



NEWSLETTER

Summer 1991



ICELANDIC HORSE SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

SUMMER 1991

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*The Icelandic Horse Society of Great Britain Newsletter is published four times per year :- March, June, September and December.
A limited number of back copies (priced £1.50) are available from the Newsletter Editor*

*Mrs Pat Proctor,
21 Glenorchy Road,
NORTH BERWICK,
East Lothian.*

COVER PICTURE

*'Sunbathing on the Beach'.
Erpur and Brunka at Canty Bay, North Berwick.*

There seems to be a lot going on everywhere now that summer is upon us. In Wales preparations are underway for the show at the end of June. An incredible amount of work has been undertaken, especially by Jennifer Greaves and Lise Manniche.

Elsewhere, everybody is enjoying their own horsey activities, from long distance riding in Stonehaven - hopefully this presents possibilities for many more of us - to training courses in the south.

I would like to thank F1 Pugh for her reply to the mystery photograph in Holyrood Park (See issue 15). Explanations appear on page 9.

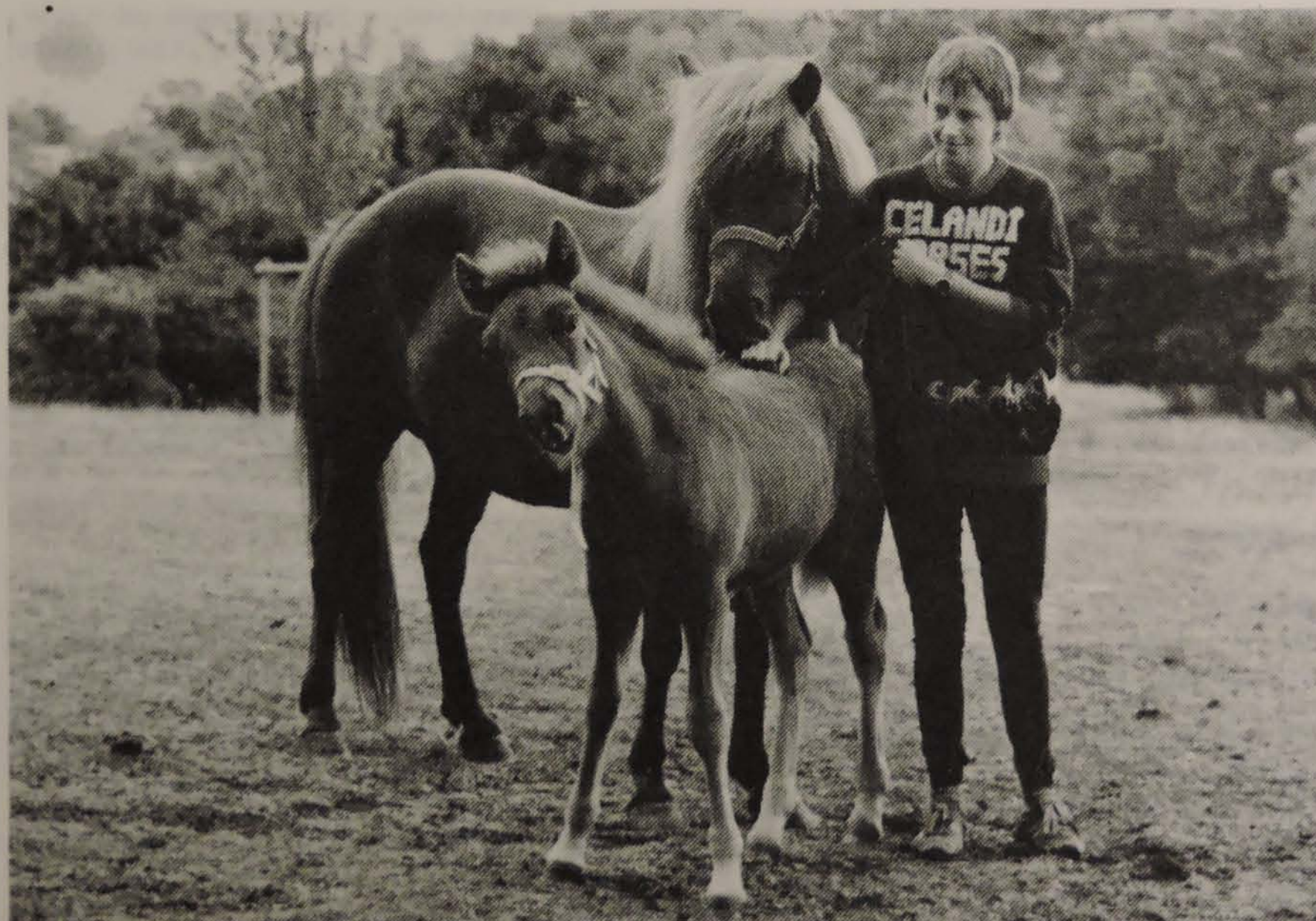
Finally, could I remind members that articles for the next newsletter should reach me, if possible, by the middle of August, and that advertising costs (always a little extra income for the Society) remain at £10 per page or £5 per half page.

Best of luck to everyone competing in Wales.

Pat

IHSGB NEWSLETTER PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

SUMMER 1991 WINNING ENTRY





Icelandic Horse Society of Great Britain

SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS UP TO 4th MAY, 1991.

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

Plans for the Show are well advanced thanks to the combined efforts of Lise Manniche and Jennifer Greaves. Judges and trainers have been retained. Programmes will be on sale at the Show. There will be no charge for entry but donations will be gratefully received at the ground. Simple catering will be provided and the Society will have a publicity stand. (See this newsletter for more information.)

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN SWEDEN.

The World games will be held in Sweden this year from 12-19th August. The British Championship Show in Wales will be a qualifying show for Sweden. We hope to be able to send a team to compete but, because of the expense, it is unlikely that our riders will compete on British horses. The possibility is that we shall borrow Swedish horses. The Committee is hopeful that a small team will be able to ride for Britain.

INFORMATION SHEET.

A free information sheet has been approved by the Committee. The purpose of this sheet is to give an outline of the breed and the Society, to members of the public. Each Committee member has a limited number of the sheets.

BREEDING RULES

Each member should receive a copy of the Societies Breeding Rules and Regulations. If a member loses or misplaces their copy, extra copies are available from the Secretary or the Membership Secretary, Mrs Jackie Elias, price £1 plus p&p.

GARRY GUALACH WEEKEND

The Society weekend at Garry Gualach was changed from the first weekend in May to the last weekend in April. Unfortunately, this proved to be an unpopular weekend for members. It is hoped to arrange an alternative visit later in the year.

P. R. REPORT

The Secretary sent a report of the activities of the Society in 1990 to the FEIF P.R. Secretary. Also included were a number of suggestions put forward by the Committee to improve communication between the member countries of the FEIF.

It was also decided by the Committee, and included in the report to the P.R. Secretary, that only one copy of our newsletter will be sent to each member country of the FEIF, together with one copy to Marit Jomsson, President of the FEIF, and one copy to Thorgeir Gudlaugsson, P.R. Secretary. The Secretary also wrote to Marit Jonsson with the same proposal.

ELSPETH H. THORBURN.
SECRETARY I. H. S. G. B.

COMMITTEE NEWS

COMPUTER

In order to carry out the Society's business, the Secretary uses a home computer together with a word processor from the Mini Office Package. To update the list of members quickly, the name, address and telephone of each member is held on a computer disc. When a member leaves the Society his/her name and details are deleted from the list. The Secretary also has a card index containing the same details. On leaving the Society, the member's card is destroyed.

If any member objects to his/her name, address and telephone being held on a home computer disc, please contact the Secretary at once. The Secretary wishes to make it very clear that no other person has access to the information on the disc at any time.

CALENDAR

A new calendar, entitled 'Beautiful Moments With Icelandic Horses 1992', is available from Switzerland. The calendar size is 32 x 45 cm and the text is in English and German. It contains 13 coloured photographs and costs 25.50 Sfr. There is a trade discount for larger quantities. The address to contact is :-

Montanara AG-Division Sport,
CH-9465 Salez,
Switzerland.
Tel. 085 764 07
Fax. 085 7 56 55

STALLION FOR SALE OR LEASE.

Konungur fra Tokkerup is offered for sale or lease. He is family horse with a good disposition. His gaits are flowing and elegant and he has one of the fastest pace times in Denmark. Konungur has sired several horses which have good conformation as well as being well-gaited. A copy of the pedigree and evaluation form is available from the Secretary. This stallion is offered for sale by :-

Anni & Flemming Lissner,
Skullerupvej 20 - 4330 Hvalso,
Denmark.
Tel. 00945 42399613

BRITISH EQUINE EVENT

The Society has applied to take part in the above event which is organised by the Royal Agricultural Society of England and will take place at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, on 1st and 2nd November, 1991. Further details will be published in the next newsletter.

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS 1991

Plans for the show in North Wales on 29th - 30th June are now well under way. Our sponsors, British Aerospace, will help make this a truly memorable occasion.

The classes on offer are as follows:

Saturday

Class 1 Four-gait qualifier (4.3)
Class 2 Four-gait qualifier (4.1)
Class 3 Tolt qualifier (T.3)
Class 4 Tolt qualifier (T.1)
Class 5 Trotting race (600m)
Class 6 Canter race (350m)
Class 7 Pace race (150m)
Jet Set Relay qualifier

Sunday

Class 8 Dressage (fun test)
Class 9 Dressage (L.L.1)
Class 1 Finals
Class 2 Finals
Class 3 Finals
Class 4 Finals
Class 10 Jumping
Class 11 Champagne tolt
Class 12 Hand horse
Jet Set Relay finals

The winners of Classes 2, 4 and 9 will be declared champions in these individual disciplines, but there will be other prizes to be won, including the IHSGB overall championship.

During the show we will be selling raffle tickets, the star prize being a weekend for two at the Pentland Hills Trekking Centre.

In connection with the show, two riding courses have been organized. A three-day course (25th - 27th June) will be given by Sue Tanzer and an instructor from Austria, and a one-day course (28th June) by Ingimar Ingimarsson from Iceland.

For information about training courses and classes please contact Lise Manniche, The Cottage, Holme Lane, Lt. Downham, Ely, Cambs. CB6 2TR, tel. 0353 698940 (best mornings). Details of venue and accommodation for horses and humans are available from Jennifer Greaves, Rhos Uchaf Hall, Llanfynydd, nr. Wrexham, Clwyd LL11 5HR, tel. 0352 771718.

ICELANDICS TO HELP R.D.A.

As you are all well aware, the Icelandic horse is spirited and fiery enough for the most experienced rider, yet is also ideally suited to the less able, or even disabled rider. Their gentle nature is hard to equal, they are undaunted in the face of adversity, and their small size, but immense strength make them excellent mounts for the most severely handicapped - child or adult.

The Icelandic's unique combination of gaits, (not only WALK, TROT, and CANTER, as found in "ordinary horses", but also TÖLT and PACE), gives them a further advantage over all our other breeds of horses who can lay claim to the above qualities. TÖLT, in particular, is highly valued, being a smooth, comfortable, "running walk", the speed of which can range from that of a slow jog, to that of a fast canter.

In June, ELDUR, ÚLFUR, and KATLA will be ridden from their home on the OLD HILLS, south of Worcester, to LLANFYNYDD in North Wales, in order to take part in the BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS for Icelandic horses, which will be held there at the end of the month.

The ride will be sponsored in aid of the RIDING for the DISABLED ASSOCIATION. The proceeds will be shared between the LLANFYNYDD group, and the MALVERN HILLS group, of which the horses are active members.

The ride will take five days, covering a distance of about 125 miles.

