**Northern Region Report for National AGM 2018:**

At the end of February/beginning of March 2018, our part of the UK not only had snow but strong-to-gale force winds at the same time, resulting in snow drifts of 6-7 feet deep: we were very grateful to one of our local famers for clearing our access road leading to the main road into the village. We then had heavy rain which just added to the saturation in the paddocks.

The weather then turned topsy turvey and the summer months were dry and hot – I know which sort of weather donkeys prefer !

DBS Northern Region members attended a talk on “Broodmare Management, from Breeding to Foaling” on 05 February 2018 given by Stephen Bradley, BVMS, CertEP, MRCVS of Alnorthumbria Veterinary Group. Stephen’s presentation was very thorough and included plenty of references to donkeys.

Pam Moon, Area Representative - Lancashire, reported on a fabulous new Show at Erddig Hall, Wrexham which had really good entries which was very encouraging, and that they also did a walk at Rivington Pike on the 28th April 2018 - “another super success” to quote Pam !

Shows in the Northern Region have generally been well-supported this year – however there are one or two shows which had low numbers and every effort will have to be made to try to increase attendance at these in 2019.

On Saturday 22 September 2018, the Northern Region held its Autumn Show at The Wonkey Donkey Visitors Centre, Yorkshire. Classes were very well supported and, by popular request following last year’s fun event, the day finished with the Adult, and Children’s, “Donkey Dash”. Carol Tetlow did a wonderful job on the day as Steward and Bill Tetlow very kindly captured the atmosphere of the day on camera.

The 2018 Supreme Championship Show was held again at Moreton Morrell – understandably still too far South for some Northern DBS members. The Northern flag did fly proudly however - Helen Naden’s stallion, Glendene Tao, took the Stallion Championship, with Liz Brown’s Eddiestone Master Matthew standing as Reserve Stallion Champion. Liz also won the Supreme Driving Championship with Toadflax of Brownroad.

At the Chatsworth County fair, Debbie Street beat the horses to take the Pleasure Driving Class.

The North West Area have been very active – walks with donkeys were held at Rivington Pike, Tatton Park and Chatsworth House.

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The Northern Region now has its own Facebook Page and I hope that this will be well used.

At the Northern Region AGM in October 2017 I stood down as Northern Region Chairman (undoubtedly the best job in the DBS), having served in that position for 3 years. Northern Region members elected Liz Brown to succeed me. Bill Tetlow and Carol Tetlow were re-elected as Northern Region Treasurer and Northern Region Secretary respectively.

I have also served 6 years as the Northern Region Delegate to Council and, at the forthcoming Northern Region AGM in November 2018, I am delighted to advise that Liz Brown will be nominated to take over this position from me. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on Council and know that Liz will be an equally strong voice for the Northern Region in future Council meetings.

**LORRAINE RAE**

**Regional Delegate, Northern Region**