



CYMDEITHAS AREDIG CYMRU WELSH PLOUGHING ASSOCIATION

CYLCHLYTHYR NEWSLETTER

**Hydref/Gaeaf • Autumn/Winter
2022**

Croeso

**CROESO CYNNES I RIFYN RHIF 19
O GYLCHLYTHYR CYMDEITHAS
AREDIG CYMRU.**

Digwyddodd canolbwynt y flwyddyn, Pencampwriaeth Genedlaethol Cymru, ar gyrion Wrecsam ym mis Medi diolch i deulu William-Wynn a chafwyd diwrnod bendigedig! Braff oedd gweld cymaint o hen wynebâu yn ogystal â phobl newydd yn cystadlu yn y Cymry am y tro cyntaf. Rydym wedi ymestyn oriel luniau y tu mewn ac mae darllediadau o'r digwyddiad yn dechrau ar dudalen 5.

Ar ôl absenoldeb o dair blynedd, llwyddodd Sefydliad Aredig y Byd i gynnal Cystadleuaeth Byd unwaith eto gyda Gweriniaeth Iwerddon yn camu i'r adwy i'w chynnal ar yr unfed awr ar ddeg. Cafodd ein cystadleuwyr Cymreig dipyn o lwyddiant, mwy y tu mewn. Cwblhaodd ein haredigwyr o Gymru hefyd ym Mhencampwriaeth Ewrop yng Ngogledd Iwerddon a phencampwriaeth y Pum Gwlad yn yr Alban - bydd adroddiadau ar y rheini yn ymddangos yn y rhifyn nesaf.

Fel arfer, rydym bob amser yn chwilio am straeon, lluniau a newyddion ar gyfer y cylchlythyr (gwrychoedd yn ogystal ag aredig) felly anfonwch at y golygydd Julie neu cysylltwch â'r Ysgrifenyddiaeth (manyllion cyswllt ar y dudalen gefn).

Yn olaf, dymunwn bob dymuniad da i chi ar gyfer tymor y Nadolig!

Welcome

**A WARM WELCOME TO ISSUE NO. 19
OF THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WELSH
PLOUGHING ASSOCIATION**

The centrepiece of the year, the Welsh National Championships, took place on the outskirts of Wrexham in September thanks to the Williams-Wynn family and what a fabulous day we had! It was great to see so many old faces on the field as well as new people competing at the Welsh for the first time. We have an extended picture gallery inside and coverage of the event starts on page 5.

After a three year absence, the World Ploughing Organization was able to host a World Contest once again with the Republic of Ireland stepping in to host it at the eleventh hour. Our Welsh competitors had some great success, more inside. Our Welsh ploughmen also competed in the European Championships in Northern Ireland and the Five Nations Championships in Scotland – reports on those will appear in the next issue.

As ever, we are always looking for stories, pictures and news for the newsletter (hedging as well as ploughing) so do please send to the editor Julie or contact the Secretariat (contact details on the back page).

Finally, we wish everyone all good wishes for the festive season!



**Rhifyn Rhif. 19
Issue No. 19**



Hugh Owen Griffith and son Euron who had a very good day at the Championships

NEW WELSH CHAMPION

Hugh Owen Griffith, an agricultural contractor from Rhydyclafdy, Pwllheli in the far North-West of Wales, was crowned Champion Welsh Tractor Ploughman of Wales at the Welsh National Championships in September.

This was no mean feat given that Hugh had spent weeks away ploughing in the European Championships and World Contest in Ireland. In fact, Hugh only came off the ferry at 1.00 a.m. on the morning of the Welsh Championships and amazingly was then ready to start ploughing again at 10.00 a.m. in Wrexham!

We really have to applaud our Welsh ploughmen, their dedication to the sport and their commitment to representing Wales all around the world. Long may it continue.

EVAN ON TOP OF THE WORLD

A fantastic sight for Wales and Welsh ploughing – Evan Watkin on the podium at the World Contest in September. Evan was placed third overall in the Conventional Class, and was awarded the perpetual Fellowship Trophy. This adds to Evan's numerous top ten placings including two seconds and two thirds previously. Huge congratulations to Evan on such a massive achievement and this success is testament to his skills as one of Wales's leading ploughmen. A report on the Contest by the WPA World Board Member follows on page 4.



Evan Watkin, 3rd on the podium at the World Contest



*Evan's third place plot on Day 2 on grass
Picture: Evan Watkin*



*The World Ploughing Team
L-R: Lodwick Jones (Judge), Evan Watkin (Competitor in the Conventional Class),
Hugh Owen Griffith (Competitor in the Reversible Class) & Gareth G. Jones
(World Board Member for Wales)
Picture: Will Williams*

EVAN AT THE BRITISH

A couple of weeks after his return from Ireland, Evan made his way to the Chatsworth Estate in Derbyshire to compete at the British Ploughing Championships. Evan has achieved great success at this Championships over the years which includes a memorable year in 2019 when he was crowned Supreme Champion. This year he was just pipped to the post by a mere 7 points by James Witty in the Conventional Final Plough-Off. Evan was awarded the Tommy Alderslade Memorial Trophy for his first placing on the first day and once again the John Jones Trophy for the best work by a Welsh competitor.



OTHER WELSH SUCCESS AT THE BRITISH....

This came from John Lewis of Meifod in Powys who won the Ford & Fordson Ploughing Championships finishing 20 points ahead of his nearest rival. Congratulations to John!



John Lewis ploughing at the Welsh Championships in September
Picture: Andy Ford

WPA CONSTITUTION

The WPA Constitution has not received any major review since 1990 and it is felt that the time is right to review it and ensure that it remains fit for purpose.

Some re-drafting has been undertaken and which has been consulted on. In the light of feedback received, there has been some further re-drafting with a view to finalising the new Constitution in February 2023.

If you would like to receive a copy of the draft Constitution or the new Constitution when it is finalised, feel free to contact Helen at the Secretariat: helen@rwas.org.uk or 01982 553683.



GOODBYE TO MARED RAND JONES



Sadly we say goodbye to Mared in January as she leaves her post as Head of Operations at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society and as a key member of the WPA Secretariat. Mared will be taking up a new role as Chief Executive of Wales YFC. We thank Mared for her contribution to Welsh Ploughing over the past 5 years and we wish her every success in her new role.

NEWS ON ST. DAVID'S

St David's and District Ploughing Society will be celebrating 100 years in 2023. Their first match was held in February 1923 at Llandigige Fawr, near St David's where it is reported that the first prize for the senior competitor was an ounce of tobacco and a large pack of Black Cat cigarettes was shared amongst the junior competitors!

The current committee are delighted that they can return to Llandigige Fawr which is the home of their current Chairman James Morris who is a great nephew of Mr Jack W Morris who hosted the first event. The 2023 match will be held on Sunday 26th February and the Society plan to host an additional charity match the previous day on Saturday 25th followed by a social evening - further details to follow.

WPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next AGM will take place on Thursday 23rd February 2023 at the Royal Welsh Showground. All members are welcome to attend.

Adroddiad Gornest - Match Report

PENCAMPWRIAETHAU AREDIG Y BYD 2022 WORLD PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022

The 67th World Ploughing Contest, 20th-22nd September 2022, well here we are again in Ratheniska, Co Laois, Republic of Ireland. The best Contest I can remember!

The 2020 and the 2021 World Contests were cancelled due to the worldwide upheaval caused by Covid over the last two years. The 2022 Contest was due to be held in Russia but this was cancelled due to the invasion of Ukraine. However, the World Ploughing Organization voted to hold it if at all possible in 2022 which brought us to the Republic of Ireland!

How the host organisation managed to make the arrangements to hold the contest in five months will remain a mystery to me! This was the 6th World Contest to be hosted by the National Ploughing Association of Ireland.

Well you would think going over to Ireland would be a peach, it was far from it! Because the lorries were classed as freight, we decided to cross from Birkenhead to Belfast then travel to Ratheniska. We did not arrive at the same time but the team arrived in good time for the practice and Contest. The team was Evan Watkin from New Mills, Welshpool in the Conventional, Reversible was Hugh Griffith from Rhyd y Clafdy, Pwllheli, coach and judge Lodwick Jones, Kidwelly and Emrys Owen, Pandy Tudur, Abergele.

