

# INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR EQUITATION SCIENCE

England & Wales · Charity number 1176401

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2017-12-20

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** T Jeffs Accounting Services Limited  
36 Dean Close  
Banbury  
Oxfordshire  
OX16 3WA

**Phone** 044 7951506843

**Email** [treasurer@equitationscience.com](mailto:treasurer@equitationscience.com)

**Website** <http://equitationscience.com/>

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO ADVANCE EQUITATION SCIENCE\* AND PRACTICE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY:1. ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH INTO THE TRAINING OF HORSES TO ENHANCE HORSE WELFARE AND IMPROVE THE HORSE-RIDER RELATIONSHIP AND THE DISSEMINATION OF SUCH RESEARCH TO THE PUBLIC;2. APPLYING VALID, QUANTITATIVE SCIENTIFIC METHODS TO CREATE EVIDENCE-BASED MEASURES TO INFORM EQUESTRIAN PRACTICES; AND3. RAISING AWARENESS OF EQUINE LEARNING THEORY AND ITS CURRENT APPLICATION.\*EQUITATION SCIENCE PROMOTES AN OBJECTIVE, EVIDENCE-BASED UNDERSTANDING OF THE WELFARE OF HORSES DURING TRAINING AND COMPETITION BY APPLYING VALID, QUANTITATIVE SCIENTIFIC METHODS THAT CAN IDENTIFY WHAT TRAINING TECHNIQUES ARE INEFFECTIVE OR MAY RESULT IN EQUINE SUFFERING.

**Activities:** The Mission of ISES is to promote and encourage the application of objective research and advanced practice which will ultimately improve the welfare of horses in their associations with humans.

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** Education/training, Animals
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Argentina
- Australia
- Austria
- Bahrain
- Belgium
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Egypt
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Gibraltar
- Greece
- Guernsey
- Hong Kong
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Ireland
- Italy
- Jersey
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Peru
- Poland
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Russia

- Saudi Arabia
- Scotland
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- United Arab Emirates
- United States
- Uruguay
- Zimbabwe
- Throughout England

### Finances

| Period end | Income  | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|---------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2025-04-30 | £30,199 | £10,888     | -      | -         |
| 2024-04-30 | £16,616 | £31,373     | -      | -         |
| 2023-04-30 | £21,061 | £16,436     | -      | -         |
| 2022-04-30 | £24,291 | £16,117     | -      | -         |
| 2021-04-30 | £12,599 | £3,656      | -      | -         |

### Trustees

| Name                            | Role | Appointed  |
|---------------------------------|------|------------|
| Caleigh Copelin                 |      | 2023-03-08 |
| Dr Cathrynne Charlotte Henshall |      | 2024-05-28 |
| Dr Ella Bradshaw-Wiley          |      | 2025-05-27 |
| Dr Katherine Helen Fenner       |      | 2022-01-01 |
| Dr Katrina Merkies              |      | 2018-06-20 |

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR EQUITATION SCIENCE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1176401

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# Accounts

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**20  
25**

Report No.  
FYE25

**ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**International Society for Equitation Science**



Charity #1176401



## From the desk of the Honorary President



This annual report marks the end of my term as Honorary President. I look back over the last two and a half years of my term, and particularly the last year, and feel we have made progress not only in reaching many more people who put equine welfare at the top of their list, but also in terms of how we operate as a society. It may be tedious work to develop policies, review procedures and update mission statements, but this framework allows us to continue our work with clearly defined objectives and protocols.

Weekly meetings of Presidential Council – Kate Fenner, Janne Winther Christensen and myself – have helped immensely in keeping us on track. These meetings regularly remind me that I am not alone, that together we can

achieve more, and I look forward to their friendly faces just to chat. Recently we started inviting members of council to our meetings and this provides a wonderful opportunity to involve each member more intimately and to get to know them better. Each council member is committed to our mission and every task they take on contributes to our progress.

Due to timing, we have not had a conference during this fiscal year since last year was in March in the last days of summer in New Zealand, and this year is not until August in Colorado. The local conference organizing committee is planning a wonderful program in a beautiful location. Each conference is packed with the latest in equitation science research paired with practical applications and the unique blend of scientists and practitioners provides a special flavour.

Our media manager, Chloe Campbell, continues to churn out creative content through various media channels. Whether you prefer to listen to podcasts, read through infographics or participate in webinars, there is something there for everyone. In particular our Community in the member's area on our website provides a safe space for thoughtful, provocative and helpful discussions. Be sure to join in!

As I move into the Senior Vice President role I will remain involved in our day-to-day workings and continue to promote equitation science wherever I go. I am so grateful to all the members on Council and the Trustees for their support throughout my tenure. I turn you over to the capable hands of Kate Fenner who moves into this role at our AGM in May 2025.

Katrina Merkies,  
Honorary President



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## Administrative Details

For the year end April 30, 2025

### Trustees

Katrina Merkies  
Janne Winther Christensen  
Kate Fenner  
Janet Douglas  
Caleigh Copelin  
Cath Henshall (appointed May 2024)

### UK Charity Commissions registered number

1176401

### Independent Examiner

Tyler Jeffs  
T Jeffs Accounting Services Ltd,  
36 Dean Close,  
Banbury, OX16 3WA  
UK

### Bank

Lloyd's Bank plc  
25 Gresham St,  
London, EC2V 7HN  
UK

### The Objects of the Society (as per our Constitution):

To advance equitation science\* and practice for the public benefit, in particular but not exclusively by:

1. encouraging and supporting research into the training of horses to enhance horse welfare and improve the horse–rider relationship and the dissemination of such research to the public;
2. applying valid, quantitative scientific methods to create evidence-based measures to inform equestrian practices; and
3. raising awareness of equine learning theory and its current application.

\*Equitation science promotes an objective, evidence-based understanding of the welfare of horses during training and competition by applying valid, quantitative scientific methods that can identify what training techniques are ineffective or may result in equine suffering.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.



## ISES Mission and Goals

Our mission statement and specific goals were carefully reviewed and updated by Council and Trustees to be more specific and aligned with our activities.

**Mission Statement:** The International Society for Equitation Science (ISES) is a not-for-profit organisation that chiefly aims to provide a forum for presentation and discussion of advances in equitation science research which will ultimately improve the welfare of horses in their associations with humans.



Encourage basic and applied research into the training and welfare of horses



Support researchers studying equitation science



Provide an international forum where scientists can communicate and discuss their research results



Encourage the dissemination and application of scientific knowledge in relation to the way horses are trained, managed, housed and cared for



Encourage and support the teaching of equitation science in research and academic institutions, especially vet schools, departments of animal science and animal production, agricultural colleges and departments concerned with equids



Provide a pool of expertise to national governments, international bodies, industry and to those equine welfare organisations who deal with topics related to equine welfare, behaviour, training and management



Learn from other disciplines such as applied animal behaviour science, veterinary science, psychology and others



## Trustees

The charity trustees oversee the affairs of the charity and abide by the regulations of the Charity Commission for England and Wales. Trustees meet every other month. The slate of trustees serving from May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025 consists of:



**Honorary  
President**  
**Katrina  
Merkies**



**Junior Vice  
President**  
**Kate Fenner**



**Senior Vice  
President**  
**Janne  
Winther  
Christensen**



**Honorary  
Secretary**  
**Caleigh  
Copelin**



**Membership  
Secretary**  
**Cath Henshall**



**Treasurer**  
**Janet Douglas**



## Council Members

The Council performs duties for the regular functioning of the charity. The council meets every other month. The Council as of April 30, 2024.



**Media Team**  
Colleen  
Brady  
(Interim)



**Student Rep**  
Claire  
O'Brien



**Vet Liaison  
Officer**  
Barbara  
Padalino



**Research  
Officer**  
Uta König  
von Borstel



**Education  
Officer**  
Colleen  
Brady



**Governance  
Officer**  
Vicky Hailey



**Practitioner  
Rep**  
Susan  
Kjærgård



**Ordinary  
Member**  
Angelo  
Telatin



- Changes in Trustees 2024-2025:
  - Cath Henshall voted in as Membership Secretary (May 2024)
  - External trustees Hayley Randle, Nat Waran and Andrew McLean completed their second term (May 2024).
  - The slate of trustees remains at six and agree to consult *ex officio* external advisors as needed.
  
- Changes in Council 2024-2025:
  - Susan Kjærgård voted in as Practitioner Rep (May 2024)
  - Claire O'Brien voted in as Student Rep (May 2024)
  - Kym Griffin voted in as Media (May 2024)
  - Kym Griffin resigned as Media (January 2025). Colleen Brady took over as interim.





## Media Outreach

Our Media Manager Chloe Campbell has developed numerous initiatives to provide information and resources to our members through various portals.

Kym Griffin and Colleen Brady support Chloe's work in content ideas and creation and respond to inquiries submitted through our website. A media framework ensures all output is reviewed by at least two council officers.



Chloe Campbell ISES Media Manager

- **Exclusive members' area content on our website**  
**ISES community** – an inclusive space where equestrian enthusiasts, professionals and researchers converge to celebrate and advance the science of equitation.



International Science

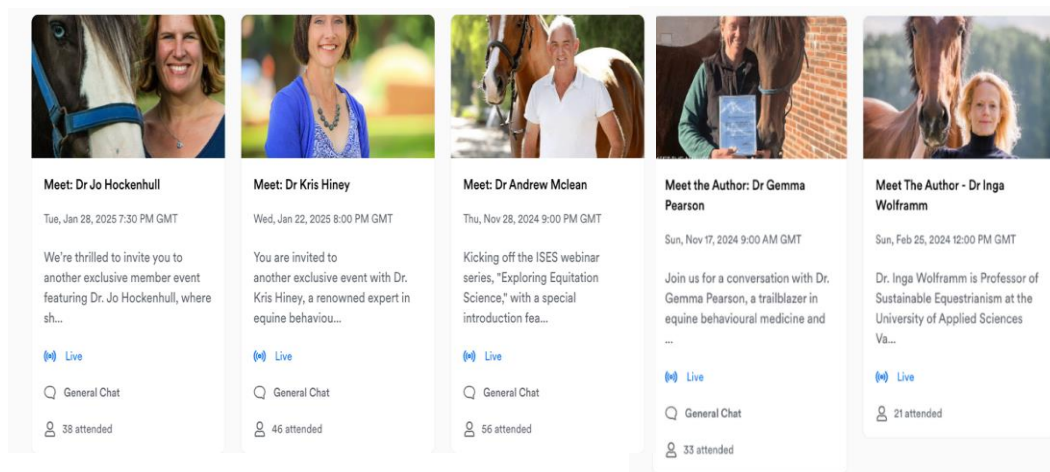
### The International Society for Equitation Science Community

- **Webinars**

- Episode 1: Equitation science and equine ethology – Dr Janne Winther Christensen
- Episode 2: Understanding horse behaviour – Dr Sue McDonnell
- Episode 3: Training methods for welfare – Shawna Karrasch and Jessie Hillegas

- **Membership community meet ups**

- Dr Inga Wolframm
- Dr Gemma Pearson
- Dr Andrew McLean
- Dr Kris Hiney
- Dr Jo Hockenhull





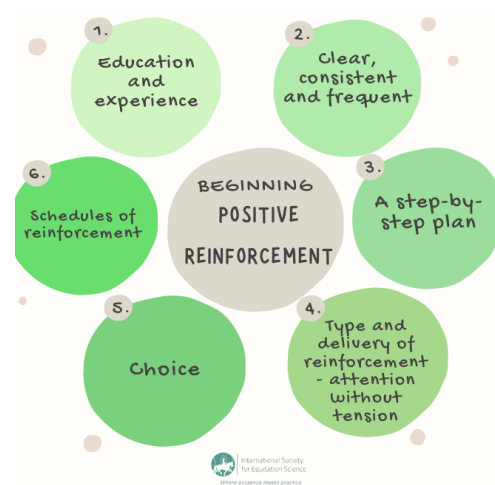
○ **Research Bites:**

- Can ponies distinguish human facial expressions?
- Positive reinforcement: Standing still
- Beginning positive reinforcement training
- The four quadrants of operant conditioning



## Can Ponies Distinguish Human Facial Expressions?

Merkies, K., Sudarenko, Y. and Hodder, A.J., 2022. Can Ponies (*Equus Caballus*) Distinguish Human Facial Expressions? *Animals*, 12(18), 2331.





○ **NZ conference talks**



- Lightning talks from multiple researchers
- Effect of touch on horses during horse-human interactions – Dr Katrina Merkies
- Oral conflict behaviour is a potential indicator of oral lesions in dressage horses – Prof Janne Winther Christensen
- Rein tension and perceived driveability – Prof Paul McGreevy
- Safe, effective and ethical horse-human interaction – Dr Kathalijne Visser
- Working to reach a consensus on NBAs – Chloe Young
- Detecting positive emotions to assess quality of life – Dr Cathrynne Henshall
- Setting up horses for a good life – Prof Janne Winther Christensen
- Horse owner knowledge of care and perceptions on mandatory equine knowledge certificates – Megan Watney
- Carbon footprint of a Dutch sport horse – Iris Huisman
- Validation of a QBA method measured through quantitative behaviour test – Dr Gemma Pearson
- Observational indicators of fatigue during cross country – Prof Jane Williams
- Effect of hay feeding regimen on horses' emotional state – Prof Uta Konig von Borstel
- Summary for work of the FEI ethics commission – Prof Nat Waran
- Effect of noseband tightening on eye temperature – Dr Orla Doherty
- The wicked situation of horse welfare – Julie Fiedler
- Polo – what do we know now – Dr Russell Best
- Analysis of equestrians' knowledge level – Sarah Marlene Lojewski
- A good life for horses – Prof Paul McGreevy
- How should we think about equine ethics – Madeleine Campbell
- Influence of perceived personality traits on police horse selection – Kiana McDole
- Evidence-based horse training – Dr Andrew McLean

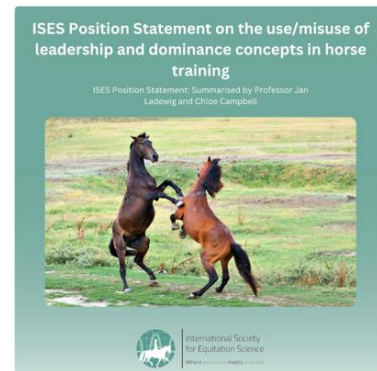
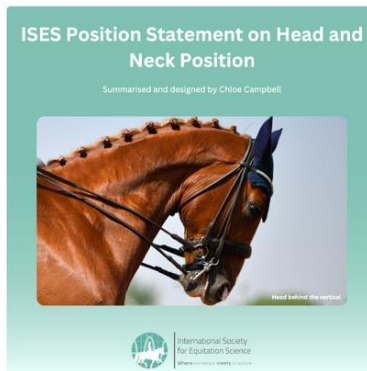


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*Thank you for making quality  
continuing education affordable!  
Hoof Falls & Footfalls*

- **Position statement summaries**

These are available on our website [Position Statements](#)



- **Podcasts**



- Episode 17: Exploring the relationship between horse-owner attributes and their approach to horse training – Ella Barlett, Dr Jo Hockenhull, Lorna Cameron
- Episode 18: Living the good life? Welfare and horse-human interactions – Dr Carol Hall
- Episode 19: Exploring equitation science with Dr Andrew McLean
- Episode 20: Signs of happiness: Measuring horse welfare through affiliative behaviour – Dr Miriam Baumgartner



- **Podcasts (continued)**

- **NZ conference bite-sized interviews**

- Episode 4: Lessons learned from horse-related human fatalities – Meredith Chapman
- Episode 5: Interpretation of equine affective states – Amber Wells
- Episode 6: Differences in jockey position – Dr Kylie Legg
- Episode 7: The comparative effects on three enrichment items on the behaviour and physiology of stalled horses – Miranda Brauns
- Episode 8: Views of the equestrian community of OTTTBs in second careers – Natasha Rose
- Episode 9: How useful are the physiological measures of stress in the field – Karly Liffen
- Episode 10: Identifying risk factors of conflict behaviours in Canadian riding lesson horses – Caleigh Copelin
- Episode 11: Teaching horse owners about disease transfer and prevention – Dr Betsy Greene and Debbie Reed
- Episode 12: Exploring the attitudes of veterinary hospital staff toward pain assessment in horses – Olivia Curry
- Episode 13: Monitoring cumulative use of horses in education – Lindsay Skyner
- Episode 14: Behavioural characteristics of OTTTBs – Dr Anne-Louise Knox
- Episode 15: Familiarization, positive associations and its effect on juvenile horses in response to a fear test – Dr Gabriel Lencioni
- Episode 16: A good life for horses by design – Leonie Lee



- **Myth busting infographics**

- “Positive reinforcement takes too long”
- “The clicker holds the power”
- “Positive reinforcement and clicker training are the same”
- “Positive reinforcement will make my horse gain weight”
- “Horses should be obedient because they want to please me, not because I won their love through treats”
- “Using treats is bribery. Horses should be obedient because they respect me”





## Media Analytics

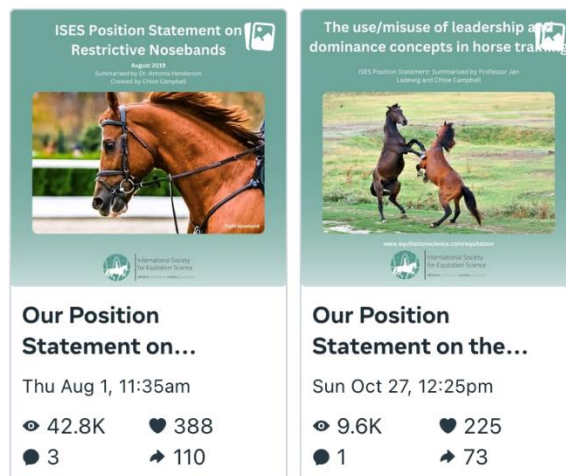
- Facebook

- 220,200 reaches (📈 97.4% from last fiscal year); 11,700 interactions (📈 39.4%); 13,797 followers (📈 697; 90% women, 10% men; mostly 25-64 years; mainly from UK, USA, Australia); 2,500 link clicks (📈 33.1%)
- Top posts: summarized *Position Statement on Leadership and Dominance* and *No Significant Difference Found Between 1.5 and 2 Finger Noseband Tightness in New Study, but FEI's Precautionary Approach Praised*.



- Instagram

- Instagram – 36,900 reaches (📈 869.8% from last fiscal year); 1,500 interactions (no change); 542 followers
- Top posts: summarized position statements





International Society  
for Equitation Science  
Where evidence meets practice

- **Youtube channel**

- 1,292 subscribers
- 5,318 views
- 447 hours of watch time



## International Society Equitation Science

@IntSocEqSci · 1.28K subscribers · 51 videos

Equitation science promotes an objective, evidence-based understanding of the welfare of horses and humans.

[equitationsscience.com](https://equitationsscience.com)

Subscribed

- **Spotify**

- 467 followers (85% female, 10% male; mostly 28-59 years; mainly from Australia, UK, NZ and USA)
- 639 consumption hours
- Top episodes: Episode 2 – 477 views; Episode 3 – 349 views



- **Website**

- 446,044 views (📈 206.7% from last year)
- Total of 420 registrants in four webinars
  - Dr Andrew McLean: Discussing equitation science
  - Prof Janne Winther Christensen: Equine ethology
  - Dr Sue McDonnell: Understanding horse behaviour
  - Shawna Karrasch and Jessie Hillegas: Training methods for welfare



### Equitation Science and Equine Ethology with Associate Professor Janne Winther Christensen

Deep dive into feral horse behaviour. How much has the modern horse changed from their ancestors? What is an ethological need? What ethological needs are still relevant for the modern horse?

6th February 2025 1pm GMT

Thank you to those who joined us!



### Understanding Horse Behavior: Foundations of Equitation Science with Dr Sue McDonnell

Into the weeds on how ethology can inform better welfare of domestically managed horses.

27th February 2025 4pm GMT

Thank you to those who joined us!



### Training Methods for Welfare: A Focus on Positive Reinforcement with Shawna Karrasch and Jessie Hillegas

This session explores the principles of positive reinforcement in horse training, focusing on how reward-based methods shape behavior and enhance learning. It will cover practical applications, ethical considerations, and the benefits of incorporating positive reinforcement into equine training.

10th April 7pm GMT

Thank you to those who joined us!

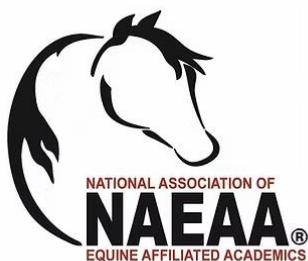


## ISES News

As a learned society we welcome opportunities to work with other societies to bring about positive changes for all equids.

### Precautionary principle... Preventing or avoiding activities that have potential for risk when lacking scientific evidence to the contrary

- Sent out two update newsletters to members (Oct 2024, Feb 2025)
- In May 2024 ISES wrote a [news release](#) urging the FEI to take action on the six priority areas raised in the Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission's final report, specifically regarding tack, equipment, riding, training, physical and emotional stress and the other 23 hours.
  - Dr Andrew McLean has been appointed (among others) to the FEI's welfare advisory group, promoting the adoption of the ISES Training Principles
- In September 2024 ISES released a [statement](#) in response to the publication of new research on noseband tightness. While the study provided some insight into pressure on a horse's nose exerted by the noseband, ISES cautioned against inferring too much from small studies and to remain true to the precautionary principle when scientific evidence is not robust.
- A Danish translation of the Training Principles was released. The Training Principles are now available in eight languages.
- Discussed potential of hosting a photo repository for researchers but determined the cost was too prohibitive.
- Entered into a reciprocal membership with the National Association for Equine-Affiliated Academics to exchange news and announcements.





## Structure, governance, management

ISES is overseen by the [Trustees](#) who have a duty to ensure the Society meets its goals while complying with UK law. ISES is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO) with the Charity Commission of England and Wales (Registered Charity Number 1176401) and operates under our Constitution. The daily activities of the Society are carried out by the [Council](#). Trustee and Council positions are filled through majority vote at the Annual General Meeting and held for a period of four years with the exception of Junior Vice President, Honorary President and Senior Vice President which are each held for two years in succession. External Advisors to the Trustees may be consulted.

Activities undertaken this year:



Updated our mission statement and aims to be more aligned with what we actually do



Development of strategic plan moving into 2026-2031



Drafted and approved Code of Ethics policy for council members



Drafted and approved Conflict of Interest policy for council members



All council members attended a General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) awareness workshop delivered by Claire O'Brien to ensure we are compliant by 2029



A data privacy statement and policy is being developed. Our privacy notice was updated on our website as of April 17, 2025

### The Essential Trustee 6 main duties





## Membership

The primary activity of the membership secretary and membership committee is to process and review new applications and respond to membership queries.

### Committee Members:

- Cath Henshall (Membership Officer and Practitioner Rep)
- Janne Winther Christensen (SVP)

### Membership Count by Category:

| Membership Category | As of 30 April 2025 | Change from 1 May 2024 |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Academic            | 83                  | +8                     |
| Associate           | 60                  | +28                    |
| Corporate           | 14                  | +3                     |
| Honorary            | 10                  | -1                     |
| Practitioner        | 52                  | +12                    |
| Student             | 43                  | +3                     |
| Supporter           | 220                 | +80                    |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>482</b>          | <b>+129</b>            |

In keeping with the past few years there has been significant growth in the number of members, with large increases in the Supporter category (+80 members) and also healthy increases in the Associate category (+28). In the Associate category we have seen an increase in the number of registered veterinarians joining which is very pleasing as this is a sector of the industry where a knowledge of equitation science can be directly implemented in the care and treatment of equine patients, as well as contributing to safer workplaces for veterinary clinic staff. The increase in Supporter members from 103 in 2022-23 to 220 currently, represents a 219% increase across two years. It is a testament to the wonderful work of the ISES media and communications team and the increasing awareness of equitation science in the wider equestrian community that we continue to welcome so many new members who wish to express their support for the work of ISES and for horse welfare in general. The number of Corporate memberships has also experienced a steady increase from previous years. Student and Academic memberships show a smaller increase.

