that all the catalogues and advertising that had been carefully planned was for nothing. However, the fact that we managed to get the two pig exhibitors (as well as most of the sheep and cattle vendors) back home legally was satisfying. It is difficult to imagine how it could have been done without modern communications equipment such as mobile phones. Although everyone involved hopes that such a thing will never happen again, it demonstrates that in the future, it will be necessary to record everyone's mobile numbers and where they are staying, just in case....

In the meantime, we hope and pray that no more outbreaks take place as restric-

tions on animal movements are slowly eased. The most important, that for stock to slaughter, came off first and allowed producers large and small to send stock off at their prime.

Late shows have either cancelled or gone ahead without livestock. Spare a thought for the organizers of these too and the financial and logistical difficulties they have faced. A couple of September shows are still hoping to go ahead, especially Westmorland although Newbury the same weekend have decided not to have livestock. The BPA Show & Sale has been rescheduled to Sat Oct 6th at Ross-on-Wye in the hope that restrictions may have been lifted by then although Defra are rightly being very cautious about allowing such events.

(The photo on the front page was taken at the successful 2006 Breeds of Gloucestershire Show & Sale).

New Website - www.oldspots.org.uk

By the time you read this, you should start to see some developments on the new website. The words that appeared in the body of the old site and that were recreated on the new one in February this year are the same as first appeared back in the mid-1990s and had not been updated since. Accordingly, as advised in the Spring issue, we are gradually overhauling and developing the site to meet the needs of the current age.

Accordingly you will see new subsections about the GOS pig under BREED and more information about the Club and the benefits of joining. New sections are being written and added on a regular basis and you should check back and refresh your page for the most up-to-date information. Don't forget that it is not only Club members who visit and use the site. It is our shop window on the world and we will use the site to

increase awareness and demand for the GOS pig whilst at the same time educating pig keepers and potential keepers on their responsibilities in taking the GOS forward in the farming world.

Photo Gallery

Regular visitors will have seen the growth of members' photos and some historic ones appearing in the Photo Gallery. Do keep this growing by submitting new pictures for inclusion.

The Forum continues to attract a number of visitors and covers many aspects of pig keeping queries and comments. There are always pigs for sale in the relevant sections and almost as many wanted ads so do make sure that you make the most of the opportunities afforded by the Club by regularly checking the Forum. Remember that if you haven't participated on the Forum since February, you must re-register before

doing so as we were prevented from transferring the Forum from the old site. This is a simple on-line process that takes just a couple of minutes.

List of Members

The List of Members is far from complete and there is no charge for members with pedigree pigs to be listed therein. However, in order to meet the requirements of the Data Protection Act, we must have a signed form giving permission to list your details on the website. This form is available on request from the Secretary and as soon as you complete and return it, your name and contact details will appear in the relevant geographical section.

Since February, there have been well over 25,000 hits on the new website and it is undoubtedly helping in creating demand for quality GOS pigs.

GOS Workshop at Shuttleworth College



Guy Kiddy (centre, blue overalls) welcomes delegates and explains how the College's pig unit operates.



Everyone gathers round to see Andrew Robinson's ear tattooing demonstration



Melany & Guy Kiddy with one of the Balsham sows.



Stephen Booth talks about his regime of using preventative medicines.



Club Chairman, Andrew Robinson, with President, Judith Sims.



Back in the classroom for Guy's talk on the intricacies of AI helped by Andrew. Photos by Richard Lutwyche

2007 Show Results

Newark & Notts 12 & 13 May Judge: Mr Nick Hunkin	Mixed Traditional Breeds	1st Mr M Hicks	Windmill Gerald 25
	July Boar	6th Mr M Hicks	Windmill Patrick 2
	Sept Boar	1st Mr M Hicks	Windmill Sambo 5
		4th Mr S Booth	Chapel Patrick 4
	Sow	1st Mrs M Renshaw	Tennyson Princess Mary 801
		5th Mr M Hicks	Windmill Princess
	GOS July Gilt	1st Mr M Hicks	Windmill Star
		2nd Mr S Booth	Chapel Dolly
		3rd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Dolly 2
		4th Mrs M Renshaw	Tennyson Star Antoinette 825
		5th Miss L Wright	Beckfield Princess Mary 118
		6th Mr M Paddock	Eoves Princess Joan 4
	GOS BREED CHAMPION	Mr M Hicks	WINDMILL STAR
Reserve Breed Champion	Mrs M Renshaw	Tennyson Princess Mary 801	

