

Icelandic Horse Society of Great Britain (IHSGB Ltd) Trustees Reports 2006/07

Chairman's Report – November 2007

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, and sets out aspirations for the coming year. Our objectives have been to promote the use of the Icelandic Horse, to secure the breed's purity and integrity, to further the welfare of Icelandic Horses and to help all of our members get the most out of their horses through the provision of information and services to members.

Firstly, 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. In particular, I would like to thank Tricia Barber who is stepping down as a trustee. Tricia's enthusiasm and enjoyment of her horses are always an inspiration. Once again, I think it is worth making the point that just because people are doing a good job, does not mean that they would not appreciate the opportunity to share the burden. New volunteers are always welcome.

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

Meeting Dates	16/11/2006	13/01/2007	24/03/2007	31/05/2007	05/07/2007	29/09/2007
Trustees	√	√	√	√	√	√
Heather Dunn	√	√	√	√	√	√
Ian Pugh	√	√	√	√	√	√
Mike Edwards	√	√	√	√	√	√
John Freeman	√	√	√	x	√	√
Mic Rushen	√	√	x	√	√	x
Julia Reeves	√	√	√	√	√	x
Tricia Barber	√	√	√	x	√	√
Gundula Sharman	√	√	√	√	x	√
Janet Fentiman	x	√	x	√	√	√
Mike Adams	√	x	√	√	√	√
Moira Weddell	x	x	√	x	√	√
John Jessop	x	x	√	√	√	√
Harriet Fear Davies	x	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

During the year, we have held all of our trustees meetings at the Thistle Hotel near Heathrow Airport, where we discussed the issues facing the Society. This venue has been chosen as our regular meeting place, because it allows virtually all the trustees to get home and back in a single day. This gives us more flexibility in arranging meetings, and is the most cost effective for the Society. Additionally, we have been in frequent contact using email, as well as holding teleconferences, when required.

In February 2007, the FEIF Conference was held in Glasgow. We were pleased to act as hosts to delegates from almost all of the eighteen FEIF countries. At this event, I attended the FEIF Chairman's Meeting and the Delegates Assembly. Our membership of FEIF is our portal to a plethora of friends around the world, who are willing to pass on their knowledge of and enthusiasm for the Icelandic Horse. We must continue to take advantage of this generosity to help us improve all aspects of our knowledge and skill.

New legislation implemented by the Scottish Parliament means that charities registered in England and Wales with the Charity Commission must now also register with Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) if they operate in Scotland. IHSGB falls into this category, hence we have submitted an application form, and have been advised that we need to amend our constitution to comply with the legislation. It is planned to put a Special Resolution to the AGM to implement these changes. It is not anticipated that these changes will have any effect on our activities.

In January, the IHSGB board became aware that the Scottish Icelandic Horse Association (SIHA) was planning to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting to discuss its future. The IHSGB trustees wrote to the meeting with an offer of help. We did not have anything particular in mind, but we are aware that many of our members in Scotland are also members of SIHA. In June, I visited Aberdeen, and held an informal meeting with Iona MacPhee, the SIHA Chair. We discussed the possibilities for a bringing together of the two organisations. Subsequently, there have been several exchanges of letters and emails. At the IHSGB board meeting in September 2007, it was decided that we should report progress on this work to the AGM before taking any further action. We will discuss this as an agenda item at the AGM. The SIHA will be holding its own AGM on the weekend before the IHSGB AGM, I imagine that quite a few of our Scottish members will be attending. I think it is worth outlining my own personal view. If people want a Scottish association for those interested in Icelandic horses then that is a matter for them. The IHSGB is an organisation for the whole of Great Britain until its members decide otherwise. If SIHA members wish to merge with IHSGB then I will try to facilitate that wish. Various negotiating points have been raised. Some of them are things that the IHSGB board feels are not possible to achieve for various reasons. I feel that the simplest and fastest option for bringing the SIHA into the IHSGB is to start a local club structure for Great Britain, and include the SIHA local clubs in that structure. I feel that this is an ideal solution to enable those SIHA members who desire a Scottish focus for their activities to have this through a network of clubs.. Transition arrangements will also have to be made to register any SIHA horses that are not already in the IHSGB studbook.

