

CURRICULUM VITAE

Barbara Hetherington

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Background

My qualification as a BAS Fleece and Halter Judge in 2017 came about on the back of my constant quest for knowledge. From the arrival of our first four females in 2008, I have been totally focused on knowing as much as I can about breeding and genetics in order to continually improve our herd.

I believe in order to judge well it is important to see and breed high quality alpacas and this has been our intention from the start. We decided to concentrate on top quality Huacaya genetics, and have bought top lines from the UK, Australia and New Zealand. We now own around 220 alpacas including many highly performing stud males. I am constantly assessing all traits in order to keep improving our herd, ensuring that we only bred from females who are sound in their conformation as well as having superior fleece qualities. This dedication resulted in our herd being awarded Huacaya National Supreme Championships in both Halter and Fleece in 2022 as well as numerous colour championships.

The welfare of our herd is of upmost importance. My background as a Critical Care Nursing Sister has proven to be very useful in this area. I am also currently Chair of the North West Alpaca Group and regularly organise welfare related webinars

Our first Suri females arrived in July 2016. By February 2017 we had 9 females, a young potential stud, and had purchased the Brown Champion Suri Male from the Australian National Show (2016). The Suri still make up only 10% of our herd, however, the 2019 show season saw two of our home bred Suri males take Supreme Championships. We have continued this success with two National Colour Champions in 2024 .

We have a highly performing herd, both in fleece and at halter shows. I am passionate about showing, and the promotion of alpaca in general. Whilst a BAS board member in 2014, I was instrumental in organising the BAS National Show at Telford (for the first time at the new venue). I remained as Chairman of the show for three years and I am still a committee member. I also have an organiser's role in the NWAG Alpaca Championships, Westmorland Show and the Northern Fleece & Halter Shows.

I have had extensive experience of judging in halter and fleece. In 2023 I had the pleasure to co-judge (with Amanda VandenBosch) the male entries at the British Alpaca Society National Halter Show and in 2024 co-judged the Australian Alpaca Association National Halter Show (with Natasha Clark)

Whilst always having an interest in education, I began teaching Zoom facilitated courses on herd selection and assessment of fibre and conformational traits during the pandemic. In 2021 I commenced tutoring on the BAS training courses and in 2022 I was invited to become a Judge tutor.

Judging Experience

2024

January – Northern Halter Show

February – BAS National Champion of Champions Fleece Show

March – Switzerland Halter

March – Germany Halter

April – Finland Fleece & Halter

May – Northumberland Halter Show

July – Three Counties Fleece Show

July - Northern Fleece Show

Aug – Australian Alpaca Association National Show (Halter co-Judge with Natasha Clark)

Sept – Netherlands Fleece Show and Workshop

2023

March – British Alpaca Society National Show (halter co-judge of males with Amanda VandenBosch)

October – Norway Fleece & Halter

October – Welsh Alpaca Halter Show

November – France Fleece & Halter

2022

April – Heart of England Fiesta (halter 240 entries)

April - Scottish Alpaca Championships (halter 220 entries)

Aug - Cornish Fleece Show (60 entries)

Sept – Alpaca Association of Ireland (fleece 104 entries)

Sept - South West Alpaca Group (halter)

Sept - Heart of England Fleece (co judge with 240 entries)

Oct – Norway (halter & Fleece judge plus workshop)

Oct - Germany (2 day halter plus presentation)

Oct- Italy (halter and fleece plus workshop)

Nov – North East & Borders (halter)

2021

Sept – Fleece Show Germany (plus workshop and presentations)

Oct- Yorkshire Alpaca Group (halter 2-day show)

2020

- all appointments postponed

2019

Jan – Re-certification halter and fleece pass

April – Heart of England Fiesta (halter 240 entries)

May – Cornwall Camelid Show (halter)

July – Poland (fleece show)

Aug – Sweden (fleece show)

Aug - Norway (fleece plus workshop)

Oct- International Alpaca Festival Italy (halter and fleece)

2018

April - Alpaca Association Benelux – Halter

April – Southern Ireland National Show – Halter

June – Three Counties Fleece Show

Oct – Halter & Fleece Show Switzerland

Nov – Northern Fleece Show

2017

May – Northern Ireland Halter Show

Sept – Westmorland County Show – Halter

Sept - Heart of England – Fleece

2017

Feb – certified as BAS judge