Castlemilk Moorit Sheep Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 29th September 2024

Layer Marney Tower, nr Colchester Essex, CO5 9US

Present:		**Apologies:**	
Sue Roberts	Tim Steel	John and Norma Sanders	Libby Henson
Brian Ashdown	Sophia Steel	Leonie Gittens	Darren Cassie
Sue Ashdown	Jake Dyson	Malcom Halliday	David Lloyd
Mark Ballard	Sheila Carrington	Terence and Sue Pritchard	Emma Harrison
Kathy Domaille	Nick Charrington	Andrew Hayns	Jenny Bettenson
Bridget Pearson	Karyn Ballard	Penny Issacs	Thomas Cole
Mike Topp	Julie Price	Amanda Matthews	Anne Dyer
Judy Craven	Billy Ballard	Tim Tilsley	Anne and Robin Lacy
Simon Tyler	Vicky Phillips	Sheila Cooper	

	Topic	**Actions**
1.	Introduction and Apologies The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for coming. Apologies were received as above.	
2.	Chairman's Report One of the highlights of the year was to hear that Castlemilk Moorits had returned to Castlemilk Estate in Scotland. Thank you to our Scottish members, for working hard to bring this about, for helping to find breeding stock, initially from Scottish flocks. Thank you to Sue Roberts for organising more ewes and helping to get them moved to Scotland. We look forward to AGM 2025 which will be held at the Castlemilk Estate. It has been lovely to meet new flock owners at the Great Yorkshire Show with their sheep. It is always lovely to see any of our members, even without sheep. Please remember if you want to put your toe in the water of showing, there are always people who will help and advise over the phone, directly help at shows or at home if close by. We do face a troubling autumn as BTV spreads. Please stay vigilant and hope for a cold winter. I would like to thank everyone for supporting our lovely breed of sheep. They would not be here without enthusiastic owners. Thank you to our secretary and treasurer. They do so much for our society, behind the scenes and to welcome new owners to the society. Thank you to outgoing members of the committee and we look forward to welcoming new members of the committee. TEAMS meetings have made being a committee member a lot easier. A big thank you to Andrew Hayns and Penny for all their skilled help in setting up our new website. Thank you to Andy Harwood for the new Middle Sized Flock Trophy. Thank you to Sheila and Nick Harrington for their hospitality today.	

3.	<u>Treasurer's Report on Society's Accounts</u> The balance of the account is £5623 with the accounts showing a smaller surplus for the year of £134. Membership fees were up slightly on last year and we also earn some money from sale of the 40th anniversary merchandise such as hats. Expenditure on breed promotion was similar to last year but there were some one-off costs for the new website this year which increased costs hence the slightly smaller surplus. There are still invoices amounting to £700 outstanding on Square some of which are part payments. There are 30 members owing the full amount which is more than usual at this time of the year, unfortunately we cannot predict which members may not have paid because they wish to leave the society so final reminders will be sent to all. As always if any members have suggestions on how to spend our funds on promoting the breed please let us know.	
4.	<u>Secretary's report</u> We have 14 new members since the last AGM, with most setting up starter flocks, This takes the current membership to 159, up from 149 last year. We again have members that have subs outstanding but hopefully some of these will pay soon. During this year we have completed the website upgrade (thanks to Penny and Andrew) and have put up an initial Members area with the hope this will develop with use. We are not get many advert requests for the Marketplace but those advertised are still selling, with ewes for starter flocks popular requests. We have run some kinship reports this year but not as many as previous years it may be people are late looking at rams this year, or it may be the bluetongue restrictions meaning people are reusing an existing ram. Registration numbers are still a concern: • 48 flocks have registered lambs so far in 2024 up from 40 this time the last two years but this did go up to 60 for 2022 which is a lot less than the 75 in 2020 • We do typically only have about 60% of lambs added at this point but there are only 452 lambs registered so far in 2024 slightly up from the 428 at this time last year which eventually went to 663 for 2023 but that was only 9 more than the total for 2022. • Only 238 ewe lambs added so far which is a little better than the 228 this time last year We still have a real issue understanding the number of ewes that are out there: • The 48 flocks registering lambs so far had 676 breeding age ewes between them on the 2023 census so our total lambing percentage for the flock is 67% so far, which implies even flocks registering are not breeding all their ewes. • The total number of ewes over 1 year old on the census was 1480 (over 137 flocks) but the register contains details of 2566 ewes under 10 years but over 1 year marked as alive. It would be great to actually find out where these extra ewes are and, if they are out there, if they are being bred occasionally to maintain numbers.	

5.	AGM 2024– Date and location To be held at Castlemilk and Corrie Estate; September 2025 precise date TBA	
6.	Any Other Business An update from Scotland sent by Rhanna Stewart was read to the meeting.	