**482 members in 2025**

**📈 36.5% from last year**



## Membership Committee Activities

- The new application process managed via the website and Monday.com is now working smoothly. Application documents are uploaded to the website by the applicant and stored in a central repository on Monday.com where they are then reviewed by the membership committee.
- Standardized welcome letters have been created for new members to all membership categories. Memberships are active immediately upon payment.
- The automatic renewal of memberships is largely working smoothly. We continue to experience some glitches and it will be a priority in 2025 to resolve these.
- The Membership Committee continues to assess and approve all categories of membership with the exception of Supporter, Corporate and Honorary.
- The previously implemented automation of some membership processing steps is largely working well.
- Work is ongoing to more fully utilize the functionality of our IT resources to further automate aspects of the application processes to improve the experience for members and reduce manual input.
- Members whose payments have been declined are followed up with an email advising them of this and providing details about how to rejoin if they wish to.
- The clarification of the wording of the eligibility criteria for the Academic and Associate memberships has reduced to zero the number of applications that are not aligned with either of these categories.
- We continue to receive Practitioner memberships that require manual follow-up despite updating the wording on the website. Addressing this issue will be a major priority for the Membership committee in 2025 to improve the application experience for prospective members and streamline the workload for the committee.
- Ongoing discussions have been had regarding the structuring of the membership categories to ensure the membership base reflects the goals and mission of the Society and to improve the efficiency of the membership processing systems.

## Yearly Plan

- Continue review of membership categories via Council meetings/discussion
- Implement further automation of membership processing where possible
- Investigate and where applicable, implement options to further utilize the benefits of IT systems to improve application processing as well as the accuracy of membership data and communication with individual members regarding membership matters.
- Work with Council to develop mechanisms to gain deeper insights into membership demographics and motivation to join ISES such as investigating what barriers may



International Society  
for Equitation Science  
Where evidence meets practice

exist to prevent qualified people from applying for membership. A particular focus will be on the Academic membership category, specifically academics and researchers working in Equitation Science or relevant fields who are eligible for membership but who are not currently members.

Membership logos are available to those who request them through the Membership Secretary.

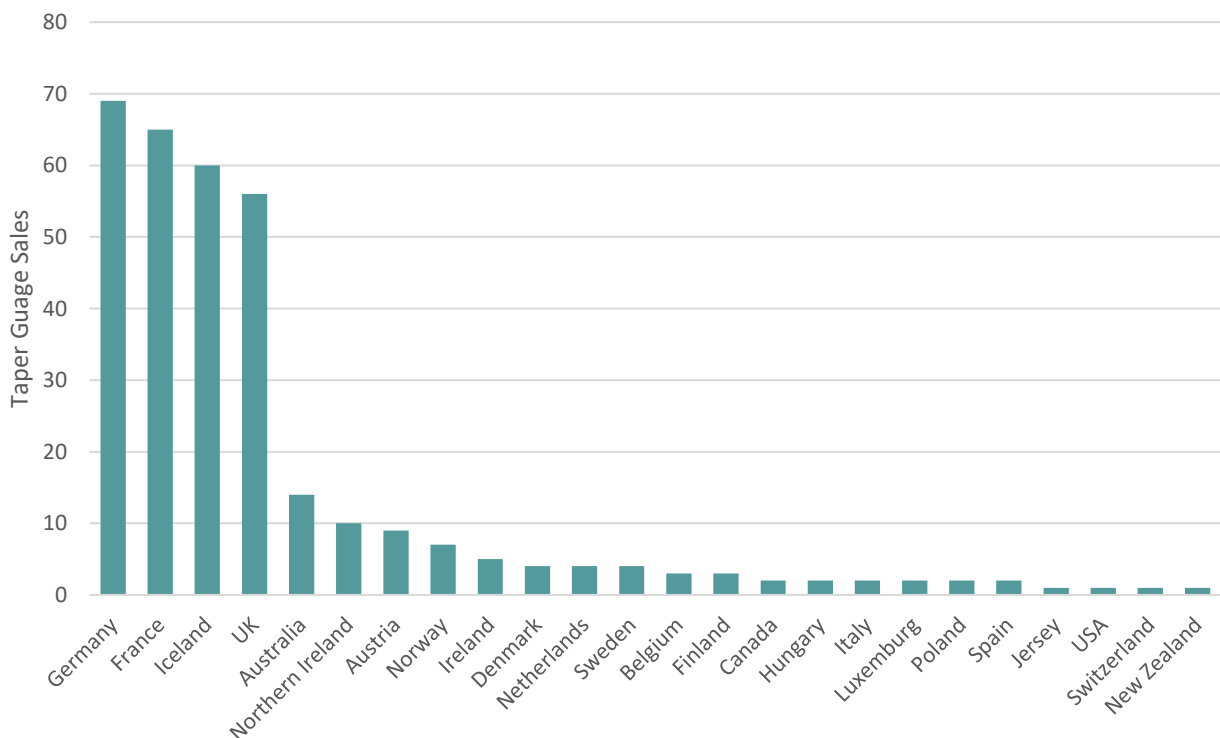


Member of  
The International Society  
For Equitation Science  
Until November 2024



## Taper Gauge Sales

- Taper gauge sales totaled 330 items sent to 22 different countries. Germany (69), France (65), Iceland (60) and the UK (56) were the top countries placing orders (note each order could be for multiple taper gauges). This is a slight decrease from 369 taper gauges sold last year. However we have an order placed for 200 taper gauges by the German Leisure Riders Club that is waiting to be filled.
- Volunteers in regions around the world send out orders.
- An inventory recording system was set up to track where our stock of taper gauges is to enable better tracking and quicker order fulfilment.



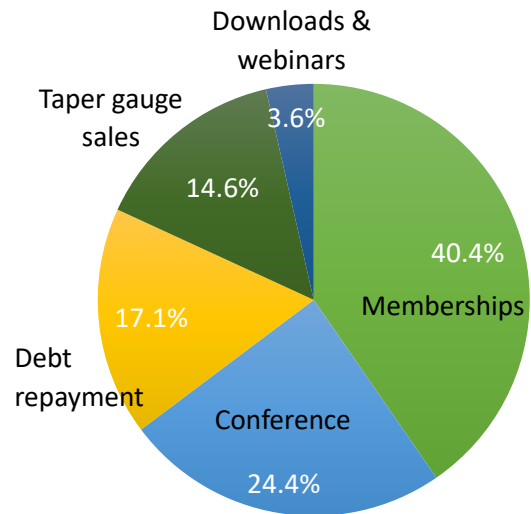


## Financials

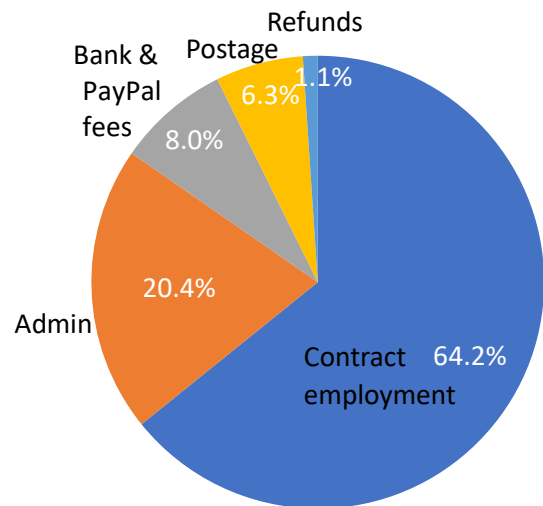
(May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025)

| Revenue                       | 2024-2025     | 2023-2024     |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                               | £             | £             |
| Memberships                   | 12,160        | 8,965         |
| Taper Gauge sales*            | 4,390         | 4,746         |
| Conference                    | 7,332         | -             |
| Webinars/conference downloads | 1,070         | -             |
| ISES merchandise              | -             | 1,156         |
| Miscellaneous                 | 55            | 1,749         |
| Debt repayment                | 5153          | -             |
| Donations                     | 39            | -             |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>          | <b>30,199</b> | <b>16,616</b> |

\*Includes revenue from postage via Paypal



| Expenses              | 2024-2025     | 2023-2024      |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|
|                       | £             | £              |
| Contract fees         | 6,990         | 5,640          |
| Taper Gauge order     | -             | 6,922          |
| Conference expenses   | -             | 5,080          |
| Website/Admin         | 2,225         | 2,137          |
| Bank/Paypal fees      | 876           | 867            |
| Postage fees          | 682           | 3,386          |
| Travel grants         | -             | 4,000          |
| ISES Merchandise      | -             | 1,395          |
| Refunds               | 115           | -              |
| Miscellaneous         | -             | 1,946          |
| <b>Total Expenses</b> | <b>10,888</b> | <b>31,373</b>  |
| <b>Net</b>            | <b>19,311</b> | <b>-14,757</b> |



|                   | 2024-2025     | 2023-2024     |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                   | £             | £             |
| <b>Net worth*</b> | <b>41,994</b> | <b>22,683</b> |

\*Current net worth comprises the Treasurers and Business bank accounts, PayPal balance and a debt repayment of £5,153 (seed money for ISES 2024 conference).



**Going Concern:** The charity has minimal fixed costs with the main source of expenditure being grants made at the discretion of the Trustees. Furthermore, the charity had a healthy net asset position at the year end the Trustees therefore consider that based on the circumstances existing at the date of signature of the accounts the charity is a going concern. This basis is adopted within these accounts.

**Reserves Policy:** The charity held unrestricted funds at the end of the year of £41,994 (2024: £22,683). These reserves are considered adequate by the Trustees and will allow the charity to continue making grants in the next financial period. In view of the nature of the charity, the Trustees are satisfied that no formal level of reserves are required, as grants are only made when there are available funds and the charity does not have any liabilities to make grants.



## Receipts and Payments Accounts

|                                       |                                             |                                              |                 |       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
|                                       | CHARITY COMMISSION<br>FOR ENGLAND AND WALES | International Society For Equitation Science | 1176401         | CC16a |
| <b>Receipts and payments accounts</b> |                                             |                                              |                 |       |
| For the period<br>from                | 1st May 2024                                | To                                           | 30th April 2024 |       |

### Section A Receipts and payments

|                                                       | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>to the nearest £ | Restricted<br>funds<br>to the nearest £ | Endowment<br>funds<br>to the nearest £ | Total funds<br>to the nearest £ | Last year<br>to the nearest £ |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>A1 Receipts</b>                                    |                                           |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
| Membership Income                                     | 12,160                                    | -                                       | -                                      | 12,160                          | 8,965                         |
| Taper Gauge Sales                                     | 4,390                                     | -                                       | -                                      | 4,390                           | 4,746                         |
| Conference Downloads & Webinars                       | 1,070                                     | -                                       | -                                      | 1,070                           | -                             |
| Donations                                             | 39                                        | -                                       | -                                      | 39                              | -                             |
| Debt Repayment                                        | 5,153                                     | -                                       | -                                      | 5,153                           | -                             |
| Conference Income                                     | 7,332                                     | -                                       | -                                      | 7,332                           | -                             |
| Merchandise Sales                                     | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | 1,156                         |
| Misc Income                                           | 55                                        | -                                       | -                                      | 55                              | 1,749                         |
| <b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>                | <b>30,199</b>                             | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>30,199</b>                   | <b>16,616</b>                 |
| <b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>    |                                           |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
|                                                       | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Sub total</b>                                      | <b>-</b>                                  | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>-</b>                        | <b>-</b>                      |
| <b>Total receipts</b>                                 | <b>30,199</b>                             | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>30,199</b>                   | <b>16,616</b>                 |
| <b>A3 Payments</b>                                    |                                           |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
| Paypal Fees                                           | 815                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 815                             | 867                           |
| Refunds                                               | 115                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 115                             | -                             |
| Admin Costs                                           | 905                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 905                             | 1,946                         |
| Contractor Fees                                       | 6,990                                     | -                                       | -                                      | 6,990                           | 5,640                         |
| Bank Charges                                          | 61                                        | -                                       | -                                      | 61                              | -                             |
| Postage                                               | 682                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 682                             | 3,386                         |
| Website & IT Admin                                    | 1,320                                     | -                                       | -                                      | 1,320                           | 2,137                         |
| Awards                                                | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | 4,000                         |
| Conference Costs                                      | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | 5,080                         |
| ISES Merchandise                                      | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | 1,395                         |
| Taper Gauges                                          | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | 6,922                         |
| <b>Sub total</b>                                      | <b>10,888</b>                             | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>10,888</b>                   | <b>31,373</b>                 |
| <b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b> |                                           |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
|                                                       | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Sub total</b>                                      | <b>-</b>                                  | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>-</b>                        | <b>-</b>                      |
| <b>Total payments</b>                                 | <b>10,888</b>                             | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>10,888</b>                   | <b>31,373</b>                 |
| <b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>                     | <b>19,311</b>                             | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>19,311</b>                   | <b>- 14,757</b>               |
| <b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>                     | <b>-</b>                                  | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>-</b>                        | <b>-</b>                      |
| <b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>                    | <b>22,683</b>                             | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>22,683</b>                   | <b>37,440</b>                 |
| <b>Cash funds this year end</b>                       | <b>41,994</b>                             | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>41,994</b>                   | <b>22,683</b>                 |



## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

| Categories                                          | Details                                                | Unrestricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Restricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Endowment funds<br>to nearest £ |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>B1 Cash funds</b>                                | Treasurers Account                                     | 31,882                             | -                                | -                               |
|                                                     | Business Account                                       | 5,129                              | -                                | -                               |
|                                                     | Paypal Account                                         | 4,983                              | -                                | -                               |
|                                                     | <b>Total cash funds</b>                                | <b>41,994</b>                      | <b>-</b>                         | <b>-</b>                        |
|                                                     | (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) | OK                                 | OK                               | OK                              |
| <b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>                     | Details                                                | Unrestricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Restricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Endowment funds<br>to nearest £ |
|                                                     | Debtors                                                | 309                                | -                                | -                               |
|                                                     |                                                        | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|                                                     |                                                        | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|                                                     |                                                        | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|                                                     |                                                        | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|                                                     |                                                        | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
| <b>B3 Investment assets</b>                         | Details                                                | Fund to which<br>asset belongs     | Cost (optional)                  | Current value<br>(optional)     |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                    | -                                | -                               |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                    | -                                | -                               |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                    | -                                | -                               |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                    | -                                | -                               |
| <b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b> | Details                                                | Fund to which<br>asset belongs     | Cost (optional)                  | Current value<br>(optional)     |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                    | -                                | -                               |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                    | -                                | -                               |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                    | -                                | -                               |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                    | -                                | -                               |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                    | -                                | -                               |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                    | -                                | -                               |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                    | -                                | -                               |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                    | -                                | -                               |
| <b>B5 Liabilities</b>                               | Details                                                | Fund to which<br>liability relates | Amount due<br>(optional)         | When due<br>(optional)          |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                    | -                                |                                 |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                    | -                                |                                 |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                    | -                                |                                 |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                    | -                                |                                 |



## Independent Examiner's Report

### International Society for Equitation Science Independent Examiner's Report For the Year Ended 30 April 2025

#### Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of International Society for Equitation Science ('the charity')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 April 2025.

#### Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the Trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

#### Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Tyler Jeffs  
36 Dean Close  
Banbury  
OX16 3WA  
Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025



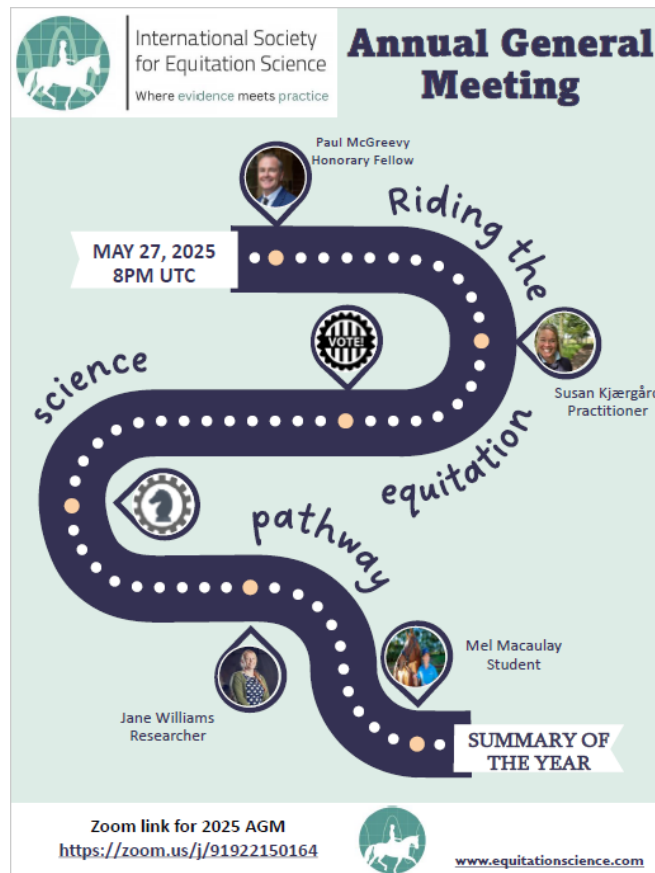
International Society  
for Equitation Science  
Where evidence meets practice

## Annual General Meeting

The last Annual General Meeting was held online on May 28, 2024. There were 105 attendees. Recordings of the speaker talks are available in the member's area of our website.



The upcoming Annual General Meeting will be held online on May 27, 2025.





## 2025 Annual Conference

The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Equitation Science conference will be held at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, USA from July 23-26, 2025.

The theme of the conference is “Improving connection with horses through science”

Details and registration can be found [here](#).

A virtual option was made available to enable more people to attend.

Three travel grants to the conference will be awarded: one to a student, one to a practitioner, and one based on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

International Society  
for Equitation  
Science

20th  
Anniversary  
Conference



July 23 - 26, 2025

NOW AVAILABLE

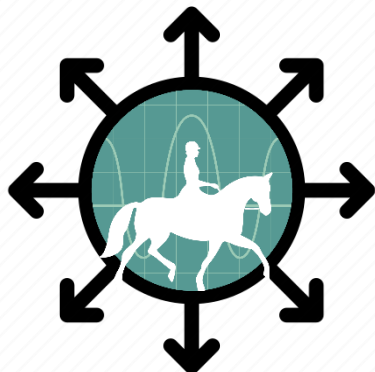
## ISES Outreach

Our Council members donate untold hours to ensure our society runs smoothly, but they also contribute to equitation science through their own personal and professional lives. Here are some highlights:

- Katrina Merkies is a member of the Canadian National Farm Animal Care Council scientific committee updating the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Equids
- Katrina Merkies created two industry partner projects between ISES and her 4<sup>th</sup> year Equine Management students. One group of students helped to develop the myth buster infographics with the assistance of Chloe Campbell. Another group of students surveyed student engagement and membership trends in ISES compared to other scientific societies.
- Kate Fenner, as a Pony Club Australia Board member, led the updating of the Pony Club Welfare Policy, incorporating the ISES First Principles.
- Janne Winther Christensen is an expert member of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) equine group. She also acts as an independent expert in the voluntary initiative for the welfare of equids under the EU platform for animal welfare.
- Janet Douglas co-authored, with Dr Gemma Pearson, an editorial in the Equine Veterinary Journal on mental maturity in horses (“[Start ‘em young, treat ‘em right: How horses’ early life experiences can set them up for success in life](#)”).



- Janet Douglas organised a virtual conference titled '[Accountability for welfare in equestrianism: Looking beyond the obvious](#)' at which the speakers, who included Dr Mette Uldahl, presented their ideas for industry-specific initiatives that could positively influence equine welfare.
- The textbook '[Equine Welfare in Clinical Practice](#)' was released in 2024 with many chapters written by current and previous ISES council members.
- Janet Douglas worked to create the report "[National survey of UK citizen attitudes towards UK equestrian sport activities](#)".
- Janet Douglas presented on topics related to social licence, equitation science, and equine welfare at workshops and conferences organised by British Eventing, Riding for the Disabled Association, Pony Club UK, CAFRE (College of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Enterprise), and the University of Nottingham.
- Janet Douglas contributed to numerous other projects in my work with the charity, [World Horse Welfare](#).
- Barbara Padalino is part of the EU planning for regulations on equid welfare. She participated as a representative of ISES in the EFSA Donkey and Horse Welfare workshop in September to gather scientific information pertinent to developing regulations. Claire O'Brien attended and contributed as an Irish representative.
- Claire O'Brien is a member of the Aberystwyth Research Ethics Panel (UK).
- Caleigh Copelin held a sessional lecturer position at the University of Guelph, Canada, teaching an undergraduate course in the principles of equine behaviour and welfare and focusing on equitation science.
- Caleigh Copelin works as a [freelance scientific writer for Mad Barn](#), writing and reviewing lay articles, disseminating welfare and behaviour science to the broader horse industry. She also acts as a consultant on additional articles that have welfare-related considerations.
- Caleigh Copelin sits on an Equestrian Canada committee to review and update their Horse Welfare Code of Conduct.
- Colleen Brady contributed to the development of the online course "Recognizing Affective States in Equine" (RAiSE) consisting of approximately 10 hours of content. This resulted in publications in [Translational Animal Science](#) and the [Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science](#).





## In memoriam

In September 2024 we mourned the passing of honorary fellow, [Frank Ödberg](#), one of the founding members and a strong supporter of equitation science. Frank was a firm believer in rigorous scientific inquiry, and to that end ISES is developing an award in his memory. Details will be released in the coming year, but the award will recognize some aspect of rigorous science.



## Bequests

ISES is honored to accept bequests as a meaningful way to support our mission. By including us in your will or estate plans, you help ensure lasting impact for the causes we champion. A bequest is a powerful legacy, allowing your generosity to extend beyond your lifetime. If you would like to leave a bequest, please reach out to our treasurer ([treasurer@equitationscience.com](mailto:treasurer@equitationscience.com)).





## Looking Ahead



ISES is clearly moving from a fledgling organization into a robust society committed to optimize the welfare of horses. This is evidenced by our many arms of dissemination coupled with the substantial increase in members that reflects the recognition of equitation science around the world.

The rapid growth of the society coincides with the review and update of our strategic plan. Our current strategic plan set ambitious goals that laid the groundwork for who we are. Our next strategic plan continues with those original core values - being a global influencer; supporting research with impact; embedding sustainability in our practice and values – and expands on them to enable the spread of equitation science not just for researchers, but for all horse enthusiasts. Look for the strategic plan to be released soon!





