

Icelandic Horse Society of Great Britain

Minutes of 2014 AGM

2014

Date: 15th November 2014. 13.30-17.15 hrs
Venue: Belwade Farm, Aboyne
Present: As per attached list (at Appendix A)
By Proxy: -"-
Apologies: -"-



2014-agm1 TH opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2013

These were accepted as a true record and signed proposed by **TR** & seconded by **HA** and voted through unanimously.

2014-agm2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising not taken under the Agenda. **TH** reported that, on the final page of the 2013 Minutes under Appendix D re. the development fund, unfortunately investments in CAF have been delayed due to endless bureaucracy and paperwork but the money is in our bank and set aside pending opening the fund and finally sorting out issues with Lloyds Bank. The latter included identified cheque fraud and the setting up of new accounts.

2014-agm3 Annual reports & accounts financial year ended 31/07/2014

With copies available at the AGM, the Annual Accounts and Trustee reports had been received back from the accountants after audit in late September and had been discussed and adopted by the Trustees at their F2F meeting on 4th October 2014. **FG** updated her section of the report by highlighting by reporting on the introduction of the new EU law on 11th Sept 2014. This legislated for changes in horse passports effective 01/12/16 with a central equine database being developed. Processes would be tightened up and she was already discussing some changes with her counterparts in other countries and FEIF. **JS** asked whether there was a cost involved? **FG** said should be Govt. funded and her discussions with peers suggest a degree of realism exists. **GS** asked whether passports need to be updated/revised but, **FG** said no as long as all old passports have now been updated with the page re. human consumption. The IHSGB had recently had a favourable audit re World Fengur and the work done for this puts us in a good place for the new law provisions. Our passports would continue to come from Iceland although some changes are required such as lamination of key pages. The **Chair** highlighted the fact that we had recently had a successful audit from DEFRA and thanked **Freija** for her hard work with the meeting giving her a round of applause. The formal audit report was still awaited.

JA highlighted the e-survey results to date – 86 responses so far and also thanked **JH** for all her work as newsletter editor, Janice too got a round of applause. Mo Hall would be taking over, she was

currently putting back copies on line. **JA** had also implemented Paypal facilities on line to allow members to pay their subs electronically - the meeting thanked **JA**. (**GS** had some hard copy international articles available to hand round. Also leaflets on the WCs).

TR asked about the breeding show: **FG & KC** said there would be a full write up in the newsletter – it had been a big learning curve but a there had been lot of interest and a great success.

TH said we presented the 1000th registered horse with a head collar at the Festival in the summer although numbers have now dropped again.

MA remarked, re Sport, that they had organised their first BC without the 'old team' so, again, it had been a steep learning curve but was deemed a success. The team/Society were trying to broaden the scope and involvement hence the festival and not just the sport/FIFO classes. To some extent this was achieved and will be built on. A review of the Terms of Reference for the sport team was ongoing, widening it to include all measured riding activities in the Icelandic world – km, hours, dressage etc – all to be encouraged, supported and included in their remit. The team were liaising with **JA** as to how can capture this information. **Jackie A** said this was really encouraging but could it include in hand activities etc? **MA** said they were trying to make as inclusive as possible with some in hand events now included in the Festival agenda. **JH** asked **MA** – as a 'slight devil's advocate' what was the purpose in broadening the agenda? **MA** said there had been a feeling that maybe the Society favoured 'oval track bashers' with other activities seen as fringe and not given the support – if all were to be under the same riding umbrella then the TREC and endurance ambassadors for example could be included in the 'new' Sport/Rider Team and the support network would then exist for all disciplines. To 'wire-into' these activities rather than leave as fringe. **MA** hoped that the sport team would expand so that no activity was felt to be peripheral. **JH** said she understood now and approved! **MA** said they had survived this year, learnt from it and had a great bunch of volunteers; they now had the challenge of next year. He was delighted that West Tarf was opened up for the festival in 2015 as it was a fabulous venue and the festival would carry on this theme of inclusiveness.

