✦ 40 ✦

RUBY ANNIVERSARY

# THE ICELANDIC HORSE SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

**Company Limited By Guarantee**

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES & THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2026




*40 years of Icelandics in the UK • Community • Fun*

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 3974594, REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1101183 England & Wales, SC039030 Scotland. REGISTERED OFFICE: 45 High Street, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire. SA61 2BP

# A word from the Chair



## The 40th Anniversary Year of the IHSGB.

What a year!

It has been and continues to be an exciting time.

In 1986 the IHSGB was formed and here we are forty years later. The team and I have been working hard on all that is the IHSGB.

An online planning meeting for the team at the beginning of the year, helped us to focus on the year's activities, governance and more. The reorganisation of our structure created its own meetings with our transition team. The Board of Trustees & management team have monthly meetings, sport, leisure, breeding group meetings are also extra dates for our calendars. Webinars, online competitions including the ridden competitions, The International Day of the Icelandic Horse and The Breed show to name a few of the things we deliver during the year. As Trustees we try to attend and support as many in person events as possible, distances and sometimes work commitments do not always allow us to attend.

We are a small Society in comparison to many others in the UK, but we are mighty in our willingness, participation and passion for Icelandic horses.

Our 40th Ruby Anniversary Year has offered all of us opportunities to participate in a number of ways.

A reorganisation of the management structure, creating new roles to extend members' involvement has been at the forefront of our minds. At the EGM in April a majority vote (81%) FOR the new structure was made by you.

After months of planning, meetings and discussions between the board of trustees, the management team and our transitioning /implementation/support team, a programme of webinars was offered to all members to give everyone an opportunity to review and discuss the society's reorganisation. This period gave

opportunities for thoughts, discussions and questions to arise. The consultation process showed why and how we need to change. Your support and vote said this change was needed.

The more recent work has been to look at the roles and responsibilities of the Management Committee (MAST, the Members' Activities & support team) and how they will evolve. As previously mentioned, separating Governance and Compliance from the sport, education, leisure, breeding, communication and youth leads will result in these roles becoming more desirable in the future. I would like to reassure you that we are trying our best to build a Society to take us into the future. We would appreciate your involvement and support with this transition.

Our strong International links are maintained through our participation at the FEIF Conference and Delegates Assembly. Our attendance at the conference is enlightening. Coming together with Chairs and other leads (sport, education, breeding, leisure & youth) from around the world gives us an opportunity to share our concerns and ideas. We return enthused with ideas for us to try. We regularly attend online meetings, with our colleagues across the world, for FEIF updates and discussions.

The first ever Awards evening took place earlier this year, heralding a year of change. It is so important to acknowledge and celebrate the successes and achievements of members across the society during the year. What a success, your feedback told us this must stay on our future calendars.

The IHSGB Ruby (40th year) Challenge was launched at the beginning of the calendar year, as an inclusive and amazing task to complete by the end of the year. It provides you with opportunities to reflect upon your involvement with this wonderful breed. I look forward to seeing your completed booklets in January. This is a celebration so have fun with the tasks.

The Showing Council (TSC), The FEIF Welfare/Social License to Operate (SLO) group and our own welfare group continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss ideas and consider current topics.

When reviewing the year, I like to use a simple idea of ''**all**'', ''**most**'' & ''**some** (a few)''.

We are **all** members. We have provided opportunities to engage **all** our members, (zoom meetings, challenges, competitions and more).

**All** of our members have received a special edition copy of Sleipnir, along with car stickers and the other Sleipnir publications throughout the year. During the past year a huge effort has been made to gather memories from the last forty years.

**Most** of us consider ourselves as leisure riders. There have been numerous activities to support our leisure riders.

We have **some** that are our sport riders. Our Sport riders have become part of our training squads A, B or C with supporting webinars, opportunities to train and a few competitions.

The Youth of our Society are continually given opportunities to join in activities. We are starting to see a change and an increased uptake has been shown recently by participation in Scotland. They are our future.

Our effective communications provide members with regular updates. Through emails and our website we try to ensure that everyone remains informed. Communication and dissemination of information is paramount. This is a constant variable within today's world, too much or too little. Where is the balance?

Our social media platforms are also used by many members to share events and ideas.




We continue to build relationships, being ambassadors for our horses, sharing our passion whenever possible. One of our aims is to promote the Icelandic horse. This also creates an increased awareness of the Society. There is no doubt that we create an impression wherever we go. The riders and supporters of such events put in a lot of time and effort. I would like to thank everyone involved.

During the past forty years the IHSGB has developed into the Society we have today. We must thank our founder members, past trustees and all committee members for their dedication to our small society. Most importantly a big thank you to all our members (past and present), without you our society does not exist.

For a small Society we certainly do try to do our best with variety for our members. We are geographically scattered across the UK. I do hope we can provide you with opportunities to join in.

To the trustees and the management team (who are all volunteers) plus many others who support us I send my sincere appreciation for their time, expertise, and dedication.

The impact of this work will hopefully support the future development of the IHSGB.

I am very proud of our achievements and of being a part of this organisation. It has been a privilege to carry out the role of Chair for the Society.

