

SET THE PACE

Issue 78

JUNE 2018 - An Alphabet of Icelandic Horse Adventures

Front Cover: Fjola, the 1000th Icelandic horse registered in the UK. Photo: Linnie Frith



This is what I thought I might do with my spare time!

Welcome or welcome back to Set the Pace after a nearly a decade. A couple of months ago I unexpectedly found myself with four weeks a year on my hands when I reluctantly resigned as editor of Sleipnir, the official IHSGB newsletter. In amongst the many thanks and warm wishes I received from the IHSGB membership, a number of people made the same intriguing suggestion. What about restarting “Set the Pace” with my newly found spare time?

I had no idea what “Set the Pace” was, apart from a few black and white magazines I had come across in my archiving at Oakfield. I talked to people, curious about what they thought I could offer. As they shared their ideas it became clear there was a wealth of information about Icelandic horses in the UK that was ripe to be edited into a new publication. An e-publication.

So, here we are, I have found a use for my time and we have an Icelandic horse e-publication. I have not needed to ask for submissions this time as I was given more than enough for the first edition. It has become an Alphabet of Icelandic Horse Adventures. Initially Set the Pace will follow the same timetable as the old paper magazine, every 2 months. If you have an Icelandic horse adventure you want to share or a topic you would like covered in more detail please [contact me](#) via email or Facebook messenger to [Oakfield Farm](#).

And there is the joy of e-publications. The blue links above are live links and can take you anywhere on the internet or navigate around this document when you click on them. There are emails, facebook pages, videos & web pages that relate to Icelandic horses available at a click. I have tried to make sure as many electronic devices as possible will display the magazine properly and the links will work. Where I have found limitations, I have put them in the articles. I recommend you open external links that interest you in a new tab. On iphone and ipad open the magazine in safari and click and hold a link. An option to “open in new tab” will appear. On PC, Mac or Chrome book, right click and select “open in new tab”. If you would like a paper copy, I am happy to print and post at cost with a printed weblink supplement. ([£3.50 via Paypal](#))

If you have questions, problems viewing the magazine or with the links please [contact me](#), other than that feel free to share the magazine with anyone you think will appreciate it. I look forward to hearing what you think. **Mo Hall**

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A rt -Irene Fordyce



An appropriate first article for an *Alphabet of Icelandic Horse Adventures*. Many of you will have come across Icelandic horses in art in one form or another and I am hoping you will share those artists whose work you admire with the rest of us for future issues of this magazine (Or if you are an artist yourself and reading this, why not share what it is about the Icelandic horse that inspires you?). I have had several names suggested already for me to contact and explore, some articles already in hand and some promised, so there will be more about Icelandics in Art in the months to come.

To start, I would like to introduce [Irene Fordyce](#) and her lengthy adventure with Icelandic horses. I first came across Irene in “[The Spiral Well](#)”. An online artist support group we both belong to. As you will read in her article, her journey with both art and Icelandic horses has been a difficult one. I am so proud to own one of the only abstract paintings that Irene has done (pictured above). I love it and it is a constant discussion point with visitors as people see so many different things in it, from a Viking warrior to a princess. Personally I see a woman riding from darkness into light and it makes my heart sing whenever I look at it.

Over to Irene...



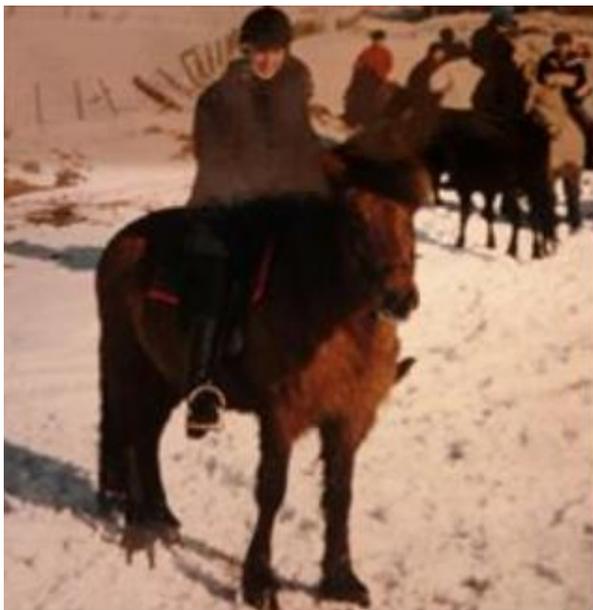
When I was first asked to write a piece for the magazine I wondered what on earth would I write about – where would I start? I guess a good place to start is at the beginning.

I've always loved horses since I was little. My first picture of me on a horse was taken when I was about 3 or 4 – no hat and a very dodgy haircut. My mum and dad couldn't afford to send me for lessons till I was about 14 and I loved it, till I progressed to jumping and then proceeded to fall off 4 times in one lesson. When I returned the following week I sat on the bench watching the previous lesson and no – nothing could persuade me to get on – we left for home and that was me.



I was 20 before I next got on a horse and – you guessed it – I had found Icelandic horses not far from home at [Windygowl Farm](#) in Carlops outside Edinburgh.

I went on an evening ride with friends from work in 1985 and wow... I fell in love...again. The Icelandics are just the most amazing animals – funny, cheeky and so very dependable. I fell in love with Orvar – oh he was amazing and I became one of the Windygowl gang, only happy when I was out on a three hour ride that had loads of cantering and sometimes galloping over the fields ... bliss.

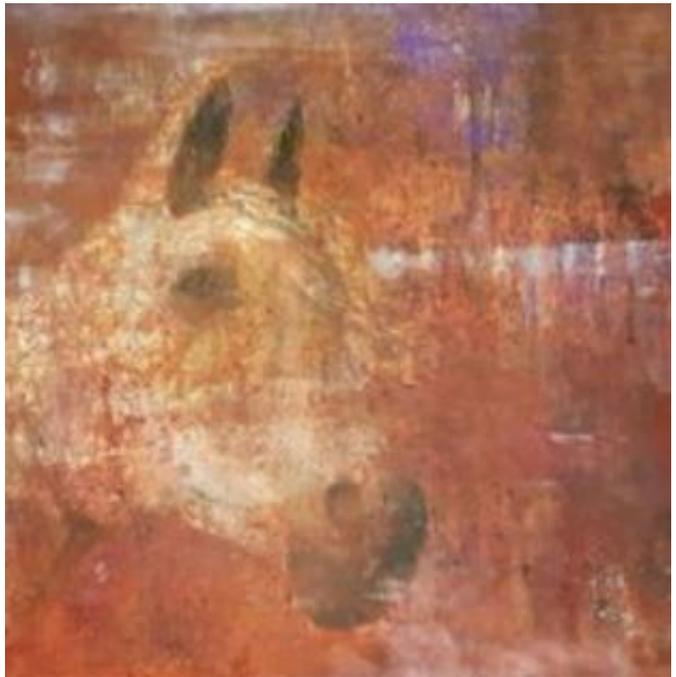


One of the things I looked forward to every year was our Summer Lessons week from a wonderful Icelandic instructor who came over from Iceland to teach us how to ride properly ☺ He had us Tölting round at great speed and riding in fours round cones etc, it was a hoot and wonderful fun.

I remember falling off one of Jill's young horses and lying on the ground which was very embarrassing to say the least, especially as Jill had heard me from outside... oh the shame. I was really sore but still wanted to ride and managed to persuade Jill to let me ride Orvar, who I knew would look after me; thankfully she said yes... and we finished the course together. I went to casualty later as I was in agony, I had bruised a few ribs... but it was worth it.

Unfortunately for me Jill decided to turn the yard into a livery yard in 2010. I just couldn't afford to buy a horse at that time or have the time to look after it properly – I was devastated and tried riding other places but nothing could replace what I had lost so I decided I just didn't ride any more and hung up my boots.

There was a huge gap in my life without my weekly fix of horses so I turned to my other passion which was art and joined a landscape painting class where I eventually started painting horses – the teacher laughed out loud each week when I came in showing him my latest drawings of horses heads or eyes or abstracts that had horses hidden inside... he wanted trees and hills but he let me carry on and encouraged me to try other mediums and I loved it... as long as there was a horse somewhere in the picture I was happy.





I thought I was happy with not riding but the universe had other ideas – I had just taken voluntary redundancy from RBS and the same week went to Marks and Spencer’s for new interview gear and the lady serving me mentioned how tired she was as she had had to be up at the crack of dawn to help the vet inoculate 10 horses... “Wow – you’ve got 10 horses?” I said, and she replied that she volunteered at a local equine charity at East Linton (about half an hour from my house), we got

talking and next thing she was scribbling the owners number on the back of my receipt and I visited the yard the next day.

I spent the next three months at [Karele](#) volunteering and falling in love with some of the horses but there was no one there I wanted to ride. The horses were mostly Arabian mares or huge Appaloosas. I didn’t mind though it was great just being around lovely horses and wonderful horsey people.

Last August Cath called me and said “I have a surprise for you.” I said “oh okay ... what is it?” Cath wouldn’t tell me and said “You’ll have to come down tomorrow and see.”

When I got there we walked up to the stables and there was Rambo, an 18 year old Halflinger (the closest thing Cath could find to an Icelandic!) Oh my ... love at first sight... he is wonderful - absolutely wonderful. I now ride him every week and love every minute of it and can’t believe how lucky I am to have found [Karele](#) and the wonderful Rambo

☺





Rambo (left) and Orvar (right), the inspiration for Irene's amazing art.

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B ooks



[Across Iceland – Olive Murray Chapman](#)

I came across this book looking for subjects for a podcast training course I am embarking on later in the summer.

You can listen to my first attempts in later magazines (if I can master Icelandic pronunciation); meanwhile, if you would like to read it yourself it is available free as a pdf file on the link above.

Olive Murray Chapman has been described as a “determined English lady traveller of legend.” It is easy to forget the social restraints and physical dangers to independent female travellers in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Olive Chapman was one of that rare breed who refused to be kept at home by such “stuff and nonsense.” After her husband was killed during the First World War, the young widow determined to make the most of the education provided to her by her surgeon father. Ignoring criticism, she instead followed in the hoof prints of that former famous lady Long Rider author, [Isabella Bird](#). Instead of remarrying, Chapman set out not only to see the world’s more exotic places, but to record her experiences on paper.

Her first journey took her to Iceland, which she eagerly explored on horseback. Not being content to merely recite the history of the remote island, Chapman made it her mission to also interview women in the less frequented portions of the tiny kingdom. During her intensive ride across the rugged terrain she also created beautiful watercolours, as well as describing the great social struggle which had occurred between the old Norse religion and Christianity. Though she employed local guides, Chapman made her own decisions, which included climbing to the rim of a bubbling crater emitting noxious fumes. Nor was she put off by the many rushing rivers she routinely rode her Icelandic horse through. Her journey provided her with enough material to write her first book, which was aptly entitled *Across Iceland: The Land of Frost and Fire*.

Having established her independence, Chapman went on to explore Cyprus and Madagascar. However, her most challenging journey occurred when she set off to cross the Arctic Circle in Lapland. In the company of a single guide, she rode a sleigh drawn by reindeer during this remarkable journey. When Chapman died in England at the age of 85 in 1977, the *New York Times* concluded, “Everybody told her she couldn’t do it, that nobody had ever done it, and so she set forth and did it.”

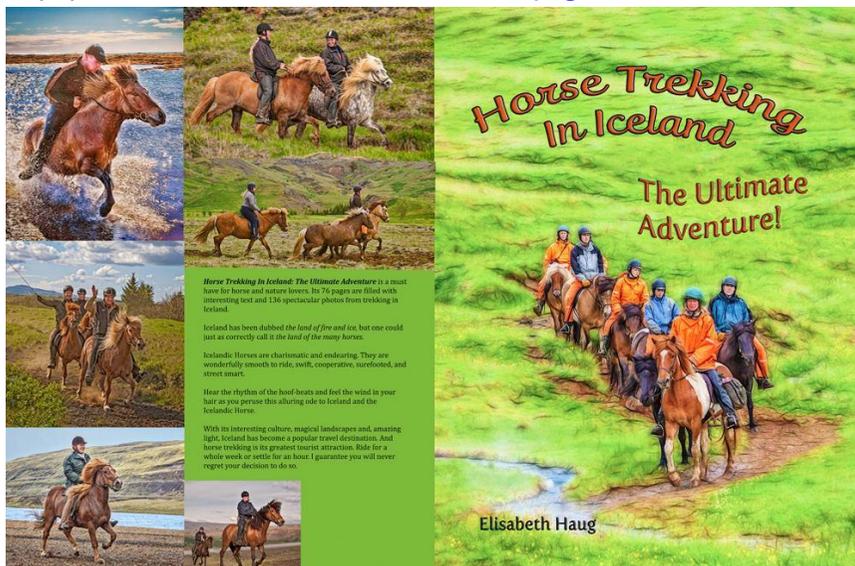
[Minning \(Icelandic for Memory\) – Celebrating the Icelandic Horse 2018 – UK Icelandic Horse Chat Group](#)

The first of a series of memory books on various subjects sourced from the photos and memories of the Icelandic Horse chat group. Collated and released as an e-book on May 1st this year to celebrate the International Day of the Icelandic horse. Also available as a printed book ([£13.50 plus p&p via Paypal](#)) and at the Oakfield September show. I will be revisiting [“For the love of Icelandic Horses”](#) in the autumn. I will also be collating a 2019 wall calendar, hopefully in time for the Oakfield September show so if you have stories and pictures of how you fell in love with Icelandic horses and/or absolutely stunning photographs for a 2019 calendar that you are happy to share with the group for their pleasure, please [get in touch](#).