MA noted it was a qualifying year for the WC, so there would be focus on team selection but there was an intention to widen sport development to include all those that enjoy their sport riding and not to just concentrate on the 7 qualifiers. Again a more inclusive if challenging approach. There followed some feedback from **MA** as to how the Sport team and the Society were tackling the issue of non UK resident riders, but holding a British passport, being able to qualify for the British team through qualifying scores gained abroad. Taking advice and a steer from FEIF riders for the British team must be active participants in the IHSGB and their inclusion in the team and at the WCs must strengthen the Society and not just be an individual gain. There should not just be an open door to get on the British WC team, the WC's should be a motivator for British riding.

TH and MA gave a bit of background re this – 2 wildcards (out of 7 places) have traditionally been allocated to abroad qualifiers and/or riders who's horses are having an off day at the qualifying show(s). The team in future will be made up of active domiciled members. If we can't fill the team

on these criteria then we may open the door to other people who could qualify with a British passport. They need to be active and current members of the society when they both qualify and compete. Note: residency (3 years) also makes you eligible even if you are not a British passport holder.

MA said he was keen to get this right for the next time, the Society has the advantage that it can make and change rules relatively quickly – if Trustees feel this to be appropriate. The UK qualifying mark is low as it reflects that is where we are in the sport in the UK so that means easier access for those abroad who are in a different ‘pond’.

Re the accounts, the Chair informed the meeting the accounts had already been examined and signed off by the External Auditors. **DE** took the meeting through the headline figures and Appendix B gives the detail. In summary –

- The year had resulted in a surplus of £2,951
- At the 31st July there we had £14k cash in the bank (and c. £19k at today's date).
- The bottom line of the balance sheet ie: what the Society is worth, was £19.4k.

DE reported that, generally, the IHSGB was on a sound financial footing with a realistic asset base and a reserves policy to future proof the Society. Trustees had regular performance monitoring reports available to them (finance & membership) and 3 year rolling budgets now gave better opportunities to plan ahead.

- No further questions were forthcoming and the meeting was asked to adopt the accounts and annual report. Proposed by **JS** & seconded by **TG** the meeting unanimously adopted the 2013/14 final accounts and Annual Report. These were duly signed by the Trustees. **JS** remarked that he was encouraged by the financial position given the state of the Society's finances a few years back.
- The re-appointment of Bevan and Buckland as Independent Examiners to the Accounts was endorsed for 2014/15 proposed by **JH**, seconded by **FG** and voted through unanimously

2014-agm4 IHSGB Budget 2014/15 - 2017 including IHSGB subscriptions

- Budgets for the next three years were presented (Appendix C) by **DE**. By looking forward the IHSGB can plan ahead, save and vire funds for biennial events etc. The 2014/15 budgets include the c/f of the breeding show budget set aside in the last financial year but with the show deferred until September 2014.
- **TG** queried whether the breeding show/GK would be run every year? **FG** said this was aspired to but could not be afforded at the moment; it was currently biennial. **MA** said the two

worked well together as both assessed the horse – people enjoying their horses, showing it off to its best rather than worrying about competition, gait etc...All there agreed it was FUN!

- **AB** queried the frequency and the mode of publication given the costs of the newsletter. **JA** reminded the meeting about the ongoing survey to assess what members actually want/look for in Sleipnir but noted there is still a large tranche of people that want a paper copy. **JA** is also liaising with other printers etc to benchmark the costs although **GS** said if the printed numbers so much individual copy costs would go up. **JH** wished Mo all the best as future editor!

- Proposed by **FG** and seconded by **Jackie A** the 2013-17 rolling budget was unanimously adopted, as a month 0 /opening budget for the year. Note membership subs are maintained at existing levels for 2014/15.

2014-agm5 Belwade Farm : WHW Talk/Presentation

A fascinating talk was given by, our hosts for the day. **Lisa**, the Centre's promotions manager, gave us a brief history of the origin of the Sanctuary and their work. **TH** gave a vote of thanks and she received warm applause from the meeting.

