



Minutes Update 04/04/2026

Icelandic Horse Society of Great Britain Ltd BoT Meeting + Management

MEETING MINUTES MONDAY 7TH APRIL 2026 ON-LINE 7.30PM

Trustees & Management.

Martine Bye-Duke Chair (MBD), Jem Adams (JA), Hilary Ashford (HA), Ellen Brimble (EB), Debbie Ede (DE), Chrissy Edwards (CE), Linnie Frith (LF), Freija Glansdorp (FG), Fi Pugh (FP), Mic Rushen (MR).

The Minutes were written up by Sabrina Chetcuti

1. Opening and Apologies

MB welcomed all to the meeting. **Apologies FG, MR**

1.1. FP joined meeting at 7.45 pm

2. Minutes of last meetings & Matters Arising

2.1. Are there any amendments to the minutes not already raised?

- Action SC to update the minutes to correct the wording about member/non-member course subsidies as discussed. **Completed**

2.2. Is the Board of Trustees willing to accept the minutes of the last meeting as reflective of discussions and decisions made? **Accepted**

2.3. Review of actions from previous meetings will be covered in the following agenda. NB An Action list is distributed automatically to trustees following ZOOM meetings. Requirement to ensure all Manatees receive the action list and meeting minutes well in advance of the next meeting. Action SC & MBD

3. Chair's Update – MBD

3.1. Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) scheduled for April 11th details

- Calling papers and proxy information had been distributed by March 20th
- Trustee meeting held March 16th to review and finalize resolutions.
- 23 attendees and 5 proxies confirmed to date
- A briefing note for the EGM had been prepared to reinforce the message that the EGM was not for further discussion, voting-only meeting . The deadline for any changes to DE by 7pm Thursday 6th April Action All
- Participants registered for the breeding weekend in Scotland to be reminded of the opportunity for the EGM proxy vote . Action EB
- IP has confirmed his availability for the EGM
- Technical check for 1.15 to be confirmed with IP ensuring all trustees are logged in and for a pre meet briefing Action EB
- Proxy query to be forwarded to DE Action LF

3.2. Ruby Challenge

- The chair provided an update principally around the need to galvanise members to join in.

3.3. Potential lottery funding opportunity for sports squads was raised. Concerns were expressed about the complexity of the application process recognising that someone with previous experience to guide the application process may be required

Key points regarding the financial management challenges, complexity of paperwork and tracking associated with handling funds. Noting, in addition, that grant criteria had become stricter in recent years.

Finance expressed willingness to assist in reviewing bids, but this needed to follow after IHSGB reorganisation as a priority

4. Finance-DE

- DE clarified her request to stand down at the end of the financial year. The Chair expressed support for ED's decision while emphasizing the need for new people to take over leadership roles.

5. Communications - LF

5.1. IHSGB Leaflet

- Review Connemara Society membership wording and draft revised text for the IHSGB leaflet, then circulate to the group for feedback before reprinting.
- Print and distribute more membership leaflets, incorporating possible new wording to be inclusive of non-owners, after review by group. Action LF
- Communications on all activities (e.g. Ruby Challenge, Fun camp and EGM etc) to be coordinated to avoid overwhelming members.

6. Breeding & Studbook – EB (FG)

- EB reported on IHSGB Breeding & Competition weekend at Netherton Perth with 12 participants attending

7. Education – JA

- JA provided an update on education initiatives, stating that webinar planning would resume after the upcoming EGM.

8. Leisure – MBD

- 8.1. Spring Fun Camp - To date there were 17 registered participants but 18 is required to ensure sole use Communication to members to encourage participation Action LF
- 8.2. May Day content and Easter Challenge content needs to be added to the Website Action LF and IP

9. Sport – FP

- 9.1. Updates were provided on recent training activities at Connegar.
- 9.2. Upcoming webinars
 - April 14th (for experienced Judges and Sport Squad A and B
 - April 29th - Sport Squad
 - May date tbc - Focus on British Championships
- 9.3. Tolt on line - only one entry received thus far. Plans for new advertising approaches to increase participation discussed

9.4. British championships

- Reminders to be issued regarding vaccination within 6 months of competition
- Format planned to remain similar to 2025, including:
 - Costs from Aston le Walls
 - Catering supported by Sarah
- Raffle prizes offered by saddle business. A free stall to be offered in recognition of their contribution . Action MBD to provide contact details

10. **Youth – CE**

Updates were provided on FEIF Youth Cup 2026 noting limited response so far and plans to follow up with reminders about the event and selection criteria.

11. **Membership Administrator - HA**

Nothing to report

12. **Sleipnir Newsletter Editor- MR Apologies**

Nothing to report

13. **Website- IP**

Nothing to report

14. **AOB**

Nothing to report

15. **Date & Type/Venue of next Trustees meeting –**

Tuesday 5th May 2026, 19.30 hours GMT Due to Monday being a Bank Holiday.
Reminder requested via WhatsApp

Meeting Closed at 8.25 PM

Zoom Meeting summary and action list

This meeting focused on preparations for an upcoming EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) regarding organizational restructure, with 28 attendees and 5 proxies confirmed. The group discussed course cost subsidies, corrected minutes from the previous meeting, and addressed concerns about the EGM briefing note and proxy processes. Updates were shared across various committees including Scottish events (with 12 participants registered), sports activities including training weekends and upcoming webinars, and membership challenges with discussion about improving recruitment materials to better welcome non-horse owners. The meeting also covered the Ruby Challenge, anniversary camp planning with 17 registered participants, and total online competition updates.