I have suggested above that we should create a local branch structure throughout Britain. I think that this is the way forward for increasing participation at a local level. We already have some groups that have organised activities for themselves. However, we need to keep pushing this forward. As part of this activity we have been working on putting in place arrangements to enable training courses to be organised as IHSGB events. So far we have changed the Society's insurance cover, and we are working on some guidelines.

Fundraising is an important activity for us. There have been some substantial achievements, especially in gaining sponsors on the youth side. Well done, Julia. We need to keep this up. Next, we need to find support for some of our other activities. Icelandair have provided support in the form of air tickets. Hopefully, this will continue next year. Recently, there has been talk about creating a sport training squad. This will need substantial funds.

As I have said before, my view for the future is that we must continue to increase participation. Recruiting new members will give us the resources to create more opportunities for members to get together and achieve more with their horses. More members will mean that more events can be run. More members will give us the ability to attract funding to promote the Icelandic Horse to a wider audience. More members will enable us to afford better facilities to support training courses for riders, judges, and other officials. One area where I feel we should try to do more is education. I am sure that there is more that we can all learn about our horses. I will continue to encourage sport and breeding seminars. In particular, I think that there are opportunities to hold events in the winter probably without horses.

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
IHSGB Ltd
27 October 2007

Studbook Annual Report 2007 – Mike Edwards

There are currently 834 live horses registered with IHSGB and located in the UK. This compares to 687 last year. Horses registered with SIHA and registered with IHSGB during the year account for 87 of this 147 increase. It is believed that there are only around 60 horses in the UK not registered with IHSGB. The total population of UK is therefore around 890. IHSGB is also holding the registration of 28 horses in Ireland, Spain and New Zealand, where there is no FEIF organisation.

Looking back at previous years, the number of horses in the UK has grown from 129 in 1991 to 519 in 2000 to today's 890 total.

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

Great Britain	446	(53%)
Iceland	308	(37%)
Germany	31	(4%)
Denmark	21	(2.5%)
Others	28	(3.5%)

The number of foals born to IHSGB members has increased a little.

2005 – 23

2006 – 30

2007 – 34 to be confirmed. 15 different stallions were used.

Studbook Activity:

In the rolling year October 2006-September 2007, the studbook office has completed the following work.

Foal registration + passport	27	
Passports for older horses	24	
Registration of SIHA horses	87	
Transfer of Ownership	59	
Registration of Imports	38	
Death of Horses	11	
Export of horses	10	
Total	256	(each activity require approximately 7 actions)

Since June 2007 passports have been printed in Iceland on behalf of IHSGB.

This has been very successful with a turn-round time of one week. This has helped in reducing some of the workload. It does however cost considerably more and therefore the surplus received from Registration activities will be significantly reduced. There is no proposal to increase the current fees this year, which shall remain at £30 for registration including a passport and £10 for imports and transfer of ownership.

It is a FEIF goal to make WorldFengur the only Icelandic data system by 2012. In order to accomplish this, each WorldFengur entry is being scrutinised and breeder and owner data is being entered. At present Owners surnames A-H are complete, with the rest planned for completion by the end of 2008.

At the 2007 FEIF Delegates meeting Mike was elected Chairman of the FEIF Registration Group.

Mike Edwards, Studbook Director, October 2007

Sport Report 2007 – Mike Adams

This has been another year of increased activity in Sport riding. The competitions, courses and meetings have all been fully reported in the Newsletter and our thanks go out to all those who took the time, risk and initiative to host and organise these events.

The main focus of the Sport Group this year was the World Championships. The group revised all the procedures for the selection of the team, the workings of the Selection Board. These too have all been published and I am grateful to report that the rule changes, albeit slightly modified, were adopted by the Trustees.