2014-agm6 Endurance Achievement Awards

MA reported that none were known of but hopefully there will be uptake and results for 2015. **MA** would liaise with Julie Lennox and members to ensure everyone was aware of and participating in, if they wanted to, this scheme.

2014-agm7 Trustee Appointments

- The following Trustees are standing down at the AGM;
- Tim Hutchinson (Chairman)
- And in year, Jan Payne (Youth)

- The meeting nominated, proposed by FG and seconded by TR;
- Tim Hutchinson (Chairman)

Tim remarked that there had been no nominations received for youth but he had been covering the portfolio since Jan's resignation in year. **Given there were no contested posts a resolution was proposed THAT the meeting elects Tim to the role of Chairman.** No nominations had been received or tabled for the role of Youth Trustee.

The meeting passed this resolution unanimously and the election was duly made, the meeting giving TH a vote of thanks.

Freija Glansdorp had indicated her willingness to continue to include the studbook work within her role as Breeding Leader. The Board has approved this joint portfolio.

2014-agm8 A.O.B.

Gundula Sharman raised issues on Youth.

She reported that she is the youth director of FEF (at the international level). On 2 year cycle FEIF runs a youth cup and camp, however the UK is under-represented and she is keen to do more to encourage youth participation and support in Britain. Distance and other resources are an issue for the UK. With a tally of approx 10-20 youngsters involved in icelandics across the UK **Gundula** thought that more emphasis should be placed on using IT and also ensuring data capture of young member details. Also could we ask the membership as to who is riding their horses, member or not ie: enabling the communications strategy? The membership form records family details for new members. Also could we develop 4-6 educational packages per annum – a teaching resource run by Regions across the UK at the same time? We need continuous engagement, run online and at local venues without professional instructors. Uptake could then be reviewed, feedback collected and hotspots identified, with activities then developed to suit. KC and are GS liaising; **KC** reported that her educational team have started looking at this and that Germany are running a similar model. The team were hoping to introduce a system of riding badges, bronze through to gold for example. The plan is to have a lot more educational events going on for kids and for the happy hackers but it was early days yet in their work. There is a lot of material/resources already available internationally. Kirsty Carson is running a local club and using some Icelandic teaching resources already being translated into English. Care should be taken not to over complicate the system with too many different badge schemes etc. **Kirsty C.** reflected on her experiences as youth leader but stressed that uptake was poor with distance issues and competing agendas such as football etc, limiting participation. She felt there needed to be a Youth Trustee taking these things to youth (note: she was still administrator of the IHSGB Facebook page). There was a need to embed icelandics more in the pony club agendas and **Ruth Aitkin** mentioned there needs to be a centre where people who do not own a horse can access icelandics. There was a common misconception that icelandics cost more than a good pony club all rounder. The meeting noted that no-one was currently running the icicles club – **Kirsty C** said we need to ask/approach the young members as to what they wanted. The framework of the youth was there; Ice pops, Icicles and young riders with age group splits for competition. There was discussion about, before we get as far as organising the competitions and camps for the kids, the need to get more engagement at a very local level or by online participation. **AB** queried whether an annual camp would be attractive? But we have done this – **Kirsty** has organised a northern venue in the past but there was no one coming forward in the south to organise/take this forward. **JS** said we should think outside of the box, what about the non-member Icelandic owners – do they have family? We want to perpetuate the Icelandic horse so this an untapped pool of youngsters....**TH** reported that, in the past, enormous efforts have been made

in supporting the youth, but longer term we have retained very few of them as adult members. All agreed that a focus on the 45% Icelandic horse owners who are not members was important. **MA** highlighted the willingness of the younger generation to engage with Facebook so we need a youth champion working with Jem's team to develop and liaise on the content and initiatives. **Kirsty C** asked whether there should be a youth trustee who is themselves a young and active (18 is the minimum age limit)? All agreed this would be beneficial so there was an action on everyone to try and encourage a youngster to come forward and champion their own agenda. There was also demand for an Icelandic horse e/video game (**GS** said this was under development by FEIF). **MA** asked whether there could be a button on the website to take anyone interested re youth, capturing their details. **RA** asked whether a good flyer could be developed to send out to anyone involved with an Icelandic horse aimed at capturing details of more active youngsters. Free membership for youngsters was discussed as an option, the 'income loss' funded by the CAF fund, e-newsletters being available. **Action: Trustees to take forward ideas.**

