**SHOWS AND JUDGES COMMITTEE REPORT – NOVEMBER 2019**

Many of you will have heard the news that Elma Cunningham, the Chairman of the Shows & Judges committee, was taken ill recently and currently remains in hospital where she is making progress. The Society sends its best wishes to Elma for a continued positive recovery, and to her family who are having to adapt to changed circumstances for now.

It was expected that with the high profile outbreaks of Equine Influenza this year, entries at shows would be further reduced following advice to shows by the Animal Health Trust that all equine entrants must be up to date with their vaccinations. However statistics from our Champion Donkey status shows reflect entries were not adversely affected in general.

Also due to the equine flu outbreaks, only one of the two judges’ seminars planned to take place this year was able to go ahead, that being the one at Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary which was very well attended and well received by many of our judges.

The committee met in the spring and proposals put forward were approved by Council:

* The leading rein class will be renamed Junior Leading Rein Class
* Judges may now accept a maximum of four appointments per year, but only two shows with Champion Donkey status
* Judges will be required to attend a seminar in every four years (currently three years)

To summarise the 2019 showing season

* 54 shows affiliated including two new shows: Whip & Collar Driving Club Indoor Show in Northern Ireland and the Miniature Horse Show in Hampshire
* Two shows returned this year after a break: Halifax and Bowes
* Kings Heath, Newry, Driving Addington, Melplash, Okehampton and South of England Autumn shows all went ahead but did not affiliate, some due to falling entries
* Devon Show cancelled the donkey classes due to a drop in entries
* The Glendene Donkey Show was replaced by a driving weekend
* Yeovil and Thame Shows did not take place
* Honley Show was cancelled; as was Ellingham & Ringwood due to bad weather
* On a lighter note, several new exhibitors have been to shows this year

Certificates will be presented to the Show Champion Donkeys and the top ten exhibitors in the Showing Points tables.