

**Icelandic Horse Society of Great Britain (IHSGB Ltd)**

**Trustees Report November 2009**

**AGM Edinburgh 28th November 2009**

## List of Reports:

- Chairman – Ian Pugh
- Sport – to follow
- Breeding – Tim Hutchinson
- Youth – Kirsty Carson
- Stud Book – Mike Edwards
- Editor / Press & Publicity – Laura Curran / Moira Wedel
- Leisure & Education – Gundula Sharman

## Chairman's Report

Welcome to this annual report on the activities of the Icelandic Horse Society of Great Britain. Other trustees have provided detailed reports on their activities. This report is intended to be a record of our general activities in the last year. In previous reports I have set out our aspirations for the coming year. However, this year I have decided to step out of the board to concentrate on other things. For next year someone else will have to step up to the role of chairman. I wish them well.

### The objectives of the IHSGB are:

To educate the public about the Icelandic horse and its origins, preservation and standards in accordance with the standards of FEIF (The Federation of Icelandic Horse Associations).

To improve general standards in the management, use and treatment of horses with particular reference to the special features of the Icelandic horse by the education of breeders, importers, owners, judges, veterinarians, trainers and members of the public.

I want to thank those who have contributed to the work of the society over the last year. We must all be grateful for the hard work that has been put in by my fellow trustees as well as everyone else who has assisted with the running of the society and its activities. The composition of the board for this year has been unchanged since the last AGM, with the exception of Laura Curran and Moira Wedel swapping roles. The role of Sleipnir Editor requires a significant commitment in order to produce a quality newsletter on-time every two months. Special thanks to Moira for her work. Moira is staying on the board working on improving our communications with members and the public.

During the year, we have held trustees meetings at the Thistle Hotel near Heathrow Airport, and at Quality Hotel, Edinburgh, where we discussed the issues facing the Society. Additionally, we have been in frequent contact using email, as well as holding teleconferences, when required.

At a previous AGM, the board was asked to report on trustees' attendance at board meetings. The table below sets out this information:

Trustee		17.01.09	04.04.09	19.09.09
Ian Pugh	Chairman	Y	Y	Y
Mike Edwards	Studbook	Y	Y	Y
Tim Hutchison	Breeding	Y	N	Y
Iris Ashman	Sport	Y	N	Y
Kirsty Carson	Youth	N	Y	Y
Gundula Sharman	Educ & Leis	Y	N	Y
Laura Curran	Communication	N	Y	N
Moira Wedel	Communication	N	Y	Y
Janet Fentiman	Treasurer	N	N	N
Elaine Rannie	Secretary *	N	Y	Y

\* not a trustee role

This year we have been conscious of budget limitations, and have tried to save money by reducing the number of meetings, and also not sending representations to the FEIF Conference, except those of us attending in a FEIF capacity. This has meant we are able to report an excess of income over expenditure. However, it has not really solved the problem for future years, and we have been working on a new budget for the coming year.

Once again, thank you for your support over the last year. The IHSGB is a successful organisation, which can continue to achieve its objectives. All it needs is your continued support.

**Best Wishes**

**Ian Pugh, Chairman, November 2009**

## **Sport Team Report**

To follow

## **Breeding Report**

Although we had a mixed year of highs and lows I can report another success for British Icelandic horse breeding. The low was the cancellation of our planned training assessment as there were insufficient members who expressed an interest to support/attend the event. However, two of our horses were assessed abroad, one in Sweden and one in Germany.

The high point is that we now have our first British bred 1<sup>st</sup> Prize mare. Svala from Witchampton GB2002271001 joins the only other British bred horse, Flytir from Siamber Wen GB1998100533, at 1<sup>st</sup> prize.

Both these horses have represented Britain at the Breeding World Championships, Flytir in 2003 and Svala this year. To mark this huge step I hope to be presenting a perpetual trophy for the Best British Bred mare and to the Best British Bred stallion at the AGM. The award will be held by the respective breeders until another British Bred horse has bettered their overall totals at a FIZO International Breeding Show.

Owing to the Society's very limited funds I decided I could not justify attendance at the annual FEIF conference in Hamburg this year but I hope I can attend the next conference to be held in Denmark early next year. I feel that it is very important for our organisation to maintain our contacts within FEIF.

Talking of funds, we have raised some here at Midfield to help towards the costs of the Breeding Assessments. Our Dressage events, organised by Anne Davies, raised some excess funds and our Northern Show last year also added to society coffers. Anne Davies has also organised an excellent equine quiz that is raising funds for the Breeding Fund and the Youth Fund. In the absence of financial support through recruiting new members such fund raising initiatives are extremely welcome.