[Elisabeth Haug - Horse Trekking in Iceland](#)

Those of you on the chat group will be familiar with Elisabeth Haug's photo art which she freely shares there. Her new book is available to review electronically via the link above. You can purchase this or any of her other books in paper or kindle editions via [her Amazon page](#). [Back to Contents](#)



Challenge – Halfkey

Merit May

One of the very special things we share in the Icelandic horse community in the UK is the ability to be supportive in many different ways. We are a small community, our interests differ and we are wide spread in location, ability and aspiration. In November 2017 Luan Crawford who runs [Halfkey Icelandic Horses](#) posted this message on her facebook page:

“After riding Merkur bareback and doing obstacles with the horses the last few weeks, Becca and I have been inspired to start a monthly challenge to do with your horse over the long miserable winter months (it can be any horse not necessarily Icelandic as I know there are non Icey owning members/followers)



Starting November we will post a challenge, then you have the month to practice and take a photo or video of you completing the challenge and send it to Becca Hughes or me (Lu Luan Crawford) on private message and we will compile an album at the end of the month and announce the ‘special’ x

These challenges are purely for fun, and to learn something about you and your horse, and can be interpreted as you wish.

Please remember! This is for fun, so no judgemental or negative comments.

And BE SAFE! Only do the challenges you feel safe doing, and make sure you have someone around if things should not go as planned!

Each month we will choose a ‘special’ and that person will receive a ‘Halfkey’ rosette (depending on postage costs if someone abroad wins)

HAVE FUN”.

Please go visit [Lu's page](#) and you can see what fun we have all had either participating or appreciating the different interpretations of the challenges and do think about joining the July challenge.

May was a special month. In January, once the popularity of the idea of challenge rather than competition was becoming established Lu and Becca decided to add a bonus challenge to the end of the planned 6 months trial, 'Merit May'.

Participants were given until the end of May to set themselves a personal challenge with their horse. It could be absolutely anything as long as it took people out of their comfort zone, a tip toe or a giant step with plenty of time to work towards their challenge, and hopefully achieve it. The entries were moving and phenomenal in some cases. Again, in Lu's own words;

"Well all we can say is WOW you guys are fab 🍷 just amazing the number of entries for this challenge, and a MASSIVE high five to every single one of you who challenged yourself and completed it by the end of May,

No matter what your challenge was it's a huge achievement when we succeed, and leaves you with a positive attitude to carry on forwards.....

Mic very kindly designed me a print off certificate for anyone who wants to have a 'hard copy' of their achievement, just print it off and fill in your name and your horse's name, and admire it and be proud ❤️💕😊

Every single person who entered deserved to win this challenge; it was such a hard choice to make. You all winners

But our choice is Linnie Frith who's had major ups and downs personal challenges, tears, laughter, moments of joy, moments of wanting to give up, but by the end of May, not only rode her baby Icelandic for the first time, got on and rode her cob all by herself, with no help back up (well me on her phone 😂)

Linnie now you must give yourself more little tiny goals to aim for and keep up the fantastic confidence work your doing

Well done congratulations rosette on its way 🥰"

You can read Linnie's delighted response [here](#).

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Dressage- [Luan Crawford](#)

Dressage and an Icelandic horse

In the UK there isn't really an opportunity for regular gaited dressage competition (Gaedingafimi), there is the Walk-trot-tölt and the FS1 freestyle at the British Championships each year and we now have the Walk-Tölt-Trot Test as a training tool on the new [Töltonline](#) with the [IHSCGB](#), but not a regular competition.

Icelandics in big horse world dressage is a tricky thing as only walk trot and canter are required with a nice soft flexible horse, these factors are not usually something we get with our horses regularly or on demand!!



I am very lucky (dressage wise) that I have an Icelandic who prefers trot and canter over tölt, and would very happily never tölt again (he can tölt slow and fast, and since his hamstring injury he's gone pacey)

In 2016 and 2017 I competed every month in the old töltonline with both of my Icelandics. Merkur did really well in the more traditional tests improving every month so I decided to be brave and enter in a 'real' local competition.

Last September we entered just a walk-trot test, (just!) and won it with a very respectable mark, I was keen and decided to go every month through the winter but very soon after we discovered he had torn his hamstring, he was out of action, the winter was rehab season. We finally got signed off at the end of February this year, but he then needed re-strengthening in tölt, trot and canter, so I took Bjort my very 5 gaited mare in March to play dressage. We too just entered the walk-trot test (cantering her in a 20 x 40 arena would not have happened) I decided to warm her up in tölt to take the fizz out of her first, as long as no other horse noticed but a little welshie did and tried to ping his small jockey off so trot it was, we kept trot for the whole test and went and won it too also with a great score, amazing! A week later trot went AWOL and we haven't been back to try again since (yet!)





During all this I made a new friend at the school gate, she had recently moved to the area, and happened to live a mile down the road, she is an advanced dressage rider aiming for Grand Prix this year, and freelance rider/trainer, she persuaded me that I 'needed' to make up a team and join [British Dressage Team Quest](#).

It allows up to 7 riders and unlimited horses (4 max, 3 min) to compete at any one competition.



The team gains points for a placing and the points go on a regional scoreboard, top 15 at the end of the season go to the finals.

It scared me; I've only done Icey stuff since 1993! I donned the brave pants, became team leader and got a team together. We are Extreme Hope. Extreme as we have a 17.1hh and Merkur at 13.3hh. We decided as a team to compete monthly at the same venue so I could build up my confidence not only doing dressage but towing too. It's worked. Not only do I do Team Quest monthly, I go to a local outdoor venue as well as indoor unaffiliated dressage. Next month I hope to qualify for the Championship Show in November. Exciting stuff!

Pants



Merkur and I enter Intro and [Prelim](#) classes, the prelims require canter work, there are quite a few of them each one has its own testing bits, we are loving the challenge and trying to up our scores each time, considering we were broken until April we are doing just fine.

Getting an Icelandic out there in the big horse world is just fab, some judges look down at the pony and adult rider but we show them that we can do it just as well if not better than some and compete against the big brown shiny long legged plaited ones, the Haffys, the cobs, the Arabs, the tbs.

Anyway, we could easily nobble the competition by warming up in tölt and at the end of the day our horses can do far more with their legs than any dressage horse can. - **Lu Crawford**

Lu has also been posting [crazy videos for the casually interested](#). I love them, so here is one to make you giggle. – Mo.

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Easter Eggstravaganza



Easter Activity Weekend by kind invitation of Ann & Dave Savage, with Fi Pugh guiding/supporting & sharing her knowledge putting us through our paces,(excuse the pun).

Most people look forward to an Easter weekend by thinking about Easter eggs and spending time with loved ones.

One can say that the ‘loved ones’ ideal stretches to our four legged hairy beasts in this scenario.

Arriving at Pinchbeck Saturday morning feels as though you are in a familiar supportive and friendly environment. Everyone catching up with each other, you can feel the eagerness and anticipation with what might lie ahead of us.

Saturday morning was ‘Oval track have-a-go. Riders choose one class from a selection of tölt classes, ride the chosen class and receive feedback from Fi. Once we had received our feedback with tips on how to improve, we then tried the class ‘for real’. For some riding tölt appears to be a straightforward task with small adjustments to make it look fantastic. The less experienced owners/riders look on in amazement and consider this as something to aspire to. We opted for Ann and Dave’s superb indoor school as the weather was not being very kind to us.



Lunch was a welcome respite from the weather in Ann & Dave's bungalow. Away from the blustery conditions we could sit and chat more freely. Stories and anecdotes were traded over hot bowls of soup.

Food plays an important part in these residential weekends, especially when the weather is not so nice. The flexibility of our hosts and riders made an easy decision for home cooked food rather than takeaway for our evening meal. A joint effort from everyone makes this weekend so enjoyable. Dave's shopping and culinary talents meant that we prepared for an afternoon outside with the thoughts of warm food in the evening.

The afternoon was once again to be on the track but this was for Have-a-go gait classes, using the same format as the morning. Once again we used the indoor school to stay out of the elements. The forecast was looking better for Easter Sunday.

Saturday evening we dined in the salubrious surroundings of the bungalow, now with lights and a door curtain. Sharing food and wine with like-minded people is a very sociable event and fitting for an Easter weekend. With our inner boilers topped up we headed off to bed ready for a better weather day on Sunday.

When we filled out our entry forms for the weekend we had a yes or no option for the 'equipilates' which had been timetabled in for Sunday before lunch.

Never having tried Pilates, but always ready to have a go at most things I said 'yes' to this option. I had already said 'yes' to [Tölt in Harmony](#), I was determined to not do trot.

As Sunday morning dawned I started to ask myself; why did I say yes to both of those? I must have had a moment of confidence (insanity?) to think that I should do both of these.

Well, you can't pull out now, that would not be acceptable I told myself.

Sunday morning was upon us and it was time for all this oneness, amicability and affinity with one's horse.

Fi did a demonstration to remind us all of the expectations during this exercise. We all watched and agreed that we had this in our heads and knew what we needed to do. There were a number of experienced riders with us for the weekend and this makes the weekend worthwhile as you are not alone in your plight, just at a different level. Tölt/trot in Harmony for some appears to be so easy, although we (Lois and I) received a low mark at least I can say we tried it

in tölt, the very first time I ever attempted this class we had to revert to trot. I see this as an improvement. I was not alone in this trial of harmonic riding; it is comforting to know that I am not the only one who struggles with this.

The time marched on and it was time for the Pilates class. Ann informed us that the young man delivering the class had just qualified. We helped layout covers and mats on the indoor school floor. There was no turning back now.



This very confident young man (in his late teens) had an approach beyond his years to direct us through the exercises. Whilst lying on the floor with a small soft ball under our hips and

various other locations, I hear Fi next to me saying ‘this makes you realise how broken your body actually is’. How true, I think we were all thinking that we had found areas of our bodies that were not as flexible as we had first thought.

Next came the lengths of stretchy rubber-pilates bands, we were to place these on the sole of a foot on the leg which we had elevated directly above us (90°). We were meant to hold the band with both hands and move our leg slightly back and forth so that the sole of the foot was massaged in this position.

Unfortunately he did not warn us to keep your toes slightly pointed up to the ceiling. It really hurts when you have tension on the band and it rolls off your foot into your face. (I laughed and at the same time saying’ that really hurts when you ‘ping’ the band into your face).



There were other little incidents amongst us causing giggles but our overall experience was total enjoyment and a little enlightenment into this world.

A majority of us were “mature” and I think we would love another session with this instructor.

My daughter, Harriet appeared on Sunday morning and informed us that she had taken a number of photos whilst we were in our Pilates positions. How kind of her we thought. I later heard people were trying to bribe her not to share these pictures on social media (all in jest).

We retired for lunch and Fi presented rosettes for the Tölt/trot in Harmony. The weather had improved and we were eager for an afternoon on the track. We had decided which class we would like to enter and make it into a mini competition. After some shuffling we managed more than one entrant for a class. Although it was still blustery and chilly we managed a track competition, all receiving marks and feedback from Fi.

We spent time with a new convert Karen Earth, Harriet and Lesley Dellar were taking selfies together, Karen Smith and I doubled up for track work having similar horses (being forward going). Fiona and Graham Tyson have a wealth of experience to share. Ann and Dave are amazing hosts and with Fi to oversee the weekend it was truly enjoyable for everyone (spectators and riders alike).

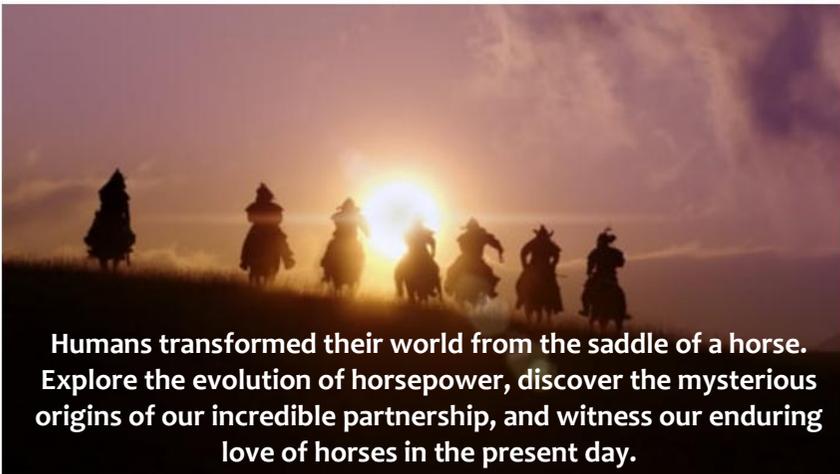


[Martine Bye-Duke](#) (photos: Harriet Bye)

[Equus - Story of the Horse](#)

[Mike Loades](#) is a British military historian who uses horses in his work. This is the most recent project he has been involved in. Lots of lovely Icelandics and fantastic film work. It will be released on DVD later in the year. (You can see Mike briefly driving a roman chariot).