Next steps

- Saby: Update the minutes to correct the wording about member/non-member course subsidies as discussed.
- Debbie: Send out the briefing note (explaining the EGM is for voting only, not discussion) by email to all relevant members and trustees.
- Ellen: Email details to the 12 people signed up for the Scottish weekend, including a reminder about EGM attendance/proxy.
- Ellen: Check with Ian if EGM attendees can log in at 1:15pm on Saturday for a brief pre-meeting, and confirm with the group.
- Linnie: Forward Regina's proxy query and details to Debbie.
- Linnie: Push out another social media post indicating the anniversary camp is nearly full to encourage last-minute signups.
- Linnie: Print and distribute more membership leaflets, incorporating possible new wording to be inclusive of non-owners, after review by group.
- Linnie: Review Connemara Society membership wording and draft revised text for the IHSGB leaflet, then circulate to the group for feedback before reprinting.
- Cristina: Chat with Linnie in a few weeks to send out another reminder about the Youth Cup and selection criteria.
- Martine: Email or message Fi with the full name/details of the saddle stand contact (Ginny) for BCs support group coordination.
- Fi: Send out a reminder about BCs vaccination rules in the next few days.
- Linnie: Look at the original leaflet draft and speak to Fi about possible wording changes, then circulate to the group for review.
- **All :Briefing Note** Debbie has emailed the briefing note for the EGM. Please respond with any changes by 7 pm on Thursday 9th April

Summary

Meeting Updates

The group then addressed meeting logistics, noting apologies from Freya who was sick and Mic who might not attend due to being in a field.

Meeting minutes: Jem pointed out a correction needed in the previous meeting minutes regarding course costs, clarifying that members should not subsidise non-members rather than the opposite,

which Saby agreed to change. Debbie also noted a correction to the upcoming EGM time, which was scheduled for 1:30 rather than 2:00. The spelling of Siamber Wen was also clarified for the minutes

Leadership Transition and EGM Preparations

Debbie clarified her request to stand down at the end of the financial year. Martine expressed support for Debbie's decision while emphasizing the need for new people to take over leadership roles. The group also discussed preparations for an upcoming EGM, including proxy arrangements and attendance, with 23 attendees and 5 proxies confirmed so far. Linnie confirmed she had sent out proxy information to members, and Ellen mentioned she would email 12 people who signed up for a Scottish weekend about EGM attendance or proxy arrangements.

Voting Meeting Preparation Strategy

The group discussed the importance of presenting a united front for an upcoming voting meeting. Debbie confirmed that a briefing note had been prepared to reinforce that this would be a voting-only meeting, not for further discussion. Martine suggested sending the note by email to ensure all trustees were informed, particularly those unable to attend due to farming commitments. The group also discussed logistics for the Saturday meeting, including timing and whether participants needed to log in early. Plans were made to conduct a technical check at 1:15 to ensure all trustees can log in.

Funding Discussion

They reviewed the Ruby Challenge, a Swedish-inspired initiative being promoted across the society. The discussion also covered potential lottery funding opportunities for sports squads, with Martine and Kirsty Carson expressing concerns about the complexity of the application process and suggesting they might need someone with previous experience to guide the application process. The group discussed financial management challenges, with H and Martine highlighting the complexity of paperwork and tracking associated with handling funds. Debbie expressed willingness to review bids but preferred to focus on reorganization first, noting that grant criteria have become stricter in recent years.

Planning Updates

Ellen reported on Scottish event planning, mentioning 12 participants with one doing half-day shifts, while Jem provided a brief update on education initiatives, stating that webinar planning would resume after the upcoming EGM.

Anniversary Camp and leisure Planning

The group discussed the anniversary camp, which currently has 17 paid participants out of a needed 18 for sole use. Linnie agreed to post about the camp being nearly full to encourage more registrations. The team also discussed scheduling communications about various events (Ruby Challenge, Camp, and EGM) to avoid overwhelming members, with Ellen suggesting a coordinated approach to spread out announcements. Martine mentioned the Easter Challenge launch and noted that the May Day challenge content needed to be added to the website.

Sports Training Updates

Fi provided updates on recent training activities at Connegar and announced upcoming webinars. A new member, Meg, was introduced who is interested in joining squad activities and potentially riding for Britain. Webinars are planned for April 14th (for experienced judges and Sport Squad A and B) and April 29th (for the sport squad), with a third webinar in May focusing on British Championships.

Fi reported receiving one Tolt online entry so far and discussed the need for new advertising approaches to increase participation

British Championships update

Fi also mentioned that vaccination rules for BCs require horses to be vaccinated within 6 months of competition, and the BCs format will remain similar to last year with Anne Winter returning as a judge.

Costs from Aston le Walls are the same as last year, Catering format and support from Sarah and Linnie is planned. Martine shared an update about Ginny from a saddle business in Devon who offered to provide raffle prizes and join the event, with Fi agreeing to offer them a free stall in recognition of their contribution. C

Youth Updates

Cristina provided updates on the hoist project and Youth Cup, noting limited response so far and plans to follow up with reminders about the IHSGB event requirement.

Membership Leaflet Revision Discussion

The group discussed revising their membership leaflet to make it more inclusive for people without Icelandic horses. Martine raised concerns about the current wording not welcoming non-owners, based on feedback from a potential member. The group explored options for modifying the text, with Fi suggesting adding a statement at the beginning welcoming everyone interested in the breed. Linnie agreed to review the Connemara society's approach and draft revised wording for the leaflet.