



The British Alpaca Society

Board Meeting

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors held at 10:00 on Wednesday 23 April 2008 at the BBKA Headquarters, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LG

Present:

Graham MacHarg (GM) (Chairman), Matthew Tims (MT) (Vice-Chairman), Richard Beale (RB), Michael Berry (MB), Carole Christian (CC), Lesley Howard (LH), Maria Leitner (ML), Freddie Small (FS), Mary-Jo Smith (MJS).

Apologies:

John Gaye (JG)

In attendance:

Jay Holland (JH), Claire Waring (CW)

Meeting Started:

10.00

Meeting Ended:

17.10

688.0 Minutes of the meeting held 14 March 2008

679.1 The date was amended to read 27 February.

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by MT and seconded by LH. Agreed.

689.0 Minutes of the meeting held 15 March 2008

687.0 22 September was amended to read 24 September.

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by FS and seconded by LH. Agreed.

690.0 Matters arising not covered elsewhere

667.1 *Succession Planning for Education and Training*

CC and MJS will liaise regarding the material received from Vanessa Schofield.

MJS/CC

691.0 Finance

FS reported that he would present quarterly accounts to 31 March at the next meeting.

691.1 Directors' expenses

The Board confirmed that the rates for directors' expenses should remain unchanged. Claims must be made within three months. Phone expenses were not currently covered. It was agreed that these could be claimed if desired but the claim must be accompanied by a justification.

691.2 Budget

FS reminded Directors that he needed an estimate for income and expenditure for 2008/2009. The next Board meeting will focus on the budgets for both 2008/2009 and 2009/2010. Committee Chairmen were asked to provide details as soon as possible. Amounts spent in 2007/2008 are available in last year's accounts.

RB asked that bank balances be provided at Board meetings.

All
Chairmen/
FS

691.3 Bank account

FS reported that Grassroots Systems (LHG) was experiencing problems with international transfers made through Barclays Bank. It was proposed by FS and seconded by GM that the BAS bank account be moved to the Bank of Scotland. Agreed.

FS

692.0 Shows

692.1 BAS National Show

MT reported that the National Show had been cancelled. With the situation with the Bluetongue zones, only half of the country would be able to enter and it had been felt that this did not allow a 'National' show to proceed. There will be an alpaca exhibit/event at the Newark and Notts Show. As Kirsten Buhrmann had decided to continue with her visit to Europe she had only charged BAS the Europe-UK part of her expenses.



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- 692.2 Other shows**
MT reported that a good number of entries had been made for other BAS shows.
- 692.3 Show rules**
Discussions were being held with the judges over the interpretation of the 2008 show rules. Changes would be made after the show season.
- 692.4 Royal Show**
There would be no competitive classes at the Royal Show but an alpaca event will be held, supported by the Heart of England regional group. Space for a display is to be provided by the RASE.
- 692.5 Northumberland Show**
It was reported that some entries for the Northumberland Show had been received from breeders in the Surveillance Zone. The showground is in the Free Zone. It was agreed that LHG should be asked if an e-mail could be sent to all those entering on line to remind them of movement restrictions. CC noted that the Zones were generally updated on Friday and suggested that show organisers be advised to check regularly and, if the zones altered, entrants no longer able to bring animals to the show should be informed. MT
- 693.0 Education**
- 693.1 Committee responsibilities**
It was agreed that because of the large degree of overlap, Education and Judge Training should be covered by a single committee.
- 693.2 BAS courses**
The arrangement for BAS judge training and other courses was discussed. MJS considered that it was not feasible to offer the Foundation Alpaca Assessment and judge training courses at different locations around the country because venues did not have sufficient alpacas of the right type, colours and quality for the course requirements. There was also a question of biosecurity if animals were brought to the course venue from other farms. FS reiterated that the Board was keen to move training out under the BAS banner and to have ownership of the training material used. A £7500 subsidy had been approved to reduce course fees to £100 (1 day) and £200 (2 days) for non-judging courses. It was felt that the fees offered to a venue to host the courses were insufficient. It was agreed to review these for 2009. LH suggested advertising non-judge courses in appropriate magazines, such as *NFU Countryside* and *Smallholder* to attract non-BAS members. It was noted that breeders are running their own courses and BAS was unlikely to be able to compete with these on price. However, BAS courses were seen as a benefit of membership and it was considered that BAS tutors were able to offer a level of expertise which may not be available locally. FS agreed to work with MJS, CC and LH on the costings and budget for training in 2009. MT reported that the contract for course material and delivery was due to be finalised shortly. No payments had yet been made. The Education and Judge Training Committee agreed to produce an amended education proposal together with a budget. FS/MJS/ CC/LH/MT
- 694.0 Judge Training**
- 694.1 Judge recertification**
MJS reported that the Judges Panel had asked that future recertification courses should be run at the same time (September–December) each year. This meant that a judge certifying/recertifying in November 2009, for example, would need to recertify in November 2012. In November 2009, nine judges were due to recertify and the Judges Panel was discussing how this should be undertaken..



