

NSW Committee Teleconference
Thursday 2nd July, 2020

Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting opened at 8.05 p.m.

Present: Maureen Bates, Keryn Burns, Ros Davis, Rob Harborne, Fran Haslin, Erin Marsden, Cathi McMullen, Helen Phillips, Emma Timmony, Rubey Williams (by phone). Brett Fallon (NSW Board Rep).

Apologies: Maureen Bates.

For those who may not know him Brett Fallon introduced himself as the new Board Representative for NSW Region. A very warm welcome Brett!

Matters arising from previous minutes:

No matters arising from last meeting. Minutes confirmed.

President's Report:

Keryn has received a report of members who have not renewed as of 30th June 2020. She will remove from the list any members she knows have either died or will not be renewing for personal reasons. (Suggest if any committee member knows of anyone who will definitely not be renewing you let Keryn know). Keryn will send an email to those left on her list to give them a gentle reminder to renew.

New/Small Breeders:

Rob again raised the issue of people with only a few animals not joining the AAA because they don't think the \$275 fee gives them value for their small herd. The suggestion made last meeting to steer them towards an Associate membership does not give them the opportunity to register animals.

Suggestion made for an "Introductory Fee" for first 12 months.

Cathi raised the idea of creating a "Check List" for members selling to new breeders so they can make sure the new breeder has basic information.

Brett asked Rob to email his ideas to him.

Education:

Cathi also suggested a hybrid model for new breeders where there is a face to face between the seller and the buyer (or another mentor?) then follow up with online education.

The possibility of restarting New Breeder Seminars was discussed. Emma made the point of needing people to organise and present them, all the people who used to run these, particularly in Hawkesbury and Southern regions, are no longer around.

The concept of online seminars was also discussed. Rubey said the Youth Group have already made a couple of videos to show people how to halter train. This idea could be expanded to have videos on toenails, vaccinations and other husbandry practices. Some of the money in the NSW Region account could be used to develop these sessions.

Special Show classes for New Members:

Rob asked if class/es specifically for people showing for the first time could be instigated.

Keryn replied that for last two years we have had a separate point score at Sydney Royal for new exhibitors and people returning after an absence of 5 years or more. This was meant to be expanded this year to having some separate events for new exhibitors after the formal judging was completed.

(Note: we have previously discussed finding existing members who would act as mentors to people showing for the first few times, we need to look into this before the show season kicks off again).

Bathurst Show:

Bathurst Show has now been officially cancelled for 2020.

Cathi would still like to have a fleece show. The intention to run a National Fleece Show was discussed, would they be in conflict? Cathi is of the opinion they could both be run, the entry fee of \$6 for Bathurst would be substantially less than the National so would attract people who wouldn't necessarily show at National level.

Sydney Royal 2021:

2021 Sydney Royal will go ahead. Rules yet to be decided. Entry numbers to the showground will be reduced to allow social distancing. As far as we know alpacas will still be there however there will be a reduction in financial support from the RAS. We may have to use some of the reserved money to fund SR.

Keryn also mentioned that most of the fleeces which were entered into Sydney Royal 2020 were being kept to go directly to the 2020 National Fleece Show.

Member Liaison:

With Cathi taking a position on the Board Fran has volunteered to take over Member Liaison. Following on from Cathi's idea of having regular contact with all members Fran is working on dividing up the membership into geographical areas which will be allocated to a committee member. That committee member will undertake to be the first port of call for members if they have any issues they need help with. She will look after the initial contact with new members then pass their details to the committee member for their area.

Sponsorship Proposal:

Cathi brought up another idea for discussion re sponsorships. She suggested approaching multiple businesses for a small donation rather than trying to get large amounts from a few. There needs to be a visible benefit to the businesses such as a voucher given to exhibitors which they would take to the business, possibly giving them a small discount on the product or services offered. Helen mentioned they had obtained multiple sponsorships of \$50 when she was involved in running shows in QLD.

National Field Days:

Erin said Orange Field Days are going ahead at this stage. They have guaranteed a refund if it has to be cancelled because of Covid19. Erin has about 7 people interested in attending. She will follow up with them. She will also prepare a budget and risk assessment. Rob is underway organizing participation at Murrumbateman Field Days.

IAR tags:

Erin asked why can't an inactive male have an IAR tag? At the moment you can "register" a male as inactive on eAlpaca for no cost. Is this something that should be revisited? Brett said the Board is looking at eAlpaca at the moment. Suggestion was made that registering males could go back to the old concept of registering them for a small fee then paying more to upgrade them. The current way of putting them on for nothing with no tag could still apply to commercial animals, e.g. ones going for meat.

Mentor Studs:

Rubey raised the subject of getting a list of studs willing to be mentors for the Youth Group. Breeders need to commit to having YG members come to their stud to learn all things alpaca. Rubey is going to work on guidelines and a list of mentor studs. Fran offered to help if needed.

Other Business:

Rob asked if the EOI for 2021 Royal Canberra Show is ready to go out. Emma replied it was nearly ready to send it to the committee for final approval then it would be issued to the membership.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Next meeting 8pm, Thursday 6th August.