Devon County 17-19 May Mr Paul Waddington	Senior Boar	1st Mr M Hicks	Wjindmill Gerald 25
		2nd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Rufus 6
		3rd WA, EJ & CA Uglow	Exfold Gerald 68
		4th Mr J Newth	Shepton Rufus 2
	Junior Boar	1st Mr M Hicks	Windmill Gerald 29
		2nd SDF Molineux & Ptnrs	Dunsmore Patrick 26
	Sow	1st WA, EJ & CA Uglow	Endsleigh Bluebell 2416
		2nd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Bluebell 2
		3rd Mr J Newth	Shepton Josephine
		4th WA, EJ & CA Uglow	Endsleigh Countess 2260
	July Gilt	1st Mr M Hicks	Windmill Dolly 2
		2nd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Star
		3rd D Overton & A Nicholls	Exfold Princess 170
		4th Mr J Newth	Shepton Princess 2
	Sep Gilt	1st Mr M Hicks	Windmill Princess
		2nd D Overton & A Nicholls	Exfold Princess 171
		3rd Mr J Newth	Shepton Muriel 4

2007 Show Results (cont)

Devon County (cont)	Jan Gilt	1st Mr M Hicks	Windmill Star Antoinette
		2nd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Princess Mary
		3rd WA, EJ & CA Uglow	Endsleigh Princess Ann 2532
	BREED CHAMPION	Mr M Hicks	WINDMILL DOLLY 2
	Reserve Champion	Mr M Hicks	Windmill Princess

Three Counties 15-16 June Judge: Mr John Herbert	July Boar	1st Mr M Hicks	Windmill Gerald 25
		2nd Kilcot Pedigree Pigs	Kilcot Sambo 16
		3rd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Patrick
	Jan Boar	1st Mr M Hicks	Windmill Gerald
		2nd Mrs P Darvill	Toller Sambo
		3rd Kilcot Pedigree Pigs	Kilcot Sambo 17
	Sow	1st Kilcot Pedigree Pigs	Kilcot Dolly 4
		2nd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Bluebell 2
		3rd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Princess 11
	July Gilt	1st Mr M Hicks	Windmill Dolly
		2nd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Princess Mary
		3rd Mr J Lightfoot	Pebblesford Dolly 31
	Jan Gilt	1st Mr M Hicks	Windmill Princess Mary
		2nd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Star Antoinette
		3rd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Dolly
	BREED CHAMPION	Kilcot Pedigree Pigs	Kilcot Dolly 4
	Reserve Champion	Mr M Hicks	Windmill Gerald

Three Counties Rare Breeds 17 June Judge: Mr Stephen Booth	July Boar	1st Mr M Hicks	Windmill Gerald 25
		2nd Kilcot Pedigree Pigs	Kilcot Sambo 16
		3rd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Patrick
	Jan Boar	1st Mr M Hicks	Windmill Gerald
		2nd Kilcot Pedigree Pigs	Kilcot Sambo 17
		3rd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Patrick
	Sow	1st Kilcot Pedigree Pigs	Kilcot Dolly 4
		2nd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Princess 11
		3rd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Bluebell 2
	July Gilt	1st Mr M Hicks	Windmill Dolly
		2nd Kilcot Red Pigs	Kilcot Dahlia
		3rd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Princess Mary

Show Results 2007 (cont)

