

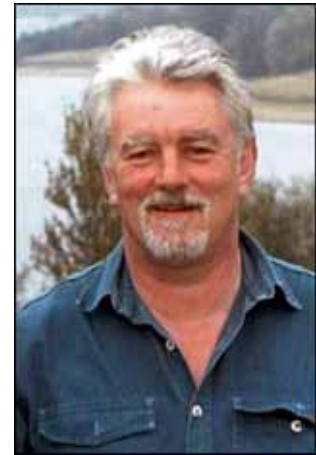
ROB BETTINSON

Contact details

Toft Manor
Toft
Dunchurch
Warwickshire
CV22 6NR

Tel: 01788 810626

E-mail: rob@toft-alpacas.co.uk



Rob Bettinson took the leap into Alpacas in 1996 with the purchase of four breeding females founded Toft Alpacas which sits on the side of Draycote water in about 60 acres of Warwickshire in the Midlands. The herd size is now around 200 alpacas, the whites and Suris being developed from the Accoyo bloodlines of Don Julio Barreda and the coloureds to select Peruvian and Australian genetics has achieved some success in the show ring.

Toft Alpacas is a business that fits neatly into his day job as a theatre director/writer and producer. This is a career that he has pursued with some success for over 30 years and which has taken him around the world a few times with numerous productions and for which he has received some of the highest accolades.

It is also a business that provides interesting opportunities to visit alpaca farms across the world. He was fortunate enough to attend the national Alpaca show in Tamworth NSW in 2000 a trip which gave him an invaluable insight into the Australian alpaca industry and inspired him to commit to Alpacas. Toft Alpacas now own a small breeding herd in New Zealand and import select genetic bloodlines from Australia and NZ to enhance their breeding programme

With his wife Shirley, he attended the Alpaca festival in Arequipa in 2000 which gave him an opportunity to watch Julio Sumar judging in the show ring and also to visit a few farms and research stations providing an invaluable insight into the alpaca's natural habitat and the alpaca and fibre industry in Peru.

2001 saw Rob again in Peru to select alpacas for Toft Alpacas from a shipment of 350 animals – a trip which also gave him the opportunity to get hands-on with some of the Accoyo animals of Don Julio Barreda at his farm in Macusani.

Rob was elected to the board of the BAS in 2002 and in 2004 he was elected as Chairman. A role he filled for over two years in which alongside Nick Weber of the BCL they initiated and completed a major restructuring of the camelid community in the UK.

Rob retired from the board in 2007 but was re-elected in 2009 where continues to do his best to protect the interests of all members and keep the society moving forward in a practical and realistic way.

Rob qualified as one of the first BAS alpaca judges in the UK in 2003. He initially took the courses to find out more in the belief he had a good eye for a good alpaca. However since qualifying as a judge he is grateful for the training that underpins his natural instincts. Rob is a keen supporter of the annual calibration clinics for qualified judges and feels confident he is an impartial and objective judge of alpacas.

Rob has always been a keen supporter of the show ring which he believes is the key arena in which to educate the public and breeders about the potential of this remarkable livestock. He has an ability to communicate with people and entertain a crowd and has a reputation for being a good listener with a very thorough objective approach to any project upon which he embarks.

SHOW CREDITS

Halter Judge:- KELSO County Show., Scotland July 2009
Organiser:- Melanie Douglas.

Fleece Judge: SCOTTISH NATIONAL FLEECE SHOW. JULY 2009
Organiser:- Jonathon Russell

Halter Judge: BAS NATIONAL SHOW: Newark & Notts Showground. MAY 2009
Judged in Tandem with Canadian Judge Kristin Burhman
Show organisers. Mike & Caroline Birch

Recertified as a BAS Judge November 2008.

Assistant to Cameron Holt: BAS National Fleece Show July 2007. The Royal Show, NAC
Show organiser: Mandy Wilson

Halter Judge: Three Counties Show, Malvern, June 2007
Show organiser: Pam Smith

Halter Judge: Drymen County Show, Scotland May 2007
Show organiser: Janet Small

Fleece Judge: BAS National Fleece show, Newark & Notts, 2007
Show organisers Mike & Caroline Birch

Halter Judge: Northumberland County Show, Corbridge, June 2005.
Show Organiser, Vicky Ridley

Recertified as a BAS Judge :- March 2004-Tutor Amanda Van den Bosch

Commentator:- The Royal Show, NAC, 2003,2004,2005,2006, 2008,2009

Commentator: East of England Show, 2006

Inspection Steward:- Kenilworth Show. 2003,2004,2005,2006,2007,2008

Commentator:- Kenilworth Show. 2003,2004,2005,2008

Inspection Steward:- South Of England Show 2003

Commentator: South Of England Show 2003,2004,2005,2006

Inspection Steward: BAS National Show,, Newark & Notts Showground, 2003,2004,2005,2006,2007.

Fleece judge: BAS fleece show at the BCA conference 2003.
Show organiser: Mandy Wilson.

Qualified as a BAS judge 2003.