



BCA newsletter

No. 6

British Camelids Association

May 2005

AGM & Business Meeting - 10 April 2005

Fifty members and seven guests attended this year's AGM and Business Meeting. Apologies were received from sixteen members.

The formal AGM commenced at 11am with the Chairman (Nick Weber) welcoming members and guests. The minutes of the 2004 AGM, the Report of the Directors and Trustees and the Accounts for 2004 were duly approved. Ms Lorna Renshaw and Mrs Jane Brown stood down from Council. Mr Arish Turle will continue on Council for another term. No new Council members were appointed. Flemons, the accountants to the company, were re-appointed.

The Business Meeting commenced immediately after the AGM with the presentation of the Felipe Benevides Trophy to Joy Whitehead for her work and commitment to British Camelids.

Review of Matters from the 2004 Business Meeting— There were no matters arising.

BCA Internal Restructuring

Paul Rose (PR) gave a brief summary of the report that had been circulated to members in the last Chronicle and also attached to the agenda for this meeting. PR requested feedback from those present and various points were raised. *(These have been consolidated and re-ordered for the sake of easier reading!)*

Budgetary Control: In response to a question from Anthony Rucker, PR stated it is proposed that, as is the case now, applicants would join and continue to pay their fee to British Camelids. But they may then choose which interest (breed) groups they wish to be involved in. It would be up to the groups if they wish to charge a supplementary fee for additional services such as their own newsletter but this would not be used as a way of increasing overall membership fees.

Charitable Status: Rodney Newth pointed out that the Charities Commission is keen that the trustees of a charity represent all of the interests within that charity and that we should take full legal advice. It was confirmed that maintaining our charity status is at the forefront of our minds.

Anthony Rucker pointed out that there are cash advantages being a charity but also probably a trade off and that members would need at some point to be given a full account of the pro's and cons. Nick Weber (NW) stated that one of the options is to drop charitable status but that this would not necessarily be popular with the membership.

Any assets would be lost. He also pointed out that if the government carries out its Charities review our charitable status might be removed and that we certainly need to take legal advice. PR felt that by creating autonomous breed groups and allowing Council to concentrate on camelid welfare, health and social issues for all camelids, this would also allow BCA to enhance its charitable role.

Camelid Unity: Alastair Fraser urged Council that whilst creating autonomous breed groups, unity of camelid interest be maintained. Antony Bush suggested we must be wary of forming two associations within one and suggested that we have informal groups, each with a voice but also shared issues. PR confirmed that whilst separating the breeds into autonomous groups, together they would form a united voice as BCA.



Joy Whitehead receiving trophy

Shows, Health and Welfare: Liz Butler raised the importance of having a joint Health & Welfare committee and joint shows with BAS. She enquired whether

our DEFRA stakeholder representative, Gina Bromage, represented BCA or all camelids (including BAS) at the stakeholder meetings? NW replied that currently she represented BCA but saw no reason why this could not be extended to BAS.

Graham Reed stated that he was uncomfortable if the restructure resulted in a situation where welfare is discussed only at a bi-annual meeting as welfare issues occur on a day to day basis. PR responded by saying that Council plans to focus more on welfare: the two breed groups will be discussing welfare within their own breed meetings and the groups will get together to discuss issues that affect both. Liz Butler suggested that it should be down to the BVCS to deal with health.

Council Make-up: Michael Balchin expressed concern to ensure a fair balance of breed representation within Council. PR emphasised that at Council level the overall concern would be camelids as a whole and so "breed balance" was not critical but the existing system of co-opting could be used as a leveller.

Council/Committees: Whilst the current proposal is based on the concept of members being elected as Council and then forming the nucleus of the breed committees according to their interests, Ordell Safran questioned whether this might be reversed so that the committees are elected and from these a Council could be formed. Rodney Newth suggested that the Charities Commission would throw that out.

Breed Conflicts: Pam Walker expressed concern that, as a result of the growing alpaca community within BCA, and

it being largely commercial, llamas were being squeezed out! Nick Weber pointed out that a high proportion of alpaca owners are not commercial and suggested that the proposal to create autonomous breed groups would mean that each breed would determine its own needs and control its own affairs thus preventing problems of breed dominance. Pam Walker concluded that Council being an umbrella is a good idea.

Other Groups: Michael Berry asked whether under the federal umbrella there are going to be two other groups? PR stated that at the moment we are focusing on our internal structure but that the other external possibilities could include other groups. NW mentioned that BVCS are interested in being affiliated and that this would be advantageous to them in any dealings with DEFRA.

Next Step: Various members asked about the way forward. NW stated that the purpose of this meeting was to gauge opinion and then take it forward. The possibility of an EGM, proxy votes and postal ballots were all raised. PR stated that first a revised and more detailed proposal would be produced and circulated based on these discussions, and that any process of decision making would be based on the principle of ensuring the entire membership would have an opportunity to vote.

Anthony Rucker suggested a straw poll on the proposal that this meeting endorse the proposal put forward by Council and ask them to submit a draft proposal to the membership at an EGM. This was seconded by RN and on a show of hands 42 were in favour with 3 abstentions.

Co-operation with other areas of the Camelids Community

BVCS: Robert Broadbent, Chairman of BVCS, has given us approval to the concept of a federated link to them.

Single Registry for Alpacas: In concept there is nothing stopping it happening. It will cost some money to achieve. Anthony Rucker asked what is to prevent it going forward. NW stated that there are a number of anomalies within the package being suggested. Roger French has been advising the steering group about the registry and NW does not see any hurdles to overcome. The time scale is this year.

Shows Programme: There is agreement that there will be joint shows with the BAS, open to registered animals from either society, except the BAS National Show. Rob Bettinson, Chairman of BAS and guest at the meeting, said this also applies for llamas. BAS have found that llamas are a great attraction in between showing classes - another benefit of working together.

Norma Chandler Paterson asked if shows could be arranged on different days so they did not clash. Rob replied that from April through to July every single weekend there is a major show. There is a great opportunity in local areas to get in and develop shows.

Camelid Fiesta

Alaistair Fraser gave an update. He had offers of help from several members and the first planning meeting would take place this weekend.

Conference: The BVCS had asked for suggestions for speakers for our conference this year. Dr Karen Baum and Dr Norman Evans were suggested. It was also suggested that a blueprint be drawn up for holding training days around the country. A volunteer would be needed to

put this together. Grass management was also another topic members were keen to know more about. BCA had recently sponsored Karen Lancaster to attend the International Camelid Health Conference and she would be able to speak at our conference.

