

Charity registration number 267325 (England and Wales)

**G W LEIGH CHARITABLE TRUST**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025**

# G W LEIGH CHARITABLE TRUST

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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**Trustees** Thomson Snell & Passmore Trust Corporation Ltd  
Anna Leigh

**Charity number** 267325

**Principal address** 73 Cornhill  
London  
EC3V 3QQ

**Administrator** S. Whitney

**Independent Examiner** D Hildebrand FCCA  
Gerald Edelman  
73 Cornhill  
London  
EC3V 3QQ

**Bankers** Coutts  
440 Strand  
London  
WC2R 0QS

**Solicitors** Thomson Snell & Passmore  
2/4 Vale Avenue  
Tunbridge Wells  
Kent  
TN1 1DJ

**Investment advisors** LGT Wealth Management UK LLP  
14 Cornhill  
London  
EC3V 3NR

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# **G W LEIGH CHARITABLE TRUST**

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# G W LEIGH CHARITABLE TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025

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The Trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 5 April 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 2 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019)

#### Objectives and activities

The trust deed provides that the Trustees may pay or apply the capital and income of the Trust for the benefit of such charitable purposes or institutions as they may at their discretion determine. The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the trust's aims and objectives and setting the grant making policy for the year. In line with prior years the charity has continued its long adopted policy of providing continued support to a variety of charitable institutions for the public benefit including those involved in medical research and charitable causes relating to the horse racing community.

Applications are welcomed from other charitable institutions for grants with no geographical or other limitations applied. The merits of each application are considered, and if required, further research carried out prior to a grant being made.

All Trustees give of their time freely and no trustees remuneration or other benefits were paid in the year under review.

#### Achievements and performance

During the year under review, the Trustees supported various charitable institutions with grants as follows:-

##### Racing, Stud and Veterinary

- Beaufort Cottage Educational Trust – on-going support of the Gerald Leigh Annual Veterinary Lecture for 10 years until 2026.
- Beaufort Cottage Educational Trust – on-going support of the Veterinary Research Scholarships for Undergraduates for 5 years until 2026.
- Beaufort Cottage Educational Trust – Legacy Grant – on-going support for ten educational projects including the Gerald Leigh Veterinary Lectures, ad hoc projects in response to Acute Racing and Breeding Industry Needs, and Veterinary Research Scholarships for Undergraduates.
- The British Racing School – Gerald Leigh Racing Experience Taster Weeks – three x 5 day residential courses for students for 4 years until 2026.
- The British Racing School – Discretionary Accessibility Fund to support students with items such as clothing, riding equipment, healthcare, travel expenses for 4 years until 2026.
- The British Racing School – Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Residential for 3 years until 2026.
- The British Racing School – Legacy Grant – main yard redevelopment and new trotting ring in collaboration with The Childwick Trust.
- HEROS – on-going Veterinary Education Programme.
- New Beginnings – on-going Education Programme.
- Racing to School – Gerald Leigh Racing to School Education Programme for 5 years to 2026.
- Racing Welfare – Engagement Officer for the Thoroughbred Stud and Breeding Sector for 3 years until 2026.
- Wavertree Education Trust – on-going support for one student on the E2SE Level 3 Diploma Course, and Scholarship Bursaries for Career Development in the Thoroughbred Industry for 10 years until 2026.
- Wavertree Education Trust – two x E2SE Level 2 students for 3 years until 2026.
- Wavertree Education Trust – Discretionary Accessibility Fund to support students with course fees, accommodation costs, clothing, equipment, healthcare, travel expenses etc for 3 years until 2026.
- Wavertree Education Trust – Legacy Grant -on-going support for the Level 3 Stud Management and Sales Consignment Course, Level 3 Scholarship for Career Development in the Thoroughbred Industry, a Discretionary Accessibility Fund and CPD Bursary Awards.

# **G W LEIGH CHARITABLE TRUST**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025**

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### **Education and Opportunity**

- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Resilience Fund – Youth Without Limits – helps existing youth groups and schools in identified deprived areas to set up and deliver the DofE Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards and helps participants with associated costs – on-going support for 5 years until 2027.
- Jamie's Farm Skipton – Farm Manager's salary and accommodation costs for 5.5 years until 2026.
- PHAB – Residential Adventure at Bendrigg Lodge in the Lake District for Young Carers for 4 years until 2026.
- The British Wheelchair Sports (WheelPower) Inter-Spinal Unit Games at Stoke Mandeville for 4 years until 2026.

### **Financial review**

The net expenditure for the year amounted to £679,474 (2024: £348,773).

The total income was £37,243 (2024: £45,990) and was represented by investment income.

Expenditure in the year totalled £726,574 (2024 £413,942). The increase results from a higher level of grant expenditure as detailed earlier in this report.

Having reviewed the charity's financial forecast and expected future cash flows, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, a period of not less than 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements.

Accordingly, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements for the year ended 5 April 2025. Further details regarding adoption of the going concern basis can be found in note 2.2 to the financial statements.

The Trustees having reviewed the future planned charitable expenditure of the charity believe that reserves held at the balance sheet date of £209,317 are not excessive and are necessarily held to finance planned annual commitments on an ongoing basis.

The Trustees continually review their investment policy with the investment advisors. Previously the portfolio was invested with a view to the maximisation of the overall return on a mainly low risk basis. In the year under review a gain accrued on disposal and revaluation of £9,857. During the year the portfolio was reinvested into fixed interest bonds which mature over the short term in line with the anticipated commitments of the charity.

### **Principal risks and uncertainties**

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity faces, in particular those related to its operations and finances and have developed a risk management strategy which involves the following:

- an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity and its subsidiaries face
- the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate risks identified
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise

### **Future plans**

The Trustees have adopted a strategy of expending the funds of the charity over a set period of time. Therefore, over the last few years, much planning has taken place to identify suitable opportunities which can benefit to the fullest extent charities operating in the areas which form the objects and activities as previously set out. The Trustees have, in the year under review, been fully implementing this plan.

# **G W LEIGH CHARITABLE TRUST**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025***

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### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity was established by a charitable trust deed on 21st March 1974.