*Martine Bye-Duke* Chair - September 2026

chair@ihsgb.co.uk



# The numbers behind the horses

## Studbook Annual Report




At the time of writing, there are 1042 registered Icelandic horses located in the UK. In terms of country of birth, the population of live horses in the UK is currently made up as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Great Britain | 527 | (50.6%) |
| Iceland | 393 | (37.7%) |
| Germany | 33 | (3.2%) |
| Denmark | 29 | (2.8%) |
| Netherlands | 17 | (1.6%) |
| Austria | 11 | (1.1%) |
| Ireland | 9 | (0.9%) |
| Norway | 9 | (0.9%) |
| Sweden | 8 | (0.8%) |
| France | 3 | (0.3%) |
| Belgium | 1 | (0.1%) |
| Italy | 1 | (0.1%) |
| Poland | 1 | (0.1%) |

The number of foals registered annually in the UK was between 10 and 20 over the 2020-2023 period. The 2024 numbers dipped below 10, but the registrations now seem to be creeping up again.

| Year of birth | No. of foals registered | No. of different stallions used in the corresponding preceding season |
|---|---|---|
| 2020 | 19 | 8 |
| 2021 | 13 | 8 |
| 2022 | 13 | 6 |
| 2023 | 16 | 8 |
| 2024 | 7 | 4 |
| 2025 | 11 | 5 |
| 2026 | 12* | 6 |

* number of servings reported; live births may be less

The studbook office has completed the following work in the August 2025 – July 2026 period. The 2024-2025 numbers are also included for information.

| | **2025-2026** | **(2024-2025)** |
|---|---|---|
| Registration + passport | 11 | (7) |
| Duplicate passports | 2 | (1) |
| Transfer of ownership | 24 | (32) |
| Death of horses | 21 | (19) |
| Export of horses | 2 | (2) |
| Registration of imports | 9 | (22) |
| Change of name / address | 2 | (5) |
| Other updates | 15 | (18) |
| **Total** | **(86)** | **(106)** |

*Freija Glansdorp* Studbook Registrar - September 2026
studbook@ihsgb.co.uk



# The people who make it happen






# IHSGB Sport Report 2026

## Tölt Online

Once again, Tolt Online (TOL) was available to members throughout the year not only for members' own training purposes, but also with two special Leagues, one in the Autumn of 2025, the other in the spring of 2026. The Leagues create the possibility of competing without having to travel far afield, getting marks and feedback from qualified judges. Riders can set up an area in a field, use an all-weather arena, or travel to an oval track to compete, meaning this really is available to anyone in the UK.

The Autumn and Spring League also gives IHSGB judges a good CPD opportunity.

TOL is a long established and useful online initiative. It is available to any rider, IHSGB member or non-member, who has the possibility of riding an Icelandic horse, whether it be their own, or one that is borrowed. All competition tests are offered, and clear explanations can be found on the IHSGB website about what has to be shown in each test. Riders can enter privately for training purposes, or competitively in one of the Leagues.




## Sport Squads A, B & C

- Elite squad (A)
- Performance Squad (B)
- Grassroots Sport Squad (C)



The squads have been established in order to support our riders and to promote sport riding in the UK. In order to grow and develop our sport riding in Britain, we have embarked on creating a three tier squad system to encourage development and some new approaches amongst some riders who we identify as being

either already on the path to international sport or those that we believe need assistance to be able to do so. But, it's not only aimed at top level, we would like also to develop more riders to climb the National rankings and aim to progress through from C sport to A! Some training events have been held during the year with professional instructors and judges, and riders are encouraged to support and to help each other.



The Squads are reviewed in the autumn each year, and new riders may be added to the squads as well as riders having the opportunity to move up if their results indicate this will be helpful to them.




## British Championships and Summer Show 2026

The British Championships and Summer Show was held at Aston Le Walls in June. We had quite a smaller than usual turnout of members, with and without horses, but those who came joined in with enthusiasm and made it an excellent weekend. Not only is it a competitive event, it is also a lovely social weekend. There were classes at all levels on the Oval Track, Pace Track, Dressage arena and on the trail. It was also the last chance to gain a qualifying mark for the British Team sent to the Mid-European Championships in Germany in August

## Sport training

All three Sport Squads have participated in online training sessions during the year.

Weekend training events with Katie Brumpton for A and B Squads were held in October and March at Connegar Farm. We are very grateful to Mike and Elizabeth Adams for offering to host this event.



## Scottish Open August



The Event retained its ethos of fun with the opportunity for riders to compete and develop with their horses. An incredible collective effort, led by Liz and Shona, had gone into organising the event and many people had given their time and expertise to make it work smoothly, some travelling long distances. Volunteers from England and Wales and all around Scotland supported the event and there was a youth contingent from Shetland.

## Mid European Championships for Icelandic Horses 2026

Five riders planned to attend the **Mid European Championships for Icelandic Horses 2026** in Rieden, Germany in August. Unfortunately, due to a vehicle breakdown the 3 riders and horses based in the UK were unable to reach the vet check in France in time to get to the competition. Two of our GB team riders based in Europe competed and one UK based rider was able to borrow a horse in Germany and did a great job with very little time to get to know it. All our Team GB riders rode some good tests and did us proud.



## FEIF Conference 2026

As IHSGB Sport Trustee Fi Pugh attended the FEIF National Sport Leaders' meeting at the FEIF Conference in Budapest at the beginning of February. It's an invaluable opportunity to connect with the international Icelandic horse community and bring back fresh ideas and inspiration. It is also important to participate in order to safeguard horse and rider welfare in the sport.

*Fi Pugh* Sports Trustee – September 2026

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# Because every hoofprint needs a helping hand



***COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING TRUSTEE***

As we come to my second-year end, as your Communications & Marketing Trustee, I must firstly thank you all for your encouragement & support. I have spoken with many people throughout this past year through emails, phone calls & social media.

This Winter we enter a new Restructure of how the Society is to be run. There has been lots of positive feedback filtering through about the Society & plenty of suggestions, ideas & concerns put forward to the team, moving forward into the next year, to make it a success. We really do value your support & feedback, so please do reach out. I will do my best to assist where I can & if I am unable, will steer you to the best person for the topic.

Lots of events have been put on this year for members, both online & at venues around the country. We hope you will support these events so that they can continue to run.

A great deal of work has been happening, behind the scenes, that most people don't see.



The trustees & management team put a huge amount of time and effort to ensure the Society continues to be a success. We also have a great support from volunteers of which we are incredibly grateful. If you are interested in joining the team, we would love to hear from you!

There have been various online events throughout the year as we celebrate the 40th Anniversary.

We have also published the Special 40th Year Sleipnir magazine. Thank you so much to everyone that contributed towards the magazine. It is a fantastic read, with so much history, within the Society's reign. I took the hundreds of magazines to work with me & one of my clients helped out with getting them ready for you to receive, in the post. Tony is almost 97yrs old! If it wasn't for his poor sight, he would be helping a lot more!! (his words, not mine).

Our Editor Mic Rushen does a great job of producing the Sleipnir 4 times a year. Thank you to Mic & everyone that contributes towards each edition!

The Limited-Edition 40th Anniversary Merchandise was well received with around 100 orders made (I've lost count!). It has been quite a busy summer but I am thrilled that so many people supported it. Plans are already underway for the re-launch of the IHSGB clothing brand which will be released in the New Year.

We are also currently upgrading the IHSGB website which is well overdue. Our IT support Ian Pugh has been working hard behind the scenes and hopefully this will also be set up and ready to go soon. Keep a look out for updates!

We have had some lovely company support for our members over the past year. They have sponsored classes at events, supported the Team GB as they head to Europe to compete & offer discounts to members at home. The Members area of the website is currently being updated.




Finally, the IHSGB Lottery is still going. You have the chance to win a good sum of money and it's easy to play. The charity receives 50% of the ticket fee and the rest tops up the prize fund! Remember, you have to be in it to win it!! ( Over 18yrs old to play & please gamble responsibly)

Well I think that's all from me for now. Thank you everyone & stay in contact! I'm always on the other end of the phoneline, messenger or email.



*Linnie Frith* Communications Trustee – September 2026

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1986 - 2026
Celebrating 40 years of IHSGB

# Annual Breeding Department Report 2025/2026




## The year has just flown by — where has it gone?

The undoubted highlight of the year was our **Breeding, Competition and Education Weekend at Netherton in Scotland**. We were delighted with the number of participants who attended, undoubtedly helped by the return of **Tom Buijtelaar** as our instructor and judge for both breeding and sport, following the very positive feedback from participants the previous year.

A special thank you goes to **Shona, Liz and Mic.** Mic designed the competition logo, and Shona and Liz provided lots of help and support before and during the weekend. It was very much appreciated.

From a breeding perspective, it was particularly encouraging to see the **Young Horse Assessment and Conformation Judgement grow from just two entries in the previous year to six entries this year**. It is a great indication of how valuable and interesting participants found Tom's assessment and the information he shared with us all the previous year. It was wonderful to see that the increased interest and to have more people take the opportunity to have their horses assessed.

Following the success at Netherton, we are now looking forward to taking a similar approach to a different region next year — **watch this space!**

## A New Structure for the Society

Alongside the activities of the Breeding Department, I have also been busy working with **Freija, Mike and Debbie** as part of the implementation team.

As our Society celebrates its **40th anniversary**, this year has marked an important step forward as we move towards a new structure, with a greater emphasis on **local and regional involvement, knowledge and expertise**.

This is an exciting development for the Society. By strengthening our regional connections, we can make better use of the knowledge, experience and enthusiasm that already exists within our own community. At the same time, it creates more opportunities for everyone to get involved, learn from one another and enjoy our wonderful Icelandic Horses.

## Looking Ahead

With our members spread across the country, **webinars and virtual meetings have become invaluable tools for bringing people together**. We have therefore decided to hold this year's **Young Horse Assessment and Conformation Judgement online**.

This will give everyone the opportunity to submit videos and photographs of their horse or horses for Tom to assess and comment on. We hope that this format will make the assessment accessible to a much wider group of people, regardless of where they are based.

Finally, a huge thank you to the members of our studbook and breeding team. Your knowledge, enthusiasm and commitment are greatly appreciated and are what make our activities possible.

*Ellen Brimble* Breeding Leader – September 2026

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**THE BREEDING TEAM CONSISTS OF:**

ELLEN BRIMBLE – BREEDING LEADER

FREIJA GLANSDORP – STUDBOOK REGISTRAR

CHRISTINE DRIVER – DNA REGISTRAR

RONA FRAME

NINA HARRISON

FAYE LITHERLAND

KATH WOGAN

# Education 2025-26



## IHSGB Education

This last year, there have been two courses with Katie Brumpton in association with the Team GB Coordinator for the Sport A and B squad riders, one in November 2025 and the second in March 2026, both hosted by kind permission at Connegar Farm. All participants really enjoyed the weekends and showed development in their riding and knowledge.

We are happy that these different educational events are supported and enjoyed. In the next year, we aim to organise 2 or 3 more education courses nationwide so that all areas have access to Education. We are always looking into different trainers and venues, so we hope to find some good locations for 2026/27.

## Judges and Trainers List 2026

We have now completed compiling a list of Judges and Trainers that we have used in the past or are lucky to have in our country, with information about what they offer and their qualifications and prices etc (based on previous years). This list is useful for anyone thinking of running a course and aren't sure who to use or where to start!