National Federation/Forum

BAS/BCA: Three steering groups are in joint talks. Federation concept, DNA protocols, Joint Registry.

Rodney Newth asked what will be the steps after agreement is achieved and NW responded that there will be options and the recommended option of the Joint Board will be put to the membership through an EGM for approval.

Rob Bettinson stated: As far as BAS membership is concerned there is no sense in having two competing societies. There are 12,000 alpacas in the country and we need a national infrastructure for Camelids with the creation of autonomous bodies. There are great similarities with both societies and talks have been constructive. We will put all our deliberations in front of you and you will have that decision.

Any Other Business

Una Dawes asked for an update on the removal of guanacos from the Dangerous Wild Animals Act. There had been no further news since the results of the responses to the Consultation Paper had been posted on the DEFRA web site. It was agreed that we would try and find out when this legislation would become law.

Anthony Rucker asked if Arish Turle would give a brief summary of the Fibre Co-op's AGM and whether Council has got any plans for members who are going to have an animal shorn and what to do with the fleece.

Arish reported that the Fibre Co-op has gone into cold storage. It has 65 members representing 10% of total number of alpacas, £30K of sales, but the ability to continue trading was too uncertain. At the AGM the members endorsed the Board's recommendation that the Co-op should return the money and any unsold products back to the members. The situation would be revisited in a year's time at next year's AGM to see if there were reasons which would get the support of a number of people to start up again. Two have stayed on as Directors. There is a draft suggestion to ask if the breed societies would offer support for a fibre initiative for fibre to be sent to a buyer and the money distributed to the participants. We have a contract with Laycocks in Yorkshire and they have offered to buy the fibre from last year and will give us a fixed price plus a percentage which would fund the cost for them to sort the fibre. Initiative based on breed societies collecting the fibre, supplying the members with sacks and the cost of retaining Penny Beals. Costs will be £5-6K split between two breed societies which would enable members to send in their fleece at no cost to themselves from which they would get a small sum of money per kilo for their fibre.

Michael Berry: In the Annual Report it states that llamas and alpacas are now recognised as normally domesticated in the UK. How does that affect the situation if dogs attack and kill? NW replied that Camelids are not included in the list relating to that legislation which only applies to dogs and sheep. Ben Bradshaw MP indicated that any change to the law is unlikely as a new Act would need to be drafted.



Members only recourse would be to pursue a civil action. Michael Balchin asked if members had experience of the fallen stock situation. They have big problems in Wales. If you have an animal that is a pet you can bury it, but if it is an animal that is not a pet it is subject to the fallen stock scheme. Alastair Fraser said that he had a 40 year old camel who died that he said was a pet, but because his other camels are not pets, he had to pay £200 for the carcass to be taken away.

Liz Butler requested that we get it sorted out once and for all how Camelids are regarded by DEFRA. Are they pets or farm animals?

Ordell Safran asked what is happening with re-homing. Do we have any records? For our own protection we must have some records. Phil Davies reported that the total number of animals re-homed by the Association last year was three. The figure is very low and there are a lot more taking place in private arrangements. Those which come through the Association are monitored and recorded: mostly males with behavioural difficulties, older animals with elderly owners.

Liz Butler gave a report on the Llama and Guanaco Group. She also resigned from the chairmanship due to family pressures. Council will discuss her report at their next meeting.

Rodney Newth reported that the llama Registry has been developed over a number of years. A new member, Tim Harris, who is an expert on Access, has made some significant improvements to the database. Facilities now include being able to put photographs on the registration certificate. Certificates can also show great grand parents. Appearances at shows and placings can also be recorded.

One or two members have not registered last year's crias. Rodney asked that if anyone has got registrations pending to let him know.

Phillipa Wills asked about what had happened to alpaca stud assessments. NW reported that he had the paperwork.

Michael Balchin asked for membership lists in alphabetical order.

Ordell asked if the groups are to continue or are they put on hold until we know what is happening? PR suggested that the groups should carry on in the meantime - They should meet with Council to make a more complete exercise. RN suggested that the Chairman or Vice Chairman of each committee should be a member of Council.

It was mentioned that Su Lenk had retired from Council during the year for personal reasons, and that Jane Brown retired so as to devote more time to administrative work for the Association.

Thanks were given to all Council Members, to Nick for his work as Chairman, and to Jane Brown for her work behind the scenes.

The meeting closed at 3.45pm.



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Post AGM Council Meeting

Council met briefly after the Meeting. Nick Weber stated that he wished to step down as Chairman and Arish Turle suggested that it might be beneficial to have a llama member as Chairman, proposing Paul Rose be appointed. PR responded that as some of the principle issues that will be driving events this year were alpaca-led such as the Single Registry, co-operation with BAS etc, it was appropriate that the Chairmanship remained with the alpaca community and NW agreed to continue for another year to see these interests to fruition. Paul Rose will remain as Vice-Chairman. Although no longer a member of Council, Jane Brown will continue as Membership Co-ordinator/ Administration Officer and Secretary to Council. She is also the contact point for members with items for the Newsletter & Chronicle.

Member Yvonne Parfett approached Council after the business meeting to offer her services as a llama member and it was agreed that she should be co-opted to Council. Other details are listed on the Contacts page 11.

Council next meets on 27 April.

Volunteers!



Wanted!

Can you help?

We need someone to take on the role of Association Treasurer? If you are numerate and willing, do please email or call Jane Brown for further information.



Do you have all round legal skills or knowledge of company law? Would you be prepared to give us advice and guidance from time to time on legal matters concerning Association business? If so, again, do please email or call Jane Brown for further information.

BCA Publishing Data

DEADLINES: For all issues, 7th of the month before publication: i.e 7th June for July Chronicle.

COPY: Please send all letters, articles etc to: Jane Brown, Puckpitts Farm, Tredington, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire CV36 4NH e-mail: Camelids@btinternet.com

ADVERTISING: Please contact Jane Brown as above for details and rates.

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Council Matters

Council last met 8th March and briefly after the AGM on 10th April. Much of what was discussed related to the forthcoming AGM and what had occurred at that meeting. See the AGM report in this issue. You will have all received the proposals for the restructuring of BCA written by Paul Rose and presented by him at the AGM. The general response at that meeting was one of approval with a few sensible caveats, one in particular with regard to split interests within one organisation. Council will now go forward and thoughtfully develop the proposals and in due course we shall present them to you.