If anyone would like to sponsor us, or is able to assist in any other way, please fill in the form below, and return it as soon as possible to : FI PUGH, 111, OLD HILLS, CALLOWEND, WORCESTER, WR2 4TQ.

tear here

I should like to sponsor Eldur, Úlfur and Katla's ride from the Old Hills to Llanfynydd, June 17th - 21st, and am prepared to donate the following amount:

TOTAL _____

I am able to offer help with

signed

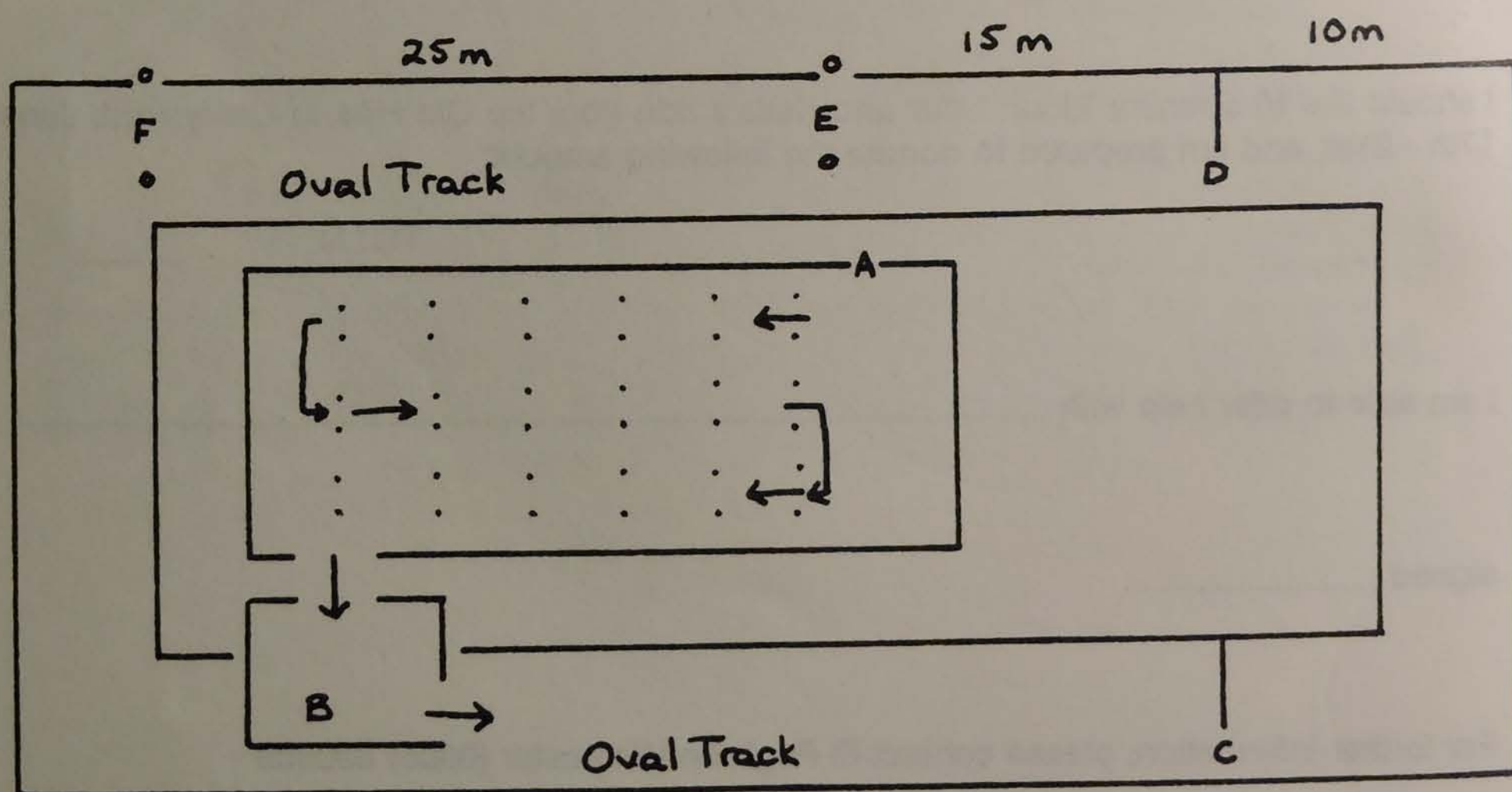
For further information, please contact Fi Pugh on Worcester (0905) 830808

In the February 1991 edition of TOLT (Danish Icelandic Horse Society magazine) there was a refreshing suggestion by Benny Thomsen for a new kind of "Hand-Horse", (Ride-and-Lead, or whatever you like to call it) class at competitions. It sounded interesting, and good fun, without the heavy emphasis on "riding the gaits", which is a welcome relief for many of us, at times!

"But what about those of us with "only" one horse?", I hear you cry. Well, that's not a problem. Each horse may compete twice, so that you can easily lend your horse to someone else, and still compete on it yourself.

The idea is to show how "handy" (pun not intended!) your horses are, and the rules are as follows.

- Three parallel "tunnels", 2 m wide, 20-25 m long, and 5 m apart, are set up inside the oval track. For this you could use cones, perhaps, with a ball balanced on the top of each one, so that the ball would easily roll off if the cone were knocked.
- The rider and horses go up and down the three tunnels, starting at A.
- In box B the rider changes horses, with the aid of a helper, if necessary.
- Rider and horses continue round the oval track, over jumps C and D (40 & 50 cm high).
- The exercise is timed between A and E. The ridden horse must be walking as it passes F.



Penalties:

- The horse should complete the course in 53 seconds (includes 15 secs. for changing horses). Each second over this incurs 0.25 penalties.
- Each cone/ball knocked over, and each jump knocked down incurs 4 penalties.

Disqualification:

- if a horse goes the wrong side of a cone, or takes the wrong route up and down the tunnels.
- if any assistance is given outside box B.
- if a horse refuses the same jump 3 times.
- if a rider lets go of the led horse, or touches the ground outside box B.
- if the team crosses its own tracks.
- if the ridden horse is not in walk by F.

Final:

- the 5 best placed teams take part in the final. Each team starts with 0 points.
- there are two finals if necessary. In the second, the cones are placed closer together, and the height of the jumps raised. Time allowed is reduced by 10%.

Of course, we don't have to follow these rules exactly, but I thought the competition sounded fun, and was worth trying. It's also something that could be tried at any local show, and doesn't necessarily have to be restricted to Icelandic horses.

The main aim of such a competition is to reward cooperation between horse(s) and rider, in a class where competition horses are not at an advantage over others. Stage 1 shows that the horses are under control, that they can be turned easily in both directions, and that they can go in a straight line!

The point in changing horses is to show that both horses can be led, and to prevent the competitors from jumping onto their best riding horse, and dragging along the nearest old "donkey"!

The last stage is to show that both horses will jump (together!), and that after the jumps the rider has the horses under enough control to bring them back to walk immediately after passing the timed section.

So come on all you lot who help to organise riding club/pony club events, or little shows - let's give it a go!

Eight Icelandic horses arrived in Scotland in 1954, where Stuart McIntosh helped get them ready for a demonstration. Stuart spent a lot of time in Iceland, and can be said to be the "pioneer" of the Icelandic horse in Britain.

The following articles appeared in MORGUNBLAÐIÐ in 1954, in May and June respectively. The journalist is "our own" MAGNÚS MAGNÚSSON!

SCOTS IMPRESSED BY ICELANDIC TOLT

Icelandics on show in Scotland

The 8 Icelandic horses, which were exported to Scotland, have caused much interest. The Icelandic tolt is considered to be a particularly valued and comfortable gait. The horses were shown at Holyrood Park in Edinburgh, and a lot of people went to see them. The President of the International Pony-Breeders' Federation, the Earl of Dalkieth, was present, and was most impressed by how willing and interesting the Icelandic horses were.

THE SCOTSMAN tells how the horses came to Leith. Gunnar Bjarnason from Hvanneyri and some other Icelanders accompanied the horses. The newspaper thought tolt was a strange, but interesting gait, and explains it as follows:

The horses were ridden in tölt, which is like a very fast walk, which the horses are able to maintain over long distances. The riders sat still in the saddle, and didn't appear to move, so comfortable was the gait.

After the demonstration in Edinburgh, the horses were taken by lorry to Newtonmore, in the Highlands, where they will be used in a riding school.

SCOTS GET TO KNOW ICELANDIC HORSE

...A few weeks have now passed since they (the Icelandic horses) landed at Leith, and their stay here has awoken much interest, as was hoped. After their arrival, it was soon clear, that many were suspicious of the Icelandic's gaits, and were opposed to their import into Britain.

There are 9 breeds of native pony in Britain, and their breeders were worried about the competition, should the Icelandic become too well-known over here. There was recently an article in THE SCOTSMAN.....about the Icelandic horse. The article was written very knowledgeably and was very friendly, and the author must have got some information from Gunnar. The article didn't surprise the Icelandic horseman, as it did not exaggerate. However, the Scots believed little of what was said in favour of our horses.

Letters of protest swamped the newspaper, and took over the letters' page for several days.

It is a great shame that, after all Stuart's hard work with the Icelandics in this country, we are not a lot further along the road than 37 years ago. More about Stuart in the next issue.

The famous stallion SÖRLI 653 FRA SAUDÁRKRÓKI has died in Iceland, aged 27.

SÖRLI was the highest placed stallion, 6 years or older, at the 1970 Landsmót. In 1974 he was awarded 1st prize for his progeny, and in 1978 he was awarded 1st prize with honours for his progeny.

SÖRLI is the father of many of Iceland's best horses. A whole host of popular stallions in use today are directly descended from him, e.g. Náttfari 776 fra Ytra-Dalsgerdi, Blossi 800, Hervar 963, and Otur 1050, (all Saudárkrók horses).

SÖRLI has been buried beside his famous grandmother, Ragnars-Brúnka 2716.

Late in the evening, March 31st, a large transport aircraft with 89 Icelandic horses on board was forced to land at Aalborg (North Jutland, Denmark), due to fog in South and Mid Jutland. The aircraft was on route from Keflavík (Iceland) to Billund (South Jutland). After landing, the hold's air-conditioning was turned off, and the temperature rose to such an extent, that clouds of steam from the sweating horses escaped through the open doors and condensed in the night air. The hold became a veritable horse-sauna. An SAS passenger stairway was fetched, and every available member of staff at the airport helped to lead the horses down the unusual (for them) exit and into a hangar, from where they were later transported by lorry to their new owners, patiently waiting at Billund.

The staff at Aalborg Airport coped with this unusual situation with good humour and great ingenuity. For it isn't exactly easy to get a horse out of an aircraft without special ramps - and the ramps were at Billund. (TÖLT)

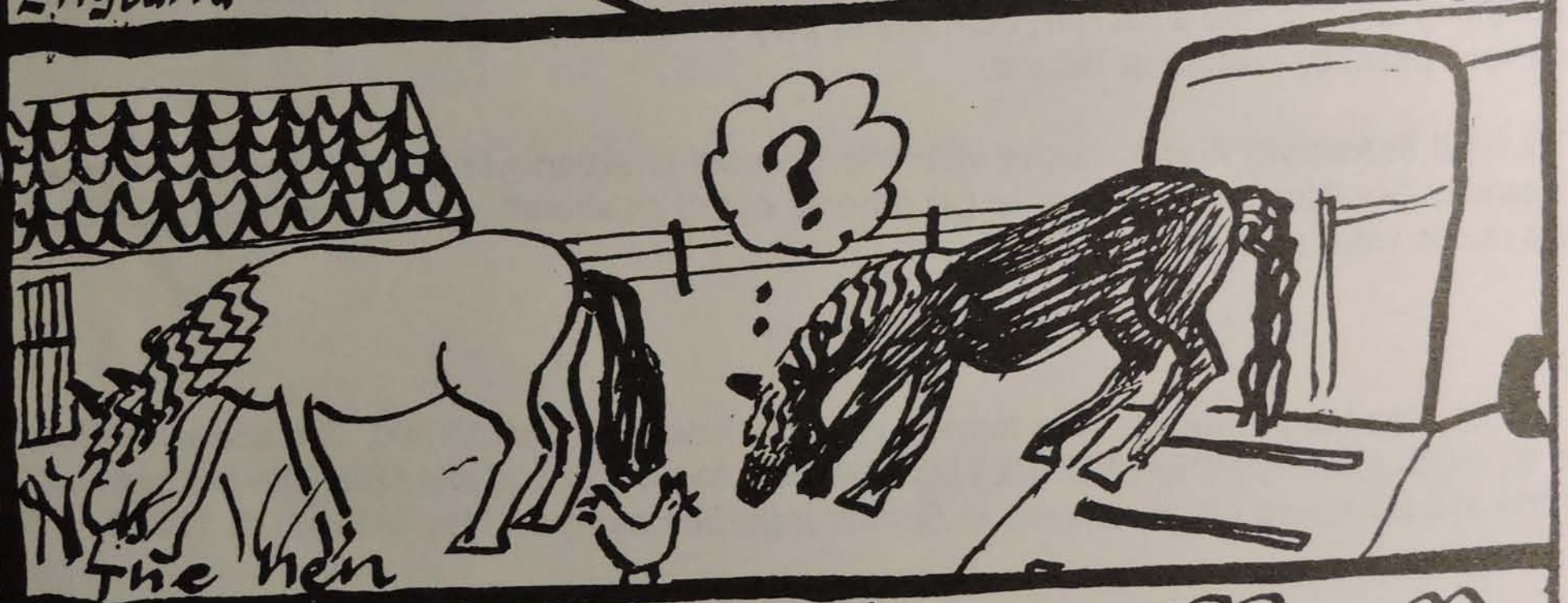
An Icelandic Horse Society was formed in Luxembourg on 13/12/1990. The society, which is called ISLANDPFERDEFREUNDE LUXEMBURG, has applied to join FEIF. The first national show in Luxemburg will take place in Schuttrange/Schrassig on May 11th - 12th. (TÖLT)

