Council Matters

It has been a busy two months for the Council with more meetings than should be reasonably inflicted upon board members but my thanks to them for putting up with this and attending them.

We have held talks with the BAS, board to board, and many other meetings behind the scenes with third parties, which have been fruitful. There is now general agreement for a way forward for our camelid community and away from the politics of the past which was such a drain upon resources and so divisive. There are some fundamental facts that there is no getting away from. People willing to make time to work on a voluntary basis are a scarce resource, and running competitive societies within a relatively small community of camelid owners is extremely divisive and stretches this resource too far, overloading those willing to work on our behalf. Division within the community severely impedes progress and is an active discouragement to new entrants. Both of these are fundamentally important to us all who have made a firm commitment to these lovely creatures and I truly believe that we are now at a watershed of opportunity to forge new relationships, build trust and harness our members skills thereby creating a progressive and effective structure from which all owners will benefit.

The Heads of Agreement between our two boards that you have received, and is outlined in this newsletter, sets out the structure that we believe will enable this to occur.

“A significant question that we, the directors of BCL and the trustees of the charity, have had to take into account in developing the proposed structure is, "What impact will the new Charities Act have upon our activities?" The issue central to our debate has been the Act's requirement that charities, in carrying out their objectives, must provide a primary 'public benefit' and any private benefit must be secondary and incidental to the carrying out of the charitable objective. It is the view of the trustees that most of a breed society's activities such as shows, sales, and registration, primarily provide a private benefit to owners and breeders and the public benefit is secondary. By establishing the two breed societies outside, but linked to the charity, we are able to redefine and concentrate on the ‘charitable objectives’ of BCL to ensure that they comply with the charities act public benefit requirement when the charity commission examines our activities in the near future.

There will be the opportunity to meet Rob Bettinson and me with other board members at a series of regional meetings offering you the opportunity to discuss the details with us. I look forward to meeting those of you able to come to the meetings and I hope that you will all recognise the opportunity before us and grasp it firmly and take us forward into 2006 with a due sense of excitement and a willingness to make it work. Personally I can’t wait!

Defra has recently offered a consultation, over far too short a period it should be said, of its transposition of the Foot and Mouth directive. This in normal speak is how it would act in the event of an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). We have been fortunate to have the assistance of Animal Health Resources Ltd., a company set up by Mary Marshall and Paul Roger, in making a detailed and strong response, which also has the support of the British Veterinary Camelid Society (BVCS). In essence we seek to make Defra accept that different species respond to disease in a species specific manner and camelds should not be treated the same as cows, sheep and pigs.

An article about this issue will appear in the November Chronicle.

I hope that I shall have the pleasure of meeting many of you at our Association Day on 24th September at Bozdean Alpacas.

Nick Weber

FEDERATION PROPOSAL MEETING DATES

Saturday 24/9: The Alpaca Centre, Penrith
Sunday 25/9: Fowberry Tower, Northumberland
Sunday 2/10: Ashdown Forest Llama Park, E.Sussex
Saturday 8/10: Roseland Llamas, Devonshire
Sunday, 9/10: Education Studio, Banbury Museum

12.30P.M FOR 1PM START
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

Please join us at our
ASSOCIATION DAY
A social occasion for camelid enthusiasts!
24th September 2005
*Fleece Show for alpacas
* Show Classes for llamas
* Fun classes for llamas and alpacas
* Barbeque
SEE P.3 FOR DETAILS
The Proposed Federation

Paul Rose, Vice-Chairman of BCA, offers his perspective as a llama owner.

If accepted by you, the membership, the proposal agreed in principle by the Boards of BCA & BAS on 10th August 2005 represents a landmark and a blueprint for the future of the camelid community.

It has been an arduous and rocky road along which we have thrashed through proposals and counter-proposals that have delighted some and worried others: seemingly good suggestions that have proved constitutionally impractical or counter to charities commission rules, ideas that have been pronounced workable by one 'expert' and unworkable by another...

The proposal put to you now, however, represents a simple, workable and exciting re-organisation that at the one and same time embraces independent and autonomous Breed Societies and all within a united and co-operative camelid community. It is a proposal that offers re-union of the two alpaca factions and their competing registries, and gives the llama and guanaco community their own Association operating independently yet, again, within the camelid community. It allows for every camelid enthusiast to focus on their specific interests, be it a particular camelid breed, an aspect of that breed, or simply “camelids in general”.

For the llama community this offers a hugely exciting opportunity. So much BCA Council and committee time has in the past been taken up by the multiplicity and complexity of subject matter that so often has not been relevant to llama (or alpaca) owners. Efforts to change this within the existing make-up of BCA only resulted in more management and bureaucracy. Bearing in mind that committee and council members are volunteers whose time is greatly pressured, this has in turn led to poor communication and frequently deflected from developing or carrying through llama-led objectives. Indeed it was for these reasons that BCA reviewed and put forward at our last AGM suggested changes to our own internal structure which would allow for a very similar re-organisation within BCA. The joint BCA/BAS proposals take this concept a major and worthwhile step further.

