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Icelandic Horse Society of Great Britain Ltd **MAST Meeting**

Meeting minutes Monday 5th October 2026 On-line 7.30pm

MAST Attendees

Trustees and Management

Jemimah Adams JA,, Hilary Ashford HA, Ellen Brimble EB, Martine Bye–Duke MBD, Debbie Ede DE, Crissie Edwards CE, Linnie Frith LF, Freija Glansdorp FG,Fi Pugh FP, Mic Rushen MR.

Additional MAST members
Mike Adams MA, Elizabeth Kraft EK, Shona Stewart SS (CHAIR)

Apologies
Saby Chetcuti SC

The Minutes taken by FG

MAST Actions are recorded on a separate document

Key Takeaways

- MAST's core purpose was reiterated: focusing on member needs, inclusive activities, quality education, and dynamic communications
- Regional updates were shared across Scotland, East, Southwest, Wales, and other areas, with new regional coordinators being identified
- A working group (Mic, Martine, with Ellen's support) was formed to develop a social/fun parallel program alongside the British Championships (BCs)

- The AGM is planned to start at 11:00 AM on a Sunday, with a meal at approximately 2:00–2:30 PM afterward
- A virtual judging competition trial is underway in the Southwest, with results to be reported at the next meeting
- The IHSGB website is being rebuilt by Ian, and outstanding meeting minutes are being tracked and resolved
- Investment of reserve funds (£15,000 total) will continue in a Lloyds fixed-term deposit at 2.35% over 9 months
- Next MAST meeting scheduled for 2nd November at 7:30 PM, chaired by Freija Glansdorp

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Regional Reports

Scotland (Highland and North) - SS & LK

Shona opened the substantive discussion by restating the purpose of the MAST group to keep it front of mind for all attendees.

- MAST is focused on member needs and wishes, creating an inclusive community with quality educational opportunities and dynamic communications.
- The group reaffirmed its guiding purpose as a reference point for all decisions
- Shona provided an update on activities in Scotland

- **Details**
  - Tom confirmed for a clinic (potential breeding assessments) on 17th–18th April at Netherton
  - Plans for a social gathering in November for Highland and North Scotland
  - Monthly school bookings planned for oval track training and test filming
  - Helen Waine Ride With Your Mind clinics upcoming
  - Two Icelandic horses attending a smallholders festival at the Royal Highland Showgrounds for PR purposes
  - Multiple events in the pipeline for Scotland; oval track training and test filming to be offered monthly

South of Scotland / New Regional Coordinator

MBD provided an update on identifying a regional coordinator for the South of Scotland.

- **Details**
  - Karen Milne has agreed to take on the South of Scotland coordinator role; she was not invited to the meeting due to the link issue
  - SS confirmed that Erica is happy to serve as Karen's deputy
  - Karen is already sounding out venues for future events
- **Conclusion**
  - MBD to contact Karen Milne, apologise for the missed meeting link, and confirm her role
  - Erica confirmed as deputy coordinator for South of Scotland

Area 3 Eastern Region MBD

- Successful summer camp held; strong interest in a repeat next year
- Attendees included people from the southern area
- Planning a Christmas ride-out and meal; considering one combined event rather than two separate ones as last year
- The Chair of Norwich County Council attended the camp with his chains and was very impressed; he is connecting Martine with a professor/doctor who runs the Hanseatic League, due to potential historical links between the Hanseatic trade routes and Icelandic horses in the UK

Southwest DE

- Region rebranded to "IHSGB Southwest and Friends" (previously Devon and Cornwall Icelandics); IHSGB is now an admin on the group
- Local camp was cancelled due to a biosecurity lockdown; rearranged for 21st–23rd May next year
- A Winter social being arranged
- Strong links with the local National Trust; walked a new bridleway today; PR opportunity with National Trust planned for next year

Wales CE report via LF

- There is a an organised event at end of October but only one entry received; may be postponed to spring
- Christmas dinner being planned as usual
- Noted difficulty in getting people to attend organised events

Regional Opportunities

Virtual Tölt Series Across Regions

- SS suggested a virtual Tölt series or similar to reduce dependency on large in-person turnout
- Idea to be taken forward after the AGM when regions are more established

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Trustee Updates

Breeding / Studbook EB

Ellen provided an update on breeding-related activities.

- **Details**
  - A webinar on young horse assessment with Tom is scheduled for 30th October; invites to go out the following week
  - Two people have already submitted information; more entries hoped for

FEIF EGM Attendance and Vote FG

Freija discussed her attendance at the upcoming FEIF EGM on Thursday.