International Society  
for Equitation Science  
*Where evidence meets practice*

“

*So, so happy to see this!!! [Danish translation of training principles] The horse world is going forward. Thank you for your work for the horses' welfare.*

***Hedvig Aareskjold***

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR EQUITATION SCIENCE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1176401

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# Accounts

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**20  
24**

Report No.  
FYE24

## ANNUAL REPORT

International Society for Equitation Science





## From the desk of the Honorary President



Photo credit Merete Haahr

It's hard to believe we have reached another year end. Sometimes I think we have made significant strides forward and other times (when wading through policies and paperwork) I feel like we've hardly moved. Although we are a small society, it does take up a large amount of time to keep things moving. Presidential council – Kate Fenner, Janne Winther Christensen and myself – meet on a weekly basis to ensure the Society keeps running smoothly. Council meets every other month and Trustee meetings fall in between that. The operating platforms that Sally O'Neill set up for us have made life easier in some ways for processing memberships, taper gauge orders and inquiries from our contact form, but still require monitoring and creative thinking to make it do what we need it to do. We have not made as much progress as hoped on policies and procedures but Vicky Hailey continues to tick away at it and one day we will have everything organized – until regulations and guidelines change again!

Our media manager, Chloe Campbell, along with Toni Henderson as the media team, have catapulted us into the limelight through our media outreach. We now have an interactive website with a thriving members' area, most recently energized by our Community. I encourage all of you to get off facebook and get onto our Community where we can have rich conversations in safe spaces. Other media avenues include our podcasts, honorary fellow updates and our hugely popular myth-busting series along with the usual social media outlets.

A year and a half after our last conference, it was a real treat to travel to New Zealand for our 19<sup>th</sup> annual conference, the 13<sup>th</sup> one I have attended. Nat Waran and Hayley Randle, along with their organizing committee, did a wonderful job to make us all feel welcome and inspired.

I remain passionate about equitation science and firmly believe in our mission. Let's keep moving this herd forward with lots of opportunity for foraging, collaborations and building evidence to ensure we are doing our best for the horse. I am eternally grateful to all the members on Council and the Trustees for their patience, guidance, efforts and shared vision.

Katrina Merkies,  
Honorary President



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## ISES Objectives

To promote and encourage the application of objective research and consequently advance equestrian practice that will ultimately improve the welfare of horses in their interactions with humans



Encourage and support basic and applied research into the training and welfare of horses



Provide an international forum in which scientists can communicate and discuss their research results



Encourage links between applied animal behaviour science, veterinary science, psychology and other disciplines



Encourage and support the teaching of equitation science



Provide a pool of expertise to national governments, international bodies, industry and to those equine welfare organisations which deal with problems involving equine behaviour, training and welfare

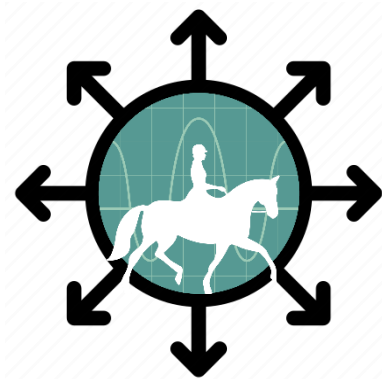


Encourage communication of scientific knowledge to facilitate its use in relation to practical problems concerning the way horses are trained, managed, housed and cared for



## Activities in Brief

- Held seven regular council meetings (#77-84)
- Held three trustee meetings (Aug 2023, Dec 2023, Feb 2024)
- Onboarding the use of Microsoft365 and Monday.com to streamline organizational tasks including membership applications, taper gauge orders and webpage inquiries. This assists us in meeting GDPR requirements. Note that all of our charity operations are carried out by volunteers, thus some queries may not be attended to immediately.
- Contracted a media manager to assist with media output
- ISES logo use contest – winner FEIF
- Expanded media reach to podcasts, infographics, videos and an active members' area and ISES community
- Ordered a new batch of taper gauges as our supply had dwindled
- As a learned society we have indicated support for evidence-based approaches to improving competition horse welfare
- Clarified eligibility requirements for both academic and associate memberships
- Drafted and approved wording for Honorary Fellow guidelines
- Drafted and approved a risk assessment document
- Created and sold ISES merchandise at the ISES conference in New Zealand
- Sent out two update newsletters to members
- ISES 10 Training Principles posters now available in 9 languages





## Trustees

The charity trustees oversee the affairs of the charity. The slate of trustees as of April 30, 2024:



**Honorary  
President**  
**Katrina  
Merkies**



**Junior Vice  
President**  
**Kate Fenner**



**Senior Vice  
President**  
**Janne Winther  
Christensen**



**Treasurer**  
**Janet Douglas**



**Honorary  
Secretary**  
**Caleigh  
Copelin**



**Trustee**  
**Natalie Waran**



**Trustee**  
**Hayley Randle**



**Trustee**  
**Andrew  
McLean**



## Council Members

The Council performs duties for the regular functioning of the charity. The Council as of April 30, 2024



**Governance  
Officer**  
Vicky Hailey



**Practitioner  
Rep**  
Cath Henshall



**Student Rep**  
*Vacant*



**Vet Liaison  
Officer**  
Barbara  
Padalino



**Research  
Officer**  
Uta König von  
Borstel



**Education  
Officer**  
Colleen Brady



**Membership  
Secretary**  
Cath Henshall  
(Interim)



**Media Team**  
Toni  
Henderson



**Ordinary  
Member**  
Angelo Telatin



- Changes in Trustees 2023-2024:
  - Janne Winther Christensen returned as Senior Vice President (Mar 2023)
  - Kate Fenner voted in as Junior Vice President (Mar 2023)
  - Caleigh Copelin voted in as Honorary Secretary (Mar 2023)
  - Vicky Hailey voted in as Governance Officer (Mar 2023)
  - Barbara Padalino voted in as Veterinary Liaison (Mar 2023)
  - Janet Douglas voted in as Treasurer (Mar 2023)
- Changes in Council 2023-2024:
  - Sally O'Neill resigned as Media Team (May, 2023) but continues in a volunteer capacity. Position covered by Toni Henderson and Chloe Campbell (Media Manager).
  - Robin Foster resigned as Membership Secretary (Jun 2023); Cath Henshall took over as interim.
  - Gill Keegan resigned as Student Rep (Sept, 2023). Position remained vacant.





## Media Outreach

Our media team have developed numerous initiatives and having a dedicated Media Manager has enabled ISES to extend our media reach.

- **Exclusive members' area content**

- **Research Bites:** 5 infographic episodes to date summarizing recent research papers. Each episode comes with a fun quiz



*Chloe Campbell ISES Media Manager*



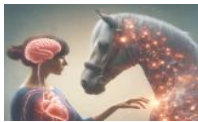
- Dropping in male horses Part 1
- Dropping in male horses Part 2



- The effect of stress and exercise on learning performance of horses



- Used like pawns or treated like kings?



- Changing hearts and minds in the equestrian world one behaviour at a time

- **ISES community** – an inclusive space where equestrian enthusiasts, professionals and researchers converge to celebrate and advance the science of equitation.



International Science

**The International  
Society for Equitation  
Science Community**

...

- **Honorary Fellows features**

- Paul McGreevy
- Debbie Goodwin
- Frank Ödberg
- Camie Heleski
- Jan Ladewig



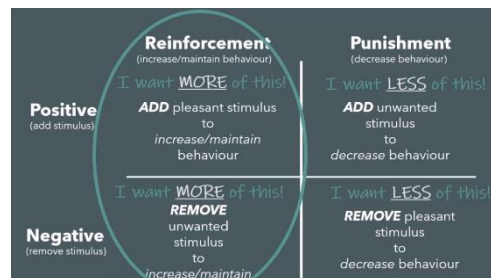
- **Podcasts** (new this year)

- 666 plays on Spotify
- 845 downloads from website
  - Choosing your research topic
  - How the ISES 10 training principles impact how we interact with horses
  - ISES Training Principle No. 1 Regard for horse and human safety
  - Bite-sized interviews – 14 interviews with presenters from the ISES conference New Zealand



- **Infographics:**

- Teasers of full media that is available to members only
- Moody mare memes
- Positive reinforcement series
  - The four quadrants of operant conditioning
  - Beginning positive reinforcement training
  - Positive reinforcement training: standing still





○ **Myth busters series**

- Positive reinforcement training will make horses nippy and dangerous
- Positive reinforcement only works with dogs and not horses





## Media Analytics

### • Activity on social media channels

- Facebook – 124,100 reaches (📈 115.5% from last fiscal year); 9,100 interactions (📈 122.8%); 13,100 followers (90% women, 10% men; mostly 25-55 years; mainly from UK, USA, Australia); 2,500 link clicks (📈 33.1%)
- The majority of Facebook reach is to non-followers (~90%) vs followers (~10%)
- Instagram – 4,100 reaches; 1,500 interactions; 1,300 followers (87% women, 13% men; mostly 18-44 years; mainly from UK, USA, Netherlands); 21 link clicks (📈 100%)
- Instagram reach is almost equal non-followers (45.7%) vs followers (54.2%)
- Top post: *Positive reinforcement only works with dogs and not horses. My horse won't learn that way.*  
Reach 7982 (1007% higher than median) on Facebook and 565 (86% higher than median) on Instagram
- Top Facebook post impressions: *Dive into Equine Expertise!* 274 link clicks, 19,200 impressions

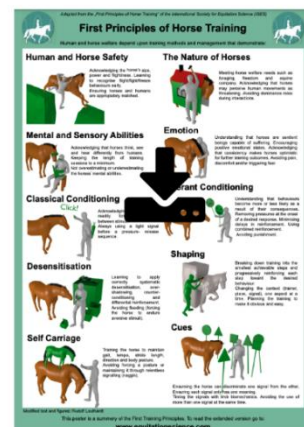


### • Youtube channel

- 1,150 subscribers
- 38 videos
- 69,442 views

### • Website

- 145,453 views since January (📈 11% from same time last year)
- Active “News” page
- Reorganized training principles page with easier to download translations





## ISES Support to Others

As a learned society we welcome opportunities to work with other societies to bring about positive changes for all equids.

- In July 2023 ISES wrote an [open letter to the FEI](#) to support the recommendations made by the [Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission](#). ISES challenged the FEI to champion equine welfare to ensure a sustainable and ethical future for equestrian sports, in particular with regard to double bridles being optional and noseband measurements using a taper gauge at the frontal midline.



### ISES supports the application of the 'precautionary principle'

- In early May 2024 ISES wrote a [news release](#) urging the FEI to take action on the six priority areas raised in the Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission's final report, specifically regarding tack, equipment, riding, training, physical and emotional stress and the other 23 hours.

**[ISES] urges the FEI to make good use of the existing evidence in making rigorous decisions in favour of the horse, and adopting the precautionary principle...**

- ISES indicated our support in principle for the Alliance for Horse Welfare in Sport's Paris2024 Horse Welfare Campaign.
  - "ISES welcomes initiatives that aim to improve sport horse welfare and applauds the continued efforts of researchers working to ensure that recommendations/guidelines are supported by scientific evidence and adhere to the principles of learning theory."

Note that our support of various organizations does not imply complete support of everything that organization may do. We are committed to those initiatives that match our own mission and [objectives](#).



## 2024 Annual Conference

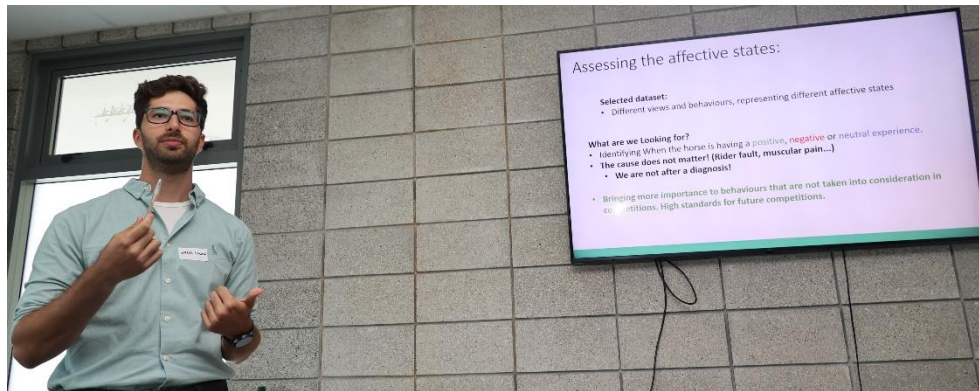
The 19<sup>th</sup> annual Equitation Science conference was held in at the Sir Don Rowlands Centre in Cambridge, New Zealand, March 14-16, 2024.

All conference photos by Merete Haahr

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY  
FOR EQUITATION SCIENCE  
NEW ZEALAND  
A GOOD LIFE FOR HORSES



Three pre-conference **Workshops** were held:



1. Animals as Good Citizens (43 attendees)
2. Equine “Is it pain?” (45 attendees)
3. Equine emotions and the use of AI (33 attending)



*Over 175 delegates from 18 different countries gathered in person at the beautiful Don Rowlands Centre with an additional 150 attending virtually.*



*It all started with a true Maori welcome*

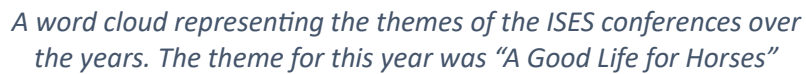


*Prof. Nat Waran, chair of the Local Conference Organizing Committee consisting of Prof. Hayley Randle, Bridget Dougherty, Leigh Wills, Julie Malcom and Ella Bradshaw-Wiley.*

- Four travel grants of £1000 each were awarded to enable attendance at this conference
  - Gabriel Lencioni
  - Leonie Lee
  - Melinda Behrens-Macaulay
  - Noora Repo
- Conference proceedings are available on the ISES website [here](#)
- Best student oral/poster presentations were awarded
  - [Caleigh Copelin](#). Identifying risk factors for conflict behaviours in Canadian riding lesson horses. (Best Oral Presentation)
  - [Mira Hamalainen](#). A new reversal learning test for horses. (Best Lightning Talk)
  - [Melinda Behrens-Macaulay](#). An investigation into the exercise habits and perceptions of equestrian riders (Best Poster as a Slide)
- The 20<sup>th</sup> annual conference is awarded to Colorado State University, USA for July/August 2025 (dates TBD).

## NEW ZEALAND 2024

- 3 workshops
- Clever Hans presentation
- 6 Plenaries
- 24 Research presentations
- 13 Lightning talks
- 12 Posters as a Slide



## 16



**Plenary presenter**

**Prof. Paul McGreevy**

“A good life for horses” - why we should bother and how one can advocate.

All truth passes through three stages. First it is ridiculed. Second it is violently opposed. Third it is accepted as being self-evident.

**Plenary presenter**

**Dr. Cath Henshall**

Detecting positive equine emotions to assess quality of life.

The essential horsiness of horses – what does it mean to be a horse and what matters to horses?



**Plenary presenter**

**Dr. Andrew McLean**

Evidence-based horse training.

It's been a fabulous journey to see how these 10 principles evolved. That's what I think about when I think about evidence-based horse training – how do we put that into a workable format where we can illustrate that to the horse-riding public.





**Day 2: Field Day!** We had the opportunity to observe a variety of equine enterprises:

- Cambridge Stud
- Riding for the Disabled
- EventStars
- Pike Racing
- Takapoto Showjumping

Followed by “Off the bit” drinks and nibbles at the Cambridge Community Pavilion





International Society  
for Equitation Science  
Where evidence meets practice

## Sponsors

A heartfelt thank you to all our sponsors who contributed to the success of our 2024 conference.

**Platinum Sponsors:** World Horse Welfare, Winning Form

**Tech Sponsor:** FEI

**Gold Sponsors:** Hong Kong Jockey Club, Spectravet, Hartpury University, ESI, Via Nova, Companion Animals NZ

**Silver Sponsors:** The University of Edinburgh, The University of Guelph, The Horse Trust, New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing

**Bronze Sponsors:** World Breeding Federation of Sport Horses, New Zealand Warmblood Association, Kandoo Equine, Majestic Horse Floats, Charles Sturt University, Massey University and Equestrian Sports New Zealand





## Structure, governance, management

ISES is overseen by the [Trustees](#) who have a duty to ensure the Society meets its goals while complying with UK law. ISES is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO) with the Charity Commission of England and Wales (Registered Charity Number 1176401) and operates under our Constitution. The daily activities of the Society are carried out by the [Council](#). Trustee and Council positions are filled through majority vote at the Annual General Meeting and held for a period of four years with the exception of Junior Vice President, Honorary President and Senior Vice President which are each held for two years in succession. External Advisors to the Trustees may be consulted.

### The Essential Trustee 6 main duties



The Governance Officer will begin an audit of the Society's operations, roles and procedures. This was to be undertaken last year but unforeseen delays have pushed this into next year.



A risk assessment document was created and reviewed by Council and Trustees. It is provisionally accepted until the full audit is completed.



A policies and procedures manual for ISES operations has been drafted. It will be updated and amended to reflect the information coming out of the audit.



A committee has been struck to review the strategic plan and update a new plan moving into 2026-2031.



## Membership

The primary activity of the membership secretary and membership committee is to process and review new applications and respond to membership queries.

### Committee Members:

- Cath Henshall (Membership Officer and Practitioner Rep)
- Janne Winther Christensen (SVP)
- Caleigh Copelin (Honorary Secretary)

### Membership Count by Category:

| Membership Category | As of 30 April 2024 | Change from 1 May 2023 |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Academic            | 75                  | +5                     |
| Associate           | 32                  | No change              |
| Corporate           | 11                  | +5                     |
| Honorary            | 11                  | +2                     |
| Practitioner        | 40                  | +4                     |
| Student             | 40                  | -10                    |
| Supporter           | 140                 | +78                    |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>353</b>          | <b>+84</b>             |

There has been significant growth in the number of Supporter members, with nearly 80 new members in this category of membership. This category of membership does not have eligibility requirements and is open to everyone who supports the mission and work of ISES. It is wonderful to see so many new members actively supporting our work. There was a small increase in Academic and Practitioner memberships, but no change in Associate memberships. The number of Corporate memberships has nearly doubled in the past year which is very pleasing. Student numbers are down from previous years.

**353 members in 2024**  
📈 24% from last year



## Membership Committee Activities

- The new application process managed via the website and Monday.com is now working smoothly. Application documents are uploaded to the website by the applicant and stored in a central repository on Monday.com where they are then reviewed by the membership committee.
- Standardized welcome letters have been created for new members to all membership categories. Memberships are active immediately upon payment.
- Members whose payments have been declined are now followed up with an email advising them of this and providing details about how to rejoin if they wish to.
- Automatic renewal of memberships is largely working smoothly. However, a review of all memberships in our system conducted in April 2024 identified some historical members still listed as active but who had not renewed their membership in the past 12 months. This is largely a legacy of the changeover from the old to current membership system in July 2022 and these people not receiving automated renewal notices. All people with expired memberships have been contacted by email to advise them that their memberships had expired and were provided with details on how to rejoin. Those who have renewed will now be captured in the automatic renewal system which should mean that, over time, this problem does not re-occur as long as the member retains a valid PayPal account. As per previously, student members must reapply annually providing details of their current student enrolment.
- The Membership secretary checks Monday.com on a regular basis and alerts the other members of the committee when new applications have been received. Further work needs to be undertaken to fully utilize the functionality of Monday.com to enable this manual step to be removed and work is continuing on this project.
- An automated email is now sent to all applicants whose memberships require manual validation on receipt of their application advising them that the application has been received and will be assessed in due course. This step has substantially reduced the membership processing burden. The next step will be to develop automated emails after memberships have been assessed as this is currently done manually.
- Rapid review of student applications that are supported by standard documentation has been implemented and the membership secretary now approves all straightforward student applications, only referring ambiguous applications to the full committee.
- Following the receipt of several applications for either Academic or Associate memberships that did not neatly fit the eligibility criteria, the membership committee and council had ongoing discussions about both the eligibility criteria and wording for these categories. In particular, the society has received applications for Academic membership from applicants who have relevant undergraduate and Masters level



qualifications but who do not have a publication record which is used to assess research activity, a key criteria for Academic membership.

- Various proposals have been discussed to address this and wider issues regarding the nature of the society and the benefits and pitfalls of the current membership categories. One proposal was put forward to reduce the non-Academic categories of Associate, Practitioner and Supporter to a single category, to be known as a Regular membership, whilst retaining the Academic, Student, Honorary and Corporate categories. This proposal would substantially simplify the processing of membership applications but this change would require an amendment to the ISES constitution. It will be the subject of ongoing discussion. In the absence of any changes to the membership structure, the wording of the eligibility criteria on the website has been clarified and currently reads as:

#### **Academic membership**

Open to all persons holding a higher education qualification and research record relevant to equitation science, e.g. BSc (Hons), MSc, MRes, MPhil, PhD, in the field of Animal Science, Equine or Equitation Science or scholars. Research activity must be demonstrated via peer reviewed publications within equitation or equine science. To apply for an Academic Membership please provide your CV, including your publications and a short (10-line) statement on who you are and why you wish to join. The Membership Secretary will contact you about finalising your application after it has been assessed by the Membership Committee. Academic members hold full voting privileges.

#### **Associate membership**

Open to all persons holding scientific or scholarly qualifications relevant to Equine or Equitation Science, including Veterinary Degrees. This category of membership is represented on council by the Veterinary Liaison Officer. Associate members have no voting rights, except for the election of the Veterinary Liaison Officer. Consideration for Associate Membership must be accompanied by a CV and proof of relevant qualifications.

- Membership logos are available to those who request them through the Membership Secretary.





## Taper Gauge Sales

- Taper gauge sales totaled 369 items sent to 21 different countries. UK (39), USA (26) Australia (24) and Germany (21) were the top countries placing orders (note each order could be for multiple taper gauges). This is a slight increase from 363 taper gauges sold last year. However we are receiving more bulk orders (10 to UK and the Netherlands, 20 to Australia, 30 to France, Ireland and Denmark).
- Volunteers in regions around the world send out orders.
- ISES ordered the production of 1000 gauges in October 2023 as supply had dwindled. Investigations into the manufacturing of taper gauges using sustainable materials revealed the cost to be too prohibitive. We also considered no longer distributing taper gauges but currently there is no other company producing them. It was agreed by Council to continue to produce them using the same company.





