

## Report from the Northern Region September 2022

The Northern Region continues to grow, which is very good news! We can report growth in our junior membership too, which is gratifying and we are currently considering how we might provide training/fun days for our juniors, and their families, to ensure that their needs are met. They have told us that they would like to develop their riding and learn more about looking after the donkeys in their care. A programme for juniors will go out with our next edition of *Asspire*.

### Ongoing . . .

**A Fab Farrier's Award** – we continue to add to farriers in our own region receiving the Award, in recognition of their care of our donkeys. Earlier in the year, Luke Fisk was nominated by Pam Moon. Luke's certificate is on the way.



*Luke Fisk, Lancashire.*



*Olwen and Elizabeth Brown's Brownroad Gorse, In-hand Reserve Supreme Champion*

Olwen and Liz Brown's gorgeous home-bred yearling Brownroad Gorse took **Reserve In-hand Supreme Champion** and Olwen took **Reserve in the Supreme Driving Championship** too! With Liz's Eddystone Master Matthew as **Champion Stallion** and Brownroad Kingcup providing the **Junior Champion** with her ride, it was

### Shows and Driving

The Northern Region's Show was held in Lancashire, on 8<sup>th</sup> May – which also happened to be World Donkey Day and Pam's birthday – super celebrations all round and a great way to start the showing calendar!

In June, lots more shows appeared and for those heavily involved, weekends became a constant round of travelling and activity! Congratulations to all northern members showing and driving this year. July and August flew by, with everyone looking forward to the DBS Championship Show at the end of the month.

Huge congratulations to a fabulous Northern contingent both in terms of competitors and their fabulous donkeys and helpers, who really did their bit for the Society.



*Toadflax of Brownroad - the Northern Region's Colin!*



*Bluebell Abbot and Brownroad Kingcup*

much-deserved success for the Browns who do so much to help members in the Region with their amazing knowledge, their time and their donkeys.

**Supreme Driving Champion** was Debbie Street and Hapgood. They picked up a headcollar specially crafted and given by The Worshipful Company of Saddlers, presented by Lucy Atherton, Prime Warden.



*Supreme Driving Champion Debbie Street and Hapgood*



*Jane Bramwell with Roquefort Jojo*

Taking the **Concours d'Elegance** and the **Novice Driving Championship** back to the Peak District, was Jane Bramwell and Roquefort Jojo.

Congratulations also to Daniel Street who was **Junior Handler Reserve Champion**.

Huge congratulations to our juniors Eva and Carys who also won categories at the Championship Show. We are so proud of all who 'did it for the North!' – very well done.

**DBS Proficiency Awards** We continue to hold Training Days for the DBS Awards. In May we held a Silver Award Training Day and provided an opportunity for those needing to complete their bronze award to do so. We are encouraging all areas in our Region to train for a range of Awards and will provide full support as requested.

### **The Intrepid Craft Group!**

The very arty craft folk in the Region(!) enjoyed another spell of creativity – this time willow weaving, in June, at the home of Pam Moon and organised by Alison Roberts of Cumbria. Our picture shows, ‘the northern herd’ and how splendid they look. It was super that Marie from Blackberry Donkeys joined us, all the way from the North East!

We’re currently contemplating what to turn our hands to next!



**Asspire** May we take this opportunity to say, once again, an extremely big thank you to anyone who has ever been in the magazine. *Asspire* enjoys the obligatory two editions sent out to everyone in the Region, including those who do not have email, and two more that go out to members with email accessibility.

### **Area Representatives**

The Northern Committee has offered their services to Area Reps that wish to organise an event in their Area, to get events started, as we appreciate that we are a very big Region. We are hoping that Areas will take us up on this so that training for Awards can be enjoyed, along with picnic walks and other social get-togethers such as craft days.

We currently have a vacancy in Cumbria for an Area Representative and hope very much that this will be filled in due course.

**Online presence** – Facebook has been a great source of information and camaraderie for some of our members. The Northern Region has a Facebook page and members frequently share information and news.

**Thank you to all members for your continued support of our Region.**

Liz Brown, Chair and Sarah Booth, Secretary, DBS Northern Region. 29.8.22