**CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE AGM 2018**

This year’s show was held over the weekend of 18th / 19th August, at Moreton Morrell Equestrian Centre, part of Warwickshire College. It was, as ever, a competitive yet relaxed, social and fun weekend.

Congratulations to all who took part – our Supreme In Hand Champion Perehill Bentley made the trip over from Ireland, and was in good company with the Mare Champion Annie B also coming over the Irish Sea. Supreme Driving Champion was Toadflax of Brownroad, who also took the Concours d’Elegance, Best Traditional Rein handling and MOST IMPORTANLTY Driven Fancy Dress Titles! Junior Young Handler was Jessica Barnett and Champion Young Rider Harley Teale. Our Sunday Points Champion was Dougal, attending his first Championship Show and making friends wherever he went. The Miniature Donkey Champion was Asspirin Acres Magma, and Team Challenge winners were the Bedfordshire Clangers (or Dunstans’ family and friends as most know them).

Driven entries were low and Junior entries were very low, which is such a shame as there are numerous rosettes and trophies on offer and those Junior members that do attend have a great time. Please encourage any Juniors you know – they really are our future and a weekend of donkey fun has to be better than one spent in front of a screen (surely?)!

Looking forward to 2019, the Committee has proposed changes to the schedule which have been duly approved by Council. For many years the ‘serious’ classes leading up to the Supreme In Hand, Supreme Driving, Young Handler and Young Rider Champions have taken place during Saturday, with gymkhana on Saturday afternoon and Fancy Dress on Saturday evening along with our quiz and supper. Sunday has held the Non-breed classes, more fun driving and the increasingly popular Agility classes. The interest in these Sunday classes is increasing and, instead of squeezing them into the Sunday morning and having a more sparse schedule on Saturday, it has been decided that with effect from 2019, the days will largely ‘switch’. All classes leading up to the two Junior Championships, plus those leading to the Supreme Driving Championship will remain on Saturday.

continued/…

-2-

The previous Sunday ‘fun classes’, including Agility, will move to Saturday, and Sunday morning will now hold the breed classes leading up to the Supreme In Hand Championships around lunchtime. It will still be possible to come for just one day if your interests lie in one area, however it will also be possible to potentially spread your interests and entries more easily across both days if you drive, do agility and show in hand. Details of the schedule remain to be worked out and will be available at the usual time next year – but this is advance warning for those who usually attend on one day only as they may wish to alter their diary for 2019!

The show could not run without the competitors, judges and the many, many helpers who make the show happen! The Supporter’s Club is of great benefit to the show, and if you haven’t bought a ticket, please see Barbara Roger who will be delighted to sell you one – or more! You may even win a cash prize! Huge thanks to all involved in any way – you are most appreciated – and hopefully see you in 2019. It really is a fun weekend for all things donkey, so why not come along and join in (or just watch!).

Carole Travell

Championship Show Committee Chairman