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Humans transformed their world from the saddle of a horse. Explore the evolution of horsepower, discover the mysterious origins of our incredible partnership, and witness our enduring love of horses in the present day.

Foreign Breeds showing



[Kathryn Wogan](#) [posted](#) in the chat group earlier in the year about taking part in a Foreign Breeds show and how different it was to normal Foreign Breed classes in local shows.

What she didn't mention in the group was how well she had done. I was curious about her comment as it was far from the norm reported in conversations and on the chat group. I caught up with Kathryn online which was when I found out how well she had done.

She said "Everyone was helpful and friendly including Judges who thanked us for going and showing off our amazing gaited horses. They said they need to see more Icelandics! Reykur and Andvari were very well behaved and complimented so many times. Not only did we win a champagne class (Yes I got to drink it) but Reykur has qualified for the Hope Best of the Best Supreme Championships OMG now we really have to put some effort into our training!"

It turned out from the comments that several of the chat group are also members of the [Foreign Breeds Society](#) so I contacted Lynn Jarvis who is one of the admins for their society. I talked about the difficulties people had experienced showing Icelandic horses and she asked us to write an article for her magazine talking about this. Nick, Mic (chat group admin) and Kathryn all helped me pull something into shape.

Lynn was keen to encourage Icelandic horse owners to give their shows a go and offered the following introduction to American Showing. As there are just over 1000 Icelandic horses living in the UK according to WorldFengur. The opportunities are there to share our love and passion for our horses and show what they can do.

Introduction to American Showing:

Has the thought of trotting round forever or having one class take upwards of an hour put you off showing? Let us introduce you to the world of American Showing – **fast, flamboyant and full of fun!**

Fast? No endless walking around for miles while you show in hand. No waiting in the middle for 40-odd minutes hoping your horse doesn't fall asleep while you wait to do your individual show in the ridden classes. Even with 15 plus entries in the class, the judge can get through their card in around 15 minutes.



So, how does it work and how does the judge see all the horses? How different to “normal” showing is it?

It does take a slightly different mindset; both for judges and competitors alike, but once experienced going back to “regular” showing can be a bit like watching paint dry.

- Horses enter the ring at trot, both for in hand and ridden classes, and like most things in life, first impressions count. For in hand, horses trot in one at a time, generally down one long side of the arena (known as the “rail”) and then line up as directed by the ring steward. The next horse trots in, the judge can then give that horse their full attention, and then lines up “nose-to-tail” behind the first horse. Once all the horses have trotted in, the first horse then comes forward towards the middle and “poses” for the judge to have a closer inspection of their conformation. The handler then walks their horse away from the judge to the opposite side of the arena and proceeds to trot down the rail, joining the end of the line of horses – and that’s it. When you think about it, the judge has seen your horse at walk and trot (for movement) and inspected them (for conformation), exactly like they would do in a “regular” class but in a fraction of the time.
- For the ridden classes horses again come in at trot, proceed to walk when requested by the judge and then into canter. (Yes, canter from walk, although a few steps of trot are allowed). The judge will then ask the class to come back to either trot or walk and to change the rein. Again there are differences – no trotting around to K or M and then

having to hope you won't meet the leading horse coming towards you in the opposite direction if you are bringing up the rear. When the call has come to change the rein (the class call is "reverse"), riders can perform a demi-volté or simply trot across the arena wherever they happen to be on the rail. The judge then asks for the same paces on the opposite rein and then calls the class into the middle to "line-up". Riders come in any order and use this as their last opportunity to show off their horses' trot (you always come into the middle in trot, or if your horse doesn't trot then at Corto or Tölt). The judge then walks down the line of horses, usually in and out of each on to assess their conformation and overall appearance of horse and rider, and may even ask the riders to back their horses to show manners and acceptance (rein back).

All of these things means a (big) saving of time, makes it easier for the judge, easier for the horse and easier for the show organiser as more classes can be put on in the one ring. Competitors can enter more classes – 2 or 3 of these classes take considerably less time than one "regular" class. With the ever increasing cost of diesel this makes the show much more attractive for the competitor – why go to a show where there are only 1 or 2 classes to enter, when you can go to one and enter 3 or 4 classes.

And the fun and flamboyance? In these type of classes audience participation is actively encouraged. Spectators are welcomed to clap and cheer for their favourite horse when they pass them by on the rail (usually in the trot phase). Judges are looking for a "show" horse, so riders and handlers are encouraged to show their horses off. It encourages positive riding and showmanship rather than "playing safe" and trying to minimise mistakes and errors.

The downside? This sort of showing is usually reserved for all the various "foreign breeds" (non-native to the British Isles). Many (foreign) breed specific and western shows have been offering events like this for years, but the first "Open" show was the American All Breeds Show established in 1983 by Gillian Eyre. This grew to a huge 2-day event in its hey-day and led to a number of other shows taking up the challenge – the American Pleasure Horse Show, the American Breeds Performance Show, Felsted UK-USA Day, the May Festival Show, plus numerous others up and down the country including a World Breeds ring at Equifest.

Sadly, the All Breeds Show, the American Breeds Performance Show and Felsted UK-USA Day are no longer running – the next longest running event is the American Pleasure Horse Show, which was started in 1988. Still running

today, having undergone a name change to the [APHS London Counties Horse Show](#), this year's event is on 15th July at Pachesham Equestrian Centre in Surrey (*Barry Laker, Ellen Knight, Wayne Hanlon and Kathryn are entered, so go along and support if you can or there is still time to enter if you want to join in - Mo*)

It is unique among these type of shows in that it has always combined both traditional English style showing, with all the regular classes you would expect to find, with the flamboyant American style showing – as they say “the best of both worlds”.

15th July 2018 APHS London Counties Horse Show, the afternoon schedule.

	Ring 1 – grass	Ring 2 – grass	Ring 3 – Rubber	Ring 4 - Rubber	
12.30	9) Lead Line ANY BREED				
12.45	10) First Ridden ANY BREED				
1pm	11) Junior Walk/Trot Best Rider ANY BREED	35) Ridden Traditional Gypsy Cob: Small & followed by (36) TGC Ridden Large Followed by C5) TGCA Championship	56) Condition & Turnout ANY BREED In hand or ridden	Youth ridden classes, walk/trot only & Restricted to 12 entries per class: rosettes to all.	
1.10	12) Open Walk/Trot ANY BREED		57) Novice Ridden ANY BREED		
1.15					
1.20	C4) WALK/TROT Championship				
1.30	13) Ridden Foreign Breeds: English tack				
1.45	14) Paso Fino Pleasure	37) Ridden Coloured Non-Native	58) Ridden Cob & Coblet (any height) ANY BREED		
2pm	15) Spanish & 16) Lusitano Ridden				
2.15	17) Ridden Friesian	38) Ridden Coloured Native	59) Ridden Hunter Horse/Pony ANY BREED		70) Ridden Youth 4 – 7 years
2.30	18) Amateur Owned, Trained & Show Ridden Foreign Breeds				(MUST be assisted) ANY BREED
2.45	19) Ridden Arab	39) Ridden Coloured Cob & Traditional	60) Home Produced Ridden ANY BREED		71) Ridden Youth 8 - 11 years
3pm	20) Saddlebred & (21) USA Breeds Ridden			(MAY be assisted) ANY BREED	
3.15	22) Open Gaited	40) Open Riding Horse (Pony) / Hack ANY BREED	61) Ridden Mountain & Moorland Pure & (62) Partbred (Judged together)	72) Ridden Youth 12-14 yrs ANY BREED	
3.30	23) Ridden Open Foreign Breeds				
3.45	24) Champagne Class ANY BREED	41) ANY BREED Working Hunter Pony & (42) WH Horse	63) Ridden Veteran ANY BREED 15 years & over	73) Rookie Rider aged 14 years & under ANY BREED	
4pm	25) Spanish & Lusitano Parade	41 & 42: ANY BREED and judged together	64) Bus Pass ANY BREED – combined age of horse & rider 60 years or over.		
4.30pm (Approx)	26) Concours D'Elegance ANY BREED Separate awards for in hand & ridden				
Approx. 5pm	C7) COLOURED RIDDEN Championship, C8) VETERAN Championship, C9) ENGLISH RIDDEN Championship, C10) FOREIGN BREED RIDDEN Championship, C11) YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP (each champs in the ring separately).				
	C12) SUPREME OF SHOW CHAMPIONSHIP				

See full schedule (<http://Lynnusauk.wix.com/aphs>) for class definitions, requirements, affiliations, discounts, list of judges etc.

ADVANCE ENTRIES: £10 per class, plus £5 first aid/admin per exhibitor.

BLOCK BOOKING (advance entries only): £50, plus £5 first aid/ring fee per exhibitor.

(One horse with up to 2 exhibitors or 2 horses OR one exhibitor showing up to 2 horses).

Entries on the day: £13 per class, plus £5 first aid/admin per exhibitor.

Advance entries close 5th July.

Charity donations from this show will be made to: **World Horse Welfare and SAFE**

ENTER BY:

- **POST:** Cheques to be made payable to APHS and sent with entry form to 36 Philpot Square, Peterborough Road, London, SW6 3HT.
- **PAYPAL** (Lynnusauk@aol.com – please pay PP fees your end) via **EQUOEVENTS** (www.equoevents.co.uk)



The May Festival Show was held on 27th May at Moreton Morrell College in Warwickshire and there were some Icelandics there (Kathryn Wogan & Wayne Hanlon). [Next year's show date](#) has already been set – 26th May 2019, so hopefully we will see some of you there. This event is run by the United Saddlebred Association and encompasses both their European Championships with an open festival for all foreign breeds, as well as a host of youth, walk/trot and harness classes open to any breed.

In more recent times (est. Sep 2015, memberships taken Jan 2016) the [Foreign Breeds Society \(UK\)](#) has been formed. This acts as an umbrella group for all of the different (foreign) breeds and culminates in their [Championship Show](#), which is being held on 16th September at Onley GEC in Rugby. We hope Kathryn will be attending as Reykur qualified for the Hope Best of the Best Supreme Championships. We hope some of you may come along and support Kathryn and see for yourself what we have to offer so the next time you open up a show's schedule and see some of these type of classes being offered, you might consider giving them a go – you may be pleasantly surprised.



[Lynn Jarvis – Foreign Breeds Society](#)

There have been other successes as well in Foreign Breed classes this year.

Congratulations [to Lisa Morris and Glofaxi](#) winning a first in the foreign breeds in-hand class at Derbyshire County Show.

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Geriatric Icelandics - Recognising EMS and PPID

As the Icelandic horse in the UK in the modern age is maturing with over 200 Icelandic horses aged over 25 in the UK according to World Fengur, we are starting to face the problems of geriatric Icelandics and how we care for them into their old age.

Mic Rushen has shared a little of her experience of caring for these ageing horses. She writes:



Tulle, oldest recorded Icelandic horse – at age 57
[read her story here](#)

First off, I am not a vet. But I have had around 45 years of experience with horses in general, and for the last 30 or so years Icelandic horses, often in large numbers. As we tend to keep our horses very naturally, in large herds on open spaces, and we are in a breezy coastal location, we have ended up with a lot of old and/or retired Icelandics over the years. Or, as one friend put it - "Solva, it's where the old Icelandics go to die!" 😊

Equine metabolic syndrome (EMS) is an endocrinopathy affecting horses and ponies. It is of primary concern due to its link to obesity, insulin resistance and subsequent laminitis. There are some similarities in clinical signs between EMS and pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction, also known as PPID or Cushing's disease, and some equines may develop both, but they are not the same condition, having different causes and different treatment."

Over time, I've noticed something more and more often, and that is the prevalence of EMS and PPID in those old horses. Often they arrive after their owners have been spending a fortune treating them for it, but sometimes they get here and their owners have no idea. They just have a horse that they say is "rather thin" (and indeed, the ribs are clearly visible), and prone to laminitis.

EMS is effectively Type 2 Diabetes in the horse, with all the associated problems and risks. Generally it affects horses between the ages of 5 and 15, but I've seen Icelandics much older than that with it. I have a couple here now that are in their mid 20s, and both are classic cases.

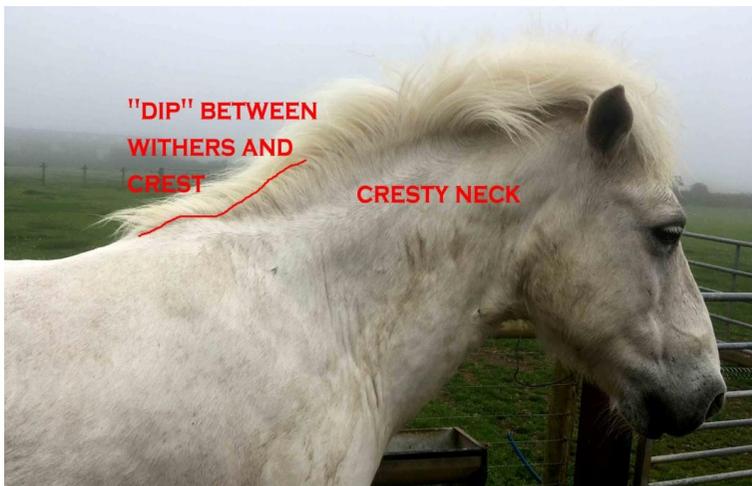
PPID symptoms are much the same, but it's usually caused (simply speaking) by a tumour on the pituitary gland. The main difference between EMS and PPID is that in the latter you get the classic long, wavy coat, and lack of proper moulting, along with increased drinking and urination and sometimes muscle wastage along the topline. Also, while it can affect younger horses occasionally it's much more common in the older ones, and certainly all those I've seen have been 15 years plus.

