

DBSS Zoom meeting 13th June 2022

Minute of Proceeding

Present: Morag Anderson, Pamela Charles, Aileen Charlton, Ann Crawford, Robert Crawford, Mike Dewhurst, Rosie Dewhurst, Nikki Donaldson, Lizanne Kempself, Sheena McConnell-Ferrie, Morven Meston, Jacqui Methven, Diana Milligan, Alison Robertson, Ian Thomson, Kendall Young

Apologies were received from: Margaret Greaves, Julie Harvey, Sharon Laing, Shelagh Miller & Annie Rushton-Green

Welcome to the meeting

Kendall Young the Scottish Regional Representative on DBS Council introduced herself, welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained her role in the organisation. She emphasised that our group is not unique in falling dormant over the past two years, not aided by our 47 members being spread from Galloway to Banff. At Council she learned that in Cheshire there is sufficient concentration of members to hold regular social gatherings. This is impractical over our widespread geographic area.

Kendall gave notice of a forthcoming Warhorse Jubilee Walk from Balmoral to Windsor with which DBSS is encouraged to become involved. Details of route, dates and link attached.

Kendall said our purpose tonight is to determine members' expectation from DBSS at which point she opened the meeting for discussion.

Members' forum to discuss future direction:

The high cost of travel is detrimental to DBSS growth. There are many donkeys that are delivered to the owner and never travel again as there is no owned transport. In recognition of the distance, logistic and cost difficulties, DBSS will institute **quarterly Zoom meetings**, the next to be held early in September. Each meeting should have a predetermined theme such as an educational presentation involving an outside speaker, ie farrier, vet, nutritionist thereby expanding the likely audience and to avoid falling into 'Greeting meetings'. By meeting on Zoom we will include any less active donkey owners those who keep their donkeys as companion animals and pets. These are often the owners in greatest need of educational and welfare support.

Action Chairman, Secretary & Facebook Admin

It was determined to **expand membership** numbers which have dwindled because the forum where donkey people meet and hear about DBS is ringside at summer shows. New **DBS Leaflets** exist, a sample was displayed to camera. A stock is to be sourced and distributed to those in the regions who would like to use them for promotional purposes, ie; feed store, vet, farrier, handing out to interested parties at shows.

Action Regional Rep

It is advocated that DBSS, being a small group, should **partner with other organisations** such as WHW, BHS, BDS for events. At the recent Balmoral drive the horse community were astonished to see a driven donkey (Winnie). Unpleasant comments which have been made on social media and hostile reaction which donkeys receive from some of the equine community at events was discussed and can only be counter-acted by education and being seen to be active and have well disciplined donkeys at public events.

Area based lists of members will be made available to assist with generating local donkey activity.

Action Secretary to circulate up to date **regional members** information

It will be strategically helpful to track numbers attending events this year to work out who is going out and what they are willing and able to do. Additional to this information results from an

online survey will be used as ideas for educational talks and events. **Action Chairman, Secretary & Facebook Admin**

It was acknowledged that the lack of a chairman since 2019 has had a serious negative impact on our group. In the opinion of the meeting, an enthusiastic leader is required to stimulate, direct and develop DBSS.

Nomination & Election of Office Bearers

Kendall explained the **Regional Representative** is elected for 3 years with the ability to serve 2 consecutive terms. She is now in the first year of a second term and expressed willingness to continue. Nobody wanted to take over the role so **Kendall** continues to represent DBSS at Council meetings.

As currently the most active and influential member of DBSS, **Morven** was asked whether she would consider taking the leadership role. She stated that she is already very busy with a responsible job, her donkeys and other livestock. She agreed to trial six months as **Chairman** and see whether it was possible to do justice to the role. The Chairman's role is to work out a strategy and give direction it is for the other office bearers and area reps to implement the action.

In support of the chairman, another busy member, Jacqui volunteered to undertake the administrative role of DBSS **Secretary** on the same six-month trial basis as the Chairman.

As the proverb says "If you want something done ask a busy man", so this partnership should be a great success.

Any Other Business

Kendall thanked everyone for joining in and for their valuable contribution to reaching a plan for future. We look forward to meeting together at the Highland Show and wish Morven a successful weekend at Glamis Attelage representing active donkeys.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm