

Eastern Alpaca Group
Minutes of Committee Meeting (via Zoom)
Tuesday 2nd November 2021 – 9.30am

Present: Simon Ilett (Chair), Shirley Isseyegh (Treasurer/Membership), Emma Taylor (Fibre), Harley Laver (Shows), Katherine Shearer (Secretary), Katy Gilbert (Media)

Apologies: Sandra Justice (Events)

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of a meeting held on 19th October 2021 were agreed as an accurate record.

2. Matters arising not covered by agenda items

a. Show correspondence

Simon had contacted Pemberley Alpacas but had not received a response. Pemberley Alpacas have also not requested a refund for pen clearing as yet.

So far only eight exhibitors have requested a pen clearing refund. The deadline was the end of October. It was agreed not to chase exhibitors but that all requests for refunds would be dealt with when received.

b. Dates for 2022 Shows

Harley had contacted Beechwood Equestrian Centre and Essex Young Farmers Club via email but had not received a response. Beechwood have also been asked about 3 phase connection.

c. Cables

Kath has contacted Di Davies regarding the return of cables to SWAG . She has asked to use the cables again in 2022 and also for a potential decrease in the fee to reflect PAT testing and new boxes bought this year.

d. Grassroots invoices.

Grassroots monies have now been settled and Shirley and Harley have sent feedback regarding the issues that have come up for both shows this year. Grassroots are going to consider the feedback and discuss it with other show organisers too.

Action: Harley to chase Beechwood and EYFC.

(items 3 and 4 on the agenda were swapped at this point)

4. Events

b. Christmas Social

Harley has contacted the company that organises online wine tasting events but as yet has had no response. It was agreed to find a date in early January for the wine tasting social event.

Action: Harley to chase Wine Tasting company.

a. Winter Warmers

Paddock Management

Neither Simon nor Emma has received a response from Chris Keeble so it was felt that this was unlikely to progress. Dengie have declined as they feel that it is outside their specialism. Emerald Green Feeds are yet to respond. Katy suggested contacting Cotswold Seeds and agronomists, Pro Cam. It was agreed to look at an online event in April, or January if it was not possible to hold the Wine Tasting social then.

Action: Kath to contact Cotswold Seeds. Katy to contact Pro Cam.

Herd Sire Selection

Nick Harrington-Smith has agreed to hold a herd sire selection zoom workshop after January. It was agreed that a date should be arranged for February.

Birthing Course

It was agreed to look at a date for March for a repeat of the birthing course.

Crafting

Burnt Fen have been approached by Jo. 8th December was agreed as a suitable date.

Action: Simon to contact Jo for an update

3. Accounts

Shirley reported that the EAG account currently contains £11,871.39. Only eight pen clearing refunds have been given so far. Grassroots monies have now been finalised. Artwork Alpacas are still to pay for Progeny Class entries. A bill is also due for the return of the SWAG cables. Ten bales of bedding are left for next year so it was felt that the right amount had been ordered.

Shirley had distributed income and expenditure spreadsheets for the East of England Alpaca Show prior to the meeting. Simon commented that it was good to see that a profit had been made this year after a small loss in 2019. This was a real achievement.

It was agreed that the arrangement with Grassroots regarding invoices had worked well. Grassroots has received roughly £600 in levy fees from EAG across both shows this year.

5. Shows

a. Entry and Sponsorship fees

It was confirmed that discounts on sponsorship fees would not be given to EAG members next year.

Simon suggested that entry and sponsorship fees were about on target when compared with other shows. It was agreed that a better idea of venue costs was needed before discussing entry and sponsorship fees for next year. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Action: Kath to add entry and sponsorship fees to the next agenda.

b. Live Streaming

Jo had picked up contact details of a company that provided live streaming at the Yorkshire Alpaca Group Halter Show. Live streaming has also been a feature of the Northern Alpaca Show this year. The cost would be in the region of £1500. The Northern Alpaca Show live stream included captions on screen and access to the show catalogue.

The benefits of live streaming were discussed. These included greater promotion for the show and its sponsors and also maintaining the high regard that the EAG show currently has. Also the benefit to exhibitors who may see the show as an opportunity to advertise animals for sale. Emma highlighted a new feature on the pedigree registry that allows owners to mark animals 'for sale'. This may also appear on animals entered for shows?

Disadvantages of live streaming included cost and also the pressure on show organisers that live access would bring. Following a discussion it was agreed that Emma would put in a request to BAS to remind exhibitors of the rules regarding dress code in the show ring.

Shirley suggested that the cost of live streaming could be offset by sponsorship fees. Shirley also suggested that BAS could be asked to fund live streaming for regional group shows. Emma noted that a proposal with costings would be needed to present to BAS.

An edited video was proposed as an alternative to live streaming. Harley has a contact that she could ask.

It was agreed that costs of live streaming would be followed up and that the item would be discussed again at the next meeting.

Action: Emma to submit request to BAS re show ring dress code reminder. Harley to contact videographer. Simon to contact Jo for an update on the live streaming contact. Kath to add live streaming to the next agenda.

* Harley suggested that any research carried out could be sent to Kath for distribution before the next meeting if committee members were unable to attend. *

6. Any other business

a. Committee member holidays

Harley suggested that Committee members let everyone know when they will be away in a central place. WhatsApp was suggested.

b. Committee members show perks

Emma suggested that committee members be given display space for a pop up banner at EAG shows. It was agreed that this was a good idea. To encourage help at the shows from EAG members it could also be extended to volunteers who are not exhibiting. Volunteers could also be offered a free social evening meal as an alternative to a banner. A thank you should also be given to committee members and volunteers on the website and social media.

Action: Kath to add this item to the next agenda

c. Show photos

Harley asked that a link to the East of England Alpaca show official photographs be added to the website and social media sites.

Action: Kath to add a link to the EAG website. Katy to add a link to social media sites.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 16th November at 9.30am via Zoom.

Items for the agenda :

Entry and sponsorship fees

Live streaming shows

Committee and volunteer perks

Winter Warmers

Wine Tasting Social