DRIVING AND DRAUGHT COMMITTEE REPORT AGM 2021

I have the annual honour of getting to write the Driving and Draught committee report and after nearly two years of Covid I wasn’t expecting so much to talk about. Not even a global pandemic will keep people from enjoying their donkeys in harness.

In such trying times, a huge thank you must be given to all those who have put so much effort to hold donkey driving activities, from drives to camps to shows and everything in between. Without these people we wouldn’t have the huge selection of driving activities to choose from.

The donkey driving camps around the country have made huge leaps to get more people into driving their donkeys. Donkey social weekends have also been a massive hit, encouraging people to enjoy their donkey driving without the pressure of competition.

The photo shows, kindly organised by Carole Travell, have been a brilliant platform to show the number of people who are actively enjoying driving their donkeys, not just in the show rings around the country but also on country lanes, fields and arenas up and down the isles.

Well done to all those who have gone hoof to hoof with our horse and pony partners in the carriage driving world. With fewer opportunities to get out competing during the last year means that the opportunities that available are more than often in horse/pony classes. It has been awesome to see so many people out with the donkey banner to show we are equal (better, definitely better!) to our equid counterparts

Congratulations to everyone who has managed to battle through the pandemic and the red tape to get out and about driving their donkeys, with the revival of the Driving and Draught committee, the hope is that we can bring more options, information, awards and recognition to those who not only compete with their donkeys in harness and draught,  but to everyone who enjoys their donkey in harness and proves that happy, active donkeys are easily the best thing in the world. We have hopefully started a new fresh and enthusiastic committee without losing touch with all those who have moved on or who are no longer with us to which we and the driving donkey owe so much.

 Happy driving

Chelsey Bailey

Chairman, Driving & Draught Committee

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_