## IHSGB Tolt Online

IHSGB Tolt Online continues to be a useful tool for IHSGB members (and non-members), and the Sport group have used TOL for various initiatives. Being online, it means that riders of all abilities can ride a test of their choice and receive feedback and/or a score from an internationally qualified Icelandic Horse judge and/or trainer on their performance - it is not just about riding tests but also educational! We hope that this platform continues to help riders train themselves and their horses wherever they are based.



## IHSGB Training and Education systems

We still offer the Young Rider badges for our youth, in association with the Youth Trustee! More information can be found on our website (www.ihsgb.co.uk).

## IHSGB Webinars

We held a webinar with Vet Physio Juniper Connal, who talked about 'Physiotherapy for the Horse' in November 2025, which was available to both IHSGB members and non-members. We always thank all the speakers who share their knowledge with us. The webinar was recorded and is available for members to watch at any time, alongside webinars held previously. We plan to hold more webinars in the next year with more interesting speakers, and these will be available to all members to attend.

## Sleipnir Articles and IHSGB Member Forum Facebook

Education completed the article series 'Training on the Trail' in the IHSGB magazine Sleipnir in January 2026, which was well received. Education also shared relevant articles of interest on the IHSGB Member Forum or Page on Facebook.

We will endeavour to continue sharing articles of interest on various topics, relevant to all members, in the coming year and would like to ask members if there are specific topics that they'd to see so that knowledge can be developed.

Let's look forward to an educational year!

*Jemimah Adams* Education,

September 2026

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# 40 years of the IHSGB

**1986 → 2026**





# YOUTH REPORT

Whilst it has been relatively quiet on the youth engagement we still have plenty to reflect on and look forward to!

The **youth membership package** has now been extended to age 21 so that all youth and young riders have the chance to partake in society events both online and live! I do hope this encourages more young riders to join and make the most of all the fun and educational opportunities such as webinars, young rider badges, Tolt Online, courses, competitions and more!

**British Championships and Summer Festival 2026** saw 3 young riders competing this year! Abi, Martha and Millie did a fantastic job representing our youth department showing great horsemanship and bonds with their horses. They were also a great help during the event

This year I had the pleasure of attending the **Scottish Open For The Icelandic Horse**, and what a lovely atmosphere it was. I went to support the 7 young riders who had entered. We started the weekend with coaching sessions, both as individuals and in small groups, to get to know each other better and to help with performances. During the competition, the young riders all put on a great show. I was happy to see their great attitudes both on and off of the track.

The **FEIF Youth Camp 2027** will be held in Sweden, this is a unique event that brings together young people from different countries who share a passion for the Icelandic horse. More information will be published on the selection criteria as soon as I have the info!

I am also hoping to organise a **youth camp 2027 at Houlls horses and hounds** in early July, if you would be interested in attending then please do let me know!

There will also be some webinars aimed at our young members coming up in the next year!



Last year I published that I was looking for people to join me on the youth group to help with ideas, events and just general youth 'goings on' but unfortunately as of yet I have had no applications. Joining the working groups of the society gives you a great insight and experience on how things run within the society, back in I think 2021/22, I became a member of the sport group and it is such a great opportunity to learn!

As always, I am keeping up to date with any changes in legislation and safeguarding laws and recommendations, when any changes arise then I will of course make any relevant changes and communicate this to you all.

*Cristina Edwards*, Youth Trustee - September 2025

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# Leisure Annual Report 2026



It's been a humbling experience, revisiting this year's achievements.

As some of you know I am passionate about providing members with opportunities to join in and have fun being part of a wider community.

It's an achievement with any of today's riding clubs and associations to survive. This is our year for growth guided by our Members. The Society's needs have evolved since 1986 to 2026.

After the AGM (Nov 2025), we finished off the calendar year (2025), with a Christmas Challenge. 'The 12 Days of Christmas with Bonus Baubles Challenge'. I am always amazed by the level of participation and dedication to complete these challenges at such a busy time of the year.

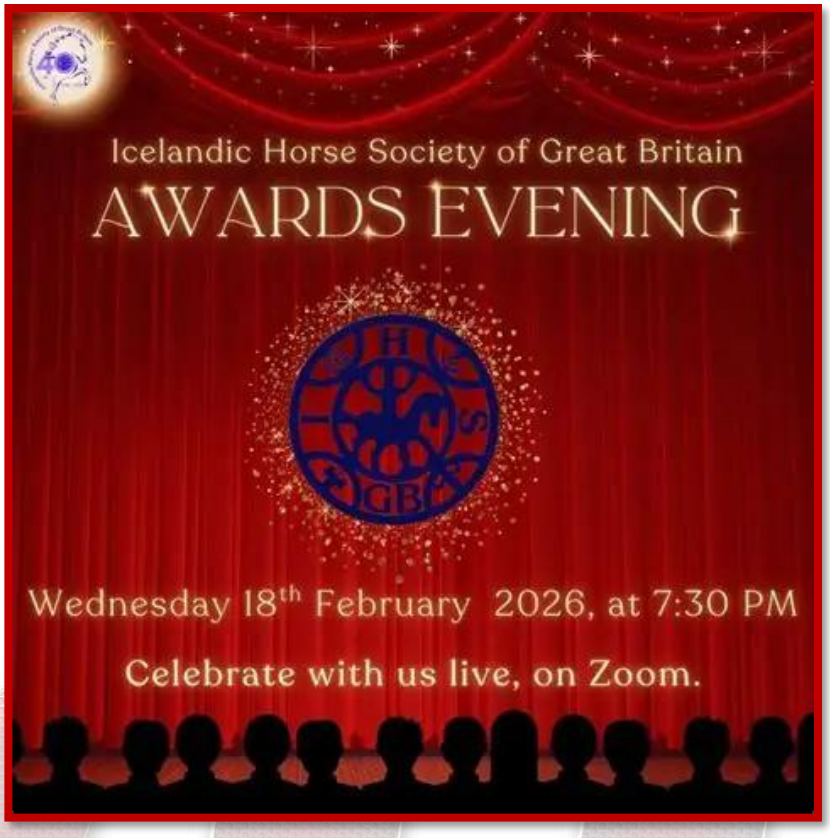



The early months of the New Year (2026) are always occupied with the FEIF conference, to be part of this International federation is so important. It was mentioned at the conference that FEIF is also going to be focussing more on leisure riders. We look forward to this new approach.