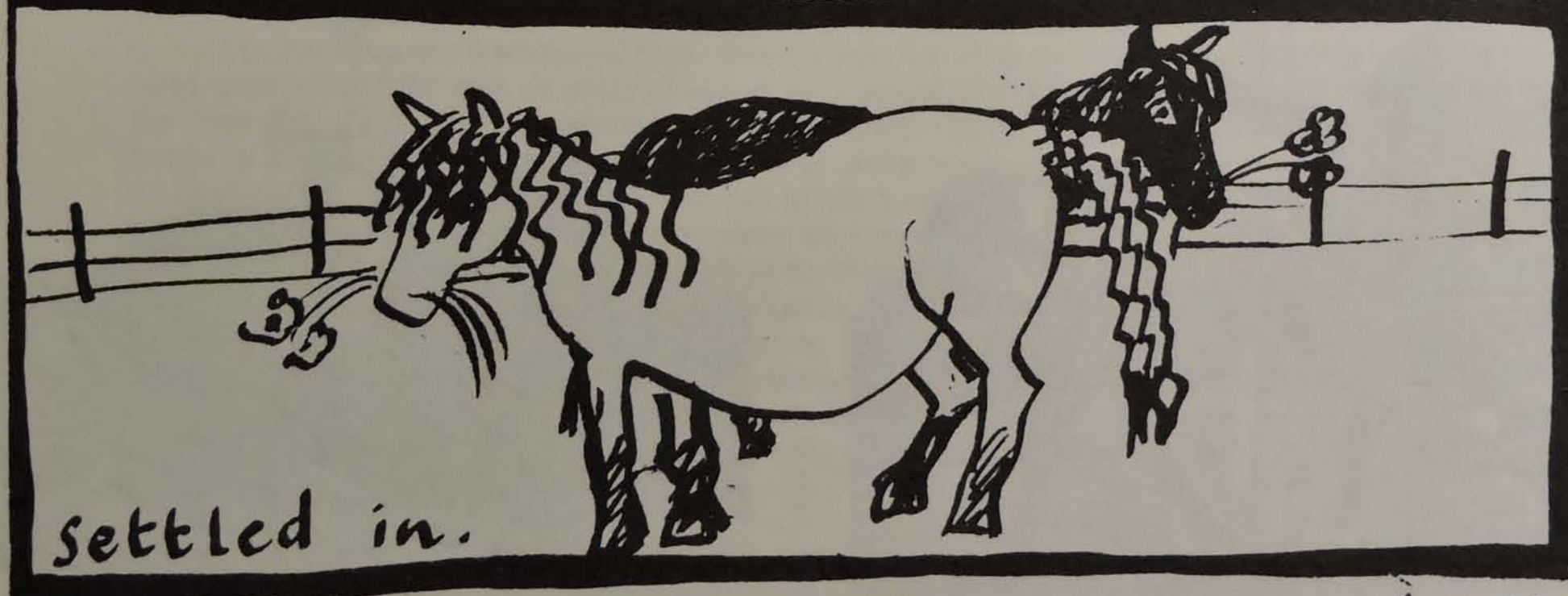
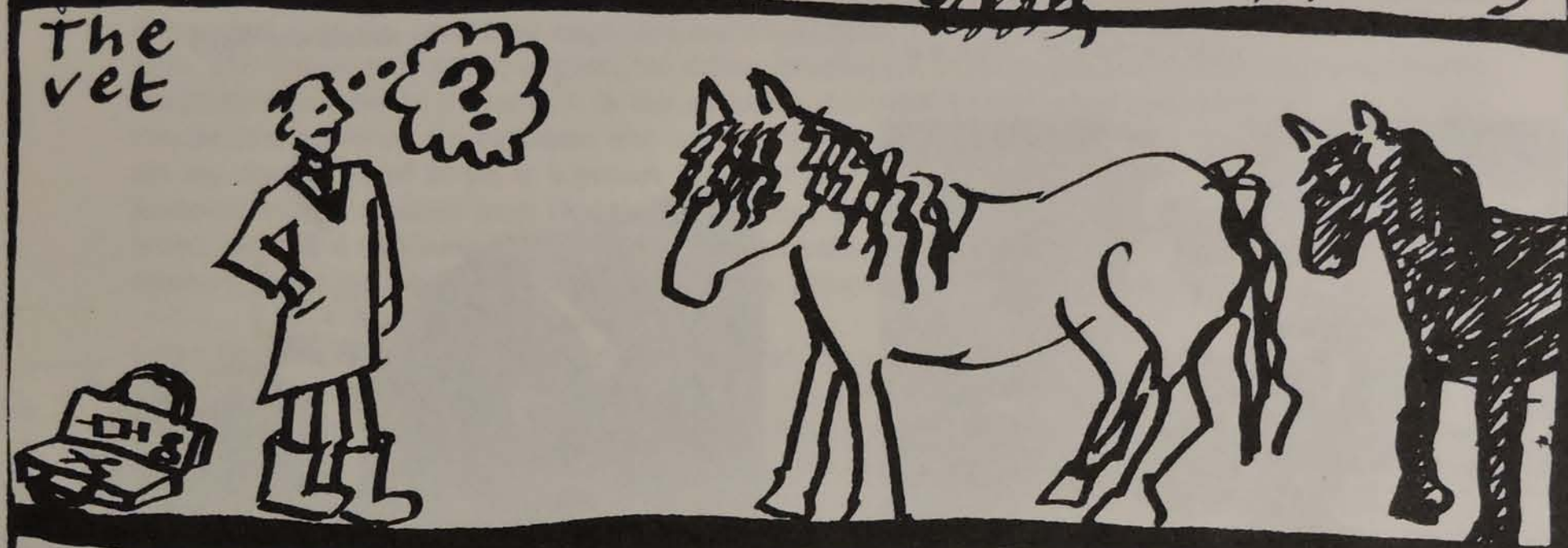
The export of horses from Iceland is increasing - 1618 horses in 1990, which is about 60% more than during the previous year. Approximately 80% went to Germany and Sweden, while the rest went to other countries. This year, 380 horses had already been exported by plane (horses are not allowed to travel by boat during the winter months) by the middle of March. (EIDFAXI)

Two Danes are planning a 15.000 km ride from Denmark to China in 1993. The ride should take approximately 18 months and the route will go via the Soviet Union and Mongolia! The horses which will accompany Poul Rask and Steen Gees Christensen on their adventure are, of course, going to be Icelandics.

Fi Pugh

A Year in the Life of Brūda and Inga at Upper Farm





Louise



1. Icelandic horse



2. Kathiawar-Pony



3. Thoroughbred



4. Basuto-Pony



5. Morgan horse



6. Galiceño-Pony

(This article is taken from a 1972 edition of a magazine produced in Germany, Freizeit im Sattel, which is in German. The magazine has many interesting articles on various breeds of horses and ponies, including gaited horses. The author of this article is Ursula Bruns, editor of the magazine at the time. Translated by Michelle Foot. The address for the magazine is at the end of the article if you wish to subscribe. Unfortunately it is only available in German.)

Experience with Strange Gaits

Most Europeans are familiar with only the three basic equine gaits. On horsey holidays abroad (or even in our own living rooms on TV) we sometimes see "new" gaits. Until a few years ago, the European rode in a manege on a 3 gaited sport horse and went from competition to competition; but that is changing rapidly: we are moving deeper into foreign countries and getting to know them and their horses much better. Here the Icelanders first showed a different way of going: the gaits pace & tölt nearly raised an hysteria of official discontent and as lameness, incorrect action or a result of bad conformation they were disparaged. Now the equestrian magazines and books bring new articles about different breeds with more gaits. The confusion is not getting less, but differs from before as the magazines authors don't want to hide the phenomena, but to promote it. In this magazine this problem was raised first. I believe I can say that I'm the first writer on the continent who was interested in the gaits and followed them up. Here you can see my discoveries of 20 yrs in a picture gallery. I've ridden all the displayed horses myself (except the Icelandic mare who comes from Denmark) sometimes for days. They belong to twelve different breeds; I've found them in 4 continents; they come from 8 countries. They are all working or leisure horses; to give more objective photos I didn't show perfect Show horses which are always exceptions from their breeds.

I also tried to choose pictures that show the same phase. These demonstrate the slight differences of principally the same gait, on the other hand many of the horses are of a different standard of training. (see pic 6) Absolute exception is pic 9 that depicts a Missouri Foxtrotter. Most of the foreign gaits are pace variations (ie lateral gaits). Few are trot variations (ie diagonal gaits). In our pictures, nearly all are pace variations. Only pic 9 is a trot variation. The order of footfalls is roughly: right hind - left fore - left hind - left fore and the difference between the gaits is caused by the time lapse between the footfalls in this sequence. The pause can be between the placing of the hind and the front hoof (lateral) or between the placing of the diagonal pair of hooves. The difference could also be that the hind hooves step far and low above the ground, and the front legs on the same side can be very elevated. (no 8) There is hardly any limitation to the riders' wishes on rhythm, speed and balance; every breed has a slightly different outlook on basically the same thing. But now to my experiences.

ASIA

(1) I knew and owned Icelandic Horses for years. Whilst on a visit to East Asia, in the North of Burma, I heard on the road behind me the familiar 1-2-3-4 of tölt. At the time I thought that tölt was a relic of the ancient times, being unique to Icelandics. It was a Shan Pony that was tölting by, and I heard that this gait is very common in this country, and is called Ah-Tha-Cha. At the time my camera had packed up and I cannot show any pictures of my rides. The gait of the Shan Ponies (14hh high) reminds me of their blood relatives, the Basuto Ponies (4); both come from Mongolian bloodlines. The racing stable owner Sir Hubert Oppenheimer told me later that it is very easy to teach thoroughbreds this gait. During the Second World War, they hid the race horses of the Rangoon race track from the Japanese in the surrounding rain forest. The gambling-mad Burmese cut 400m tracks, trained the Thoroughbreds to "Ah-Tha-Cha" and then raced them in this "tölt" race. As proof of this, he put a saddle on a 20 year old brood mare that lived at that time and -Pic 3- she remembered the gait immediately. In the very posh Madras Riding Club in Southern India I found only one gaited horse. I was sitting beside the president at a get-together, and knocked out the tölt rhythm on the table. He told me that's exactly how one of the horses at his club goes, that no-one can get to trot and he invited me along for a demonstration. Later investigations showed that that pony came from the Northern Indian state of Kathiawar (2) that was renowned for breeding smooth-gaited non-trotting horses. Much later I was invited by the Maharajah of Kathiawar to view his studs. I could not follow that up, but it's still on the horizon. The Kathiawar gait is more rounded and "tighter" than Ah-Tha-Cha and pace (10,11,12) less far reaching than tölt (1), rack (7) and running walk (4,5). If you wanted to find similarities, it reminds me of the Columbian Pacer.

AFRICA

When I came to S Africa I had learned about the tölting horses in Asia and knew that in Mongolia and China as well as in Asian Russia horses with this gait were valued and highly priced, but I now found 3 new breeds with pace variations with differing names. This astonished me. S Africa became the country in which I stayed to study these gaits for 9 months, and in which I thoroughly tried all of them. The fastest

tölter that I ever rode was a Boer Horse/Basuto crossbred, a chestnut gelding, 10 yrs old, 14.3hh, non-trotting and practically unstoppable! He was a work horse of a German farmer in Northern Natal Province in Zulu country and his rider was a Zulu weighing at least 230 lbs [over 21 stone] who wanted to go quickly even in high temperatures. He was a no-nonsense horse. He ran, and nothing else! In South Africa, they expect an Arabian Horse to be 5-gaited, like the American Saddlebred, with walk, trot, slow-gait, rack and gallop.

The modern Morgan Horse is more trained for competition, as the farmer wants to show it during the show season. This does not stop this strong, medium-height horse being very versatile on the farm, mostly under a rider and mostly in running walk. With his rounded back, he is very comfortable, and the running walk is very soft, flowing and ground-covering - sometimes a touch too rolling! The saddles have fans, as in Pic 5; often Australian stock saddles are used. Horses of this sort that were always ridden by farmers in running walk and gallop went unshod except during the competition season, and lived to a ripe old age. These were the horses we rode in one of the oldest S African studs, "Korfshoek", the most beautiful farm in the world, in my opinion.

I also got to know the American Saddlebred, about which I have already written so much. This star of tölting horses has so much impulsion that when I first rode a 16 year old stallion, at the command " Rack on" I found myself sitting on the back of his croup, and he was going so regularly that I was able to pull myself back into the saddle, despite going at racing speed. I cannot imagine the speed that a racking Saddlebred gets up to on a track, and keeps up for three quarters of an hour. Every time that I see a tölting competition, with the Icelandics going 5 times around a track, I think of these great athletes with their terrific impulsion and style, unstoppable, always faster, always lighter, always more fiery, and that on an 800m track for up to an hour at a time.