Three Counties Rare Breeds (cont)	Jan Gilt	1st Mr M Hicks	Windmill Princess Mary
		2nd Kilcot Ped Pigs	Kilcot Dolly
		3rd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Dolly
	BREED CHAMPION	Mr M Hicks	Windmill Dolly
	Reserve Champion	Kilcot Pedigree Pigs	Kilcot Dolly 4
East of England 15–17 June Judge: Mr Dave Overton	July Boar	1st M J Kiddy & Son	Balsham Sambo 9
	Jan Boar	1st Mrs M Renshaw	Tennyson Sambo 859
		2nd Mrs C Knights	
	Sow	1st Mrs C Knights	
	July Gilt	1st Mrs C Knights	
		2nd M J Kiddy & Son	Balsham Ellen 118
	Sep Gilt	1st Mrs M Renshaw	Tennyson Princess Mary
		2nd M J Kiddy & Son	Balsham Star 2
	Jan Gilt	1st Mrs M Renshaw	Tennyson Star 867
		2nd Mrs C Knights	
		3rd Mrs M Renshaw	Tennyson Star 865
	BREED CHAMPION	M J Kiddy & Son	BALSHAM SAMBO 9
	Reserve Champion	Mrs M Renshaw	Tennyson Princess Mary
	Cheshire County 19–20 June Judge: Mr Martin Snell	Senior Boar	1st SJ & AL Booth
		2nd Mr & Mrs SG Milner	Tennyson Sambo 811
Jan Boar		1st SJ & AL Booth	Chapel Patrick 5
July Gilt		1st SJ & AL Booth	Chapel Dolly
		2nd Cheshire County Council	Honeycomb Princess Ann 285
		3rd SJ & AL Booth	Chapel Dolly 2
Jan Gilt		1st Mrs J Kempson	Boarsgreave Dahlia 26
		2nd SJ & AL Booth	Chapel Dolly 6
		3rd Ms C Barr	Asghyll Princess Ann
BREED CHAMPION		SJ & AL Booth	CHAPEL DOLLY
Reserve Champion	Cheshire County Council	Honeycomb Princess Ann 285	

Show Results 2007 (cont)

Royal Show	Senior Boar	1st Mr M Hicks	Windmill Gerald 26
1-4 July		2nd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Rufus 10
Judge: Mr Andrew Robinson	Jan Boar	1st Mrs J A Sims	Winterwood Rufus 2
		2nd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Gerald 29
		3rd SJ & AL Booth	Chapel Patrick 5
	Sow	1st Mr M Hicks	Windmill Princess 11
		2nd Mr W Newth	Shepton Muriel 2
		3rd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Bluebell 2
	July Gilt	1st Mr M Hicks	Windmill Dolly
		2nd SJ & AL Booth	Chapel Dolly 2
		3rd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Star 13
	Sep Gilt	1st Mr M Hicks	Windmill Princess 23
		2nd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Princess Mary 19
		3rd SJ & AL Booth	Chapel Star 8
	Jan Gilt	1st Mr M Hicks	Windmill Dolly 2
		2nd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Princess Mary 20
		3rd Mrs J A Sims	Winterwood Princess 139
	BREED CHAMPION	Mr M Hicks	WINDMILL PRINCESS 11
	Reserve Champion	Mr M Hicks	Windmill Dolly 2
Great Yorkshire Show	Senior Boar	1st Mr M Hicks	Windmill Gerald 26
10-12 July		2nd MJ Kiddy & Son	Balsham Sambo 9
Judge: Mrs Judith Sims	Jan Boar	1st SJ & AL Booth	Chapel Patrick 5
		2nd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Gerald 29
		3rd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Gerald 30
	Sow	1st Mr M Hicks	Windmill Bluebell 2
		2nd Mr J Newth	Shepton Muriel 2
		3rd Mrs M Renshaw	Tennyson Star Antoinette 755
	July Gilt	1st SJ & AL Booth	Chapel Dolly
		2nd Mr M Hicks	Windmill Dolly
		3rd Mrs J Gracey	Forthill Ellen 168
	BREED CHAMPION	Mr M Hicks	WINDMILL BLUEBELL 2
	Reserve Champion	SJ & AL Booth	Chapel Dolly

Championships

Champion of Champions

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

The final was carried on in the face of some major challenges for all concerned. The Royal Show was subject to torrential and continual rain to the extent that four wheel drives were having to be towed in and out of the car park and lesser vehicles were turned away by the police. The Champion of Champions was due to be judged on the last day but an announcement was made on the Tuesday lunchtime that following advice from the police and Health & Safety, the show would close a day early. Viki Mills gamely agreed to judge at an hour's notice. Guy Kiddy who had expected to arrive the following morning was phoned and told not to bother. The judging rings were a bog after two and a half days of continuous use. Despite all this, the Champion of Champions was deservedly won by Malcolm & Sue Hicks with **WINDMILL DOLLY** and the Reserve Champion of Champions was awarded to Stephen & Mandy Booth with Chapel Dolly.