## IHSGB 40th Anniversary Ruby Challenge (1986-2026).

The special "40th Anniversary Celebrations", was launched across all areas of the IHSGB, not just Leisure, at the start of this year. It consists of forty challenges or tasks. It's NOT just for riders. It is inclusive for all members, we would love you to join us and celebrate 40 years of the IHSGB.

**The first ever IHSGB Awards Evening** on 18th February, recognised our members for their hard work, courage and resilience in many areas. Over the years many leisure riders did not feel that they were recognised or included, we have listened. Our Members that develop their sport riding to compete here and in Europe are amazingly dedicated members of the society and this should be remembered. I care deeply about celebrating everyone within our community, whether they ride for leisure, don't ride at all or ride in the world of competitive sports. The final outcomes or big wins at various competitions and challenges are something to be celebrated. Recognising the value of everyone's input is a strength.




**In March, a 'Meet Up'** at The National Equine show was held at the NEC. It was a busy event, as expected. It was lovely to meet-up with some of our members. We sat and had lunch together whilst we chatted about the speakers and our purchases.

**The Easter Challenge, The Páskaegg (Easter Egg) Pursuit,** was a perfect way to shake off the winter blues and rebuild your partnership. It started on Monday 30th March 2026, with completion on Sunday 3rd May 2026 (with 5 weeks to be completed).

## 1st May We celebrated the International Day of the Icelandic Horse.

We wanted to make this celebration extra special. Ruby red and forty years were the main focus. Many members posted photos for the day, we had a number of criteria needed for you to be entered into the prize draw. An amazing effort by so many people.

## At the end of May we had our 40th Anniversary Camp

at Valley View Ranch, Herefordshire. Fun and laughter was maintained at a high level. Arriving on a Friday evening, we began rekindling old friendships and making new ones. Our sessions, with a 'ride with your mind' coach and a leading lady in TREC, were enlightening as we considered riders'

positions and how this can affect your position and partnership with your horse. It wouldn't be an Icelandic gathering without a beer tölt and the fancy dress competition, themed upon "the 80's", keeping up our 40th Anniversary theme. From our nervous riders to the more experienced this event is for you. We offer a supportive atmosphere to help you enjoy your horse and the whole experience. Ending on Sunday afternoon with very happy tired campers, taking home the best horse.

**In June the British Championships** come to the forefront of our activities, as a whole society. Remember EVERYONE can take part in this event. You just need to have an Icelandic Horse with an IHSGB passport. You can come along and volunteer or just attend to soak up the atmosphere. It was lovely to see people from the camp having the courage to join in and enjoy this event, for the first time.

**The IHSGB Icelandic Horse Challenge Cup** started on 1st Jan 2026 and runs until 31st Dec 2026, log your activities for this. I know there are a number of members that perhaps do not realise they have participated in a number of activities/tasks that would gain points towards the challenge cup. It's so easy to enter, just reflect or look back on everything you have participated in during the year. Check the grid for the points given for each activity.

**The Distance Awards** continue to run for your participation. I wait in anticipation to see their mileage results. The IHSGB Distance Awards started on 1st Jan 2026 and runs until 31st December 2026, keep a log of your mileage.
Category 1 – Land's End to John O'Groats. One rider with one horse.
Distance covered with only that particular Icelandic horse.

Category 2 – Team Event Around the UK (2,518 miles) A maximum of 4 in your team, any combination 2 people with 4 horses, 4 people with 4 horses & so on.

The Inspire Awards replaced the Achievement rosettes.

## The Leisure Team

During the year we in **the leisure team**, which includes Maja Redfern and Shona Stewart, are watching. Are you promoting the breed within another discipline or activity to inspire other members to have a go? We would like you to write a piece for the Sleipnir magazine to support this (if possible). The Inspire awards recognises a level of achievement in non-Icelandic areas, showing, endurance, TREC, working equitation, dressage or any other competition/activity where you are promoting the breed.

The IHSGB exists to promote interest in the breed, plus other areas. (FEIF 'is to promote the pure-bred Icelandic horse throughout the World & to improve recognition of the Icelandic horse'). It's

important for us to recognise that some of our members participate in other activities and promote the breed within the UK.

**The FEIF Virtual Ride** is just that: real riding on your horse along a virtual route from your home to the flagship events of the Icelandic horse calendar. This is not a competition but something to unite people across the world, (details can be found on the FEIF website).

