



# WSAG Newsletter

November 2019



## AGM 2020—23rd Feb 20

The AGM is all booked for the afternoon of 23rd February 2020 at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall and as in previous years we will provide lunch so you can catch up with other members before we start the formal meeting. Once the official business has been concluded we have invited Cotswold Seeds to come and give us a talk on Pasture Management so it should be an interesting afternoon and give you lots of ideas for improving your pasture for the new year.

The AGM is a great 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.

## Upcoming Events



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

So far we have:

- 7-Dec-19 **Social: Pub Meal, 7pm**  
Manor Arms, Abberley, WR6 6BN
- 23-Feb-20 **AGM 2020 + Pasture Management**  
**1.00pm for 1.30pm**  
Stoke Bliss Village Hall, WR15 8RS
- 7-Mar-20 **Sharing: Making Breeding Decisions**  
**2020 Mock Show** (more details to follow)

If there is anything else you would like to see, please let us know.

## December Social - 7-Dec-19

Our winter social is all booked at the Manor Arms in Abberley for 7th December. We are really looking forward to seeing all those that have booked places at our winter social. It will be great to have the opportunity to relax and socialise over a good meal. As mentioned previously all volunteers will get their meal free and other members will have their meal subsidised by £10 just as a big thank you and a celebration of a successful year.





## Midlands Championship Halter Show 2019

9th November 2019



The Midlands Championship Halter Show was a great success again. We had a few changes this year that seemed to work well not least the deal with the show ground that meant we didn't need to sweep the hall at then end of the day— our volunteers were very pleased!!

Friday was set up day and as always our volunteers were invaluable enabling us to set up in record time!! Most of our competitors arrived during Friday evening, especially as the forecast was for ice and snow on Saturday morning—luckily it didn't materialise!!

Liz Barlow was our judge this year, with Shirley Bettinson assisting in order to re-certify her judging qualification. It was an 'interesting' day, Rob Bettinson (a judge) came along with Shirley, Barbara Hethrington was exhibiting—she is also a judge and then we had visitors arrive including Julia Corrigan-Stuart, Mary-Jo Smith and Val Fulerlove. So along with Jay we had 8 judges present!!



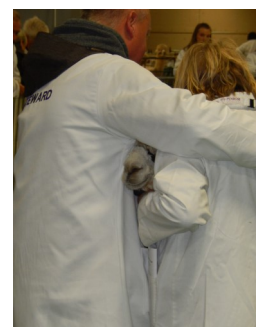
As usual, our members who exhibited were very successful with Snowhill (Roger Mount) receiving 2 colour champions and and 3 reserve champion colour champions, the Usk Valley team (Mr & Mrs Morgan) with a colour champion, Cotswold Vale (Ginnie Meakin) with a champion and reserve colour champion, The Alpaca Farm (Liz Eagles and Shaun Martin) with a colour champion and finally



Pure (Jay Holland) with two colour champions, two reserve colour champions and Reserve Supreme Champion. Congratulations to you all. Congratulations also go to the Supreme Champion Huacaya—Bozedown Blaze of Glory jointly owned by Beckbrow and Bozedown and the Supreme Champion Suri—Lane House Calypso owed by Lane House.

Special thanks go to the volunteers who helped set everything up on the Friday, our collecting, gate and ring stewards who made sure everything ran smoothly on Saturday and those that helped breakdown the pens and pack everything away in record time. THANK YOU we couldn't have done it without you!

Oh and you might want to add a caption to this photo, there is an alpaca there somewhere!





## Fibre—what does it mean

24th August 2019



A very informative and interesting afternoon was held at Pure Alpacas where Jay helped us understand what fibre analysis results and judging score cards meant and how they related to the fleece in front of us. We looked at a number of different fleeces looking at the fibre analysis results and histograms to help us understand what the different parameters and graphs meant and for some of the fleeces we also had the judging



cards so we could also understand how the judge had awarded his marks relating to the fleece and the fibre analysis for that fleece.

The afternoon was followed by a BBQ with plenty of time to socialise with other members and catch up with all our alpaca news. Many thanks to Jay and Hillary for their hospitality. Oh for the days when the fields were dry and we were sitting in the shade of a tree to keep cool!



## Basic Husbandry

19th October 2019



Unfortunately we had to delay the Basic Husbandry afternoon from September until October as Jay was scheduled for surgery on his broken wrist. The re-scheduled afternoon was a great success with all attendees learning something new to help with their alpaca management.



We discussed everything from feed and feeding, supplements, management of parasites including worms, flies and mites, skin care, first aid, handling, toe nail trimming.

Many thanks to Iain and Anne for hosting the afternoon and providing refreshments afterwards and the 'Abberley Alpacas' for co-operating (most of the time)!