Malcolm Hicks with Windmill Dolly as judged by Viki Mills in a rare moment of sunshine. Photo by Judith Sims.

GOSPBC Southern Championships for the Sherriff Trophy and Sash & Rosette

Note that the Newbury Show Society has decided not to have livestock at this year's show and therefore the Southern Championships will NOT be held there this year. Investigations are underway to see if another venue may be forthcoming but so late in the season, this seems unlikely.

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

Coming so soon after the Royal Show, the finals at the Great Yorkshire were also affected by the weather but despite much rain in the run up, most of the judging went ahead in fair conditions. Again, Malcolm and Sue Hicks were unbeatable this year and they won both the trophy and the runners-up prize. The Northern Championships were won by Malcolm and Sue Hicks with **WINDMILL DOLLY** with Windmill Princess 11 the runner-up. The Club is grateful to William Gregory for judging this after the appointed judge, Vaughan Byrne, pulled out with a flooded home in Northern Ireland.

The Farmer's Lot

After a summer that's thrown up floods for many, Foot & Mouth and its attendant restrictions quickly followed by rocketing feed prices, we reprint this old verse in acknowledgement of the difficulties faced in farming today:

**A farmer knocked at the pearly gate,
His face was scarred and old;
He stood before the Man of Fate
For admission to the fold.**

**"What have you done", St Peter asked,
"To gain admission here?"
"I've been a farmer, Sir," he said,
"For many and many a year."**

**The pearly gate swung open wide,
As St Peter touched the bell;
"Come in," he said, "and choose your harp,
You've had your share of hell!"**

GOSPBC Take on Tesco—Update

Following the Spring edition of *Spot Press* great progress has been made. Firstly, the appeal got off to a wonderful start when Founder Members, Hunter & Tillie Brown from New York made a most generous donation of \$4,000. Sadly, the exchange rate was at its lowest point just then but even so it translated into a wonderful £2,000 which has ensured that the work at Bristol University could proceed and the Club still had sufficient funds to maintain its normal activities. A full list of donors to date follows in this section. We are most grateful to all of you who have donated. **The appeal is still running and we would welcome any donations members can make.**

WORK BEGINS

With funding secured from Defra, the Traditional Breeds Meat Marketing Co Ltd., the RBST and the Club itself, work began on the eating quality tests at Bristol University under the supervision of Professor Jeff Wood, one of the leading scientists in the field. Loin chops were secured through the TBMM Co from different suppliers over a number of weeks and Bristol purchased similar quantities of standard (i.e. not Budget or Best ranges) chops from two different supermarkets in the area. All the taste testing has been completed now but further analysis on fatty acids etc is ongoing although they should be complete by the end of August and a report should be forthcoming shortly thereafter.

TV COVERAGE

In July, the Club was contacted by BBC television who were recording a new series of programmes entitled 'Jimmy's Heroes', a spin off of the successful 'Jimmy's Farm'. Apparently a programme from the north of England was dealing with pigs and the researcher wanted proof of the difference in eating quality between traditional breeds and commercial ones. To cut a long story short, we ended up filming a dummy session at the University's taste laboratories (the real taste tests had been completed by then and anyway the delays caused by filming would have negated the results anyway) which should be screened next summer. Here are some photos of the filming.



Photos by
Richard
Lutwyche



Clockwise from top left—1. Filming Geoff Nute who is in charge of the taste panels being interviewed by the presenter 2. The trained taste panel in action. The red lights are used to prevent bias in terms of colour and appearance. 3. The chops are cooked precisely based on a core temperature of 72.5°C. They are cooked on foil to ensure that there is no contamination from meat previously cooked on the griddle. 4. The cookery staff constantly monitor temperatures and turn the chops every three minutes.

