



BAS AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the British Alpaca Society took place at Stoneleigh in January. Prior to the meeting your correspondent explained to a friend, totally unconnected with alpacas, where he was spending his Saturday to which the friend replied 'I am falling asleep at the wheel as you say that'. He obviously was unaware of the reputation of the BAS AGM, which has over the years been considered one of the great spectator events of the alpaca calendar – best likened to settling down on a Saturday afternoon to watch Mick McManus against Giant Haystacks.

2006 was however to prove to be more like listening to Gardeners' Question Time – full of harmony and congratulation; in fact really quite boring, thank goodness. This however disguises the angst and hard work that goes into the preparation for an AGM; not least in ensuring a quorate, as the BAS has to have 10% of its membership present for the meeting to be legally binding. After a short delay the Chairman announced that the 68th person had just walked through the door and so the meeting could now take place.

During the Chairman's Report, Rob Bettinson, thanked his fellow board members, the membership of the sub-committees and many, many ordinary members for all their work and support during 2005. He spoke at length in praise of all the hard work that had gone into the discussions between the boards of the BAS and BCL (British Camelids) over the future of the two societies as the new Federation for Camelids is so close to becoming reality.

Much had happened to improve the smooth running of the Society. He explained that the Society was administered by Libby Henson of Grassroots and the new Company Secretary was Claire Waring. In addition there was a change of publisher of the magazine, Archant having handed over to Deeson, who were also now responsible for the new look web site. He spoke at length about the success of the show circuit and the amount of work that had gone into making them so successful during the year. He announced a new national fleece show for 2006 to be held in Kelso in July and sponsored by Ballantynes, the prestigious makers of cashmere garments, who would also provide a judge to support the BAS judge in his deliberations.

It was a truly harmonious AGM and it reflected the fact that the Board had listened to the membership's concerns from previous years and had acted accordingly. Perhaps the only cause for concern raised during the day was the quality of the lunch provided by the venue hosts – even the Chairman was heard to complain about that.

The full transcript of the Chairman's Report can be found by BAS members on their web site.