We are planning to hold another FIZO International Breeding Show next year. Arrangements are well in hand. As the majority of interest has come from the North, the assessment will probably be held in the North of the country. If any members are considering having their horses assessed please let me know. The dates will be 10/11 July. For next year I have invited breeding judges from Iceland and Germany. I hope to be able to confirm the date, venue and the judges' names at the AGM.

Even if you do not wish to have your own horse assessed the weekend will be very informative so do come along and watch.

**Tim Hutchinson**  
**Breeding Leader**  
**November 2009**

## **Youth Report**

### **IHSGB Youth Training Scheme**

This Autumn saw the kick start of the new look Youth Training Scheme. Two groups are established, one in the North and one in the South. The North group are now meeting monthly, with a variety of teachers from local riding instructors to visiting Icelandic trainers.

### **FEIF Youth Camp 2009**

Sadly there were no youth riders attending the FEIF International Youth Camp in America.

### **2009 BC's**

This year saw too few youth entries for separate youth classes, however, there were still some fine individual performances from youth riders in FIPO classes, Intermediate and Elementary.

### **IHSGB Summer Camp**

Given the difficulties and costs involved in travelling to America for the FEIF Camp, we held a small summer camp in Etal for our youth riders. This was well attended with 8 youth riders participating in the camp. The camp proved to be fun for all involved!

### **World Championships 2009**

GB sent one 'young rider' to the WC's this year, Laura Moss-Bromage. Laura proved again to be a valuable member of the team and a worthy young rider at the championships.

### **Looking Forward to 2010**

Now that the youth training scheme is up and running again, we hope to establish many youth activities in the calendar for the forthcoming year. There is now a core of young and enthusiastic riders for the future.

2010 will see the FEIF Youth Cup being held in Denmark and my thoughts are turning to team selection for this event – for which we hope to field a strong young team.

As I introduce more 'youth rider only' events, I am beginning to introduce more young riders to the breed, with positive effects.

The youth riders are slowly starting to swell in numbers and become more active in their passion for Icelandic horses, training and Icelandic sports competition.

**Kirsty Carson**  
**Youth Leader**  
**November 2009**

## Studbook Annual Report

There are currently 901 live horses registered with IHSGB and located in the UK. This compares to 877 last year. In addition IHSGB is also holding the registration of 27 horses in Ireland, Spain, and Germany; thus the total number of horses registered with IHSGB is 928.

In June 2009, the Scottish Icelandic Horse Association (SIHA) advised that it was to be wound up and requested IHSGB to take over the management of its passports. IHSGB agreed to this request, which took effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009. The two studbooks have not yet been assimilated so a definite number is not yet available. It is believed, however that there are only around 25 horses in the SIHA studbook that were not previously known. The total population of Icelandic's in the UK is therefore around 926.

Looking back at previous years, the number of horses in the UK has grown from 129 in 1991 to 584 in 2001 to today's 926 total. The long term growth is a very consistent at around 5%. This has flattened this year mainly due to the export of one herd consisting of 24 horses.

In terms of country of birth, the population of horses consists of the following:

Great Britain	497	(55.2%)
Iceland	317	(35.2%)
Germany	34	( 3.8%)
Denmark	18	( 2.0%)
Netherlands	16	( 1.8%)
Ireland	11	( 1.2%)
Others	8	( 0.9%)

The number of foals born to IHSGB members and the number of stallions used remains static.

2007 – 36	15 different stallions used
2008 – 31	12 different stallions used
2009 – 32	tbc 12 different stallions used

### Studbook Activity:

It is clear that the recession has had an impact of horse movements. In the rolling year October 2008-September 2009, the studbook office has completed the following work (2007/08 in brackets)

Registration + passport	27	(40)
Transfer of Ownership	53	(71)
Registration of Imports	27	(23)
Death of Horses	13	(18)
Export of horses	24	( 3)

**Total Studbook Activity      144      (155)**

The registration + passport fee was increased last year from £30 to £35. There is no increase in the standard fee proposed this year. The trustees did however agree last year to signal encouragement to breed from judged horses and introduce the idea of a breed standard. As a result the fees for foals born in 2009 and 2010 will be based on the Breeding assessment of its parents and will vary between £25 and £45.

Transfer of ownership and registration of horses already in possession of a passport will remain at £15. Non-members of IHSGB pay an addition premium.

A new EU Directive was enacted by the UK government on 5<sup>th</sup> July. This principally puts more onus on the Society to check the identity of horses and imposes very tight time-scales on dealing with passports and transfers of ownership. There are also changes to the content of the passport. This has caused a short break in our ability to issue passports as we work with our partners to gain assurance that our new passports will be in compliance with the EU Directive.