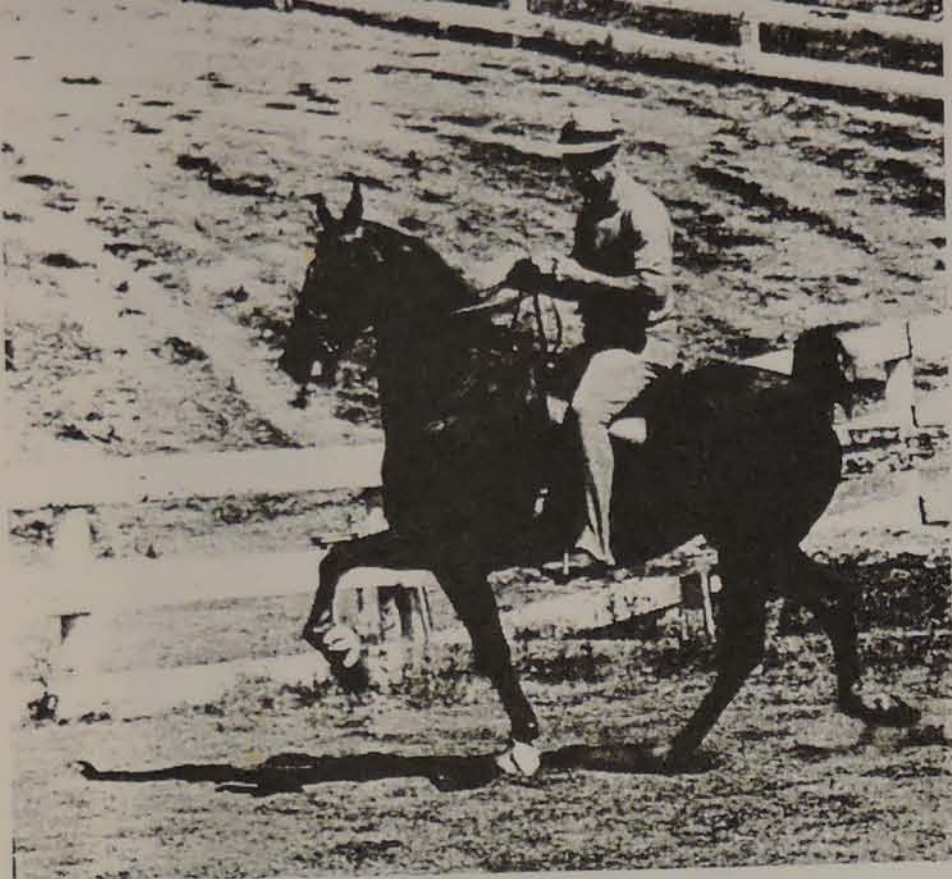
AMERICA

Whilst in S Africa the sheep breeders are the followers of the Saddlebred, in America they are a national industry. The same amount of money is pumped into the Saddlebred industry as into the Thoroughbred race horses. A very well known trainer took me to his luxurious training establishment near San Francisco, and showed me a few up-and-coming horses (7). This gelding is just about classed as a leisure horse; he belongs to an old lady who shows him only three or four times a year. Others are on the road every second Sunday in the fight for trophies and lots of money. It is very easy to see the extremely far back position of the rider. The old gentleman sometimes just stands in the stirrups and allows the horse to run away, especially in trot: a style that is disliked here but which encourages the Saddlebred to give a very high performance. You have to get used to this style of riding, and I was grateful for the opportunity I had in S Africa to get the feel of many different gaited horses, otherwise I would have looked like a novice. The gait is distinct and cannot be mistaken. Nobody can speak of pig-pace or unclear gaits. The rack is absolutely the fastest lateral gait.

This Tennessee Walking Horse mare (8) is also successful in competitions and is much liked for trail riding. The owner, Mrs Porter, also has a training and breeding establishment. She is a woman whose opinions are much sought after, who doesn't exaggerate. She thinks the Walker is the leisure horse of the future. After she left Dr Isenbügel and I alone for nearly two hours with her horses, we tended to agree with her. (Riders learn much more when they can try a horse without being watched). Around 15.2hh high, but very cobby with a calm but willing temperament, those Tennessee Walking Horses were mobile armchairs - even nervous novice riders trust them. Their gait is especially smooth because the hind legs are dragged low over the ground and over-reach the front legs. Throughout the gait, there is hardly any movement for the rider in the saddle. The most impressive view is of the forequarters, where the action of the front legs is very elevated. These magnificent, relaxed horses do not trot naturally, or it is discouraged during training. From a short, fast walk, the Walker is supposed to speed up by lengthening the stride. The gallop is very peculiar - the horse lifts itself into the air with its' front legs and comes down in a curve - very smooth and comfortable like a rocking horse. The Walker is the horse for the "big horse" rider who wants to change to a gaited horse which is nevertheless the same size as a "normal" horse, as well as being very comfortable.

It was difficult for us to find a Galiceño Pony (6). In the end we found and tried a young, barely broken pony that only let us guess what he had in him. Dr Isenbügel got a clear rhythm and beat in the gait.

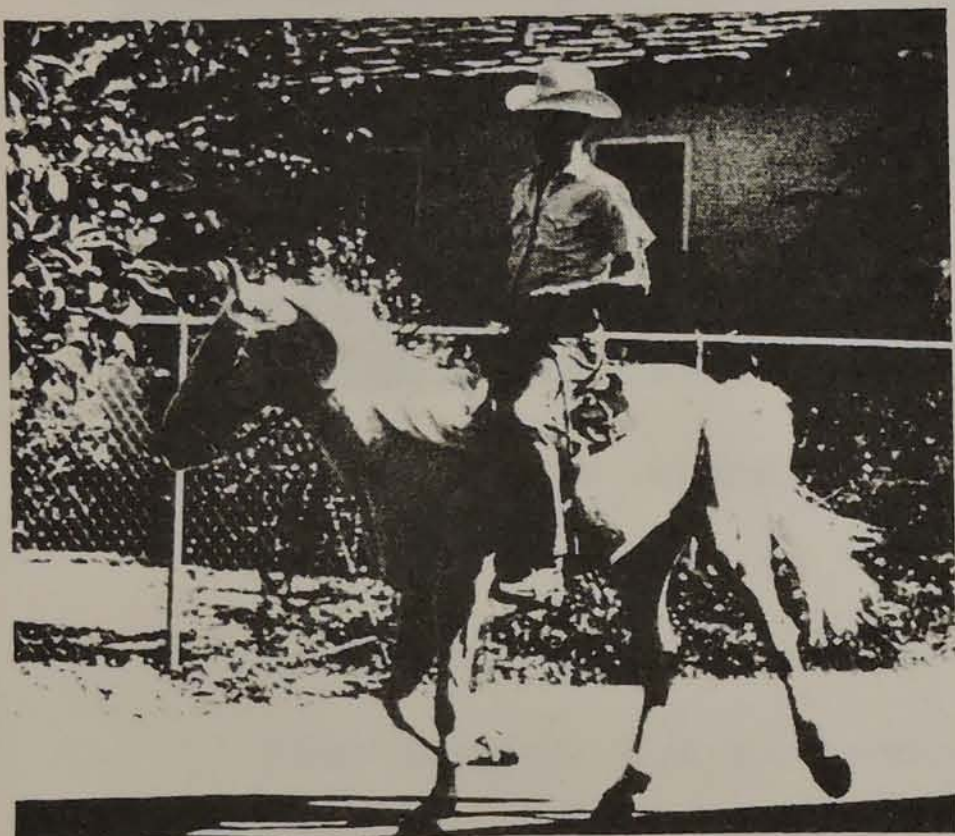
Last but not least we describe the trot-variation of the Missouri Foxtrotter (9). The picture shows a nine year old gelding that is only used to hack and has no competition training or condition. The order of the footfalls of the Foxtrot are: front right - hind left - front left - hind right. During this, the diagonals do not touch the ground together as they do in trot, but the front foot sets down first, and then pauses. The Foxtrot is not ridden at high speeds. It is used in Missouri, Tennessee, Virginia and so on as a popular "Plantation-walk" that has carried the overseer comfortably all day during his work on the plantation.



7. Saddlebred



8. Tennessee-Walker-Stute



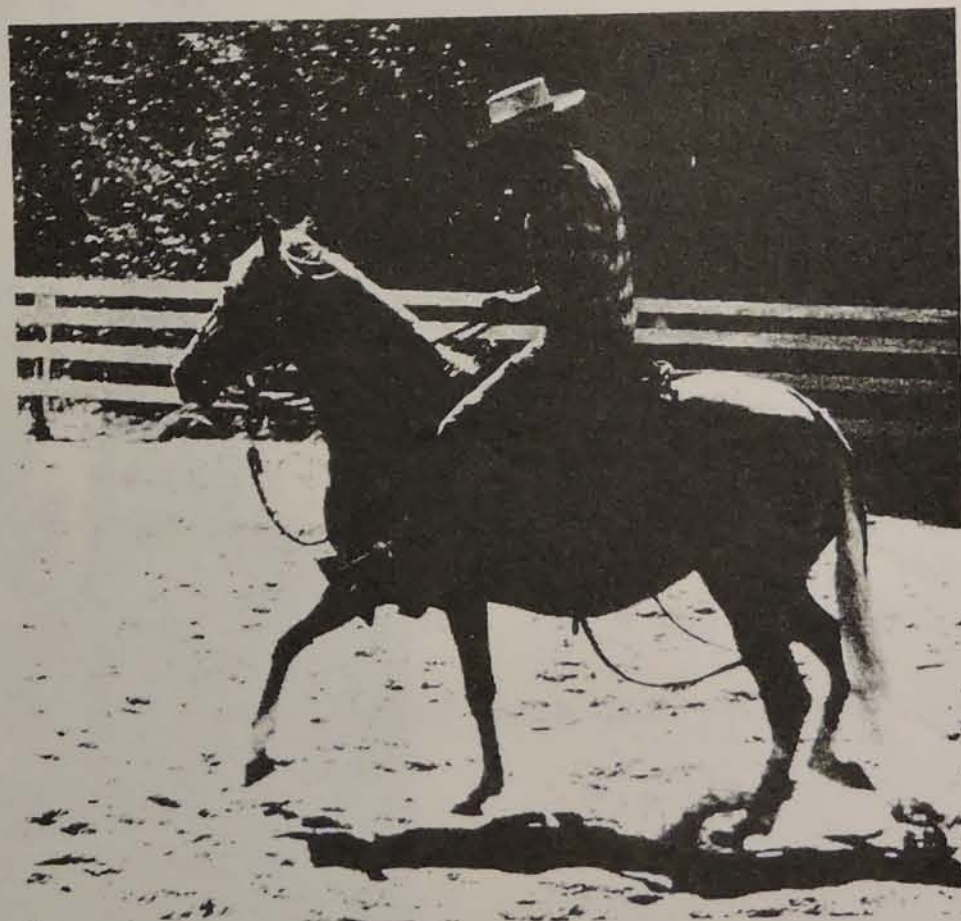
9. Missouri-Foxtrotter



10. Columbian Paso



11. Puerto Rican Paso



12. Peruvian Paso

SOUTH AMERICA

The last three breeds come from Latin America. From top to bottom they are the Columbian (10), Puerto Rican (11) and the Peruvian (12) Paso. All these breeds go back to the horses imported by the Spaniards, which possess two pacing bloodlines, the North Spanish pony and the North African Barb. In Central America they developed very elegant, small horses with much "brio", or spirit, under the saddle, which are now a joy to ride. In their home countries they emphasize the many different gaits as in Paso Fino, Fino, Paso Corto and Paso Largo. In America we had the opportunity to compare the Paso Finos of the different countries during day rides on many different horses: stallions, mares and geldings. My personal favourite was the grey Columbian Paso (10) which was supple, energetic and light as a feather, with a fast, rounded gallop. As a saddle, they use a plantation saddle which is lighter than the Western saddle but more compact than the Icelandic fanned saddle.

The stallion from Puerto Rico (11) was an exception in beauty and power. His gait was so soft that all of us tried him bareback and were thrilled. Most peculiar was a ride on the Peruvian mare (12). She had the finest, most elegant and shortest tölt. She was perfectly trained so that the slightest play of the finger on the reins let her react instantly. All her turns, for all their softness, were absolute perfection.

All three South American gaited horses have in common the flowing easiness, the missing trot and the softness mixed with coquetry. Compared to the other tölters they are more elegant, not so robust. All the others are more cobby, with greater will. The American Saddlebred is the "Show-Horse" of the gaited horse world.