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mrs A M Leigh

Thomson Snell & Passmore Trust Corporation Limited

The power of appointment of new Trustees vests in the current Board. In selecting individuals for appointment regard will be given to their skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the charity.

The Trustees meet regularly on an informal basis to review the charity's affairs and make decisions thereon. Such decisions are implemented by Ms S. Whitney who deals with the charity's affairs on a day to day basis.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



**Mrs A M Leigh**

Trustee

Dated: 23 January 2026

# **G W LEIGH CHARITABLE TRUST**

## **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025***

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The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

# **G W LEIGH CHARITABLE TRUST**

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

### **TO THE TRUSTEES OF G W LEIGH CHARITABLE TRUST**

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I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of G W Leigh Charitable Trust (the charity) for the year ended 5 April 2025.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the Trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

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

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019.

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 Charities Act 2011.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.



**D Hildebrand FCCA**  
**For and on behalf of**  
**Gerald Edelman LLP**  
**73 Cornhill**  
**London**  
**EC3V 3QQ**

Dated: 23 January 2026

# G W LEIGH CHARITABLE TRUST

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds general £	Designated funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<b><u>Income from:</u></b>					
Investments	3	37,243	-	37,243	45,990
<b><u>Expenditure on:</u></b>					
Raising funds	4	6,594	-	6,594	8,970
Charitable activities	5	719,980	-	719,980	404,972
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>726,574</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>726,574</b>	<b>413,942</b>
<b>Net expenditure before Investment returns</b>		<b>(689,331)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(689,331)</b>	<b>(367,952)</b>
Net gain on investments	10	9,857	-	9,857	19,179
Gross transfers between funds	15	207,971	(207,971)	-	-
<b>Net expenditure for the year</b>		<b>(471,503)</b>	<b>(207,971)</b>	<b>(679,474)</b>	<b>(348,773)</b>
Fund balances at 6 April 2024		680,820	270,471	951,291	1,300,064
<b>Fund balances at 5 April 2025</b>		<b>209,317</b>	<b>62,500</b>	<b>271,817</b>	<b>951,291</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# G W LEIGH CHARITABLE TRUST

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 5 APRIL 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Investments	11		239,061		1,155,696
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	12	14,075		4,797	
Cash at bank and in hand		23,481		87,063	
		37,556		91,860	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	(4,800)		(92,457)	
<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>			32,756		(597)
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			271,817		1,155,099
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	14				(203,808)
<b>Net assets</b>			271,817		951,291
<b>Income funds</b>					
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds:	15	62,500		270,471	
General unrestricted funds		209,317		680,820	
			271,817		951,291

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on ..... and signed on their behalf by:



Mrs A Leigh  
Trustee

# **G W LEIGH CHARITABLE TRUST**

## **BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)**

**AS AT 5 APRIL 2025**

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### **1 Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

### **2 Accounting policies**

#### **2.1 Accounting convention**

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### **2.2 Going concern**

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

#### **2.3 Charitable funds**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

# G W LEIGH CHARITABLE TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025

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### 2 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 2.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Investment income in the form of dividends are included in the financial statements upon receipt. Interest receivable is included on an accruals basis.

All other income is included on an accruals basis.

#### 2.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis and the irrecoverable element of VAT is included in the expense to which it relates.

Charitable expenditure represents grants made to institutions which are included in the accounts when paid or where a constructive obligation exists at the balance sheet date and also includes support costs.

Support costs includes governance costs comprising expenditure involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include independent examination and legal fees and also those meeting its statutory obligations.

#### 2.6 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

#### 2.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 2.8 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

##### **Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

# G W LEIGH CHARITABLE TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025

### 2 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

#### **Derecognition of financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

### 2.9 Taxation

As a registered charity the Society is exempt from taxation on its activities which fall within the scope of section 505(1) of the Taxes Act 1988 and section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992.

### 3 Investments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income from listed investments	-	21
Bond Interest Income	35,283	43,448
Interest receivable	1,960	2,521
	<u>37,243</u>	<u>45,990</u>

### 4 Raising funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
<u>Investment management</u>	<u>6,594</u>	<u>8,970</u>

# G W LEIGH CHARITABLE TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025

### 5 Charitable activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Grant funding of activities (see note 6)	615,583	276,668
Trustees indemnity insurance	302	308
Support costs - administration	70,009	90,038
Independent examination fees	4,800	4,800
Professional fees	28,256	32,400
Other governance costs	1,030	758
	<u>719,980</u>	<u>404,972</u>

### 6 Grants payable

	2025 £	2024 £
Grants to institutions:		
Beaufort Cottage Educational Trust	130,000	34,000
Duke of Edinburgh Award	40,000	20,000
British Racing School Duke of Edinburgh Award Gold Residential	-	7,833
Jamies Farm	75,678	-
HEROS	-	10,676
Racing to School	-	92,165
PHAB	32,482	10,500
Wheelpower	40,000	-
British Racing School	217,311	57,546
International Equine Reproduction Trust	-	10,000
The Wavertree Educational Trust	102,000	3,708
New Beginnings	-	35,000
Wargrave Girl Guides	-	5,000
Others	-	250
Commitments no longer required	(21,888)	(10,010)
	<u>615,583</u>	<u>276,668</u>

### 7 Net movement in funds

	2025 £	2024 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging:		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	4,800	4,800

### 8 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year. No expenses were refunded to the trustees in the year.

# G W LEIGH CHARITABLE TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025

### 9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Total	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

### 10 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	2025 £	2024 £
Revaluation of investments	11,160	23,352
Loss on sale of investments	(1,303)	(4,173)
	<u>9,857</u>	<u>19,179</u>

# G W LEIGH CHARITABLE TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025

### 11 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £	Cash in portfolio £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 05 April 2024	1,145,507	10,189	1,155,696
Additions	614,742	-	614,742
Valuation changes	11,160	-	11,160
Change in cash accounts	-	4,934	4,934
Disposals	(1,547,471)	-	(1,547,471)
At 5 April 2025	223,938	15,123	239,061
<b>Carrying amount</b>			
At 05 April 2025	223,938	15,123	239,061
At 05 April 2024	1,145,507	10,189	1,155,696

