



The British Alpaca Society

Board Meeting

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors held at 10:00 on Wednesday 25 July 2007 at the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LG

Present:

Graham MacHarg (GM) (Chairman), Matthew Tims (MT) (Vice-Chairman), Michael Berry (MB), John Gaye (JG), Lesley Howard (LH), Philip O'Connor (POC), Graham Reed (GR), Vanessa Schofield (VS), Keith Scott (KS), Freddie Small (FS).

Apologies:

In attendance:

Claire Waring (CW)

Meeting Started:

10.00

Meeting Ended:

16.45

In the light of the full agenda, GM proposed that each item be limited to 15 minutes with a 10-minute extension by agreement. Any topic not completed would be covered at the end of the meeting if time permitted or held over until the next meeting. This was agreed.

602.0 Minutes of the meeting held 2 May 2007

It was proposed by VS and seconded by FS that these be accepted. Agreed unanimously.

603.0 Matters arising not covered elsewhere

576.3 Request for fibre

JG reported the enquirer was no longer interested.

592.2 Import of paca vicunas

Discussion re paca vicunas is ongoing.

593.1 Accounts to 31 December 2006

FS reported that he and GR had met with LHG and final details of the draft contract with Grassroots is being finalised. The new contract represents significant savings on the previous one. It came into effect in May 2007 and will be reviewed in May 2009. A copy will be circulated to Board members.

FS

604.0 Finance

604.1 Accounts to 31 December 2006

These had been circulated. There was little change from the management accounts presented to the AGM. Screening income was up as a result of reconciliation of the screening account and taking as income deposits on animals which had failed screening. As a result of negotiations with Burges Salmon by Nick Weber, legal fees had been reduced. A provision had been made for Corporation tax.

A copy will be sent to the Inland Revenue for calculation of corporation tax and the final statement lodged with Companies House.

JG commented on the relevance of the Principal Activity stated on the Accounts. KS confirmed that this is the same as is stated in the BAS Constitution.

KS asked if there were any long-standing debtors. FS confirmed that there were not.

It was proposed by GM, seconded by MT and agreed unanimously that the accounts be accepted.

604.2 Management accounts to Jun 2007

These had been circulated. FS commented that the Society is in a good financial position with sufficient reserves. He asked that all committees give him an estimate of proposed expenditure so that he can prepare a cash flow forecast to the end of 2007.

FS confirmed that magazine production costs were net and that, as LHG operates cash accounting, income should be due from Deesons for web advertising. FS provided a breakdown of the motor expenses and

All
Ctees



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agreed to split the figure in future to show travelling associated with Society activities and for the Directors.