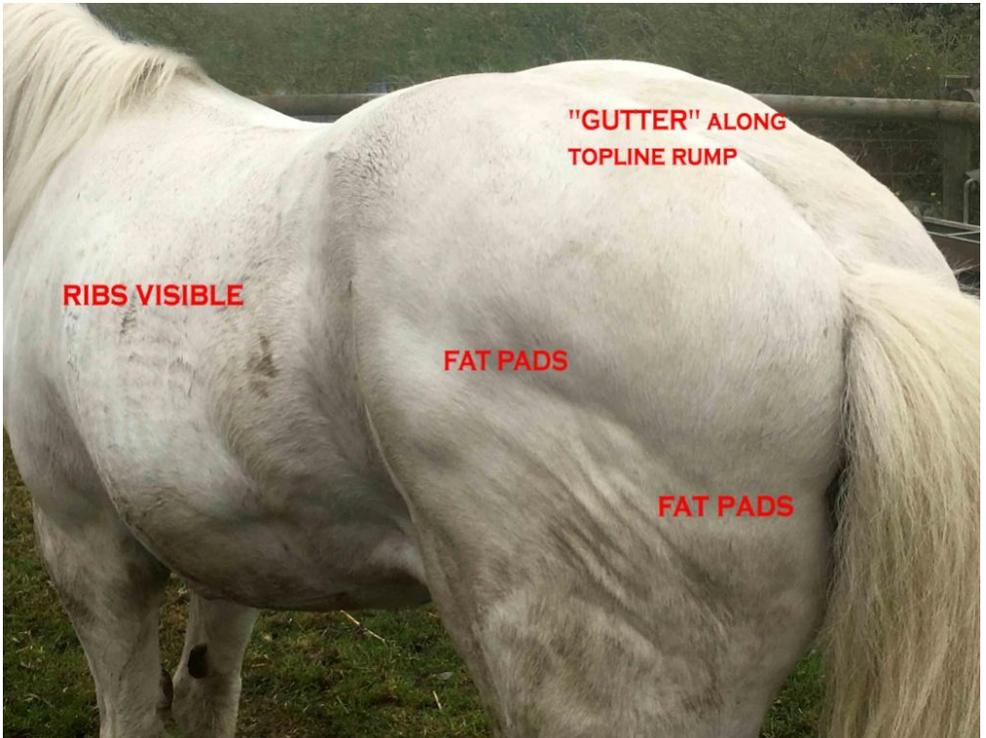
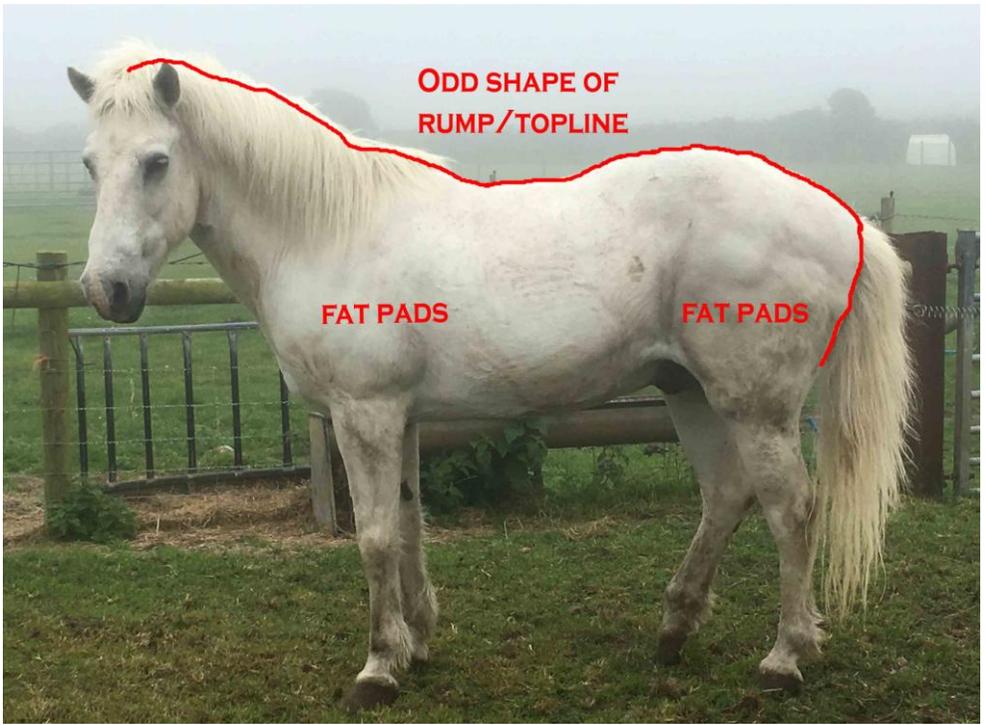
A blood test can differentiate between the two (normal Serum ACTH in EMS, elevated in PPID), but as the practical management of both diseases in horses is pretty much the same, for the purposes of this article I will treat them as the same thing.

The main trigger for both conditions seems to be obesity, and it's especially common in horses and ponies that have been extremely obese before the age of 10. It can lead to severe acute laminitis and at the least a low-grade chronic laminitis that will leave the horse feeling pretty miserable for much of the time. There are other symptoms, but laminitis is usually the first major thing we see.

I've found you don't need a vet visit or blood tests in the vast majority of cases as the symptoms are easy even for the layman to identify.

So - how to spot it. The most obvious sign of all is that your horse is fat, but looks thin. Sounds contradictory, doesn't it? But not really - the ribs are very easily felt, and are often quite clearly visible, sometimes leading the owner to increase the feed. Yet there are pads of fat on the rump, and the crest is much enlarged and often hard. Often there is fat above the eyes, around the top of the tail, on the loin, and around the udder in mares, and the sheath of geldings. The horse can actually look almost deformed as the hind end can appear much larger than you would expect, and there will appear to be a dip just above the withers.





FAT DEPOSITS ABOVE THE EYES



If you see a horse that shows most of these signs, it's a pretty safe bet that he has EMS and/or PPID. Your vet can confirm it if you like.

So what can you do? The main thing is for the horse to lose weight. We all know what will make that happen - diet and exercise. Most average-size Icelandics should weigh around 350kg, with the largest ones being up to about 420kg. Most weight tapes are wildly inaccurate, nearly always underestimating the weight, sometimes by up to 100kg. The only accurate way to know your horse's weight is to take him to the local weigh bridge, or some equine vet practices will have scales for horses. It's worth doing.

Vets will often recommend very restricted or even no turnout, but I find the EMS horses here do better out all the time on poor pasture. The only time we have had a horse with laminitis is when they have been unable to be on the moorland grazing, so in nice green fields. On poor grazing and a large space (i.e. what they have been bred for) they seem to do well, and don't seem to need any medication.

If you don't have access to poor pasture, then I have found the [Greenguard grazing muzzle](#) very effective, especially when used in conjunction with their special head collar. It allows the horse to be outside, moving about and exercising, but it's much harder for the horse to pig out on grass.



If the horse is not suffering from laminitis, then give it as much exercise as possible. Cut out all sweet feed, carrots, apples, treats etc. If you feel you must feed some sort of supplement then add it to a handful of unmolassed chaff. Surprisingly many horses seem to enjoy celery - that's a good low-cal treat for you and your horse! ;)

Nearly all horses respond well to proper management, and will show an improvement, though it may take some time for fat deposits etc to disappear - up to a year - and in some cases they never really do.

Just don't be afraid if you can see your horse's ribs.

by Mic Rushen

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Horseback Archery – [Peter Rudin-Burgess](#)

At the Oakfield Spring Show Peter Rudin-Burgess kindly demonstrated modern horseback archery and describes what was happening in his demonstration in the photos below. There has been a growing interest in this sport with Icelandic horse owners and Peter has just passed his coaching qualification with the [BHAA \(British Horseback Archery Association\)](#) and will be offering the opportunity for Icelandic horse riders to make use of his coaching free of charge. There will be a seminar at the Oakfield September Show. Please [contact Peter](#) for more information about taking part and coaching.



Hekla is undoubtedly the star of the show. It only took her six half-hour sessions to desensitise her to horseback archery, starting with just the equipment as you are inevitably going to bump something into her at some point. We then progressed to shooting on the ground near her and then onboard but standing, then walking and finally at a canter.

I look a bit of an odd shape in these pictures; I am wearing a body protector. When I started two years ago there was only one rider using a

body protector at the national championships. Last year three of the twelve competitors wore them including Michael Ruby who won the overall competition.

Air vests are prohibited though because you will do so much twisting in the saddle to front and rear that there is too greater chance of accidental activation.

The arrows here are in a left hip quiver. I then draw them across the body before nocking. (fitting the arrow to the bow)



You can use almost any kind of quiver for horseback archery with the most minimalist being a simply knotted scarf or belt and the arrows tucked in and fanned out behind you, the points are near your hip and the fletchings end are fanned out like a peacock tail then to draw you tug an arrow out backwards. Hip quivers are the most common. The only sort that is not allowed is those attached to the actual bow.

The 3 most common UK events:
Hungarian - a single target half way down the track that you can shoot as many times as you like.

Mamluk - targets beside, in front, behind and on the off side of the track.

Korean - starts with one target, then you go again with two targets and then again with three and so on with the targets getting closer together so you have less time to nock, aim and shoot. With the Korean you are not allowed to touch your arrows before crossing the start line so we end up adopting this arms out position to show the line judges that you hands are clear.



As we do not use the reins when competing they are normally knotted to prevent them falling forward over horse's head. When you need to manoeuvre we end up neck reining.

This is a really bad example of nocking (right).

We practice nocking without looking at the arrow as you want your eyes on the next target. Not looking down at your own hands. Ground archers would nock pointing the bow downwards but to protect the horse the bow is always pointed up and away. You don't want to jab your horse in the neck with an arrow.





This is a much better image of the safe bow position.

Your stirrups should be two holes or so shorter than your normal riding length. You want to be able to lift yourself out of the saddle to allow the horse to move under you.

Starting the run, normally you have ten or fifteen metres to establish your canter, except in the walk or trot classes of course. This is one of the few times where you are letting the horse just canter without any form of contact.



Here you can see that I am up out of the saddle and about to release the arrow.

Hekla's ears are pricked forward and I honestly feel she enjoys her time on the track.



Hekla is still happy, she is also available for shampoo adverts as she looks like she just stepped out of a salon (at both ends).

You can only see my index finder in this photo. That is because we tend to use the thumb draw technique rather than the Mediterranean three finger release. The thumb is hooked over the string to draw and only the index finger puts pressure on the arrow to keep it against the bow. The remaining fingers are kept curled up out of the way.



After Peter had completed his demonstration Catherine Holland volunteered to have a go.



Hekla is also used at the British Championships for the children's classes so I knew she was safe to use with an absolute beginner.

I am not proposing, I thought doing the girth up would be a wise safety precaution.

Catherine is an experienced archer but is used to the three finger Mediterranean draw. Normally I would start by teaching the thumb draw technique on the ground but as it was a one off we went straight to mounted.

So we hold the bow away from the horse. The horse always comes first.

The bows used in horseback archery are not allowed to have arrow shelves or the cutaways, counter balances or sights that many modern bows have. We have to shoot off the hand. You are allowed to use gloves and forearm protection.



Each bow has a draw weight; this is how much effort it takes to draw the bow back to a full draw. This bow is a 35lb bow which is a little heavy for Catherine and makes things more difficult for her.



Normally archers would have the arrow on the other side of the bow but when you are travelling down the track the wind resistance against the arrow is likely to blow it off your hand. So we typically shoot from the front side of the bow so the wind resistance helps keep the arrow in place.

Another difference between thumb and finger archers is the nocking. Finger shooters would normally nock higher up the string and slide the arrow down to the nocking point (the built up area in the middle of the string here). Thumb draw puts the arrow below the nocking point and then slides the arrow up to the nocking point. This can be a fraction of a second faster per arrow.



Because we are shooting off the hand we always use feather fletchings. Feathers are a lot more forgiving than rubber or plastic when they pass over your hand. The little bit of tape stops the leading edge of the quill from cutting into your hand.