#### Listed investments held as follows:

	£
UK Bonds	98,182
Foreign Bonds	100,715
Other Funds	25,091
	223,938

### 12 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Other debtors	13,500	-
Prepayments and accrued income	575	4,796
	14,075	4,796

### 13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Grant commitments	-	76,000
Accruals and deferred income	4,800	16,457
	4,800	92,457

# G W LEIGH CHARITABLE TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025

### 14 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Grant commitments	-	203,808

### 15 Designated funds

The sum of £270,471 had been identified for potential grants and this sum has been added as an addition to designated funds in the year under review:

	Movement in funds			
	Balance at 6 April 2024 £	New designations £	Utilised/ realised £	Balance at 5 April 2025 £
Beaufort Cottage Educational Trust	30,000	30,000	(30,000)	30,000
Jamie's Farm	75,678	-	(75,678)	-
Wavertree Education Trust	-	32,500	-	32,500
British Racing School	52,311	-	(52,311)	-
Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme	40,000	-	(40,000)	-
Phab	32,482	-	(32,482)	-
Wheelpower	40,000	-	(40,000)	-
	270,471	62,500	(270,471)	62,500

### 16 APB Ethical Standard relevant circumstances

In common with many entities of our size we use our independent examiners to assist with the preparation of the accounts.

# **G W LEIGH CHARITABLE TRUST**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025***

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### **17 Related party transactions**

During the year the sum of £16,500 (2024: £24,000) was paid to Thomson Snell & Passmore (a company connected to the Trustees Thomson Snell & Passmore Trust Corporation Limited) in respect of services provided to the charity as regards legal and administrative matters.

## **Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust**

**Annual Accounts to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

### **Addendum Report - October 2025**

The Trustees have adopted a strategy of expending the funds of the charity over a set period of time in accordance with Gerald Leigh's wishes. Much planning has taken place to identify suitable opportunities which can fully benefit charities operating in the areas which form the objects and activities as set out in the Trustees Report, and the Trustees have been fully implementing this plan.

As the Trust now winds down, we would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the achievements and impact of its grant funding since Gerald Leigh established his own charity in 1974. During those last 51 years, many millions of pounds have been donated to national and international charitable projects achieving significant impact within the areas that were special to the Founder –



- Gerald Leigh was born in London in 1930 and educated at Malvern College and Cape Town university where he studied architecture. He became a director of Kennedy Leigh properties, his father's company, which went public and then became Senior Partner of Hampton's Estate Agents and later formed Standard Securities Limited. He was an individual who was held in high regard and was a consummate gentleman. All those who met him remarked on his personal warmth, generosity and integrity. He was for many years, also Chairman of the Kennedy Leigh Charitable Trust. During his lifetime, he supported a diverse range of causes including becoming personally involved in pushing the boundaries in research and innovation in medicine and surgery. He established the first Chair in Paediatric Gastroenterology at Great Ormond Street Hospital. At St Marks Hospital for Colorectal Disorders, he was instrumental in 1971 in introducing the new technique of flexible colonoscopy. He supported Cancer Research at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, and he donated the winnings from his prize money during his last two horse racing seasons to the charity CancerBACUP, culminating in his filly Gossamer's spectacular win of the Irish 1,000 Guineas, carrying their logo on his racing colours to build public awareness.
- In the mid 1960's, Mr Leigh bought a small farm in Berkshire, where he began to realise his ambition to own and breed thoroughbred racehorses. He soon expanded into Cayton Park, a neighbouring property and in 1970, he bought his first mare. Within a few years, this enterprise became his life and his passion, and in his quest to breed to the highest standard, in 1982 he purchased Eydon Hall Farm in Northamptonshire, where he established a world-renowned breeding and racing operation, with a small but select broodmare band. He achieved great success at the very highest level on the racecourse with many Classic and Group 1 winners worldwide including Act One, Barathea, Bequest, Bosra Sham, Brocade, Gossamer, Infamy, Markofdistinction and Sixty Seconds. He died in 2002 and through his philanthropy, he left a legacy to his own Charitable Trust through which thousands of people and horses have benefited.
- Over the last five decades, the Trust has supported projects which benefitted hospitals, medical research, historical buildings, the Jewish Community, horseracing, breeding and veterinary research, and education and opportunity, particularly for young people. On numerous occasions, it has offered "life changing moments" for many individuals.

The following pages include several personal and charitable testimonials from some of the charities which the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust has supported over the years.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr N J Wingfield Digby LVO, BVSc, MRCVS, DL, Lanwades,  
Moulton Road, Kennett, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 8QS  
Tel: 01638 750205  
Email: [nickwingfelddigby@gmail.com](mailto:nickwingfelddigby@gmail.com)

18<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Sarah Whitney  
The Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust

Dear Sarah

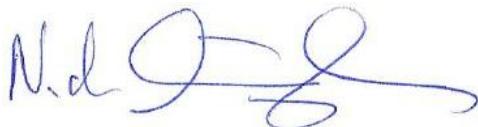
My involvement with Gerald Leigh started in the 1990's through my association with Alex Scrope, as a bloodstock agent, and Luca Cumani, the trainer. Through these two, I met Gerald and we became firm friends, resulting in me making regular visits to Eydon Hall Stud to review and examine his bloodstock and be entertained by Anna and the family. Gerald became a great supporter of my veterinary practice in Newmarket (Rossdale & Partners) until his sad and untimely death.

Following this, I was involved in the dispersal sale at Tattersalls of some of Gerald's bloodstock that were not to be continued to be managed by the family. After this we wanted to create some way of marking Gerald's contribution to Thoroughbred breeding and we came up with the idea of the annual Gerald Leigh Memorial Lectures to be organised by Beaufort Cottage Educational Trust, of which I was chairman at the time. These annual lectures, financed very generously by The Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust, have continued each summer since then and have become increasingly influential in the bloodstock world. After my retirement from my partnership in the practice, I continued to help you with issues that arose in managing The Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust business, and in recent years this has been put onto a more formal footing. Through this, I have been able to support you in proposing and managing projects to be supported by the Trust. These projects have principally involved the British Racing School, the National Stud as well as Beaufort Cottage Educational Trust.

