



The British Alpaca Society

## Board Meeting

### Minutes of a meeting of the Directors held at 10:00 on Wednesday 14 June 2006 at Toft Alpacas, Toft Manor, Toft, Dunchurch, Warwickshire CV22 6NR

**Present:**

Rob Bettinson (RB) (Chairman), Michael Berry (MB), Alan Lorentzen (AL), Graham Reed (GR), Keith Scott (KS), Maxine Watts (MW).

**Apologies:**

Nigel Cobb (NC), Philip O'Connor (POC), Freddie Small (FS). Arish Turle (AT; by invitation)

**Meeting Started:**

10.00

**In attendance:**

Michael Brooke (MPB), Karen Ogelsby (KO), John Potts (JP), Nick Weber (NW) – by invitation. Claire Waring, Buzzwords Editorial (CW)

**Meeting Ended:**

15.45

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- 459.0 Welcome to alpaca members of the BCL Council** CW  
RB welcomed MPB, KO, JP and NW. The legal documents regarding the Camelid Federation were due to be signed by RB and NW at the meeting and by Paul Rose (British Llama Society) on 15 June. MPB, KO, JP, NW and AT would be co-opted to the BAS Board at the next meeting. They would be sent copies of the minutes of the previous three BAS Board meetings to fill them in on BAS activities.
- 460.0 Minutes of meeting held on 3 May 2006**  
**Motion:** The minutes should be accepted and signed.  
**Proposed:** GR; **Seconded:** AL. Agreed unanimously.
- 461.0 Matters arising from the Minutes**
- 461.1 443.1 (427.1/412.5) Insurance at shows**  
Information is awaited from Armitage.
- 443.1 (427.1/422.0) Legal advice** NC  
The NFU is interested in forming a relationship with BAS. NC to pursue.
- 443.1 (428.3) Liabilities of members of the Charity** CW  
Information would be sent to members when the membership requirements for the British Camelids Trust (BCT) had been clarified.
- 443.1 (430.2) Fees for Grassroots Systems** KS/GR/FS  
Meeting pending.
- 462.0 EGM minutes** CW  
Proposed by GR and seconded by MW that they be approved. Carried unanimously. CW to post on the website together with links to all the relevant documents.
- 463.0 Board**
- 463.1 Priorities** FS  
Following discussion it was agreed that a business plan should be compiled for the next 3-4 years. A key to this would be the financial report and budget from FS. He would be asked to present this to the next Board meeting. It was noted that all BAS activities must be self-sustaining.
- 463.2 Current responsibilities** NW/KO  
The current responsibilities of Board members were outlined. Responsibility for health and welfare will pass to the BCT but BAS will continue to maintain a watching brief. POC and NW will be the alpaca representatives on the BCT Council. NW and KO to join the BAS Regional Groups committee.



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- 463.3 Future activities**  
It was agreed that activities of regional groups should be encouraged, developed and supported. The use of regional discussion forums was discussed. Ways in which the fibre sector could be developed and promoted were discussed, including the possibility of pursuing this on a regional basis. It was agreed that the BAS could not be responsible for developing the fibre market but this must be undertaken through member initiatives. BAS would support such initiatives wherever possible. RB reminded everyone of the Fibre forum proposed for the AGM in February. We are waiting to compile the list of fibre processors, spinners, weavers, etc, as a starting point. RB also proposed the exploration of the introduction of an alpaca trade mark (the Alpaca Mark?) as a possibility to unify all the alpaca processing initiatives under one marketing banner. It was suggested that a Board Member take responsibility for the fibre sector with the Society acting as a facilitator in this area.
- 464.0 Accounts** FS  
No report. FS would be asked to provide financial information for the next Board meeting.
- 464.1 Payments by credit card/PayPal** LH/FS  
Payment to BAS using PayPal costs the Society more than that using a credit card.  
It was proposed by GR and seconded by MW that BAS accepts payment by credit card (excluding Amex and Diners) subject to a 3% surcharge to recover 50-70% of the additional costs involved. Agreed.
- 464.2 Payments by debit card** LH/FS  
LH would be asked to obtain information about fees for payments using debit cards.
- 464.3 Direct debit for membership fees** LH/FS  
LH would be asked to obtain information on using direct debit for payment of membership fees,
- 465.0 Registration**
- 465.1 Merger of the registries**  
Libby Henson (LH) from Grassroots had sent a report on the progress in merging the BAS and BCL registries. There are 2000-2100 dual registrations and KS explained the procedure being adopted for these animals. LH is updating the registry in sections so that it remains available. The final merger is due to take place shortly and may entail a short closure. The combined registry will list around 13,500 animals.
- 465.2 Proposal re BCL members** LH/KS  
LH reported that there are 92 alpaca owners on the BCL registry who are not members of BAS. BCL has approached them to ask which Society they wish to join. When the replies are received, LH would be asked to contact those wishing to join BAS. The deadline issued to BCL members by their Council for a decision on which Society they wished to join is 1 July and the situation should become clearer after this date.
- 465.3 Proposal re checking data on the merged registry** LH/NC  
LH had outlined three ways in which members could be asked to verify that information on the merged registry was correct. It was agreed that all members would be invited to check the details through the herd book on the website. An alternative paper check option would be available.
- 465.4 Registration certificates** LH/KS  
It was agreed that replacement certificates would be made available at cost, on request and receipt of the old certificate.
- 465.5 Independence of the Registrar**  
KS stated that LH acts independently in accordance with rules laid down by the Board. Problems requiring action and/or guidance are