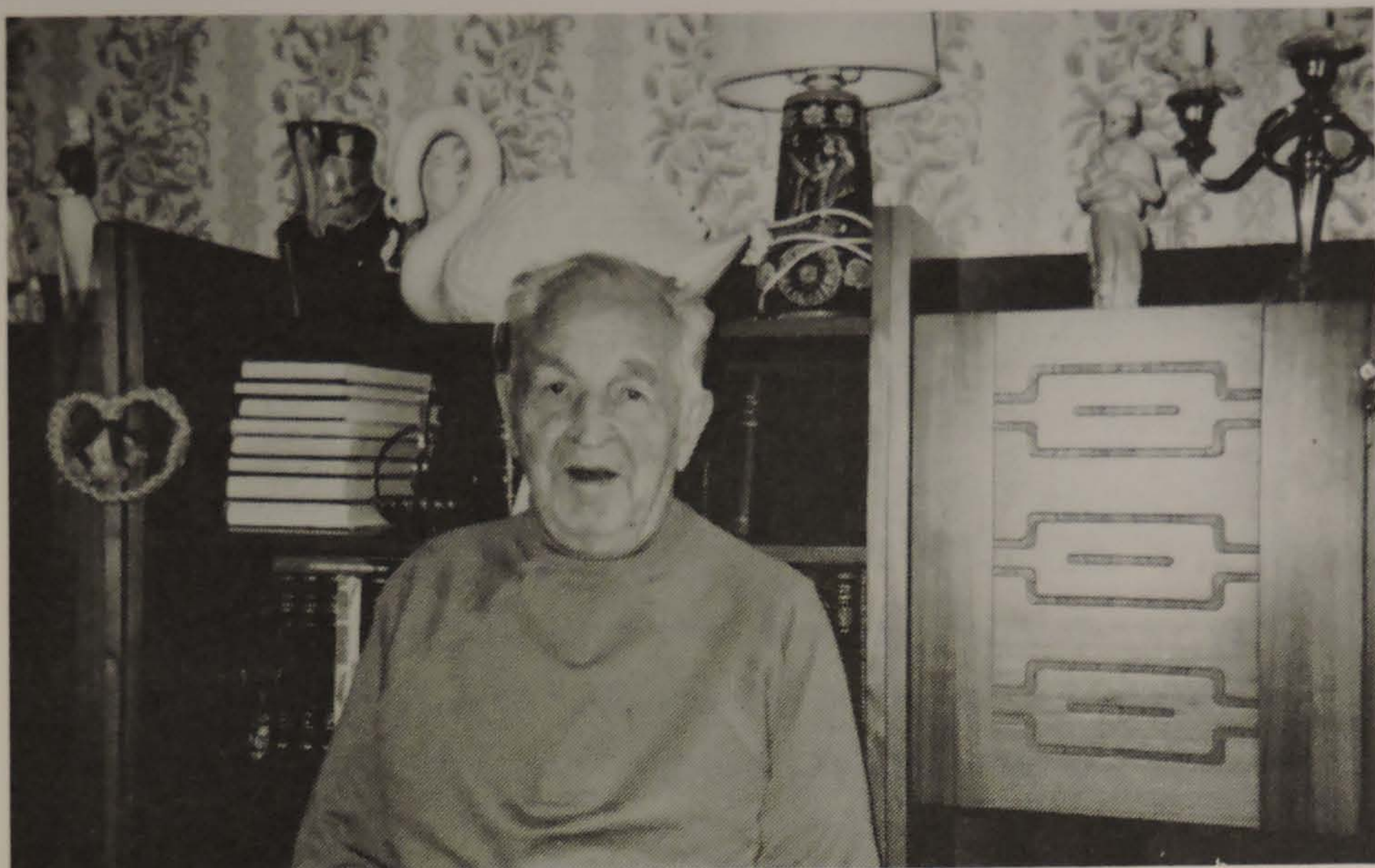
Ursula Bruns

Freizeit im Sattel (Pony Post)

May 1972

You can obtain copies of Freizeit im Sattel from:-
Bruns & Muller oHG
Venusbergweg 10
5300 Bonn
Tel 0228/217280





Over the summer I worked on a farm called Huítarvellir in Borgarfjörður on the west coast of Iceland. By Icelandic standards the farm is large and fertile, and lies beside the glacial river Huítá, which was first settled in the Viking age and its fields, like many places in Iceland, bathed in the blood of its first settlers. Today in addition to the usual farming activities, salmon fishing provides another valuable source of income for the farm.

One evening at the end of a day of wind and rain I wandered over to the "old house" to speak to the parents of the man I was working for and learn a little bit more about the old days in Iceland. David Ólafsson is a pleasant old man of eighty eight who has seen Iceland change from a relatively poor Danish colony to a mechanized modern independent state that has a high standard of living, a strong cultural identity and heart felt sense of nationhood.

He was born in 1902 and moved to Húitavellir a year later when his father bought the farm. Húitavellir was bought from an eccentric French Baron who had a lot less sense than he had dreams. As well as being an artist the Baron built a 40 stall cow shed in the middle of Reykjavík and ran a motorised boat to transport himself and goods between the town and the farm. Gradually he frittered his money away until in 1901 he shot himself on a farm in England and was found dead with not a penny to his name. Today all there is to show for his colourful life is two old iron beds used by him and his servant, his big old desk at which no doubt he planned his wildest schemes and ofcourse the collective memory of the French Baron.

David's father, Ólafur moved to Húitarvellir from a smaller farm further upstream. With him he brought his family, forty horses, three hundred sheep and sixteen or seventeen milking cows. At that time Húitarvellir was much different from what it is today. Most of the buildings were turf thatched, half buried in the land itself and even basic agricultural improvements such as enclosing fields had not begun to any great extent. Sheep, horses and cows were tended as a herd more so than today. The farm work was labour intensive, and the horses were used extensively. The hay was scythed, dried out and raked all by hand, often over and over again if rain drenched the haymakers efforts at the final moment. Hard times indeed, I thought, reflecting on our recent lightning 24 hours mechanised effort to cut, turn, bale and wrap hay for silage. In the old days the dry hay was raked and tied



in bundles of about 40 kg. and two such bundles were strapped to each horse. On a farm such as this there would have been about twelve to fourteen horses working, one being ridden and the others were all tied together and lead back to the barn.

When David was twenty three, he lost his leg from the hip down through cancer and was thus relegated to a life with a "tree foot" _wooden leg. In a strange way, this disaster no way restricted his activities but rather encouraged him to be one of the most forward thinking of farmers in the district at that time. When his father died in 1928 he farmed in partnership with his mother, brothers and sisters. When the first mechanised grass mower arrived at the nearby agricultural school, David was one of the first to embrace the new technology. After one summer's trial, he was the first farmer in the district to buy one for himself. Despite these new developments it should be said that his love of horses was by no means diminished. When the car was introduced in Iceland, he

could not take advantage of this new means of transport, but instead, with a thick sheepskin thrown over his saddle for support, he was a well known figure, riding in all weather to visit friends and conduct his business. In 1948, the first tractor arrived in Iceland, and as elsewhere, the face of farming changed forever, although horses were used to rake hay for some time after.

Húitarvellir has today around twenty five horses in the stud, produced both for riding and meat. David told me a little of the history of the horses, and how he acquired one of his foundation mares and named her after the events which surrounded the transaction - Wiski - Brunka! Over the years, David has seen many changes in the methods of riding and keeping horses. In the old days horses had to earn their keep and were in general, he tells me, a lot fitter, certainly in the endurance sense. Likewise the horses had to live in harsher conditions, whereas now it is not uncommon to find air conditioned, doubleglazed stalls all around Iceland. But David remembers the days when some farmers could not even afford to work horses in the winter, due to scarcity of hay. He does concede, however, that there have been vast improvements in quality through careful breeding and in general he feels the horses are bigger and more beautiful than ever before, although he regrets the predominance of black and chestnut horses in the top league of stallions. All the old colours are getting dangerously scarce. He recalls how the efforts to improve the quality of horses started back in 1926 with the formation of a horse society to buy stallions and make them available to local farmers. On balance the improvements have been a success and by way of illustration, he

recalls a time when the horses were more prone to bite and kick than today, and taking this aspect alone, breeding improvements in Iceland have certainly been for the better.

By this time the old Baron's desk was strewn with faded old photographs of horses, people and Iceland of yesteryear and Dís, David's wife, had prepared coffee and was anxious that we should not go hungry. So to round things off, I tried to find out a little more about David's reputation as a horse trader, an activity he still indulges in with that all enduring phrase, "I'll sell you a foal..."

"Hestarkaup" in Iceland is a bit of an institution, a sort of elite society of men who enjoy trading and swapping horses for pleasure and business. Sometimes money is involved but very often the trading is simply for the banter and excitement of arriving home and putting a saddle on an unknown entity. The thrill being even greater if the swap is made "unseen". When David was younger, a teacher from the local agricultural college turned up at Huítarvellir and invited him for a drive in his car. The car ride took them two hundred miles to the north to buy horses from a farm which was being sold. Adrenelin ran high and instead of four horses, twelve were bought and shod for the ride home. By the time they got home, David had sold six; quite how the car got home was never made clear, but I would not be surprised if it spent the rest of its days on that farm in the north of Iceland!

At the end of an enjoyable evening, the cakes and cups were put away and I said "goodnight", and struggled home fighting the wind for possession of my scribbled notes: the story of David Ólafsson, farmer and friend.

Clive Phillips

CONN RAUDKA & (1892)

BRUNN f. ARNANESI VILKA RAUDKA f. ARN.

36 ÞOR f. HOLM (1914) HÆRA f. ARNANESI 342

BLAKKUR f. STRANETI STJARNNA f. ARNANESI 36

129 BLAKKUR f. ARNANESI (1926) MOBRUNKA

VIKINGUR f. ARNANESI LITLA-TORP 225

201 SKUGGI f. BJARNANESI (1937)

RAUDKA f. HOLM

NOKKVI f. HOLM 260

LAROSAR f. HOLM

HOLD-TORP 474

STJARNNA 2907

SOTI f. ARNANESI

STJARNNA 2911

ASGRUNNS BRUNN

540 KRUMMI f. BORQUM (1959)

HQAFEN f. ARNANESI 583

OFELQUR f. HVANNHEYRI 818

PERLA 2980 (SEE PAGE 2)

TRISTOR f. LANGARVATNI

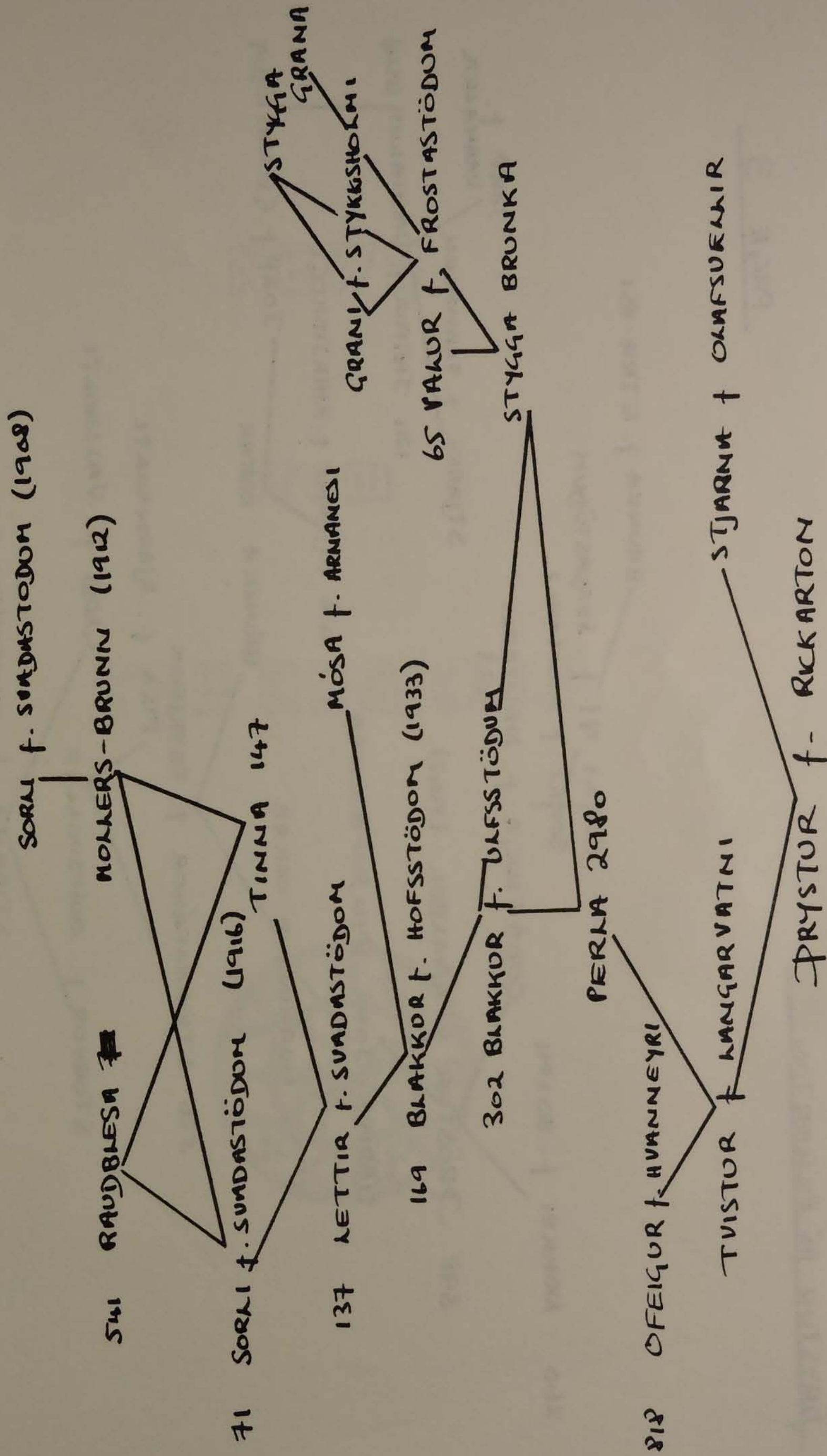
ÞRÝSTUR f. RICKARTON

STJARNNA f. OLAFSVEHLIR
(SEE PAGE 3)



