EASTERN REGION REPORT - AGM 2019

Goodness, where has the year gone! Last year it was our region hosting this event, and I would like to thank the region’s committee for making the AGM 2018 a success as it does take a lot of hard work and organisation to make it happen.

The region has been very busy promoting the DBS this year, we started off by having a display stand and two donkeys standing in a pen at the South Suffolk show, of course the donkeys were the highlight of the day getting lots of attention from the public.

Then we were invited to do a display at the Suffolk show, showing what our lovely donkeys can do, we had 13 donkeys, two were miniature donkeys which are always a crowd pleaser, the donkeys demonstrated different types of driving, pulling a traditional cart, driving an exercise vehicle, pair driving, long reining, and In Hand showing skills, pleasure activities, wearing a pack saddle and being ridden.

In September we had the great honour to be invited back to give a driving display at Burghley Horse Trails. We had 7 driving turnouts, an invalid carriage, private drive, exercise vehicles, pleasure vehicles, and a tandem. We all received a beautiful rosette given to us by Lady Louise Windsor.

Another event which loves having the donkeys attend is Gransden show, the donkeys are invited back by popular demand! The donkeys give a demonstration in the ring, and then Carole Travell provides donkeys to stand in a pen for the public to pet and ask questions, we have gained several new members from this event as well.

The showing season in our area has seen some good numbers attending the shows and some new faces showing for the first time which is encouraging to see.

The region’s EARS scheme is in its second year, where we invite members to send in 3 pictures of their donkeys doing simple things, to try to encourage members who can’t get out and about to join in, they will receive a beautiful rosette.

Thursday club is held on the second Thursday of the month, and members can come to Annette’s for training and advice. We had our end of summer walk in August to the local pub; the weather was kind to us and we made it there and back without getting wet.

An awards day was held in the region, well done to John Dunstan, Jessica Barnett and David Poole for passing Bronze and Olivia Sharpstone for passing her Introductory award.

Our social event this year will be our Christmas lunch held on the 8th December in Huntingdon.

Then we get ready to start the fun all over again in 2020!

Annette Staveley

Eastern Region Delegate