The Trust has been invaluable in targeting need and increasing collaboration between other charitable organisations, such as Racing Welfare and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, as well as organisations such as the Horserace Betting Levy Board. You have shown great determination and enthusiasm for bringing together different organisations and seeing the benefits that could arise from providing young people with opportunities that they had not previously imagined. It has been a great honour and pleasure to be involved in this work.

With very best wishes. Yours

sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N.J. Wingfield Digby', with a stylized, flowing script.

## The Beaufort Cottage Educational Trust

### **The Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust's Legacy to the Thoroughbred Industry seen through the Beaufort Cottage Educational Trust -**

The Beaufort Cottage Educational Trust aims to support educational projects and events for all those involved in the care of horses and disseminate knowledge of the best veterinary and management practices and thereby enhance horse welfare. The now long-lasting partnership with the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust has allowed the two charities to pursue their mutual goals within and beyond the Thoroughbred breeding and racing industry to inform, educate and help set the highest standards in horse welfare. The foundations set by the friendship and mutual respect between Gerald Leigh and Nick Wingfield Digby, LVO, BVSc, MRCVS, DL resulted in the thriving collaboration between the charities.

Targeted funding provided by GLCT led to the annual Gerald Leigh Lectures held in Gerald Leigh's memory at Newmarket. These meetings gather veterinary scientists, clinicians and paraprofessionals to share their specialist knowledge with owners, breeders, trainers, horse carers and bloodstock insurers in convivial surroundings. The lectures are permanently accessible to horse people on the BCET website (<https://www.beaufortcottage.com/>) thus providing a global impact. The Gerald Leigh Lectures have rapidly become part of the yearly CPD agenda for many horsemen and women. The aim is to perpetuate the series with funding from GLCT and exploring further revenue avenues with collaborative organisations. These talks have covered many pertinent topics over the last decade including enhancing racehorse safety, youngstock growth and development, respiratory and infectious diseases, tendon injuries, enhancing reproductive efficiency. The tenth anniversary talks in 2026 will focus on reproductive loss.

Stimulating interest in equine clinical and research skills is essential to attract the veterinary clinicians and researchers of the future. Funding provided by GLCT allows students to engage and develop these. The "UK Veterinary Summer Scholarship Programme" run together with UK universities for undergraduates are awarded annually. Projects are selected by BCET for their relevance, merit to the equine industry and the didactive worth to the candidate. Students work under the supervision of university researchers. They present their projects and results to an interested audience at Rosssdales Hospital & Diagnostic Centre, Exning each December and we are delighted that many of the projects have gone on to be published in peer-reviewed journals.

The Thoroughbred racing and breeding industry is subject to multiple challenges. These relate primarily to equine welfare and the social license to operate. With the GLCT's active support the BCET Trustees are in the unique position to respond rapidly and independently to the industry's needs. Two workshops convened international panels of specialists at the Jockey Club Rooms, Newmarket. In May 2020 the "Consensus Conference: Fracture Risk Assessment of the Thoroughbred Fetlock" was held in response to racing regulators applying different pre-race screening protocols in different jurisdictions. In 2024, the "Equine Cognizance & Mental Maturity" workshop investigated the mental maturity of young horses and their aptitude for 2-year-old racing following the introduction of German legislation restricting this to 30 months of age. Both meetings have had global impacts by facilitating continued communications between researchers, clinicians, welfare scientists and racing regulators.

The GLCT provided essential funding through BCET to run the Transatlantic Equine Clinics thus gaining greater exposure in North America. This is a joint educational venture between the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) and the American Association of Equine

Practitioners (AAEP). The series of online educational events for equine veterinarians features discussions and debates between leading equine specialists from the UK and the USA, focusing on various clinical topics in equine veterinary medicine.

Research is a conduit to furthering knowledge and education. The Sarah Leigh Legacy provided substantial support for the training programme of specialist equine cardiologists from around the world led by Prof Celia Marr at Rossdale Equine Hospital and Diagnostic Centre. The Sarah Leigh legacy also supported leading research into equine reproductive physiology and medicine both at the Royal Veterinary College, London and a project entitled “Serum biomarkers for prediction of placental infection in Thoroughbred broodmares” at Rossdale Veterinary Surgeons. The results continue to help further the understanding of pregnancy loss and management that will hopefully reduce the economic impact for breeders. Equally, further areas of interest leading to the significance of genomics in breed management are being opened.

The impact made by the GLCT on the national and international Thoroughbred industry by promoting equine veterinary research, the dissemination of knowledge and facilitating collaboration amongst all its stakeholders is its legacy. The beneficiaries are the horses and people whose passion it is to provide the best possible care for racing and breeding stock in the interest of the sport and the Thoroughbred breed. Through its work the GLCT, assisted by BCET, has established the reputation of being a generous supporter of equine veterinary science, provider of best quality educational information and promoter of the highest standards of equine welfare and care.

**Fred Barrelet, Dip VMS(Bern), Dr.med.vet.(Bern), MRCVS & Camilla Scott, BVetMed, CertAVP(ESM), DACT, MRCVS – Trustees**

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## British Racing School

The British Racing School's connection with Mr Gerald Leigh dates back to the 1980's and there has been a named tree for him on our grounds in Newmarket for many years. In 2022, we began our close working relationship with The Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust when we were generously gifted a grant to purchase an electric pool vehicle and charging point for the School. This marked the first major step in the British Racing School making changes to cut our carbon emissions and operate in a more environmentally sustainable way going forward. Since then we have planted over 150 trees, started using our on-site bore hole to reduce water dependency on mains supply, increased biodiversity through creating a garden at the Newmarket Pony Academy, installed solar panels which will save over 28 tonnes of CO2 emissions in the next 20 years alone and created educational courses both for our students, and other racing industry stakeholders to consider how to operate in a more environmentally sustainable way going forward.

Ensuring that a young person's background does not affect their ability to access opportunities has always been something we are passionate about here at The British Racing School. In 2022, we began working closely with The Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust to develop a groundbreaking new pathway to attract more young people to consider careers in racing, and to break down financial barriers for those wishing to study and work in the sport. For the first time at the BRS, we were able to offer three 'Gerald Leigh Racing Experience Weeks' every year to give young people from a variety of backgrounds a really good insight into the industry, hands on experience, as well as funding for individual students from low income backgrounds to access riding gear and other items they needed to attend courses with us ('The Gerald Leigh Accessibility Fund.') Since starting the project in 2023, this new accessibility pathway has already seen many young people join a BRS or National Stud course and are now starting their racing career journeys. As an extension of this project, we then piloted our first Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award residential week in 2024, a partnership brought together by The Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust to support young people from low-income families, with equestrian interests, to access a funded residential week to help them complete their Gold Award. These projects have been truly life-changing for many of its participants and are set to support over 200 young people by the time the project concludes in 2026.

In 2025, we re-opened our main yard, following extensive refurbishments which were needed since it was first built over 40 years ago. We are incredibly grateful to The Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust for supporting this redevelopment which has significantly elevated the standard of care we provide for our horses and also created a better learning and working environment for our students and staff. This was a pivotal project for the School, forming a major part of our ongoing commitment to provide industry-leading facilities and reflects our mission to prepare students for successful careers in horseracing.

Without supporters such as The Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust, we simply couldn't achieve the level of high-quality outcomes, training and life-changing opportunities to young people who would otherwise not get to experience the joy of working with horses or discover a passion for the sport of horse racing. Thank you for all you have done to champion us over the last few years, and for giving our young people the best opportunities to secure life-long careers in a job they love. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our particular gratitude to Sarah Whitney for her unwavering enthusiasm, support, interest and personal investment she has shown in our work here. All these joint ventures would not have been the success they are without her dedication, commitment and deep understanding about what we are trying to achieve as an organisation.

We are delighted to honour Mr Leigh's legacy, his generosity and contribution to racing through our main yard redevelopment project, as well as through those young lives who will now fulfil their full potential thanks to you.

From all of us here at The British Racing School, thank you!

**Andrew Braithwaite, Chief Executive, The British Racing School**

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The Childwick Trust has been associated with the British Racing School from its early beginnings and is delighted to have been able to partner with an equally long-standing supporter in the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust to fund the refurbishment of the main yard at the School. A major project. The comprehensive refurbishment of the main yard and surrounding area has resulted in an enhanced working environment for students and staff, as well as providing significantly improved facilities for the horses and their care.

On a personal note, it has been an absolute pleasure to work with Sarah during this project and on behalf of us all at The Childwick Trust, we wish her well in the future.

**Peter Anwyl-Harris, Chairman, The Childwick Trust**

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## HEROS

It has been a real privilege to work with the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust, and we are incredibly grateful for the support you have provided to HEROS.

The funding we received has had a significant and lasting impact, particularly in the early development of our Veterinary Extra-Mural Studies (EMS) Programme. This initiative has already proven to be a great success, offering veterinary students invaluable hands-on experience in equine care. One student commented, *"We did more in one day than we do in a week,"* which speaks volumes about the quality and depth of the learning environment we've been able to create thanks to your support.

The Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust's contribution has not only enhanced the welfare of our horses but also helped shape the next generation of equine professionals. It has enabled us to deliver a programme that is both innovative and deeply aligned with our values of education, welfare, and opportunity.

The feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive.

Casie Riegel, a final-year vet student, shared *"I feel that I have learned more and gotten to do more clinical work with horses than I have in the past 5 years at vet school... This opportunity was extraordinary."*

Rachel MacLeod added *"I learned how to take x-rays, scan tendons, perform injections and complete dental exams. I gained so much confidence and would highly recommend this placement to anyone wanting real-world experience."*

These testimonials reflect the transformative impact of the programme and the value of the Trust's investment in our work.

We would be honoured to be included in the Trust's final report and are proud to be part of its legacy.

**Grace Muir, MBE, CEO & Founder, HEROS**

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## Injured Jockeys Fund

The outdoor rehab area at Jack Berry House, kindly funded by the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust, has now officially been open for one year. It has proven to be a very useful area to have as an addition to our current resources. It has received an unanimously positive response and has been used for a wide variety of patients from professional jockeys to elderly beneficiaries.

It enables a change of environment from the gym / indoors keeping things fresh and interesting. The space allows us to expose users to the types of surfaces and challenges they might experience outside on a yard, racecourse, or stud, to help us best prepare them for a return to work, or for our retired community to safely enjoy outdoor exercise.

344 individuals have accessed Jack Berry House during the period and approximately half will have used the outdoor area as part of their rehabilitation, many others will have enjoyed a game of table tennis or the quiet seating area when they are spending time at the Centre, all contributing to the multi-faceted, wrap around approach to rehabilitation that the IJF are able to offer to jockeys and the wider racing community.

**Lisa Hancock, Chief Executive, Injured Jockeys Fund**

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## Jamie's Farm

When we embarked on our strategy to enter a new community and develop a residential centre for Jamie's Farm in Yorkshire, we knew it was right for the young people we exist to support. Given the level of need in the region, it was vital for us to expand our operation to the North of England to ensure many more young people who deserved an experience like we offer had that chance.

However, we knew that to do so would require mobilising considerable support.

We are so grateful that Gerald Leight CT was able to provide it. In funding the salary of our Farm Manager at Skipton, it has enabled us to:

1. Welcome hundreds of pupils to the farm to experience our Day Visit Programme, achieving impact and developing links with partner schools even while the full residential setting was being developed.
2. Transform the environment of the farm, laying hundreds of metres of hedging, planting thousands of trees and vastly improving the biodiversity, soil health and long-term productivity of the farming operation there.
3. Embed JF values to a whole new region, offering direct, supportive management to the team and inspiring countless stakeholders – including headteachers, neighbours and volunteers – about what JF will bring to the area.

As a headteacher remarked on a recent Away Days we hosted at the JF Skipton Farm, 'Every single child should get a Jamie's Farm experience.'

Your faith in us was vital. As we look forward to the full-scale redevelopment of the site having received planning permission, we hope you feel suitably appreciated for helping us get off the ground.

