

ROB BETTINSON

Contact details

Toft Alpacas
Toft Manor
Toft
Dunchurch
Warwickshire
CV22 6NR

Tel: 01788 810626

E-mail: rob@toft-alpacas.co.uk



My wife Shirley and I and our four children, founded Toft Alpacas in 1997 with the purchase of four breeding females. Our farm nestles on the side of the reservoir, Draycote water, in Warwickshire, West Midlands. Our herd size is now around 200 alpacas, the white Huacayas and Suris being developed from the Accoyo bloodlines of Don Julio Barreda and the coloureds to select Peruvian and Australian genetics.

Early in my alpaca adventure, a business trip to Australia gave me the opportunity to attend their National show and visit some farms in NSW and WA enabling me to gain an invaluable insight into the Australian alpaca industry and the potential for the Alpaca in the UK and Europe. What I saw in the ring there inspired me on my return to commit fully to developing our Toft Alpaca aspiration. We now own a small breeding herd in New Zealand and import select genetic bloodlines from Australia and NZ to enhance our breeding programme

Shirley and I attended the Alpaca festival in Arequipa in 2000 which gave me an opportunity to watch Julio Sumar judging in the show ring and also to visit a few farms and research stations providing an invaluable insight into the alpaca's natural habitat and the alpaca and the fibre industry in Peru.

I revisited Peru in 2001 in to select genetics for Toft Alpacas from a shipment of 350 animals – a trip which also gave him the opportunity to get hands-on with some of the Accoyo animals of Don Julio Barreda at his farm in Macusani.

I was elected to the board of the BAS in 2002, I served as Chairman from 2004-2007 and I have been honoured to serve in various capacities ever since. I continue to do my best to represent the interests of all members and keep the society and the industry moving forward in a positive, practical and realistic way.

I have been enthralled to play a part in the development of the Toft Alpaca Shop which is run by our daughter Kerry and is now such a major and successful part of the Toft Alpaca experience. So much so that we have now developed the Toft Alpaca Studio onsite as a bespoke facility in which to educate and showcase all that is best in alpaca breeding and product, confident that we are creating a sustainable future for the alpaca in the UK and Europe.

I qualified as one of the first BAS alpaca judges in the UK in 2003. I initially took the courses to find out more in the belief I had an eye for a good alpaca but I am very grateful and supportive of the training that underpins my natural instincts. I am a keen supporter of the compulsory annual calibration clinics for qualified BAS judges and I am committed to playing an active role as a Judge Tutor in the future training of BAS alpaca judges in the UK.

I have always been a keen supporter of the show ring which I firmly believe is the key arena in which to educate the public and breeders and showcase the potential of this remarkable livestock. My ambition is to maintain a reputation as an impartial, objective and fair judge of alpacas, educate where I can and ensure that the breeders and the public are enthralled and entertained by the showing of alpacas.

I still get a thrill to be invited to Judge alpacas anywhere in the UK and enjoy every minute of my time in the ring where I feel I have a duty to make the experience a joyous celebration of the alpaca for exhibitor and spectator alike. I am deeply honoured that I am now invited to judge alpacas in European countries and glad to be exploring the countryside rather than the cities. As someone who has never excelled at languages I find it amazing and inspirational that the language of 'alpaca' now transcends National boundaries and cultures as we begin to create a trans European Alpaca Community.

The Alpaca 2012 World Conference will no doubt focus all our aspirations and I am delighted to be participating in judging the fleeces. I am really looking forward to working with my fellow BAS judges to provide a fitting showcase for the best alpaca fleeces in the world.

SHOW CREDITS

Fleece Judge:- STICHTING ALPACA SHOW, Assen, Holland.
December 2011
Organiser: Margreet Joling

Halter Judge:- STICHTING ALPACA SHOW, Assen, Holland
December 2011
Organiser: Margreet Joling

Fleece Judge:- SCOTTISH NATIONAL FLEECE SHOW, Duns, Scotland
September 2011
Organisers: Juliet & John Miller

Halter Judge:- TULLAMORE, All Ireland composite show, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, Eire,
August 2011
Organiser- Richard Langford

Halter Judge:-BORDER UNION SHOW, Kelso composite show, Scotland
July 2011
Organiser- Debbie Rippon

Halter Judge:- TERRALIES SHOW, St Brieuc, Brittany, France
May 2011
Organiser Robin Hodge

Halter Judge:- SOUTH WEST ALPACA GROUP SPRING SHOW. Suris, Hands Equestrian Centre, Somerset, England.
April 2011
Organiser. Lynsey Skinner

Halter Judge:- TULLAMORE, All Ireland composite show, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, Eire,
August 2010
Organiser: Richard Langford

Halter Judge: - NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY SHOW, Corbridge, Northumberland, May 2010

Organiser: Melanie Douglas

Halter Judge: NORWEGIAN NATIONAL SHOW, Oslo, Norway. April 2010
Organiser: Line Werner

Fleece Judge:- BRITISH ALPACA FUTURITY, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire February 2010
Organisers: Chas Brooke & Rachel Hebditch

Halter Judge:- KELSO County Show., Scotland July 2009
Organiser:- Melanie Douglas.

Fleece Judge: SCOTTISH NATIONAL FLEECE SHOW. JULY 2009
Organiser:- Jonathon Russell

Halter Judge: BAS NATIONAL SHOW: Newark & Notts Showground. MAY 2009
Judged in Tandem with Canadian Judge Kristin Burhman
Show organisers. Mike & Caroline Birch

Recertified as a BAS Judge November 2008.

Assistant to Cameron Holt: BAS National Fleece Show July 2007. The Royal Show, NAC
Show organiser: Mandy Wilson

Halter Judge: Three Counties Show, Malvern, June 2007
Show organiser: Pam Smith

Halter Judge: Drymen County Show, Scotland May 2007
Show organiser: Janet Small

Fleece Judge: BAS National Fleece show, Newark & Notts, 2007
Show organisers Mike & Caroline Birch

Halter Judge: Northumberland County Show, Corbridge, June 2005.
Show Organiser, Vicky Ridley

Recertified as a BAS Judge :- March 2004-Tutor Amanda Van den Bosch

Commentator:- The Royal Show, NAC, 2003,2004,2005,2006, 2008,2009

Commentator: East of England Show, 2006

Inspection Steward:- Kenilworth Show. 2003-2011

Commentator:- Kenilworth Show. 2003-2011

Inspection Steward:- South Of England Show 2003

Commentator: South Of England Show 2003- 2006

Inspection Steward: BAS National Show,, Newark & Notts Showground, 2003 – 2007,

Fleece judge: BAS fleece show at the BCA conference 2003.
Show organiser: Mandy Wilson.

Qualified as a BAS judge 2003.