**Wales Region Annual Report, November 2019**

The Wales Committee sought, in 2019, to develop a number of events and activities for members and potential new members. Membership numbers in the region are not high and it is hoped that a vibrant programme may encourage members to renew their subscriptions and for non-members to be inclined to join. Given the geography of the country, members tend only to participate in activities that are within relatively easy reach of home and most activities take place in west or north west Wales, where there are active organisers. In Gwynedd, Area Representative Ruth Stronge organises activities based around her Snowdonia Donkeys organisation, and further south social and learning events are organised by DBS Committee members in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire.

At local DBS members’ request Cotts Equine veterinary practice in Pembrokeshire hosted an evening ‘What to do if….’ session in late February and DBS was promoted at that event to the 20-30 attendees, which included several new donkey owners and staff of the visitor attraction Folly Farm, where there are a number of donkeys.

The Committee had less success with plans for a number of informal learning and social events for the spring and summer, due to low levels of response from members and the health or personal circumstances of hosts and organisers in some cases. The Region’s main event for 2019 was *Building a Relationship with your Donkeys*, a full day’s training with Ben Hart on 5 October in Carmarthenshire. The Committee is most grateful for the award of a grant of £150 from the DBS Education Committee towards the cost of running this event and disseminating the learning points. The event attracted eleven participants, including a number of new donkey owners and others aspiring to involve their donkeys in outreach activities. This included a young boy of eleven, who came along with his father. A full report is in preparation and will be circulated via DBS newsletters and the website. Feedback was very positive on the day and participants were asked to think about next steps in achieving their goals.

With regard to the Region’s finances, the Region has approximately £400 in its account, with some income outstanding at the time of reporting. The Committee will meet in November to plan activities and priorities for 2020.

Ann Slater

Wales Regional Delegate.