Thank you.

**Jake Curtis, Co-CEO, Jamie's Farm**

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## New Beginnings

The funding from the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust has been crucial in helping us develop and trial a sustainable model for our TIE (Thoroughbred Interaction and Engagement) programme, utilising our superb new, purpose-built Education Hub. These charitable monies have enabled us to appoint a part-time dedicated Education Programme Project Administrator/Co-ordinator, develop, and deliver several pilots and purchase appropriate safety equipment and educational resources specifically for use within our new Education Programme Pathway. Thank you very much for giving us this wonderful opportunity to develop and deliver meaningful experiences for many young children and young adults. Without the support of the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust, we would have struggled to have achieved this in a timely manner. We are most grateful for this support, and the legacy of this funding is that we will continue our valuable work and help many young people through interaction with thoroughbreds and ponies, developing their life skills, confidence, and outlook. Thank you for helping us make this happen.

### **Kevin and Pam Atkinson, Co-CEO's and Co-Founders of New Beginnings**

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The Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust's contribution to so many worthy initiatives within the thoroughbred racing, breeding and veterinary industries, for horses and people over the last 50 years, has been immense. Godolphin was delighted to collaborate with them on a recent fundraising project for New Beginnings. We have enjoyed working with Sarah Whitney and the professionalism for the Trust throughout the grant making process has been exemplary.

### **Penny Taylor, UK Charities Manager, Godolphin**

*Collaborative funder with the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust with the new Education Hub at New Beginnings*

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What a wonderful effort by you and your Trustees, Sarah. Quite clearly, the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust has made a massive difference to both Equines and Humans within Racing and many other welfare areas".

### **Nigel Payne MBE, The Sir Peter O'Sullivan Charitable Trust**

*Collaborative funder with the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust with the new Education Hub at New Beginnings.*

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## PHAB

A big THANK YOU from Phab to the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust!

Since 2022, with thanks to the generous support of the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust, young carers and disabled adults have had the chance to swap everyday stress, for a residential away from home full of adventure, laughter, and discovery. Over the past four years, you've helped create "Phab" memories that will last a lifetime.

Your funding also brought two organisations together, Phab and Chums, to help us engage young carers who are often overlooked whilst pooling resources, skills, and knowledge — all working towards the common goal of giving young carers support and a much-needed break. This partnership has shown just how important collaborative working is, and it is a model we are committed to carrying forward into the future.

### Young Carers at Bendrigg Lodge, Outdoor Centre in the Lake District

So far, forty-one young carers have joined our Phab Adventure residentials, supported by fifteen therapists, Phab staff and volunteers. Residentials were held in 2022, 2024, 2025 and another is due to be held in 2026.

Together, they tried climbing, canoeing, abseiling, campfire nights, and team challenges. For many, it was their first time away from home to just be kids — no responsibilities, no worries, just pure fun.

One 12-year-old told us, *"I liked going caving, it was amazing. The caves were really cool, and it was a once in a lifetime experience. We all got options, and we were given a choice and not made to feel bad if we backed out. I loved it, it was a great experience, and I am sad to go home. The volunteers and staff are amazing; they were very kind making sure everyone was ok, giving us choice and making sure the quiet ones were heard"*.

Moments like this show the power of encouragement, teamwork, and the freedom to try something new.

### Adults in Hampshire

Forty adults spent a long weekend enjoying social activities and outdoor challenges.

From archery and zip-wires to woodland walks and bush craft, they tried things they never thought they would — and discovered new confidence along the way. The social aspect was a very important part of the weekend, and shared meals and campfire evenings helped build friendships and break down isolation.

One participant arrived anxious and unsure, but by the last evening they told us, *"I loved all of it, I went on my first canoe and going to the top of the zip wire was great, I was very proud of myself."*

## Looking Ahead

The adventure isn't over yet! In 2026, one more young carer's residential will take place over four days, with another fifteen more children set to benefit and we can't wait to see the joy and confidence they will gain.

## The Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust Legacy

Because of your funding:

- More than 100 people have had the chance to escape, explore, and grow.
- Young carers have had precious time to relax and laugh.
- Adults have found new skills, confidence, and friendship.

These are not simply time away from home — they are turning points, full of fun, confidence, and hope and none of it would have happened without the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust.

From Phab and everyone who has benefited, thank you for every smile, every memory, and every Phab Adventure you have made possible.

**Rebecca Hargreaves, National Projects and Development Manager, PHAB**

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## Racing to School

Racing to School is grateful for the longstanding support and enthusiasm of the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust for its work. Since 2022, the unique, fully funded learning opportunities we are able to offer through the Gerald Leigh Racing to School Education Programme have engaged 3,598 young people to date, from traditionally harder to reach communities across Britain, supporting them to apply their classroom-based knowledge in a real world setting through curriculum led activities. For many of those young people, the programme will have seen them take their first steps onto a racecourse to experience the thrilling sport of horseracing, with many groups opting for a follow up session to cement their learning and explore careers within the sport either back in school or, for those local, at our sister charity New Beginnings' Education Hub in Yorkshire.

The programme's success has been built on a partnership, and the genuine commitment of the Trust to support work with the greatest impact.

The impact of this bespoke programme can be found in the qualitative and quantitative feedback we collect after every activity day, which in the 2024-25 programme was consistently higher than across other Racing to School programmes. In that period, pupil feedback indicated that 65% strongly or slightly agreed that the day helped them with their maths; 64% strongly or slightly agreed that their team working skills had improved; 68% strongly or slightly agreed that they felt more self-confident and 94% rated their overall experience as either excellent or good. For 81% of pupils, it was their first time visiting a racecourse, with 93% saying they would like to return.

Teachers also recognise the impact of the programme, with 100% agreeing the day enriched pupils' learning.

A selection of what pupils and teachers have to say is below.

