CYMDEITHAS DEFAID MYNYDD CYMREIG BALWEN
BALWEN WELSH MOUNTAIN SHEEP SOCIETY
1 Holt Hall Cottage, Atherstone Road, Coleshill, B46 2NA
TELEPHONE 07989416335
EMAIL cows@hotmail.co.uk
www.balwensheepsociety.com

Newsletter September 2026.

Hello all.

It does not seem like several months since I last sat down to write a newsletter a lot has happened in the time since that last news letter. We held an EOAGM as advertised on 9th of August where Rhian Thomas was appointed to the role of assistant treasurer and a motion was passed to delegate to the committee the role of devising a job description and interviewing any applicants to the role of secretary so watch this space for the advertisement.

As a reminder I will be taking on responsibility for questions, admin and queries until a secretary is appointed in due course.

National show, There was a fantastic turn out of sheep to the National Show at Rhandirmwyn despite horrendously wet weather on the day. Although looking how close the wild fire had come to the show site and village I think the locals were glad of the rain.

Champion on the day went to Zahvia Paewai Jones with Carys Morgan taking the reserve championship.

Thank you to Martin and Anne Groucott who stepped into judging with Nikki Owen having been taken ill only a few days before the show. I would like to wish Nikki a speedy recovery.

Anne was a big hit with our young handlers when she produced a basket of excellent goodies for them all.

A lot of work went into this show and I would like to thank Huw Williams, Mr Price Jones and Mair Williams for all the work they have put into making this national show a success. An extra special thanks is due to Rhian Thomas who helped me no end in the run up the show making sure that all the entries were sent over to the show secretary.

Awards Dinner, I am very pleased to announce that we will be this year holding our awards dinner on 17/10/2026 at the White Hart in Llandeilo. This will be slightly different to recent years as it will be an evening function starting at 6pm.

It will include a two course carvery style meal and I am pleased to be able to tell you that Matty the owner of the White Hart will be putting local Balwen lamb on the menu not only of our meal but also on the pubs specials board that week. This is a really important step for us as a breed. Matty is a fantastic advocate for welsh farming and local food it is important that we as a society now give back

to such a good supporter. If we can get our quality lamb in front of chefs like this we can begin to build a market for the amazing quality meat that is Balwen lamb.

There will be space for children's tables there will also be a DJ as provided by Matty for us. For those that wish to socialise in more peaceful surroundings there will also be a side room with comfortable chairs for you to enjoy each other's company. I am really looking forwards to this evening and I hope that it will be supported very well.

There is accommodation available at the White Hart at a discounted rate but please ensure you tell the staff that you are attending the Balwen awards dinner. More information on this will be available in July.

Tickets for the meal will cost £25 for Adults and children over 11. £13 for children under 11 with an ice cream pudding only.

Book tickets through Adam cows@hotmail.co.uk, or whatsapp/text message 07989416335 its easier to keep track of when I am busy if I have them in writing. Could you please include your name and flock name please. Also advise me of any dietary requirements when booking please.

We are missing a society cup the Tyderi challenge cup for the second highest points in the show points competition has still not been returned to the society. If you could all have a look for it please.

Official Society show and sale, the society show and sale took place at Monmouthshire Livestock Centre 19th September. Our judges Mr Ken Jones, Helidon flock. Junior Judges Master Will Rees and Miss Cadi-Haf Rees, Erw-Wastad flock picked through some very strong classes to place Lowri and Alun Davies champion with there aged ewe with Will Thomas in reserve with his ram lamb.

The sale saw some roaring trade with reserve champion ram lam selling to Carri Haf Harries for 1250gns and a new breed record for a ram lamb. We think a shearling ewe record may have been set at 800gns for a ewe from Zavhia Paewai Jones which sold to Judge Ken Jones. If anyone can shed any light on previous breed records please do drop me an email.

