

Chairmans Report October 2011

It has now been my fourth year as Chairman and Director and as always I am still enjoying the challenge of trying to make the area successful both financially and rewarding to the members. I have to thank all the Committee who have worked so hard during the season, all doing their own specific jobs to help run the area. We gained four new Committee members this year, Kirsty Errington who organised the Young Judges training, Ellen Jones who organised the training days, Shirley Bennett who judged and helped steward at our shows, and Katie Heginbotham who has worked hard instructing at the training days at Fiddler Hall. I would like to thank these new committee members for their input on the Committee.

Daryl Davidson was elected as a Director in February of this year, and I would like to thank Daryl for taking on this responsibility and sharing it with me. I have been very aware that as the area is spread widely across Cumbria, and it has always been a worry that I have not really been involved very much with the organisation of events etc. at the northern end, but I am sure that now Daryl is a Director she will not mind being approached by the more northerly members with any problems, concerns, suggestions or issues, which you may have, so they can be brought to Committee and I am sure will be involved in the running and organisation of events. As Directors I hope you will find us both approachable and trust you will contact us about any matters or concerns you have regarding the area or your membership.

Again area 1B has grown with membership this year, we have gained many new members, which again is partly due to the training which we offer as part of the membership. We have held our usual four shows, all of which were run very successfully, but the Spring Show this year was fantastic, and we made enough profit to help us through the year with the cost of running the area, and offer subsidised training days and hopefully a nice presentation party. The other shows made slight losses or very small profits, I think, but this was partly due to the fact that our costs have risen again this year.

We also held a fundraising evening which we made £500 profit; we donated half to the Air Ambulance which left us with £250 towards our training days.

We held lots of training days during the season and also myself and Katie ran a fun day/treasure hunt, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the members who attended, all the children going home dirty, and tired out but extremely happy.

Ellen Jones has organised several training days at the northern end which have been well attended and enjoyed by members, and in the half term there will be another 2 training days one at Fiddler Hall with Pam and another at Greenlands with Richard Telford.

This year we purchased some more hot water flasks for drinks in the rings and for use at training days. We also purchased one new jump, but we would like to purchase some more jumps this year and also some radios. Daryl and I attended a BHS First Aid Course and received our certificates.

We are having a training bursary award again this year, which has been kindly donated by Tracey Brooks and as usual it is in the sum of £50 first prize and £25 second prize, to be drawn from the points cards at the party, the winners must be in attendance. This is a good incentive for members to attend the prize giving.

Last year we gave vouchers at the presentation to those in attendance for £10 towards training but then charged members £10 for the presentation. This year junior members will be free of charge but we will not be giving out the £10 vouchers. I hope as many as possible attend and make it a pleasant, entertaining/fun evening with lots of lovely food. We are holding a talent contest and fancy dress competition so pass the word around and get non-members to come along as well to make up the numbers and join in the fun.

Katie Heginbotham kindly set up the Facebook page for BPS Area 1b and this has proved to be very helpful and interesting, with many members of the Area and others areas using it regularly. Our message board on the website gets used as well and I would like to encourage members to visit this site regularly to get up to date information and notices about what is happening. Anthony Barker and Helen run this site for us and I wish to thank them for the hard work they put in updating it and also sending out e mails and messages to members.

If any members are not getting e mails please contact either myself or Helen to let us know so we can update our records and get your correct e mail address to ensure you receive information from us. If anyone hasn't access to the internet postal information can be sent out to you at your request. Sometimes H.Q. don't always send us details of junior members and we don't always know who are members or have correct addresses and contact details, so please let us know of anyone who may not be receiving info.

We are always wanting help setting up at shows and help on training days etc. so if anyone has a spare moment help is always appreciated. We are still giving out the £10 voucher to helpers who turn up to help either beforehand or on the day, this voucher to be used against entry fees or training days.

I hope you will all continue to support the Area and hope you have found the Committee friendly and helpful, if anyone has any queries or needs any help then please contact any of us. If you need any issue bringing up at H.Q. by myself or Daryl please can you put it in writing as that is the only way it can be brought to their attention and hopefully dealt with. I am going to try to get to the next Chairmans meeting if possible so can discuss any matters of concern at that time.

Thanks to you all for attending. Please feel free to join in the open discussion on A.O.B. at the end of the meeting.