Activities that have been, or still are available to you. Some crossover from online to in person activities, especially if you have a friend close by.

| Online | In person |
|---|---|
| • The 12 Days of Christmas with Bonus Baubles Challenge. (Nov-Dec 25)<br>• IHSGB 40th Anniversary Ruby Challenge (1986-2026). (Jan - Dec 26)<br>• IHSGB Awards Evening (Feb 26)<br>• The Easter Challenge. (March - May 26).<br>• 1st May Celebrate the International Day of the Icelandic Horse<br>• The IHSGB Icelandic Horse Challenge Cup | • The 12 Days of Christmas with Bonus Baubles Challenge. (Nov-Dec 25)<br>• IHSGB 40th Anniversary Ruby Challenge (1986-2026). (You will definitely have some "ín person'' activities with this challenge. (Jan - Dec 26)<br>• The 'Meet Up' at The National Equine show, NEC<br>• The Easter Challenge. (March - May 26).<br>• 1st May Celebrate the International Day of the Icelandic Horse<br>• 40th Anniversary Camp. (May 26)<br>• The IHSGB Icelandic Horse Challenge Cup |

| | |
|---|---|
| (Jan - Dec 26)<br>• The Distance Awards<br>(Jan - Dec 26)<br>• The Inspire Award<br>(Jan - Dec 26)<br><br>• The FEIF Virtual Ride<br><br>• Icelandic Figures Test via Tölt Online | (Jan - Dec 26)<br>• The Distance Awards<br>(Jan - Dec 26)<br>• The Inspire Award<br>(Jan - Dec 26) |

An annual review of the activities and your participation is an indicator for the way forward. If you do not participate in an activity, it is clearly not wanted by you, the members. It can be removed or changed. It is an opportunity, so we can develop new ideas for your participation. If you want me to talk through ideas please let me know.

## What's happening during the next financial year?

These are National Leisure Activities.

*Photo competition for (Summer 26 activities).

*A Christmas Style Challenge, by popular demand

*The Awards Evening, Leisure Awards categories including the Inspire awards.

*A Spring Kick start challenge.

*International Day of the Icelandic Horse.

*A National Camp at Valley View Ranch, Herefordshire.

As members of the IHSGB, you will know that the Society has been working towards a reorganisation, ready to start after this year's AGM 26.

This will give a greater emphasis on regions and local activities.

My gratitude is extended to you for your effort, persistence, and creativity, not just final outcomes or big wins. With various competitions and challenges produced for your participation. Thank you for your continued participation. I hope to see the continued development of the Leisure aspect within our society, across all regions.

*Martine Bye-Duke* Leisure Lead (Acting) – September 2026

leisure@ihsgb.co.uk








# Into the Regions

2026 sees a change of emphasis in the Society with a greater focus on the Regions and the members within those areas. Finding its way into this year's annual report is our first report from a **Scotland and the Isles** focusing on:

## NE Scotland and Highlands Report




The Scottish Icelandic Open 2025 was successfully hosted at Netherton Equestrian Centre near Perth, bringing together 21 riders, including 7 youth riders, volunteers and supporters of the Icelandic Horse from across Scotland and the UK. The event provided a welcoming and inclusive environment for competitors of all experience levels while showcasing the unique qualities and versatility of the Icelandic Horse.



Over the course of the weekend, competitors participated in a variety of classes designed to cater for all abilities, including tolt classes, gaited tests. figures tests and track and Trail. The program offered riders the opportunity to develop their skills, gain competition experience and enjoy friendly competition in a supportive atmosphere.

All riders benefitted from a coaching session ahead of the tests and we have seen rider improve year on year with quite a few 6, 6.5 and 7's being scored.

Dressage and on-line gaited tests were available virtually and as a first for the the event we had a live streamed competitor from France, with Karen Telfer competing in T3 and V5.

A huge thanks to our judge Mic, Speaker Heather and writers Ali and Lucy, Lucy T, Harriet and Bruce as well as Youth Trustee Crissie who will have her own report and especially the riders and helpers who some travelled considerable distances to take part.

Thanks also to IHSGB for a grant of £500 towards the event and £500 from Janice Hutchinson (Siamber Wen legacy) Fund which was used to support some of the Shetland Riders costs.



In other news Members have had a couple of social meet ups and have found locations along the trainline from Inverness to Aberdeen have worked well and a pre-Christmas catch-up is in the pipeline.

Weekly PAYGO sessions at a riding hall in Aberdeenshire have been running for nearly 2 years and it gives riders the chance to train together and prepare for upcoming events they may be taking part in. The group include active Riding Club members as well as TREC who demonstrate the talents of the Icelandic.



The year ahead has already started to shape up with 4 main events being planned for including a training clinic at Easter and the open in August and a camp.

*Shona Stewart* – Regional Co-ordinator (with Liz Kraft) – September 2026



# Money, governance & accountability




Another year, another annual report focusing on our finances. A year in which we planned many things, we completed some of them but from reading about all the activities earlier in this report we have certainly not been slacking!

The 2025/26 Financial Year ended with the Society making a loss (planned!) of £2,740 meaning our balance sheet decreases by the same amount - the Society is worth £2,740 less than it was this time last year.

So, once again, how did we get there, what were the key variables and points of note and what does this mean for the future?

When setting our budget this year we planned to make a loss to reduce our reserves and we have done so, although not as much as we planned. However that gives us more scope for initiatives in this new year 2026/27.

To help defray costs for members grants remained available to help with the expense of Member hosted events. Interest earned by The IHSGB Development Fund is used to award these grants - targeted at events and/or training that will further the Society's objectives. In future we hope that the Regions will build these funds into their planning.

As well as the smaller grants on offer the IHSGB was delighted to support the Scottish Open Show (their 5th!) again with a grant of £500. Help with costs were offered to those planning to attending MEM in 2026 and for our emerging Sports Squads' development.

Of course, every time you participate in the IHSGB lottery the Society also benefits. The lottery income (net) was £461 this year...with just a handful of players. If you are tempted to gamble for a good cause then please join the IHSGB Lottery! ☺ The payouts aren't huge but there's always the expectation they might be! Thank you.

