DBS Driving Committee Report – AGM 2016

Your Driving Committee continues in their efforts to improve donkey driving standards, and to that end in April we held a successful joint seminar in Wiltshire with our in hand donkey judges. We had driving and harness advice from our BDS judge for the day, Richard Wiggins, and in the afternoon he went on to advise and take questions from our in hand judges to help them should they be asked to judge a driving class at an affiliated show.

My thanks to Trudy Affleck and her team for all their hard work and for making everyone feel so welcome.

In March I attended the Brockham Harness Club Driving event at Merrist Wood in Surrey. It was a good day and I had quite a lot of questions from the public, but I feel it would have been an advantage to the society had we had some goods to sell from our shop.

In the show ring our numbers have been down a little but this is no different from other equine societies. However if we are not able to support the shows we will, as has been proved in the past, lose these classes.

Throughout the year many areas have put on local drives and I thank them all for this as it is very difficult for the driving committee to organize this type of event nationally due to the travelling it entails for members.

The Driving classes at our Championship Show this year did not get the entries we had hoped for and the weather was also not very kind to us. But congratulations to our Champion, Jo Cordell driving Flora, and our reserve, Elizabeth Bool driving Toadflax of Brownroad.

Clare Humphries won the Concours D’Elegance and Clare Strang’s donkey Bobby won Best Novice. My thanks to our judge for the weekend, Mrs Nicola Salter, and our steward, Mrs Jenny Spicer.

Our long reining award has started well with three members having successfully passed. Congratulations to them all.

Finally, I took over the chair again after Peter’s resignation two years ago but I now find myself too heavily committed so I will be standing down as from this AGM. I would like to thank everyone who has supported me during both my times in office.

Alan Larner

Committee Chairman