A review of the processes showed that they worked well and will be the basis for future selection at the next WC (2009)

We sent a full sport team of seven combinations plus our first young rider to a very well organised World Championships in Holland. We are grateful to all those who helped us to get there and to Sharon and Julia for handling the details when we got there. We learned a lot as a group of riders competing at this level and this experience will help us prepare better for the next one. The basic issues which were the subject of a post WC questionnaire followed by a discussion at the recent sport riders' meeting, were on the early appointment of a WC leadership team and the creation of a British Team "squad" that would train over a longer period with a coach/trainer.

The British Championships held at West Tarf were the best ever and we owe a debt of gratitude to our hosts for their generous professionalism and to Fi Pugh and her team for their commitment to making this the smoothest running BC ever, a great event to compete at with the highest level of entries we have ever had.

This show embraced the FEIF welfare checks (oral examinations after each class) and had stringent passport and vaccination checks.

A sport riders meeting was held on 20th October at Wolverhampton and set out goals to help increase the number of future sport events by training and resourcing more people to organise competitions. A process for the training of sport judges was discussed and will be put to the Trustees for approval. The British Championships next year will be held in early August to fit in with school holidays north and south of the border.

Mike Adams
Sport Leader

Trustee report: John Freeman

Following discussions after the 2006 AGM it became apparent that the education portfolio would be better served by Gundula Sharman who subsequently took over the role leaving myself available to support Gundula, or any other trustee, and to also look at any other areas which may benefit the society. Since then some work has been carried out on a series of educational leaflets and more work on this will take place over the winter of 2007/8.

A key area for the future direction of the IHSGB will be the new mission and principles from FEIF. To achieve its new aims FEIF is producing a plan which will require some action by the individual countries as well as FEIF itself. The first draft of the FEIF action plan was made available in February 2007 but it did not progress as quickly as expected and is unlikely to be available until the next FEIF Delegates assembly and conference in February 2008. However, we decided to press ahead with an IHSGB action plan. The first draft of this has been completed and circulated amongst the individual trustees responsible for the various areas. A second draft will be completed before the AGM. Following this we hope to publish the action plan in the early new year even though it is expected to be updated to align itself with FEIF actions in the Spring.

If any member has an ideas on what they would like to see the society do in the future they are welcome to pass those comments to me on the email address below.

John Freeman, IHSGB trustee, jtafreeman@hotmail.com

Promotion and Publicity Report – John Jessop

Following my election to the board of trustees in a joint capacity with Harriet I was surprised to find that shortly afterwards Harriet took the decision (understandably in view of the tremendous amount of work involved in a law course) that she could not continue to operate as a trustee and resigned.

I also found that Doris who had preceded me in the capacity of promotion and publicising the breed was a very hard act to follow, having been the driving force behind the HOYS exhibition. I can only say that we as a society owe Doris a great debt of gratitude.

Putting the past behind us I have endeavoured to encourage and assist our members to create a wider awareness of our breed amongst the British public through being seen either “out and about” or at shows where we are able to capture the attention of an audience. An old adage says “there is no such thing as bad publicity” – I am not sure that this is entirely accurate as we should be showing potential future members the good parts of owning and riding an Icelandic horse and not be represented as “strange” in some way. A draft of a show routine for Icelandic horses to be used at town or county shows has been circulated and tried out. Feedback is being considered and modifications may be necessary to produce a final work. It would be almost impossible to have produced a perfect work to suit all occasions as a first draft! Thanks to the authors and to anyone who has given feedback so far. Unfortunately influences outside our control have resulted in some of this years shows being cancelled which has severely restricted the benefits and publicity which might have accrued. It may well be that we need to have have a series of outlines which individuals can use depending on the size of the available ring or arena at the various show grounds around the country.