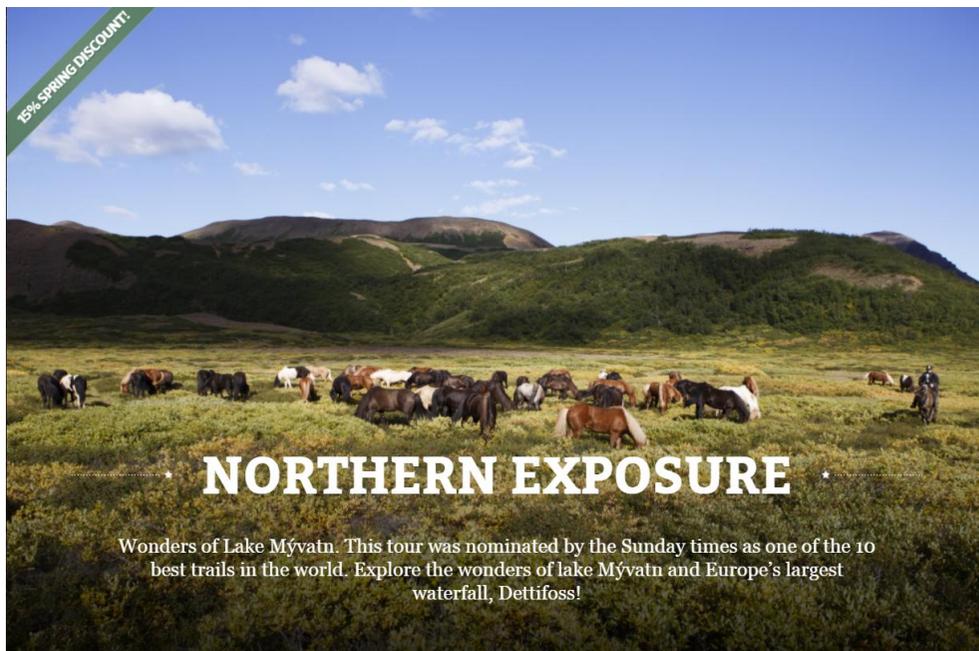
Shooting in walk is much harder than it appears. Normally archers are trying to achieve a moment of stillness before releasing the arrow. As soon as you introduce movement you have a whole new challenge. The secret is to allow the horse to move under you while you absorb the movement.

You can use the knee or thigh rolls of your saddle to stabilise you as you stand in the stirrups but Catherine is going a good job here of heels down, knees bent and standing out of the saddle. Considering she had never met Hekla before so a strange horse, an audience watching and a bow that was too heavy for her to come to full draw, I think she did very well.

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Icelandic horse riding holidays

The Sunday Times selected [Ishestar.is Northern Exposure trail](#) as one of the 10 best trail riding holidays this year. There are often requests in the chat group for recommendations. Here are the most recently recommended holidays from within the chat group. Please contact the people who recommended them for more details or just vicariously enjoy the videos, I have.



Ishestar [Northern Exposure](#) & [Arctic North Tour](#) recommended by [Barry Laker](#) who is guiding the last of these tours this year and the [Melrakkasletta sheep roundup](#). Barry may do a private tour next year so contact him if you are interested.

[Riding Iceland](#) recommended by [Monika Rudin-Burgess](#) and [Sue Postans](#)

[Hesta Sport](#) recommended by [Alison Beck](#) who goes at least once a year and [Catherine Holland](#) who commented that Hesta Sport have smaller groups than Ishestar and more comfortable saddles in her experience.

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Just joking

DON'T LET HIM FOOL YOU...



'PONY' IS A FOUR LETTER WORD.



Margare Schmitt © 2011

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Knowledge base

If you would like to make personal recommendations about services offered relating to the Icelandic horse, please [contact me](#).

Artists(of the Icelandic Horse)

[Sarah Brunt](#)

[Karen Earth](#)

[Irene Fordyce](#)

[Emily Hancock](#)

[Elisabeth Haug](#)

[Helena Leigh Levett](#)

[Mic Rushen](#)

Event Organisers

[Devon & Cornwall Icelandics](#) (Harriet Vincent)

[Dragon Riders](#) (Mic Rushen – Wales)

[Houlls Horses & Hounds](#) , (Dorothy Sales - Shetland Isles)

[Halfkey Icelandic Horses](#) (Lu Crawford – online so covers whole country)

[Ice Dragons Equestrian](#) (Peter and Kath Heathcote)

[Icelandic Horses in Scotland \(Lothians\)-IHSGB Affiliated](#) (Delia Marriott)

[Oakfield Farm – Verwood Dorset](#) (Nick Foot- Mo Hall, Verwood, Dorset)

[Old Hills Icelandics](#) (Ian & Fi Pugh- Malvern,Worcester)

[Ride Yorkshire](#)

[South Central Icelandic Horse](#) (Barry Laker, covers Hampshire, IOW, West Sussex, Surrey, EastDorset, Wiltshire & Berkshire.)

[Tölting Angles](#) (Dave & Ann Savage – Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincolnshire)

[Tweed Icelandic Riding Club](#)(Kirsty Carson - South Scotland / North England)

[Viking Raiders of the East](#) (Karen Smith – Lincolnshire & Yorkshire)

Trainers

We are looking for [your recommendations](#) for trainers that work for you.

NAME	AREA	TYPE	RECOMMENDED BY
Mary Concannon	UK	Clicker Training (+R)	Nick Foot
Eva Eventually			Shona Stewart
Bjorn Roar Larsen	Shetland	Level 3	Shona Stewart
Anni Olsen			Shona Stewart

Bjorn Roar Larsen, Shetland Level 3, Eva Entually and Anni Olsson who all regularly provide clinics in Scotland.

[Articles Index](#)

Facebook post where articles are linked currently.

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THIS PAGE IS UPDATED REGULARLY BETWEEN ISSUES OF SET THE PACE

For people who are not familiar with e-publications, it can be odd to see a large amount of white space in a magazine. If you order a printed copy, this space and the contents page are removed/adjusted. M.

Long distance riding

Some of our Icelandic Horse riders enjoy longer distance rides in various different ways.

There are the annual [FEIF virtual rides](#) which [Gundula Sharman](#) co-ordinates. [Landsmót](#) starts tomorrow in Reykjavik (assuming you are reading this on the intended day of publication, otherwise 1st July). [Elaine Rannie](#) has outstripped the competition by a long way this year ([results](#)) and has been awarded the IHSGB Long Distance Award for 2017. Congratulations Elaine.

Several of our members are involved with [Endurance GB](#). Endurance GB is the National Governing Body for the sport of Endurance Riding. It encompasses 23 local Groups throughout England and Wales who organise social events and rides from 8km (5miles) which are non-competitive or social/training rides, right up to 160km competitive rides (100 miles) for the most advanced horse and rider. They offer a full calendar of events for every level and ambition of rider. [Delia Marriott](#) is right in the middle of her busy season at the moment.



When I asked her if she would like to write an article; she responded “There are quite a few of us in Scotland who do endurance with our Icelandics. I'm happy to a contact (for Endurance GB queries). There are quite a few of us who go to clinics, meet for hacking, do endurance and have tried TREC but I'm away with my horse for the next 7 weekends.”

I am hoping that we will be able to catch up with Delia and her Icelandic Endurance adventures in the next edition.

Some others are involved in [TREC GB](#). TREC is a sport intended to test the skills of a horse and rider in planning and executing a long distance ride in unfamiliar country. See [Trec GB](#) - Rebekah Spowage's article further on in the magazine.

A third group like to do it themselves and organise rides, sometimes for charity, sometimes for fun, usually geographically based. At Oakfield, we have a programme of riding weekends which are fully booked at the moment but I have included them in the What's On page so you know they exist. We operate an expression of interest system where if you [let us know](#) you would like to try

one of our rides and tell us what distance you are interested in trying we will let you know via email or messenger when we start to plan the next round which will be for February 2019. We are also in training with the idea of offering one or possibly two multi day riding holidays next year. Most rides leave from the farm and follow a circular route with a pub lunch and an evening meal at the farm and a shorter ride on the Sunday. One of the rides we are looking at repeating is the South Downs Way which Linnie Frith, Jane Stone & Jenny Blakey tackled in 2016 to raise money for charities which they supported.

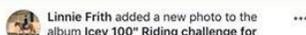
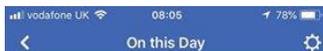
100 Miles of the [South Downs Way](#)...

In June 2016 whilst chatting on one of our regular ride/catch ups, Jane Stone mentioned a ride that she had always wanted to do. She told me of the South Downs Way ride. 100 miles of Bridle way that went from Eastbourne to Winchester. I had always wanted to do a riding holiday & we decided that if we were going to do it, now was the time. We looked up & researched the route, & started to plan how we could achieve it. We discussed how many riders would be a sensible & safe number, & then contacted Jenny Blakey who said she would love to do it. As well as a riding holiday I wanted to raise money for a charity. I was raising money for Cancer Research with Jane's support & Jenny for Wilberry wonder pony. I spent 3 months contacting many potential B&B, Farms, and Hotels within a reasonable distance of the trail & was met with a tremendous amount of

support.

I mapped the stops, water points & went to visit the B&B's. I dropped off fencing etc to anywhere that needed it. Jane worked out transport pick up & drop off points.

3 months later and many hours in the saddle to get both myself and my horse fit, we were set to go. We all met at Jane's place & travelled down in the one lorry, to the start point. Near Beachy Head, Eastbourne. Our adventure for the next 7 days, from this point on, had just begun..... Read all of Linnie's adventure [here](#). [Back to Contents](#)



AMAZING DAY !!! 14 1/2 miles down... 100 to go 😊

Beachy Head

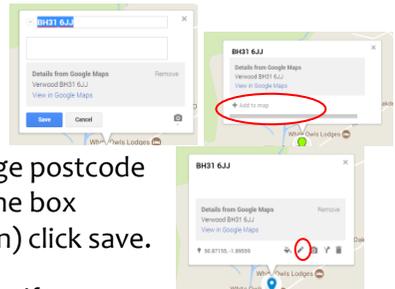


M Mapping Icelandics in the UK

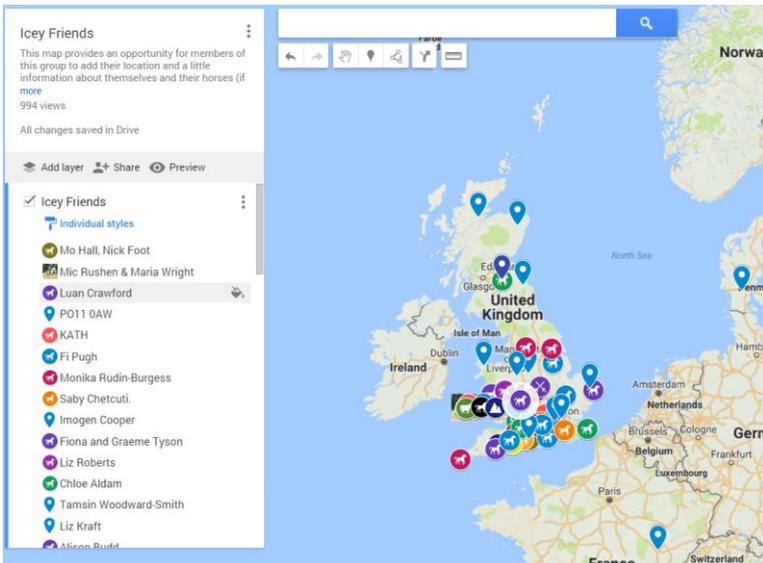
According the [WorldFengur](#) the number of Icelandic horses living in the UK now exceeds 1000. (1007 as of 23/06/2018). To help identify who is where in the UK we have created an online map which you can add yourself to, or just look up who is close or shares the same interests and contact them via messenger in the chat group. I have started adding “layers” to the map and will update it as people offer suggestions initially for [Trainers](#).

To [add yourself to the map](#): (PC, Mac & ipad only, you can view and edit on a phone but not add yourself.)

- Click [here](#)
- Enter your postcode in the search bar
- Click add to map
- Click on the edit icon (pencil icon) change postcode to your name, add details you want in the box below (add photos with the camera icon) click save.



You don't need to do any more than that but if you want to change your icon from a teardrop to a horse or something more interesting you can do that by clicking the paint pot.



If you get stuck, just drop me a [PM](#) and I will help you out.

To open the map to add yourself or to explore click [here](#).

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Neighbourhood News

There are a number of geographically local facebook groups and event organisers, See [Knowledge base](#). One of the things new members of the chat group say they find hardest is to find local Icelandic horse people and events. Hopefully the map will help and this section will give people an idea of what is happening locally in their area if organisers think it's worth putting news in this magazine. Some of the groups are more active than others. I have added the news article that we have put in the next issue of Sleipnir:

Oakfield Adventures 2018

What a year it has been so far. A terrible wet winter and then just in time for the spring show the weather showed us what it could do. Apart from being baked, the spring show was exceptional in many, many other ways. Thank you all so much for making it truly a landmark show.

Firstly and most importantly, thank you to our amazing teams of helpers. Sarah Edwards, Jan Payne and Harriet Bye who made sure we were all well fed and watered, including ice lollies all round when the weather just got too hot!

Nanco, Tim and Mic for judging and giving helpful feedback to all our riders.

Charlie Day for stepping in and doing sterling work as Gatekeeper and first aider despite the heat. (Diana was most disappointed, her van had broken down and couldn't be repaired in time to get to the show)

Kate Williams from [Chiron Equestrian Clothing](#) and Maria Wright for judging the fancy dress and providing amazing prizes again!

Fi for organising and judging Tölt in Harmony

Peter Rudin-Burgess for demonstrating his prowess at horseback archery and Catherine Holland for volunteering to help out and have a go too.



Kate examining one of [Harriet Bye's](#) handmade soaps. Contact Harriet for more details and yes, it is what it looks like.

[The Vikings of Middle England](#) for demonstrating their re-enactment skills and encouraging us all to indulge in our more violent impulses.



Everyone who brought tack to sell or crafty things for us to enjoy looking at and buying.