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reported to the Board. It is the norm within breed societies for the registry and membership to be handled by the same person.

- 465.6 Breed standard**  
It was noted that the Society should work in the long term towards establishing a breed standard.
- 466.0 Education and Judge Training** RB  
RB informed the board that he is still waiting for a report from Paul Cullen (PC) on his proposals for education.
- 466.1 'Restricted ticket' status**  
RB reported that he was waiting for a response from Amanda VanDen Bosch (AVB) regarding the 'restricted ticket' status for BAS judges. It is expected that this will become clearer via PC's report.
- 466.2 Training manuals** RB  
RB reported that AVB had not agreed to a phased transfer of her training material. Discussions are continuing. It is expected that Paul Cullen will illuminate this when he presents his report.
- 466.3 VTS funding**  
Vanessa Schofield had made a bid for the final tranche of VTS funding. A response is awaited.
- 466.4 Judge apprentice scheme** PC/MB  
PC is developing an apprenticeship scheme to be discussed by the Judges' Panel. An increase in the number of non-qualifying alpaca shows would provide greater opportunities for judges. Regional groups would be encouraged to run smaller shows locally.
- 467.0 Shows**
- 467.1 Current show situation** JP  
The BAS National Show had been very successful.  
The situation with entries for the BAS Championship at the Royal Show would not be clear until all the qualifying shows had taken place. Haymarket Land Events requires the pens to be occupied throughout the four days of the Show but alpaca owners have been given a concession to swap animals over on Monday evening.  
Show entries were reported to be higher this year in general.  
JP expressed dissatisfaction with the location for the South of England Spring Show and he offered to talk to Liz Butler and see if she was amenable to working towards getting this show into the main South of England agricultural show. If not, he will explore the possibilities for an alternative venue. It was pointed out to JP that the show is under the auspices of the South East Regional Group and he should work closely with them on this matter. The Heathfield Show was suggested as a possible alternative.  
Ben Harford is investigating staging an indoor alpaca event early in the year at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre near Stoneleigh. This could involve a fashion show using students from Warwick College. AL has visited the site and considers it ideal and BH is now exploring the possibilities.
- 467.2 Show results**  
These would be posted in the members' area of the website as soon as possible after being received. CW reported that the results for the South of England, BAS National, Devon County, Northumberland and Kenilworth shows had been uploaded to date.
- 467.3 Scottish National Alpaca Show, Kelso**  
This would comprise both a BAS composite show and the National Fleece Show. In addition, Hilary Redden of The Fibre Lab would judge the *Most Valuable Commercial Fleece* in the fleece show.
- 467.4 Age requirements** RB/MW  
MW suggested that an animal should stay in a particular age group throughout the whole of a show season. This was referred to the Judges' Panel and Show Committee for input.