My interpretation of our breeds good parts is that we have horses which have talents and additional gaits but which are in the main well-behaved, responsive, obedient, fit and forward going but with brakes when required. It will do us no good at all for the public to

see horses which are almost in a state of panic being ridden around with scant regard to other riders convenience or with bits and bridles which the rest of the horse world will consider as “severe” when part of what we are saying to them is that our horses have obedience bred into them. To this end I strongly suggest that we include elementary dressage and flatwork exercises in our training routines. A schooled and trained horse is in the main a responsive horse and requires much less effort to obtain a desired result than one which has only ever been told to go without much teaching to whoa or being introduced to the concept of yielding to the leg.

I have said in previous written efforts during the year that it is my aim for us to be able to field a team of riders who can give a ridden demonstration of the horses in a similar manner to the show which the “expert” riders gave at HOYS. This may sound ambitious but we should bear in mind that the team only met up some hours before the show opened! I am perfectly aware that they had excellent horses but we must be able to gather a group of horses with a decent Tolt and with a similar number of riders who can ride a choreographed routine. If we can persuade enough members to spend time training in this manner even separately then with a small amount of group training a display should be achievable. I can only suggest – it is up to you the members to offer your support so we can go forward together.

If we can manage this then it is easily conceivable that Icelandic displays may be common in the main rings at venues such as the Great Yorkshire Show, East of England Show, The Royal Show and possibly also in the special interest rings at events such as Bramham Horse Trials. In this way we will become an item of interest and we will expand our numbers and our influence in the horse owning/riding society of Britain and beyond. Even group rides for pleasure have a great publicity benefit to the society. Joining in with other groups where our breed talents can be demonstrated to give an advantage are massively useful. I hear good reports from members who have joined in endurance rides with high scoring results, we have also enjoyed pleasure rides around certain areas which has resulted in a visible presence being noted. Within my own travel area I have attended rides in Sherwood Forest, A route around Carsington Water in Derbyshire, Burroughs Hill in Leicestershire, Chatsworth, and others. All of these are areas where large numbers of the public are present and other horse breed riders see us and we talk together to spread the word.

To sum up – all of us are ambassadors for the Icelandic Horse and we should do our utmost to ensure that we are known even if only in our own locality!

IHSGB Breeding Leader's Report – Mic Rushen

It has been a busy year for breeders with more than thirty foals born in the UK from around 15 different stallions.

The main event on the breeding calendar was of course the Breeding Assessment held in June. Numbers taking part in this were somewhat disappointing, especially bearing in mind that we had to cancel the 2006 Breeding Assessment due to lack of horses being brought forward for assessment, combined with rising costs.

This year's assessment was barely viable and resulted in a relatively substantial financial loss for the IHS, with only six horses for full assessment and a further four for conformation only. We had hoped to increase show funds by holding a breeding seminar at the same time, but in the event there were only three extra people attending other than those who were already showing horses, which was very surprising and rather sad as so many people in the UK express an interest in the breeding of Icelandics.

This was an International Breeding Show, with two FEIF International Judges - FEIF has decided that Breeding Judges should charge €450 (£315) per day away from home, plus expenses, which makes a breeding assessment an expensive investment for a small society like the IHSGB. We were lucky in that our Danish judge William Flugge generously did not charge for the days spent travelling, or for the morning of the seminar, and also that Mike Adams and his family very kindly donated the use of their wonderful facilities free of charge. In addition, the air ticket for Herdis Reynisdottir, the Icelandic judge, was largely paid for by sponsorship from Icelandair. But still, costs were high and unavoidable.

The Breeding Group strongly believes that Breeding Assessments should be a vital part of the IHS, but obviously as a society we cannot afford to make a huge loss every year. There are several options – for instance, we could raise the cost per horse judged, hold Breeding Assessments less often (so there should be more horses to be judged), or facilitate ways for IHS members to more easily take their horses abroad for assessment.