We would also like to thank all the people who stepped in and helped out, unasked, when they saw issues arising and just got on and dealt with them. More of that in a minute.

Congratulations to all our riders. The results are available on our website... <http://www.oakfield.me.uk/ss18.pdf>

The spring show this year was exceptional in many ways. We saw 17 new people attend our show as campers (they bought the meal deal which is how

we know the numbers, there were a lot more as day visitors) and 7 new riders take part for the first time. 37 people turned up for takeaway on Friday evening, something neither of us ever imagined when we suggested that it would be a friendly thing to do to have a takeaway on the evening before a show when generally the people who have a long distance to travel arrive tired and weary. We had 18 fancy dress entrants and B finals in several classes.

All of these wonderful happenings have highlighted a few holes in our facilities and preparations, along with changes introduced by FIEF to classes, names, timings and ordering of gaits in classes etc.

Over the summer we will be working to update the software I use to make the processes easier. Thanks to Mic and Fi for pointing out changes which we hadn't yet had a chance to accommodate. There will be a detailed update in the next magazine and on our facebook page and in the facebook chat group to make sure as many people as possible are briefed on the changes before the next show.

Whilst we are making the changes to the software we will be trying to introduce a recording system for individual progress at the shows in addition to archiving all show results as we do at the moment.

Until this show, we have always only had one or two new people at a time and nearly all of these have come along with an experienced Icelandic rider or friend. With 7 new riders this time it became apparent that, although we had managed to let people know about the farm facilities reasonably well, we had not prepared them for the practicalities of entering and leaving the track, warming up, passing people on the track and other pieces of show etiquette which are usually passed on by word of mouth and at training courses. It's a great problem to have and our newbies have been fantastic at feeding back to us what they wished they knew earlier.

It has become clear that it is sensible to offer some guidance and practice for people who are new to our shows and we will be holding track familiarisation practices and Q & A sessions on the Friday afternoon/evening in future for anyone who feels it will be helpful, September's one will be hosted by Fi but I suspect all the judges and I will be available to answer questions. We will also be adding guidelines specific to Oakfield Farm to our Farm Facilities handout. There are a few areas where our rules differ from FEIF guidelines and it is important everyone knows this well in advance of our shows.

New friend



We would also like to offer future new participants the opportunity to have a mentor for their first show. A first point of contact who can hopefully provide the information that some of our newcomers missed out on this time round. If you are an experienced Oakfield show participant and feel that you would be able to help out in this way, we would appreciate hearing from you and once we have had entries from new people we will match them up with a mentor and let you take it on from there to help people to arrive prepared and take part with confidence in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Hopefully these measures will help alleviate tensions caused with more experienced riders, but I do have to remind you our shows are intended to be fun for everyone, a learning experience and we were all new and/or young once. Please do not pass on any items of unasked for feedback to anyone; it can be upsetting for anyone at a stressful moment. We do appreciate that for a lot of people, competing can be stressful, but any failures of knowledge and experience are our responsibility, not that of the inexperienced. Please try and remember that and feed issues back to people who can do something about it.



Old meets new. The Viking archers talking about horseback archery with Peter.

Apart from the track competition, Tölt in harmony, the fancy dress and Peter Rudin-Burgess's horseback archery were all very well supported & will be repeated in September. [The Vikings of Middle England](#) were enjoyed by the spectators and hopefully arrange more training for those who might like Viking re-enacting.

As part of the feedback from the younger and newer participants, we have decided to run a summer camp. This is exciting for us and we will be borrowing and adapting Fi's Summer Camp model with the idea of providing a mix of teaching, familiarisation and experience specific to Oakfield as well as lots of fun. The camp was fully booked in 3 hours after first posting it on Facebook, so we are sorry if you missed out this time. There will be 3 half day training group sessions over the weekend, a track familiarisation session where 6 people at a time will learn the different classes and what is required in each one, how to pass safely and confidently on the track, warm up routines and timings etc and will get feedback from Mic and Nick on anything arising out of that practice. We will be sending out an email to the participants asking for the areas they would like to focus on specifically to make sure we fill in as many knowledge and experience gaps as possible. There will be a hack out to help familiarise people with our immediate area so warming up can happen safely off the farm and out of the way of people waiting to enter the track for the next classes, and so people can go out on a hack if they wish to and (it feels like there should be a drum roll) we are building a permanent set of obstacles, so there will be a track and trail/handy pony/obstacle training session. We are planning a scavenger hunt, a team fancy dress and other fun activities along the way and Jan Payne and her team are coming to feed us all again, so we are looking forward to an exciting and educational weekend.



We are not sure yet how track and trail will fit into Oakfield shows, whether we will extend the shows to a three day format or whether it will be possible to fit them into our existing 2 day schedule or have separate competitions. We are very fortunate to have Mary Concannon running clicker training courses here and we hope she will be running clicker based obstacle training once the obstacles are completed.



Mary already does these courses in Germany. We will let you know more specific details as our plans become firmer over the next few months. If anyone local has spare heavy timber or other building materials suitable for obstacle course construction please let us know as we are gathering materials for this project. The Oakfield Pickup Truck has just passed another

MOT at 20 years old and has been pressed into service collecting interesting materials.

Peter Rudin-Burgess recently passed his horseback archery coaching qualification so we will also be exploring running ridden archery courses or sessions at the farm.

It's really hard to believe there can be more, but there is. Such has been the interest and growth in activities at Oakfield this year we have increased the number of Clicker training courses to four, the most Mary could fit in with her other commitments around the world. Horse places on these are fully booked for July though there is space for horses on the October one. There are non-horse places on both the remaining courses.

We are extending our riding weekend season too. It has been something we have limited to the winter months previously but demand has been such that we will already have had a reverse Martin ride by the time this magazine goes to press. No doubt photos will be posted of the amazing scenery. Our other riding weekends will be in the events diary but they do fill up quickly, so please do contact us as soon as possible if you are interested in joining us for a fun weekend.

Lastly, it was the intention originally that the summer camp would be aimed at our younger riders as we have had several new ones join in the competitive classes at the shows this year. Both Crissie and Robyn are keen to pass on their experiences at the youth cup which unfortunately falls the same weekend as our camp so we will be trying to organise a specific youth event here to allow Robyn & Crissie to offer the benefit of their experiences, possibly in the autumn half term. It will be open to any under 21 year old and if people wish/need to travel we can supply horses for loan. Again, more details in the next magazine, on our facebook page and in the facebook chat group.

I think that is finally all of our news, except we may have our first foal for a decade or so here this year. Fingers crossed and thank you for all your support, it was exhilarating. Nick and Mo

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Oakfield Autumn Show 2018



It seems a million miles away but the Sleipnir deadlines mean we won't be able to publish details in advance in Sleipnir.



Anticipated Dates/times are:

6th Sept PM – earliest arrivals, please let us know well in advance, there will be no food catered until Friday evening takeaway, please come prepared if you are arriving early.

7th Sept PM – Track familiarisation followed by shared takeaway and Judges/Organisers Q & A. All welcome.

8th Sept–Qualifiers

9th Sept – Finals

Nanco is not available to judge this time, so we will be booking a judge on Nanco's

recommendation and we hope Mic and Tim will be able to judge as well. We will confirm judges nearer the show.

The show will be based on the same formula as we have used successfully for the last few years with 3 levels of experience of horse/rider competition for both gaits and Tölt classes.

We hope there will be a “Tölt in Harmony” class and Peter Rudin-Burgess is offering a demonstration/Have-a-go session for Horseback archery after the interest shown at the spring show. Entry forms and more details will be up on www.oakfield-icelandics.co.uk as soon as we can get them ready.

Please note: If the autumn show proves as popular as the spring show did, we will be advising beginner and intermediate riders that day visiting may prove to be impractical due to the number of B finals we need to run.

B finals have to be run early on finals day and several people lost their opportunity to compete as they were not able to return early enough. We hope that improvements in our software will make the processing and scheduling of the finals day much quicker in the autumn. Hopefully this will mean we can let people know the finals day timetable before midnight!

We are keenly anticipating Gareth's entry for the September Show fancy dress, if only for the shock value! (See above). The winner at the Spring Show was Ann Savage with Mary Poppins and she has chosen the theme **"Under the Sea"**. Looking forward to seeing you all there, have a great summer. Thanks to Helena again for a lovely [short video](#) of our mad fancy dress antics as the sun set on a great day.



Nick Foot (photos courtesy Nicola Guenigault)

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Pathfinding

I have always enjoyed exploring areas and bridleways I have not ridden before and have used GPS navigation for many years. Initially my pocket GPS receivers didn't have any mapping or computer interface. I would put the "way points" in manually reading grid references off the OS map, link them together as a route, and the machine would show me the way. This was excellent but basic.

Smart phones and tablets have revolutionised this process. I currently use an application called "[Outdoors GPS](#)" on my Iphone and iPad. By subscribing to OS Maps on it you can keep the Ordnance Survey maps that have the bridleways marked on them stored locally on the device and don't need a phone connection to use them. The initial screen simply shows the map of where you are but unlike the paper map there is a blue dot showing where you are on the map. This is already massively useful as you no longer have to take maps out of your case and refold them to get onto the next part of the route. Not fun if it's raining or blowing.

The picture below shows a blue dot on home and you can see the marked bridleways around. As you move the map stays centred on you and you can zoom in and out as required.

I use a mini iPad as the main navigation machine. You need the version that will hold a SIM card. The Wi-Fi only version does not have a GPS receiver built in. I bought a cheap second-hand one on Ebay so if it got damaged on a ride it wasn't too expensive an accident.



To carry it I use a waterproof case with a neck strap, it's just like having a map case round your neck. The case I use is from www.overboard.com

The next level of sophistication in the “Outdoors GPS” application is route planning. You can plan and mark out a route on the map and save it. This shows as a red line and you can then ride to keep yourself on the planned route with where you have been showing in blue. It will also record routes so you get a plot of where you have been and can save it to take the same route again another time (or post it showing people where you have been).

The next level of sophistication is that there is a web site that is integrated with the IOS application, <http://outdoorsgps.com> which is integrated with the phone and iPad apps. You can plan a route on your computer on a big screen and then download it to your iPad at home across your wi-fi before going out and riding it.

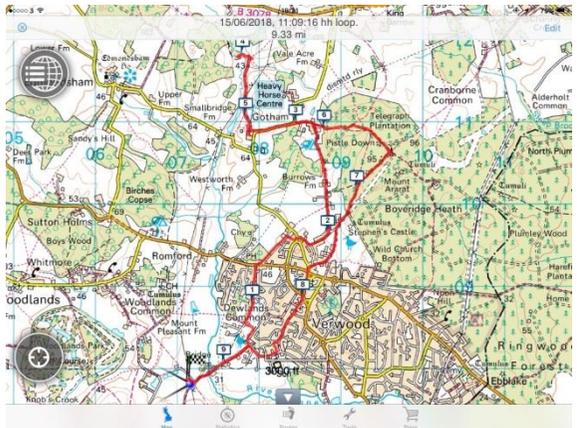
I keep a copy on my phone and iPad so if I have a problem with the iPad I have a backup navigation option. If I am riding a route that is mainly familiar but I need a reminder in a tricky place then the phone is ideal for that.

It's not free, you have to buy or rent maps (both options exist) but you would have to do that with paper maps anyway. These don't wear out or tear in the wind and as long as you use the waterproof case for the iPad they are very durable.

I've put a couple of screen shots in of rides that I have done so you can see the quality of the mapping and how well the route taken follows the path.

If anyone has questions on this app then feel free to catch me on [Messenger](#).

If you want ideas of where to ride in your area, have a look at the [BHS rides map](#).



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Q uestions

People pose questions in the chat group all the time and most of the time they are answered pretty quickly. Sometimes though, no one knows the answer for sure, so I am posting some of them here and will report back the answers I receive.

[Lindy Freedman](#) : Who trains Icelandics for other people?

A: See [Trainers](#)

Is there a list of people who actually teach with them?

A:

Any livery stables where there are a few icy owners so there would be advice at hand?

A:

Basically is there a kind of directory somewhere

A: *I can answer this one. I am hoping we can build one in the knowledge base in this e-publication. Hopefully you will provoke lots of answers with your questions and I will add them. Look at the [map](#) too, then you can see where people are in the country.*

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Roadwork (wheels and hooves)

A lot of us transport our horses in trailers or lorries, some are newcomers to this and others have been doing it for years. How many of you have thought about what you would do in an emergency though?

In January we had a panicked phone call from a friend on her way to an event at the farm. “My horse has gone over the breast bar, what do I do?” She is very new to transporting horses but it made us think. Firstly, the simple answer is **CALL 999 and ask for the Fire brigade. Tell them it’s a horse and that they will need the ANIMAL RESCUE team.** If you don’t remember anything else, remember that.



There are some things you can do yourself that might help you avoid that awful scenario. (The horse was bruised but fine. The owner managed to attend the event, rather shocked and without a horse.)

There are several things that I have learnt over the years about how to reduce the risk of transporting our horses.



CHECK YOUR VEHICLE FLOOR REGULARLY & VIGOROUSLY

Is your trailer or lorry floor safe? The nature of transporting horses is that there will be times they pee in the trailer or lorry, over time that leads to rot or corrosion.

I cannot emphasise too strongly "**check that floor**", at least once a year.

Take up the rubber mats if you have any, visually inspect the floor, **abuse it**.