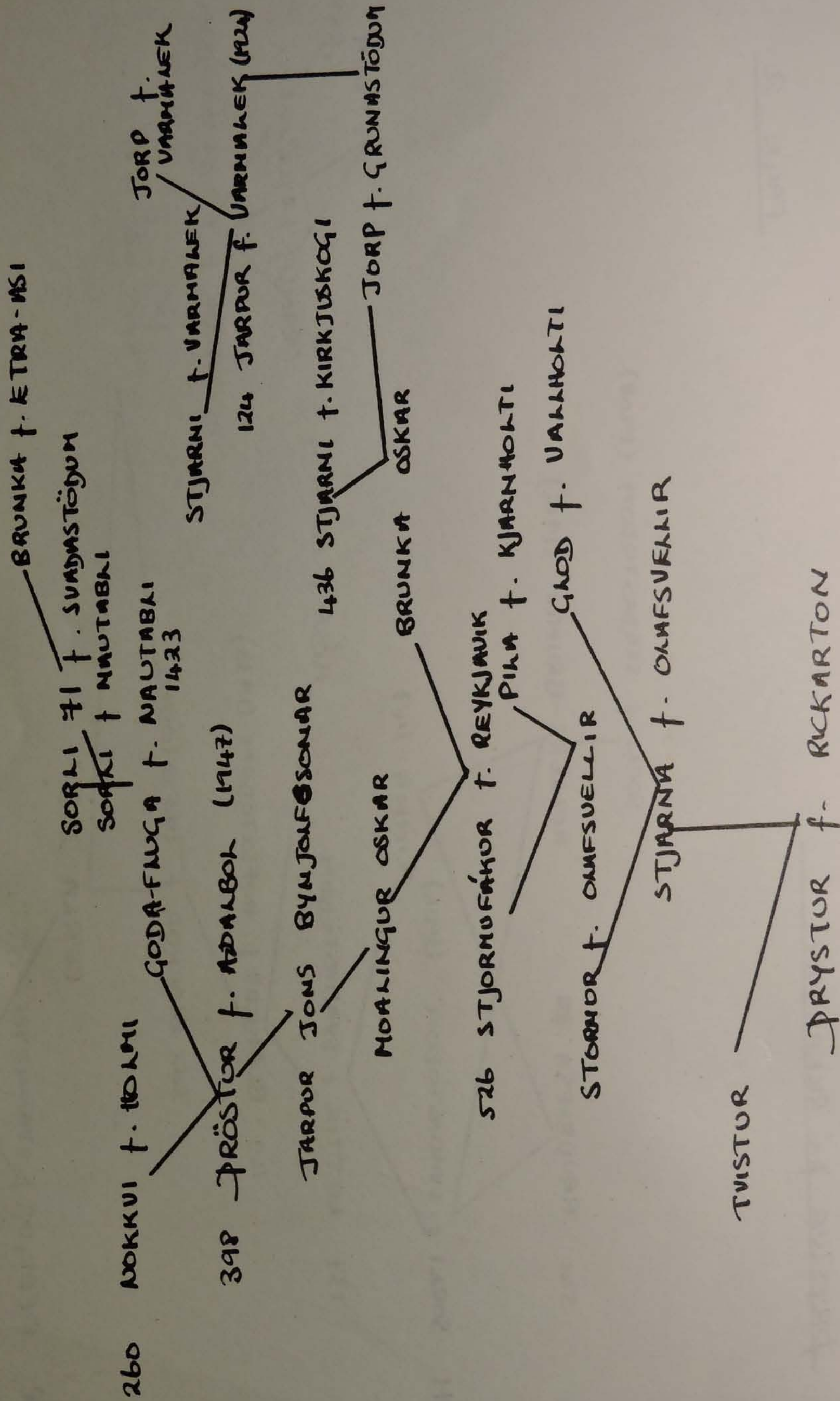
PAGE 1

ÞRÝSTUR ÞÁ RICKARTON



ÞRYSTUR ÞÁ RICKARTON

PAGE 3



NEWS

from

THE REGIONS



ICELANDIC HORSES COMPETING IN LONG DISTANCE RIDE

On various occasions, the Committee have discussed long distance riding, and considered its potential as another arena in which the Icelandic horse could compete.

Recently, with some prompting from friends, I decided to give it a try. I have to admit that up until then I had always considered long distance riding to be the sport for the faint-hearted. I suppose it also lacks the high profile image of showjumping and it is certainly not a spectator sport.

In actual fact, it is quite different, and I would say that the dedication necessary to prepare both horse and rider is no less demanding than any other sphere. The competition itself was both exciting from the competitive aspect and enjoyable in the sense of riding somewhere different and finding the route yourself; moreover, the fun lasts for a few hours, which is more than most other types of competitions.

The rules can be summarised fairly simply: You choose a speed category in which you aim to arrive and you then attempt to ride the course so as to fall within that range. The horse is checked by a vet, before and after the event, and you aim to arrive with the horse within a given range of heart rates. If the rate is too high, then points are deducted from a hypothetical score, that you start with. Points are also deducted for bad tack and other misdemeanours. Gold, silver and bronze awards are given, depending on the amount of points deducted and within each award, places are given depending on speed. Thus a slower horse can beat a faster horse, if the latter has suffered penalty points.

It might sound complicated, but in actual fact the rules operate quite simply, and the whole event was well run, and had a good atmosphere. One aspect which was particularly refreshing was that all types of horses were taking part, often in western- and arabian- style tack. Instead of the usual narrow-minded response to Icelandic saddles, bridle and gaits, the reaction was quite the opposite and people appeared to be genuinely interested in our horses.

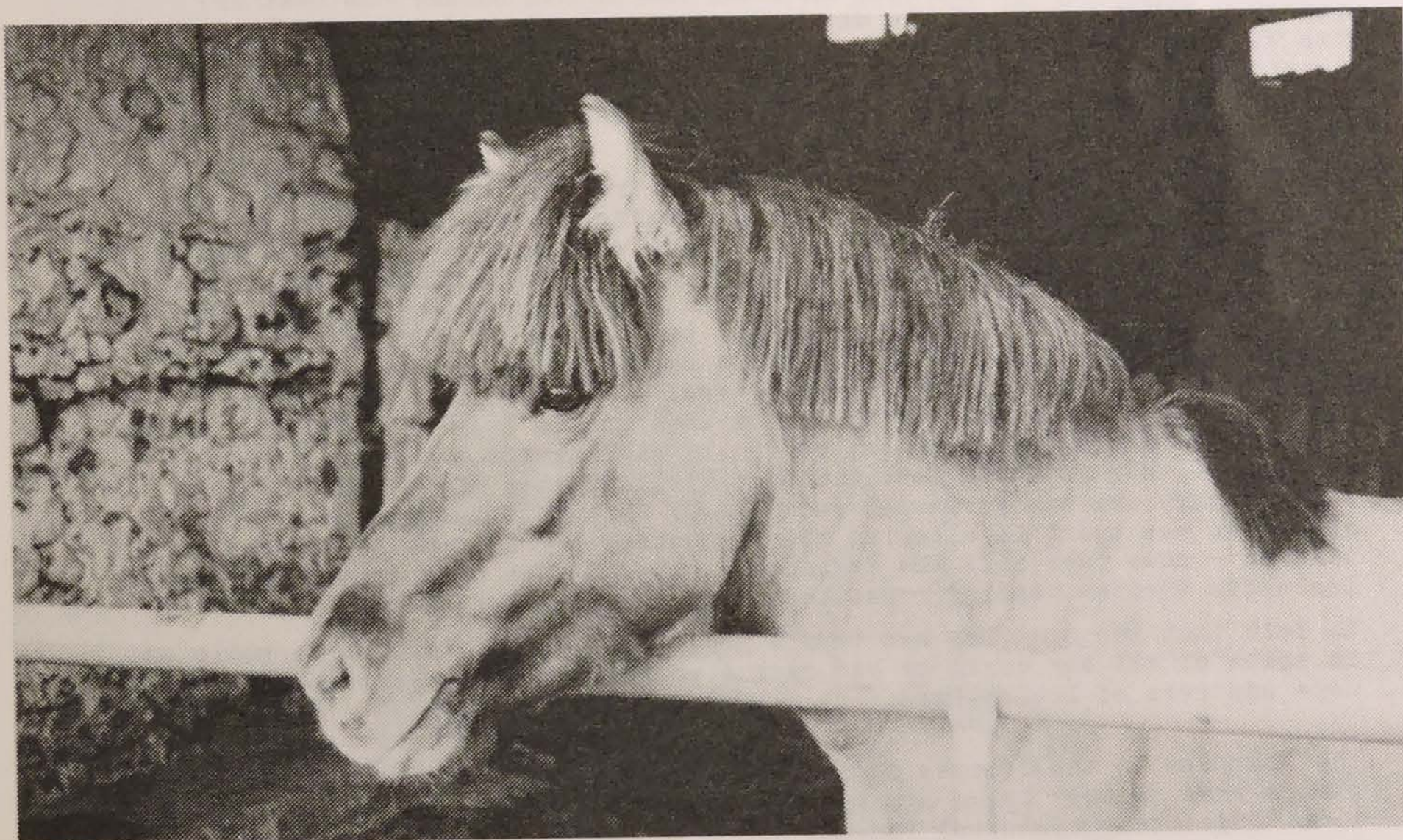
By the way, three of us competed from my locality, two of us on Icelandics and one on a Highland. The two Icelandics received Gold awards and the Highland a bronze - all three qualified for the Bronze thistle Qualifier - the Scottish equivalent of the English Bronze buckle.

Clive Phillips,
1991.

ICELANDIC STALLIONS AT STUD



SKUGGI FRÁ BAREKSSTÖÐUM New import from Iceland



INDAELL FROM RICKARTON

Horses also for sale from time to time

Contact: Clive Phillips
Westerton of Bogmeadly
Rickarton
Stonehaven AB3 ZDM

Tel. 0569 64166

Back in December I contacted Andrea Addison with a request that she might come over this Spring to give us a riding course. Andrea, as many of you know, is an English lady who has lived in Belgium for a number of years and is a member of the Icelandic Championship Team. She also trains both horses and riders.

Andrea proposed eventually, to give us three courses to run in March, April and May, especially to help those riders who wish to seriously improve their riding of the gaits in order to compete at the Championships in June.

When the weather took a sudden change for the worst, with snow and ice everywhere, the March course was cancelled owing to our inability to get our horses fit enough. It was disappointing, but instead, we decided to hold the Open Day that we had talked about since last year. It seemed a little early but, at the same time, in later months there is always so much going on in this area. So, we started to plan.

Whilst the snow was still thick upon the ground, Michelle contacted the local Newspaper who sent out a reporter to take pictures of her horses enjoying the weather. After they appeared in the paper people phoned to enquire about Icelandics and were later pleased to hear about our Open Day.

We placed adverts all around the neighbourhood, in tack rooms and shop windows, and Michelle placed an ad in the paper too, for a Sunday afternoon between two and five P.M. On the previous Saturday we had a little practice for a demonstration of six horses, getting drenched to the skin in the process, as the weather was appallingly wet! Fortunately, the actual Open Day had been arranged in the indoor school of a local riding establishment close to Michelle's home, just in case, but on the Sunday the weather remained dry for most of the day. At one end stands were set out on which two TV sets were placed, showing various videos. Others held information leaflets, free hand-outs, photographs, books and so on, and there were also two others for woolens and home made cakes. The latter, manned by Michelle's Mum, did very well, incidentally.

It was great to see so many of the members from the Southern region who came, not just to look, but to help. We really appreciated their presence. At the moment when we considered that there were enough spectators gathered, we mounted up and collected at the other end of the building - outside. There were six of us; Michelle on Sox, Nick on Brunka, Pauline on Fjola, Miriam on Odin, Ida on Dagur and Jackie on Aeg. We entered, one after the other and performed a simple demonstration around the school and followed it with a fourgait round. The surface was not ideal, being too soft and deep, but we did our best! Four riders then rode a beer tölt and beer trot. The latter riders created a bit of fun by calling for their long coats to protect them from the inevitable spills. All this was accompanied by a commentary and was very well received by the public. The rest of the afternoon was spent in allowing the spectators to ride any horse they fancied - some rode all! The funniest sight was that of a very large, tall Icelandic visitor tearing round the school on little Fjola.

