

# WSAG Newsletter

## August 2019



### Fleece—what does it all mean? + BBQ

24th August 2019



Have you had your fleece analysed this year or entered it into a fleece show? Would you like to learn more about what the analysis means or how your fleece received the scores it did in the show? Bring your fleece and analysis or score cards along to Pure Alpacas and Jay Holland will help us understand what all the figures mean.

Jay and Hillary have also kindly offered to provide a BBQ after the event—you don't need to have brought a fleece along to qualify for food—just come along and join us!

### Basic Husbandry

15th September 2019

Are you confident with all the basic husbandry activities you need to carry out with your alpacas? Want to learn some new techniques from those with more experience? Do you want to know what you should be doing and when? Come along to Abberley Alpacas for an informal afternoon to share experiences and learn from others in the group.

### Upcoming Events



Your committee are working hard to put together a program of events. These will be updated and published on the WSAG website and Facebook as soon as we have the details.

So far we have:

- 24-Aug-19 **Fleece—what does it mean?**  
2pm  
Pure Alpacas, Tirley, GL19 4EU
  - 24-Aug-19 **BBQ**  
5.30pm  
Pure Alpacas, Tirley, GL19 4EU
  - 15-Sep-19 **Basic Husbandry**  
2pm  
Abberley Alpacas, Abberley, WR6 6BN
  - 9-Nov-19 **Midlands Championship Halter Show**  
Three Counties Showground
  - 7-Dec-19 **Social: Pub Meal**  
Manor Arms, Abberley, WR6 6BN
  - 23-Feb-19 **AGM 2020**  
Stoke Bliss Village Hall, WR15 8RS
  - March 2020 **Sharing: Making Breeding Decisions**
  - 2020 **Mock Show**
  - 2020 **Pature Management**
- If there is anything else you would like to see, please let us know.

## The Royal Three Counties Show 2019

**14-16th June 2019**

We had a bumper show this year with record entries, the new craft show and of course Super Suri Sunday. But we also had our challenges: having to erect additional tents to accommodate exhibitors and periods of torrential rain which made judging fleece a challenge in the humid conditions for our judge Rob Bettinson.

Friday was fleece show day with 70 fleeces to be judged—if you want to learn more about fleece, volunteer to be a steward it is a fantastic learning opportunity being able to handle the fleece and listen to the judges comments as they judge the fleece. Congratulations go to GT Alpacas who won the Supreme Champion Huacaya fleece with GT Breeze and Roger and Mary Mount who won the Supreme Champion Suri fleece with Snowhill Galadriel. Both are members of our group!

Saturday was Huacaya halter show day with 116 animals presented by 30 different breeders. Throughout the day the classes were judged, rosettes awarded and championship sashes handed out to the colour/sex champions. Finally, at the end of the day all the champions lined up in the ring for the supreme champion and what a fantastic selection of animals they were. After much deliberation the champions were chosen, the Intermediate Light Female—Ashwood Lexi was awarded the Supreme Championship and the Junior White Male—Ashwood Monty was awarded the Reserve Supreme Championship both owned by Steve and Chris Powell. Congratulations also go to Roger and Mary Mount who won the Best British Bred Huacaya with Snowhill Bugatti who won the Adult Brown Male Class.



Super Suri Sunday saw 57 animals presented for judging. Almost as many as are entered for the BAS National Show and the Fiesta!! This time the Supreme Champion went to the Intermediate White Male—Brackenfield Manitoba Fox owned by Andrew McCormack and Sarah Jane McRow. They also own the Reserve Champion the Junior White Female - Brackenfield Miss Fay. Needless to say they also won the Dams progeny class with Whistling Miss Lilly who was mother of both the Supreme and Reserve Champion. Roger and Mary Mount also got the Best British Bred Suri with the Senior black Male Snowhill Seraphim.

Special thanks go to the volunteers who helped set everything up on the Thursday, our fleece stewards who kept Rob on track on Friday, our collecting, gate and ring stewards

who made sure everything ran smoothly on Saturday and Sunday and those that came back Sunday afternoon with extra 'muscle' to help breakdown the pens, take down the tents and pack everything away. THANK YOU we couldn't have done it without you!

## The Royal Three Counties Craft Show 2019

This year at the Royal Three Counties Show we held our inaugural craft show. The aim was to show the public the complete story from the animals, their fleece to the products that can be made from the fleece. We also invited members of the local guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers to come along and demonstrate the skills involved in producing the items on display. There were 4 main categories - spinning, knitting/crochet, weaving and felting. Each category was subdivided into classes and we had a total of 50 entries—a great result for our first competition. The judges were selected as experts in their field and judged the entries the weekend before the show. They were all impressed with the quality of the entries and had a difficult job deciding the best entry in each category. So congratulations go to those that won the trophies for the 'Best in Category'. The full results can be found on our website and have been published in a number of alpaca and craft publications.



## AGM 2020—23rd Feb 20

I know, talking about 2020 already.....

But the AGM is important for our group. Not only is it a great opportunity to meet up with as many of you as possible but it is also an ideal opportunity for you to feedback to us about how you feel the group is running and anything you would like us to organise in the future. It is also your opportunity to help out with the group and join the committee. We meet about 6– 8 times a year to plan activities and the shows but you don't need to be present in person—we do use telephone conferencing! If you are interested in joining the committee, please let one of the committee members know.

## New Members

The group is a great resource for new owners with a lot of experience and support to offer. It has been agreed that if members sell animals to new owners we will give them 1 year's free membership to the group. If they wish to continue their membership after this initial year they will need to renew their membership and pay the subscription. Just provide the new owners details to [GroupSecretary@wsag.org.uk](mailto:GroupSecretary@wsag.org.uk)

## Midlands Championship Halter Show

Plans are progressing for the Midlands Championship Halter Show on Saturday November 9th. As always we will need volunteers to help set up on Friday 8th November and during the day on November 9th. It is a great opportunity to get up close to some of the best alpacas in the country and chat to their owners. So if you want to get immersed in all things alpaca then please keep the date free and come along and enjoy the day while helping out with running the show.

## December Social

We thought it would be nice to have a social get together to round off the year and also to thank our volunteers for their hard work during the shows. So we have booked the Manor Arms in Abberley for 7th December. Further details will be provided at a later date but book the date in your diary before it gets filled up with all the Christmas festivities. The event will be subsidised for all members and we'll ensure our army of volunteers are looked after by paying for their meals too.