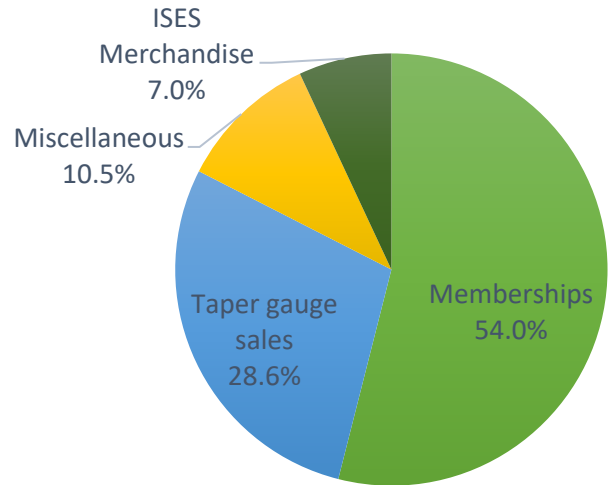
## Financial review

(May 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024)

| Revenue                        | 2023-2024     | 2022-2023     |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                | £             | £             |
| Memberships                    | 8,965         | 6,425         |
| Taper Gauge sales <sup>¥</sup> | 4,746         | 4,038         |
| Sponsorship                    | -             | 10,200        |
| ISES merchandise               | 1156          | -             |
| Miscellaneous                  | 1749          | -             |
| Reimbursements                 | -             | 346           |
| Donations                      | -             | 52            |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>           | <b>16,616</b> | <b>21,061</b> |

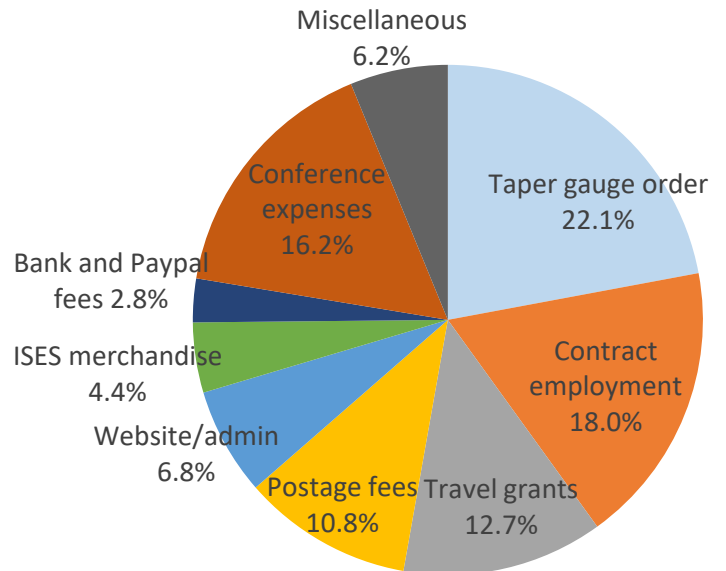
<sup>¥</sup>Includes revenue from postage via Paypal

### 2023-2024 Revenue



| Expenses              | 2023-2024      | 2022-2023     |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|
|                       | £              | £             |
| Contract employment   | 5,640          | 480           |
| Taper Gauge order     | 6,922          | 4,009         |
| Conference expenses   | 5,080          | 4,025         |
| Website/Admin         | 2,137          | 3,444         |
| Bank/Paypal fees      | 867            | 668           |
| Postage fees          | 3,386          | 58            |
| Travel grants         | 4,000          | 2,550         |
| ISES Merchandise      | 1,395          | -             |
| Miscellaneous         | 1,946          | 1,201         |
| <b>Total Expenses</b> | <b>31,373</b>  | <b>16,436</b> |
| <b>Net</b>            | <b>-14,757</b> | <b>4,625</b>  |

### 2023-2024 Expenses





Miscellaneous items consist of donations, refunds, Paypal holds, flowers and sundry items.

Note that as of the end of the fiscal year revenue from the 2024 conference in New Zealand had not been ratified. It is expected to be between £5000 and £7500.

ISES reports its accounts on an accrual basis. ISES maintains a reserve of £5000. An official audit of our finances was not undertaken this year as our gross income was less than £25,000. Charity Commission regulations stipulate an audit is not necessary in this instance.

|                   | 2023-2024     | 2022-2023     |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                   | £             | £             |
| <b>Net worth*</b> | <b>22,683</b> | <b>37,386</b> |

\*Current net worth comprises the Treasurers and Business bank accounts, PayPal balance, any outstanding debts and the value of estimated taper gauge stocks.



International Society  
for Equitation Science  
Where evidence meets practice

## Annual General Meeting

The last Annual General Meeting was held online on March 8, 2023. The upcoming Annual General Meeting will be held online on May 28, 2024.

**ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING 2024**



International Society  
for Equitation Science  
[www.equitationsscience.com](http://www.equitationsscience.com)

**BEYOND  
THE  
BRIDLE**



Gabriel Lencioni: *The use of deep learning to understand horse emotions*



Caleigh Copelin: *Understanding the welfare challenges of riding lesson horses*

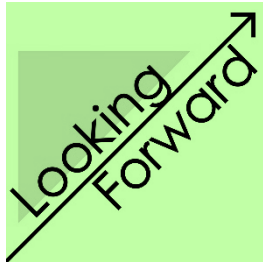


Géraldine Vandevenne: *Why is measuring pressure on the poll so important for bit and bridle fitting?*

**Save the date!**  
**May 28, 2024**  
**8pm UTC**  
**Via Zoom**



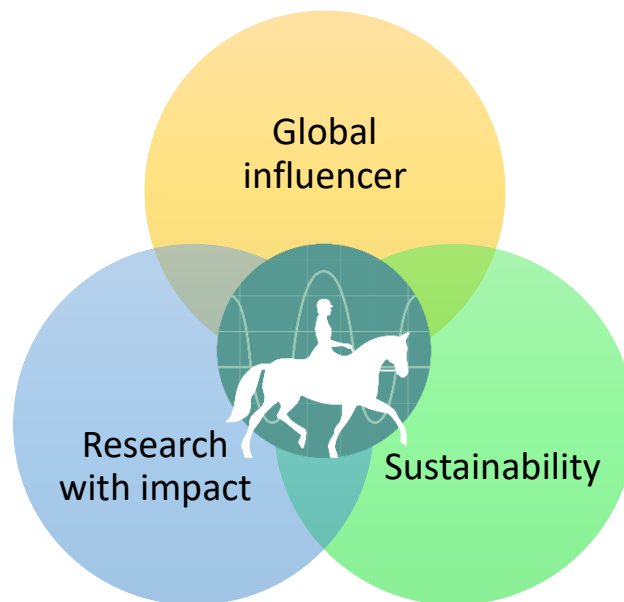
## Looking Ahead



ISES is at a turning point in its development. What started out as a small group of likeminded researchers concerned about the welfare of ridden horses has turned into a growing river of likeminded equestrian enthusiasts. It is great to see our membership growing, but the growth of our supporter memberships is outstripping all other categories. What does this mean for our researchers? Who do we want to be?

With our internal audit of our society's aims and practices together with the upcoming review of our strategic plan, it seems like the perfect time to re-evaluate who we are and who we want to be. The three core elements of our strategic plan - being a global influencer; supporting research with impact; embedding sustainability in our practice and values – likely won't change, but how we achieve them might.

Look for your opportunity to contribute to the development of our strategic plan in the coming year.



And of course we look forward to seeing you at next year's conference at [Colorado State University](#) in Fort Collins, Colorado, USA. The theme for the 20<sup>th</sup> annual conference is "Improving connection through science-based training methods." The date is not confirmed but will be in July or August



International Society  
for Equitation Science  
*Where evidence meets practice*

“

*Thank you for your constant  
unwavering commitment to horse  
welfare.*

***Anna Marian***



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

International Society for Equitation Science

1176401

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

5/1/2023

To

4/30/2024

Unrestricted  
funds

Restricted  
funds

Endowment  
funds

Total funds

Last year

to the nearest £

to the nearest £

to the nearest £

to the nearest £

to the nearest £

### A1 Receipts

|                                        |               |          |          |               |               |
|----------------------------------------|---------------|----------|----------|---------------|---------------|
| membership fees                        | 8,965         | -        | -        | 8,965         | 6,425         |
| taper gauge sales                      | 4,746         | -        | -        | 4,746         | 4,038         |
| sponsorships                           |               | -        | -        | -             | 10,200        |
| reimbursements                         |               | -        | -        | -             | 346           |
| donations                              |               | -        | -        | -             | 52            |
| ISES merchandise                       | 1,156         | -        | -        | 1,156         | -             |
| Miscellaneous                          | 1,749         | -        | -        | 1,749         | -             |
| <b>Sub total</b> (Gross income for AR) | <b>16,616</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>16,616</b> | <b>21,061</b> |

### A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).

|                  |          |          |          |          |          |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                  |          | -        | -        | -        |          |
|                  | -        | -        | -        | -        | -        |
| <b>Sub total</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b> |

### Total receipts

16,616

-

-

16,616

21,061

### A3 Payments

|                           |               |          |          |               |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|----------|----------|---------------|---------------|
| refunds                   |               | -        | -        | -             | 192           |
| bank and paypal fees      | 867           | -        | -        | 867           | 669           |
| postage fees              | 3,386         | -        | -        | 3,386         | 58            |
| website/admin             | 2,137         | -        | -        | 2,137         | 3,444         |
| awards                    | 4,000         | -        | -        | 4,000         | 2,550         |
| contract employment       | 5,640         | -        | -        | 5,640         | 480           |
| taper gauge order         | 6,922         | -        | -        | 6,922         | 4,009         |
| charity governance course |               | -        | -        | -             | 495           |
| conference expenses       | 5,080         | -        | -        | 5080          | 4,025         |
| press releases            |               |          |          | 0             | 514           |
| ISES merchandise          | 1,395         |          |          | 1395          |               |
| Miscellaneous             | 1,946         |          |          | 1946          |               |
| <b>Sub total</b>          | <b>31,373</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>31,373</b> | <b>16,436</b> |

### A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)

|                  |          |          |          |          |          |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                  | -        | -        | -        | -        |          |
|                  | -        | -        | -        | -        |          |
| <b>Sub total</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b> |

### Total payments

31,373

-

-

31,373

16,436

### Net of receipts/(payments)

- 14,757

-

-

- 14,757

4,625

### A5 Transfers between funds

-

-

-

-

-

### A6 Cash funds last year end

-

-

-

32,761

### Cash funds this year end

- 14,757

-

-

- 14,757

37,386

| Categories    | Details                                                | Unrestricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Restricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Endowment funds<br>to nearest £ |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B1 Cash funds | treasurers account                                     | 15,377                             | -                                | -                               |
|               | business account (reserve contingency)                 | 5,074                              | -                                | -                               |
|               | Paypal account                                         | 2,232                              | -                                | -                               |
|               | <b>Total cash funds</b>                                | <b>22,683</b>                      | <b>-</b>                         | <b>-</b>                        |
|               | (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) | Agreement Error                    | OK                               | OK                              |

|                          | Details | Unrestricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Restricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Endowment funds<br>to nearest £ |
|--------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B2 Other monetary assets |         |                                    | -                                | -                               |
|                          |         |                                    | -                                | -                               |
|                          |         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|                          |         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|                          |         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|                          |         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |

|                      | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|----------------------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| B3 Investment assets |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                      |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                      |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                      |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                      |         |                             | -               | -                        |

|                                              | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|----------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                                              |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                                              |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                                              |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                                              |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                                              |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                                              |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                                              |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                                              |         |                             | -               | -                        |

|                | Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional) | When due (optional) |
|----------------|---------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| B5 Liabilities |         |                                 | -                     |                     |
|                |         |                                 | -                     |                     |
|                |         |                                 | -                     |                     |
|                |         |                                 | -                     |                     |
|                |         |                                 | -                     |                     |

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

| Signature                                                                           | Print Name      | Date of approval |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
|  | Katrina Merkies | 18-Jan-25        |
|  | Janet Douglas   | 26-Jan-25        |

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR EQUITATION SCIENCE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1176401

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# Accounts

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**20  
23**

Report No.  
FYE23

## ANNUAL REPORT

International Society for Equitation Science





## Welcome from the Honorary President

Compiling an annual report always provides the opportunity to ponder our progress over the year. As we emerge from pandemic mode, we have had to learn how to operate in a new normal where virtual business is a way of life. Still, the horses always bring us back to earth. I am delighted by the thirst people show for equitation science, learning theory, ethical interactions and promoting social license for the things we do together with our horses. As a learned society I hope to continue to push ISES and equitation science forward with the goal of becoming a household name.



Since taking over as president in October of 2022 I have met with presidential council – Kate Fenner and Janne Winther Christensen – on a weekly basis to ensure we keep the Society running smoothly. Sally O'Neill was instrumental in launching our new website in June of 2022 and automatizing many tasks such as membership renewals and taper gauge orders. Although a steep learning curve, we have processes much more streamlined now. Robin Foster managed the changeover for the membership system and Colleen Brady took over the taper gauge orders. I am grateful to Janet Douglas for taking on the role of Treasurer to ensure our numbers add up. Jane Williams and Lorna Cameron took on the monumental task of hosting yet another ISES conference in August, 2022, this time going back to in-person. The arrival of Vicky Hailey as our new governance officer will enable us to document policies and procedures for smoother handovers when new members come on council.

In the fall of 2022 we held a tagline contest and I was pleased to see so many entries. It was a hard decision, but by member vote our new tagline is **“where evidence meets practice”**. I feel this aptly encapsulates who we are – a learned society that welcomes practitioners thereby facilitating a seamless transition from research to practice.

A recent addition to our team is Chloe Campbell, our social media guru. Chloe's creative and energetic efforts have catapulted us to a wider, more engaged audience. We are striving hard to provide more value to our members and Chloe has begun to populate the members' area on our website not only with news and information, but also with interactive activities. Although Chloe has only been with us a short time, her efforts, combined with the media team, are already showing an increase in engagement which in turn increases our membership.

I am passionate about equitation science and firmly believe in our mission. But I can't do it all myself. I am eternally grateful to all the members on Council and the Trustees for their patience, guidance, efforts and shared vision.

Katrina Merkies, Honorary President



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## ISES Objectives

To promote and encourage the application of objective research and consequently advance equestrian practice that will ultimately improve the welfare of horses in their interactions with humans



Encourage and support basic and applied research into the training and welfare of horses



Provide an international forum in which scientists can communicate and discuss their research results



Encourage links between applied animal behaviour science, veterinary science, psychology and other disciplines



Encourage and support the teaching of equitation science



Provide a pool of expertise to national governments, international bodies, industry and to those equine welfare organisations which deal with problems involving equine behaviour, training and welfare



Encourage communication of scientific knowledge to facilitate its use in relation to practical problems concerning the way horses are trained, managed, housed and cared for

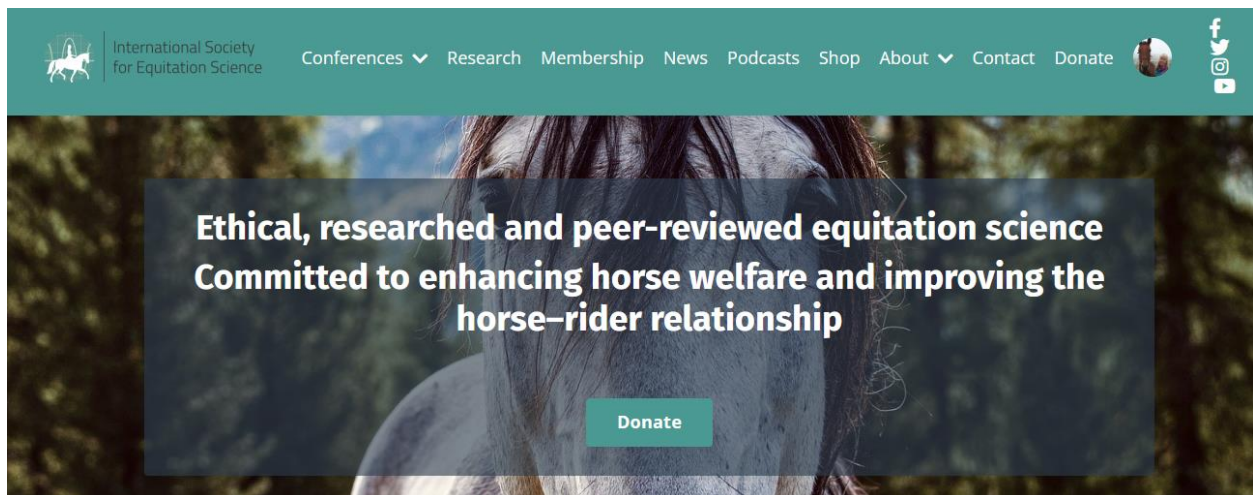


## Activities

- Held a tagline contest – new tagline is:

# Where evidence meets practice

- Held four regular council meetings (#73-76) and one extraordinary meeting
- Held two trustee meetings (Nov 2022, Feb 2023)
- Created new and improved website; launched in June 2022 [www.equitationsscience.com](http://www.equitationsscience.com)



- Implemented the use of Monday.com as a single repository for society business (free for charity). This enables us to meet GDPR requirements by avoiding sending sensitive information via email.
- All council members now have @equitationsscience.com emails for society business to meet GDPR requirements.
- Working group formed to create positive reinforcement position statement
- Awarded \$1000 research grant to Ella Bartlett, PhD student



## Media Outreach

- Email newsletter sent to members (2 this year) to provide updates on council progress



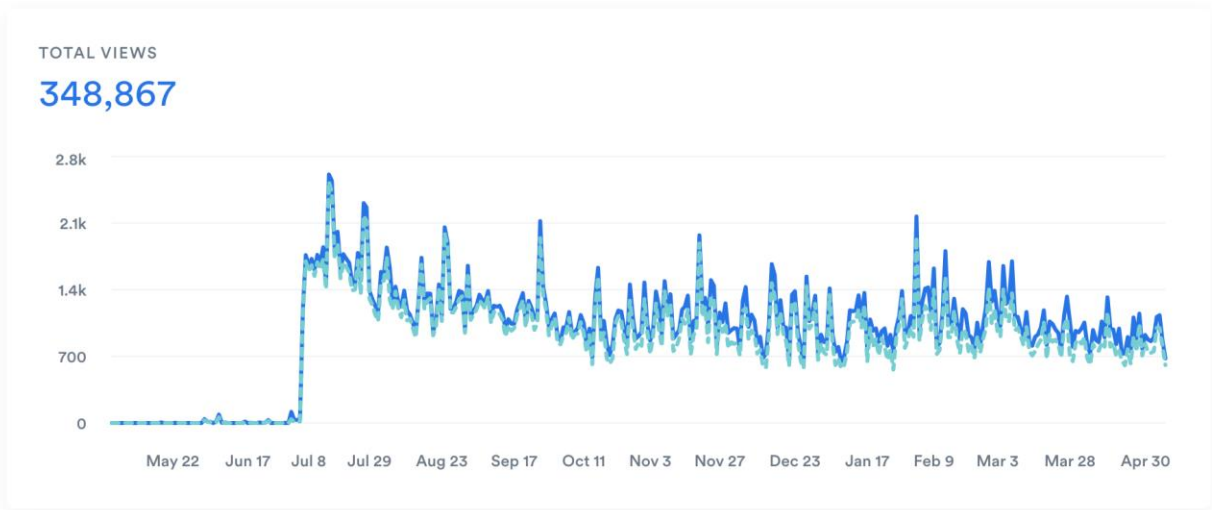
- Hired contract social media/website position starting March 1, 2023
  - Increased members' area content
  - Increased engagement through social media channels



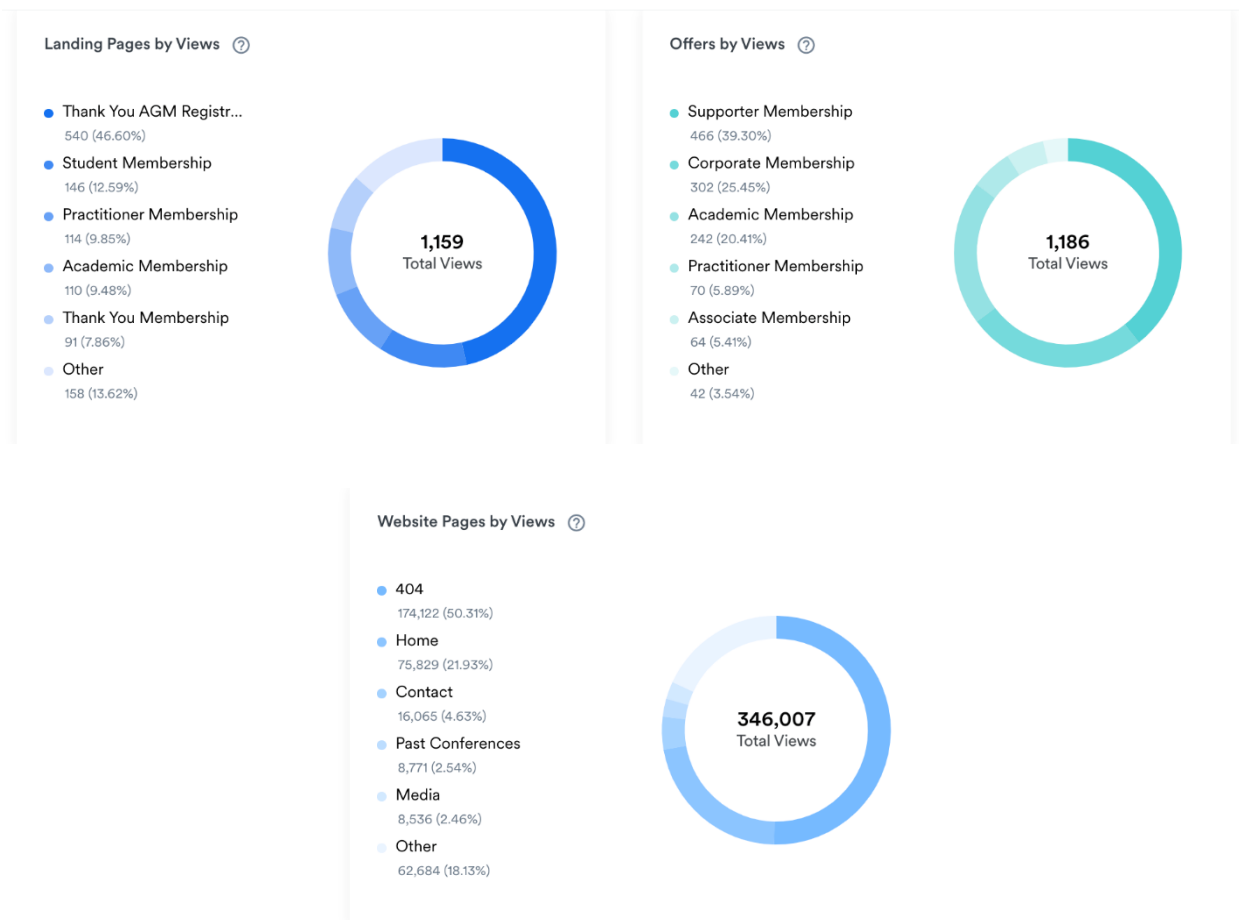


## Media Analytics

Total website views. Note the new website launched at the end of June 2022



Specific landing page views for our website





## Social media outreach for current fiscal year compared to 2020 and 2021

### Reach ⓘ

Compare your reach from this period to the previous one.

