

Minutes of: South Wales & Borders Dutch Spotted Group – 6th December 2023

Proposed name: South Wales & Borders Dutch Spotted Group (SWBDS)

Inaugural meeting of the South Wales & Borders Dutch Spotted Breeders Group was held on 6th December 2023 at Fedw equestrian Centre, Powys.

13 people present representing 10 different flocks.

Name	Flock Name and no.
William Workman (WW)	Celtic 246
Rhys & Lisa James (LJ)	Pentan 750
Tracey & Aubrey Evans	Beacons 70
T Garlick & C Lovering	Roebuck 200
DRL Williams	Talley 584
Huw Williams	Banc 413
Cath Difford (DSSS Trustee)	Hilltop 63
D&S Haywood	Garnview 781
Rhodri Jones	Penbryn
Darren Witcomb	Aberhonddu 728

The group were lucky enough to have Dutch Spotted Sheep Society (DSSS) trustee Cath Difford present at the meeting.

It was decided on WW would act as chair and LJ secretary for this meeting.

Matters discussed:

- Initial discussion regarding name for the Group. It was decided on 'South Wales and Borders Dutch Spotted Group' as to include as many breeders as possible near/in Mid and South Wales and those on the English borders.
- Purpose of group to provide encouragement and training for breeders in this area whilst promoting and supporting the main DSS Society.
- It was decided that WW would act as chair and LJ secretary for the first year of this group.
- Discussion on how to promote this group and how to encourage more breeders to attend next meeting.
- 'South Wales and Borders Dutch Spotted Group' meetings to be held at various venues throughout the area as to make it easier for more breeders to attend.
- The group confirmed and support the decision that Welshpool remain the base for DSSS Welsh sale.
- Discussion on Embryo Transfer (ET) as some breeders worried about the restraints on genetic diversity within the breed.
- How we could further advertise the commercial potential of the DSS lambs as a whole.
- Exploring the possibility of classes for lambs sired by DS – carcass/live - at Winter Fair
- Discussion that the main DSS association need to agree and promote breed standards throughout the UK.
- Initial SW & Borders event to be an 'Open Day' during late spring/early summer.

If anyone would like to get involved with this regional group, please contact: southwalesdutchspotted@gmail.com

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 24th January at FEC