What we really need are more horses coming forward for judgement in this country. To encourage that, we need to educate members about breeding, and to raise awareness of the benefits of having judged breeding stock. Some FEIF countries have a separate section (sometimes an elite section) in their studbooks for judged horses and their offspring, or perhaps a financial incentive would help – higher registration fees for foals from unjudged parents, or lower stud fees for judged mares are a couple of options. We could also hold shows for foals and youngstock, as has been done in other FEIF countries for many years and recently in Iceland too. This might alleviate the financial burden that a FIZO Breeding Assessment inevitably causes as well, if such a show is run alongside of a FIZO assessment.

Financial considerations aside, the Breeding Assessment went quite well, and there was a noticeable improvement in British-bred horses, particularly in their conformation. One stallion qualified for the Breeding Assessment at the World Championships – congratulations to Smári Slater and Dropi from Salisbury who represented their country well in the Netherlands.

Other matters - I have been working closely with the Animal Health Trust in Newmarket to determine the correct ancestries of some UK-bred Icelandics and gradually we are working our way through the DNA maze to prove parentage of a few horses who, so far, have not been able to be properly registered. It's an ongoing task, but hopefully it should soon be completed and these horses added to the studbook.

On a personal note, I have decided not to continue in the post of Breeding Leader in the coming year, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Breeding Group for all their help and support over the past couple of years, and to wish the new IHSGB Breeding Leader all the best in the post in the coming year.

Mic Rushen (*IHSGB Breeding Leader*)

Breeding Group, *Kim Middel, Smári Slater*

FUND RAISER'S REPORT – Tricia Barber

I should like to take this opportunity, on the cusp of my retiring from the trustees of the IHSGB, to thank all the companies and individual members who have donated very generously to the Society raffles and events and I must also to thank the members for their generosity in regularly digging into their pockets to purchase raffle tickets. If it were not for you kind folk we would not be able to implement this valuable fund raising system.

The raffle at the BC in Scotland raised about £400 so it was well worth the effort.

I was pleased to note that I lost 3lbs in weight over that weekend and I put it down to all the walking about selling tickets! (A side benefit to the job!)

I may well be about selling tickets in the future as a volunteer, but I feel it is time for someone with some new ideas and lots of enthusiasm to become the next fundraiser.

Thanking you all for your support.

Tricia Barber

IHSGB Newsletter - Editor's Annual Report 2007 – Moira Weddel

Publication - General

Publication of the 2-monthly newsletter has continued this year without any major issues. About halfway through the year, I changed jobs and moved from Yorkshire to London. This meant that I was no longer able to guarantee the timeliness of each issue were I to continue to undertake the additional activities of printing, binding and posting each issue. I took this to the board and we agreed to investigate the use of a professional printing company. Subsequently we have found and engaged a printer and their quality of production has been high. This change has enabled me to continue as editor of the newsletter and to meet the deadline for each issue.

However, one issue this year was delayed. This was due to the unavoidable need for me to take time out and return home following bereavement in the family. The board agreed to the delay under the circumstances and this was communicated at the time to members.

Content

I am striving to find a balance of content in each issue and to even out the story-style articles with informative and educational pieces and more news from the society. I have asked each member of the board to produce a regular piece for the newsletter, sharing information on their work in their particular area for our members and the society as a whole.

In this day and age much of our day to day communication is undertaken through the internet and via email but I am conscious of the continued role of a paper newsletter in

maintaining contact with our members and in providing a tangible aid to promotion and recruitment of new members.

Gundula Sharman (Board member for Education) has recently volunteered to maintain an archive of all newsletters going back to the early days of the society. This has the potential to become a valuable reference in the future.

Advertising

One result of using a professional printer has been the reduction in the amount of colour we can use in each issue. The cost of colour pages is prohibitive and at current funding levels we can only afford to include a colour cover and a colour centre-fold. This has had a knock-on effect on the number of colour adverts that we can accept.

I have reviewed a number of other FEIF member country's newsletters and equivalent publications and most of the small (in terms of membership/horses) countries do not use colour at all or use it only on the front cover so we remain ahead in relation to our size.