See more about your content performance

#### Facebook reach ⓘ

57,898 ↓ 18.4%

#### Instagram reach ⓘ

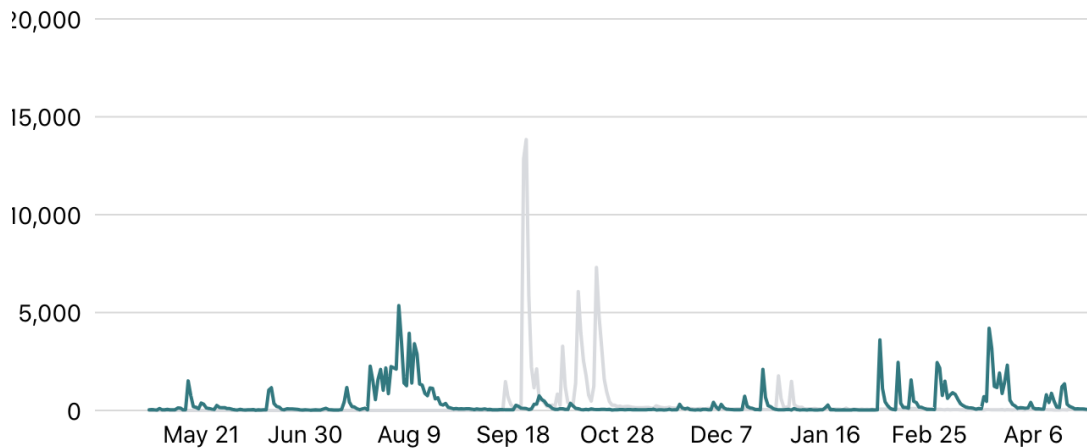
1,378 ↑ 7.5%

#### Paid reach ⓘ

11,840 ↑ 100%

Daily

Cumulative



### Ways to help grow your reach

#### Try reaching more people with an ad

##### Facebook reach ⓘ



#### Post frequently and consistently

##### Published posts ⓘ

53 ↑ 152.4%

##### Published stories ⓘ

0 0.0%

#### Improve engagement for your content

##### Median post reactions, comments and shares ⓘ

23 ↓ 42.5%



## Spreading Equitation Science around the World

Some of the work undertaken individually by Council Members and Trustees

- Equine Ethics and Well-being commission reporting to FEI on concerns related to the use of horses in sport
- Position paper on how horses learn for the German Leisure Riders and Drivers Association
- Drafted revised version of the national guidelines for horse husbandry for the German Equestrian Federation
- Delivered talk at the "Leipzig Veterinary Conference" on the early use of horses in racing and sport
- Interview on how vets in France can incorporate Learning Theory
- Lecture to vet students in Edinburgh on how we measure stress in horses and how to apply learning theory to work with difficult horses.
- Speaker at the British Veterinary Association Animal Welfare conference in the debate session: Equine Overtreatment - Where is the line in the sand.
- Train students studying for a Diploma in Equine Assisted Learning-on Learning Theory and its applications at Festina Lente in Co Wicklow, Ireland
- Received a grant from Morris Animal Foundation, USA to develop online modules to assist horse owners in identifying and assessing affective states.
- Papers in process from dissertation on Horse Owners' Understanding of Behavior and Learning Theory
- 4-H Youth Program highlighting use of Learning Theory to train horses
- Board member of Pony Club Australia
- Lecture to students pursuing postgraduate education in Equitation Science at the University of Edinburgh on horse-human interactions
- Workshop on equine behaviour for veterinarians at the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association Annual Meeting
- Presentation on research in human-horse interactions at annual Equine Industry Symposium (virtual)
- Sport Horse Welfare Foundation Delphi study on management and training factors to promote sport horse health and welfare
- Educational presentation on the application of cognitive and affective neuroscience to understanding equine learning- RPSCA Australia 2023 Scientific Seminar
- Developed and updated UK Pony Club test syllabus to incorporate an understanding of equine behaviour, particularly the principles of learning and training
- 8 podcasts for Horse and Hound magazine on equine behaviour topics
- Podcast for Boehringer Ingelheim Nordic countries on stress in horses, aimed at vets
- Numerous lectures and presentations delivered to various stakeholder groups around the world on equine behaviour, welfare, learning theory, dealing with difficult horses, behaviour modification, early life experiences, stress and behavioural medicine



## Annual General Meeting

- Moved AGM to different time frame to align with annual reporting (moved from mid summer to March) at suggestion of accountant. Going forward, the AGM will be held independent of the annual conference and be held virtually around the same time each year.
- Hosted online AGM March 8
  - 160 attendees
  - Three guest speakers: Dr Carrie Ijichi, PhD Student Ella Bartlett, and Lindsay Grice
  - Election of JVP, vet liaison, secretary, treasurer, governance officer
  - Reduced number of council members from 18 to 15
  - AGM meeting minutes are available to members on our website in the members' area
- Awarded two honorary fellows: Dr. Machteld van Dierendonck and Dr. Kathalijne Visser

International Society for  
Equitation Science

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## Speakers



**Dr Carrie Ijichi**

Discussing her popular paper "Poker Face: Discrepancies in behaviour and affective states in horses during stressful handling procedures"



**Ella Bartlett**

Discussing her PhD research "Understanding training related decision making in horse owners"



**Lindsay Grice**

Discussing how she implements equitation science into her work as a riding coach and judge



**Wednesday**  
**08 March 2023**



**Start At**  
**8:00PM GMT**

**JOIN ON ZOOM**

[www.equitationsscience.com](http://www.equitationsscience.com)



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY  
FOR EQUITATION SCIENCE

## HONORARY FELLOWSHIP



*Kathalijne Visser*

has been awarded an honorary fellowship from ISES in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the ISES mission – to promote and encourage the application of objective research and advanced practice which ultimately improves the welfare of horses in their associations with humans

## Honorary Fellowship

- Kathalijne gained her Msc (Hons) in Animal Sciences at Wageningen University and her PhD on horse personalities in 2002 at Utrecht University in the Netherlands.
- She has been a **pioneer in horse personality research**
- Executed and led several **national and international research projects on horse welfare, horse personalities and animal welfare** during transport and slaughter.
- With special interest in the effects of the **human-animal interactions** on the welfare of dogs and horses she has been appointed a position as **Professor Human-Animal Interactions** at the Aeres University of Applied Sciences in 2021
- In 2022 she became member of the **Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission for the FEI**, chaired by Nat Waran
- Kathalijne has been on ISES council from 2007 till 2017 as **Research Officer**. In her term she developed, with others, the **ISES research strategy** including the opportunities for young scientists to present their work at ISES conferences through student prizes
- In 2011 Kathalijne was **chair of the organising committee** of the ISES Conference at Academy Bartels, Hooze Mierde, the Netherlands. Together with the other members of the organising committee this was a landmark for ISES, being the **first 'stand alone' conference** without ISAE and partnering with the Global Dressage Forum that took place following the ISES conference.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY  
FOR EQUITATION SCIENCE

## HONORARY FELLOWSHIP



*Machteld van Dierendonck*

has been awarded an honorary fellowship from ISES in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the ISES mission – to promote and encourage the application of objective research and advanced practice which ultimately improves the welfare of horses in their associations with humans

## Honorary Fellowship

- One of the **original founders** of ISES
- Continued **strong supporter** attending almost every annual conference and often involved with the scientific committee
- In 2011, she helped **organise the annual conference** held in the Netherlands with plenary speakers
- Held the role of **membership secretary** on the first ISES council
- Has a strong "scientific conscience" to ensure **robust science** with good methodology is carried out to create valid and **reliable results** with realistic conclusions
- Main research contributions in the **field of pain assessment**, with over 10 peer-reviewed papers and a scientifically-validated app for vets and owners of equids experiencing pain
- Working on the **development of Equine Facility Welfare Assessment** protocol to improve the lives of equine patients in clinics
- Teaches at 3 vet schools, **demonstrating low stress handling techniques** with respect for the biology of a horse
- Committed to **connect the equine public with good science** and translate scientific results to those who work with horses to improve horse welfare
- Machteld and Anne Muller developed the **WOW poster (Working on Optimal Welfare)**, which represents the ISES training principles in an easy-to-read format for novice and young riders, with extra materials for trainers and teachers
- Machteld has her own **clinical behaviour consulting company** [equusresearch.nl](http://equusresearch.nl)



## 2022 Annual Conference

The 18<sup>th</sup> annual Equitation Science conference was held at Hartpury, UK, August 10-12, 2022.



### HARTPURY 2022

- 4 workshops
- Clever Hans presentation by Dr Wenhao Zhang
- 2 Panel discussions
- 4 Keynote talks
- 3 Plenaries
- 6 Invited talks
- 19 Research presentations
- 30 Lightning talks



- Three travel grants were awarded to students to enable them to attend the annual conference
- Conference proceedings are available on the ISES website [here](#)
- Best oral/poster presentations were awarded
  - Hamilton, K. Conflict behaviours displayed by horses during dressage tests and their relationship to performance evaluation (Best Oral Presentation Winner).
  - Turunen, M. A short intervention on the correct use of negative reinforcement (R-) can increase handler knowledge and understanding in college students (Best Poster Winner).
- The next annual conference was awarded to New Zealand for March/April 2024. Note there is no 2023 conference due to the month/season change.



#### Workshop

"Inside the horse's mind: a head first approach to equine management and training" with **Drs. Andrew Hemmings & Linda Greening**

*Wow!! What a great workshop. Colleen Brady*



**Keynote presentation by  
Dr. David Marlin**





**Keynote presentation by  
Christopher Bartle**

*This was a great  
demonstration. Loved it.  
Maintaining balance is  
definitely a verb not an idea  
or something that will 'grow  
by itself' Anne Muller*



  
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR  
EQUITATION SCIENCE 2022  
HARTPURY UNIVERSITY

**A PERSONAL  
PHILOSOPHY  
FOR TRAINING  
HORSE  
AND RIDER  
PARTNERSHIPS**

WELCOME TO ISES  
HARTPURY 2022

Great day at ISES, Hartpury University, where I was invited to join a **Workshop “Ethics and Well-being in Sports Horses”** with the outcomes being presented to the FEI.

Great discussion - with lots of points raised. Our social license has never been under so much threat, and we ALL have to do our bit to enhance, promote and ensure ethical training practices of all horses. The ISES group are pushing forwards from an evidence based perspective, but essential that we all do our bit - with the horse at the centre.

Great conference - looking forward to presenting a session on Thursday - “Equine Laterality or Functional Asymmetry” **Russell MacKechnie-Guire**





## Sponsors

A heartfelt thank you to all our sponsors who contributed to the success of our 2022 conference





## Structure, governance, management

ISES is overseen by the [Trustees](#) who have a duty to ensure the Society meets its goals while complying with UK law. ISES is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO) with the Charity Commission of England and Wales (Registered Charity Number 1176401) and operates under our Constitution. The daily activities of the Society are carried out by the [Council](#). Trustee and Council positions are filled through majority vote at the Annual General Meeting and held for a period of four years with the exception of Junior Vice President, Honorary President and Senior Vice President which are each held for two years in succession. External Advisors to the Trustees may be consulted.

Vicky Hailey came on as Governance Officer in December 2022 to begin an audit of the Society's operations, roles and procedures. This is ongoing but has already seen a benefit of developing some written policies and a centralized repository for all the Society's business.

Katrina Merckies and Kate Fenner completed the Charity Governance online certificate to understand charity governance, board structure, roles and responsibilities, how to efficiently run board meetings and how to improve and develop governance.

Council created a policy for ISES response to outdated or inappropriate content relating to equitation science:

ISES's purpose is to promote and encourage the application of objective research and advanced practice which will ultimately improve the welfare of horses in their associations with humans. ISES recognizes that there is much misinformation available to the general public through various media channels regarding the training and management of horses. ISES is not in a position, nor wishes to be, a policing agent for information that is disseminated. However from time to time information may be brought to our attention that requires a response from ISES as an authority on equitation science. We will intervene if a concern is brought directly to our attention or when hot topics create a media firestorm. We will respond to media that comes from a reputable source and pertains specifically to equitation science and is within ISES's scopes and aims. Any response will come from a panel of at least three ISES council members, address the specific concerns and provide scientific justification.

Council developed and released a social media statement in response to current equine welfare issues (e.g. horse abuse in the pentathlon at the Olympics).

### The Essential Trustee 6 main duties





## Trustees

The charity trustees oversee the affairs of the charity. The slate of trustees as of April 30, 2023:



**President**  
**Katrina Merkies**



**Junior Vice President**  
**Kate Fenner**



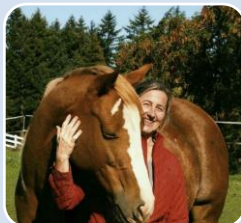
**Senior Vice President**  
**Janne Winther Christensen**



**Honorary Secretary**  
**Caleigh Copelin**



**Treasurer**  
**Janet Douglas**



**Membership Secretary**  
**Robin Foster**



**Trustee**  
**Natalie Waran**



**Trustee**  
**Hayley Randle**



**Trustee**  
**Andrew McLean**



## Council Members

The Council performs duties for the regular functioning of the charity. The Council as of April 30, 2023



**Governance  
Officer**  
Vicky Hailey



**Practitioner  
Rep**  
Cath Henshall



**Student Rep**  
Gill Keegan



**Vet Liaison  
Officer**  
Barbara  
Padalino



**Research  
Officer**  
Uta Koenig von  
Borstel



**Education  
Officer**  
Colleen Brady



**Media Team**  
Sally O'Neill



**Media Team**  
Toni  
Henderson



**Ordinary  
Member**  
Angelo Telatin



- Changes in Trustees 2022-2023:
  - Jane Williams resigned as President (Sep 20, 2022)
  - Katrina Merkies moved from Junior Vice President to Honorary President (Sep 20, 2022)
  - Kate Fenner moved from Treasurer to Junior Vice President (Sep 20, 2022)
  - Lorna Cameron resigned as Honorary Secretary (Jul 27, 2022)
  - Caleigh Copelin was elected as Honorary Secretary (Dec 21, 2022)
  - Orla Doherty resigned as Senior Vice President (Jan 15, 2023)
  - Janne Winther Christensen returned as Senior Vice President (Mar 8, 2023)
  - Janet Douglas was elected as Treasurer (Mar 8, 2023)
  - Paul McGreevy resigned as trustee (Jun 1, 2022)
- Changes in Council 2022-2023:
  - Gill Keegan was elected as Student Rep (May, 2022)
  - Vicky Hailey was elected as Governance Officer (Mar 8, 2023)
  - Carissa Wickens resigned as Assistant Secretary (Dec 21, 2022)
  - Maria Rørvang resigned as media team (Dec 1, 2022)
  - Klára Ničová ended her term as media team (Mar 8, 2023)
  - Gemma Pearson ended her term as Vet Liaison Officer (Mar 8, 2023)
  - Barbara Padalino was elected as Vet Liaison Officer (Mar 8, 2023)



## Membership

- Due to the change to the new website and a different method of membership renewal, it was not possible to determine the exact number of members in each membership category. Going forward, membership tracking will be much more precise.
- Membership held steady through the year at about 300 members.
- The new application process is managed via the website and Monday.com. This has facilitated a decrease in processing times for membership applications. Memberships are activated immediately upon payment.
- Memberships are now automatically renewed which has reduced the memberships processing burden on the membership committee and is likely to improve retention of members over coming years. From May 2023, all membership renewals, with the exception of student memberships, are renewed automatically as long as the member has a valid PayPal account. As per previously, student members must reapply annually providing details of their current student enrolment.
- Membership logos are available to those who request them through the Junior Vice President.



Member of  
The International Society  
For Equitation Science  
Until November 2023

Membership categories include:  
ACADEMIC, ASSOCIATE, CORPORATE,  
PRACTITIONER, STUDENT, SUPPORTING  
AND HONORARY.

**~300 members in 2023**



**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**  
**CHRIS BROOKS**



**I live in:** South Wales UK

**I am studying:** MSc. in Equitation Science at Hartpury University  
The last time I trained a horse: Today – every interaction with my horses. In terms of planned training, I am helping a friend start her 4-year-old Connie. I love a blank canvas.

**My most memorable horse-related moment:** I am pretty elderly, and there are lots! Competing, Hunting, watching my children on their ponies, watching my foals being born. Since discovering equitation science, my most memorable moments have been watching horses' trial behaviours and getting the correct answer. I love watching the process of learning take place.

**I am currently watching:** Shrinking on Apple TV.

**I'm making a difference by:** working with Pony Club UK on a learning theory workbook for C test members and dropping "seeds" in my equestrian communities whenever I get an opportunity.

[www.equitationsscience.com](http://www.equitationsscience.com)



## Taper gauge sales

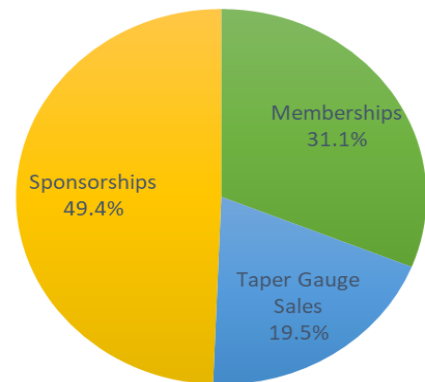
- Taper gauge sales totaled 363 items sent to 20 different countries. UK (21), Australia (19) and US (17) were the top countries placing orders (note each order could be for multiple taper gauges). This is up from 282 taper gauges sold last year.
- Bulk orders were placed by associations in Germany and the Netherlands.
- Volunteers in regions around the world send out orders.
- ISES ordered the production of 500 gauges in November 2022 as supply had dwindled to <50.



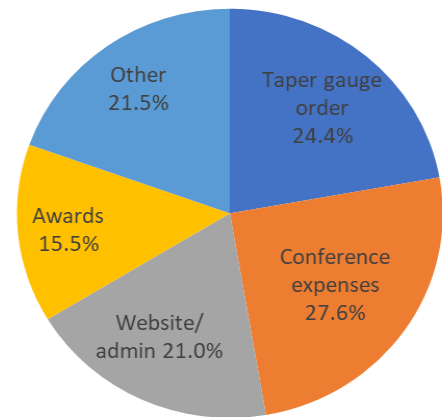


## Financial review (May 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023)

| Revenue              | 2022-2023     | 2021-2022     |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                      | £             | £             |
| Memberships          | 6,425         | 6,050         |
| Taper Gauge sales    | 4,038         | 5,781         |
| Sponsorship          | 10,200        | 12,300        |
| Reimbursements       | 346           | -             |
| Donations            | 52            | 160           |
| <b>Total Revenue</b> | <b>21,061</b> | <b>24,291</b> |



| Expenses              | 2022-2023     | 2021-2022     |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                       | £             | £             |
| Taper Gauge order     | 4,009         | -             |
| Conference expenses   | 4,025         | 10,934        |
| Website/Admin         | 3,444         | 1,490         |
| Awards                | 2,550         | -             |
| Other                 | 2,408         | 3,693         |
| <b>Total Expenses</b> | <b>16,436</b> | <b>16,117</b> |



Graphs detail expenses that comprised at least 5% of total

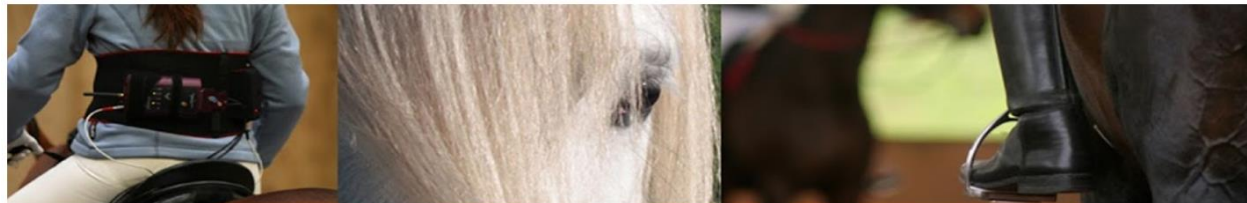
ISES reports its accounts on an accrual basis. ISES maintains a reserve of £5000. An official audit of our finances was not undertaken this year as our gross income was less than £25,000. Charity Commission regulations stipulate an audit is not necessary in this instance.

|                  | 2022-2023     | 2021-2022     |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                  | £             | £             |
| <b>Net worth</b> | <b>37,386</b> | <b>32,761</b> |



## Looking Ahead

ISES is on the bandwagon to provide more content for our members and the general public. Our goal is to create and share more information, research and insight into all aspects of equitation science. We have already started on podcasts, videos, infographics, interviews and enhanced activities. Check us out on your socials, Spotify, YouTube and the members' area on our website.



International Society Equitation Science

@IntSocEqSci 1.09K subscribers 37 videos

Equitation science promotes an objective, evidence-based understanding ... >

[www.equitationsscience.com](http://www.equitationsscience.com)

Subscribed

*“ Thank you for all you do to  
improve our understanding  
and care of the horse.*

*Ann Chadwick*

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR EQUITATION SCIENCE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1176401

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# Accounts

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# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

|      |                   |     |      |    |                 |       |      |
|------|-------------------|-----|------|----|-----------------|-------|------|
| From | Period start date |     |      | To | Period end date |       |      |
|      | 01                | May | 2021 |    | 30              | April | 2022 |

## Section A Reference and administration details

**Charity name** International Society for Equitation Science

**Other names charity is known by** ISES

**Registered charity number (if any)** 1176401

**Charity's principal address** Hartpury University

Hartpury House

Hartpury , GLOUCESTER

**Postcode**

GL19 3BE

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

|   | Trustee name              | Office (if any)           | Dates acted if not for whole year                   | Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any) |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Jane Williams             | JVP<br>President          | May 1 – Oct 22, 2021<br>Oct 22, 2021 – Apr 30, 2022 | Voting members                                                |
| 2 | Kate Fenner               | Treasurer                 |                                                     | Voting members                                                |
| 3 | Katrina Merkies           | Honorary Secretary<br>JVP | May 1 – Oct 22, 2021<br>Oct 22, 2021 – Apr 30, 2022 | Voting members                                                |
| 4 | Orla Doherty              | President<br>SVP          | May 1 – Oct 22, 2021<br>Oct 22, 2021 – Apr 30, 2022 | Voting members                                                |
| 5 | Robin Foster              | Membership<br>Secretary   |                                                     | Voting members                                                |
| 6 | Janne Winther Christensen | SVP-outgoing              | May 1 – Oct 22, 2021                                | Voting members                                                |
| 7 | Lorna Cameron             | Honorary Secretary        | Oct 22, 2021 – Apr 30, 2022                         | Voting members                                                |

### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

| Name          | Dates acted if not for whole year |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Andrew McLean |                                   |
| Nat Waran     |                                   |
| Hayley Randle |                                   |
| Paul McGreevy |                                   |

### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
|-----------------|------|---------|
|                 |      |         |
|                 |      |         |
|                 |      |         |
|                 |      |         |

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|

## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

|                                                                     |                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Type of governing document<br>(eg. trust deed, constitution)        | Constitution            |
| How the charity is constituted<br>(eg. trust, association, company) | Association             |
| Trustee selection methods<br>(eg. appointed by, elected by)         | Nomination and election |

### Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

- risk register being created

## Section C Objectives and activities

### Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To advance equitation science\* and practice for the public benefit, in particular but not exclusively by:

- encouraging and supporting research into the training of horses to enhance horse welfare and improve the horse-rider relationship and the dissemination of such research to the public;
- applying valid, quantitative scientific methods to create evidence-based measures to inform equestrian practices; and
- raising awareness of equine learning theory and its current application.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>*Equitation science promotes an objective, evidence-based understanding of the welfare of horses during training and competition by applying valid, quantitative scientific methods that can identify what training techniques are ineffective or may result in equine suffering.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Being a leading global influencer through communication, dissemination and education of scientific evidence pertaining to Equitation Science               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Website updates</li> <li>b. Social media posts</li> <li>c. Partnerships with key forums, policy groups</li> <li>d. Special member newsletters</li> <li>e. Annual scientific conference</li> <li>f. Presentations to diverse audience groups</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Supporting research with impact – generate evidence to drive improvements               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Fund student research projects</li> <li>b. Publish best practice guidelines</li> <li>c. Establish support for early career researchers – mentors, funding</li> </ol> </li> </ol> |

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>ISES works with contributions from a number of volunteers both on Council and ex officio on various committees. Council consists of the presidents (junior, senior and honorary presidents), honorary secretary, membership officer, governance officer, veterinary liaison officer, research officer, student representative, practitioner representative, education officer, media team and an ordinary council member. Ex officio volunteers assist with taper gauge sales in different countries throughout the world.</p> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

### Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

- Held five regular council meetings (#68-72)
- AGM held in October 2021. Elected new JVP (Katrina Merbies), secretary (Lorna Cameron), practitioner representative (Cath Henshall), media officer (Sally O'Neill)
- Held two trustee meetings (Aug 2021, Nov 2021)
- 17<sup>th</sup> Annual conference held virtually Oct 20-22, 2021 - Advancing equestrian practice to improve equine quality of life. We offered the conference free to anyone this year as it was virtual.
  - Clever Hans speaker – Mike Mendl
  - 4 keynote speakers
  - 4 plenary speakers
  - 20 research presentations
  - 39 lightning talks
- Translated ISES principles into Czech language
- Removed requirement for outside letters for academic membership applicants. Academic accomplishments should stand on their own along with a brief statement from potential members about why they would like to join.
- One newsletter created and circulated to members. Found this was a lot of work for little return, so reworking approach into podcasts, videos, lay articles to engage audience more. Developing a timeline for releases starting in 2023.
- Made facebook group public to allow more interaction and address EDI policies. Still requires membership to be requested before allowed to join group
- Twitter handle restarted @equitationscien
- facebook reach of almost 80,000 with 2800 page visits
- Instagram reach of over 1300 with 700 profile visits
- metrics from sally
- Operational plan to achieve strategic priorities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are behind in achieving our goals
- Taper gauges – steady sales (538 during this fiscal year). Stock is dwindling. Taper gauge committee sourcing supplier for new batch
- Review of council and trustee skills – skill matrix and GEM assessment. We have a breadth of skills across council and trustees but there is a need to articulate our own skills better to each other to enable assistance when/where necessary. Review of individual roles underway
- 18<sup>th</sup> annual conference to be held at Hartpury, UK, August 10-12, 2022. Planning underway

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We keep a separate business account with a reserve of £5000

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

NA

## Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

- The principal source of funds is from memberships and taper gauge sales.
- Sponsorship is sourced in relation to the annual conference to offset conference costs
- Given that the world was still mostly in pandemic mode, our conference in 2021 remained virtual and expenditures were minor.