It was a great team with everyone joining in and working together like clockwork. The two ploughmen had a very good practice, they were well ahead of the field in my opinion.

At the Contest which was over two days, they did not let us down. Evan came 5th on the first day, 3rd on the 2nd day and 3rd overall, just one point behind the runner up, a great achievement, and seeing the Welsh dragon on the podium did bring a lump to the throat I can tell you. Hugh did extremely well, being 7th on the first day, 8th on the second day and 8th overall.

My thanks again to the team and supporters, too many to mention, in making the trip so enjoyable, the way they mixed with other countries, they were very popular winners.

To finish, I must thank the host country for making us so welcome. A Contest I will never forget.

Pax Arva Colat
Let peace cultivate the land

Gareth Jones
World Board Member



The Welsh Ploughing Team at the Raising of the Flags Ceremony

Y 62AIN BENCAMPWRIAETH AREDIG CYMRU GYFAN 2022 THE 62ND WELSH NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022

The Welsh National Ploughing Championships had only been held in North Wales on nine occasions in the past 64 years, the last being in 2013 and hosted by Flintshire Farmers Ploughing Society. Again hosted by Flintshire Farmers Ploughing Society, the 62nd Welsh National was held on Saturday 24th September at Wynnstay Home Farm in Ruabon, Wrexham by kind permission of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn Bt and Harry Williams Wynn.

The event started on the Friday evening before with the Blessing of the Plough Church Service at Ruabon Church. The service was led by Canon Chancellor Pam Powell MA MMin with a choral contribution from Bro Aled Male Voice Choir from Llansannan. This was followed by a welcome Ploughman's Supper at the marquee on the event field.

Bright and sunny drying conditions were the order of the day after a heavy overnight shower and attracted a good number of spectators to the event. Wynnstay Home Farm

provided a large expansive site on the edge of the urban conurbations of the city of Wrexham but within the historic backdrop of the Wynnstay Estate.

Just over 102 ploughmen had entered to compete at the Championships, many travelling from all over Wales but with a large number of competitors travelling over the border from England, given the proximity of the site to the English border.

Having just returned to Wales the previous evening from the World Ploughing Contest in Ratheniska, Co Laois, Ireland having being placed 8th in the Reversible World Style, Hugh Owen Griffith, Rhydyclafdy, Pwllheli travelled to Ruabon and won the Welsh Championship Trophy with Rhodri George, Hayscastle, Haverfordwest gaining the Reserve Championship title. Both have now qualified for the World Contest in 2023 – Hugh in the Reversible and Rhodri in the Conventional.

The youngest ploughman on the field was Alaister Noble from Billinge near

Wigan who at just 15 years old came in at a commendable 5th place in the Novice class of 19 more experienced ploughmen. It was encouraging to see so many younger competitors taking part, particularly in the Novice Class.

In the Horse Ploughing Championship, it was Roger Smith of Monmouthshire who triumphed who, along with the other horse ploughing competitors of John Fletcher and Heather Robertson, had travelled a considerable distance to take part.

Sadly, due to the unavailability of a suitable hedge, it was not possible to run the Hedgelaying Competitions at the site. However, the Hedgelaying Championship will be held separately and details will be available in the New Year.

A huge thank you is due to the main sponsors of the day, Castell Howell Foods, diolch yn fawr iawn.

Iona Lloyd Roberts & Julie Jenkins



THE 62ND WELSH NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022 Y 62AIN BENCAMPWRIAETH AREDIG CYMRU GYFAN 2022

PLOUGHING RESULTS

Class 1 Conventional-World Style

1st	David Chappell
2nd	Nigel Vickers
3rd	Rhodri George
4th	Stuart Vickers
5th	James George

Class 2 Conventional-World Style- Under 26

1st	Morgan Evans
2nd	Euron Owen Griffith

Class 3 Reversible Ploughing – World Style

1st	Hugh Owen Griffith
2nd	Clive Roberts
3rd	Chris Howell

Class 4 General Purpose or Semi-Digger (Classic) 1960-1976

1st	Roy Stokes
2nd	Edwyn Hughes
3rd	David Hankey
4th	Ceri Richards
5th	David Nicholas