Gundula said she had had the privilege of being invited to a US summer camp (but had to decline) and remarked that Denmark are also doing it. People attend/come with their horses and there would be a range of different activities, rides out, non-horsy activities etc. She thought the Lake District would be reasonably 'central' and said she would be happy to help organise. Jane Stone has also had a similar idea and is looking for participants. **GS** suggested we use Jane's event as a learning opportunity and springboard (and give it active support) but that the Society look to develop this as a Society organised/led event for the future. **Jackie A.** also remarked that Fi Pugh had organised a similar and successful summer camp in 2014. Articles and write ups are required for the magazine so that more people realise life is not oval track centred! **GS** said that the Society – trustees and members – need to find a way of supporting those that organise and participate – but the Society IS individuals so we all have to communicate and ensure that the Events Diary is populated and information is sent to the Newsletter editor. All agreed it would be good to use Jane's coming event as a bridge to the future and support Jane in 2015. **JH** remarked that Sleipnir does not have roving reporters – individuals need to send in information please! **AB** stressed there should be better links between the immediacy of information on the website and Facebook feeding into the newsletter and that the calendar of events should be re-introduced into Sleipnir. **Action: JA**

Kirsty C remarked that it must have been 9 years ago we had the Hestfest so 2015 is our 30th year as a Society; all agreed it would be a good thing to mark. **Action: Trustees**

Kirsty C highlighted the tolt on line initiative; there was a plea for the Society to promote it more, to chase uptake and results more and publish the feedback etc. Could the Society promote and report more? Everyone agreed it was a great initiative but maybe needed some more resourcing/support to develop to its full potential. **Action: Trustees**

GS is liaising with Holland re their online competitions who have taken one step further – an event is processed online but then there is a coming together of all participants going through the judging criteria together as a learning experience.

GS encouraged all of us to join the Ride to Herring; she was targeting 1000 riders and Britain was currently in the lead. The details are on the FB site and **(Action) JA** would replicate on the website.

KC updated the meeting on progress on the Calendar – the print run has been delayed as the company went bust but should be for sale within 2-3 weeks available via the website.

It was suggested Membership vouchers are sent to non- member Icelandic horses owners. All were encouraged to buy vouchers as Christmas presents.

2014-agm9 Date and venue of 2015 AGM

TH informed the meeting that historically we have moved the AGM round the country so more members can attend and have their say. But it is a business meeting so uptake/participation tends to be low. There is a cost to the Society for travel costs etc as Trustees have to attend. So is there an argument for the AGM being held at a venue where the cost to the Society is minimised? ie: at a site in the UK nearest to all the Trustees? The members were asked to consider this. Discussions and points from the floor noted/included: A welfare/charity is also going to cost less than a commercial venue. Can we incorporate the AGM into an event that members will want to attend, a weekend of activities? Is it purely a business meeting or a chance to interact with and learn from members? With the wider remit and membership in the teams reporting into the Board this perhaps minimised the need to get more 'bums on seat'. There was a steer towards focusing on the business meeting ensuring that the membership had had time to feed into the agenda and the business to be discussed. **MA** said it was 'an expensive bit of posturing' to say we are here, coming round the country but how do we ensure that Regions and individuals feel they are represented? **FG** suggested there should be more emphasis to make sure a Trustee is present and accessible at any event to talk to. But if you or a Trustee is attending an event as a competitor then your attention is elsewhere. **MA** said we are here because we feel we should be but it would be great if there was an event that everyone wanted to be at to which we could tag on a face to face with the membership. This does not have to be the AGM – a Trustees' forum. Timing of the AGM late October/November is not necessarily conducive to increasing attendance but we are restricted by the production of the audited accounts etc. **Action: Trustees to develop ideas re a Trustees Forum at an event during summer/early autumn and agreed to centralise future AGMs at a venue of least cost to the Society.**

The date was set at 14th November 2015, venue t.b.c.

