DEVELOPMENT GROUP MEETING
MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2013
At 12 Tarmangie Drive, Dollar at 10am

Participating: Campbell Tweed (Chairman), Ian Duncan Millar, Bobby Lennox, George King, Barry Sangster and Yvonne Jones (Secretary)

AGENDA

1. Matters arising from the Minutes of the February development group meeting and Minutes of the General Meeting, in particular the wording of our discussion on EBVs

2. Technical Meeting Autumn 2013

3. Signet recording and reporting issues

4. Secretary/PR Officer honorarium share and proportion of members fees

5. AOB

MINUTES

1. Matters arising from the Minutes of the February development group meeting and Minutes of the General Meeting, in particular the wording of our discussion on EBVs

Minutes of the February development group meeting. Item 4 – Website development, group PR & publicity.

The website has been updated, with a 'News' tab last year and a 'Links' tab recently. Links were discussed and an email would be sent around the group asking if they would like their website link added, in return for the Maternal Sheep website link to be added to their site.

Under the tab 'About Us' it was decided to include a sentence that read 'The promotion and marketing of Blackface and Easycare sheep' to include the word 'marketing' in the site. IDM will ask Ellen what words are included as search engines words.
It was decided that emails and succeeding discussions would continue to be sent out to the group as a whole and it would be left to the individual to opt-out by sending an email to the instigator if they so wished.

Publicity material is required. IDM offered to look into producing 4 upright stands promoting the Maternal Sheep group. BS will write some information for a leaflet that can be handed out.

**Minutes of the General Meeting and the re-wording of our discussion on EBVs with Katie Keiley.**

A sentence from these Minutes was reworded from

‘The group thought that recording EBVs for health traits, worm resistance, lamb survival and lamb vigour would be beneficial, but did not want to see an increase in the total numbers of EBVs as this would appear too complicated.’

to

‘The group thought that recording EBVs for health traits, worm resistance, lamb survival and lamb vigour would be beneficial, and do want to see an increase in the total numbers of EBVs. However, this could appear too complicated as commercial buyers appear to prefer a simpler scoring system.’

to more accurately reflect the discussion that we had had.

2. **Technical Meeting Autumn 2013**

CT organised Sam Boon to speak at our Technical meeting, looking at the science of genetics, and the future Signet service, amongst other things. IDM organised Moredun, Edinburgh as the venue, with Dave Bartley speaking on Parasitology and the targeted treatment of sheep in partnership with genetic selection. CT will also ask Eamon Wall to give a summary of developments in Ireland. The date has since been agreed for **Tuesday 17th December 2013**, starting mid-morning.

3. **Signet Recording and Reporting Issues**

There was a discussion on Signet recording, how the accuracy figures are derived, whether the maternal EBV is a proportion of mature weight EBV and whether litter size increases in proportion to mature ewe weight. Also, about why sheep are given such a low index when entering a recorded flock with half their genetics known. There were also a number of issues with the quality of Signet printouts, incorrect breed benchmarks sent out, and part of a report being sent to the wrong member. Also, no connectivity report had been produced so far this year.

GK agreed to collate these queries and concerns and write a letter to Signet on behalf of the group.

4. **Secretary/PR Officer honorarium share and proportion of members fees**

It was agreed that of the membership fee of £150, the proportion of Secretary honorarium of £110 should remain the same, but be split 75%/25% between the Secretary and PR Officer. This would be reviewed in a year’s time to consider whether work share had changed.

5. **AOB**

There was no AOB and the meeting finished at 2.20pm