**Wales Region Report for the AGM 2018**

The year started quietly for the DBS in Wales. Our Regional Delegate, Wendy Morris, was ill for some time and unable to devote time to DBS activity. Wendy, who is now recovering well, stood down from her role in the spring and former Regional Delegate, Ann Slater, took up the position again, initially on a temporary basis. In September Ann was nominated to Council to serve a new term of three years. To support her, a new Regional Committee has been formed, including new and more seasoned DBS members:

Chair – Ann Slater

Treasurer – Alan Healey

Secretary – Marilyn Lewis

Events – Dawn Alberto & Amanda Miles

The members who came forward to serve on the Committee are all based in south west Wales, but an Area Representative for north Wales, Ruth Stronge, works to support DBS aims in her area, including activities and training events. Members in other parts of Wales have been encouraged to consider serving as Area Representatives also.

The new Wales Committee has met twice so far in 2018, to establish priorities for action and plan future activities. The Committee is conscious that DBS membership in Wales had dropped in recent years and sees it as its priority to recruit new members and to retain the support of existing and lapsed members. With this in mind, a poster campaign has begun, with all members being asked to display the DBS posters in vets, equine stores and feed suppliers. Two newsletters have been produced during the year, to keep members informed and a special event was held near Llandeilo in late October. The event was a combination of seasonal donkey advice and social activity and it is anticipated that further activities will take place in the spring of 2019, to maintain the momentum.

The Committee seeks to foster support and encouragement to all donkey owners in the region and, consequently, its events are also open to non-DBS guests, although it is always hoped that guests will, in time, become members! Similarly, an online network, the Donkey Friends of West Wales, provides a means of keeping members and enthusiasts in the loop on DBS activities and providing friendly advice. The region has long benefitted from a very strong relationship with Tamlin Watson, Welfare Adviser in Wales for The Donkey Sanctuary. Tamlin is currently on secondment to another role, but the Committee is already working closely in south Wales with the temporary Welfare Adviser in the area, Tewsday Herbert, and will seek a similar relationship with the Adviser for north Wales once an appointment has been made.

Ann Slater, Wales Regional Delegate.