



The British Alpaca Society

Shows Committee meeting, Tuesday 22 August 2006 Littlebrook Farm, Little Tew, at 6.00 pm

Present

Maxine Watts (MW) (Chairman), David Barnett (DB), Mike Coghlan (MC), Tim Hey (TH),
Anthea Osborn-Jones (AOJ), Mandy Wilson (MWK)

In attendance: Ben Harford (BH), Claire Waring (CW)

06/034 Minutes of meeting on 16 March 2006

These were accepted as a true record.

06/035 New Committee member

Mandy Wilson was invited to join, agreed, and was welcomed onto the Show Committee.

06/036 Show Organisers' Meeting

The purpose of the meeting was discussed and it was agreed that a separate meeting was not necessary. In order to aid communication between all those involved in shows, the minutes of the Show Committee would be uploaded to the website in the members' area. Regional groups are to be asked to take responsibility for shows in their areas. All shows will be asked to make online entry available although it should still be possible to make entries using hard copy. This will mean that the class numbers must be strictly adhered to by all BAS shows throughout the season. Regional groups will be invited to apply to run a show under the BAS rules. Assistance will be available from the Show Committee, including a copy of the Show Organisers' Handbook. TH agreed to complete this by the end of September.

ACTION: TH

A presentation would be made to the Regional Group Organisers' meeting on 16 September asking them to pass information to the show organiser in their region.

ACTION: MW/TH

It was agreed to propose to the Board that training be provided for those acting as Ring Stewards and Inspection Stewards and that this should be included in the Foundation Course.

ACTION: MW

06/037 Shows – 2007 season

Regional organisation

It was agreed to ask the Regional Organisers to notify MW with the dates of the show(s) in their Region as soon as possible, together with contact details for the show organiser. The latter would then be sent the Show Organisers' Handbook. This will include a pro forma budget to help with planning as all shows are to be self-sufficient.

ACTION: MW

Payment of entry fees

Payment of entry fees varies across the shows, with some going direct to BAS and others direct to the overall show organisers. With increasing use of on-line entry, it was agreed that all entries and entry fees should be sent to Grassroots and arrangements made with the overall show organisers for payment to be passed to them.

ACTION: MW

2007 programme

After discussion, it was agreed to recommend to the Board that the National Show would continue as an open show to all BAS members.

National

It was agreed that the National should continue to be linked to a major agricultural show for the time being although it was envisaged that it could become a standalone show within a few years. It was recommended that the show should rotate around three or four locations to make it accessible to all members. Suggestions were Newark, the Bath and West and the East of

England. Cheshire was also suggested as a possible venue. It was noted that indoor housing for 300+ animals and sufficient vehicle parking would be required. Because of the great support from the Newark and Notts Agricultural Society over the past three years, it was agreed to hold the National Show there in 2007 but advise that it is likely to move in 2008 if a suitable venue is proposed.

ACTION: MW

AOJ is in discussion with a potential organiser for 2007 and DB would pass her details of another potential helper.

ACTION: DB/AOJ

Royal Show

There was a discussion as to whether the Royal Show should continue to be a high-profile event for BAS. It was suggested that it be used for the BAS National Fleece Show with a high level of publicity through displays and trade stands. The discussion resulted in the committee recommending and aiming to put on a complete 'Alpaca Showcase' at the Royal featuring the BAS National Fleece Show supported by associated trade stands and displays. The possibility of dropping the Halter classes in preference to demonstrations and displays was also discussed. In addition, the qualifying system for the Championship was discussed and how it would be affected. The final decision would be made after further meetings with Haymarket to discuss our options. Once decided, the membership would be informed of any changes together with reasons.

ACTION: MW

Composite Shows

These would be encouraged. Rules need to be written.

ACTION: DB?

Standalone Show

BH was investigating the feasibility of running a standalone alpaca show at the end of March 2007. This would include a fashion show and trade stands. The Warwickshire Conference Centre was suggested as a possible venue. This has suitable facilities for the fashion show but tentage would be required to house the animals. It was felt that the price currently being asked was too high and alternative venues are to be investigated. At this stage, it was likely to prove difficult to raise sufficient sponsorship for a 2007 event. MW, MC and DB agreed to visit the Warwickshire Centre to assess its suitability.