> *In fact Linnie and her team are looking for a Society Lottery Lead – there just aren't enough hours in the day to give it the attention it deserves so if anyone fancies this as a self-contained task – focusing on the promotion of the lottery within the Society – then please get in touch. The finances/official returns etc. would not form part of this role, we just need a marketing guru with a bit of time!*

Gift Aid, which we can claim on your membership subscriptions, also gives us an additional income stream, £1.67k this year, thank you to all those that have signed up.

Our Trustees continued to source and deliver a series of webinars offered free of charge to all members. Our Breeding Leader also organised Breeding assessments this year and has plans for the next.

Our income streams from Members' subscriptions remained relatively steady but, in 2025/26, we lost a few more members than we gained and our income from memberships was £233 less than the previous year (down for the 2nd year in a row.)

The Society's commitment to FEIF continued and we sent our Chair to conference in 2026 plus our own International Sport Judge Fi Pugh attended with both an IHSGB and a FEIF hat on.

**Of note:**

- We received £531 of donations & sponsorships in year
- Membership Subscriptions totalled £8,566 (£8,799 in 2024/25)
- Our claim for Gift Aid claim brought in £1,662 from HMRC
- We donated £500 to the Scottish Open
- The British Championships, even after adjusting for the subsidy given to support this mainstream event in our calendar, made a £2k loss this year – there just weren't enough horse & rider combinations to defray all the costs. Plans are afoot to try and make this event even more of a must-attend occasion for all riders and spectators be they participants on the oval track or not
- Studbook activities made a surplus of £346
- Our investments are held with CAF (the Charities Aid Foundation) and with Lloyds. We received interest totalling £654 and a gain in fund value of £962 from CAF and a further £539 from Lloyds
- The call to Education for subsidised courses was muted this year but we hope the Regions will step forward and ask for clinics in 2026/27. As we had budgeted to run three courses in the financial year this resulted in an underspend against budget of £750 per course – the amount the IHSGB subsidies each course!
- The IHSGB Lottery made a net £461
- The IHSGB subsidised leisure camp took place again In May 2026 albeit with fewer riders. However Martine has already had enough interest from enough members to make a 2027 camp viable and the confirmed dates are 7th-9th May – contact Martine for further information and/or to suggest additional future venues.

As always thank you to the members who have paid their 2026/27 subscriptions – subs become due on the 1st August each year. After that our Membership Secretary, 'H', sends a series of reminders until October 31st, thereafter member benefits are lost and membership lapses. We don't want to lose you but, if we have, then please let us know why and how we could have retained your membership. Chat with any of the team (the new Board and MAST) and provide that feedback loop.

Paying your membership gets ever easier as our website allows you to complete membership forms online or renew and update your details with simple links to PayPal or reminders of alternative ways to pay. A sign up to Gift Aid form is also available online. Whilst we applaud the convenience and ease of Paypal and thank everyone for paying by whatever means, we do have to pay Paypal fees in the year approximately equivalent to 5 subscriptions. If you use BACs (bank transfers) we do not lose any of that income…just saying!

**In summary**, the headline figures are:

| | 2025/26 | 2024/25 |
|---|---|---|
| Income | 33,193 | 40,890 |
| Expenditure | 35,933 | 39,392 |
| Surplus/(Loss) | (2,740) | 1,498 |
| Balance Sheet | 48,095 | 50,835 |

The full set of accounts & the financial report, satisfying the requirements of our two separate Charity Commissions and those of Companies House and signed off by your Trustees and our Independent Examiner, Bevan Buckland, is available on the IHSGB website to download or by email to office@ihsgb.co.uk. Hard copy can also be posted out on request.



**A reminder** now about our financial standing: we know that activity throughout the Society stalled during Covid and our reserves built up. Whilst holding investments and reserves gives the Society some year on year flexibility there needs to be a robust argument to support this instead of spending such monies on the charitable cause.

Trying to reduce these reserves does give us some financial freedoms to do more but it is not sustainable longer term. Yes we still hold monies in our bank accounts and yes we want members to get the benefit of these savings but, when we look at setting budgets for the coming years, our income from members' annual subscriptions falls far short of even modest shopping lists for what we'd like to do. Once we have spent our reserves then there will need to be a significant rise in income one way or another.




Our subscription rates have not increased since 2011; budgetary pressures are real and what we would like to do to continue to celebrate our 40th year makes significant inroads into our reserves. With a wide geographical dispersion and relatively few Icelandic horses across the country (1,042) there are always going to be significant challenges for the Society to deliver on Members' expectations. Subscriptions will need to rise. To keep up with the cost of inflation alone since 2011, using the Bank of England's inflation calculator, the cost of a single membership would (should ?) be £55.27 as at August 2026.

Any future Board, in discussion with MAST, will continue to assess the level of reserves we hold and, when they are depleted and cannot be used to boost in-year spending, a decision will be made on subscription rates. However, for the remainder of our 40th Anniversary year 2026 (and into 2027), we will ensure that finances exist to support and underpin the regions and the innovative ideas put forward by our Department leads from Sport, Breeding and Education to Youth & Leisure. Come to our AGM, and join in the discussions in person or virtually.



*Debbie Ede*

Treasurer (MAST) – September 2026

office@ihsgb.co.uk

FINANCIAL POSITION (abridged)

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF IHSGB LIMITED

# COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of IHSGB LIMITED COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE ('the Company')**
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 July 2026.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Alun Evans
for Bevan Buckland Ltd.

