



# **The Northern Ireland Alpaca Group**

## **A Regional Group of the British Alpaca Society**

### **Constitution**

#### **Name**

The group shall be known as 'The Northern Ireland Alpaca Group', which can be styled 'NI Alpaca Group' and 'NIAG'. In this constitution, NIAG will be referred to as 'the Group'.

#### **Aims**

The aims of the Group are:

- To facilitate mutual support among members
- To build the capacity of those keeping, or wishing to keep, and/or breed alpacas in Northern Ireland
- To champion the welfare of alpacas and the education of their owners in Northern Ireland
- To represent its members at local and regional level

#### **Affiliations**

The Group shall be affiliated, as a regional group, to the British Alpaca Society.

#### **Membership**

Membership of the Group is open to anyone, including those who are and those who are not members of the British Alpaca Society, upon payment an annual membership fee. This includes those who currently keep alpacas, those with an interest in keeping alpacas and those with a general interest in alpacas.

The membership year shall run from 1 April to 31 March each year. Membership must be renewed annually, through payment of the annual membership fee, on or before 14 April.

In accepting membership a person agrees to be bound by the provisions of this constitution, any associated rules that may be agreed by the Group at any date, and by any and all rules and Codes of Conduct of the British Alpaca Society. Members may reference their membership of the Group in any publications or material regarding their own herd, but must not make any public statements on behalf of the Group without prior agreement from the Committee.

Where a member acts against the ethos of the Group or the British Alpaca Society, membership of the Group may be withdrawn from that individual. A two-thirds majority vote of members present at a General Meeting of the Group is required for this action to be taken.

### **Officers and Committee**

The Group shall have a Committee of the following Officers:

1. Chair
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Show Secretary

Officers shall be elected, by way of simple vote, at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Group and will hold office for a period of 2 years. In the case of a Casual Vacancy a replacement can be co-opted at any General Meeting of the Group.

#### **The Chairperson shall:**

- Serve as the primary point of contact for the Group
- Chair meetings of the Group and the Committee
- Oversee the smooth operation of the Group
- Be responsible for all external and public communications for the Group
- Represent the Group at national, regional or local events or forums as applicable.

#### **The Treasurer shall:**

- Maintain records of the Group's financial activity
- Be a signatory on the bank mandate
- Identify and seek to exploit any additional sources of funding for the Group

#### **The Secretary shall:**

- Maintain a full and accurate membership roll
- Take an accurate and complete note of all Group and Committee meetings
- Be a signatory on the bank mandate

### **The Show Secretary shall:**

- Coordinate an annual judged halter show, including liaising with host show, judge and others, as applicable.
- Maintain a full list of local agricultural and other appropriate shows within Northern Ireland and promote inclusion of NIAG, in either judged or exhibition format, as appropriate.

Any item above may be delegated to any other member with the express agreement of both parties.

The Committee reserves the exclusive authority to authorise expenditure in excess of £30. The Committee shall not delegate this power to any other member.

Any Officer may resign at any point by submitting written notice thereof to the Chairperson or Secretary. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified in the notice therefor or, in the absence of a specified time, upon receipt of the notice.

An Officer may be removed from office by a vote of two-thirds of the Membership present at any General Meeting of the Group.

### **Meetings**

The Group shall meet not less than two times in any membership years. One of these meetings will be an Annual General Meeting. Notice of meetings will be sent to members not less than 7 calendar days before the meeting is scheduled to take place. An agenda will be sent to members not less than 4 calendar days before the meeting is scheduled to take place.

All members may attend meetings of the group. Any other person may be invited to attend with the agreement of the Chair.

Agreement on decisions will be by consensus, where possible. Where there is dissent a simple vote of members will take place. Where one herd is represented by two or more individuals, and one membership fee has been paid, their vote will count as one.

### **Constitution and Amendments**

The Constitution of the Group may be amended by a simple vote at a General Meeting, on the advice of the Committee or by a duly proposed and seconded motion. A copy of this Constitution shall be available at all General Meetings of the Society.

***This Constitution was approved by the Membership at the Annual General Meeting, 29 April 2017.***