The Association is currently enjoying a better financial position than it has experienced for a number of years. The implications of this are two fold. Firstly it will enable us to better carry out our function and meet our objectives as a charity - witness the sponsorship of Karen Lancaster to the conference at Corvallis in Oregon, whose reports on what she has learnt there will further our aims of dissemination of information on health in camelids. We do want to continue development of our activity in this area. Secondly we are now able to afford better services in carrying out our administration, which has become considerably greater as the membership has grown. Jane Brown has stood down from Council as she carries the main burden of administration and will now be better placed to deliver it.

No new members to Council were elected at the AGM and we need to recruit more people to work on Council and

share the workload for the existing members. In that context we are delighted to welcome Yvonne Parfett, who offered her help after the AGM. Thanks Yvonne! We need at least one and preferably two more alpaca owners to work with us, so please do give consideration to this. I have agreed to remain as chair for the next year but will definitely be standing down after that. I personally do not believe it is healthy for individuals to remain as directors of organisations like BCA for long periods. The introduction of new blood and enthusiasm is foil to the development of traditional set-in-their-way views. Additionally it helps to prevent the build up of vested interest groups within a board, who may run things their own way for all the wrong reasons. That is especially important in the case of Trustees of a charity. More importantly I particularly want to work with Council to see through the BCA restructure plans, and with the BAS the rationalisation of alpaca interests coupled with the formation of a national camelid federation. That's quite a task, but it will be interesting and potentially critically formative for the beneficial future of the camelid community in the UK. So come and give us the benefit of your skills and wisdom!

The countdown to our Fiesta 05 in September is ticking. I hope that you have marked your diaries for what promises to be an enjoyable weekend. See you there!

Nick Weber

Llama & Guanaco Registry

Registration activity has been lower than normal so far this year, however much is going on in the background.

Firstly Tim Harris has produced for us a "beta" test version of a greatly improved database. There is a user-interface (UI) module that contains the forms and other data handling/printing modules that the Registrar will normally use to enter new data, amend existing records and print out certificates etc.

The data tables are kept in a separate "data module". One of the main developments so far is the automatic generation of great grandparents details from the parental data of grandparents currently held within the current database. I still have a number of dams and sires referred to by name only which are not registered - I hope to get a list of most of these to Jane Brown before the newsletter is mailed. If you recognize any names on this list and can provide me with any further information on these llamas (and a few guanacos as well) I can get them properly included in the database.

Facilities have also been incorporated to record Association Recognized Shows and the record of shows attended by animals, together with placing for the first, second and third in each class - subject to agreement by the Llama Committee. "Fun classes" will not be included at least initially.

Tim has also made provision for a photograph of an animal to be incorporated within the database and printed on the certificate - this of course raises a number of practical issues including costs, storage capacity on the Registrar's computer and the possible need to invest in a colour laser printer as most inkjet printers smudge if the printed document gets wet.

The separation of the user-interface from the data-tables also means that it will be technically possible for members who have Microsoft's Access database (version 97 or newer) to have their own copy of the database user interface together with data files for llamas and/or guanacos registered in their name and/or bred by them.

This opens up a use of the register that will have to be carefully organized. Members would be able to enter details of their new born or newly acquired llamas. The allocation of herdbook numbers, registration references and issue of certificates must remain the responsibility of the Registrar.

When the 2005/6 Llama Committee is formed I would ask them to actively promote the registration of llamas and guanacos and in due course consider the publication of a BCA llama herdbook.

The final piece of news is that we have a volunteer who is interested in taking over the running of the Registry from me later in the year, again subject to Llama Committee/Council approval and still being enthusiastic when she has had a chance to see everything that is involved in the day to day running of the Registry.

My thanks to all members who send in new registrations completed with all the details that enable me to process new entries quickly. Too often in the past I have had to dig back into the files to find details of sires/dams etc.

To our larger breeders a plea please to get your registrations up to date before I pass the work over to the new registrar later this year. It would be unfair to land her with a lot of entries that should have been processed during my period in the Registrar's seat!

Rodney Newth, Llama and Guanaco Registrar



Aberrant Behaviour Syndrome

(Previously known as Berserk Male Syndrome)

Let me begin by saying whatever was wrong with Aaron I do not believe it was his fault entirely. His behaviour was so aggressive it could even be considered dangerous, not only to me his keeper, but also to his fellow male alpacas. All this I believe, because he was over handled and petted as a cria; so this extreme behaviour should be considered the exception rather than the rule: it was man-made.

Aaron's problems began at the age of about 6 months when we weaned him and took him away from the herd with his half-brother Anton. Hand feeding would take place almost on a daily basis: we had started to halter train them and needed their co-operation so it had seemed a good idea. They became very friendly and there is no doubt petting and over-handling took place more often than not.

Aaron and Anton seemed quite happy together in their bachelor paddock at first, but then their normal male play was starting to get much rougher with the smaller Anton repeatedly coming off the worse. He would try to run away with Aaron in hot pursuit, screaming for mercy and on more than one occasion Aaron would draw blood on Anton's neck and back.

I decided to put them on either side of a dividing rail. This seemed to work for a while, and peace returned to Kerthua Park. My view was that this was only a temporary phase that Aaron was going through, and he would soon settle down to his old self once the testosterone rush had sorted itself out. How wrong I was.

At this stage I did not realize that Aaron saw me as another alpaca, which I think he did. I had thought he would see me as his keeper, his benefactor and the person who feeds him, therefore he would respect that position...

On the day of his first attack I was cutting up through the paddock after my regular morning stroll. As I approached he didn't move out of the way as usual, but stood his ground, looked me straight in the eye and charged at me like an express train. He reared up and hit me with his knees knocking me to the ground. Fortunately I wasn't hurt. More than anything I was shocked flabbergasted by his in treating me as he had been treating Anton; domination being the name of the game.

Warning:

The hand-rearing and over-handling of young male and female camelids can create an extremely dangerous animal.

In most cases such an outcome is irreversible.

What I should have then done was to commence immediately a programme of training and discipline. I didn't do this and the next day I paid the price because he flattened me again. The velocity and speed of his run carried him way past me downhill which gave me time to get on my feet. He turned and started coming towards me for another attack. Very angry, I was going to react and he made an easy target. As he approached I gave him one almighty punch right on the end of his nose. I don't know if I hurt him or not, it was just instinct intended to stop him. Aaron was shocked, so much so he just stood there, turned his head away and let me get another blow to the base of his neck. I was so angry I tried for a third but by now he was running away from me and I couldn't catch him. Next day still smarting from my knockdowns and the ensuing fracas, I went



The stance before attack

to see if he was all right, but this time I stayed outside his paddock! Leaning on the top rail of the fence talking to him in a gentle manner, Aaron seemed calm enough, but he was looking straight at me full on, eyeball to eyeball. Then suddenly without any warning he lunged forward and grabbed my upper arm in his mouth in a vice-like grip and I couldn't move. Fortunately I was wearing a wax jacket with jumper and shirt so it didn't break the skin but did give me a very bruised and tender arm for a few days.

