REPORT FROM DRIVING CHAIRMAN AGM 2019

Whilst the Driving committee does not meet at the moment, we keep a close eye on the goings on in the driving world and all those who have been out and about driving their donkeys this year.

Firstly thank you to all those who have put so much effort to hold donkey driving classes/shows, put on training days, picnic drives, camps, driving weekends, displays, to name just a few. Without these people we wouldn’t have the huge selection of driving activities to choose from.

There have been so many Donkey Driving activities this year, it’s been brilliant to follow the stories as they have been put into Bray Talk, The Donkey Magazine and posted on to social media. Before I name one or two specific events, a massive congratulations and well done to all those who have been out and about driving their donkeys, whether that be out and about at shows/events or just up and down the country lanes.

The DBS Championship show took place in August and I had the honour of stewarding the driving section with Alan Larner and Jenny Spicer. Thank you to Heather Noad for her wit and expertise as our Driving Judge. A huge congratulations to Debbie Street with her Tandem, Hapgood and Guildestern, for taking the Supreme Driving Championship, and to Elizabeth Brown with Toadflax of Brownroad for taking the Reserve. A special mention to our Novice Champion, Caragh driving Barney, driving a beautiful driven dressage for the first time having not ever seen the test and with about five minutes notice.

Carole Travell and team organised the Donkey Breed Society’s return to Burghley Horse Trials this year, a big thank you to her for the effort that goes into such an event. It was a fantastic opportunity to show Donkey Driving at its best. The Donkeys even had a segment of the Horse and Country TV’s Burghley report.

That wasn’t the only TV appearance for Donkey Driving this year, with Jill Castles’ Percy being put to a Market Cart on the BBC’s Countryfile program. Well done to you all.

Well done to all those who have gone hoof to hoof with our horse and pony partners in the carriage driving world. More and more now, donkeys are being accepted as part of these shows and events. And, more often than not, beating some of the horses and ponies on what should be their home turf. It’s fantastic promotion for donkeys and donkey driving and really does prove the working donkey is a happy donkey.

Finally congratulations to all those winning prizes and awards at the DBS AGM. However, whether you win, lose or draw, we all have the best donkeys at home.

Happy driving.

Chelsey Bailey

Driving Committee Chairman