## Section F Other optional information

## Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

|                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Signature(s)                        |  |  |
| Full name(s)                        | Katrina Merkies                                                                     | Andrew Neil McLean                                                                    |
| Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc) | President                                                                           | Trustee                                                                               |
| Date                                | February 25, 2023                                                                   |                                                                                       |



# The International Society for Equitation Science

*ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022*

## ISES President | Jane Williams

### Summary of the year

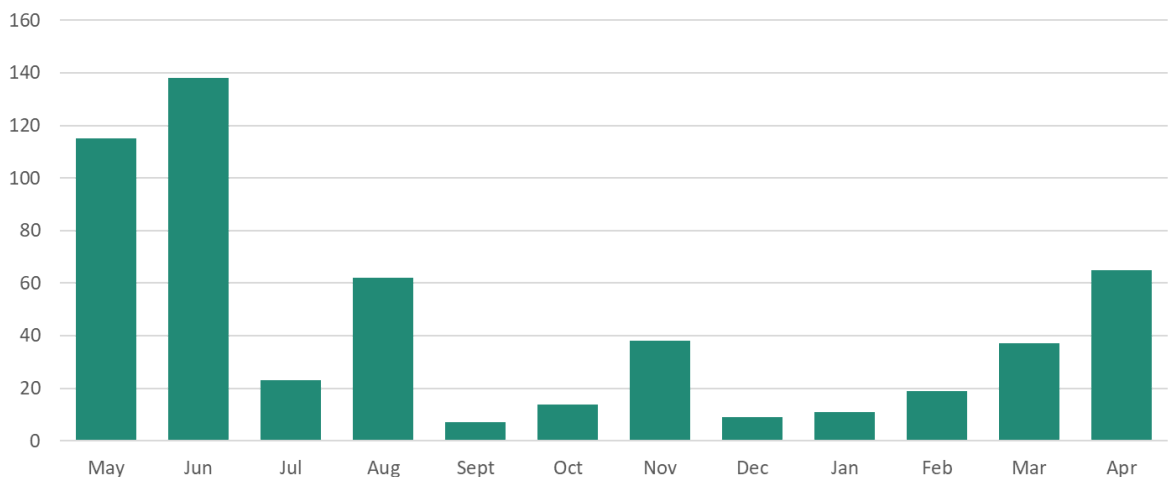
- Held five regular council meetings (#68-72)
- AGM held in October 2021. Elected new JVP (Katrina Merkies), secretary (Lorna Cameron), practitioner representative (Cath Henshall), media officer (Sally O'Neill)
- Held two trustee meetings (Aug 2021, and Nov 2021)
- 17th Annual conference held virtually Oct 20-22, 2021 - Advancing equestrian practice to improve equine quality of life.
  - o Clever Hans speaker – Mike Mendl
  - o 4 keynote speakers
  - o 4 plenary speakers
  - o 20 research presentations
  - o 39 lightning talks
- Translated ISES principles into the Czech language
- Removed requirement for outside letters for academic membership applicants. Academic accomplishments should stand on their own, along with a brief statement from potential members about why they would like to join.
- One newsletter was created and circulated to members. Found this was much work for little return, so reworking the approach into podcasts, videos, and lay articles to engage the audience more. Developing a timeline for releases starting in 2023.
- Added an additional public group to FB to allow more interaction and address EDI policies. Membership of ISES is not required for membership in this group.
- Twitter handle restarted @equitationscien
- Improved Facebook and Instagram metrics

- Updated ISES member logos being distributed



Member of  
The International Society  
For Equitation Science  
Until April 2024

- Operational plan to achieve strategic priorities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are behind in achieving our goals
- Taper gauges – steady sales (538 during this fiscal year). Stock is dwindling. Taper gauge committee sourcing supplier for a new batch



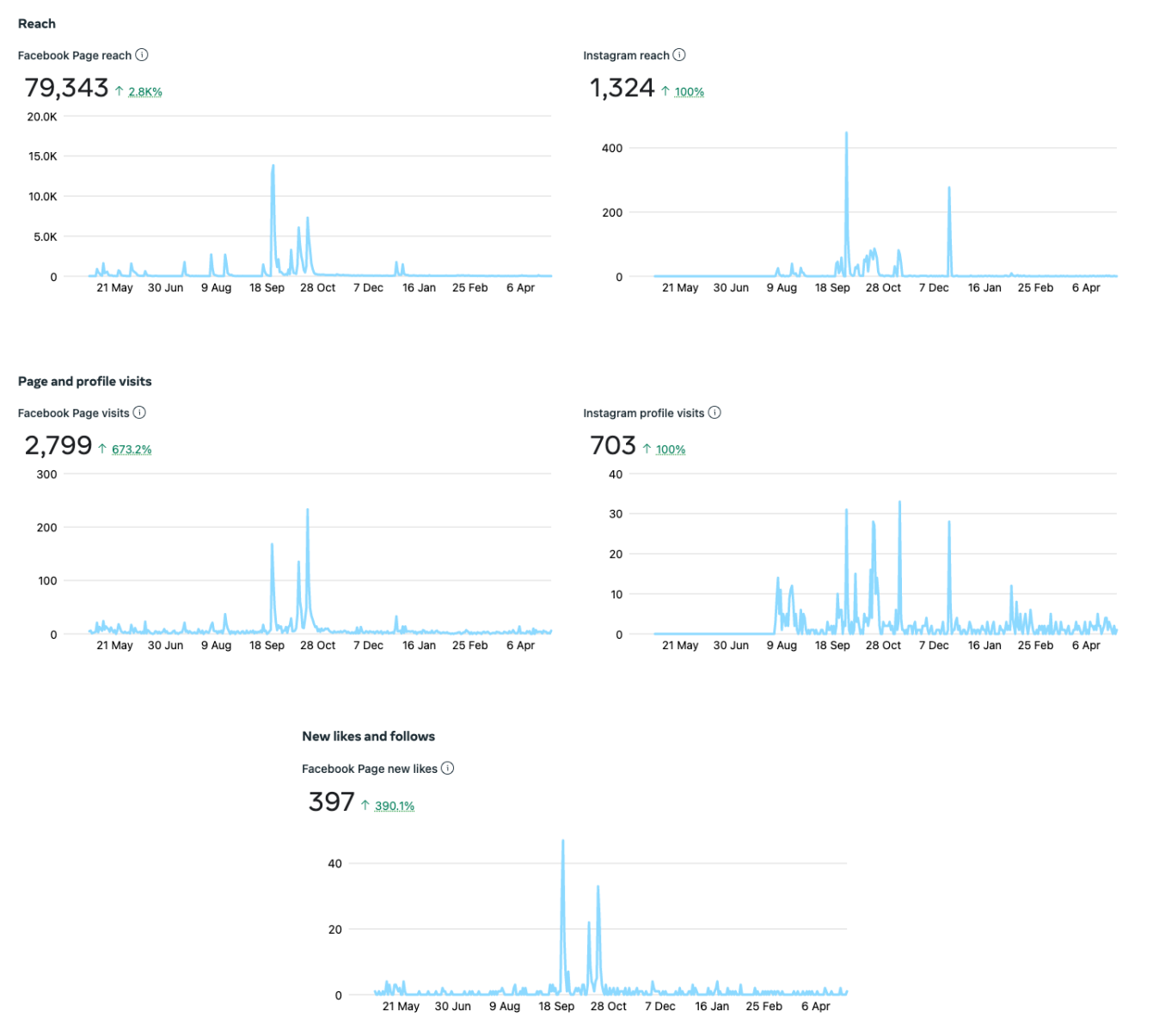
- Review of the council and trustee skills – skill matrix and GEM assessment. We have a breadth of skills across council and trustees, but there is a need to articulate our skills better to each other to enable assistance when/where necessary. Review of individual roles underway
- 18th annual conference to be held at Hartpury, UK, August 10-12, 2022. The conference will have an in-person and virtual option. Planning is underway.

## Media

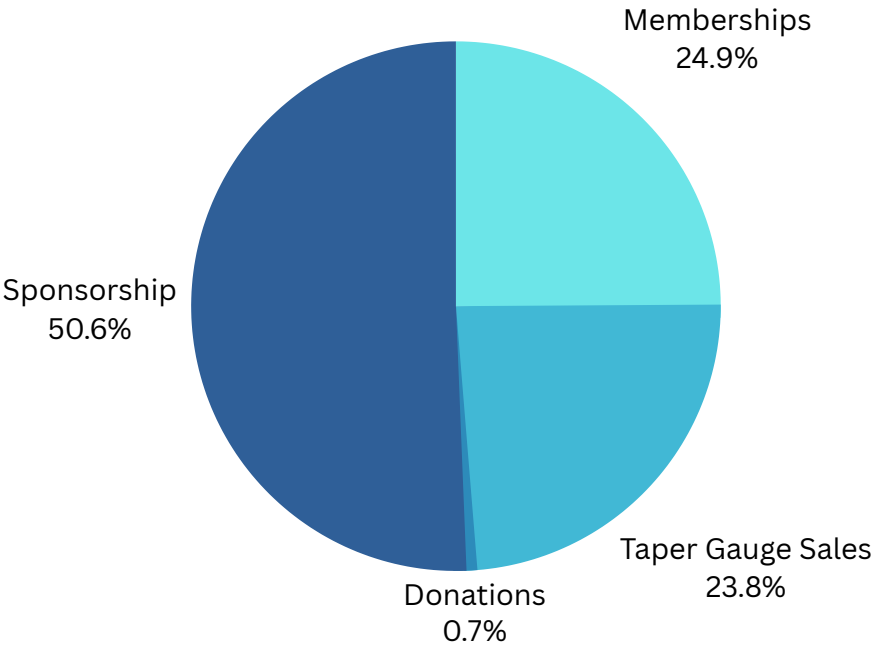
Media activities began the move towards a highly organised approach to output media content. This had to begin with the development of a new website, allowing media to be added easily and effectively. We reorganised the media roles into a team structure, with one point of contact for other council members, leading to a better distribution of requests for activity. The media team decided, with approval from the council, to move away from a long-form newsletter which was proving difficult to clear for publication and needed modernising. A fresh approach relies on newsletters being concise signposts to ISES activities and new website content. With this structure now in place, work has started to gain insight from council members and the broader

membership in developing a strategy for producing media content (podcasts, webinars, videos) for release. The publication of media for the annual conference has been reviewed and will be modernised for the 2022 Hartpury Conference.

**Source:** Sally O'Neill



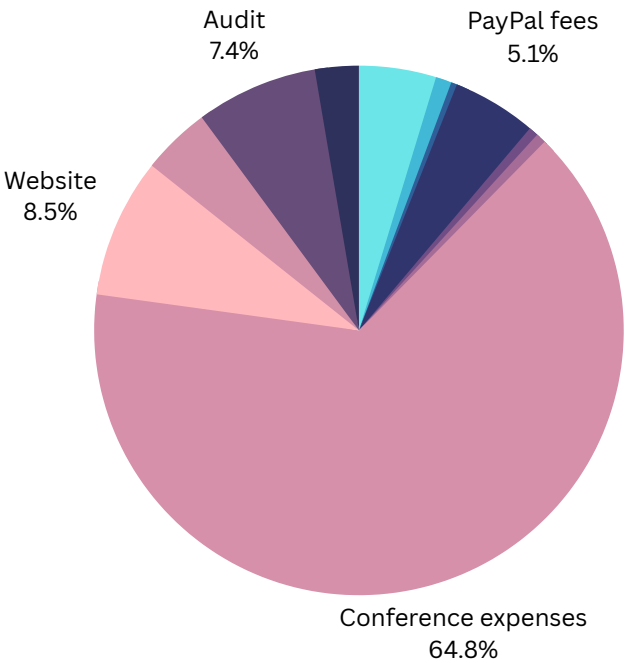
Revenue



| Revenue Source    | Amount ( £ ) |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Memberships       | £6,050.00    |
| Taper Gauge Sales | £5,781.00    |
| Donations         | £160.00      |
| Sponsorships      | £12,300.00   |
| TOTAL             | £24,291.00   |

Expenses

- PayPal Expenses (£1,801.22) and Treasurer's Account Expenses (£14,316.00)



| PayPal Expenses              | Amount ( £ ) |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Currency conversion          | £758.45      |
| Refunds                      | £144.00      |
| Disputes                     | £12.00       |
| Sundry                       | £57.60       |
| PayPal fees                  | £829.17      |
| Treasurer's Account Expenses |              |
| Bank fees                    | £93.47       |
| Taper gauge postage          | £99.54       |
| Conference expenses          | £10,444.62   |

|              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Website      | £1,373.08         |
| Newsletter   | £655.53           |
| Admin        | £18.77            |
| Audit        | £1,200.00         |
| Sundry       | £430.99           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>£16,117.22</b> |

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>Net Revenue</b> | <b>£8,173.78</b> |
|--------------------|------------------|

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Net Total Worth</b> | <b>£32,761</b> |
|------------------------|----------------|

## Membership

- Membership numbers have decreased slightly over the year from 256 at the beginning of May 2021 to 238 at the end of April 2022. Decreases were seen mostly in the Practitioner and Student categories.



- The primary activity of membership is to process and review new applications. To improve efficiency and streamline this process, members are now organized on the website by membership level, with new applicants at each level separated until after document review and payment. Previously, all new and renewing membership actions were sent to the membership secretary to be processed and either filed or reviewed.
- Standardized welcome letters have been created for new members at each level except supporter and corporate. For these levels, membership is active immediately upon payment and applications are not reviewed.
- The application process was revised for the new website. A primary change was that documents supporting student, academic, associate, and practitioner applications are now submitted at the time of application. Once they are reviewed and approved, applicants receive a welcome email and payment link. (Previously, applicants paid first and submitted documentation later but became full members at the time of payment. Consequently, several applicants never submitted documentation; the policy was to convert these to supporting membership, which created a practical and potentially legal dilemma).
- Documents submitted by applicants are now posted on the ISES website; previously, applicants submitted them directly to the ISES membership secretary as email attachments. A Membership Committee group is currently being created on the 'Monday' app to improve further the efficiency of the application review process and organizational oversight of the documents. Those board members with access will be able to review and approve membership application documents directly from Monday. This simplified system will replace the current procedure whereby the membership secretary downloads and distributes the documents to committee members by email for them to approve.
- Review documentation requirements for different levels of membership, with a particular focus on practitioner and student levels. If needed, the membership committee will propose revisions.
- Working with other committees such as social media, a goal of membership is to develop strategies to attract new members. Membership starts to wane in September, after the annual conference and picks up again in April. Developing strategies to engage prospective members during this slow period could boost membership.

## Spreading Equitation Science

| Members                                                    | Extension                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Orla Doherty                                               | Lecture delivered to equine veterinarians during a three-day equine behavioural medicine course run by the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists on the topic of noseband-related issues and research                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Jane Williams                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosted an afternoon online for Writtle University College Masters students covering ISES, who we are, what we do and our principles</li> <li>• FEI chapters on Equine Quality of Life</li> <li>• Appointed Trustee for Mare and Foal Sanctuary (UK), focus on research and ES</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                       |
| Colleen Brady                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Published an article on ISES and an article on instinctive behaviours and learning strategies in the behaviour section of the horse industry handbook. This handbook is used as a high school and college resource.</li> <li>• Presented to Equine Science Club and undergraduate Animal Well-being course at Purdue on Horse Behavior/Learning Theory</li> </ul>                                                                              |
| Katrina Merkies                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosted Equine Industry Symposium online with over 500 attendees. One session focused on social license to operate and equestrian sports, featuring speaker Julie Fiedler</li> <li>• Equestrian Canada undertook a pilot noseband measuring project during the 2021 competition season using the ISES noseband taper gauge. Over 500 horses were measured, and over 1500 surveys were completed. Results were analyzed and published</li> </ul> |
| Gemma Pearson                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrated learning theory into the Edinburgh vet school curriculum</li> <li>• Presented and provided webinars at various vet schools and international conferences</li> <li>• Rewriting the UK Pony Club exam syllabus and Pony Club manual to integrate learning theory and welfare</li> <li>• Awarded best paper presented at BEVA</li> </ul>                                                                                               |
| Kate Fenner, Orla Doherty, Robin Foster and Toni Henderson | Contributed chapters to a veterinary textbook being published to help educate veterinarians on appropriate training methods, learning theory, behavioural assessment and behaviour modification.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Robin Foster                                               | Developing an MSc in Animal Behaviour and Welfare                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

|                                 |                                                               |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lorna Cameron                   | MSc in Equitation Science being developed at Hartpury College |
| Camie Heleski (Honorary Fellow) | Guest speaker at World Horse Welfare Conference               |



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

International Society for Equitation Science

1176401

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

|                        |          |    |           |
|------------------------|----------|----|-----------|
| For the period<br>from | 5/1/2021 | To | 4/30/2022 |
|------------------------|----------|----|-----------|

### Section A Receipts and payments

|                                                       | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>to the nearest £ | Restricted<br>funds<br>to the nearest £ | Endowment<br>funds<br>to the nearest £ | Total funds<br>to the nearest £ | Last year<br>to the nearest £ |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>A1 Receipts</b>                                    |                                           |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
| donations                                             | 160                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 160                             | 967                           |
| membership fees                                       | 6,050                                     | -                                       | -                                      | 6,050                           | 6,003                         |
| taper gauge sales                                     | 5,781                                     | -                                       | -                                      | 5,781                           | 2,008                         |
| sponsorships                                          | 12,300                                    | -                                       | -                                      | 12,300                          | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>                | <b>24,291</b>                             | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>24,291</b>                   | <b>8,978</b>                  |
| <b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>    |                                           |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
|                                                       | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Sub total</b>                                      | <b>-</b>                                  | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>-</b>                        | <b>-</b>                      |
| <b>Total receipts</b>                                 | <b>24,291</b>                             | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>24,291</b>                   | <b>8,978</b>                  |
| <b>A3 Payments</b>                                    |                                           |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
| refunds                                               | 144                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 144                             | 95                            |
| bank and paypal fees                                  | 935                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 935                             | 575                           |
| postage fees                                          | 100                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 100                             | 20                            |
| website costs                                         | 1,373                                     | -                                       | -                                      | 1,373                           | 408                           |
| accounting fees                                       | 1,200                                     | -                                       | -                                      | 1,200                           | 1,200                         |
| advertising                                           | 656                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 656                             | 750                           |
| foreign exchange differences                          | 758                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 758                             | 574                           |
| sundry                                                | 489                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 489                             | 34                            |
| conference expenses                                   | 10,445                                    | -                                       | -                                      | 10,444.62                       | -                             |
| admin costs                                           | 19                                        | -                                       | -                                      | 18.77                           | -                             |
| <b>Sub total</b>                                      | <b>16,117</b>                             | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>16,117</b>                   | <b>3,656</b>                  |
| <b>A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)</b> |                                           |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
|                                                       | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Sub total</b>                                      | <b>-</b>                                  | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>-</b>                        | <b>-</b>                      |
| <b>Total payments</b>                                 | <b>16,117</b>                             | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>16,117</b>                   | <b>3,656</b>                  |
| <b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>                     | <b>8,174</b>                              | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>8,174</b>                    | <b>5,322</b>                  |
| <b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>                     | <b>-</b>                                  | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>-</b>                        | <b>-</b>                      |
| <b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>                    | <b>24,587</b>                             | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>24,587</b>                   | <b>-</b>                      |
| <b>Cash funds this year end</b>                       | <b>32,761</b>                             | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>32,761</b>                   | <b>5,322</b>                  |

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

| Categories                                                  | Details                                                | Unrestricted funds<br>to nearest £                                                  | Restricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Endowment funds<br>to nearest £ |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>B1 Cash funds</b>                                        | treasurers account                                     | 27,513                                                                              | -                                | -                               |
|                                                             | business account (reserve contingency)                 | 5,006                                                                               | -                                | -                               |
|                                                             | Paypal account                                         | 242                                                                                 | -                                | -                               |
|                                                             | <b>Total cash funds</b>                                | <b>32,761</b>                                                                       | <b>-</b>                         | <b>-</b>                        |
|                                                             | (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) | OK                                                                                  | OK                               | OK                              |
| <b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>                             | Details                                                | Unrestricted funds<br>to nearest £                                                  | Restricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Endowment funds<br>to nearest £ |
|                                                             |                                                        |                                                                                     | -                                | -                               |
|                                                             |                                                        |                                                                                     | -                                | -                               |
|                                                             |                                                        | -                                                                                   | -                                | -                               |
|                                                             |                                                        | -                                                                                   | -                                | -                               |
|                                                             |                                                        | -                                                                                   | -                                | -                               |
| <b>B3 Investment assets</b>                                 | Details                                                | Fund to which asset belongs                                                         | Cost (optional)                  | Current value (optional)        |
|                                                             |                                                        |                                                                                     | -                                | -                               |
|                                                             |                                                        |                                                                                     | -                                | -                               |
|                                                             |                                                        |                                                                                     | -                                | -                               |
|                                                             |                                                        |                                                                                     | -                                | -                               |
|                                                             |                                                        |                                                                                     | -                                | -                               |
| <b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>         | Details                                                | Fund to which asset belongs                                                         | Cost (optional)                  | Current value (optional)        |
|                                                             |                                                        |                                                                                     | -                                | -                               |
|                                                             |                                                        |                                                                                     | -                                | -                               |
|                                                             |                                                        |                                                                                     | -                                | -                               |
|                                                             |                                                        |                                                                                     | -                                | -                               |
|                                                             |                                                        |                                                                                     | -                                | -                               |
|                                                             |                                                        |                                                                                     | -                                | -                               |
|                                                             |                                                        |                                                                                     | -                                | -                               |
|                                                             |                                                        |                                                                                     | -                                | -                               |
|                                                             |                                                        |                                                                                     | -                                | -                               |
| <b>B5 Liabilities</b>                                       | Details                                                | Fund to which liability relates                                                     | Amount due (optional)            | When due (optional)             |
|                                                             |                                                        |                                                                                     | -                                |                                 |
|                                                             |                                                        |                                                                                     | -                                |                                 |
|                                                             |                                                        |                                                                                     | -                                |                                 |
|                                                             |                                                        |                                                                                     | -                                |                                 |
|                                                             |                                                        |                                                                                     | -                                |                                 |
| Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees |                                                        | Signature                                                                           | Print Name                       | Date of approval                |
|                                                             |                                                        |  | Katrina Merkies                  | 22-Feb-23                       |
|                                                             |                                                        |                                                                                     |                                  |                                 |

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR EQUITATION SCIENCE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1176401

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# Accounts

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## ISES COUNCIL OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT (2020-2021)

### **ISES Honorary President | Orla Doherty**

#### **Summary of year**

- Coming hopefully towards the end of the covid phase of all of our lives, work within our society continues, albeit at a reduced pace, and still missing our annual face-to-face meetings which spark so much discussion and renewed vigor and interest in the area of equitation science. That said, we have continued to work to advance matters on a variety of issues of concern to the society.