We felt that our Open Day had been a great success and very worth while as, in spite of all our costs we had made a profit and above all had made some more admirers of Icelandics!

The response to the courses on offer has been excellent and all eight places were quickly taken up. We had sufficient horses too, for the first time. Augmenting the usual "Dorset Gang" we had Claire Grocott's Dagur, who is at present living at Pinecroft, and Ida Kraft's two mares, Prima and Islapho are very nice. Ida came all the way from Wells in Somerset, and kindly loaned one of the horses to a rider who does not yet own one. Mike and Maureen Edwards, who are eagerly awaiting their two mares from Iceland, took part on borrowed horses also.

It was remarkable how well Andrea assessed each 'pair' and she spent a lot

cont:-

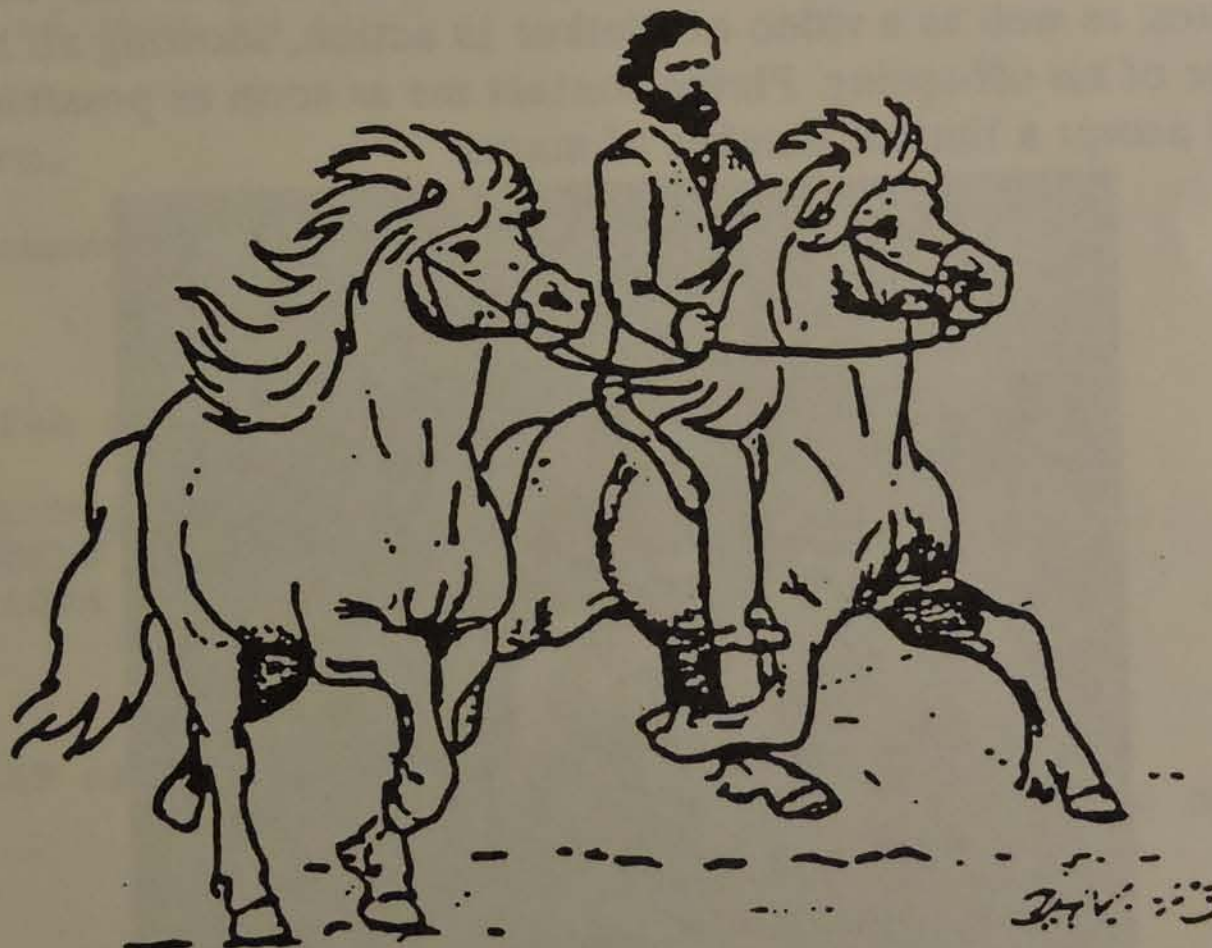
of time helping riders to understand their horses in order to get the best out of them. There was a very visible improvement after just one lesson! At the end of the weekend everyone's position in the saddle had altered and their legs had grown much longer!! All participants were enthusiastic about the whole weekend and very appreciative of the type of teaching that they had received from Andrea. It's a well-known fact that though a person may be a wonderful rider it is not everyone who can teach, especially when the pupils are at different levels of learning. Andrea seems to have that ability.

The next course will be held on the 17/19th May and is already fully booked.

The latest piece of publicity on our part has been a request from the Magazine Horse Trading to write some articles for them about Icelandics, with some photos to accompany them. These should begin in the next issue.

We are all very excited by the prospect of another stallion coming on loan from Holland in July, to Pinecroft. One of Michelle's mares, Menja, has just given birth to a filly foal, conceived in Belgium, and Grana is expecting any day. Another mare, Lötting, will arrive shortly from Holland, also in foal, so we shall soon have quite a nice number of Icelandics in Dorset. Things have certainly changed in the past three years!

J.E.



BLEIKUR FRA SKOGURHAGI

will be coming to Dorset for the 1991 season only.

This beautiful Dutch stallion is a large seven year old, light buckskin dun with black mane, eel-stripe and tail, good conformation and a very nice character. He has been used as a stallion for two years in Holland and has been highly judged both in Holland and Germany. In 1988 his overall marks, taken from points awarded for his conformation, character and ability under saddle, were 7.91, with 8.5 for tölt. His temperament is very good, and he should father easy-tölting horses with very good character and conformation. 4-gaited mares should produce 4- or 5-gaited offspring with a high-action, fast tölt. He will improve the trot and tölt in the progeny of 5-gaited mares.

Bleikur's father is Jarpur fra Sandholaferju 710, an Icelandic bred stallion who has many well-known progeny. Bleikur's dam is descended from Hvitingur fra Steinar 730, another very famous and prolific stallion.

Bleikur will be arriving in early July - rather late - but foals should be born in June 1992. This late covering date means that even mares which will be competing in the British Championships can be used for breeding this year. Mares will run loose with the stallion, which ensures maximum opportunity for covering. He will only be used for one season in Britain, so this is a unique opportunity to obtain foals from Bleikur's blood-line.

If you would be interested in using this stallion, please contact Michelle Foot (0202) 575659. We have copies of Bleikur's pedigree and judgement certificates, as well as a video of Bleikur in action, showing all his gaits and some of his off-spring. Please contact me as soon as possible, as we can only accept a limited number of mares.



F.E.I.F. SHOP

ITEMS FOR SALE

PRICE LIST

ARTICLE	MINIMUM ORDER	PRICE EACH Swiss Francs
FEIF Poster	20	12
FEIF book by Isenbugel/Jonsson 'Icelandic Horses, The Story of a Dream'	10	10
FEIF booklet 'Judging Icelandic Breeding Horses' by Marit Jonsson	10	10
FEIF booklet Standard for Icelandic Horses in German or English	10	5
FEIF booklet FIPO Rules for Icelandic Horse Events	10	5

The FEIF Newsletter is offered on subscription. It costs 20 Swiss Francs covering 4 issues per year.

Orders should be sent to :-

FEIF SHOP

Mrs H. Lienhard,
Mullerwis 4,
CH-8606 Greifensee,
Switzerland.

Subscription fee can be paid into the FEIF account :-

Kantonalbank Schwyz
CH-8840 EISI EDELN
nr. 202. 192-1004

Items from FEIF shop :- 50% is payable on order.
50% against invoice, payable in 30 days or COD.

AN UPDATE ON THE WORLD GAMES

There has been a change to the preliminary timetable published in the last issue of the newsletter. The changes have been made after consultation with FEIF's Sport Secretary and several riders. There have also been consultations with the Breeding Representatives of the FEIF who wish the breeding show to take place later in the week. The breeding horses are to be shown at the oval track and consequently the timing of the events must be very well planned.

The latest preliminary timetable looks like this :-

12 & 13th August	Gathering days.
14th August	Breeding Class Tolt Class T 1:1 qualifier. Dressage G2 qualifier
15th August	Breeding Class Tolt T1 qualifier Pace race P1 - heats 1 & 2.
16th August	Four gait V1 qualifier Pace test PP1 Tolt Class T 1:1 - Final. Official opening ceremony.
17th August	Five gait F1 qualifier. Breeding show. Kur Final. Pace race P1 - heats 3 & 4.
18th August	Finals Day plus breeding show Closing ceremony.

ACCOMMODATION.

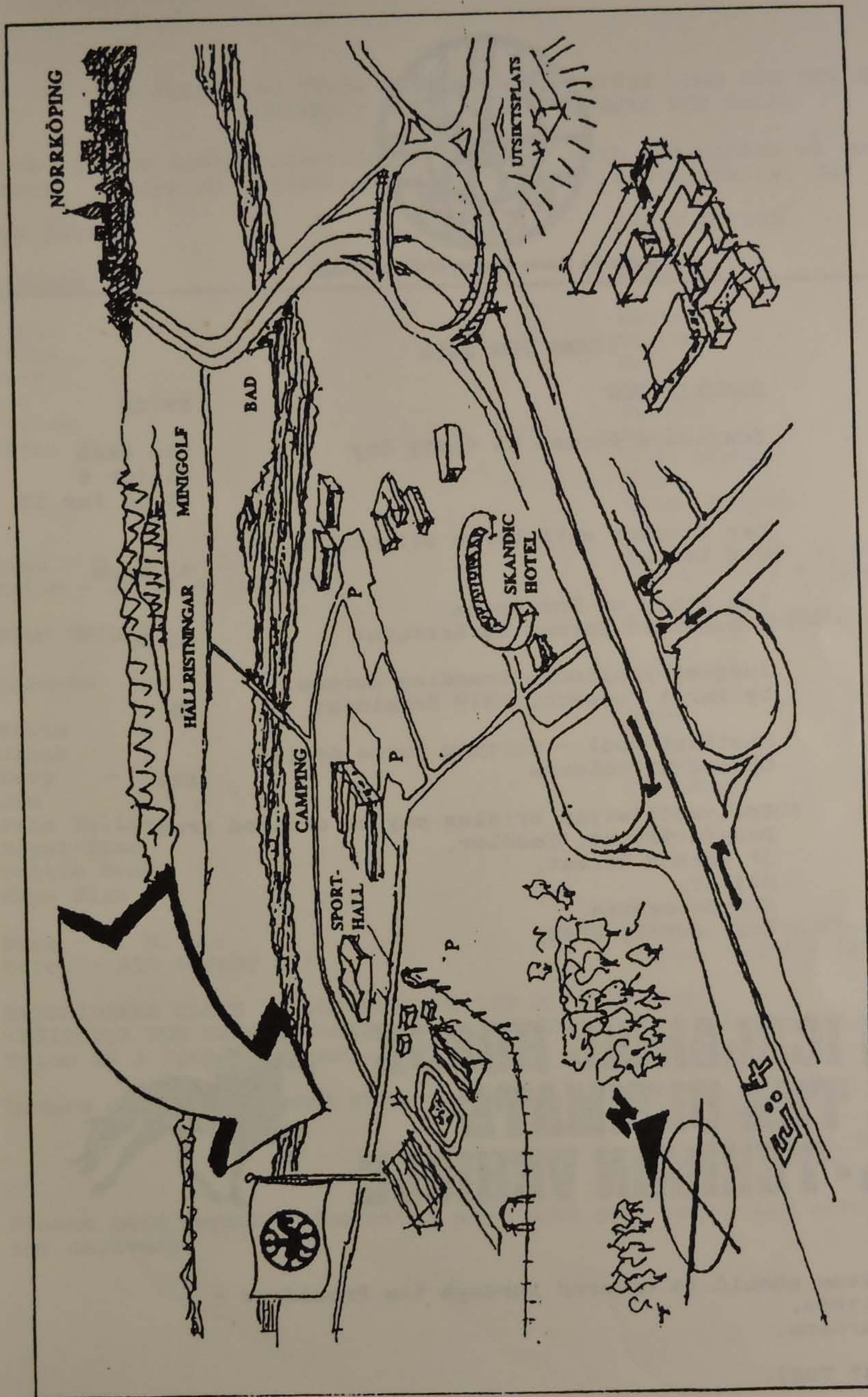
A registration form for accommodation is available from the Secretary, Mrs E. Thorburn or from Mrs Jennifer Greaves and Dr Lise Manniche. Accommodation is offered in hotels, schools, youth hostel, cottage or camping site. The closing date for registration is 15th June, 1991.