While I was recovering from the bite, it gave me time to re-evaluate the situation.

Had we got a full grown *iberserkeri* on our hands, a wild and dangerous animal that we would have to consider putting down? Or did he simply need some discipline, to be taught respect and good manners?

I spoke to our vet who thought it might be best to put him down but I decided to give him another chance and see how he would respond if I tried some re-training and discipline. It was a close call!

My strategy was to try and think like an alpaca, so it was now me who was going to be the dominant male, not Aaron. I began by always entering his paddock from the high ground, his favourite place. The idea was to dislodge him from this area and take over, not easy at first because he didn't want to go. What helped me was the fact that I was still angry with him, and I was very determined to succeed. At first he would just stand his ground and stare at me, I didn't let this happen for many seconds as I had learned this stare was a prelude to an attack. I found that waving my arms around like someone demented would cause him to lose focus and had a stick about 3 ft long to help me. At first it needed a tap or two on the end of his nose or the base of his neck before he would move.

After the first week of doing this twice daily, he started to move out of the way as soon as I entered his paddock, without me doing anything at all. I would pursue him to his next position and make him move again and again. There were still the odd moments of defiance, but I had him on the run. The breakthrough came after about two weeks when Aaron walked away from me and without any fuss took up a submissive crouch, signalling to the dominant animal (in this case me) that a higher status is recognized and no challenge will be forthcoming. I continued to push him around after this event to re-enforce my own position as *itop dogi*. It seemed to work and I was quietly satisfied with the progress I had made.

The big question now was...could he be trusted? I decided to put him to the test, turned my back on him and walked away! A little unnerving but he never bothered me; he just carried on grazing, exactly as you would expect a normal alpaca to do.

New owners should beware that petting alpacas is a very bad thing no matter how cuddly and tempting they are. It is a thin line between petting and handling but continuous petting, leads to over-petting and will have serious adverse affects on your alpaca later on.



The Bite

John Coates, Kerthua Park Alpacas, Cornwall

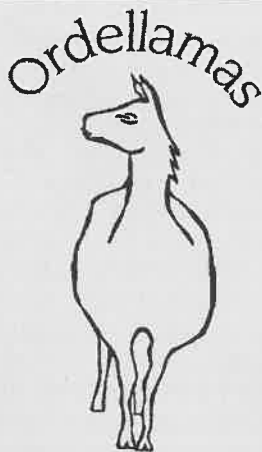


Marty McGee Bennett Clinics

September 2005

Marty is an inspirational teacher and her clinics are great fun for both human and camelid participants. You are welcome to bring your own llamas and alpacas to the clinics – we positively welcome those with challenging behaviour. Marty will cover all aspects of handling, including haltering, leading, showing, toenail trimming and administering injections. She will change the way you and your camelids understand and relate to each other. It is a thoroughly rewarding experience! If you want to book on a course please contact the host.

- **8-10 September: Basic Clinic** – Toft Alpacas, Warwickshire. Contact: Rob and Shirley Bettinson, phone: 01788 810626, admin@toft-alpacas.co.uk. www.toftalpacas.co.uk
- **13-15 September: Basic Plus Clinic** – Bozodown Alpacas, Nr Reading. joy@bozodown-alpacas.co.uk. Contact Joy Whitehead on 0118-984-3827
- **17-18th September: Basic Clinic** – Alpaca Training Centre.
- **19th-20th September: Advanced Clinic** – Alpaca Training Centre, North Devon. Contact Ian and Rachel Waldron: 01769 540202. info@langatonalpacas.co.uk. www.alpacatrainingcentre.co.uk
- **22nd-23rd September: Basic Clinic** – Carthvean Alpacas, Cornwall. Contact Julie Taylor-Browne: 01209 831672, e-mail: taylor.browne@clara.net. - For more details on the workshops and about Camelidynamics contact me or see www.camelidynamics.com. I stock the full range of Camelidynamics equipment, books, DVDs and videos. Contact me for a catalogue.



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Value of Alpaca Fleece

When the Fibre Co-op was originally set up in 1999 the founder members saw a direct link between the value of their animals and the returns available from their products. They appreciated that the returns from selling raw fibre were not going to reap great dividends and therefore it was important to add value through the direct control of the processing of the fibre and the manufacturing of finished articles. Six years later and the linkage that seemed so clear at that time now seems rather more tenuous.

British Alpaca Ltd (BAL), the trading subsidiary of the British Alpaca Fibre Co-operative Ltd (Co-op), has been put into suspended animation following the decision at the AGM on March 20th to support the recommendation for BAL to cease trading in 2005 and for the Co-op to remain as a start point for any future initiatives. The Co-op retains the £7,000 that it had when BAL was started. BAL, though still solvent with some £15,000 cash in the bank and monthly sales averaging £2,500 - £2,800, will return most of its cash to the members whilst keeping a small reserve sufficient to retain the option either to close or to restart. This will be reviewed at next year's AGM or when a new management team comes forward with a serious business plan to restart the fibre business. The unanimous view at the AGM was that there is still a relationship between fleece value and animal value and therefore it remains imperative to do something with our fleece. But what to do remains the missing link!

The present scenario of too few owners carrying too large a burden whilst the majority look on is not sustainable. Only one of the large commercial herds has supported BAL and the 65 owners who have given generous support represent less than 10% of UK owners. BAL's philosophy has been that alpaca owners who aspire to import or breed animals to sell have a mutual interest and some would say a responsibility to demonstrate a market for alpaca fibre as an essential underpinning for the alpaca as a sustainable business. What advice are they giving to new owners about the use and value of fleece and the sustainability of the value of alpacas?

If there is such a link it would not appear to be based on the present market price for raw fleece at a few pounds per kilo grown on an animal costing from a few hundred to a few thousands of pounds and producing just two, three, or even five kilos of fleece annually which, if it is to attract any meaningful sale price, will have to be quality fleece that is clean, sorted, the correct length, and the required colour. Currently white fleece under 25 micron and 75mm in length could command £2.50 per kilo in today's market. Will that sale price cover the costs involved with shearing, collecting, sorting, transporting and the associated organisation?