Class 5 Vintage Ploughing – Trailer

1st	Andrew Buckley
2nd	Max Cherry
3rd	Derek Lloyd
4th	Gordon Harries
5th	Harry Williams

Class 6 Vintage Ploughing – Hydraulic

1st	Richard Ingram
2nd	Alex Evans
3rd	Charles Nicklin
4th	Stuart Lamb
5th	Cliff Hamer

Class 7 High Cut

1st	Derek Needham
2nd	John Saunders
3rd	Graham Soule
4th	Trevor Robinson

Class 8 Ferguson

1st	Keith Williams
2nd	William Charles Williams
3rd	Richard Glyn Jones
4th	Keith Atkinson
5th	Robert Godfrey

Class 9 Classic Reversible

1st	Ian Millington
2nd	Charles Sankey

Class 10 Novice

1st	John Baker
2nd	Elwyn Lloyd
3rd	Sam Gittins
4th	Tudur Glyn Jones
5th	Alaister Noble

Class 11 Horse Ploughing - High Cut

1st	Roger Smith
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Class 12 Horse Ploughing – General Purpose

1st	John Fletcher
2nd	Heather Robertson

Horse Ploughing – Best Turnout

John Fletcher

Horse Ploughing – Best Working Team

John Fletcher

Champion Welsh Tractor Ploughman:

Hugh Owen Griffith

Reserve Champion:

Rhodri George

Border Fine Arts Trophy

– Champion Welsh Horse Ploughing Competitor:

Roger Smith

The Evan Davies Trophy

Best work in any class carried out by a ploughing competitor under 26 years of age:

Morgan Evans

The Richard & Heather March Trophy

Best work in Class 2 Semi-Digger-World Style-Under 26:
Morgan Evans

The Monmouthshire Perpetual Cup

Best ploughing work by a competitor resident in Monmouthshire:

Daril Evans

The Barbara & Glyn Davies Perpetual Cup

Best ploughing work by a competitor resident in Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire or Glamorgan:
Rhodri George

The Gallery

Pictures: Andy Ford and Julie Jenkins
(except where indicated)



James George, keeping a close eye on Dad Rhodri in the final stages
Rhodri was named Reserve Champion Welsh Tractor Ploughman on the day



Hugh Owen Griffith, Champion Welsh Tractor Ploughman
& 1st in Class 3, the World Style Reversible Class



Hugh nearing completion of his plot, showing how quickly the soil was drying out



The winning plot in Class 1 World Style Conventional, ploughed by David Chappell from Yorkshire



Nigel Vickers from Cheshire, 2nd in Class 1 World Style Conventional



Edwyn Hughes of Holywell, second in the Classic Class



Richard Ingram, winner of the Vintage Hydraulic Class



A good show of tradestands



Chris Howell, our Welsh competitor who travels annually from the USA, 3rd in Class 3



Harry Jones of Borras, Wrexham, concentrating hard in the Novice Class



Sam Gittins of Helsby, Cheshire, 3rd in the Novice Class



David Hankey, member of the Organising Committee, 3rd in the Classic Class



Morgan Evans on his way to victory in Class 2 Under 26 World Style Conventional



Fourth prize winner in the Novice Class, Tudur Glyn Jones, a local competitor from St Asaph



The High Cut Class



*Clive Roberts from just over the border in Shropshire,
2nd in Class 3 World Style Reversible*



Ian Millington from Dorrington near Shrewsbury, winner of the Classic Reversible Class



Robert Convery, in the World Style Conventional Class



Gordon Harries, 4th in the Vintage Trailer Class



Keith Williams, another fabulous win in the Ferguson Class



*Ted Harvey, judge of the High Cut Class, keeping a close eye on eventual winner of the class, Derek Needham from Norfolk
Derek went on to win the High Cut Championship at the British Championships in October*



Robert Godfrey, fifth in the Ferguson Class and also Treasurer of the Organising Committee



Daryl Evans, who won the Monmouthshire Cup for best work by a Monmouthshire ploughman



Andrew Buckley, winner of Class 5, Vintage Trailer



Time for a quick chat....



