



The British Alpaca Society

Board Meeting

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors held at 18:00 on Friday 14 March 2008 at the Stoneythorpe Hotel, Warwick Road, Southam, Warwickshire CV47 0HN

Present:

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

Apologies:

In attendance:

Claire Waring (CW)

Meeting Started:

18.00

Meeting Ended:

21.50

666.0 Minutes of the meeting held 13 February 2008

After clarification, it was proposed by JG and seconded by KS that these be accepted. Agreed unanimously. It was confirmed that the Board meeting immediately following the AGM would be solely for the election of Chairman and allocation of committee responsibilities.

667.0 Matters arising not covered elsewhere

667.1 Succession Planning for Education and Training

VS has collated all the appropriate papers and electronic files to pass to the person taking over responsibility for this area.

668.0 Voting at Board meetings

668.1 Proposal

MB proposed that 'No motion should be passed by the Board where fewer than "x" directors, excluding the Chairman's casting vote, have voted in favour of the motion'. After discussion, it was proposed by GM and seconded by MB that the number of directors should be one-third of those present, to the next highest integer. This was approved.

668.2 Election of Chairman

It was noted that the current Chairman (GM) remained in post until the next Board meeting. The procedure for election was agreed with all Directors being eligible to stand.

668.3 Approval of nominations received for the Board (retrospective)

CW confirmed that all those nominated for election to the Board were members of the Society and were eligible for nomination.

669.0 Finance

FS had no additional information to report.

670.0 Welfare

670.1 BTV vaccine trials

GR reported that BCL was to fund a vaccine trial on alpacas at Pirbright. GR
He presented a proposal from Claire Whitehead for a study at the Royal Veterinary College on the safety and dosage levels of the vaccine. The vaccine will not be licensed for use in camelids. When the vaccine is available in mid May, initially it will be released to owners within the Protection Zone. It is hoped that at least 80% of susceptible animals will be vaccinated in order to achieve the best level of protection.
It was proposed by GR and seconded by JG that BAS make £7500 available for the RVC study. Approved.
Claire Whitehead would be asked to first write an article for *Alpaca* following the study. This could be passed to other magazines after its publication.



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- 671.0 Registration**
- 671.1 Black Book on CD**
CW reported that this had been received by Grassroots.
- 671.2 Whole herd transfers**
Following discussion it was agreed that there would be no reduction in transfer fees for whole herd transfers.
- 671.3 Rule change for joint ownership** CW
Jointly owned alpacas can be identified by all owners on the register, if requested. Alpacas will be registered by the original owner or lead owner. A flag on the database will identify joint ownership, details of which will then be available for inspection.
CW was asked to circulate this change with the AGM minutes.
- 672.0 Import screening**
- 672.1 Application for registration of a BCL screened alpaca**
It was agreed that an alpaca which had been screened by BCL prior to the merger but not registered at the time, would be accepted, subject to confirmation of the screening results by Nick Weber who had conducted the screening. The animal will be registered as a BCL registration. BCL will be invoiced for the registration fee of £130 + VAT.
- 673.0 Regional Groups and Membership**
- 673.1 Insurance** FS
A letter had been received from Armitage Insurance concerning insurances taken out by the Society. It was proposed by GR and seconded by MT that Armitage should be given access to information necessary for it to supply a quotation. Armitage is investigating the possibility of arranging Public Liability Insurance which could be made available to all members within the membership fee.
It was suggested that Armitage should contact show organisers regarding PLI provision for shows.
KS noted that originally Armitage agreed to put a percentage from the insurance fees aside for the benefit of BAS. FS would check the situation with them.
- 674.0 Fibre** JG
It was agreed that the proposal for a fibre study put forward by Hilary Redden of The Fibre Lab was interesting but because of other financial commitments, the Board was not able to support it. JG would respond.
- 675.0 Education**
- 675.1 Copyright** VS/MT/GM
VS reported that the question of copyright for training material, including photographs, commissioned for BAS courses was still under negotiation. Principles had been discussed at a working group. These include the point that the intellectual property should belong to the Society. MT suggested that the Education Committee be given guidance on the copyright requirements which could then be negotiated. It was stressed that any situation similar to that with material prepared by Amanda VanDen Bosch must be avoided. A contract must be drawn up regarding the presentation of courses and the timely supply of results.
The main points to be agreed are the right to use the material, the right to change it and the right for other tutors to use it. Any future amendments would be prepared on a one-off payment basis with no royalty payments.
VS and MT agreed to prepare a summary of the copyright requirements. Subject to an agreement on ownership of the material, a contract would be negotiated with the approved tutors by GM and MT.
FS confirmed that no payment had yet been made for course development.