Is the link to be found in the added value that comes with manufacturing a good quality finished product saleable at a profit? The ownership of the complete cycle from processing through production to finding and developing the market carries a not insignificant financial

- The Missing Link?

burden. To attempt this, owners have to believe there is a market for British alpaca that can compete with cheaper products from overseas suppliers. BAL reached £30,000 annual rate of sales in its second year against a breakeven target in Year 3 of at least double that figure. There is no hard evidence yet of a market, either here in the UK or overseas, that is ready to buy British Alpaca products. But if there is one, it will need time and money to develop and with no certain guarantee of success. But if no one tries, we will never know. BAL did have a product made from British Alpaca but did not have the resources to secure a route to market.

Is the link in the requirement for the UK national herd to continue to expand until it reaches a critical mass at which point the alpaca becomes commercially viable as a farming diversification? If so what is the critical mass required and what is the market for the tonnes of fibre that will become available? If the current estimate of the UK herd at 15,000 were accurate, this would indicate there already is a supply of 30 tonnes or more of fleece. Half that amount in good quality fleece would be more than sufficient to resource the Co-op and make the cost of processing more viable. Is it realistic to base future sales on an inexhaustible supply of 'lifestyle' buyers sufficient to sustain the demand for alpacas?

Is the link to import cheaper South American products as a means to whet the appetite of the UK consumer for alpaca products and in this way to prepare the UK market at some future moment for more expensive but good quality products made from British alpaca fibre?

Is the link to forget about a national fibre enterprise and focus on regional initiatives where individual farms or groups of owners develop their own outlets for their fibre – mini mills, spinners and weavers, home spinning, farm shops etc?

Is the link an overseas market which has a climate conducive to wearing alpaca products, where there is a large population with high disposable income, which has a customer base familiar with and desiring alpaca products, and where 'Made in Britain' still commands a premium? Or will the Chinese get there first?

Is the link to invest in shows as a means to promote the attraction and appeal of alpacas, which in turn will create the demand from the public to invest in alpacas?

BAL has achieved positive progress which we believe will be helpful to any future initiative in finding that missing link. A number of building blocks have been put in place.

- We formed a strategic relationship with a UK firm for the collection of fleece on a national basis, for the processing of our fleece, and for an individual farm report. Costs are higher than in the Third World but can be materially reduced based on the quantity of fleece.
- We formed a strategic relationship with a UK firm

for research & development, design and manufacture of a modest (in terms of numbers) range of quality fashion (clothing) items and household furnishings. The costs of production were offset in part through a profit share scheme from sales. Quality was excellent.

- We began a strategic relationship with the Australian Co-op which provided immensely helpful advice, and access to experienced and expert operators both in alpaca fibre and the retail market.
- We developed a contract with a website provider, who is a BAL member, together with an e-commerce shop who demonstrated the ability for BAL to attract interest and purchasers not just from the UK but also from Europe and the US. The numbers of sales were modest but growing and there could be the basis for a mail order business at a future date.
- We negotiated a contract, also with a BAL member, to provide a contract for warehousing of finished products, packaging and despatch, and inventory controls.
- We laid the foundations of a sales network, initially through alpaca owners, for whose help and support we are extremely grateful; using stalls at agricultural shows; a presence at trade shows; and initiating contacts with retail and wholesale outlets.

Perhaps the one common factor in the challenge of finding the missing link is discovering the route to a market. All we achieved in the past two years was due to the efforts of managing director Penny Beels with whatever assistance a part time board can offer. The AGM expressed its appreciation to Penny for the contribution she has made. BAL was under resourced with insufficient capital and fleece as well as insufficient support from alpaca owners. It is with great regret that we felt we could go no further due to the lack of support and of resources available to BAL.

The author believes there is potential for further initiatives based on the building blocks that are in place as well as from other positive influences within the industry: the ongoing discussions between the two breed societies towards greater co-operation; the possibility of forming a single and therefore more substantial registry; the increasing expansion of the UK herd; the importation of ever better quality animals and genetics; and the reports of alpaca sales to new owners is encouragingly strong. A combination of such factors should enable a fibre co-operative venture to play a role in underpinning the industry. A successful registry could generate substantial funds some of which could go towards supporting a Co-op to the benefit of all owners. If sales of animals are indeed strong surely the 'sellers' owe it to the 'buyers' to put some investment back into the industry and increase sustainability to the benefit of all parties.

Blessed is the Co-op who finds the missing link and protects an investment in alpacas!

Arish Turle



Members' Write ...

From Rodney Newth

BCA - time and need for a change?

It is always wise to have a clear idea of where you want to get to and some idea of time scales of your objectives. I therefore welcome Council's invitation to receive members' views. The views that follow are purely mine and do not carry any professional or other authority or weight.

Reading the proposals in the last Chronicle the objectives seem to be:

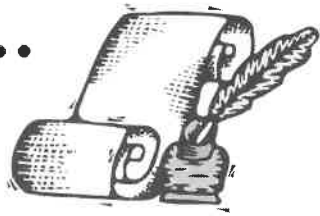
- Separating out the breed functions for alpacas and for llamas (including guanacos).
- Creating an administrative umbrella and separate "talk forum" for camelid related interests – the federated concept.
- Using the federated forum as the vehicle for contact with outside bodies, particularly DEFRA.

It is also prudent to assess members' priorities and any major constraints or obstacles to the achievement of perceived objectives.

By the time this letter goes to print the matter may well have been discussed at BCA's Business Meeting on April 10th, so it must be taken in context of views expressed at that meeting.

Based on my experience on Council for six years and having played a major part in the development of BCA llama and alpaca register as well as being involved in discussions (mainly positive) with DEFRA, I consider the following factors to be relevant:

- 1) The Charity Status of BCA is valuable to members.
 - a) Firstly, when communicating with members of the public, potential new members, other organisations, being a UK Registered Charity adds a STATUS to the association that could otherwise be lacking.
 - b) It also gives some valuable financial and taxation benefits, an area where we could be much more active. Charities do not normally have to pay tax on the surplus arising from their charitable activities, on subscriptions from members etc. Subscriptions and donations paid under Gift Aid attract a tax refund from the Revenue. The I.R will refund £280 for every £1000 raised by subscriptions and donations - an area where BCA could well increase its tax refund if all members who pay UK tax paid their subscriptions under Gift Aid. Bequests made by will can also attract tax relief.
 - c) There is a little extra paperwork in being a Charity, but nothing too daunting.
 - d) I believe that the implementation of the proposals as drafted could well lose us our Charity Status unless carried out with legal (and possibly financial) advice from professional firms experienced in these fields. (See 2a below).
- 2) Elected trustees (who are also directors of the organisation) undertake to carry out their duties in



accordance with the aims and objectives of the charity. Sectional, breed or commercial interests are of no relevance to their duties and responsibilities as a trustee.