TH closed the meeting, thanking all attendees and hoping to see everyone again next year.

Everyone gave a vote of thanks to each other and **KC** proposed a vote of thanks to the Trustees. The meeting closed with warm applause.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 17.15pm

Icelandic Horse Society of Great Britain Minutes of 2014 AGM

2014

Appendix A

IHSGB LTD					
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014					
15TH NOVEMBER 13.30 HRS					
Belwade Farm, Aberdeen					
ATTENDEES/APOLOGIES/PROXIES					
Name	Attending	Apologies	Proxy Given	Proxy awarded to	Comments
Heather Morrison		A			
Phil Butler		A	Y	to Kirsty Carson	
Nadene Butler		A	Y	to Kirsty Carson	
Debbie Ede	Y				
H Ashford	Y				
Tim Hutchinson	Y				
Janice Hutchinson	Y				
Freija Glansdorp	Y				
Torbyn Rees	Y				
Gundula Sharman	Y				
Jeremy Sharman	Y				
Diana Bricknell		A			"I do not have enough time available to travel to Scotland"
Sue Postans		A	Y	The Chairman	I'm very grateful to everyone who spends lots of time for the society [thank you one and all] and I adore quietly riding my old chap , Svalli , joint age 86 ! The odd tolt makes life all worth while .
James Joicey		A	Y	The Chairman	
Dorothy Thomas		A			
Margaret Longworth		A	Y	Tim Hutchinson	
Carola Puddy Henry		A	Y	Jem Adams/Chairman	
Mike & Pauline Edwards		A			
Melville & Laura Moss		A			
Rosemary Bridges		A	Y	The Chairman	
Mel Lewis	Y				
Rona Frame	Y				
Jackie Alexander	Y				
Jane Curley		A	Y	The Chairman	
jeremy & Sue Uff		A			Jeremy and I send our apologies, we are unable to attend due to a prior engagement. We are attending the Commonwealth Veterans Fencing Championship in Largs.
Kirtsy Carson	Y				
Cathleen Baldwin		A			Thanks for the AGM info, sorry I won't make it but I hope you have a good turnout. Thanks to all the trustees for all their hard work. Have a good meeting, and I hope the weather is kind to you in the frozen north!
Sir Richard George		A	Y	The Chairman	
Joan Beadle		A	Y	The Chairman	
Sylvia Best		A			
Jem Adams	Y				
Mike Adams	Y				
Kristina Christof	Y				
Ruth Aitkin	Y				
Ann Baillie	Y				
David Baillie	Y				

Appendix B

Headline figures 2013/14 financial year

	£
INCOME	14,954
EXPENDITURE	12,003
SURPLUS	2,951
BALANCE SHEET	
Unrestricted funds	12,907
Restricted Funds (youth)	132
Endowment Funds (youth CAF)	6,353
IHSGB NET ASSETS	19,392



IHSGB LTD AGM 2014

Headline figures 2013/14 financial year

Debtors (amount owed to us) (Gift aid £1,064)	1,098
Creditors (amount we owe) (includes £1k subs prepayments, festival & BC costs, accountancy & admin costs, sundry trade creditors)	2,334
Bank Balance	14,100



IHSGB LTD AGM 2014

Main Income Streams

Membership Subscriptions		6,932
Single	144	
Family	40	
Honorary	3	
	187	
Gift Aid (from 103 members)		1,064
Investment Income		
interest	151	
growth	230	
	381	
Sport (net)		128
Studbook (net)		959



IHSGB LTD AGM 2014

Main Expenditure Areas

Governance Costs (AGM, Accountancy, Trustees)	1,469
Publicity & Promotion (newsletter)	2,211
FEIF (net) Fees & Conference	1,749
Admin (incl web & data protection)	458
Insurance	936



IHSGB LTD AGM 2014