- Taper gauge matters:

A steady flow of sales continues through our website – with 279 sold between 1 September 2020 and 1 September 2021. Of those 21% were sold to Canada, 23% to Denmark and 28% to Germany. Iceland purchases accounted for 9% and Sweden for 8%, with 4% of purchases made in the UK. After some discussion about the cost of post and packaging, we have reduced the cost to purchasers, giving more precise tailored quotes for orders greater than three, which were previously costing significantly more for the purchaser (due to an automatic doubling of packaging for any orders greater than three). It is the goal of ISES to make this product as widely available and affordable as possible while not depleting ISES finances.

- There continue to be some glitches with the ordering process, although the majority of problems we were previously experiencing have been ironed out. Occasional orders are not received by our distribution volunteers (who continue to devote their time to sending Taper Gauges out to various parts of the world – thank you again Colleen Brady, Gemma Pearson, Uta Konig von Borstel, Elke Hartman and Sheena Browne).
- The National Equestrian Federation in Canada are currently running a pilot study with a view to introducing noseband regulations and have sought guidance on various questions arising from ISES Council and trustee members during the past year. We have been delighted to assist with this exciting development.
- Due to the continued steady sale of the taper gauges, supplies are running low, and discussions are underway regarding the next batch of taper gauges; where they should be manufactured, from what materials (with sustainability a desirable goal) and how to distribute to the maximum number of people, in an affordable manner.
- The general workings of this society continue to be undertaken by a dedicated group of volunteers who give generously of their time and energy on various matters that

arise. Huge thanks to all who give so much to the society and in doing so help to improve horse welfare across the world (including council members, honorary

fellows, trustees, and all of those offering to help out on working committees addressing various issues).

- Following a lapse in production of our ISES newsletter, the call for volunteers to help with the writing of a regular newsletter was kindly taken up by Antonia Henderson, who proceeded to become the new newsletter editor on council, along with Susi Cienciala, and this capable team will hopefully be joined by Justin Harrison for future editions. Our quarterly newsletters provide greatly enjoyed insights into recent equitation science -related research, publications, personal interviews of people involved in equitation science and remind us of the ongoing work and progress around the world – greatly appreciated particularly when our conference meetings have been curtailed by covid. Many thanks to our newsletter team for their continued hard work.
- Funding for research projects continues to be much needed, and ISES welcomes the generosity of Dr Wendy Koch and Dr Sue Smith, both of whom have been in correspondence with ISES during the past 12 months regarding funding research projects. Invitation for applications have been set up on the website and it is hoped that others may follow the example given in helping fund badly needed research.
- Discussions also continue surrounding our website – how to improve various aspects of the website but also to address some of the challenges or problems that have proved difficult to resolve. These have included emails not reaching their intended recipients, taper gauge orders not reaching distributors, renewal reminders not being issued and problems with accuracy in membership lists. A rewording of the welcome message and invitation to renew membership has been added to encourage renewals, with a notice sent out one month in advance of the date of renewal and then a final reminder before membership lapses. David Andor continues to provide excellent support and help in unravelling the problems when they arise.
- The time-consuming nature of taking on a council role is likely to be a factor in challenges we face with filling some roles such as that of treasurer, which continues to be carried out by Jane Williams-in addition to her role as junior vice president during the past year. We have however welcomed two new council members, Toni Henderson as newsletter editor and Laura Jujova as student representative. It is hoped that when face-to-face ISES conferences can resume-hopefully in 2022 – renewed connections and contact during a non-virtual event will help us bring more volunteers forward who may be keen to step into the vacant roles and play a part on ISES council.
- Clarification of the separate roles carried out by our media, newsletter, social media, and website officers has been agreed following recent meetings and discussions regarding some overlapping of roles, resultant confusion regarding which officers were responsible for which areas, and the goal to develop a greater ISES social media presence. Thank you Kate, Klara, Toni, and Maria.

- The challenge some scientific journals face in trying to find reviewers for scientific papers on equitation science is being addressed by a working group (thank you Toni, Kate) in an effort to ensure that journals are not struggling to find appropriate

reviewers willing to review equitation- science related papers submitted for publication.

- Following a highly successful 2020 virtual meeting organised by Jane Williams, it was agreed to proceed with another virtual meeting-again kindly headed by Jane, in light of continued COVID-19 setbacks and resultant travel restrictions. A huge thank you in advance to Jane and the LOC (Hayley, Natalie), the scientific reviewers, the sponsors, and all contributing to this event. While we all yearn for the face-to-face events we have enjoyed for many years, given the circumstances, the holding of this virtual event will give us all an opportunity to refresh our enthusiasm, learn and benefit from the research carried out by contributors and connect again with our colleagues across the world.
- As it comes towards the end of my time as Hon President of the society-I extend my heartfelt thanks to Presidential Council Janne and Jane for all their support and hard work during the past two years and also to all of the council members – working groups and non-council members who have continued to give generously of their time and efforts and hard work to advance the various matters that continually arise within our society. It is my sincere hope that we will all meet again in 2022 at Hartpury, UK for a most welcome reunion to share ideas, energy, knowledge, and our shared passion for improving horse welfare, with all of the hardships caused by the covid pandemic firmly in the past.
- **Short-term plans**
  - To hand over to Jane Williams as Honorary President
  - Serve as a consultant and advisor to the President, in order to provide continuity in the development and implementation of long-term policies of the ISES.
  - Continue to participate in various working groups discussing aper gauge use and distribution, peer review issues, newsletter progress
- **Medium to long-term plans**
  - To fulfil the role of Senior Vice President to the best of my ability
  - Maintain a record of selected information from past conferences to assist with the running of future conferences and ensure that the information is made available to conference organisers.
  - Perform other duties, which may be assigned from time to time by the President or Council.
  - Help ensure that ISES remains to be a society of impact and that the awareness of ISES is increased throughout the world.

- Continue to develop and disseminate equitation science knowledge through my teaching, continued research, and clinical work.

### **ISES Senior Vice President | Janne Winther Christensen**

#### **Summary of year**

- This will be my last council officer report as my term on the presidential council is coming to an end. Thereby I will retire from 8 years of council work starting in 2013 as chair of the local organising committee for the 2014 conference in Denmark. It has been a pleasure to enter the engine room of ISES and understand all the work that goes on “behind the scenes”. And a particular pleasure to work alongside highly skilled and valued colleagues to steer the ISES ship forward - also when the waves were high. I was once asked whether ISES would be able to change the (horse) world. Well, at least ISES has changed my world :-). And I am confident that ISES impacts the horse world as well! Things are indeed changing for the better and I have seen many improvements to horse welfare during the past years. Yes, there is still a long way to go and a lot of work to be done, but we will get there.
- During the past year, I helped complete the guidelines for election of ISES Honorary Fellows, which are now on the website, so the criteria are clear to everyone who may wish to nominate someone for this honorable position. Generally, we try to improve the website bit by bit, so it becomes more user friendly and contains all relevant information.
- Finally, I just want to thank all the active council members, trustees and honorary fellows who continue to spend many voluntary hours on ISES work.

I will leave the points below for the coming senior vice president, but I will be happy to help out where I can.

#### **Short-term plans**

- Serve as a consultant and advisor to the President, in order to provide continuity in the development and implementation of long-term policies of the ISES.
- Serve on the membership committee to approve new membership applications.

#### **Long-term plans**

- Maintain a record of selected information from past conferences to assist with the running of future conferences and ensure that the information is made available to conference organisers.
- Perform other duties, which may be assigned from time to time by the President or Council.
- Help ensure that ISES remains to be a society of impact and that the awareness of ISES is increased throughout the world.

### **ISES Junior Vice President | Jane Williams**

## Summary of year

- The past year has been another busy one – learning to live and work in the everchanging Covid environment and adapting research plans to be able to keep on going, alongside Council duties has been tiring but rewarding work! This year we have also seen a proliferation of online webinars and experts, more than ever horse owners can find someone or a gadget online that allegedly can make a difference to their relationship with their horse. At this time, I believe the Society has a really important role to play and to support horse owners to navigate the web. to help highlight how good science, evidenceinformed approaches, and the horses themselves should be what we look to inform how we train and manage our horses and judge the quality of their lives using a positive and inclusive approach that encourages discussion and debate rather than marginalising individuals and groups. Continuing to articulate how the principles of equitation science is just as important as ever and I am looking forward to working with Council to drive forward our strategic plan and increase the influence of equitation science across the equestrian sector.
- For a second year my colleagues and I had to make the difficult decision to postpone holding a face-to-face ISES conference at Hartpury – everything is crossed that we will have some form of Hartpury 2022! However, every cloud does have a silver lining and I am honoured to work alongside Dr Hayley Randle and Prof. Natalie Waran to organise ISES 2021 Conference: Advancing Equestrian Practice to Improve Equine Quality of Life. It has been great to see familiar and new faces submitting research for the conference, and we some excellent and thought-provoking speakers and projects being presented. We have also been really humbled by the generous support of our sponsors, which has enabled us to make this a free online event running over three days – I hope you will join us but also spread the word far and side to horsey friends so we can showcase the great work both the Society and our members do far and wide.
- I am also really excited to take over the reins (sorry couldn't resist the equestrian pun) as ISES President from Orla and working with her, Council, and our valued Trustees to continue the great work of the Society. I would also like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Janne for all the work she has done for the Society for many years, she will be sorely missed.
- Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support of ISES and the work the Society does and hope you and your family stay safe and well, and I look forward to welcoming you all to Hartpury for ISES 2020, 2021, 2022!

## Short-term plan

- To work with Presidential Council and the Trustees to revisit and update the Society's strategic plan and infrastructure in light of the pandemic.
- To implement the operational plan for the Society to make progress against our strategic goals.
- Personally, to continue to investigate the relationship between performance, welfare and equitation science across equestrian disciplines and practice.

## Medium/long-term plans

- A key remit for me over the next four years will be to engage and work with colleagues on Council, Trustees, ISES members and equestrian professionals and the wider public to support the Society to achieve the aspirations set out in the 2020-25 Strategic Plan.
- Aligned to this, I aim to continue and strive to increase dissemination of equitation science research into wider equestrian practice through effective and simple communication methods to engage those who impact the horse from grassroots upwards.

## ISES Honorary Secretary | Katrina Merkies

### Summary of year

- Developed and distributed agendas and recorded and distributed minutes from ISES council meetings (Meetings 65-69 + AGM) and ISES trustee meetings.
- Prepared the annual ISES calendar for meetings.
- Presented on the well-being of horses and humans at the 2020 ISES Virtual Summer Meeting.
- Scientific reviewer for abstracts submitted to ISES 2021 Virtual Conference • Advocated Equitation Science through particular venues:
  - Invited presenter on the welfare of horses in equine-assisted programs at CAFRE Enniskillen Campus Equine Welfare conference
  - Judge for the UC Davis Animal Enrichment Competition
  - Delivered workshop on equine behaviour for veterinary technicians at the OAVT conference
  - Organized and hosted the annual Equine Industry Symposium at the University of Guelph in November 2020, 5 days themed around resilience in regard to the pandemic, with one day in particular focused on pandemic pressures on equine welfare and featuring speakers Roly Owers, Bettina Bobsien and Gayle Ecker.
  - Guest speaker on Equine Behaviour online course through Equine Guelph (2 semesters)
- Publications 2020-21:
  1. Merkies K, Copelin C, McPhedran C, McGreevy P. 2021. The presence of various tack and equipment in sale horse advertisements. *Journal of Veterinary Behaviour* under review
  2. Merkies K, Belliveau H. 2021. Human ability to determine affective states in domestic horse whinnies. *Anthrozoös* under review
  3. Merkies K, Franzin O. 2021. *Enhanced understanding of horse-human interactions to optimize welfare*. *Animals* 11:1347. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani11051347>
  4. Merkies K, Copelin C, Crouchman E, St-Onge A. 2020. *The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on riding lesson barns and summer camps in Ontario*. *Animals* 10(12):2412. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani10122412>

### Short-term plans

- Continue to contribute to ISES council

## Medium/long-term plans

- Continue to incorporate ISES principles, equitation science and learning theory into my teaching and research
- Work with Equestrian Canada and Ontario Equestrian to incorporate Equitation Science into their mandates (study on the uptake of taper gauges is on the horizon!).
- Continue research into horse-human relationships during my sabbatical 2022-23

## ISES Treasurer (Acting) | Jane Williams

### Summary of year

Unfortunately, due to personal reasons, Kirstin Spencer had to step down as Treasurer midway through this year; I would like to thank Kirstin for the fabulous work she did as Treasurer and her continued support of the Society.

The Society remains financially stable. the main sources of income remain memberships and taper gauge sales. The Society has two bank accounts:

- The Treasurer's account, for day-to-day business, current balance as of 22/09/21: £24,713
- Business account, a contingency holding current balance as of 22/09/21: £5,005
- This year we have used an independent accountancy firm, experienced in supporting charities to prepare and submit our annual report and accounts to the UK Charity Commission. We will continue to work with the firm to support financial reporting moving forwards.

### Short-term plans

- To fill the Treasurer position.
- To continue to develop our financial practices with external support.

## ISES Membership Secretary | Robin Foster

### Summary of year

As of Sept 30, 2021, ISES had a total number of 243 members (Table 1). Membership has fluctuated slightly over 2021 between 240-250 members.

Table 1. ISES Membership Sept 30, 2021

| Category  | Count |
|-----------|-------|
| Academic  | 70    |
| Associate | 33    |
| Corporate | 5     |
| Honorary  | 9     |

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Practitioner | 37         |
| Student      | 54         |
| Supporter    | 35         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>243</b> |

Membership in different categories was relatively stable in 2021 but shows a drop in supporter members in October. Normally membership numbers in the weeks before the annual ISES conference is stable or increases, with the addition of new supporter members and expiry of supporter members from the previous year, but that has not happened yet.

Figure 1. ISES membership categories March through October 2021.



In 2021 ISES Council has discussed and acted on a few membership issues, summarized below.

- We have worked this year to create a reliable, complete, current, and simple membership data resource available on the ISES website. This record will also be used to create current membership email listing for newsletter mailings. The update was prompted by some discrepancies and missing items from membership counts, e.g., Corporate, Honorary, and Supporter memberships had not been included, and membership figures reported in May 2021 (307 total members) seem to have been inflated.
- To help increase membership renewals, automated dues reminder and expiry notices now include a personalized note from the ISES Hon. President Doherty.

Council approved the following membership policy changes

- Academic membership requirement. Letters from current ISES members vouching for the applicant were previously required, but the policy was not applied evenly to all applicants. The requirement for outside letters was removed for academic membership applicants.

- Student membership requirement. ISES requests documents confirming student status for new but not for renewing student members. However, because student status is temporary, at the time of both new membership application and renewal, student members will be required to submit a copy of their current student ID to membership secretary.

#### Future membership agenda

- Recruit members to grow the Society: embed initiatives into strategic plan to grow membership numbers with particular emphasis on increasing supporter members.
- Consider how we can increase member benefits via website development. • Review and update membership category requirements and post a clear set of required documents. Consider an alternative mechanism for document submission, perhaps at the time of application. A substantial proportion of new applicants do not reply to email requests for documentation to support the membership level for which they applied.

### **ISES Research Officer | Uta König von Borstel**

#### **Summary of year**

- At the University of Giessen, we slowly continued our recovery from the contrasting demands of the cyber-attack that forced us to work 100% offline which was immediately followed by the covid-19 pandemic that forced us to work 100% online.
- Issues with grant applications not being sent to the research officer address seem to have been resolved at last (but we'll have to wait for the next round, to be certain).
- Distributed a large number (~90?) taper gauges in my region - yeah for the Icelandic horse riding association whose members ordered significantly the greatest proportion of these.
- Assisted with implementation of the Dr Sue Smith - research grant.
- Continued to teach courses and give talks on various topics in equitation science, e.g., recently a talk at our regional ISAE meeting on horse welfare and horse-rider interaction delivered by my postdoc Dr. Desiree Brucks.
- Started with awarding of a national seal of quality for safe and welfare-friendly housing and use of work horses.
- Conducted with students a number of smaller research projects related to equitation science, e.g., on rider weight, personality, and self-control in horses.
- Started working on a large collaborative project with the aim to develop an 'intelligent' fence that detects and deters predators - in particular wolves. Wolves are a huge issue in Germany as they have been extinct for 100 years, so unlike many other countries with wolf populations we're no longer used to dealing with them and due to a strict legislation that prevents virtually any hunting of wolves, even if an individual has already caused significant damage to livestock, there has been a drastic increase of the wolf population over the past 20 years causing by now several 1000 deaths in livestock, including some horses. Thanks to Janne WC, I have a French intern working on a sub-project looking into how horses react to encounters of wolves and how riders should react in these situations.

- As a member of the German Equestrian Federation's animal welfare advisory board, we started working on a revised draft of the German national guidelines for horse husbandry.
- As a positive example, how evidence-based equitation continues to be spread in practice, I noticed that at the pony school our daughter attends, they teach the children not to pat, but to caress the ponies when praising them!

### **Short-term plans**

- Finalize ISES presentations.
- Further improve my equitation science course (e.g., include even more interactive elements).
- Organize student presentation contest for the upcoming ISES conference.

### **Medium/long-term plans**

- Increase activities in my role as *research* officer and promote collaboration and research - these plans have been crossed too often in the past.
- Further promote equitation science in practice.

## **ISES Education Officer | Colleen Brady**

### **Summary of year**

- We have been busily shipping taper gauges to North America. Equestrian Canada recently changed their noseband policy, which has resulted in a lot of demand from Canada. I am working on getting an actual number we have shipped in the last year, and I will share it when I have it.
- Currently have a proposal, with colleagues, under review at the Morris Animal Foundation, Equine Behavior, to develop a set of online learning modules for horse industry participants to help them recognize affective states, and incorporate that recognition in their overall welfare assessments, fingers crossed, to have some data to present at ISES New Zealand, if funded.
- Study on interpretation of horse behaviors that we started with a pilot at ISES Rome has been completed. One portion was presented at the Equine Science Society meetings; currently in the process of finishing articles for publication. Hopefully they will be out by the end of the year. **Short-term plans**
- I would like to explore with Council the thought of having a monthly or bimonthly webinar series, following a similar format as the Summer Meeting, to engage people with Equitation Science. I would suggest it to be free for members, and that it serves as a membership benefit. **Medium/long-term plans**
- Continue to increase awareness of horse industry participants about Equitation Science, and how it can improve their work with their horses.
- Develop more creative ways to use technology to make the information accessible to people who are interested in equitation science.
- Continue my research area of the psychographic factors influencing equine well-being.

## **ISES Veterinary Liaison | Gemma Pearson Summary**

of year

- Since the last AGM I have defended my PhD, at last!! Whilst still based at the University of Edinburgh, I am employed by The Horse Trust. My time is now split between seeing clinical behaviour cases, research (both my own and supervising a variety of undergraduate and postgraduate students) and outreach work. I continue to promote Equitation Science to the veterinary community including.
  - Running a 10-week online Equitation Science MSc module, through Edinburgh University, this is now accredited as a module for people working towards becoming a Certified Clinical Animal Behaviourist. In the near future we will also be adding clinical equine behaviour modules and aim to set up a course that allows people to undertake all their clinical animal behaviour modules in horses (currently they have to undertake a lot of companion animal-based modules).
  - I have continued to deliver training to equine vets internationally on the incorporation of learning theory into their everyday work. This has mainly been conducted by remote lectures over the past 12mths for obvious reasons and includes lectures on practical equine behaviour modification for local veterinary groups as well as a talk on the importance of early life experiences of horses for the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) and gave a webinar on the findings of my PhD thesis for the association of pet behaviour counsellors (APBC). By the time of the AGM, I will have also delivered a webinar on the use of psychopharmaceuticals in equine behaviour modification.
  - With UK veterinary students I have been able to deliver online lectures for the Student Equine Veterinary Association conference as well as several UK based vet schools. At the University of Edinburgh, I have now taken over several preclinical lectures on horse behaviour and handling, ensuring learning theory is streamed smoothly and continuously throughout their degree.
  - I worked with a major pharmaceutical company to help deliver knowledge on learning theory, particularly how to train a horse to stand calmly for their equine inhaler. There were over 3000 vets signed up for this around the world.
  - Through the new The Horse Trust project 'Talk Equine' I have contributed two case-based webinars to budding clinical animal behaviourists and veterinarians.
  - I have given a few webinars with World Horse welfare on how horses learn and appropriate restraint, watched by many people across the globe. Additionally, I ran a series of 5 talks for the British Horse Society where we were able to cover riding and training in more depth.
  - Through ISES I have now established a programme whereby we disseminate lay summaries of published papers to our members periodically. Hopefully this is disseminating useful knowledge in an easily accessible format.
  - I have joined the science and ethics committee at The Horse Trust, the first person with a behaviour focus to be involved in reviewing grants for one of the main UK based funders.
  - As well as publishing papers I have spent some time writing or contributing to several book chapters.
  - Distribution of taper gauges throughout the UK, it is great to see they are still in demand.
- Another exciting note was being awarded the Richard Hartley Clinical Award 2021 for my paper "Difficult horses - prevalence, approaches to management of and understanding of how they develop by equine veterinarians". This is given to the senior author of the best paper published in Equine Veterinary Journal or Equine Veterinary Education with

direct clinical application. I was also asked to record a podcast discussing this paper for BEVA and subsequently have been in communication with a vet in New Mexico discussing how they can undertake behaviour modification alongside any required analgesia/treatment for cases that are difficult for the farrier.

### **Short-term plans**

- I am part of a working party through BEVA that is looking at how we can incorporate LT into all vet schools and determine how we can deliver practical tuition on handling of equines to increase the standards and confidence of vet students to work with horses. This, like many projects has been delayed due to Covid 19.
- Develop a stand-alone course for people to take to become an accredited clinical animal behaviourist (Equine), as currently all the accredited courses are heavily small animal based.

### **Medium/long-term plans**

- My position with The Horse Trust will allow me to continue working with the UK vet schools and BEVA to embed learning theory into the normal working protocols of all our veterinarians. It will also allow me to work internationally to increase awareness of Equitation Science amongst the veterinary world.
- I am aware that Equitation Science based research has not always received the best funding opportunities and a consequence of which is the quality of research may fall short of what may be found in other fields. In order to become more of a global influence, I want to investigate how we can increase funding opportunities, but also how we can promote work to the highest scientific standards, potentially through assisting students, setting standardised protocols for use of equipment or development of multicentre studies.
- Embed the principles of training into everyday coaching and assessment bodies in the UK.