- **Details**
  - Attending on behalf of IHSGB in place of MBD; sought trustees' voting direction
  - The vote is on whether to bring a proposal forward to the Delegates Assembly in 2027
  - Trustees: Showed hands in favour; no objections raised
  - MBD will email FEIF to notify them of the change; noted that Sweden or Switzerland had raised concerns about voting on unseen paperwork

Agreed

Education Update JA

Jem provided a brief education update.

- **Details**
  - Facebook page issue now resolved
  - A competition with virtual judging is taking place on Saturday; two virtual judges confirmed (one international, one national); a third judge is also available for future events
  - JA was teaching in Cambridge over the weekend, arranged by a local member

Showing Council Update MBD

- IHSGB recently re-signed the Showing Council's rules and regulations; membership provides links to British Equestrian and gives the society credibility
- UK equestrian workforce research shared; members encouraged to complete it
- Presentations on social licence, public acceptance, updated concussion guidelines, and legal responsibilities of company directors
- Shared a trustee skills audit checklist with the group
- A photo competition for leisure members is being organised ahead of Christmas
- Has been maintaining a "Participation" sheet throughout the summer to record members' participation, volunteering, and achievements to avoid last-minute omissions at the awards evening

Sport Update FP

Fi gave a comprehensive sport update covering recent and upcoming events.

- **Details**
  - Three riders were unable to compete at the MEM due to vehicle issues and inability to change the vet check; stabling costs can be claimed back from IHSGB — only Charlotte Cookers has applied so far

- One-day show at Connegar being organised by Kathryn Wogan and Jem
- Kirsty organising November training for A, B, and Grassroots Squads — insufficient entries so far
- Wales show (24th October) organised by Crissie — only one entry (Fi's)
- Expressed concern about declining participation, noting that in the past, local events at venues like Oakfield created a pipeline into competition; those venues are no longer available
- Noted that most UK Icelandic horse owners are adults without children, limiting youth participation (exception noted in Scotland)
- Attended FEIF Education Seminar in Iceland on transitions; gave a last-minute presentation that was well received
- About to advertise the Tolt Online League for autumn; acknowledged Shona's submitted video

- **Conclusion**
  - MEM stabling claims to be submitted by eligible riders
  - Wales show (24th October) to be promoted via email and website
  - Concern about declining participation acknowledged; ideas for improvement discussed (see working group topic below)

Declining Competition Participation and Ideas for Engagement

A wide-ranging discussion about how to attract more members to events and competitions.

- **Details**
  - Fi: Attributed decline partly to loss of local venues and the shift to online socialising reducing the perceived need to meet in person; also noted lack of youth riders outside Scotland
  - Martine Bye-Duke: Suggested the sport may not be promoted effectively
  - Shona: Noted that participation can come in waves depending on local characters; suggested thinking outside the box, including virtual judging and regional scores
  - Ellen: Suggested adding a social/fun parallel programme alongside the BCs, with a separate social event team distinct from the sport group; referenced successful German club events and a past fun evening at the BCs
  - Mic: Noted that the majority of members have "voted with their seat" and are not engaging with oval track competition; proposed fun classes (gymkhana, Ulrich-type,

fancy dress, timed events) in a field adjacent to the oval track at the BCs; offered to help organise and/or judge
- Fi: Supportive but flagged insurance, health and safety, and timetabling constraints
- Martine Bye-Duke: Agreed the BCs should be a whole-society event, not just a sport event; noted coordination between sport and leisure is needed
- Debbie: Called for a working group to take the social parallel event idea forward rather than leaving it as a discussion
- Shona: Suggested the idea of "Icelandic Versatility" (an obstacle/skills course concept from the US) as an additional offering alongside oval track and track-and-trail
- Shona: Highlighted the success of providing food at the venue in the evening at the Scottish Open as a key social element
- Fi: Noted that food at the BCs is managed by Sarah and helpers; suggested an all-ride format as another option
- Crissie: Suggested youth riders compete alongside adults with a separate youth ranking rather than separate classes

- **Conclusion**
  - A working group to be formed: Mic and Martine Bye-Duke as leads, with Ellen available to help; membership to be broadened to include non-trustee members
  - Mic to explore availability of the field adjacent to the oval track at the BCs venue for fun classes
  - Icelandic Versatility concept to be considered as a future offering
  - Youth riders to be integrated into adult classes with a separate ranking where possible

Publishing Competition Scores / Youth League

- Shona: Proposed publishing scores from regional events online; Scottish Open riders all consented
- Fi: Supportive but noted consent must be obtained each time and logistics need to be worked out with Ian and the sport group
- Crissie: Confirmed the Youth League was released at the Scottish Open weekend but no young riders have submitted scores yet; will follow up with them
- Crissie: Provisionally booked Bridge End Outdoors on Shetland (with Dorothy) for a youth camp, 9th–11th July; needs to confirm numbers

Meeting Minutes – Outstanding Records

Fi raised a concern about the absence of meeting minutes on the shared drive and the lack of a formal approval process.