PR - PROJECT

All 30 local Swedish clubs are involved in promoting the World Games. Car stickers with the Games logo are for sale. They cost 10 SEK each. There are also T-shirts for sale - white with the Games logo.

Please apply to :-

SIF World Games Office, Box 167, S-448 01 Floda, Sweden.
Tel. 46(0)302 - 359 66.



COMPETITIONAREA FROM ABOVE!
 HÄLLRISTNINGAR = ROCK CARVINGS
 BAD = SWIMMING POOL
 UTSIKTSPLATS = PLACE OF VIEW



Icelandic Horse Society of Great Britain

ITEMS FOR SALE

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
Postcards	Icelandic Horses at Canty Bay	20p each £1 for 6 £1.50 for 10
Stickers	Car Sticker with horse silhouette See below.	£1 each
Booklet	The Story of Our Dream (Icelandic Horses in Britain)	£1.50
Booklet	Judging Icelandic Breeding Horses by Marit Jonsson, FEIF President	£5
Jerseys	Shetland wool - trotting horse design Choice of colours	£29
Saddlery	Icelandic style bridles may be ordered from :- Donald Wright, Saddler, 37 Gordon Street, HUNTLY, Aberdeenshire. Tel. Huntly 2782.	

**AN ICELANDIC HORSE
THE ULTIMATE
ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE**



All shop items should be ordered through the President -
Mrs Ruth Aitken,
15 Cluny Gardens,
EDINBURGH.
Tel. 031 447 7687.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS BEARING THE SOCIETY LOGO AND THE WORDS
'ICELANDIC HORSES' ARE OFFERED FOR SALE.

Each item is listed separately, together with the choice of colours and sizes. Colour of stitching for all items - Black, White, Red or Navy.

TEE SHIRTS

Colours

White
Black
Navy
Red
Yellow
Royal Blue

Size - S. M. L. XL.
Price - £8.00 + (p&p 60p)

POLO SHIRTS

Colours

White
Black
Navy
Red
Pale Yellow
Royal Blue
Bottle Green
Skye Blue

Size - S. M. L.
Price - £13 + (p&p £1)

EMBROIDERED CLOTH BADGES BEARING THE SOCIETY LOGO
(SUITABLE FOR SADDLE CLOTHS) - BLACK ON WHITE (Diameter 9cm).
Price £4 + (p&p 22p) each.

Orders should be placed with the Secretary, 12 Clare Court,
NORTH BERWICK
Tel. 0620 3391 (evenings)
062085 267 (day number)

Please send payment (including p&p) with your order and allow 6 weeks for delivery.

SWEAT SHIRTS

Colours

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Black
Navy
Red
Yellow
Royal Blue
Jade Green
Pink
Lilac/Purple

Size - S. M. L. XL.
Price - £13 + (p&p £1)

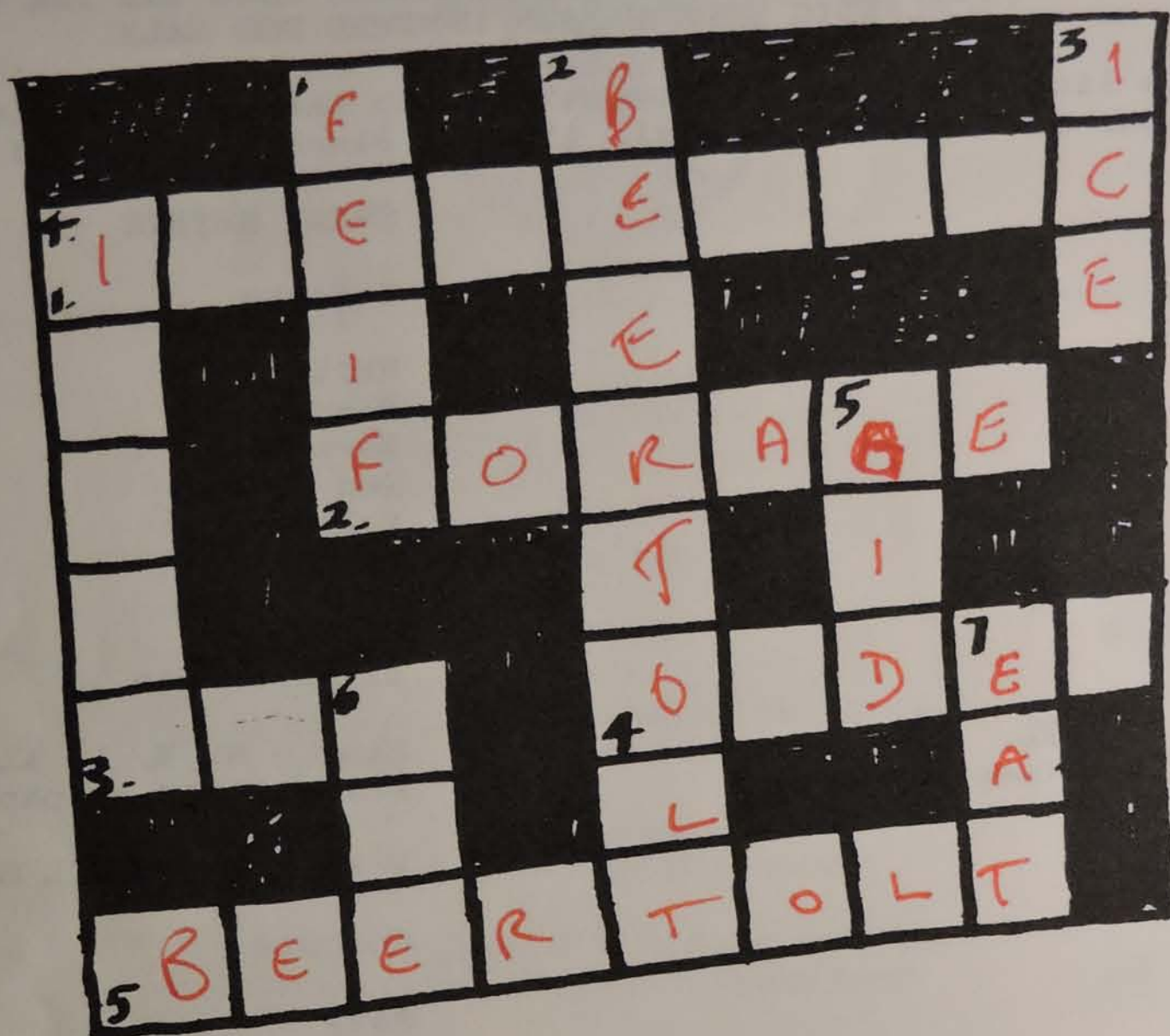
V-NECK LAMBSWOOL SWEATER

Colours

Navy
Red
Black
Lt. Grey
Bottle Green
Skye Blue

Size - Chest Size - 35 - 50
Price - £20 + (p&p £1.20)

*** CROSSWORD ***



CONFUSING CLUES

DOWN

- DOWN
1. club for those obsessed in Europe (4)
 2. Icelandic drunken competition; damn, lost (2)
 3. water transformed. Not much in June. (3)
 4. club for those obsessed in Britain (5)
 6. Dead heat, smart.
 5. Hearing apparatus (3)
 7. rams & does, oats, little lambs, ivy. (3)
- Hester.

ACROSS

1. nationality confused, clad in ice (9)
2. equine nosh (6)
3. part (3)
4. ladies perplexed, a Mrs E? (5)
5. smooth riding for thirsty Icelanders (4, 4)

* * * * *

STAR JOKE - Hee Hee!
Hee

* * * * *

Answer: Hester.

Food for Thought

Kipper Hors D'Oeuvres (Kippers forréttur)

*1 can King Oscar Kipper Snacks
1 tsp. lemon juice
8 thin slices unpeeled cucumber
8 thin slices party rye bread
1 tbsp. mayonnaise
1/2 tsp. onion juice
parsley or sliced stuffed olives
mayonnaise*

Mash kipper and blend with mayonnaise, lemon juice and onion juice. Drop in mounds over slices of unpeeled cucumber on thin slices of party rye bread, which has been lightly spread with mayonnaise. Garnish with sprigs of parsley or slices of stuffed olives. Serves 8 pers.

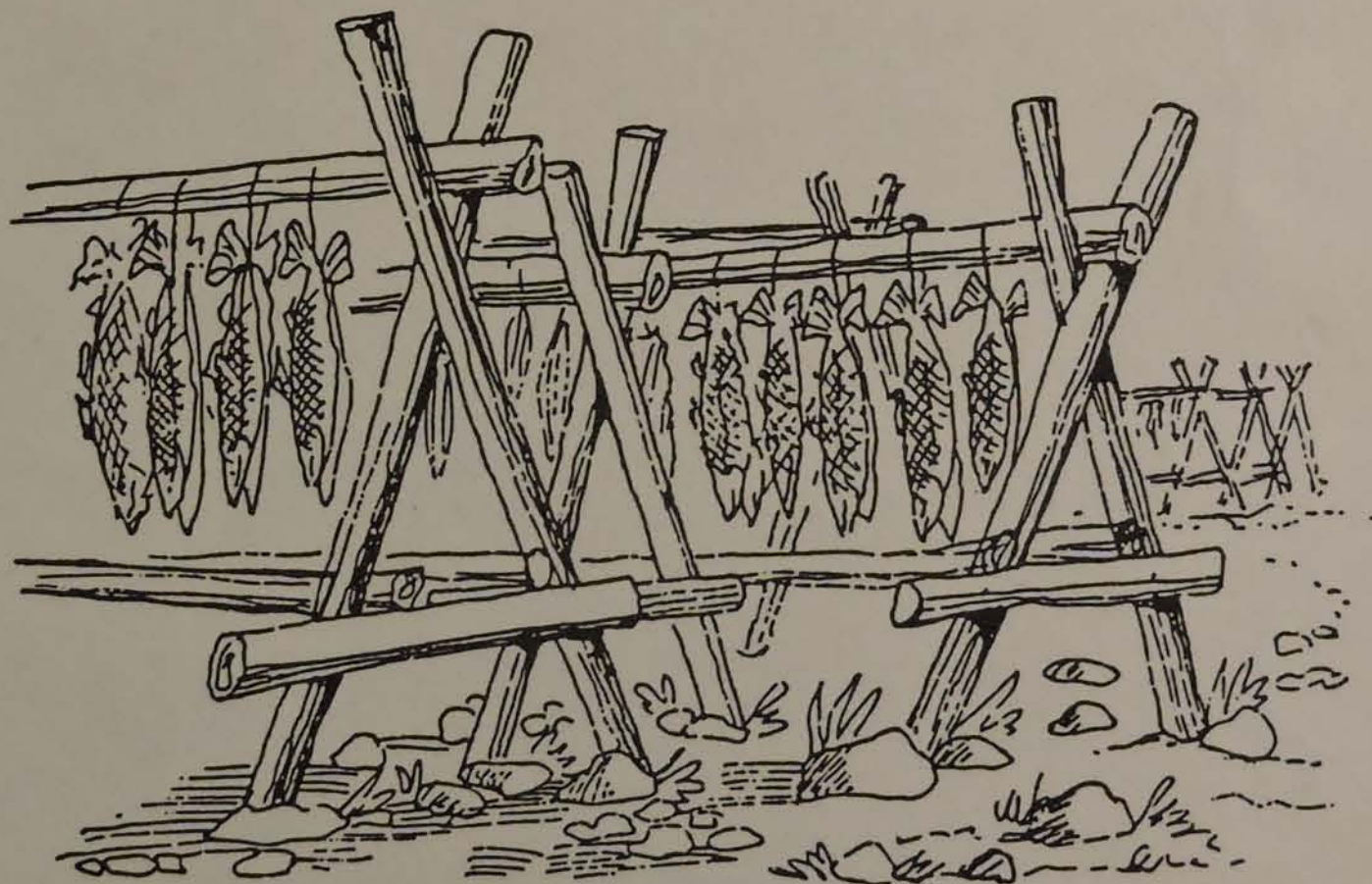
Kipper Spread or Dip (Kippers álegg eða ídýfa)

*1 can King Oscar Kipper Snacks
1 tsp. lemon juice
1 package cream cheese,
(3 ounces softened)
1/2 tsp. instant onion flakes
stuffed olives, optional*

Mash kippers and blend with cream cheese. Stir in lemon juice, onion flakes and mustard, mixing well.

Refrigerate until needed. Serve garnished with sliced stuffed olives.

To use as a dip, let stand at room temperature about 15 minutes.



I. H. S. G. B. Newsletter

21 Glenorchy Road

North Berwick.

East Lothian

EH39 4QD

SCOTLAND