- 604.3 Corporation tax**
Provision has been made for this in the accounts to December 2006.
- 604.4 Payment to British Camelids Ltd**
FS reported this had been paid.
Following discussion, it was proposed by GM, seconded by FS and agreed unanimously that BCL be given the complete BAS database on the basis that it is only to be used for non-commercial purposes.
- 605.0 Correspondence**
- 605.1 Shirley Bettinson**
GM informed the Board of his response and outlined his reasons for allowing the branded e-mail re the event at Bozedown to be circulated to members. KS commented that the use of the branded e-mail system for publicising private initiatives had been the cause of significant problems in the past and such use was likely to lead to abuse. POC pointed out that the previous Board decision was that no kind of private initiative should be publicised in this way, whatever the subject. If the organisers wished to use the BAS e-mail to publicise the event, the request to do so should have been directed through BCL. It was agreed that there had been a technical error in allowing the e-mail to be circulated and GM agreed to make a retrospective application to BCL to support this event as a charity meeting. It was agreed that the use of the branded e-mail in this way would not be taken as a precedent and the system would be used to only circulate Society information. GM
- Regarding the promotion of the Futurity 2007 during the commentary at the Royal Show, it was agreed that the Show Committee should draw up guidelines for commentators. Nevertheless, at the previous Board meeting, it had been agreed that we should look to supporting the Futurity if it was possible to do so – this gives credence to this promotion. No sponsors list had been available at the Royal Show to enable details to be publicised. CW
- 605.2 Shaun Daniel**
It was agreed that it was an unfortunate error whereby a Board member's private company details had appeared at the end of an e-mail relating to Society business. It was agreed that all official communications to members should be through official channels where possible, practical and convenient, ie, CW or LHG. CW
The question as to whether the Society should employ a Chief Executive is subject to an ongoing investigation by the Board, although at present BAS cannot afford to do this.
- 606.0 AGM 2008**
It was agreed to hold this on Saturday 15 March 2008 at The Stoneythorpe Hotel, Southam, Warwickshire, subject to availability. The fibre initiative will be repeated. VS agreed to consider a suitable topic and speaker for an associated event. CW/VS
- 607.0 Shows**
The Board unanimously ratified the appointment of Mandy Wilson and Di Davies to the Show Committee. The appointment of Mike Birch was also ratified subject to his agreement to serve if invited.
- 607.1 Exhibitors questionnaire**
This is under consideration. MT
- 607.2 Public liability insurance online**
Information is being obtained from LHG. GR reported he was awaiting a quote for an overall PLI insurance from South Essex Underwriters. MT
Deferred to next meeting.
- 607.3 Futurity 2007**
A paper was tabled requesting BAS endorsement for the event as per other shows. KS pointed out that the resources of the Society must only be used for the objects of the Society and enquired what support and/or



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endorsement would include. It would include promotion on the website, branded emails where applicable as for any other show endorsed by BAS and in *Alpaca*. It is an event to promote British alpacas which will continue whether or not the BAS gives its endorsement. It was noted that the organisers would take no profit from the event and any surplus after costs had been met would be donated to charity. JG agreed to enquire after a budget for the upcoming show. It was proposed by GM and seconded by LH that BAS endorses and supports the Futurity 2007 to include advertisement on the website as a BAS Show and the presence of the BAS trailer at the event. Carried with 9 in favour and 1 abstention.

- 607.4 BAS trailer**
Shaun Daniel would be asked to return the trailer to the manufacturers to be checked. Its use will be discussed by the Show Committee. Show Cttee
- 607.5 Spring Show 2007 report and proposal for 2008**
Papers from Di Davies were tabled. She was thanked for the work that she and SWAG members put into this event. It was agreed that an interest free loan be offered to SWAG to offset the costs of the 2007 event with the view to this being recovered from the 2008 event. The Show Committee would discuss penning arrangements. Show Cttee
The Board noted the proposal to hold the next Spring Show at the Bristol Sales Centre on 29-30 March 2008. It was noted that BAS cannot be used as a vehicle to avoid payment of VAT. In order for VAT to be reclaimed, the Society must be invoiced for the hire of the facilities. FS
- 607.6 Bath & West 2008**
A papers from Di Davies was tabled. She was also thanked for the work that she and SWAG members put into this event. The Board noted the plans for the alpaca show at the Bath & West Show, 28–31 May 2008. The possibility of holding the BAS National Show at the Bath & West facilities would be discussed by the Show Committee. The Bath & West Show Society was given permission to use the BAS penning at future events, with them bearing the transportation costs. Show Cttee FS
- 608.0 Welfare**
- 608.1 DNA**
A paper from a geneticist Maria Leitner (WildValley Alpacas) circulated by LH was discussed. She is able to undertaken DNA tests on alpacas using fleece or swabs rather than blood. LHG had confirmed that GenoSeek could also use swabs. GR commented on the need for the same 13 vectors to be used and LH would check. DNA has been part of the screening procedure since 1 January 2007 but a decision had not yet been taken on whether it could be used as part of the certification of stud males. GR
A copy of the paper would be sent to LHG. Maria Leitner would be asked to provide a corporate overview for LHG. CW
- 608.2 Northumberland Show**
There was discussion on a document issued by the Northumberland Show organisers on its letterhead requiring all alpaca owners to declare that *NO alpaca on their property or in their herd had been treated for, or been tested positive by any testing protocol, for any infectious or contagious viral (eg, BVD), bacterial or mycobacterial (eg, TB, paratuberculosis) condition (or antibodies relating to the same) since 1 January 2006.* It was considered that this statement excludes virtually all alpacas in the UK. One member had complained, considering that this measure was put in place specifically to exclude their entries to the Show. It was agreed that it was completely unacceptable that any member should consider that they are being prevented personally from entering a show. GR/CW
GM had supplied information from which the Northumberland Show