### **ISES Practitioner Representative | Denise Rofe**

#### **Summary of year**

- This has been a year with steady improvement in awareness of horse welfare in training, competition, and husbandry. Equestrian Australia has voted to implement the recent FEI rule banning the trimming of horse sensory hairs across all EA National Disciplines in the interests of horse welfare. The public awareness of biosecurity and traceability due to Covid has resulted in increased interest and approval of a traceability register for horses in Australia, with the Thoroughbred Racing industry becoming more involved in post-racing horse welfare. My coaching activities continue to emphasize the understanding of horse behaviour and biomechanics, and that evidence-based training is for all riders and horses, and especially for the young.
- In 2021, Pony Club Australia progressed the implementation of the new syllabus which incorporates Equitation Science for young riders. While some of the more established clubs have found the syllabus change challenging, some of the newer groups, including adult members, have shown encouraging enthusiasm.
- Throughout the year I have attended all ISES teleconference meetings and assisted with membership approvals.

### Short-term plans

- Resumption of normal coaching activities with updates and seminars for groups.
- ISES virtual conference in October 2021

### Long-term plans

- Promotion of the ISES Principles of Training in the equestrian community, particularly raising awareness at club and amateur competition level.

### **ISES Communications Officer | Klára Ničová Summary**

#### of year

- Due to the COVID situation, I would say that I received fewer questions or emails compared to the previous year. The communication within the ISES council works very well.
- Updating the website based on information obtained from individual council members or through ISES meetings works great. In addition to detailed adjustments of the website, I work in collaboration with David (website designer), who is always helpful. We tried to achieve a quick and suitable solution to any problems on the website. I have to say that the cooperation is perfect.
- During the semester, I always try to incorporate ISES principles, statements and recommendations in my teaching lessons and practical exercises at the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague where I'm completing my PhD.
- At the beginning of this year, we published a Czech publication summarizing current scientific knowledge about the behaviour of horses and biological principles of learning in a form accessible to both professionals and also to a general equestrian society. As you all know, this knowledge is crucial for training and working with horses, therefore we also addressed ISES as an important leading organisation in the field of equitation science. [BARTOŠOVÁ, Jitka, NIČOVÁ, Klára. Využití teorie učení a biologických poznatků ve výcviku a využití koní. Praha: Výzkumný ústav živočišné výroby, v.v.i. a Česká technologická platforma pro zemědělství, 2020, 67 s. ISBN 978-80-7403-246-2](#)
- During the summer, I organised a [horse riding camp](#) where the training method is based on the knowledge of the ISES training principles.
- I have been working with doc. Bartošová on translating the ISES first principles to a Czech version which is now available online.
- In March 2021 travelled to Sweden for my internship at the Department of Biosystems and Technology. I assisted with two equitation science-related projects on horses.
  1. Rørvang, M. V., Nielsen, B. L., McLean, A. N., 2020. Sensory Abilities of Horses and Their Importance for Equitation Science. *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*, 7:633.
  2. Rørvang, M. V., Nielsen, T. B., Christensen, J. W., 2020. Horses failed to learn from humans by observation. *Animals*, 10(2), 221, doi: [10.3390/ani10020221](#).

## Short and long-term plans

- With a media team we decided to expand ISES social media to Instagram, which is a platform visited by many young people so “we want to be known also in this world”. The Instagram account is now open/available at:  
[https://www.instagram.com/ises\\_equitation\\_science/](https://www.instagram.com/ises_equitation_science/)
- In the future, I would like to discuss with council members some minor changes to the design of the website for a more user friendly and contemporary environment and style.

## **ISES Media Officer | Kate Fenner**

### Summary of year

- I completed my PhD (E-BARQ) in February 2021.

PhD, Sydney School of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney (2017 to 2021)  
Thesis entitled: *The Equine Behavior Assessment and Research Questionnaire (EBARQ): How the domestic equine triad can advance ethical equitation.*

Supervisors: Professors Paul McGreevy and James Serpell, and Dr Andrew McLean.  
Degree awarded 20th Jan 2021;

[https://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/bitstream/handle/2123/24338/fenner\\_kh\\_thesis.pdf?sequence=1](https://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/bitstream/handle/2123/24338/fenner_kh_thesis.pdf?sequence=1)

- I was offered a casual position to teach equine behaviour, training, and welfare with the University of Queensland during the first semester of 2021 and enjoyed introducing Equitation Science to the Equine Science students.
- I recently accepted an ongoing position at the University of Queensland as lecturer in equine science and I am looking forward to starting there next month, October 2021.
- In 2020, I enjoyed working with Jane Williams and Hayley Randle on the ISES Strategic Plan.
- Considerable effort has been made to reorganise the ISES Media Team in 2021 and it is wonderful to have the new structure working so well.
- Publications since our last report:

Anzulewicz A, **Fenner K**, Hyde M, Heald S, Burattini B, Romness N, McKenzie J, Wilson B, McGreevy P (2021). The Impact of the Sex of Handlers and Riders on the Reported Social Confidence, Compliance and Touch Sensitivity of Horses in Their Care. *Animals*, 11, 130. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani11010130>

McKenzie J, **Fenner K**, Hyde M, Anzulewicz A, Burattini B, Romness N, Wilson B, McGreevy P (2021). Equine Responses to Acceleration and Deceleration Cues May Reflect Their Exposure to Multiple Riders. *Animals*, 11, 66; <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani11010066>

Weller D, Franklin S, White P, Shea G, **Fenner K**, Wilson B, Wilkins C, & McGreevy P. (2021). The Reported Use of Tongue-Ties and Nosebands in Thoroughbred and Standardbred Horse Racing-A Pilot Study. *Animals (Basel)*, 11(3), 622–. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani11030622>

**Fenner K**, Matlock S, Williams J, Wilson B, McLean A, Serpell J and McGreevy P

(2020). Validation of the Equine Behaviour Assessment and Research Questionnaire (E- BARQ): A New Survey Instrument for Exploring and Monitoring the Domestic Equine Triad. *Animals* 10 (1982), doi:10.3390/ani10111982

**Fenner K**, Dashper K, Serpell J, McLean A, Wilkins C, Klinck M, Wilson B and McGreevy P (2020). The Development of a Novel Questionnaire Approach to the Investigation of Horse Training, Management, and Behaviour. *Animals* 10, 1960, <http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/ani10111960>

**Fenner K**, Dashper K, Wilkins C, Serpell J, McLean A, Wilson B and McGreevy P (2020). Building bridges between theory and practice: How citizen science can bring equine researchers and practitioners together. *Animals* 10 (1644). doi.org/10.3390/ani10091644

**Fenner K**, Hyde M, Crean A and McGreevy P (2020). Identifying sources of potential bias when using online survey data to explore horse training, management, and behaviour: A systematic literature review. *Veterinary Sciences* 7(3), 140; doi.org/10.3390/vetsci7030140

Burattini B, **Fenner K**, Anzulewicz A, Romness N, McKenzie J, Wilson B, McGreevy P (2020). Age- Related Changes in the Behaviour of Domestic Horses as Reported by Owners. *Animals*, 10, 2321; <http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/ani10122321>

Romness N, **Fenner K**, McKenzie J, Anzulewicz A, Burattini B, Wilson B, McGreevy P (2020). Associations between Owners' Reports of Unwanted Ridden Behaviour and In- Hand Behaviour in Horses. *Animals*, 10, <http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/ani10122431>

### Short-term plans

- Looking forward to being involved with the upcoming virtual conference
- Relocating to the Brisbane area to take up my new position at the University of Queensland

### Medium/long-term plans

- Continue to help students, riders, and horse owners to apply evidence-based training methods in their everyday horse handling and riding

## ISES Social Media Officer | Maria Vilain Rørvang Summary

### of year

- I was on maternity leave for the majority of 2020 (May 2020-March 2021), and hence the outcome of “my year” might seem slightly slim.
- The biggest role in 2020 onwards has been to keep up with messages and requests on our FaceBook page and the FaceBook membership forum. FaceBook is constantly changing the regulations and privacy settings, and hence the settings on both the page and the forum needed revision, which was done in the beginning of 2021. This has resulted in more visibility of our society and more members joining our social media channel.
- In the spring of 2021, our Twitter account was relaunched. This social media channel has been very well visited since then, and the communications teams and the conference organising team has been a great assistance in providing content. Since

the relaunch, the channel has got more than 300 new followers, which is pretty impressive in less than half a year.

- Dr Elke Hartman and I have once again partnered in designing and hosting a PhD course in Equitation Science (the first course was in 2019). This year the course is online, we have 21 students signed up from all over the world, and not all have a background with equines.
- In March 2021 we welcomed Klára Nicova (our communications officer) at my department in Sweden. Klára stayed with our research group for half a year and assisted with our two equitation science related projects on Icelandic horses. Both projects will be presented at the online conference in October.
- 2020/2021 publications in relation to equitation science:
  1. Rørvang, M. V., Nielsen, B. L., McLean, A. N., 2020. Sensory Abilities of Horses and Their Importance for Equitation Science. *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*, 7:633.
  2. Rørvang, M. V., Nielsen, T. B., Christensen, J. W., 2020. Horses failed to learn from humans by observation. *Animals*, 10(2), 221, doi: 10.3390/ani10020221.

### **Short-term plans**

- Looking very much forward to the online conference, and to presenting a new topic which I hope will be well received.
- Looking forward to covering the conference on Twitter this year - the ISAE online conference was very well covered on Twitter, and I expect nothing less from this conference - I encourage everyone to send content my way!
- Get a steady line of tweets going on the Twitter account - perhaps having a meeting with the media team to discuss having a “paper by members” series of tweets which could also go on the website.

### **Long-term plans**

- Continue to develop the Twitter channel as I believe that we could reach much further and get much more online “attention”.
- Try to stay updated on the Facebook regulations, and hopefully create ways to make it easier for members to access the membership forum.

### **ISES Newsletter Editor | Antonia (Toni) J.Z. Henderson**

#### **Summary of year**

- The past year has been my first year on Council and together with Dr. Susi Cienciola we have put out three ISES Newsletters. We had a tough act to follow on the heels of the extremely professional, slick, and very informative newsletters of Christina Wilkins. With Council approval, we agreed to take a slightly different approach, making the Newsletter available to the general public (our ISES social media subscription list is over 4,000 members), rather than a members only publication, as was the protocol in the past. Both Susi and I felt that in keeping with the goals and mission statement of ISES (“to promote and encourage the application of objective research and consequently advance equestrian practice that will ultimately improve the welfare of horses in their interaction with humans”) we wanted ISES to reach as many horse people as possible and saw the Newsletter as one way of achieving this goal. Each

Newsletter focuses on a particular theme (“A Synopsis of the ISES 2020 Virtual Conference”, “Horses Talking to Humans”, and “Equine Welfare”) with the goal of distilling the latest science to make it accessible beyond ISES members to the broader, not scientifically educated, horse community. With the help of graphic designer Lindsay Lorraine, who we hired to assist in the Newsletter outlay, I have been learning the Canva program and will soon be flying solo to hopefully create a Newsletter that is increasingly engaging and interactive. As well as the Newsletter I also publish frequently about Equitation Science issues in *Horse Sport* a Canadian online horse magazine geared for a lay audience.

- Publications 2020 to 2021:

Henderson, A.J. Z. (2021). Hey I remember you: The extraordinary equine memory  
<https://horsesport.com/magazine/behaviour/hey-remember-you-extraordinaryequine-memory/>

Henderson, A.J. Z. (2021). Rising to the occasion: Why is my gelding always dropping? *Horse Sport*.  
<https://horsesport.com/magazine/behaviour/risingoccasion-why-gelding-dropping/>

Henderson, A.J. Z. (2021). A necessary evil: Is mane pulling an equine welfare issue? *Horse Sport*.  
<https://horsesport.com/magazine/behaviour/necessary-evil-manepulling-equine-welfare-issue/>

Henderson, A.J. Z. (2021). Do horses really need humans to be alpha leaders? *Horse Sport* <https://horsesport.com/magazine/behaviour/youre-not-boss-truth-aboutalpha-leaders/>

Henderson, A.J. Z. (2021). Horses have been talking to us but have we been listening? *Horse Sport*. <https://horsesport.com/magazine/behaviour/horses-havebeen-talking-but-are-we-listening/>

Henderson, A.J. Z. (2020). Twitch or treats: When and how to use humane physical restraints. *Horse Sport* <https://horsesport.com/magazine/behaviour/twitch-treatswhen-how-use-humane-physical-restraints/>

Henderson, A.J. Z. (2020). Social distancing for sport horses: A taste of how it feels. *Horse Sport* <https://horsesport.com/magazine/behaviour/social-distancing-spothorses-how-feels/>

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<https://horsesport.com/magazine/equinewelfare/stronger-faster-higher-whips-spurs-ethical-equitation/>

### Short-term plan

- To continue to work with Susi Cienciela to produce the ISES Newsletter, with the goal of reaching a wider and wider lay audience so that our sport horses can live better and more ethologically authentic lives.

### **Medium/long-term plans**

- I would like to see ISES become a common household word in the greater horse community. Although the organization has grown tremendously since its inception, I still believe we have some ground to cover for ISES and its basic principles to become part of common equestrian knowledge and ubiquitous in the way we manage and train sport horses. I am hopeful that writing and publishing this Newsletter can offer one small piece to attaining that vision.

### **ISES Ordinary Council Member/Coaches Representative | Angelo Telatin**

#### **Summary of year**

- The biggest accomplishment of 2020/2021 was implementing for the Italian equestrian federation two modules of equitation science and learning theory applied to horse training. These two modules will be part of a series of topics that every instructor needs to know in order to advance in the national instructor certificate scheme. The goal is to educate the new generation of trainers in equitation science and improve the horse welfare in the industry. Its implementation started in summer 2021.
- I was able to have the Italian Equestrian Federation adopt the 10 principles as part of the summary of topics that an instructor needs to know to advance in levels of certification.
- My unique position of being an industry certified trainer by the British Horse Society and also an academic has allowed me to teach Equitation Science clinics in various settings from private sector to university. Clinics were held in: Sweden, Dubai, USA, and Italy. With Covid 19 restrictions lifted the calendar of events is starting to fill up again.
- Worked with CRK Training to create Equitation Science content for their 70,000 online users. We just launched a new online platform called Horse Class.

#### **Short-term plans**

- Create a group of teachers proficient in equitation science that will deliver the content approved by the Italian Equestrian Federation.

#### **Medium/long-term plans**

- Develop a broader online base to bring Equitation Science to the equestrian community.
- Continue my quest in making Equitation Science content more user friendly for trainers and horse owners.
- Help the horse community to understand the structure of behavior modification that uses Differential Reinforcement of Incompatible Behaviors.

### **ISES Ordinary Council Member/Assistant Secretary | Carissa Wickens**

#### **Summary of year**

A summary of my 2020-2021 responsibilities and activities follows.

- Attended the 2020 ISES Virtual Summer Meeting. Assisted with meeting preparations which included working with my graduate student, Aly Morrison, and the local organizing committee to develop advertisements/flyers for distribution across a variety of platforms, finalizing the program agenda, recording a welcome address, and serving as session chair for Day 2 of the meeting with presentations focused on Horse-Human Interactions.
- Worked with Honorary Secretary Katrina Merkies to help coordinate the collection of 2021 Officer Reports.
- Assisted Membership Secretary Robin Foster (in collaboration with Janne Winther-Christensen and Denise Rofe) with review and approval of membership applications.
- Served as a member of the ISES Scientific Committee to assist with the abstract review process for the 2021 ISES Virtual Conference.
- Delivered multiple presentations on equine behavior and welfare incorporating learning theory and equitation science (e.g., Stereotypic Behavior and Recognizing and Addressing Behavioral Problems in Horses for the 2020 University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine Virtual Healthy Horses Conference and the 2021 North American Mounted Unit Commanders Association Virtual Conference, respectively; Florida 4-H Virtual Horse Club Meeting, Behavior Night; Auburn University, Undergraduate Horse Production and Management course, delivered guest lectures on equine behavior and welfare).
- Publications in 2020-2021:

A.C.C.M Vasco, J.C.B. Dubeux, A.M. Arias-Esquivel, L.K. Warren, and **C.L. Wickens**. 2021. Feeding behavior and preference of horses fed rhizoma peanut hay. J. Vet. Behav. In-Press. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jveb.2021.09.011>

E.M. Rankins, **C.L. Wickens**, K.H. McKeever, and K. Malinowski. 2021. A survey of horse selection, longevity, and retirement in equine-assisted services in the United States. Animals 11(8): 2333. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani11082333>

**C. Wickens** and T. Fabus. 2021. Chapter 2: Selection and Use, HIH 260, Assessing Equine Welfare. Horse Industry Handbook Update. American Youth Horse Council Publications. Available for purchase at:  
<https://www.ayhc.com/product-page/hih-2021-update>

### Short-term plans

- I will continue to assist Katrina Merkies and other members of Council in their roles.
- Complete requested edits and work on compiling supplemental visual elements for inclusion in the Equine Behavior Chapter for the American Association of Equine Veterinary Technicians Manual, 2nd Edition. Writing and Co-editing this chapter with Gemma Pearson and Jamie Guiberson. Chapter includes information on safe handling, stereotypic behaviors, application of learning theory in veterinary medicine, and assessing pain in horses.

### Medium/Long-term plans

- I hope to continue in the position of Ordinary Council Member/Assistant Secretary.
- Continue to incorporate Equitation Science and Learning Theory into extension and outreach programming.

- Continue conducting horse behavior and welfare research with emphasis on horse-human interactions and relationships between management and horse behavior and welfare.



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

International Society for Equitation Science

1176401

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

01/05/2020

To

30/04/2021

### Section A Receipts and payments

|                                                       | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>to the nearest £ | Restricted<br>funds<br>to the nearest £ | Endowment<br>funds<br>to the nearest £ | Total funds<br>to the nearest £ | Last year<br>to the nearest £ |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>A1 Receipts</b>                                    |                                           |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
| Donations                                             | 967                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 967                             | 2,553                         |
| Membership fees                                       | 6,003                                     | -                                       | -                                      | 6,003                           | 10,046                        |
| Taper gauges                                          | 2,008                                     | -                                       | -                                      | 2,008                           | -                             |
|                                                       |                                           | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       |                                           | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       |                                           | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       |                                           | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Sub total</b> (Gross income for AR)                | 8,978                                     | -                                       | -                                      | 8,978                           | 12,599                        |
| <b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>    |                                           |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
|                                                       | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Sub total</b>                                      | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Total receipts</b>                                 | 8,978                                     | -                                       | -                                      | 8,978                           | 12,599                        |
| <b>A3 Payments</b>                                    |                                           |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
| Direct costs                                          | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | 8,714                         |
| Grants                                                | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | 500                           |
| Refunds                                               | 95                                        | -                                       | -                                      | 95                              | 126                           |
| Bank fees                                             | 575                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 575                             | 560                           |
| Postage fees                                          | 20                                        | -                                       | -                                      | 20                              | 115                           |
| Website costs                                         | 408                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 408                             | 2,417                         |
| Accounting fees                                       | 1,200                                     | -                                       | -                                      | 1,200                           | -                             |
| Advertising                                           | 750                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 750                             | -                             |
| Foreign exchange differences                          | 574                                       |                                         |                                        | 574                             |                               |
| Sundry                                                | 34                                        |                                         |                                        | 34                              |                               |
| <b>Sub total</b>                                      | 3,656                                     | -                                       | -                                      | 3,656                           | 12,432                        |
| <b>A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)</b> |                                           |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
|                                                       | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               |                               |
|                                                       | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               |                               |
| <b>Sub total</b>                                      | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Total payments</b>                                 | 3,656                                     | -                                       | -                                      | 3,656                           | 12,432                        |
| <b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>                     | 5,322                                     | -                                       | -                                      | 5,322                           | 167                           |
| <b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>                     | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>                    | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Cash funds this year end</b>                       | 5,322                                     | -                                       | -                                      | 5,322                           | 167                           |

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

| Categories    | Details                 | Unrestricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Restricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Endowment funds<br>to nearest £ |
|---------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B1 Cash funds | All funds               | 24,587                             | -                                | -                               |
|               |                         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|               |                         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|               | <b>Total cash funds</b> | <b>24,587</b>                      | <b>-</b>                         | <b>-</b>                        |

|                          | Details | Unrestricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Restricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Endowment funds<br>to nearest £ |
|--------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B2 Other monetary assets |         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|                          |         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|                          |         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|                          |         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|                          |         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|                          |         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |

|                      | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|----------------------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| B3 Investment assets |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                      |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                      |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                      |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                      |         |                             | -               | -                        |

|                                              | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|----------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                                              |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                                              |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                                              |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                                              |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                                              |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                                              |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                                              |         |                             | -               | -                        |
|                                              |         |                             | -               | -                        |

|                | Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional) | When due (optional) |
|----------------|---------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| B5 Liabilities |         |                                 | -                     |                     |
|                |         |                                 | -                     |                     |
|                |         |                                 | -                     |                     |
|                |         |                                 | -                     |                     |
|                |         |                                 | -                     |                     |

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

| Signature           | Print Name      | Date of approval |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <i>Orla Doherty</i> | Dr Orla Doherty | 22/02/2022       |
|                     |                 |                  |

# International Society for Equitation Science

Hartpury College, Gloucester, GL19 3BE

22/02/2022  
Date: .....

Your ref: **IHS/I0438**

Berg Kaprow Lewis LLP  
35 Ballards Lane  
London  
N3 1XW

Dear Sirs

## **International Society for Equitation Science**

We confirm to the best of our knowledge and belief and having made appropriate enquiries of other trustees and officials of the Charity, the following representations in connection with your preparation of the Charity's Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended 30 April 2021.

1. We acknowledge that the work performed by you is substantially less in scope than an audit performed in accordance with Auditing Standards and that you do not express an audit opinion.
2. We confirm that the Charity was entitled to exemption from the requirement to have its financial statements for the financial year audited and is also exempt from the requirement to have an Independent Examination.
3. We acknowledge as trustees our responsibility for the financial statements which have been prepared as Receipts and Payments Accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of that Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the Charity. All the accounting records have been made available to you and all transactions undertaken by the Charity have been properly reflected in those accounting records. All records and related information, including the minutes of the trustees' and members' meetings have been made available to you.
4. We confirm that we have maintained proper accounting records, as required by the Charities Act 2011.
5. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, that there have been no instances of non-compliance or breaches of any laws or regulations which are essential to the activities of the Charity's activities.

6. We confirm that we are not aware of any pending litigation which may result in a significant loss to the Charity.
7. We confirm that there were no contingent liabilities at the balance sheet date.
8. We believe that the Charity's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis on the grounds that current and future sources of funding and support will be more than adequate for the Charity's needs. We have considered a period of twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. We believe that no further disclosures relating to the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements.
9. We confirm that there were no transactions with related parties of the Charity or amounts due to or from related parties at the balance sheet date which are required to be disclosed in the financial statements other than those which are detailed in the notes to the financial statements.
10. We confirm that there have been no events since the balance sheet date which necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or disclosure in the notes to the financial statements. Should further material events occur, which may necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto, we will advise you accordingly.
11. All grants, donations and other monies, the receipt of which is subject to specific terms or conditions, have been properly recorded in the financial statements as restricted funds.
12. There are no restrictions that apply to any of the assets held by the charity which would limit the distribution of grants to more specific purposes than the trust deed of the charity specifies.

Yours faithfully

*Orla Doherty*

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees  
**International Society for Equitation Science**

# 2021 Accounts Pack - International Society for Equitation Science

Final Audit Report

2022-02-22

|                 |                                              |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Created:        | 2022-02-21                                   |
| By:             | Lee Freund (lee.freund@bkl.co.uk)            |
| Status:         | Signed                                       |
| Transaction ID: | CBJCHBCAABAAP1L6smkz6vu5GKLND6mXvh-1XRYEGF60 |

## "2021 Accounts Pack - International Society for Equitation Science" History



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