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- 694.2 Judges Panel meeting**
- Communication*
- MJS had attended the last Judges Panel meeting. There was a lack of communication between the Board and the Panel and MJS had been asked to attend the Panel regularly as the Board representative. She was happy to do this and this was approved by the Board.
- Education paper*
- Most of the meeting had been taken up by a discussion on the education paper prepared by Vanessa Schofield. This was to be discussed in detail at the Panel's next meeting on 3 June.
- Show rules*
- There was concern that changes to the rules put forward by the Panel had been altered before being included in the 2008 rules. The Panel requested that changes for 2009 should be agreed by the Chairman of the National Show Committee, the Chairman of the Judges Panel and two Board representatives.
- The Panel asked the Board to issue clarification of two rules for the 2008 season.
- 1 Natural condition*
- Appendix B (page 30) states: '*The alpaca should be shown in a clean, well-presented, natural and well-trained manner...*' The Panel asked for clarification that:
- An animal in natural condition can be lightly trimmed on the bonnet and around the eyes only.***
- This was accepted with the addition:
- Dagging is not considered to be trimming.***
- 2 Judge's financial interest*
- The rules state (section 3, page 7) that an alpaca is disqualified from showing if the show judge has any direct or indirect financial interest in the alpaca. The Panel asked the Board to issue clarification on this that:
- For avoidance of doubt, this includes sire's progeny classes.***
- The Board agreed with the amendment that it would refer to **all** progeny classes.
- International Judges*
- The Panel asked the Board to rule that all BAS Shows should be judged by BAS judges. This would be discussed further.
- GM agreed to write to Dominic Lane regarding the Bath & West Show and the judge training courses. MT would contact Di Davis, the show organiser.
- It was agreed to list BAS qualified judges in the Members' Handbook each year.
- Complaints procedure*
- MJS reported that the judges had asked for any complaints to be routed through the Panel. FS suggested that the Panel should be asked to write a complaints procedure.
- Insurance*
- The Panel had asked if judges were covered by BAS insurance when judging at BAS shows. FS will investigate.
- 695.0 Registration**
- 695.1 Ear tags**
- RB reported a comment received from a member who considered that ear tags may be made compulsory by Defra. There was a discussion about the current tags approved by BAS. They were felt to be too tight for alpacas and not sufficiently durable for the longer-lived animals.
- 695.2 Registration of males**
- MJS reported on her discussions with LHG. If notification of all males was made free of charge, this would result in an estimated loss of income to the Society of £9000 per annum. This could be recovered by

MJS/FS/
MT

GMH/ML



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increasing the registration fee to £85 each when males are notified as breeding. It was suggested that before a male could be worked, he would have to be registered and a DNA test carried out. No cria born prior to registration could be registered. GMH agreed to have further discussions with LHG and present a final proposal to the Board.

DNA testing

ML agreed to prepare a paper on alternative DNA testing suppliers. She declared her interest in this subject.