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organisers had prepared this document. They had stated that their document had been authorised by the BAS Show Committee. This Committee had never seen or authorised the document neither had it been sanctioned by the BAS Board. The Board does not have the technical background to compile such a document. If required, it must be supplied by the British Camelids vets. The General Regulations of the Northumberland Show exclude animals from an infected herd from taking part. Such an animal must be excluded by the Show Chairman, not the breed society. If a BAS show organiser believes that an infectious or contagious disease is present on a member's property, it was decided that it is the organiser's responsibility to inform the main show organisers who in turn are responsible for taking any action required.

The matter is being investigated by the BCL vets.

- 608.3 Blue tongue in Europe**
A communication from Defra was noted. Blue tongue is not currently spreading within Europe, probably due to bad weather.
- 608.4 TB information**
A member had requested guidance on the situation regarding TB. This was passed to BCL. POC
- 608.5 Overnight emergency accommodation**
In hand. It was noted that there had been an excellent response to an appeal for members willing to help out those affected by the recent flooding. GR/CW
- 609.0 British Camelids**
No discussion.
- 610.0 Registration**
- 610.1 Defra request for information**
It was agreed that it would be of great benefit if the Society were to act on behalf of Defra in providing information about alpacas in the UK. LHG would be asked to determine the necessary steps for this to be the case. Additional sections will be required on the register for alpacas owned by non-members. It was agreed that funding be sought for the required work. A national herd audit was already planned for later in 2007. It was clarified that alpacas do not require a holding number but that members should be encouraged to obtain one. A holding number is available even where the member does not own land and agisted animals are registered at the holding number of the land that they are on. A holding number does not imply ownership. GR
- 610.2 Registration/DNA fees**
LHG will be asked to produce a list of males with a certain number of progeny which can be considered as studs. GR
- 610.3 Availability of registry on disk**
A request for the BAS database on disk was rejected.
- 610.4 Registry 3-year report June 2007**
This was noted.
- 611.0 Fibre**
It was proposed by GM, seconded by MT and agreed unanimously that Cameron Holt be invited to join the Fibre Committee. It was proposed by JG, seconded by GM and agreed unanimously that he be given complimentary membership on an annual basis. Other members of the fibre committee will be sought from the regional groups. Processors and shearers will also be included in the discussions. JG agreed to contact BCL for possible funding for a DVD on shearing. A forum was proposed to discuss alternative uses of fibre and it was noted that many alpaca owners do not have marketing experience.
- 612.0 Regional Groups and Membership**
- 612.1 Regional group organisers meeting**
This was agreed for Saturday 29 September at a venue to be confirmed.



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Expenses could not be provided by BAS.