ACTION: MW/MC/DB

Royal Smithfield Christmas Fair

The possibility of having the trailer at this event was discussed. TH would check costs and, if reasonable, the Board would be asked to include them in the budget.

ACTION: TH/MW

06/038 Futurity

This was discussed. It is a commercial venture which BAS is supporting but in which it has no direct involvement.

06/039 Choice of judges

Currently, the show organiser is free to choose the judge for their own show. It was agreed to recommend to the Board that a shortlist of three judges for the National Show should be put forward by the Show Committee and one selected by the Board.

ACTION: MW

Suggestions of judges for 2007 to be sent to MW by 10 September.

ACTION: ALL

06/040 Letter from Judges' Panel

The response to the letter from the Judges' Panel to the BAS Chairman was read and acknowledged.

ACTION: MW

06/041 Show rules

Keith Scott was thanked for his detailed comments on the current rules and these and other changes for 2007 will be considered by a joint sub-committee of the Judges' Panel and the Show Committee.

ACTION: Rules Cttee

Dress code

It was noted that the dress code of handlers in the ring had fallen at some 2006 shows and guidance on dress and conduct will be prepared which will be made available to all competitors.

ACTION: ?

Young handlers

The Judges' Panel would be asked to consider the format for 'young handler' classes.

ACTION: DB

- 06/042 Colour versus Age Championships**
 It was agreed to propose to the Judges' Panel that the following be adopted:
 Age championships (8 champions, 8 reserves) would be judged as at present.
 Best colour would be judged as at present.
 Supreme champion would be chosen from those winning age championships and best colour. *ACTION: DB*
Age groups
 It was agreed to recommend that the age groups are unchanged. If the qualifying shows are discontinued, it will not be a problem if an animal moves up an age category during the show season. Currently, the judge must split a class with over 30 entries and may split one with over 20 entries. The split is made by age. *ACTION: DB*
- 06/043 Communication**
 The necessity of communication between the Show Committee and the Judges' Panel was noted.
- 06/044 Show entries**
 It was agreed that there will be no late entries allowed and any competitor not attending a show would not be eligible for a refund. *ACTION: Rules Cttee*
- 06/045 Class for dam and cria**
 A letter had been received suggesting that classes be introduced for females with cria at foot. This was rejected as impractical and unsafe. The joint sub-committee would be asked to consider amending the rules to stop cria being brought to BAS shows. *ACTION: Rules Cttee*
- 06/046 Additional colour classes**
 Problems had been experienced with animals being classed as white and fawn at different shows. The suggestion that a class for 'cream' or 'parchment' be introduced was rejected. It was noted that inspection for colour should be made mid-side but in some locations, this is very difficult due to the lighting conditions. DB offered to get a cost for colour charts which use actual fibre rather than a coloured panel. These would be given to all members. The owner remains responsible for changing the registered colour of any animal. *ACTION: DB*
 An error in the class listing in the Show Rules was noted. There should be a single class for multi-coloured animals in both huacaya and suri sections. The multi-coloured classes under each age group should be deleted. The black book would be amended and the change uploaded to the website. *ACTION: CW*
- 06/047 Show results**
 A standard format for results was discussed. AOJ will discuss this with Grassroots. *ACTION: AOJ*
- 06/048 Sponsorship**
 The idea of obtaining a main sponsor for all the shows was referred to the Marketing, Media and Magazine Committee. *ACTION: MW*
- 06/049 Any other business**
Trailer location
 A suggestion that the small trailer be housed further north was referred to the Marketing, Media and Magazine Committee. *ACTION: MW*
Dual ownership
 A suggestion that show programmes in 2007 should include up to four joint owners was referred to Grassroots. *ACTION: MW*
Early shearing of cria
 A response had been sent to the BAS Chairman.
- 06/050 Date of next meeting**
 Wednesday 15 November at Blenheim Alpacas.