- a) Some years ago this was made clear to me in an informal telephone discussion with a staff member of the Charity Commissioners when I asked whether we could structure our Council to ensure that there were at least 4 elected members interested in alpacas and four with llama/guanaco interests. This idea was not acceptable to the Charity Commission official at that time. The reason given was that the most potentially "able" trustees might all come from one interest group, any structuring that would deny any of them equal chance of being elected as a trustee would not find favour with the Commissioners. Few problems are insoluble, but Council must be aware that the proposal for a structured BCL Council must be progressed by experts in Charity Law.
- b) As a Charity our trustees are restricted in what they can do with BCL funds and assets. Monies can be made available for any of the objectives already included in our Articles and Memorandum of Association. Our assets (which include intangibles such as our website and animal registers) are also restricted – or to use the shorthand phrase it is protected by "the asset lock".
- c) Charities with similar charitable objectives can merge their activities and assets, but a charity cannot make a similar arrangement with a non-charity.
- d) It is still possible to set up a new breed society in such a way that it can be registered as a charity – again this requires specialist legal knowledge.
- e) Trading activities not purely incidental to the charitable objectives of the breed society must be carried out by a separate non-charitable organisation. This is normal practice for many large regional and national charities.

If the desire of a majority of alpaca owners to have one united herdbook, register and shows programme is all important, perhaps a first step would be to establish whether a re-structured BCL - as such a vehicle - is acceptable to the majority of current members of both BCA and BAS as the "British Camelid breed society" for the future.

The united alpaca register and herdbook can then be placed within this organisation with whatever safeguards are needed for its future integrity.

The position, status and independence of the registries and herd-books are already being discussed between BCA and BAS as stated in a number of joint letters to members.

- 3) If the use of BCL as the vehicle to re-unification is not acceptable to a significant majority of BCL members then alpaca owners may wish to consider a new Alpaca breed society that is also a registered charity as an alternative. The re-uniting of alpaca registry, shows etc would be greatly simplified as a non-charity can transfer its activities to a charity.
- 4) A restructured BCL would be the simplest and probably the most financially beneficial route for members and for the achievement of the charities



research and breed improvement aspirations. It is also a route that will require members to put past differences behind them and work together for the future.

On a much more serious note, Rodney Newth, our Llama Registrar, replies to Paul Rose's registration's dilama. (March Chronicle)

Problem Registrations

Many thanks for the five photographs of the various llamas that you wish to register.

As the ancestry of these specimens is in doubt and the photographs leave me in some doubt as to whether they are "true to type" I feel that an assessment of each is required.

Llama One: The llama M87 ultimate comp. pistol has a lethal temperament when handled incorrectly, I suggest it be gelded before further assessment in case it falls into the hands of the local terrorist group so active a few years ago in Devon – Deathfra I think it was called.

Llama Two: Pisco Llama. Definitely a cross bred experimental being, I will refer this one for full assessment to the ladies of the 1999 BCA visit to Peru who became experts in assessing Pisco Sours, this beastie should pose few problems for them.

Llama Three: The Super Lager. These normally come in herds of twelve. I shall require one such herd delivered in a sample of Llama Four (the open-topped car-ra) for prolonged and intensive assessment at the Old Laundry – I cannot guarantee their safe return especially as I will sample (oops that is assess) several samples of llama three before going off road with the car-ra. sic.

Finally I need to check that Llama Five, regn. ref CD rhum-ba is in tune and will play well. Having practiced for checking out Llama Three with a domestic UK version I believe there are at least twelve legs visible in your last photo. Hic.

Please remember the cheque to the registrar to be backdated to 1st April and made out in a manner and amount suitable for Laundering.

*Rodney Newth, The Old Laundry, Newport Pagnell etc
April 2005*

Mary Pryse writes:

I was interested to read the camelid clipping about llamas and their lack of dandruff, and it reminded me of something that happened to me a while ago. A few years back, a group of scientists came trekking at Catanger to enjoy a day out together. They all worked in the research department of an international pharmaceutical company. As the conversation and trek progressed, they told me that their interest in llamas was due to the fact that they used llama blood in their research. Apparently, it contains natural anti-bodies that could be useful in the food and drink industry, helping to preserve and prolong the life of consumables. When I asked how they sourced the blood (thinking this could be a lucrative sideline) they replied that it all came from Holland.

*From Colin Campbell
Ruminating on feed*

With reference to the article in the January issue detailing Chris Cebra's lecture at the Conference, I am surprised at

the misleading information contained in it. Camelids are ruminants but are classed as modified ruminants, having three not four stomachs. I am sure everyone has seen them ruminating. Whether you feed whole or processed grain (if you feed grain at all) depends on the size of the orifice between the rumen and the second stomach. When a ruminant is young this orifice is small and whole grain is partly digested in the rumen and is chewed during rumination. When the animal is adult the orifice is larger and whole grain tends to pass through undigested and is wasted. Therefore the older the animal the more it needs its grain to be processed. Sheep and goats, being smaller animals, do not need their grain processed at all. How much grain you feed depends on the energy status of the animal, if one feeds too much the animal puts on fat, just like a human eating too much starchy food such as bread, sugar etc.

In my experience dry sugar beet pulp, either as nuts or shreds, is an ideal concentrate feed for camelids to supplement grazing or hay when needed. It is readily available from all agricultural merchants and is rich in digestible fibre. If a mineral/vitamin supplement is required it should be added to shreds, if not the nuts are very palatable and easy to feed. I think I am correct in saying sugar beet pulp is rarely available in the USA. (Incidentally, I do not work for British Sugar who produce sugar beet pulp in their factories!!)