- **Details**
  - Fi: Could not find minutes on the shared drive; noted that formally approving minutes used to be standard practice
  - Debbie: Confirmed trustee meetings must be recorded; minutes appear to exist until April but there is a gap after that; Ian, Linnie, and Saby are working to resolve this
  - Linnie: Confirmed Ian has compiled a table of all minutes and their status; emailed to trustees; Saby is aware and will address it upon recovery
- **Conclusion**
  - Ian's minutes status table circulated to trustees
  - Saby to publish outstanding minutes once recovered
  - Issue to be resolved as a priority

Agre

AGM Planning – Social Meal

Discussion on organising a meal as part of the AGM social programme.

- **Details**
  - Fi: A venue has been identified approximately 5–10 minutes' drive from the AGM venue; needs to know timing before making a booking
  - Fi: Noted the need to pack down all electronic equipment before leaving; suggested pre-ordering food to save time
- **Conclusion**
  - Provisional plan: AGM to start at 11:00 AM; aim to finish and pack down by approximately 2:00 PM; meal at approximately 2:00–2:30 PM
  - Fi to contact the venue to check availability and capacity for a late lunch booking
  - Pre-ordering food to be considered to streamline the meal

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New Trustee Candidates

Brief discussion on identifying candidates for three new trustee posts.

- **Details**
  - FG: Asked trustees to keep thinking about suitable candidates
  - MBD: Emphasised the need to approach people proactively
  - Fi: Asked about the election process for MAST positions
- **Conclusion**
  - All trustees to continue identifying and approaching potential candidates
  - MAST subject lead posts confirmed as three-year elected roles by rotation

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Interactive Members Map

Freija Glansdorp noted this item remains outstanding. It has not progressed due to AGM preparation, full registrations, and a high volume of imports in the studbook.

- **Details**
  - Discussion clarified that the map should allow members to opt themselves in (self-service), which inherently addresses consent
  - Confirmed this is an opt-in mechanism, not a complex GDPR exercise, making consent Implicit
  - Freija Glansdorp: Will consolidate the two action points into one and address it after the AGM

Membership Sign-Up Checkbox for Data Sharing / Score Publishing Consent

Discussion on adding a data-sharing consent checkbox to the membership form.

- **Details**
  - MBD: Raised the issue of being unable to share member data with regions due to consent constraints; also noted issues with publishing competition scores
  - FG: Clarified that score publishing consent is a separate matter, best handled per event via entry forms
  - DE: Noted that regional communications are legitimate business and may not require a separate checkbox
  - SS: Confirmed that in Scotland, consent to publish scores is collected via the entry form tick box
- **Conclusion**
  - Score publishing consent to be collected via entry forms on a per-event basis
  - Map opt-in (self-service) addresses the regional visibility consent issue
  - No separate membership checkbox required at this stage; item consolidated with the map project

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24. Finance Update (Debbie)

DE provided a brief financial update.

- **Details**
  - Provisional year-end position emailed to trustees
  - Accounts delayed until mid-month due to the inspector being on another job until end of September; a Zoom or email sign-off will be arranged
  - £15,000 in reserve (£10,000 general reserve + £5,000 Siambawen Legacy) previously placed in a fixed-term deposit has now matured; proposed reinvesting in another fixed-term deposit at 2.35% over 9 months (matures before end of next financial year) rather than 2.75% over 12 months, to allow access to the grant before year-end
  - Trustees: Indicated approval
  - FG : Thanked Debbie for taking back the annual report; noted the draft looks excellent
- **Conclusion**
  - Funds to be reinvested in a Lloyds fixed-term deposit at 2.35% over 9 months
  - Accounts sign-off to be arranged via Zoom or email exchange

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40th Anniversary Commemorative Items – Distribution

MBD raised the question of how to distribute 19 remaining commemorative items from the BCs.

- **Details**
  - MBD: Has 19 items remaining; a list of 48 potential recipients was compiled by Kirsty and Lu at the BCs, covering people who have supported or influenced the society over the years but did not attend the BCs. Concerned about fairness and the risk of upsetting people if some receive one and others do not
- **Conclusion**
  - 19 remaining commemorative items to be reserved for the awards evening recognition

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26. Next Meeting Date

- **Details**
  - FG: Confirmed the next meeting is on 2nd November at 7:30 PM
  - FG will Chair and coordinate with Saby to send out the Zoom link and prepare action points in the usual format

Next MAST meeting: 2nd November, 7:30 PM

Agreed