For a wooden floor I use a large spiked crowbar to hit it round the edges, if that dents it or goes through your horse might. This is a floor that I replaced recently; it had come to the end of its life

around the edges.

TYRES, BOTH PRESSURE AND CONDITION If in doubt take it to a tyre depot and ask them to check them.

- A lot of garages and trailer places will service your trailer for you, greasing bearings and checking brakes etc. This is well worth considering.
- If you belong to the RAC you can buy optional horse trailer cover as well with them. They will provide mechanical help for the trailer and arrange horse recovery with a haulier if they cannot fix it.

Having checked the transport conditions there are several pointers that I have learnt from professional hauliers over the years.

HORSE CARE ON THE JOURNEY

DO NOT use travel boots, tail or leg bandages or covers unless your horse has a specific medical reason for them, especially on our hairy horses. They can cause the horse to be restless and be more likely to be stressed and injured. The leg coverings can cause the leg to get too hot, the leg sweats, the sweat causes them to feel itchy, they keep trying to scratch the itches using the opposite leg and end up unbalanced, fidgeting and stamping and can push the bandage or travel boots down their leg to try and stop the excess heat. This can leave them even more uncomfortable.

Tail bandages are particularly dangerous **NEVER** apply them tightly, or damp (they will tighten as they dry) - or leave on for more than an hour or so as they can cut off the circulation to the tail, leading to hair loss, and possibly even losing the tail itself, bone and all. Better to use a tail guard with Velcro if your horse has rubbed its tail out previously and it matters to you. There are lots of nasty pictures on the internet of the results of this so I won't include any here.

A haulier who regularly transported horses from Ireland to the UK and Europe made the comment: "*I never feed them when they are travelling; if their stomachs are empty then they can't get colic*". *They travel better that way.*

I never give mine a hay net when travelling; they can end up concentrating on the hay net too much instead of keeping balanced and stable travelling. If there are two horses they can end up squabbling over the hay net as well. If I am on a long journey I will put hay and water in while I am parked and take it out when I drive on again.

BE READY TO LEAVE ONCE THE HORSES ARE LOADED

It's very important to be absolutely ready to leave once the horses are on board. The horses should be the last thing to go into the trailer. Say your goodbyes, take your paddock down and pack it with the horses tied outside or someone holding them. **Load and GO!** If they are feeling uneasy in the trailer then the moment you move off they will turn their efforts to balancing and standing up. If they are standing still, the world has got small, and they are feeling claustrophobic that's when the start rearing up and could get over the breast bar or into the rear of a van conversion. Once you have been driving for a while they seem to settle and you can stop and take a break.

WHAT YOU CAN DO IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG

The next part of this article is what to do if something goes wrong, a horse falls, gets over the breast bar, breaks through the floor of a trailer or lorry etc.

Make absolutely sure you have a **CHARGED** mobile phone with you. If there is a distressed horse caught up and kicking or suspended in an awkward condition stop in a safe place, dial 999 and ask for the fire brigade. They have large animal rescue departments in many areas of the country who are trained for this scenario. If you are in your home area call your vet as well, explain the emergency and they will come and help the rescue team with sedatives etc. If you are out of your home area the fire rescue team will be able to call a vet or give you contact details. If traffic is dangerous call the police as well, they will come out and cone off or otherwise provide traffic control for safety.

The rescue team will come out to reduce the risk of members of the public getting injured; they have the training, tools, and protective equipment.

Do not put yourself in harms way.

Have you got quick release fittings that can be released under tension on your tie rings for the horses?

You can buy "trailer ties" to use instead of normal lead ropes. The panic clip is designed to go on the trailer, the normal one on the horse, so if you need to undo it in a hurry you don't have to get right up to the horse's head to release it.



MAKE SURE YOU KNOW HOW TO RELEASE YOUR BREAST BAR



Many trailers after 1995 have an external breast bar release. Do you know how to use this, have you ever checked it's not rusted up, have you got the right tools?? On older I for Williams you need an Allen Key: **Have you got the right size? Where is it?**

I suggest you get at least 2, one taped to an accessible but safe place in the trailer, one in your tow car. In the car is safer to get to, in the trailer is with you still when a friend is

towing your trailer. The release is simple, the breast bar fittings are held with captive nuts on the inside and bolts from the outside. Loosening, greasing and retightening these every year or two will mean they will come undone when you need them to. **DO NOT paint over the bolt heads on the outside.**

The picture on the left is the Allen bolts on an older Ifor, the two rows are for the upper and lower breast bars plates, you only need to remove one pair depending on the height of the breast bar.

The picture right is the new type fittings. [Ifor Williams](#). Newer Ifor Williams have ring bolts, these can be undone with lots of things like the wheel brace. Do you know where something suitable is, have you practiced when it is not an emergency?



If you prefer Ifor Williams do a modification kit that you can fit yourself to change to the new bolts available from your dealer. I have used Ifor Williams as an example as lots of you have them. If you have another trailer do you know if it has quick release and if so how it works?

Have you read your trailer manual? Ifor Williams will supply duplicate manuals to people buying trailers second-hand. Most manuals are available online on the manufacturer's website.



To summarise, **BE PREPARED!** Spend a few spare minutes or even hours to make sure you stay safe, keep your horses safe, and in event of emergency be reassured there is professional help available.

And once you are out on the road on your horse – make sure you are visible. Hi Vis is essential AT ALL TIMES. Nick Foot

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Shoeing the Icelandic Horse

The Icelandic horse is considered to be very gentle and well behaved. They are also more agile than the average pony in the same size, and can lift and bend their legs higher, making them easier to work with as a farrier.

The Icelandic horse is one of the only breeds that evaluate the hoof quality in breeding assessment. Because: "No hoof, no horse"!



We want round front hooves, heart shaped hind hooves, thick hoof walls, strong heels, a big triangular frog and the sole should not be flat. The breeding has given the Icelandic horse excellent hooves to work with, and has become very popular as costumers amongst farriers in other countries beyond Iceland.

To ensure the hoof quality and stop the mechanically enhancements of the gaits that risk the health of the horse, we have strict shoeing rules on the horses that enter the competitions grounds or breeding assessments. After every horse leaves the track, the toe length and shoes are measured and protective boots weighed.

As a farrier within the Icelandic horse community, I keep a close eye on all my competing costumers. We book appointments according to the shows, no more than one or two weeks before. And every horse is shod differently to meet the hundreds of different gait distributions, in the 4 or 5 gaits.

A five-gaiter with pacey tölt, might need 10 mm shoes in the front and 8 mm in the hind. A four-gaiter with a trotty tölt will probably get a clear beat in tölt with 6 mm shoes in the front and 8 mm in the hind. Making it easier for the horse to tölt, can also result in the trot magically disappear.

Farrier



In the end, it is the rider on top that has the outmost responsibility to train the horse to maintain the gaits. We work as a team; rider, farrier, trainer, veterinarian and equitherapist. [@zolarunsten](#) (post reproduced with permission from [Horses of Iceland](#)) [Back to Contents](#)

Trec GB - [Rebekah Spowage](#)

Rebekah has been a member of the Chat group for just under a year. She first met Icelandic horses when she did the BHS welfare challenge ride in 2005 which was a week of riding in Iceland, going from place to place with a large herd loose and changing horses several times a day. They rode for 5-7 hours a day and by first horse change she was hooked!

Rebekah says; “I promised myself that one day I would own an Icelandic mare and my favourite partner on the challenge ride was a sweet and feisty buckskin silver dapple who also started my love of pretty colours. Buying my own sweet, feisty, silver dapple mare in September 2017 was a dream come true!



Rebekah & Efi

Rebekah is one of the several Icelandic horse chat group riders that have been involved in Trec. She competed with her Irish Draft horses for many years and has kindly given us an introduction to Trec here. She is happy for anyone to [contact her](#) for more information. She is just embarking on the challenge of introducing Efi to Trec. You can follow her adventures and join in on her Facebook Page. [Efi's Trec Adventures](#).

Trec is a sport that has been in the UK for about 25 years, having originated in France ('Le TREC') as a way of testing and training the skills required to be an effective trail riding leader.

It has come a long way in this time and, thanks to its growing popularity, it separated from the BHS and a new governing body was formed in October 2014 (TREC GB) to ensure all affiliated events were run safely and consistently.

So what is it? In winter, when the tracks are muddy and we'd all rather be snuggled in front of a fire with a hot chocolate and not navigating fields in driving rain TREC GB and their associated groups run an indoor series which comprises of obstacles within an arena and a test of paces - more on that later on in the year when Efi and I start our first winter season.

We are coming into the summer months now thankfully when full competitions are run, generally over 2 days and at levels from 1 to 4.

There are three key components to the competition:

The first, my favourite, is the orienteering. This is accessible at Level 1 for the majority of pleasure riders, involving a lovely ride out in the countryside of around 10-15km (6-9 miles in old money.)



Before you start, you are given 10 minutes in a map room with a blank map (your copy) and a master map with

the route marked on. You copy the route onto your blank one as accurately as you can, as this is what you use to find your way round. There will also be an optimum speed marked on a poster within the map room. This is what you are aiming to ride at, from setting off, until the first check point. The problem is you don't know where the checkpoint is until you get to it, so you use the law of averages to 'best guess' your speed based on the distances marked on your map and your time. For every minute over or under you are, you get 1 penalty point. This constant calculation is a dream for a maths geek like me and I get very competitive with myself!

This will be my first year competing on Efi, so I will have a steep learning curve to learn her speeds given the huge range she produces in tölt. With my previous two mares, both Irish Draughts, I quickly learnt their typical walk and working trot speeds and could get very accurate timings by feel. However, if maths is not your thing, don't let that put you off! The majority of people just enjoy navigating the route, having a couple more canters on the faster sections and a bit more walk in the slower sections and usually get good scores. Alternatively, you could pair up with a maths geek and admire the scenery while they do the work!

The second section is control of paces. What better test than to encourage your horse to walk as fast as possible without breaking pace, and to canter as slow as possible without breaking pace? The faster you walk, the more points you get (to a maximum of 30.) The reverse is true for canter - the slower, the better. The majority of people score a handful of points in both gaits. One of my Irish mares used to get a 25 at canter but nothing at all at walk and nothing could persuade her to walk faster! I anticipate Efi getting 30 points at walk very soon, if not straight away - she out walks every horse we have ever hacked with and it has a lovely, swingly quality to it! Our canter is one speed only at the moment (fast!) and liable to break over the required 150m so this is an area we can focus our schooling on once she is stronger.



Lastly, there are obstacles. In a full competition there will be 16 obstacles and all of them have a logical, trail riding link. Some are jumps, water crossings, narrow corridors, s-bends (navigating that narrow mountain path!), wooden footbridges,

neck reining, rein back, ditches, opening and closing gates - the list goes on, but it's like handy pony for adults and so much fun! The great thing is you can miss obstacles out and you simply don't score anything for that obstacle rather than being eliminated as you would in cross country, for example. Therefore if you don't jump (we don't yet) or have a horse with a real water phobia for example, you can just miss it out.

We have a brilliant TREC trainer ([Evie Priestly-O'Keeffe](#)) who comes to our yard regularly and does obstacle training and a lot of not treccies find the training extremely valuable for building confidence, balance, and general life proofing! There is also quite a bit of cross over with western trail classes, horse agility and working equitation disciplines - it's a bit like handy pony for grown ups! To

get involved, check out the TREC GB introduction [video](#) or the [website](#) for events and links to your local group which will host training events as well as competitions.

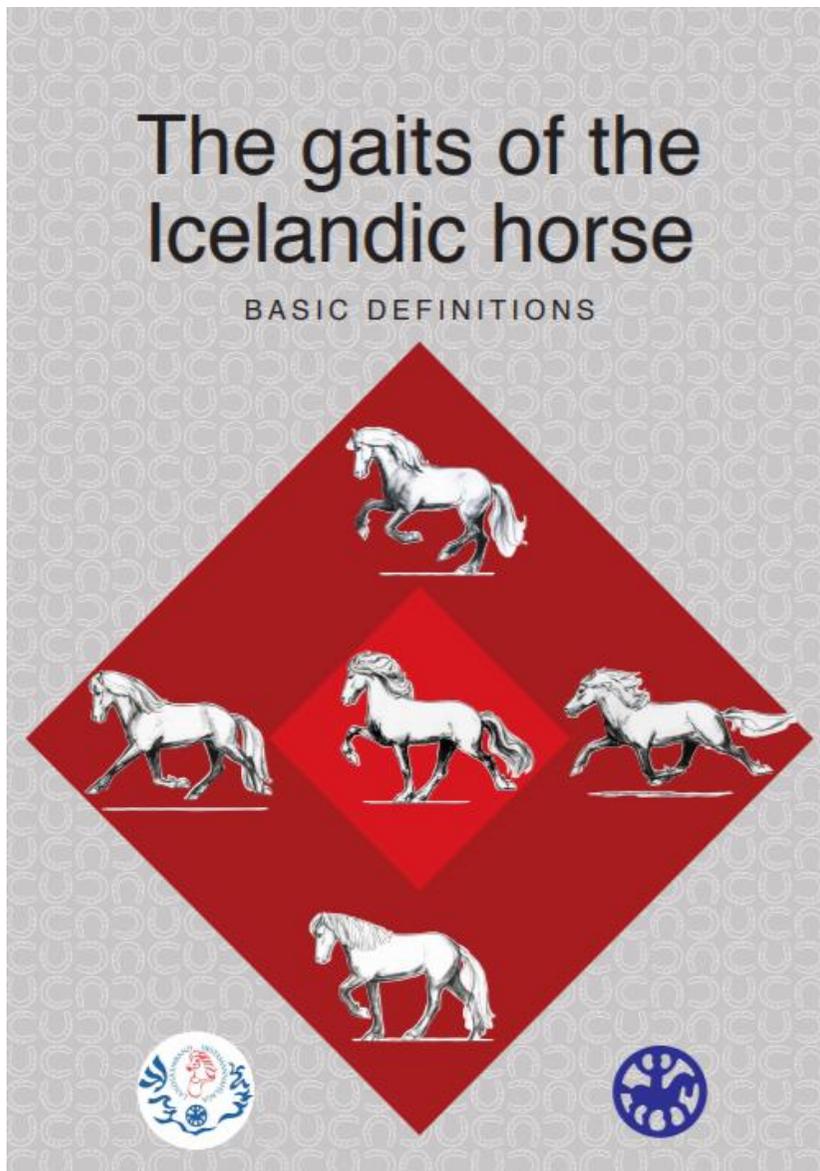
Happy treccing!