- 695.3 Fibre analysis for screening** ML agreed to prepare an evidence paper on different fibre testing technologies. ML
- 695.4 Screening** The report from Robert Terry would be reviewed by the Registration and Screening Committee and recommendations would be made to the Board. JG
- 696.0 Defra** RB reported that Defra had resolved a problem where the BAS website was being used by some of its officers to trace members and animal movements. He also reported that Defra was pleased that BAS had joined the Joint campaign Against Bluetongue (JAB).
- 696.1 Bluetongue** Claire Whitehead has not yet been able to start her research into how the vaccine affects camelids. It is hoped that space will become available at Pirbright in the near future. She is to check whether alpacas require one vaccination or two. RB
- The Bluetongue vaccine roll-out programme has been finalised by Defra. Initial vaccination will be Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex and Kent. It will then move across the country. The Welsh Assembly is expected to follow the pattern established by Defra. The Cabinet Secretary in Scotland has issued a statement that vaccination will be compulsory although only sheep and cattle are mentioned specifically. BAS has been asked to write stating that camelids should also be involved and that the rules must be the same as those adopted in England.
- Members were encouraged to order sufficient Bluetongue vaccine from their vets.
- The number of cases in 2009 is expected to be very significantly higher than those in 2008. The vaccine will be available for camelids under the cascade system through the vets.
- RB reported confirmation of a case of BTV7 in the Northern Territories, Australia. All affected animals had been killed.
- It was agreed that the basic information about Bluetongue previously circulated by e-mail, should be made available to all members. Those who are not on e-mail will be sent the information after the next Defra meeting on 6 May so that any further developments can be included.
- 696.2 bTB** RB reported that the Welsh Assembly has a manifesto commitment to eradicate bTB. It has a budget of £27 million over three years for this. A consultation document has been issued following the latest meeting in Cardiff. The intention is to put camelids on the same footing as cattle with regard to bTB. A one-off national test of all cattle and camelids is proposed in order to assess the extent of the problem. The Board agreed to support this. In Wales, camelids are considered to be a potential reservoir for bTB. It is likely that pre-movement testing will be introduced.
- RB noted that compensation would only be available to members with registered animals but the level is difficult to determine as the only prices in the public domain are those on Alpaca Seller. Consultation is anticipated in July.
- A meeting was held with Defra about bTB in England. Camelids are not



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covered by existing legislation. Where permitted, Animal Health is undertaking some testing. Its powers are limited to shutting farms. ML reported that there was an established correlation between badgers and TB in cattle but where there was a low density of bovines, the correlation weakens, whatever the badger density. It was considered that the TB was in cattle and this was transmitted to badgers and then re-transmitted back to cattle.

- 696.3 Cost Sharing and Responsibility Consultation**
RB reported that comments had been sent to Defra but there had been not response to date.
- 696.4 Biosecurity**
RB reported that Claire Whitehead is finalising a biosecurity document to be made available to camelid owners. It has been sponsored by British Camelids and it is hoped that the Welsh Assembly, Defra, BCVS and others will endorse it.
- 697.0 British Camelids**
- 697.1 Meeting on 12 April**
RB reported that BCL had committed £60,000 to research into Bluetongue and would need to replace these funds. BAS would be approached for assistance. This would be discussed by GM and FS. *Veterinary Students' Conference*
It was proposed by GM and seconded by MJS that BAS should give £250 in support of the conference. Agreed. Details of the Society would be placed in the meeting brochure.
Meeting on 27 February
The final minutes of the BCL meeting on 27 February were accepted. GM/FS
- 698.0 Media, Marketing and Magazine**
- 698.1 National Farm Open Week**
JH reported that there had been only one volunteer to help with the publicity although they had no direct experience in this area. JH
The different options for staging a Farm Open Week in 2008 were discussed. Response from regional groups had been variable and there was a danger that if the event was organised too quickly it would not be as successful as anticipated.
It was proposed by GM and seconded by LH that plans be deferred until 2009 to enable more detailed preparation. Agreed. JH would visit a farm near him that was opening in July to assess the success of that venture.
- 698.2 International Year of Natural Fibres (2009)**
MB circulated information about this FAO initiative. It was agreed that this could be useful to help promote the alpaca farm open days.
- 698.3 Alpaca**
MB commented that he found the layout of the magazine confusing with insufficient distinction between adverts and editorial. Others expressed agreement. The matter was referred to the committee. JG
- 698.4 Website**
RB reported that some of the colours used on the website were difficult to read. This would be investigated and taken up with Deesons. JG
- 698.5 World Alpaca Conference**
GM reported that the First World Alpaca Conference in Australia had been well organised. It had been agreed that it should take place biennially. However, the next one has been scheduled for June 2009 in the USA, followed by one in conjunction with the Alpaca Fiesta in Peru in November 2010. GM had proposed that BAS undertook to organise the following conference in early 2012. RB suggested that if this was accepted by the conference organisers, work should begin immediately, particularly in securing a suitable venue. Sponsorship would be needed and anyone involved in the early stages of the organisation would have to be committed to seeing the project through. GM