Advertising continues to be organised on my behalf by Anne Davies (annedavies@ntlworld.com). Anne is doing a marvelous job of keeping track of who is advertising and when and making sure that payments are made. I would have the devil's job without her – thank you Anne. Please contact Anne if you have any advertising requirements.

Contributions & thanks

I would like to express my thanks to all members who have contributed over the year with their articles and photographs. Please continue to do so – we would have a very dry and boring newsletter if it were not for these contributions. I would also like to repeat my call from last year for feedback and ideas for future issues.

Moira Wedel, IHSGB Editor (moira.wedel@btinternet.com).

Youth Report - Julia Reeves

We started the year (2007) well by being awarded the FEIF Youth country of the Year award at the FEIF conference in Edinburgh.

The introduction of a lead rein class has been very successful with riders as young as 2 taking part and enjoying themselves. Our first rider Madison Standing has graduated into the beginner classes, qualifying for the finals each time and another rider ready to move up.

There has been a steady increase in numbers of youth taking part in oval track competitions. There has also been an increase in the number taking part in the Sport A classes, with much success.

There were some good youth results at the British Championships with riders again free to choose which classes they wished to compete in. As last year, this worked out well allowing those more experienced riders to compete in the Sport A classes and indeed there were 4 youth in the V1 and T1, and youth in the A finals.

Despite the above successes, no young rider qualified for the WC's which was very disappointing. There was however a later Trustee decision to add Laura Moss-Bromage to the team.

Following the BC's, I had the idea of a youth training scheme to train our future teams. I am currently setting this up with training weekends planned in different parts of the country. From these weekends, the youth cup teams will be selected. They will also count towards WC team selection. A qualifying mark will still be required but it might not be from just the BC's (this has yet to be finalised). Sessions will include theory and practical

sessions in general horsemanship, ridden training and competition riding. The plan is for trainers to do 2 weekends each, one in the North and one in the South/Midlands owing to the geographical distribution of the participants, so that each trainer teaches each of the youngsters. It is open to any youth who is able to ride off the lead rein regardless of whether or not they wish to be on future teams or compete on the oval track. These sessions will be heavily subsidised from youth funds which is why continuous fund raising is so important. The first sessions are arranged for December and January.

We have had 2 large donations totalling £3,750, £2,000 from Jim Aitken and £1,750 from Bakkavor – This is fabulous and will help with the youth training scheme.

I was asked by parents to arrange a GB youth camp as a fun, non competitive event. I detailed this in a newsletter with very little response including silence from the families who had requested it. Ultimately I had to cancel the camp as there were 3 and then only 2 youth committed to attend. I have no plans at present to arrange another one.

Despite being asked by the youth to arrange newsletter competitions, these have not been supported, so they have now stopped.

There has been youth fund raising at all of Nicks's shows and the BC's. This has included poo picking, raffles, cake sales and tack cleaning. It would be lovely if all the youth in attendance at any of these events volunteered to take part equally in all the fund raising, that they all benefit from. So far this is not the case but I hope it may be in the future.

The Robert Clarke Trophy for Youth of the Year 2007 was awarded jointly to Natalie Dingle and Lizz Reeves. This was sponsored by Rose, John and Michael Clarke. It was awarded for fund raising, youth activity participation and good sportsmanship. Natalie and Lizz and been fantastic in their support for myself, youth activities and their unfaltering enthusiasm to raise funds which all the youth then benefit from. They raised the funds to pay for their FEIF Youth Camp places and flights. They were asked at the WC's to help the official secretariat. They have been great ambassadors for the youth of Britain and I am very proud of both of them.

