***SHOWS AND JUDGES COMMITTEE***

***CHAIRMAN’S REPORT AGM NOVEMBER 2018***

I open this report by thanking DBS members for bringing their donkeys out to shows to let the public see what wonderful animals they really are. A further thanks to our judges who give up their time to choose the champion donkey on the day. Hearty congratulations to those who took the big prizes at Morton Morrell in August – a tremendous achievement.

2018 showing season was blessed with much better weather than last year with not so many wet donkeys and soggy boots. However, across the board entries are declining. I grant you, one or two shows managed over twenty, but they were well outnumbered by those with less than ten forward. Why is this so? A sign of the times perhaps due to the expense of fuel and running costs? The DBS is not alone as other societies are experiencing the same situation. Perhaps as a society it is something we should look at.

Judging is not as easy at it looks from the collecting ring or viewing area and unpleasant comments from these places and sadly on social media tarnish what should have been great fun. Some judges have expressed their disappointment that this has been taking place publicly. However, if a member feels that a judge acts in a way that goes against the aims of the Society then they should feel comfortable to raise genuine concerns with this Committee who will view each one on its own merits.

Two seminars for judges have been arranged for 24 February at Donkey Sanctuary Leeds and also at Island Farm in Oxfordshire. Judges and trainees have been informed of the Leeds seminar – the Island Farm seminar is a new fixture. It is mandatory that judges/probationers attend once every three years to keep up to speed with judging our wonderful donkeys.

Competitors please REMEMBER TO HAVE YOUR CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW QUALIFYING CARDS WITH YOU AT THE SHOWS. Some are available on the display today or contact me or Carol Morse to have them sent on to you. The card looks like this:

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| **DONKEY BREED SOCIETY****CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW QUALIFYING CARD 20\_\_\_\_\_ SEASON** |
| **NAME OF DONKEY** |  |
| **NAME OF EXHIBITOR** |  |
| **MEMBERSHIP NO** |  |
| **NAME OF JUDGE** |  |
| **SHOW AND DATE** |  |
| **The donkey named on this card has qualified for the DBS Supreme Championship Show 20\_\_\_\_**\_\_\_\_**\_** |
| **JUDGE’S SIGNATURE** |  |
| **Please send this card with your entries to Championship Show Secretary (see Schedule for contact details)** |

DBS Logo on reverse side