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- 467.5 BAS trailer** MW  
The trailer will carry information about the BCT when it is available. A suggestion that somebody should be employed to transport and man the trailer at the major shows was considered. Costs would be estimated by the Show Committee.
- 468.0 Media, Magazine and Marketing**
- 468.1 Llama magazine** NW  
NW would contact Paul Rose about the llama magazine.
- 468.2 Subscriptions** AL  
Deesons had put forward a proposal for selling subscriptions outside of the alpaca community.
- 468.3 Show reports** CW  
All show organisers would be asked to provide a short report for the next issue of *Alpaca*. These to be sent direct to the Editor.
- 468.4 Website** ALL  
Specific issues with the website should be reported to CW.
- 469.0 Membership**
- 469.1 Blue Book** CW  
CW would obtain prices for reprinting the folders.
- 469.2 Back Book on CD** LH/CW  
Information had been provided by Grassroots. It was considered that the Black Book should be available at one location on the website. This should include an index. New members should be sent a copy of the current Black Book on CD and would then be responsible for downloading updates from the website. CW would check that the Black Book is up to date.
- 470.0 Screening**
- 470.1 Training for screeners** GR/NW/  
MB  
GR reported that the German Registry runs a course for training phenotype screeners and vets. This is due to be held next in 2007. Advertising it to BAS members qualified at levels 1-3 would be considered. This would qualify them to undertake screening both for BAS and for the German Registry. KS noted that BAS currently relies on the ARI screening training programme. NW agreed to send a list of BCL-qualified screeners to GR. NW would work with MB to offer training via regional groups.
- 470.2 New Zealand fibre samples** LH  
A problem with New Zealand fibre samples was being resolved by LH.
- 470.3 BAS list of screeners**  
The list of screeners used by BAS is not publicly available. The client has the right to refuse one particular screener/vet but cannot choose which ones will be used for their animals.
- 470.4 Meeting to review screening procedures** NW  
It had been suggested by NW that a meeting be held at which the vets and phenotype screeners review the screening standard. The results would be published.
- 470.5 DNA** LH/CW  
Papers from LH were tabled. Everything is in place for the trial and it is hoped to complete this by the end of August. Members would be invited to volunteer for the trial but there was no guarantee that their animals would be included. ET animals would be included at a reduced cost. Others would be grouped by herd size, etc, and selected at random. CW would check the details to be uploaded to the website. It was noted that all animals seeking to enter the Registry would require DNA testing except for cria of pedigree registered stock.



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- 471.0 Welfare**
- 471.1 Early shearing** RB/GR/  
MW/  
Judges  
Panel  
It was noted that guidance must be included in the 2007 Show Rules but that these need to be finalised and published before shearing in August. The Welfare Committee had received reports of animals dying in 2005 because of early shearing. However, while understanding the welfare issue, the Show Committee did not feel it would be able to enforce a prohibition. The two aspects of early shearing were discussed. It was agreed to refer the subject to the Judges' Panel for input regarding the show ring.  
GR agreed to write an article for the next issue of *Alpaca*.
- 471.2 Joint Health and Welfare Group** NW  
GR reported that Linda Johnson has resigned as Chairman of the Group and POC is acting a temporary Chairman. Although the BCL members had wanted the group to stand down, this had been rejected and new terms of reference were being drawn up for approval by the BAS and BLS Boards.  
In due course, welfare will become the responsibility of the BCT which will report back to the breed societies.
- 471.3 Rescued animals** GR  
A branded e-mail would be circulated asking members to volunteer to take on rescued animals.
- 472.0 Regional Groups**
- 472.1 Regional Groups meeting** MB  
A meeting of regional group organisers would be arranged in October.
- 472.2 Derbyshire Group**  
Lesley Howard was organising the alpaca presence at the Hope Show. Work on the Derbyshire Group is progressing.
- 472.3 Hampshire Group** KO  
KO is considering establishing a Hampshire regional group.
- 473.0 Any other business**
- 473.1 Fresh Group**  
Fresh Group which supplies paddock cleaners had asked to circulate all members about its products. It was noted that the company could join as a trade member and then would be eligible to purchase the list of members willing to release their details.
- 473.2 BAS Articles** KS  
KS has amended the Society Articles in accordance with the decisions made at the AGM and EGM and will send a copy to CW. He noted the need to publicise corporate membership and to set a fee for international membership.
- 473.3 Cria born in Europe**  
Cria of BAS registered parents born in Europe are eligible to entry onto the European registry. They can be transferred to the BAS registry if they return to the UK.
- 474.0 Dates of next meetings**  
FS asked that the Board consider not meeting in May–July because of other commitments such as shows. This would be considered for 2007.  
Wednesday 19 July  
Wednesday 27 September  
Wednesday 25 October  
Wednesday 13 December  
Wednesday 31 January 2007 (to be confirmed)  
Saturday 27 February 2007 (AGM)

### Federation legal documents

These were signed on behalf of the BAS by RB and the BCL by NW. Copies would be signed by Paul Rose on behalf on the British Llama Society on 15 July 2006.