Chris Cebra replies:

- 1) While it is true that the opening between the second and third compartments grows with the size of the ruminant, this orifice is the major regulator of particle size passing into the latter compartments and hence the lower GI tract in ruminants. In cattle, if this orifice is functioning correctly, particles larger than 6 mm should not pass on. While this enables smaller grains to pass through, larger ones should remain in the rumen for re-chewing and fermentation. Camelids lack this orifice, and the canal from the first to the second and eventually third compartment is quite wide. Whether it has the same regulatory function is unknown: probably not based on its size, the frequency that we see obstruction at the terminus of the third gastric compartment, and the infrequency that I have ever seen undigested grain particles in camelid feces. Thus the physical size of the fed particle probably has less to do with fore-stomach retention in camelids than ruminants, be they cattle, sheep, or goats.
- 2) The major effect of processing on grains is on speed of fermentation, not necessarily completeness of fermentation. Fermentation of any feedstuff results in the production of volatile fatty acids (the nutrients), water (also a good thing), and gasses (predominantly carbon dioxide and methane, waste products). While feeding more "energy" might simply increase body fat in another species, feeding rapidly fermentable energy results in rapid production of the acids and gasses in ruminants and modified ruminants. Rapid gas production leading to bloat does not seem to be as big a problem in camelids as in ruminants, but rapid acid production leading to a rapid drop in fore-stomach (first compartment, C1) pH can be devastating. Also, whereas ruminants have the ability to adapt to more energy-rich diets by increasing their gastric surface area, as far as we know, camelids have no such ability.
- 3) Whereas it is true that a camelid with greater energy demand should be fed more energy, the form of that energy is very

important. Large amounts of highly fermentable feedstuffs at one time are less desirable than smaller amounts of less fermentable feedstuffs throughout the day. After fermentation, a kernel of rolled barley produces the same energy nutrients as a stalk of grass (not in amount but in form), but the grass is much gentler on the system. Remember these are grazing animals, and are adapted to eating semi-constantly during the day, in contrast to our feast and fast lifestyles. It is rare that we see camelids with outright dietary energy deficiency, and in those cases, there is usually deficient forage (hay, pasture) rather than inadequate grain supplementation. In contrast, we sporadically (not constantly or commonly) see camelids with "Grain Overload" or acidification of the fore-stomach and blood due to over-ingestion of grains. So I conclude that we should be cautious and logical with any sort of energy supplement, and that it is safer to use less fermentable (ie less processed) grains, feed them in smaller amounts at any one time, and feed them in forms combined with less fermentable materials (ie grain-alfalfa-mineral pellets) than the opposite. It is unquestionable that camelids can survive "the opposite" but whether they are thriving or not is unknown, as are the limits of safe energy supplementation. Sure, you can give some of almost anything. My basic point is "Why push the limits if you don't have to?" Careful monitoring of body weight or body condition should reflect whether animals are receiving enough energy, and if they are, supplementation may be minimalized, and if they are not, a reasonable plan may be

instituted. Animals exposed to weather extremes, lactating and heavily pregnant females, pack animals, and maybe growing young stock are the biggest groups to consider supplementing for health reason. The rest we supplement either to get their mineral in them, or as a treat and training tool.

- 4) How many stomach compartments a camelid has is a matter of anatomic debate. In general, I ascribe to the camp that they have three, but some anatomists divide their third compartment between the fermentative end and the acid-producing end, thus ending up with four. The important point is that they are as a whole similar to ruminants in function, but that the individual parts do not correspond very well anatomically. Thus, while in some cases we can draw important inferences between the two families of animals, we must also keep in mind the unique qualities.
- 5) Sugar beet pulp is available in the U.S. and is commonly fed to cattle and more recently horses. It has the advantage over some other energy supplements in that it has fiber in it, but also can contain quite a bit of highly fermentable sugar. It has also been at the center of some controversy recently related to its value as an equine feed supplement. Some feel the fiber makes it "gentler" on the system, whereas others (with data) feel it is too fermentable. I'm staying on the sidelines of that one.

Respectfully,
Chris Cebra

In the Chronicle of November 2004 we published an article "Transporting Camelids" which detailed a number of pertinent and important facts taken from legislation that affects the movement of livestock. Here we follow up with the viewpoint of an Animal Health & Welfare (AH&W) Inspector whose work involves the interpretation of the rules.

Transport of Camelids

I write this article having seen the previous article on the subject giving a very credible explanation of current legislative requirements concerning transportation of livestock with which I broadly agree.

I am a working Animal Health & Welfare (AH&W) Inspector employed by Surrey County Council, Trading Standards to head up the AH&W Section in Surrey. It is from this perspective that I would like to add the following:

Article 4 (1) of The Welfare Of Animals (Transport) Order 1997. This applies to the movement of all "animals" and states, "No person shall transport any animal in a way which causes, or is likely to cause injury or unnecessary suffering".

My take on this is, if an animal is being transported in the back of a car or one of the land cruiser type vehicles then there is a risk of injury etc being caused. I base this judgement on the fact, that unless heavily modified, the vehicle would offer little protection to camelids in the event of an accident, or the driver having to take evasive action. The animals could be thrown through the windows or they could be thrown across seats, and these are but two examples. One also has to consider the welfare of the

human occupants as well!!

An additional piece of legislation to be considered is The Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (England) (No. 3) Order 2003. This requires that a means of transport is cleansed and disinfected between use. This is for disease prevention and control purposes. It defines when and how this must be done. It also requires the use of "approved" disinfectants. The transport of camelids is caught by this legislation.

I would ask the question how many people would be willing to soak their car or brand new Range Rover in disinfectant. If such vehicles were to be used to transport camelids then there is a question of how effectively cleansing and disinfection could be carried out.

In conclusion my suggestion to readers is that they only use vehicles or trailers that have been properly designed or adapted for animal transport use; this will avoid possible prosecution and a criminal record. Owners can obtain free advice through their local Trading Standards Department.

Kevin Chesson - Section Leader – Animal Health & Welfare/Agriculture, Surrey Trading Standards





Midlands Llama Trek heralds start of Spring activities

Caption Competition

Our thanks to Fanny and David James who suggested the following caption for the competition given in Issue 65 (March 2005)....

Llama to little girl - "So where's your HUMMMMwork?!"
David and Fanny, your new llama is trekking its way to you.