The list of prices is as follows

Class	Number Sold	Top (gns)	Average (£)
Aged Ewes	19	400	£153.91
Yearling Ewe	13	800	£279.46
Ewe Lamb	52	600	£201.01
Ram Lamb	13	1250	£320.46
Yearling Ram	9	560	£299.83
Aged Ram	10	900	£271.95

Membership renewals, I need to remind our members that our membership renewal is due on the 1st January each year we know that Christmas is often an expensive time so we allow for renewals to take

place until the 31st March. We are only a small society and it is important for the running of the society that memberships are paid on time. For members that are attending the Royal Welsh Show you must be a fully signed up member by the 1st April to be eligible to attend the show, this rule will be strictly enforced in 2027 due to the competition now of getting pens it has been agreed at committee that it is not fair for late payers to be left on the list. If you have any questions on your membership please contact Mair or myself to assist you with how to renew.

Inspections, below is a list of the remaining inspections and who to contact to book your sheep in. it was agreed at the AGM in 2026 that ram lambs can now be inspected at the June inspection in the year following birth. It was the rule that they always had to be inspected by the 31st December in their year of birth.

I must remind you all NOT to present sheep with ORF or C.O.D.D these are infectious disease and it is not fair on your inspectors or other breeders to do so. Also please do not bring sheep to any inspection with dirty feet. All inspectors have the option to refuse to inspect sheep if any of the above are an issue. Any animal presented at inspection without an EID tag installed will also be refused.

For our newer members please ensure you have ALL your information with you we need dam and sire information for all animals to be registered at the point of registration. These are the Balwen numbers from the white ear tags not the UK numbers. **Without this information we cannot register any animals**. There is a blank form available laid out to best suit the people on inspection day to complete the paper work as easily and efficiently as possible. This is the best way to prevent mistakes and problems. We request a copy of this form be left with the society. Please email me to request a copy of this.

You also need your tags these are rototags available from Daltons Tags. You need have them printed on the female side only, to include your UK number and animal number along with your flock prefix.

It helps immensely when booking in for inspections if you could give us a number of lambs you intend to bring and book in at least two days before inspections.

I am happy to talk through any questions about registrations that members may have especially our newer members I know it can be daunting to go to your first registration.

The remaining inspections for 2026 are as follows;

Date	Venue	Booking in details
07/11/2026	Rhayader	Adam 07989416335

For other inspections outside of Wales please contact our Field Officer Chris Lewis 07792232758 for more information.

Royal Welsh Show, this years Royal Welsh show was masked with disappointment and really poor performance of the RWAS entry system. This left many regulars out of the show as they were unable

to gain a place at the show. An email refusing sponsorship at the Winter Fair on the grounds of the poor performance of their system and there being so many empty pens in the sheds from sheep not forwards seemed to hit the spot with society but as they dropped at Gwynne Davies door I feel we will get no further with any complaints we make. I have personally spoken to Gwynne and explained that email was not directed at himself or Lynda as they work hard and do an excellent job all with out pay. Gwynne told me that he had managed to get more Balwen entries off the wait list than any other breed.

Our gathering on Monday night was extremely well supported despite us not having so many regular attendees as normal and we ran out of food in record quick time. It as enjoyable evening.

Champion of the section was Zavhia Paewai Jones with Lowri and Alun Davies standing reserve champion and winning the group of three.

Melton Mowbray Show and Sale, this years section in the Melton Mowbray show and sale was kindly judged by Mr Jason Whybrow, an excellent shearling ram from Jordan Stone was champion with Lyn Arrowsmith taking reserve champion.

Trade was again this year sticky through out the sale with many breeds not selling or failing to meet upsets. I would be interested in hearing the views of members on this section at this sale we have been back at the Melton sale with a Balwen section for three years now of which I have sponsored two of those three. It is getting more expensive for us to run a section there with entry fees going up also this added to a very poor clearance rate will make it likely we need to pull the section at this sale which is a shame as many new keepers have come in the last three years from this sale. It is however an excellent site for a registration in England that is proving to be very popular. Would another multi breed sale in the Midlands be more suitable?

Thank you to all our members who have taken their sheep out this summer to promote our breed and well done to all of you that have had success in the show ring.

I hope to catch up with you all soon, Adam Lynch Chairman.