*"I was surprised I was able to get so close to a horse and it was amazing. We got to wear Jockey jackets and discover and learn a whole lot of new things. Altogether it was a really good time."*  
Keaton, attended a day at Newcastle

*I thought today was amazing. I learnt so much, like horses have to warm up, and a furlong is a unit (of measurement.) I would definitely come back.*  
Seth, attended a day at Sedgefield

*"When a disadvantaged child who would never have been racing says she doesn't want to go home, you know it's been a good day!"*  
Mrs Hillhouse, Teacher

*"Often, transport costs are the restricting factor in what trips we're able to offer our children. It really does make all the difference to schools like us where the parent community aren't able to contribute to the cost of a trip and the school budget won't cover coach hire."*  
Jo George, Teacher

**John Blake, Chief Executive, Racing to School**

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## Racing Welfare

We are honoured to be able to provide the following testimonial about our partnership with the GLCT.

- Racing Welfare has had the privilege of working with GLCT for 4 decades now. Our most recent project is a wonderful example of how the way that GLCT distributes money and chooses projects can leave a meaningful and lasting legacy. It is not just the funding that we have received towards our new post of Community Outreach and Engagement Officer for the thoroughbred stud and breeding sector that has made such a difference, but also the support and insight of the Trust's Administrator, Sarah Whitney, in helping us to frame a successful project and influence stakeholders within the industry. The result has been the creation of a role that has made an impact on both businesses and individuals within the sector and set it up for long term sustainability. The benefits that have been observed and acknowledged by others, in combination with the respect and reputation in which the GLCT is held, have led to us being able to secure a sponsor who is keen to ensure that the momentum of the project is maintained when the GLCT funding comes to an end, with their on-going support pledged for at least 3 years. We would not have been able to introduce the role to them without the commitment and funding from the GLCT and we almost certainly would not have been able to secure its long-term future.

**Dawn Goodfellow, Chief Executive Officer, Racing Welfare**

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## The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

### The Impact of The Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust on DofE since 2022

The GLCT has directly contributed £85,000 to the DofE Resilience Fund, enabling thousands of marginalised and disadvantaged young people to do their Duke of Edinburgh's Awards throughout the UK: boys like Jordan (not his real name) from Gateshead, who has autism and anxiety disorder. His mum says *"Every time our son comes back from a Duke of Edinburgh's Award event ... he has matured a little more, learned so many life skills and beyond! He is always full of new knowledge and exciting stories about his latest adventure, and we are forever grateful for that, along with the experiences he has had – which we never thought would be possible ... He has had the best time!"*

Groups like the students at Mo Mowlem Academy in Teesside have also benefited. Graeme Lewis, the DofE Manager at the school says *"Without the Resilience funding, our students, who come from deprived backgrounds, would not be able to access the DofE. They have demonstrated their resilience throughout their DofE journey. They have all enjoyed learning their new skills, working together as a team, which has got stronger over time. They have all been a credit to the school and themselves, for what they have achieved. This is only possible through funding received as our equipment was begged, stole and borrowed from staff, but now we have some equipment bought from funding received".*

*One student said: "This has been one of the best experiences I have had even though it has been tough, but I have really enjoyed it ". The equipment will now be used for our next cohort of students who have opted for their Bronze Award in September."*

These are just two examples of how the support from the GLCT is making a huge difference, and these will be repeated across the UK with other groups, and more young people.

As important as this direct support is the development of our partnership with the British Racing School, introduced and encouraged by the GLCT through the imaginative foresight and problem-solving of Sarah Whitney in picking up the parallels between our programmes, and realising that the programme for Gerald Leigh Racing Experience Weeks at the BRS could easily map on to the DofE's Gold Residential requirement.

The Residential Requirement can be a huge barrier to marginalised young people completing the Gold level of the DofE, as there are very few free residential opportunities. The GLCT supported and encouraged the BRS to become one of the DofE's Approved Activity Providers. The GLCT has further granted the BRS with to date £35,000, and hence indirectly the DofE, for 10 DofE individuals in the first year, 25 individuals this year and hopefully similar numbers next year, on BRS "Introduction to Racing" courses. This has allowed these marginalised young people with disabilities, from refugee backgrounds, and disadvantaged by economic circumstances to complete their DofE Gold Residential. Two celebrated receiving their Golds at Buckingham Palace in May 2025 and we anticipate that many more will now do so next year. A number of participants have also shown significant interest in pursuing further courses at the BRS and National Stud, which would lead to career opportunities within the horse racing and breeding industry, and veterinary profession.

Frankie, one of the course participants in 2024 said *"The Residential has got me thinking about different jobs within horse riding – there's so many different elements that you don't realise. They offered so much at the Residential, I was so grateful it was fully funded. Before I always*

*thought you had to be born into the horse racing industry, and there weren't many opportunities to be involved. But everyone at the BRS was so open minded and welcoming. Riding the horses was the best thing. We really worked as a team to understand each horse."*

Frankie's cohort included Ethan (ET), who has additional needs and is a young carer for his mother, and he now has a part-time job at his local stables. And already there has been some amazing feedback from this year's cohort.

The success of this course has prompted the DofE to look at developing similar partnerships with other organisations to expand Gold Residential opportunities, and to increase the average bursary level of direct grants through their Resilience Fund.

The GLCT's involvement with our DofE programmes has created a huge impact. As reported in the DofE's "Understanding our Impact" report earlier this year, using the Wellby method following UK Treasury Guidance 2023 prices, the social value of completing the DofE Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards, is on average £4,200, £6,000 and £7,400 respectively per person. It has been such a great partnership with the GLCT. Thank you!

**Deb Dowdall, Relationships Manager, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

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## The Racing Foundation

The Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust has supported a long list of very worthwhile and impactful projects! It has invested a significant level of funding into a variety of charitable causes since inception and should be commended for the impact this has had on the charities and beneficiaries it has supported.

In particular, it has been instrumental in developing a number of projects and initiatives that have greatly benefited the Thoroughbred racing and breeding industries and the veterinary education and research sectors. Many of these have been pioneering activities that have been developed and delivered through partnerships between the Trust and key delivery providers, whose impact will be felt for many years. In this way the Trust has created a long-lasting legacy through its funding.