Donors to the Appeal Fund in alphabetical order:

Mr & Mrs Hunter Brown; Mr & Mrs R I Burns; Mr Ian Kealey; Miss Georgina Matthews; Dr S W Snaith;

Mr & Mrs Del Tapping; Mr William Walker.

Feeding Dry Sows by Nick Hargrave

In the following article, we examine the question of feeding the dry sow, and the reasons behind why it is important to get it right.

Farrowing success and a profitable weaned litter are dependant on how the sow has been fed and managed in the previous parity. We have a target to bring the farrowing sow in at around 3.5 to 4 maximum as a condition score. Scoring has a range of from 1 = emaciated, to 5 = grossly overfat. Both ends of the spectrum are to be avoided for obvious reasons ; a score of 1 or 2 is associated with thin sow syndrome whereby the sow loses body condition due to inadequate feed quality or quantity/excessive parasitic burdens/poor (usually cold) housing conditions. Luckily, amongst GOS breeders, most of whom are keeping their pigs for not solely financial reasons, thin sows a not a major problem, but they can and do occur from time to time, particularly when a large litter is produced to a sow disposed to milking her piglets well. More problematic is the sow coming to farrow down in an over-fat condition - we buy and keep GOS because we like them and like to look after them, but we do our sow no favours if she farrows down looking like a beached whale. Farrowing an overweight sow will lead to higher incidences of udder oedema/mastitis, piglet overlays (squished piglet), poor sow appetite in lactation, locomotion problems, etc. For practical purposes, condition score 3 is described as when the sow's backbone is just able to be detected with firm pressure, and the sows ribcage is not visible.



Dry sows enjoying grazing at Liz Best's Gloucestershire home.

On weaning the sow, you have just four or five days to prepare for service. This is not a time for putting on weight that has been lost during lactation, but a time to ensure that the sow comes on heat, and produces sufficient eggs at service for a successful number to be fertilized. To get the best out of your sow, she needs to be weaned in reasonable condition. Hopefully, she will have had a decent amount of piglets to suckle, and will be in fit, lean-ish condition. Some people withhold feed for 24 hours at weaning to help dry-off the sow, but I feel that as long as you are weaning at beyond 5 weeks old, it is more beneficial to give the sow as much as she will eat, i.e. up to 6 and a half kg's max per day up until service.

Post service, gestation can be generally divided up into three equal portions. The first third of pregnancy is important for embryo establishment, and in practice means that the sow be kept on a moderate feed regime – overfeeding at this time, even for a fairly thin sow can have an adverse effect on numbers born. From about day 35 to day 70, look at the condition of your sow and regulate feed accordingly. This is the most opportune period to put a few kilos on a lean sow, or just cut back a sow that is heading for anything over condition score 4. The final third of pregnancy is important for piglet growth and mammary development. A sow carrying 12 or more piglets will require sufficient rations for her own maintenance, plus enough for the piglets, and also have reserves to be able to adequately suckle them when they are born. In real terms then, throughout pregnancy, we are looking to be feeding not less than 2.5 kgs and not more than 4.5 kgs per sow per day.

The majority of GOS keepers buy-in a ready formulated compound feed in either pelleted form, or as a meal, but if you are growing your own cereals, it is quite acceptable to feed milled barley (and sometimes a percentage wheat) plus a “balancer” concentrate mixed with it. If mixing feed, you must be registered with your local authority as such, and it would be advisable to take professional advice from a nutritionist (all feed compounders have one) as to the exact proportion of cereal to compound feed. Meal can be fed wet or dry, depending on preference; most outdoor units prefer to feed pelleted feed – usually large nuts/cobs/rolls that can be eaten-up cleanly by the sows. Generally speaking, dry sow feeds tend to be made at 14 to 15 percentage protein, and lactation feeds at 16 to 17 percent protein, though many breeders successfully feed their breeding herds on a multipurpose meal or nut formulated to around 15.5 % protein – the “Sow and Weaner Meal”

Competition from other sows in a group is bound to have an effect on feed consumption and intake. There is always bound to be a strong leader in any group of sows who will normally take the lion's share of the feed, but if you remove this sow, she will just be replaced by the next most dominant sow in the group. If possible, feed your sows separately if you have just a few, or at least feed the thinnest and most needy one in a separate pen for the most effective use of the feed.