The major task over the next few months will be to integrate the SIHA studbook into the IHSGB studbook. Horse owners with horses registered with SIHA are being contacted to confirm the current status of their horses and to give assurance that their passports remain valid and no immediate action is required.

**Mike Edwards**  
**Studbook Director**  
**October 2009**

## **Press & Publicity Report**

I took on the role of Editor this year and would like to say a huge thank you to Moira Wedel for her excellent handover. So far I have produced three issues of Sleipnir and I'm happy to say I'm getting quicker each time!

Editing a breed magazine can be a tricky task as you frequently have to chase people for contributions, but I am happy to say this has not been the case so far. Indeed, I have even been able to start to 'bank' interesting articles as I have had no trouble filling the issues so far.

Thanks go to the Trustees who unfailingly produce their reports on time, in the right format, and with general good humour. Thanks also to our members who write to tell us of their activities with their horses, adding the lighter touch which helps make the magazine a good read.

But don't get complacent – producing a decent issue of Sleipnir depends entirely upon YOU. Send in photos and articles, let us all know what you are up to and what you are interested in.

On the press and publicity side, I concentrated the small budget we have on one major exhibition, our stand at the Horse of the Year Show. Once again there was a great deal of interest in the breed. The decision to use a large television showing video/DVD of World Championships was proved right – it really stops people in their tracks. I was assisted every day by a number of members who came to talk to the crowds about the Icelandic Horse, and I must say their passion shone through. I was proud too of gorgeous Skjor who took the whole thing in his stride, enjoyed the attention and grabbed the spotlight at every opportunity.

I am part of the Communications Group set up within the Trustee framework and this is working well, giving us an advantage of shared knowledge and experience across our individual areas.

**Laura Curran**  
**November 2009**

## Leisure Riding and Education Report

As the trustee for leisure and education it is my job to represent your wishes and ideas to the board. So please let me know what type of events you would like to see, hear about, or organise. At the same time, I will suggest and support events and happenings that have worked, or are likely to work. The ideas, suggestions below are all examples of successful events that were organised by IHSGB members in various places.

### Structure

Over the last year or two, a number of regional clubs were formed (I am aware of 4, but there might be more). Some have a very definite structure, a constitution, a committee and a bank account, others operate on a more informal basis. But experience shows that where there is some form of structure, we have areas of growth and things are happening.

To date these clubs are not affiliated with IHSGB in any form, and working out the details of the level of cooperation and mutual benefit is something we need to focus on this coming year. If you are interested in a possible model, take a look at the US site

<http://www.icelandics.org/regional.php#designation>

### Suggestions for possible events in your local area

Most of below are described in greater detail in the How to...? leaflets. In addition, I am happy to offer support and feedback on these or any other ideas and initiatives.

**Day tours and longer rides** – are you aware of the *BHS imagine* project, mapping riding routes throughout the UK? Take a look at your regional BHS website. In Scotland, where the legislation is different, a lot of work is done by local access groups (e.g. [www.meag.org.uk/](http://www.meag.org.uk/)). For the more ambitious group, another great resource is the B&B site for horse and rider: [www.horseswelcome.org](http://www.horseswelcome.org)

→ Earlier this year, a group of 11 riders and horses rode the Dava Way, a 2 –day ride through the Scottish Highlands. Once you have found a tried and tested route and a field for the horses to overnight in, this is relatively easy to organise.

**Clinics** – in addition to the traditional 2-day clinics, often with an instructor from abroad.

→ Complementing this, we ran a series of 5 one-day clinics last winter with a local instructor interested in Icehorses. It was very easy to organise, far less effort than a 2-day clinic, mainly because the event was really 'local', and based at the school where the instructor works regularly. In addition it provided a continuous programme for the winter.

**Displays** – once you get started, you will find that you will be asked back again. It is a good idea (but not always that easy to organise) to maintain a regular slot for practice sessions throughout the year (or the season).

→ We were surprised how much the horses enjoyed working together, and our riding too, got a lot more precise. Drill riding involves a steep learning curve and provides a lot of pleasure for horses and riders alike.

**Have a go-shows** – in Aberdeenshire, we are about to resurrect the Have a go–show model, as a precursor to entering a sports competition. Basically, you first ride a test with proper feedback from a qualified sports judge, and then do the same thing again under real competition rules and conditions.

**Performance awards**

The Performance Award scheme continues to operate as in previous year. Again, it is my experience that those riders who participate in this take great pride in their horsemanship and gain real pleasure from recording their activities and achievements.

**How to...? Leaflets**

IHSGB has published a number of leaflets about a range of activities. A number of these will be launched in a new format at the AGM.

**Gundula Sharman,  
November 2009**