Your Association Contacts

Council Members

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Orchard Farm, East Chinnock, Yeovil,
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t: 01935 863467
e: westways@freenetname.co.uk

Vice Chairman: Paul Rose

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e: mpbrooke@onetel.net.uk

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t: 01295 768676
e: david@llamatrekking.co.uk

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t: 01608 661893
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Alpaca Registration: Libby Henson

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P O Box 251, Exeter, Devon EX2 8WX
t: 01392 437788 Fax: 01392 270421
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alpacas.co.uk

Karen Oglesby

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Arish Turle (See Council)

Nick Weber (See Council)

Welcome to new members

Interest: A: Alpaca; L: Llama

Jill Austin: Shrewsbury, Shropshire (L)
Elaine Barlow: Workington, Cumbria (A)
Amanda Copp: Chepstow, Monmouthshire (A)
Jacques De Wit: Redmarley, Gloucestershire (A)
Mr & Mrs Michael Douglas: Wall, Northumberland (A)
Barbara Fernyhough: Chepstow, Monmouthshire (L)
Elizabeth Grebbell: Downpatrick, Co Down
Kingsley Hawkins: Bodenham Moor, Hereford (L)
Mr L G & Mrs A M Jones: Llandysul, Ceredigion (L)
Nicola Jubb: Sheffield, South Yorkshire (A)
Selina Knox: Newquay, Cornwall
Mr & Mrs L P MacDonald: Gosport, Hants
Aileen Morhej: Perth, Perthshire (A)
Sarah Osborn-Smith & Lucy Muller: Cirencester, Glos (L)
Judy Whitham-Smeeden: Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire (A)

FOR SALE

Three female llamas.

Layha is 5 years old, white and tan, being of excellent health and well mannered. Two crias both born on 4 July 2004 in pure white.

Contact: Edward Saul
Tel: 01964 630622

GLASCOED ALPACAS

Tymawr Farm, Cwm Road, Glascoed, Monmouthshire

Stud services available at the above address with

Peruvian Dominic: dob: 28.5.00 Herd Book No: A11756, Reg No: BAS 03914 Stud fee £600 no vat chargeable. Contact Catherine Sainsbury Tel: 01495 735 243



BCA Calendar of Events 2005

South of England Spring Show

Sunday 1 and Monday 2 May

South of England Showground,
Ardingley, West Sussex

Alpaca & Llama Classes

Contact: Liz Butler.

t: 01737 823375 e: llamaliz@hotmail.com

North Somerset Show

Bank Holiday Monday 2 May

Bathing Pond Farm, Wraxall

Llama Classes

Contact: Norma Chandler

t: 01454 773533

Royal Welsh Smallholders Show

Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 May

Builth Wells

Llamas & Alpacas - Display and
Demonstrations by Welsh members

Contact: Michael Balchin

t: 01650 511659

e: gartheiniog@amservice.com

Northumberland County Show, Corbridge

Bank Holiday Monday 30th May

Contact: Vicki Ridley

t: 01434 673473 e: g_ridley@lineone.net

Royal Bath & West Show

Wednesday 1 – Saturday 4 June

Shepton Mallet

Alpaca Classes

Contact: Nick Weber

t: 01935 863467

e: westways@freenetname.co.uk

Kenilworth Show

Sunday 5 June

Display only

Contact: Jane Brown

t: 01608 661893

e: camelids@btinternet.com

East of England Show

Friday 17 – Sunday 19 June

Peterborough

Display only

Contact: David Pryse

t: 01295 760542

e: david@llamatrekking.co.uk

Melton Mowbray Show

Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 June

Display only

Contact: David Pryse

t: 01295 760542

e: david@llamatrekking.co.uk

Royal Norfolk Show

Wednesday 29th & Thursday 30th

June

Huacaya halter classes will be held on the
30th June

Judge: Nick Harrington-Smith.

This show will be run under BCA Show

Rules. Entries open to BCA and BAS
registered animals.

Contact: Su Lenk t: 01362 820097

e: su@azsualpacas.com

or Liz Bailey at the show ground :

liz@royalnorfolkshow.co.uk

Newport Show

Saturday 16 July

Shropshire

Display only

Contact: David Pryse

t: 01295 760542

e: david@llamatrekking.co.uk

Shows and social events listed here
offer the opportunity to show off and
promote our camelids to the general
public and are great social occasions
to meet up with like-minded people.

Please make every effort to support
your local shows and social events
near and far, either by entering the
classes, offering help or just turning
up! Enjoy your animals and have a
great day out at the same time.

And please send in (email or disc) your
digital photos of the classes, winners
and their owners!

Kent County Show

Friday 15 to Sunday 17 July

Detling, Kent

Llama & Alpaca Classes

Contact: Linda Johnson

t: 01825 712040 e: info@llamapark.co.uk

Penrith (Cumbria) Show

Saturday 23 July

Shorn Fleece Show to be judged on 22 July

Contact: Penrith Show Secretary:

Margaret Lightburn

t/f: 01931 713325

e: margaret@patrickbamp.freeserve.co.uk

www.penrithshow.co.uk

Manor Farm Llama & Alpaca Show, Trek & Fun Day

Sunday 24 July

Manor Farm Animal Centre & Donkey

Sanctuary, Castle Hill, East Leake,

Nr Loughborough, Leics

Llama classes & Gelding Alpaca Class +

Fun Classes

Contact: Brian Haughton

t: 01949 860701

e: haughton_brian@hotmail.com

Royal Lancashire Show

Monday 26 – Wednesday 28 July

Display only

Contact: David Pryse

t: 01295 760542

e: david@llamatrekking.co.uk

Border Union Show, Kelso

Saturday 30 & Sunday 31 July

Contact: Vicki Ridley

t: 01434 673473 e: g_ridley@lineone.net

Cranleigh Show

Sunday 7 August

Llama Classes

Contact: Pam Walker t: 01403-864683

or Liz Butler t: 01737 823375

e: llamaliz@hotmail.com

Slaley Show, near Hexham

Saturday 13th August

Contact: Vicki Ridley

t: 01434 673473 e: g_ridley@lineone.net

Edenbridge & Oxted Show

Sunday 28 and Monday 29 August

Llama Classes

Contact: Pam Walker/Liz Butler as

above

The Hope Show, Hope, Derbyshire

Monday 29 August

Judge: Hilary Shenton

Contact: Lesley Howard

t: 01433 639203 Mobile: 077154 87330

e: lk.howard@homecall.co.uk

Moreton-in-Marsh Show, Glos

Saturday 3 September

Display only of Llamas & Alpacas

Contact: Jane Brown as above

Henley Show

Saturday 10 September

Llama & Alpaca Classes

Contact: Una Dawes

t: 01491 572416

Royal County of Berkshire Show, Newbury

Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 September

Display only

Contact: David Pryse

t: 01295 760542

e: david@llamatrekking.co.uk

BCA Association Show

Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 September

Camelid Fiesta – Forest of Dean

Contact: Alastair Fraser

t: 01291 621593

e: info@severnwyellamatrekking.co.uk

**BAS Show classes are now open to BCA
members' registered alpacas - For details
contact James Wade on 01225 340640**

**Fancy a weekend
away?**

Take a break in the
beautiful Forest of Dean and...

...Join us at the

BCA

Fiesta-0-Five

24-25 September 2005