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One of Bwunty's Squibbles, used by kind permission of Sarah Brunt. For more of her Icelandic horse themed artwork [click here](#).

Understanding gaits



A very in depth [pamphlet](#) which you are free to print off and a beautiful video to accompany it from [Horses of Iceland](#) this time, used with permission.

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Video glimpses

Some of the articles shared with me to collate into the magazine have been fantastic glimpses into the amazing things skilled and experienced people achieve with their Icelandic horses in different digital media. I have listed video and blogs/personal Facebook pages this time. Not really formats that work for a paper magazine and one of the reasons going down the e-publication route appealed to me. Thank you for sharing these and please keep them coming.

[Liberty Transitions](#) with [Steinar Sigurbjornsson](#)

[Landsmótt Live Stream](#) (payment required 1st – 8th July)

Icelandic Horse Blogs/Facebook pages

[Little Viking Horse](#) (Catherine Holland)

[My Shetland](#) (Frances Taylor)

[Me and Aspar the Icelandic Horse](#) (Thalia Colyer)

[Efi's Trec Adventures](#) (Rebekah Spowage)

[The Adventures of Tinna and Jörð](#) (Karen Smith)

Did I miss any?

Other Interesting Links

[National Geographic Photographer of the Year Competition \(Icelandic Horse\)](#)

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What's on where

Please [let me know](#) of any events you are organising or attending.

July 2018

- 1-8 [Landsmót Hestamanna](#) Iceland's National Icelandic Horse Competiton
- 7-9 [Oakfield Clicker Clinic](#), Mary Concannon (Full) Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
- 15 Foreign Breeds [APHS London Counties Horse Show](#) Contact: [Lynn Jarvis](#)
- 20-22 Foreign Breeds [Champions Showcase](#) Bedfordshire Contact: [Lynn Jarvis](#)
- 22
- 24-26 Foreign Breeds [New Forest Counties Show](#) Contact: [Lynn Jarvis](#)
- 28-4/7 [FEIF International Youth Cup - Sweden](#)
- 31 [Halfkey July Challenge deadline - see Halfkey Icelandics for details](#)

August 2018

- 3-5 Oakfield Summer Camp (Full) Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
- 4-5 Wedge Hill Cottage, Verwood Course, Fi Pugh Contact: [Ann Cunliffe](#)
- 12 Foreign Breeds [Equifest](#), Peterborough Contact: [Lynn Jarvis](#)
- 18-19 [Ice Dragons Equestrian](#) Clinic, Fi Pugh Contact: [Peter Heathcote](#)
- 21 Temple Farm Midlothian Have-a-go TREC Contact: [Delia Marriot](#)
- 22 Connegar Clinic, Jemimah Adams Contact: [Barry Laker](#)
- 24 Set the Pace -Issue 79 publication date Contact: [Mo Hall](#)
- 24-27 Old Hills Summer Camp (full) Contact: [Fi Pugh](#)
- 25-27 [Rockingham Castle, Viking Display](#) Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
- 30 Foreign Breeds [Bucks County Show](#)
- 31 [Halfkey August Challenge deadline - see Halfkey Icelandics for details](#)

September 2018

- 1-2 Foreign Breeds [Dorset County Show](#) Contact: [Lynn Jarvis](#)
- 9 West Tarf , Peebleshire Oval Track Have-a-go Contact: [Delia Marriot](#)
- 16 [Foreign Breeds Society Championship Show](#) Rugby Contact: [Lynn Jarvis](#)
- 2 Social & Charity Ride, Burghley, Lincs Contact: [Karen Smith](#)
- 7 Oakfield Oval Track Familiarisation from 1pm Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
- 7 Oakfield Judges Q & A plus shared takeaway (6pm) Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
- 8-9 Oakfield September Show Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
- 22 Oakfield Riding Weekend – Martin Down(Full) Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
- 29 [Horses Inside Out – Day Seminar – Gillian Higgins – NN3 7QL](#)
- 29-30 [Ice Dragons Equestrian](#) Have-a-go Show Contact: [Peter Heathcote](#)
- 30 [Halfkey Sept Challenge deadline - see Halfkey Icelandics for details](#)

October 2018

- 13-15 [Oakfield Clicker Clinic](#), Mary Concannon Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
21 Caron Valley Icelandic Endurance ride [SERC ride](#) Contact: [Delia Marriot](#)
26-28 Oakfield Riding Weekend – Circular Route (Full) Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
30 [Halfkey October Challenge deadline - see Halfkey Icelandics for details](#)

November 2018

- 16-18 Oakfield Riding Weekend – Circular Route (Full) Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
31 [Halfkey Nov Challenge deadline - see Halfkey Icelandics for details](#)

December 2018

- 31 [Halfkey Dec Challenge deadline - see Halfkey Icelandics for details](#)
31-1/1 Oakfield New Year's Day picnic ride & NYE social Contact: [Nick Foot](#)

January 2019

- 25/27 Oakfield Riding Weekend & Burns Supper (Full) Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
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XCountry

I was going to use this section for Cross Country but Delia and the other people involved in Cross Country are busy doing it, not writing about it.

Delia has organised several events for later on in the year (See [What's on where](#))

At the last minute Liz Phillips posted some [lovely video](#) of her 12 year old daughter Pippa and 18 year old 'Kaeti from Stonehaven' at the [Cross Country training centre in Fife](#).

It's a fantastic facility. Its only the second time Pippa has done any cross country! What confidence, well done Pippa.

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Y oung Riders

We have had an encouraging rise in the number of young riders riding Icelandics for pleasure, in shows and in competition. We will be running a youth event for those that can get to the South of England with Robyn Philpott & Crissie Edwards after the FEIF Youth Cup and Shona Stewart is going to organise a more Northerly/Scottish one if people are interested. We will let you know details when we know more. I am relatively new to the Icelandic world and have been asking those I have had contact with about our youth riders and the youth riders themselves if they would like to contribute to the magazine. Cristina, Isabel & Rachel sent me articles, reproduced below. It was great to see Mia Taylor with Lenja at the IHSG British Championships, I haven't managed to catch up with her or Sarah yet. If you are under 21 (or a parent) and are interested in telling us about your adventures with your Icelandic horse, whatever it is and wherever you are, please do [get in touch](#).

[Cristina Edwards](#)

Cristina has been chosen to represent Great Britain in the [FEIF Youth Cup](#) in August this year. More experienced Icelandic horse riders have offered Cristina the opportunity to benefit from their experience and ride their horses between now and then and she is keeping a diary of her experiences.

Sat 9th June



Today I went to Carmarthen to visit Robyn Philpott and co. As Robyn is my team leader she invited me to go and ride both Breki and Tindur so that I could get some experience on different types of horses before I attend the Youth Cup in Sweden. I first went in their school and rode the both in there to get familiar with them. After doing that Robyn and I went on a ride in and around the area where we both swapped horses on the way home! It was a great experience and lovely to ride Robyn's wonderful boys! I was quite nervous and excited to start with as it was very new to me but I learned a lot about how different 2 horses can be. In the controlled environment of the school it was a tad easier as when we were out on the hack they both seemed more excited and energetic!!

Here are a couple of short videos of Crissie riding [Breki](#) and [Tindur](#).

Fri 22nd June



Crissie on Fifa

Today I travelled up to Risca with Jan, Mic and Jayne to have a couple of lessons with [Caro Van de Wint](#) at Peter and Kath Heathcote's [Ice Dragon Equestrian Centre](#). They kindly paid for the training as sponsorship towards my experience for youth cup. Peter and Kath also let me borrow their horses to have the lessons on - I rode Fifa and Svipur. Both very lovely horses. The lessons consisted of how to get the best out of the horse, how to transition into each gait well for competition. It felt so useful and informative to be able to experience different horses Caro was a wonderful teacher!

Crissie's next adventure is at Spalding with Ann Savage this weekend. Ann writes "I've been working Galdur for Chrissie ready. (he's the one I won the T1 Winter Tölt in at Etal).

Crissie is going to continue to write her training diary and share it with us. Please contact [Crissie](#) if you can offer her hands on experience or sponsorship before August.

[Rachel MacKinnon](#)

I had talked about taking a horse to the British Championships for as long as I can remember, but it never actually happened. And then as this year's competition approached it came up more and more in mum and my discussions, until the entry forms came out and there I was filling one in! Having lived on Skye previously and not getting to anything more than the one local show per year on the island until I moved when I was 16, it was still a big step at 20 years old to be heading all the way down to Edinburgh (!!!!!) for the biggest competition I've ever entered.



The preparation was endless (according to my poor mother/ groom/ driver/ horse-holder/supporter who ended up doing it all as I was busy at work) and the journey down felt even longer.

Although it only took 5 hours, it was a long 5 hours, especially as we didn't know the roads so well. Lyskra, my horse, travelled like an angel and didn't even break a sweat. Out she came at West Tarf, cool as a cucumber and looking for grass! She was stabled nearby at a lovely livery yard as she is unfortunately not to be trusted in a small paddock.



Our first class on the rainy Saturday was T8, mine and Lyskra's first ever oval track competition. I've never been so nervous in my life! Lyskra behaved like the true professional she's becoming - no spooking, no napping, no naughtiness whatsoever - which is a far cry from the horse I bought 2 years ago. Her tölt wasn't as clean as I know it can be and I perhaps let my nerves get the better of me slightly but we still managed a nice enough performance to get us into the finals.

Next class in the afternoon was V5. This was the class I was most nervous for as I rarely ride in a group but in we went and we tried our best. The gaits all came fine except for canter which we picked up on the wrong lead (eye roll) but these things happen. We still did enough to get into the final which I never dreamed of achieving, so Saturday ended on a high.

Sunday started early with our V5 final at 9am, but Lyksra was feeling good and we managed to hold our 3rd place position. In the T8 final a couple hours later I could feel her getting tired and not giving the best tölt she can so we dropped a place from the preliminaries to take 4th which I'm still over the moon about. Lyskra gave me everything she had and completely exceeded all expectations. We've got lots and lots to work on and I'm so looking forward to my next oval track competition - whenever that may be!

Isabel Day



Hi there, I'm Isabel Day I am the daughter of Charlie Day who has Glowie.

In August last year Nick had offered for me and Libby to ride Svalur and Brynja as we only had once icy(between 3 of them! - M) and really wanted to compete so Nick kindly offered.

The May show was my best yet I got most paces in the four gait and managed to get to the B final. I was happy with that.

I also did really well in the tölt we managed to get into the final and I got my best scores yet for it.

About a month ago mum found two Icelandics for me and Libby to ride and enjoy. Libby has Bil who has gone for some intensive training, and I have Örvar at the moment. We are working on getting his tölt stronger as he does have it. We suspect the old owner used to push him through the tölt into trot so we are working on getting that back and telling him that we want tölt. Örvar has a kind nature and is always willing to do what you ask however can be cheeky. He has a great personality and I can't wait for you lot to meet him at summer camp!!!

Zootomy

There is nothing like fame by association.

Jenny Blakey's cousin [Gillian Higgins](#) is known by quite a few of us these days, she is the founder of [Horses Inside Out](#).

Did you know she is a member of our chat group?



Over the last few years many of us have watched her demonstrations as her amazing take on equine anatomy (zootomy) has caught the imagination of the horse world and she has gone from strength to strength. In 2016 Gillian & photographer Matthew Roberts called in at Old Hills to take some photos of horses in tölt (Maron) and pace (Erró) for her book *The Horse in Motion* which is due to be published shortly. It was not an official clinic or seminar, simply a photoshoot and a few Icey people dropped in to help paint. Thank you Becca, Lu, Jackie, Elena and Jenny :-). Gillian is now creating a volunteer register looking for helpers, assistant painters, riders and horses from all disciplines and levels for lecture demonstrations, photo shoots and events up and down the country. You can register as a volunteer [here](#).



In case you have never seen any of her work, there is a great video introducing her work [here](#) also featuring Fi Pugh.

If you can make it, her [day seminar](#) on Saturday 29th September 2018 at Moulton college equestrian centre, Northampton will be well worth a visit.