Richard Glyn Jones from Llangefni, Anglesey, 3rd in the Ferguson Class



Geraint Jones in the Novice Class



Champion Horse Ploughman Roger Smith's team, brother Brian with Alfie & Betsy



Rhug Organic loaned their passenger trailer for the day



John Fletcher in the General Purpose Class



Depth Stewards, Jackie Smith and Steve Roberts, enjoying the day



The Gate Stewards doing a sterling job

VINTAGE DISPLAYSome fantastic items on display at Wrexham



Brian & Cecelia Webster who had travelled from Halsall near Ormskirk in Lancashire with their fabulous collection of model vintage machinery - Pictures: Justin Cooke



The John Deere Waterloo Boy attracted a lot of interest during the day



Hugh Owen Griffith and Rhodri George, Champion & Reserve Champion Welsh Tractor Ploughing Competitors



Tony Bradley, accepting the trophy for the Champion Welsh Horse Ploughing Competitor on behalf of the winner, his brother-in-law Roger Smith



Vice-Chairman Harry Williams congratulating Chairman Arthur Jennings on the day



Local Secretary Iona Lloyd Roberts receiving a bouquet of flowers from Martin Jones of main sponsor Castell Howell

TROPHY PRESENTATION....



L-R: Harry Williams-Wynn (host), Morgan Evans, Winner of the Richard & Heather March Trophy & the Evan Davies Trophy, Hugh Lloyd Griffith, Rhodri George & Jas Williams-Wynn (host)



John Baker, winner of the Novice Vintage Class



Heather Robertson, 2nd in the Horse Ploughing General Purpose Class



Last to go home.....

.....the end of a perfect day!

Sbotolau Lleol – Local Spotlight

WELSH NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS – CEREDIGION 2023

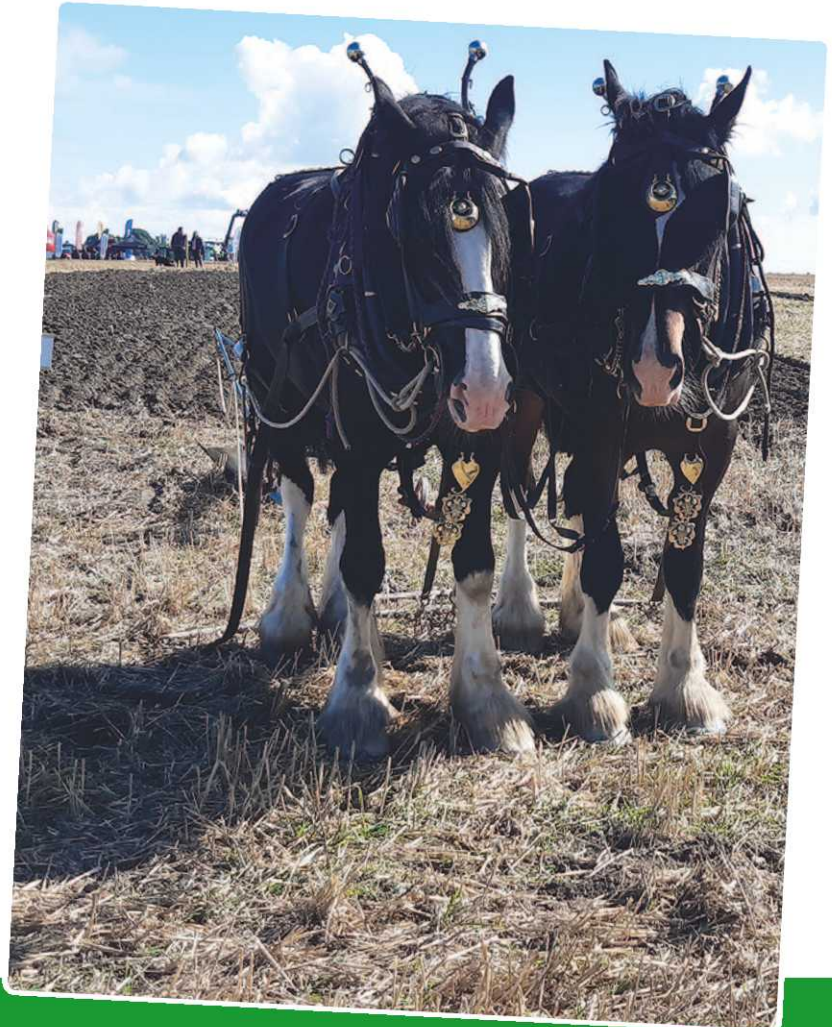
The Championships will return to Ceredigion in 2023 and will be held on the same site as in 2012 – Morfa Mawr, Llanon, Ceredigion, SY23 5LY by kind permission of IBERS, Aberystwyth. The event will take place earlier than usual on Saturday 9th September 2023.