Having our own independent Society lends authority and gives credibility to our objectives. The name British Llama Society is one that will increase awareness and offer us recognition and promotion to bring llamas to the attention of an ever-growing interested public.

Having our own independent Society offers us the opportunity to focus properly and effectively on the aims and aspirations of llama owners from the pet owner, hobbyist craft knitter or leisure trekker, to those with larger herds and with commercial interests and ambitions.

There is one significant and very real problem, however. The British Llama Society will not be able to function under the lethargy and apathy that has existed under the current structure. It will not even get off the ground, let alone thrive and flourish, without a considerable injection of goodwill and energy from the membership. In fact given that we will no longer have the direct benefit within our Llama Society, of the input and energies of the alpaca community, we will rapidly disappear without trace if members do not come forward offering pro-active involvement.

Existing for nearly 20 years BCA and its membership have, perhaps inevitably, collected a certain amount of “baggage” along the way! This is the perfect time and opportunity to start afresh - casting off divisions, replacing complaints with positive thinking and help, and putting the slogan “llamas are fun” firmly back on the agenda.

So please do not just think about volunteering- do it today! Ask the question “how can we help make it work?” And help a new BLS fulfil its great potential.

Paul Rose
The Joint BAS/BCA Federation Proposal

The proposal recommends a simple re-organisation of responsibilities to create:

- Two independent and autonomous Breed Associations, The British Llama Society & The British Alpaca Society (each with its own breed registry)
- The two working together and linked by the mutual aims, administration, funding and management of the charitable British Cameldids Trust.

(It is hoped that in time the British Veterinary Cameldids Society will also link to BCT)

The diagram illustrates this together with outline suggestions of areas of responsibility. (Some crossover is inevitable, distinguished by whether "breed specific" or "general cameldid").

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**British Camelids Association Day**

**Saturday 24 September 2005**

**Bozedown Farm, Hardwick Road, Whitchurch on Thames, Reading**

*By kind Invitation of Joy & Ken Whitehead*

Our Association Day is our chance to get together, enjoy each other’s company, and have classes in a relaxed atmosphere, out of the public gaze. So any member who has not shown before, bring your animals along on our own special day - you will be among friends. This will be a great day out, and fun for all members, so please come along, with or without animals!

You will need to bring a picnic lunch but to round off the day's proceedings we shall be having an Association Barbecue. The cost for this will be £10 per head, children under 12 free. Bring your own drinks. Facilities for overnight camping available.

* Fleece Show for alpacas
* Show Classes for llamas
* Fun classes for llamas and alpacas

Camelodynamics Specialist, Marty McGee Bennett, will give a demonstration after the llama judging.

More details from Jane Brown, Association Secretary (See contacts)

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**Camelodynamics at Bozedown**

**13, 14, & 15 September**

Here is the opportunity for alpaca and llama owners - newcomers and old hands alike - to learn training and handling techniques from a real expert.

**Day 1, 13/9:** basic training and handling techniques, such as getting alpacas and llamas in balance, haltering, leading, and more.

**Day 2, 14/9:** more advanced levels of working with your alpacas and llamas, i.e. those that kick, spit, won't load easily etc.

**Day 3, 15/9:** continuing with a "Basic Plus" course (for delegates who have attended this year or previously). Giving injections and toenail trimming without restraint, Showing, etc.

There will be alpacas on hand to work with during the clinic; however, if you have animals that present specific problems you are encouraged to bring them – please contact Bozedown in advance for details.

**Cost:** Day 1 and 2 £211.50 per person. Day 2 builds on the first so if you can only attend one day then it is preferable it is Day 1.

**Cost:** Day 3 £135 - only available to delegates that have attended Day 1 and 2 of the clinic this year or previously.

Overnight accommodation is available locally. Please advise if you would like to join us on Tuesday evening for dinner.

Check availability first - email joy@bozedown-llamas.co.uk, or phone 0118-984-3827. Cheques payable to "Bozedown Alpacas"
Your Association Contacts

Council Members

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Paul Rose (See Council)

Pam Walker
t: 01403 864683

Events 2005

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 those farther afield, either by entering the classes, offering help or just turning up! Enjoy your animals and have a great day out at the same time.

Moreton-in-Marsh Show, Glos
Saturday 3 September
Display only of Llamas & Alpacas
Contact: Jane Brown
t: 01608 661893 e: camelids@btinternet.com

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

B.C.A. Association Show
Saturday 24 September 2005
To be held by kind permission of Joy Whitehead at Bozedown Alpacas, Hardwick Road, Whitchurch-on-Thames, Reading

South West, Social
Sunday 30 October; 11am
At the home of Eoin & Paula Hanley, Top Orchard, Cramer Lane, Broad Hembury, HONITON, Devon EX14 3LN
t: 01404 841394 F: 01404 843084
e: paula@eoinandpaula.plus.com

Diary Dates for 2006

Llama Showing Day
Saturday 11 August 2006
South of England Showground
Saturday 8th April 2006
Contact: Clare Hastings
Tel: 01323 846288
e-mail: clareh@hellingsley.fsworld.co.uk

North Somerset Show
Monday 1st May 2006

Northumberland County Show
Monday 29 May 2006

Deadline for Chronicle - 7th Oct