Alun Evans FCA

Bevan Buckland Ltd
Chartered Accountants
45 High Street
Haverfordwest
Pembrokeshire
SA61 2BP

Date: 27-10-26.

# IHSGB LIMITED

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

## (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2026

| | Notes | Unrestricted fund £ | Restricted funds £ | Endowment fund £ | 2026 Total funds £ | 2025 Total funds £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM** | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | | 11,240 | - | - | 11,240 | 12,605 |
| **Charitable activities** | | | | | | |
| Promotion, welfare and care | | 19,798 | - | - | 19,798 | 26,983 |
| Investment income | 2 | 1,193 | - | - | 1,193 | 1,091 |
| **Total** | | 32,231 | - | - | 32,231 | 40,679 |
| **EXPENDITURE ON** | | | | | | |
| **Charitable activities** | | | | | | |
| Promotion, welfare and care | | 35,933 | - | - | 35,933 | 39,392 |
| Net gains on investments | | 662 | - | 300 | 962 | 211 |
| **NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)** | | (3,040) | - | 300 | (2,740) | 1,498 |
| **RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS** | | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | 43,935 | - | 6,900 | 50,835 | 49,337 |
| **TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD** | | 40,895 | - | 7,200 | 48,095 | 50,835 |

# IHSGB LIMITED

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT JULY 2026

| | Notes | Unrestricted fund £ | Restricted funds £ | Endowment fund £ | 2026 Total funds £ | 2025 Total funds £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **FIXED ASSETS** | | | | | | |
| Investments | 7 | 15,853 | - | 7,200 | 23,053 | 22,091 |
| **CURRENT ASSETS** | | | | | | |
| Debtors | 8 | 1,487 | - | - | 1,487 | 3,044 |
| Cash at bank | | 34,759 | - | - | 34,759 | 34,142 |
| | | 36,246 | - | - | 36,246 | 37,186 |
| **CREDITORS** | | | | | | |
| Amounts falling due within one year | 9 | (11,204) | - | - | (11,204) | (8,442) |
| **NET CURRENT ASSETS** | | 25,042 | - | - | 25,042 | 28,744 |
| **TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES** | | 40,895 | - | 7,200 | 48,095 | 50,835 |
| **NET ASSETS** | | 40,895 | - | 7,200 | 48,095 | 50,835 |
| **FUNDS** | 10 | | | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | 40,895 | 43,935 |
| Endowment funds | | | | | 7,200 | 6,900 |
| **TOTAL FUNDS** | | | | | 48,095 | 50,835 |

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 July 2026.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2026 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

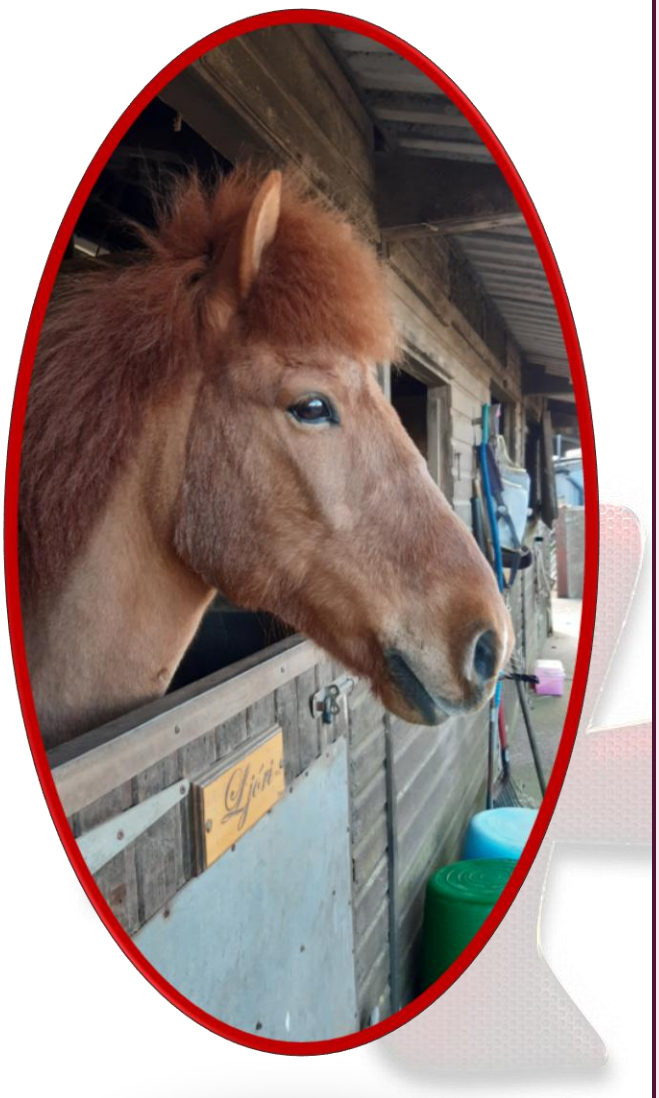
(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The full financial report signed off by your Trustees and our Independent Examiner, Bevan Buckland, is available on the IHSGB website to download or by email to office@ihsgb.co.uk

# THANK YOU

## Here's to the next 40 years...





## Follow the IHSGB

**Website**

News, events, results and the members' area

ihsgb.co.uk

**Facebook**

News from the Society

facebook.com/IHSGB

**Instagram**

Photos and videos: @icelandichorsegb

instagram.com/icelandichorsegb

**Members' Forum**

Our Facebook group for members

facebook.com/groups/ihsgbmembersforum

**YouTube**

IHSGB Icelandic Horse Society GB: videos from the Society

youtube.com/@ihsgbicelandichorsesociety4197