The local organising committee have started fundraising for the event and the main sponsor are Castell Howell Foods.

There are various sponsorship packages available as well as advertising space in the main catalogue.

Further details can be obtained by contacting the local secretary Mags Jones (01239) 851451 or e-mail magsbrohawen@hotmail.co.uk

As no suitable hedge is available on site, the Hedgelaying Championship will be held separately at a later date – further details to follow.



A SLICE OF HISTORY.....



A lovely picture supplied by our Champion horse ploughman Roger Smith.

Roger says: This is Dad (Vear Smith) at the Pandy Ploughing Match (near Abergavenny in Monmouthshire) in 1982. This was some 50 years after he won the plough which was given to Pandy Ploughing Society by Ransomes to be awarded as a prize at their Centenary match.

Many thanks to Roger and an example of when the plough manufacturer Ransomes Sims and Jefferies were donating ploughs for ploughing competitions. Also interesting to see that some things don't change in ploughing – one person actually ploughing and a crowd of “experts” having their say on the job in hand!

If you have any old photos that you would like to see printed in the newsletter, please email to Julie at jj.lva@tiscali.co.uk or whatsapp to 07870 264406.

CYSTADLAETHAU CENEDLAETHOL & RHYNGWLADOL – 2023 NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL MATCHES – 2023

Event

Date

World Ploughing Contest

TBC

Welsh National Ploughing Championships

9th September

Morfa Mawr, Llanon, Ceredigion, SY23 5LY

European Vintage Championships

5th - 9th September

Veenhuizen, The Netherlands

British Ploughing Championships

14th - 15th October

Bishop's Lydeard, near Taunton, Somerset, TA4 3HU

GORNSTAU AREDIG LLEOL – 2023 LOCAL PLOUGHING MATCHES – 2023

A list of matches appears on the separate insert in the Newsletter.

DIGWYDDIADAU CYMDEITHAS AMAETHYDDOL FRENHINOL CYMRU – 2023 ROYAL WELSH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY EVENTS – 2023

Event

Date

Smallholding & Countryside Festival

20th - 21st May

Royal Welsh Show

24th - 27th July

Royal Welsh Winter Fair

27th - 28th November

YN Y RHIFYN NESAF.....

IN THE NEXT ISSUE.....

We will feature reports of the 2022 European Championships and Five Nations Championships. Plus a preview of the 63rd Welsh National Championships and coverage of St. David's & District Ploughing Society's Centenary match.



MEMBERSHIP OF WELSH PLOUGHING ASSOCIATION

Member - £20.00 (1 ticket)
Life Member - £200.00 (1 ticket)
Life Vice President* - £400.00 (2 tickets)

* Receive a free catalogue on match day.
All receive two Newsletters each year.
For further details on membership, please contact:

MRS ALISON GEORGE
Membership Secretary
Tel: 01437 741719 / 07974 433881
Email: alisongeorge2017@gmail.com

The Welsh Ploughing Association was founded in 1958 by the Radnor Valley Ploughing Society.

The objectives of the Association are:

- To promote and encourage the art and skill of ploughing, hedging and other rural crafts.
- To promote an annual Welsh Match, to be held each year in a different area of Wales.
- To provide facilities whereby entrants from Affiliated Societies to the Welsh Ploughing Association may compete for the Welsh Championship and represent Wales at the British Championships and other such competitions.
- To promote the British Championships, the World Ploughing Contest and other such competitions.

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DIOLCHIADAU - ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to everyone who supplied text and photographs for this newsletter.

Website: www.welshploughing.com
Registered charity no. 515090

We have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the information contained within this newsletter is accurate at the time of going to print.