- 612.2 Overdue membership fees and survey**
Those with unpaid membership fees after three months are no longer members of the Society and therefore not entitled to any benefits, including *Alpaca*. It was noted that those wishing to rejoin were liable to pay a joining fee.
- 613.0 Screening and importation**
- 613.1 Screening review and fibre analysis survey**
GM outlined his proposals for a review of the screening procedure. Nick Weber had expressed an interest in conducting this review. Screening has always been a contentious issue. It was instigated in 1995 to prevent poor quality animals entering the country and being placed on the register. There is no right of appeal but the animal in question can be re-screened. The standard used by BAS comes from the ARI and is applied in an impartial and unbiased fashion. No agreement was reached as to whether a review should be implemented, including the views of importers and exporters, but any review should be conducted by a completely independent party. The matter was carried over to the next meeting.
- 613.2 Modernising protocols**
This was deferred to the next meeting as it is embodied within the previous point. GR
- 613.3 Geoff Scott, screening for males in Chile**
This request referred to registration rather than screening and was referred to the Registration Committee. KS
- 613.4 Mario Bravo**
It was noted that there had been administration errors within the Society Rules which have been rectified. Parts of the registry rules are ambiguous and clarification will be provided by KS. KS
- 614.0 Media, Magazine and Marketing**
- 614.1 Marketing strategy**
A paper circulated by JG was discussed. It was felt that a National Alpaca Farm Open Day could bring useful publicity to alpacas and the Society. It will be discussed with regional groups. JG
The Board agreed to expenditure of up to £500 for technical improvements to the website.
The idea of a press pack was discussed. JG agreed to supply an example of the proposed folder to the next meeting. MT agreed to send a copy of the previous Blue Book folder to JG. MT
It was noted that Deesons have an alpaca photo library and JG will check the type and quality of images available.
- 614.2 Banner advertising on the website**
This will be reviewed with Deesons. JG
- 614.3 Publicity banners**
CW reported problems with two of the outside banners. These would be taken up with the supplier. CW
- 614.4 Dairy event (19-20 September)**
Alan Lorentzen and Maxine Watts would be asked if they could attend on behalf of BAS. It was noted that visitors to the event were already looking for methods of farm diversification. CW
- 615.0 Education**
- 615.1 Members' questionnaire**
VS reported on the response to the questionnaire. Proposals arising out of this were discussed. There is a demand for certain types of courses and it is proposed that these be scheduled for spring 2008 at locations in the south, centre and north. Courses would aim to at least break even. Additional regional courses could be arranged as required. UK trainers will be used for Levels I and II of the judge training programme but for VS/Educ working group



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the present an overseas trainer would be used for Level III and recertification. In the longer term, use of UK trainers would be investigated. Further judge training courses would be shelved until the show situation became clearer.

Work on preparing BAS training material was due to begin in the autumn with Val Fullerlove, Liz Barlow and Nick Harrington-Smith being invited to participate.

Regional groups would be asked to assess potential training venues against a checklist and a shortlist would be visited by VS.

It was proposed by FS, seconded by GR and agreed unanimously that £10,000 be made available for preparation of the new courses. BCL would be approached about a contribution to the costs.

There was a general feeling that Foundation Husbandry courses should be run by individual breeders or regional groups rather than nationally by the BAS as requirements and practices vary across the country.

Advanced Husbandry courses would involve vets and would be more feasible as national courses.

The Education Working Group would consider further development of the education programme.

615.2 Amanda VanDen Bosch

All outstanding results had been received and candidates notified. It was proposed by POC, seconded by GR and carried unanimously that Amanda VanDen Bosch's recommendation be accepted and Val Fullerlove and Nick Harrington-Smith be appointed tutors for Level II. BAS Tutor badges would be acquired for them together with one for Liz Barlow.

616.0 Report from Robert Terry (RT)

GM reported on his meeting with RT and proposed that the brief be broadened to obtain as much useful information as possible through a survey of the membership. A report is due to be made to the November Board meeting.

617.0 Proposal from Hilary Redden (HR)

This was referred to the Fibre Committee to consider the costs and implications.

JG

618.0 Dates of next meetings

Wednesday 26 September

Provisional dates agreed are:

Wednesday 24 October

Wednesday 28 November (fixed and to include ratification of show rules for 2008)

Wednesday 12 December

Wednesday 30 January

Wednesday 20 February

Saturday 15 March (AGM 2008)