My main aims for the next year are:

- To get the youth training scheme up and running
- To continue raising funds and try to secure some significant donations to fund not just the training scheme but other youth activities too.
- For there to be a bigger pool of youth (and parents) contributing ideas, support and feedback re: youth activities

Julia Reeves - Youth Leader

Report: Leisure and Recreational Riding Co-ordinator – Gundula Sharman

I see my role as a trustee with this particular hat on, namely Leisure and Recreational Riding Co-ordinator, as offering support and a certain measure of co-ordination to those of us whose main aim is having a fun time with our horses, free of nerves you might suffer from on entering a sports competition, or the intense concentration of partaking in a training course. Having said that, I firmly believe that we take more pleasure in carefree hacking and – heaven forbid – even the occasional straying onto the competition ring “just for fun”, if a certain amount of regular and consistent training is undertaken by each rider, be that in the form of specialised Icelandic training courses, or lessons with the riding

instructor down the road. But, back to my role – in that capacity I have three things to report on: (a) the performance scheme, (b) a number of new leaflets on how to organise simple events aimed at the non-competitive rider, and (c) the vision and the birth pangs of forming a display team.

The Performance Scheme continues to attract a number of entries, and as always it is quite inspiring for me to read what some of us have managed to do with their horses over a single year. Would you like to donate a trophy for a particular activity that fits into the framework of the performance scheme?

New Downloads: Back at home, a group of us have thought up and tried out a number of different events locally, which I think will appeal to even the most hardened 'leisure rider', if for no other reason that our horses certainly enjoy the company of other horses - and, of course, the fact that shared fun is double the fun. These are designed to require the minimum amount of organisation, so that any one idea can easily be transported to other parts of the country. You can now download a number of leaflets from the website with suggestions for some tried and tested events, together with a simple checklist for organisers to help keeping things as uncomplicated and stressfree as possible. These will eventually include:

- Organising a series of regular local rides
- Organising a fun show
- Organising a "Pony Camp" weekend
- Taking horses on holiday

As always, please let me know how these suggestions could be improved, and please feel encouraged to add to the list with other ideas that work.

IceHorses Display Team: If the definition of a leisure rider is someone who rides purely for pleasure, and if that pleasure is something you want to share with fellow riders and the general public, then the idea of forming a display team is never far below the surface. We have finally found – what I believe is – a sustainable 'recipe' for doing that. Again the guiding principle is to keep things uncomplicated, and to allow for the initiative to be transportable all over the country. In a nutshell, up in Aberdeenshire we have an idea for a simple but effective storyline framework in four separate 'acts' involving a minimum of 4 riders, ideally 6-8 riders and more if appropriate. We will soon be launching a website to share our experiences and encourage you to join in. Lastly, we have some ideas as to how this sort of initiative can be at least in part self-financing. But it is very early days yet, so watch this space: www.icehorses.co.uk

Gundula Sharman, October 2007

Treasurer's Report 2007- Janet Fentiman

Another year has flown by. At the time of writing this report I do not have the years' figures in front of me as Ian Pugh (our chairman) is carrying out the checking of the years banking, making sure that payments and credits have been allocated to the correct areas, so I will leave the analysis of the profits and losses and next years budget to him in his report. I would like to thank Ian for this work that he does every year.

I have noticed throughout the year that a vast number of members have not yet altered their subscriptions to the revised amounts the main one being the single membership which is now £32.00. Heather our secretary is having to do a lot of extra work in order to recoup the £4.00 payments. Please make sure that your own payment has been altered to the new rates.

Heather and Ian have, after a lot of time and effort spent trawling through previous years bank statements to identify payments which have been made by people who have filled in a Gift aid

form, have successfully recouped **£1169.73** from HM Revenue and Customs. Could I make a plea to everyone who has not filled in a form please obtain one from Heather.

Last year I commented on the level of bank charges the Society was paying. I looked into this at the beginning of the year and as the society is a charity have been able to change the way our bank account is dealt with by holding 2 accounts. One is run as a deposit account which accrues interest and holds a lump sum and another is run as a working account into which credits and debits are made. This account does not accrue interest but also does not accrue bank charges, except for international payments. Overall this has reduced the charges we have paid to the bank on the normal running of the account.

See you all at the AGM - Janet Fentiman

<End>