Item 9

COUNCIL'S REPORT

2026 was yet another year with some challenges facing both the Society and its members. Although Blue Tongue was threatening most of the Country, the official Society sales were a great success with the prices holding up for nearly all of them. We would like to thank those members who supported the Society Sales – it is important that the commission received from the sales helps with the promotion work.

Whilst referring to the promotions work, we would like to welcome Liz Williams as the Promotions and Communication Officer when she commenced her employment with the Society at the end of January. During the last few months many of the members has had the opportunity to meet Liz and we wish her well in her new role.

Ram inspections were held during the summer of 2026 – Arfon Hughes and his wife Sian Hughes did most of the inspections with Derek and Cindy Steen helping out at the end of the inspection period. As usual we are thankful to the Ram Inspection Team for their hard dedicated work – thank you both and of course to Derek and Cindy Steen for helping out!

As mentioned above Arfon Hughes did manage to carry out the majority of the inspections but due to having an operation in July he had to ask Derek Steen and his wife to inspect at Stirling and Orkney. By now we are really pleased to announce that Arfon is back home after spending three months in hospital and as a Society we wish him a very speedy recovery and will see him back soon. All the best to you Arfon.

Promotions has been in the forefront of the Society's activities where the Promotions and Communications Officer attending the two Royal Shows and the NSA event at Malvern and Scotsheep. According to all reports much interest was shown in the breed, and this did pay at the sales this year. Thank you to those who provided quality sheep for the display stand at these events and those who helped out on the stands during the period.

As a Council we would like to thank all those of you who register your ewe lambs yearly. This is one of the sources of income for the Society to promote the breed to all the members advantage. We would therefore like to urge all members to register their ewe lambs as the benefit of having a registered animal is much greater than an unregistered animal!

As a Society would like to thank the Clubs for playing their role in the different parts of the Country, promoting the breed, holding Open Days etc. Your dedication and work is very much appreciated – keep up the good work.

With the cost of postage on the rise, the Society are aiming to go paperless in the very near future and all members are asked to contact the office with their up-to-date e-mail address. Of course, those of you without an e-mail address and cannot access one through a family member/friend can still have their paperwork in hard copy but please let us know.

Finally, a reminder that subject to full payment of your subscription fee you may appoint a person (whether a member of the Society or not) to attend the meeting as your proxy and speak and vote on your behalf. Every such appointment shall be in writing and signed by yourself and shall be produced by the proxy to one of the Society's Officers before the authority given by it is exercised **and before the start of the Annual General Meeting.** Please note that no person shall act as proxy for **more than one member.**