



**British  
Alpaca  
Society  
Members  
Conference**

## Celebrating Alpaca Ownership

Doubletree Hilton, Stoke-on-Trent  
4th-5th October 2025

**Preliminary Programme. Talks and Timings Subject to Change.**

**We have endeavoured to ensure that each set of parallel sessions includes talks/workshops that cater for the different interests of the membership.**

<b>Friday 3rd</b>	4.00-7.30pm	Check-in and registration for early arrivals
	7.30-9.00pm	Reception: Finger buffet and glass of wine for those staying on Friday
<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	7.30-9.00am	Registration continued
<b>AM</b>	9.00-9.15am	Welcome BAS Chair Sue Loach
	9.15-10.15am	<b>Keynote Talk : Molly Gardner (AAA &amp; AANZ Judge. Thistledown Alpacas)</b> <i>Changing times and the shifting of an industry from blood stock to fibre and the good position Britain is in to do this.</i>
	10.15-10.45am	Coffee/Tea Break
	10.45-11.45am	Parallel Session 1. <b>Format: Talk</b> <b>Dr Ami Sawran (Westpoint Farm Vets)</b> <i>'Tailoring the Camelid Calendar to your herd's needs'</i>
	10.45-11.45	Parallel Session 2. <b>Format: Talk</b> <b>Prof Mike Coffey (SRUC)</b> – Genomic improvement in Alpacas – is it possible?
	10.45-11.45	Parallel Session 3. <b>Format: Talk</b> <b>Mary-Jo Smith (Bozedown Alpacas and BAS Judge)</b> Assessing Conformation. Why conformation is important and how to assess and balance and traits.
	12.00-1.00pm	<b>Buffet Lunch</b>
<b>PM</b>	1.00-2.00pm	<b>Key Note Talk: Prof Ahmed Tibary (Washington State University)</b> <i>'Fundamentals of reproductive physiology for better management of alpaca breeding'</i>
	2.15-3.15	<b>Parallel Session 1</b> <b>Format: Talk</b> <b>Claire Whitehead (Camelid Veterinary Services)</b>

		<i>The Mite Menace: Tackling Skin Problems in Alpacas</i>
	2.15-3.15	<b>Parallel Session 2</b> <b>Format: Workshop</b> <b>Julia Corrigan-Stuart (CS Alpacas, BAS Judge) and Roger Clarke (Amberly &amp; Ambermoon Alpacas, BAS Judge)</b> <i>'Judging Huacaya and Suri Fleece'</i>
	2.15-3.15	<b>Parallel Session 3</b> <b>Format: Workshop</b> <b>Emma Taylor (East Anglia Alpaca Mill)</b> <i>'What to do with Fibre and how to prepare your fleece'.</i>
	3.45-4.15pm	Tea/Coffee
	4.15-5.15pm	<b>Prof. Helen Cowie (University of York)</b> <i>From the Andes to the Outback: Acclimatising Alpacas in the British Empire</i>
	7.30pm	Evening 3 course Dinner plus disco to include raffle draw
	9.30-10.30am	<b>Keynote Talk:</b> <b>Molly Gardner (AAA &amp; AANZ Judge. Thistledown Alpacas)</b> <i>Breeding for Improvement</i>
	10.35am-11.35	<b>Parallel Session 1</b> <b>Drew Thomas (Arkadia Alpacas)</b> <i>My Alpaca Journey</i>
	10.35am-11.35	<b>Parallel Session 2</b> <b>Tim Hey (Inca Alpacas and BAS Judge)</b> <i>How to make an Alpaca Business Work</i>
	10.35am-11.35	<b>Parallel Session 3</b> <b>Lissie Gercke (The Livestock Clinic, Veterinary Practice)</b> <i>'The Next Generation: Husbandry and Health Care Management for the Juvenile Alpaca'</i>
	11.50-1pm	<b>Shirley Bettinson (Toft Alpacas, recently retired BAS Judge) and Panel</b> <i>The Alpaca fibre industry. Why don't we have one and where can we go from here?</i>
	1pm-2pm	Buffet Lunch
	2-3pm	<b>Prof Ahmed Tibary (Washington State University)</b> <i>Infertility: what can go wrong with the male and female</i>
	3-3.15pm	Closing Comments
	3.15pm-4.30pm	Coffee – Tea <b>BAS AGM</b>