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- 675.2 Autumn course schedule**
CW reported that there had been interest in the proposed courses but details need to be finalised as soon as possible. It was noted that this would not be possible until the copyright issues were resolved. CW had contacted all those eligible for the Alpaca Judging Stage 1 course to try to encourage participants. There had been one response to date.
- 675.3 Cameron Holt's visit**
Toft Alpacas has invited Cameron Holt to the UK in October and had asked if the Society wanted to sponsor a session for the BAS Judges, as in 2007. This offer was declined. VS
- 676.0 Shows**
- 676.1 Royal Show**
MT reported that space in the Smallholder Area had been requested from the RASE. It was hoped that members of the Heart of England Regional Group would be able to provide animals for demonstrations and possibly trade stands. MT
- 676.2 Dairy Event**
A stand at this event would cost around £500. It was decided not to attend in 2008.
- 677.0 Media, Magazine and Marketing**
- 677.1 National Farm Open Day**
Regional Groups had been approached. JG reported that the majority of groups were in favour although some did not have suitable premises and others were involved in other events around the proposed date of Sunday 14 September. He emphasised the importance of finding the right location. The local events need to involve as many volunteers as possible and they should not be used for self-promotion of the hosting farm. VS suggested that the event should be extended to a National Alpaca Week running from Saturday 13 September to Sunday 21 September. Local groups could pick the most convenient date. This was agreed. Members with public relations skills would be sought. JG
- 677.2 Website directories**
JG reported a number of complaints about the new Directories even though the charges were lower than for the banner adverts. There had been a very poor take-up. He proposed and KS seconded that the Directories were removed from the website completely. This was agreed. It was also agreed that the 'Find a Member' button be restored to the front page rather than being a sub-section of 'Membership'. This would mean that the website would be fully funded by the Society. JG would respond to a letter received from Lakeham Alpacas. JG
- 677.3 Advertising complaint**
JG reported that Deesons was asking for advice on its response to two written complaints about an advert in *Alpaca*. Deesons would be asked to request that it be reworded in a positive manner. JG
- 678.0 AGM**
- 678.1 AGM procedures**
As committee reports had been published with the AGM papers, committee chairman would be available to answer questions at the AGM. The meeting would be adjourned after the vote until the results were available.
The Board meeting called for 10.00 on Saturday 14 March was cancelled.
GR left the meeting and the Chair was taken by MT.
- 679.0 British Camelids**
- 679.1 Meeting on 27 February**
Minutes were circulated by GR. The request from BAS for funding for education and training had been declined. BCL is to fund research by Claire Whitehead into the effects of the BTV vaccine on alpacas.



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Research will be conducted at Pirbright.

BCL is planning a conference on Saturday 25 October. Speakers will include Dr Willie Vivanco from Peru, Angela Martin, Robert Broadbent and Peter Aitken.

680.0 Dates of next meetings

Saturday 15 March (AGM 2008) (a Board meeting will be held immediately following the AGM)

Wednesday 16 April

681.0 Any Other Business

681.1 Companies Act

KS advised that under the new Companies Act anyone requesting information, subsequent to the next return, would need to give a reason for the request.

681.2 Presenting alpacas in business accounts

MB asked if FS could give guidance to owners on how to present alpacas within their business accounts. Although JG considered that this must be done on a case-by-case basis, KS felt that basic guidelines could be given.

681.3 Joint Health and Welfare Committee

GR reported that he had attended a profitable meeting with Defra. Minutes will be circulated. Another meeting is to be arranged.