

VBSSUK NEWSLETTER

Tuesday, 14th April 2020

Dear VBSSUK Member,

I hope that this finds you safe and well in these unprecedented times that we are experiencing.

Blacknose Beauties 2020 Show & Sale

As you will already be aware, the committee has decided to cancel the Blacknose Beauties 2020 Show & Sale. This was decided with heavy hearts from around the table, unfortunately a decision that is ultimately out of our hands. We need to support government guidelines in the hope to reduce the impact of Covid-19. Therefore, I hope you will join me in my thinking that we make Blacknose Beauties 2021 bigger and better and I look forward to seeing everyone in better times.

Blacknose Beauties 2021 Show & Sale

Save the Date: Friday 20th & Saturday 21st August 2021, H&H Borderway Mart, Carlisle, CA21 2RS

Other UK Show & Event Cancellations

Keep track of the status of events and shows with Blacknose classes via the VBSSUK website: <http://valaisblacknosesheepsociety.co.uk/shows-events-2020/>

Website Improvements

During the next couple of months work will be undertaken to improve certain areas of the VBSSUK website. This will include the Member Area, Memberships and Renewals. The Member Area will be developed to feature a user-friendly interface to help enhance navigation. Memberships and Renewals will be set up to automatically renew each year to minimise administration overhead and to ensure members do not miss out on communications.

Lamb Registrations

A reminder that the registration letter for 2020 born lambs is ‘H’.

Grassroots Communication – Ear Tags

You should have received a communication from Grassroots surrounding ear tags which would like to reiterate.

Ear tags should not be removed. The EID tag is the unique identifier which should remain with the animal throughout its life and identifies the holding on which it was born.

If a sheep loses its tags, it may be re-tagged but this should be recorded in your ministry movement book and registry notified.

Online Shop

Keep an eye on the VBSSUK online shop for new items being added over the coming months. These will of course be shared on social media when they arrive.

VBSSUK Calendar

Kirsty Russell will be working on the 2021 VBSSUK calendar. Requests will be made via social media to share your wonderful photos of your much-loved sheep and a vote will be taken on those which will feature in the calendar. If you would like to submit a photo please send to: [info@valaisblacknosesheepsociety.co.uk](mailto:info@valaisblacknosesheepsociety.co.uk)

25% of calendar sales will be donated to RABI (Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution) charity. Thanks to Kirsty for volunteering to produce this year’s calendar.

Members

Currently the number of VBSSUK members stands at 118 members. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support each year and extend a warm welcome to our new members.

Memberships

We will introduce a new membership level in order to better accommodate our junior members. Memberships will be as follows:

Gold (Breeder Membership): £130 / £100

Silver (Non-Breeder Membership): £100 / £80

Bronze (18-21 Years of Age): £50

Junior (18 & Under): £30

Membership Renewals

If you haven’t already renewed its not too late, we are still accepting membership renewals. If you would like to renew, payments can be made via bank transfer, details are:

Bank Account: 40589568  
Sort Code: 772918

Reference: Your VBSSUK membership number

If you have any queries at all please contact us at [info@valaisblacknosesheepsociety.co.uk](mailto:info@valaisblacknosesheepsociety.co.uk)

Please note if you have not renewed before 30th April then your details will be removed from the VBSSUK Breeder Map and access to VBSSUK related forum groups.

AGM

As we will not be able to hold the AGM at our usual slot during Blacknose Beauties, a revised date will be communicated as soon as possible. With the geographical spread of our members and considering the uncertainties around COVID-19, I propose that the AGM be held via conference call. Details to follow.

Emails from VBSSUK

Many of our communications are sent via email; however, it has come to our attention that some of our emails are automatically directed to spam folders. Therefore, please check your spam or junk folders for any emails that may have been delivered there.

VBSSUK Workshop

The VBSSUK workshop has had a hugely positive response and 53 places were booked. Unfortunately, the workshop has now been postponed and will be rescheduled as soon as possible when government guidelines have relaxed. If you booked a place you will automatically be booked on to the revised date. If you are unable to attend the revised date and have made a payment, you will be issued a full refund.

Thank you to Henry & Emily Duncan for offering to be the host farm for the workshop.

VBSSUK Facebook Members Forum

We recognise that our members may have many questions in general and importantly, surrounding livestock during these uncertain times. We encourage you all to utilise the forum as your support network. Please feel free to share your thoughts, concerns or simply as a social channel to remain connected to your fellow members.

Valais Blacknose Sheep Available for Sale in the UK

In addition to the For Sale & Wanted section on the VBSSUK website, we have recently launched a Facebook page (Valais Blacknose Sheep Society UK – Sheep Availability) focusing on pedigree Blacknose sheep available for sale in the UK.

Please feel free to utilise both resources to advertise stock you have available for sale. If you would like to advertise on the VBSSUK website please email photos and details to [info@valaisblacknosesheepsociety.co.uk](mailto:info@valaisblacknosesheepsociety.co.uk) and we will post on your behalf.

Yours Sincerely

Raymond Irvine

VBSSUK Chairman

Valais Blacknose Sheep Society UK

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Website: [http://valaisblacknosesheepsociety.co.uk](http://valaisblacknosesheepsociety.co.uk/)

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Instagram: www.instagram.com/valaisblacknosesheep