Just as with lactating sows, water intake is essential for the dry sow. If feeding wet meal, it will still be necessary to give provision for clean water at all times of the day. Hot weather obviously increases water requirements, and care should be taken in winter that when water pipes become frozen, alternative arrangements are made.

Many commercial units will feed their sows just once a day, but there is no reason why you shouldn't feed your pigs twice. I have never ever fed any of my own pigs less than twice a day – it gives me a chance to monitor them, and I just feel that it breaks their day, gives them reason to take exercise, and take a drink as well. The amount of fibre in the feed will dictate how full a sow feels, and if she is well bedded, she can pick amongst the straw to fill herself up. Don't make the mistake that she will derive any *nutritional* benefit – straw has very little feed value, but it will keep your pig satisfied and content.

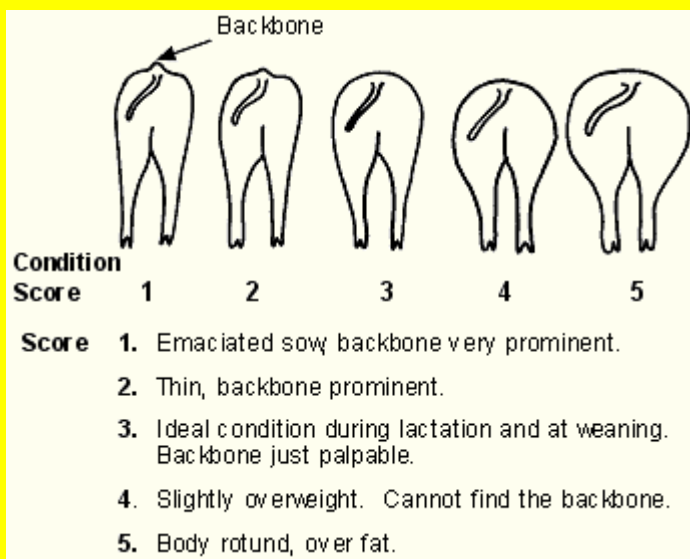
Finally, a reminder not to save scraps for your pig. It would only take a house guest or other family member to inadvertently add a half eaten pork pie to what they thought was the kitchen waste bag for an outbreak of a disease of Swine Fever or Foot and Mouth Disease to occur. As a breed, we don't want to risk being accused of any negligence in this area – there are many commercial producers that view rare breed enthusiasts as a threat to their livelihoods !

Feeding Dry Sows (cont)

Body Condition Scoring

Body Condition Scoring				
Score Number	Condition	Description	Shape of body	
5	Overfat	Hips and backbone heavily covered	Bulbous	
4	Fat	Hips and backbone cannot be felt	Tending to bulge	
3.5	Good condition	Hips and backbone only felt with difficulty	Tube shape	
3	Normal	Hips and backbone only felt with firm palm pressure	Tube shaped	
2.5	Somewhat thin	Hips and backbone felt without palm pressure	Tube shaped but flat (slab) sides	
2	Thin	Hips and backbone noticeable and easily felt	Ribs and spine can be felt	
1	Emaciated	Hips and backbone visible	Bone structure apparent (ribs and backbone)	

Condition scores from left to right, 1: 2: 3: 4: 5



From: *Managing Pig Health and the Treatment of Disease*

Club News

The Primrose Bloodline

Newcomers to the breed may be unaware of the following which applies to everyone breeding from a Primrose female (note NOT the Primrose prefix but the Bloodline).

The problem is not with Primrose pigs themselves but with a sex-linked gene which apparently affects male offspring of Primrose sows. Such males, when mated to another female, throw a high percentage of offspring with split skulls. Accordingly, ALL MALE PIG-LETS OUT OF PRIMROSE SOWS SHOULD BE FATTENED FOR MEAT AND NEVER BRED FROM.

There is no other problem with Primrose sows and they generally make good mothers and their gilts are fine so if you are prepared to act responsibly with regard to the male offspring, you should have no qualms about buying a Primrose.