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- 699.0 Regional Groups and Welfare**
- 699.1 Regional Group Guidelines** LH
LH reported that work on the Guidelines was continuing. The relationship between BAS and regional groups would be part of the strategic review.
- 700.0 Membership**
- 700.1 Code of Conduct** FS
MB reported three incidences where the same breeder had sold animals to new owners. These did not meet the declared specifications and the BAS Code of Conduct had been breached. The actions that could be taken by the Board and Society were discussed. It was agreed that the Board could only take up complaints made in writing but there was no set procedure in place for dealing with such instances.
RB suggested that an independent disciplinary committee should be established which would not involve any members of the Board. Non-members of the Society, such as a vet, could serve on the committee and the membership should include at least one respected breeder. The composition of such a committee and its place within the BAS Memorandum and Articles and BAS Rules would have to be determined. It was agreed that BAS should seek to appoint a solicitor who was conversant with the operation of breed societies. FS agreed to draw up a specification. LHG would be asked if she could recommend anyone.
- 701.0 Dates of next meetings**
Wednesday 23 July (to include budgets 2008/2009 and 2009/2010)
Wednesday 24 September
Wednesday 19 November (to include ratification of show rules 2008 and budget 2009/2010)
Wednesday 18 February (to include verification of nominees)
Saturday 14 March (AGM)
- 702.0 Any Other Business**
- 702.1 Michael Berry's resignation**
MB offered his resignation from the Board which was accepted reluctantly. He was thanked sincerely for all his work over the years. It was proposed by GM and seconded by MJS that Jay Holland be co-opted as a Director until the AGM in 2009. Agreed.
- 702.2 Committee responsibilities**
These were discussed and amended as follows:
British Camelids BAS Representative
Richard Beale
Contact with Defra, Welsh Assembly and Scottish Assembly
(defra@bas-uk.com)
Richard Beale, Carole Christian, Philip O'Connor, Libby Henson (Grassroots Systems), Graham Reed
Education and Judge Training (education@bas-uk.com)
Mary-Jo Smith, Carole Christian, Lesley Howard, Liz Barlow, Val Fullerlove, Nick Harrington-Smith
Fibre (fibre@bas-uk.com)
John Gaye, Jay Holland, Cameron Holt
Finance (treasurer@bas-uk.com)
Freddie Small
Judges Panel (judge@bas-uk.com)
David Barnett
Marketing, Magazine and Media (3m@bas-uk.com)
John Gaye, Jay Holland, Paul Rippon
Membership (membership@bas-uk.com)
Matthew Tims, Maria Leitner
Regional Groups (regional@bas-uk.com)
Carole Christian, Jay Holland, Lesley Howard, Maria Leitner



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Registration and Screening (registration@bas-uk.com and screening@bas-uk.com)

John Gaye, Richard Beale, Libby Henson (Grassroots Systems), Maria Leitner, Graham MacHarg, Mary-Jo Smith

National Show Committee (shows@bas-uk.com)

Matthew Tims, Vicki Agar, David Barnett, Mike Birch, Di Davis, Val Fullerlove, Nikki Hayton, Graham MacHarg, Mandy Wilson

Welfare (welfare@bas-uk.com)

Jay Holland, Lesley Howard

Joint Health and Welfare (welfare@bas-uk.com)

Vicki Agar, Liz Butler, Jay Holland, Lesley Howard, Linda Johnson, Philip O'Connor, Graham Reed, Matthew Tims, Claire Whitehead

702.3

Scottish Consultancy Conference

CC reported that she had been asked to make a short presentation to a Farm Business Consultants Conference in September. This was welcomed by the Board. CC would circulate her PowerPoint presentation.

CC