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**NATIONAL FLOCK COMPETITION 2024**

Following the success of the National Flock Competition run in previous years, Council is delighted to announce that the Society is running the competition again this year and it is open to all members throughout the U.K. and Ireland.

The competition has been very generously funded by the Whitcombe family of Hampshire in memory of one of the breed's best known and most dedicated enthusiasts, Mrs. Rosemary Whitcombe. The first prize of an Original Painting has been donated by the family for the Best Flock. A Silver Rose Bowl has also been kindly donated by the Brown family for the winner of the Best Ram in the Flock Competition. Both these awards are to be returned for the next competition.

The idea of the competition is to assess members stock on their own farm. This year there will be 2 Sections – Section 1 is for members with a minmum of 6 female sheep – ewes and gimmers, this section will be judged on farm. Section 2 is for members with less than 6 females. For this section we are inviting members to send a video and/or photographs of their sheep for judging.

There will be classes for various age groups and sexes as well as a separate class for stock rams.

Sheep will be viewed in the field and do not need to be dressed however a pen will be needed for the judges to handle the stock rams.

For the purpose of judging the membership will be split into two areas - England & Wales and Scotland & Ireland. The judges will be the winners of the 2022 competition – Mr Tom Tennant (Westforth) to judge England & Wales and Mr Nick & Mrs Katie Summerfield (Summerfields) to judge Scotland and Ireland.

The classes are as follows:

1. (Ewes & Gimmers)
2. (Ewe Lambs)
3. (Ram Lambs)
4. (Shearling Rams – minimum of 4 but all to be seen)
5. (Stock Ram)

All members are welcome to take part in this fitting tribute to Mrs. Whitcombe, and an entry form is on the next page.

**NATIONAL FLOCK COMPETITION 2024**

*To be held in memory of the late Mrs. R. Whitcombe*

**ENTRY FORM**

**Name ……………………………………… Flock name ……………………………………..**

**Telephone ……………………………… Flock Number ……………………………………..**

**Section (1 or 2) ………………………….. First time entrant Y/N ……………**

**Number of ewes and gimmers …………….**

**Number of ram lambs ………………………… Number of ewe lambs ………………………….**

**Name and tattoo number of stock ram/s ……………………………………………………………..**

**……………………………………………………………..**

***I agree to be bound by the rules of the competition and enclose payment of £20.00 herewith* *or £5.00 if entering through video.***

**Signed ………………………………………….... Date ……………………………………**

**RULES**

1) Entrants must be fully paid up members of the Society of Border Leicester Sheep Breeders.

2) **All** Border Leicester sheep on the holding must be shown to the judge.

3) The judges' decision will be final and all entrants must agree to abide by these rules.

4) **An entry fee of £20.00** (for Section 1)or **£5.00** (for Sectio 2)made payable to the Society must accompany the entry form.

5) **The deadline for entries will be Saturday 27th July.**

**Judging:-**

1) Section 1. For the purposes of judging the British Isles will be divided into two areas -

A) Scotland and Ireland and B) England and Wales. The two judges will then agree on the overall winner.

Section 2. Best small flock (video and/or photograph)

2) In view of the fact that many flocks share a stock ram and may not have one present when judging takes place, stock rams will be judged independently from the flock/flocks.

3) **Judging expected to take place between 10th and 31st of August** at a mutually convenient date to suit the judges travel arrangements.

**Prizes:-**

Overall winner - an Original Painting of Border Leicesters donated by the Whitcombe family.

Ram section - a Rose Bowl donated by the Brown family.

Prize cards will be awarded to the first three prizewinners in each class and to first time entrants.

The winners from Scotland/Ireland and England/Wales will be invited to judge the next competition in 2026.

Prizes will be presented at the Society's A.G.M. at Lanark on Tuesday 17th September 2024.