Bloodlines

We often see on the Forum section of the web pages that someone is looking for, say, a new boar, but that it cannot be a Gerald, for example. Pedigree pigs are fairly unique among livestock in retaining the bloodline or family names. Just because you've been using one particular line, doesn't mean that another of that line is necessarily going to be closely related. The GOS breed is relatively large nowadays and many of the lines are quite diverse.

Remember too that at every mating, you are introducing new genes so that a Star female will have, say, Muriel and Sambo genes from her sire's side and that a generation back there would be others too. In other words, every bloodline is a hotchpotch of seemingly unrelated pigs from most of the breed's bloodlines. The thing to remember is not to get too hung up about the bloodline. Use the BPA on line Herd Book facility (<http://www.britishpigs.org.uk/pedigree.htm>) to check the pedigrees of any pigs that you are considering. You will be surprised how rarely you will find common ancestors with your own pigs.

Club Awards Honorary Memberships

The Club has always had a policy of recognising significant contributions to the wellbeing of the breed and Honorary Life Memberships have been awarded to Messrs John Green, Jim Sherriff, Bart Shields, Gordon Cullimore, Ray Sims, George Styles and Andrew Robinson. Sadly, all bar the last two listed have died in recent years and at the last committee meeting in July it was unanimously agreed to award a further four Honorary Memberships.

The recipients are Mr & Mrs Hunter Brown, Mrs Viki Mills, Mr David Overton and Mrs Anne Petch.

Viki Mills and Anne Petch were significant breeders and promoters of GOS and other rare breeds in the years following the establishment of the RBST in 1973. Both helped to revive the GOS classes at some of the leading shows and organised workshops and other events to create interest in the breed. They also helped to establish the RBST's annual bloodline surveys to give early warning to dangers ahead. Viki Mills still keeps pigs (but not GOS) at her Devon home and is Chairman of the BPA Traditional Breeds committee. Anne Petch now concentrates on her business, Heal Farm Meats based in Devon.

Dave Overton, a past Chairman of the Club, began keeping pedigree GOS 25 years ago. His Exfold herd, which practices Cyclic Breeding, has been among the leading herds for most of that period winning all significant prizes many times over. Exfold blood will be found in the pedigrees of all the top pigs in the UK.

Hunter & Tillie Brown were mentioned elsewhere for their magnificent donation to our Fighting Fund. Living in New York, they do not keep pigs but were founder members of the Club having been introduced to GOS pigs when visiting the Three Counties Show in the early 1990s. They gave another significant donation to allow the publication of Rare Breed Pig Keeping and have followed the work of the Club and the progress of the breed closely.

They don't advertise pig grub like this any more. This beautifully painted scene advertising Bibby's appeared in the 1930s



Members' Advertisements

FOR SALE

Weaners for Sale Cambs/ Essex/Herts Border

Pedigree GOS weaners born 9th August. Rufus / Star.
Ready at 8 weeks. Outdoor bred & reared.
Call Simon / Amanda 07810 550954 or 01763 209174

Young Boar For Sale

I have an unproven but ready to work rufus boar just 8 months old (Dec 2006 born). Non-cyclically bred from my own Rufus & Star.

He is birth notified and I was finishing him for meat, but I have probably missed the safe use by at 8 months !!

He is showing signs of being a good worker with a keen eye for any gilts coming into season, and it is for this reason that I am considering offering him as a registered boar.
All my pigs are outdoors and electric fence trained.

I am looking for a sensible offer and collection ASAP when movements are allowed again. Please call 07810 550954 any-time to discuss. We are in North Herts / South Cambs.

I have pictures available to email.
Simon Mounteney

FOR SALE

Working Boar For Sale

As and when animal movements are re-instated I've a 3 year old boar for sale, Patrick line. He's a fantastic pig, great temperament and has always fulfilled his role. Selling due to herd reduction.

