

BLASTON AND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SHOW SOCIETY CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2009

The newly reconstituted Society has now been in existence for almost a year, and a great deal has been achieved over the past nine months.

The 2009 Show

After four short months during which the new committee of raw beginners had to plan and execute the Show, we were blessed with glorious weather, good entries, a large happy crowd and a positive bottom line, not least thanks to a sell-out Friday night party and a busy bar on the Sunday, and despite some initial heavy capital costs.

For their part in this success I want to extend particular thanks to our newly appointed Show Director, Oli Lee, our hard working and also newly appointed Secretary Julie Parker, to John Stones and his family for organising the party and bar so brilliantly from scratch and all of the Section Chairmen, together with their enthusiastic voluntary stewards, who gelled together to form a formidable team.

There is not time or space for me to thank all of these individuals, but I would like to mention Sally Beaty, who nobly took on the huge task of organising the horse & pony classes for just the one year, to Charles Crisp who orchestrated a 1000% increase in Classic Car entries, to Dick and Sid Beaty for creating the new Modern Farming Exhibition from a standing start. Also to Mick Woodford who, with the able assistance of Ann Palmer, came to grips with the new car parking and entrance layout with good humour and adaptability!

Governance

Much time was spent during the year on setting up the structure, a Company Limited by guarantee, and for this I am particularly indebted to John Stones and our legal advisors Bray & Bray of Market Harborough, who generously provided much time and expertise in ensuring we now have a modern Society structure, fully fit for purpose.

The Hound Show

After many meetings and discussions during the year, it has been decided that good governance and organisation of the Show and the Hound Show are best achieved by operating independently, whilst

remaining closely joined together in the joint promotion of the two events in future.

Detailed arrangements are being finalised and, officially, separation will take place as from the beginning of the Society's new financial year on 1st September.

As you will see from the accounts, the contribution to the Society funds from the 2009 Hound Show amounted to a very welcome £600, and I would like to record here my particular thanks to Gilford Stubbs and his hard working committee for their efforts this year, and also pass on my best wishes for the continued growth and success of the Hound Show in the future.

The Future

From 2010, and with the benefit of our experiences over the past year, it has been decided to create a flatter and more inclusive structure for organising future shows; this being the newly formed "Show Committee" which, under the Chairmanship of our Show Director will incorporate members of all the individual Sections of the Show.

Later in the Agenda, Oliver Lee will be reporting on our plans for next years Show, and I do not want to steal his thunder.

However, this is just to say that we are committed to building the Show over the coming years, against the backdrop of some notable and sad casualties amongst some of the country's traditional Agricultural events. In particular, we are aiming to see a return of cattle to the Showground, and in due course hope to confirm that the Show can remain at the Blaston Road field for the foreseeable future.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to thank all my fellow directors who have been tireless in their efforts over the past year in ensuring the successful rebirth of the Society, and to say what a privilege it has been to serve as their Chairman.

Rupert West
Chairman

November 2009