Contact Alex: 07947 716594 or alexspring@hotmail.com

Weaners for Sale

I have 7 weaners which will be ready to go on 11th August, 07. RG26 post code North Hampshire. All vaccinated (erysipelas) and looking forward to pastures new. Tel: 0777 44 33 33 2 Jane Fox

Weaners for Sale

GOS West Sussex Out of our Gerald Dam Dolly will be B/ noted ready 20th Aug £45 each call 07920 108106 Susan Mconville

Weaner Boars for Sale

I have 4 boar weaners for sale available now aged 15 weeks. All enquiries to me on 01449 614784 or send me a message through the forum.

James Tucker
High Green Farm
Suffolk

WANTED

Boar Wanted NE Scotland

We would like to purchase a GOS boar (when current restrictions are lifted) from either Patrick or Rufus line and aged 9-12 months.

We live halfway between Inverness and Aberdeen.

John and Chris NURSER-STEPHENS.

tel: 01542 850284

Organic Weaners in Devon

Does anyone have an organic herd and have weaners for sale now or at other times of the year. Or do you know any organic registered herds around this area.

We are just entering conversion with the Soil Association and are looking for a source of organic stock - fattening weaners for now but in future probably breeding stock. We are near Tiverton/ Crediton and would travel reasonable distances.

Sarah

Rare & Traditional Breeds
www.minchingdown.co.uk



whisky and wines @ Arkwrights

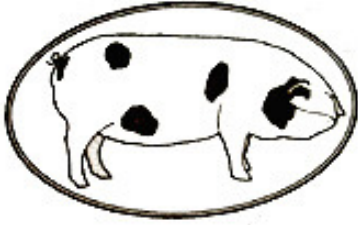
You've got the meat now get the drink!

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

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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 donations to GOSPBC c/o Mr S Booth, Broadoak Farm, Chapel Lane, Warburton, Lymm, Cheshire, WA13 9TY.

All donors will be acknowledged in *SPOT PRESS*.

SPOT PRESS

The Autumn edition will be published in October/November and we invite contributions and suggestions as to what you would like to be included.

Edited by Richard Lutwyche

We thank those contributors listed within these pages.

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

What do you get from membership of the Club?

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

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

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

Boars at AI

The following boars are standing at Deerpark AI Centre and semen is available to order by phoning 028 7938 6287. To check the pedigrees, go to the online herdbook at www.britishpigs.org.uk and type in the registered number for each and then select 'Pedigree'

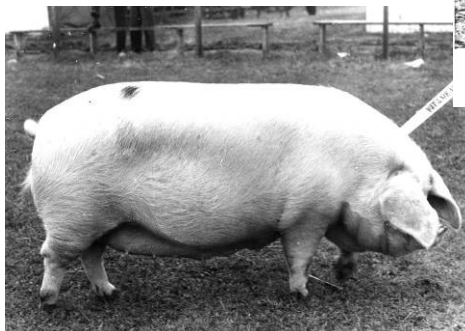
R001153GS Alsa Gerald 451

R001685GS Greenan Rufus 4

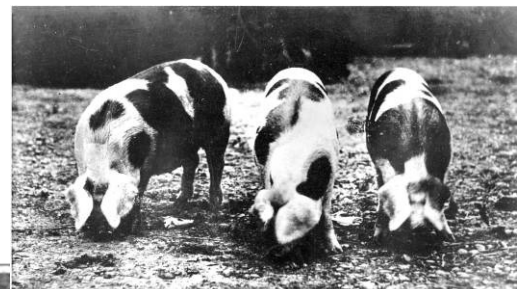
SSG/80 Whinneyhill Sambo 3

GOS Breed Centenary—Your Help is Needed

The Club committee have had preliminary discussions about ways of celebrating the breed's centenary in 2013. One project will be to publish a book on the breed's history and to this end we invite members to submit any historical information they may have be it photographic, anecdotal, published or what have you. Any photographs, negatives or slides will be copied and returned to the person who made the loan. We are especially interested in any early cine film showing GOS pigs whether at shows, sales or on the farm. We are already building an archive of photographic material and intend to show this in a special section on the new website in due course. A couple of examples are shown below.



Frampton Heather bred by Vic Withers



Nashes Blossom 1, 2 & 3 born 2 January 1922. Second at the Royal Show, Cambridge, 2nd & 3rd at Herts County Show and 1st at Tring Show for Jim Sherriff.