The Trust has also been an extremely valuable member of the Racing Industry Grantmakers' Network, which has led to sharing of knowledge, best practise and a number of joint-funding opportunities to further increase the impact of our combined support. This has especially been the case for a number of youth engagement projects that aim to make the racing and breeding industries more accessible and open to all as well as enriching the lives of the participants and providing them with life skills and opportunities.

The Racing Foundation has worked directly with the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust for a number of years, including the co-funding of a number of equine science research projects; supporting the Entry to Stud Employment Programme delivered by the National Stud and Thoroughbred Breeders' Association, supporting Racing to School's Education Programme, specifically aimed at schools located in inner-city and deprived areas across the UK; and a number of youth engagement projects run by the British Racing School. We have also had a number of other beneficiaries in common, such as Racing Welfare, Injured Jockeys Fund, National Horseracing Museum and the former Animal Health Trust. We have seen first-hand the difference the Trust has made to people welfare, equine welfare, community engagement and social impact.

**Tansy Challis, Chief Executive, The Racing Foundation**

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## The Thoroughbred Breeders' Association

The TBA has been privileged to receive substantial and regular support from the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust since its establishment in 1974. This partnership has reflected Mr Leigh's enduring commitment to advancing scientific understanding in reproductive management and veterinary care for mares and stallions, ultimately benefiting the entire thoroughbred breeding industry.

The GLCT's donations were instrumental in supporting the TBA's Equine Fertility Unit, an internationally recognised centre of excellence led by Professor W R 'Twink' Allen from the early 1970s until 2007. This funding contributed towards a body of groundbreaking research that transformed our understanding of equine fertility and pregnancy, leading to practical innovations including:

- The therapeutic use of prostaglandin in the management of the mare's reproductive cycle.
- The application of ultrasound technology for monitoring mares before and during pregnancy.
- Enhanced understanding of placental function in maintaining healthy pregnancies.
- Research into mare-foetus immunological relationships, improving our knowledge of early pregnancy loss.
- The pioneering deployment of video-endoscope technology for investigating and treating uterine conditions.

These advances have delivered significant improvements in reproductive efficiency across the industry, enabling increased breeding capacity per stallion while improving both fertility rates and live foal outcomes. The funds also helped to support the EFU in its role as an important training environment, supporting numerous veterinary students and scientists who subsequently contributed to equine research establishments worldwide.

Beyond the Equine Fertility Unit, the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust has supported broader TBA veterinary research initiatives, including equine infectious disease monitoring and diagnostic services delivered by the Animal Health Trust, and other related research programmes. More recently, the GLCT has collaborated with the TBA to support the Small Grants Equine Science Veterinary Research Programme.

Through sustained and regular donations, the GLCT has helped to create a lasting legacy, enabling the thoroughbred breeding industry to advance its veterinary and stud management programmes while maintaining the highest standards of equine welfare.

The relationship between the GLCT and the TBA will continue into 2026, when the TBA is delighted to be collaborating with the Beaufort Cottage Educational Trust's 2026 Gerald Leigh Veterinary Lectures in Newmarket on "Breeding for Success – Tackling Reproductive Loss in the Thoroughbred Industry".

**Caroline Turnball, Industry Education and Retention Manager, The Thoroughbred Breeders' Association**

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## The Wavertree Education Trust

The support we have received from the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust has evidently been very impactful, supporting an array of learners and playing an instrumental role in improving industry recruitment and retention. Also, the guidance and advice from Sarah Whitney has always been beneficial and has played a big part in how we move the programmes forward with regards to collaboration and inclusion. Although our students need more practice at rounders to be able to win against the British Racing School, we hope that this joining of cohorts across providers will help build lasting working relationships between students and allow us to use each other's resources to benefit all learners.

Support from the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust has been fundamental to the success of the bloodstock education programmes at The National Stud over the last 10 years. Their generosity has not only enabled us to deliver innovative and engaging training but has also played a pivotal role in shaping the future of the thoroughbred industry. By investing in education, the Trust has helped us to break down barriers to entry, promote inclusivity, and ensure that learners from all backgrounds can thrive. The impact of this support is evident in the achievements of our alumni, who are now employed across the globe in leading breeding enterprises, filling vital roles and contributing to the ongoing strength of the sector.

The National Stud Access Courses, which provide essential training for individuals with little or no prior equine experience, are a clear example of this impact. These courses equip learners with the knowledge, understanding, and practical skills required to gain employment within the industry. At a time when recruitment and retention remain significant challenges, the Access Courses have proven to be an invaluable pipeline of talent, with 70% of participants since 2020 continuing to work in industry-related roles. Delivering this level of opportunity requires sustained investment, and we are deeply grateful that the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust has made it possible through its continued and generous support.

“Firstly, the Thoroughbred Industry Access course taught me how to confidently handle thoroughbreds of all ages and temperaments. By gaining these skills, I was able to successfully apply for the Level 3 programme, a key milestone of my 2025 goals. If I had chosen to go directly into industry, the skills learnt would have enabled me to apply for a wide variety of jobs within thoroughbred breeding. Secondly, being based at The National Stud in Newmarket, the heart of the horseracing world, provided me with the opportunity to form new contacts with respected members of the industry. Be it Stallion Managers at other studs we visited, Bloodstock Agents from spending time at the July sales or Managing Directors of racecourses, their experiences, insights, and advice shared with us were invaluable. Finally, the course helped me develop relevant personal skills and allowed me to realise where I must improve to ensure that I succeed in the industry”. Zac Castledine, Thoroughbred Industry Access graduate 2025.

The Level 3 Stud Management and Sales Consignment course is also a flagship programme, widely recognised as one of the leading routes for producing the next generation of industry leaders. With an inclusive, practical, and highly relevant curriculum, it has achieved an outstanding 93% industry retention rate among graduates. This success is only achievable because of the Trust's commitment to accessibility funding, which ensures that financial barriers do not prevent talented individuals from pursuing a career in the thoroughbred world.

The Trust's vision is also reflected in the prestigious Gerald Leigh Scholarship for Career Development in the Thoroughbred Industry. This initiative has enabled graduates to expand their

skills and experiences internationally, strengthening not only their own career trajectories but also the wider industry.

A previous scholarship winner, Sophie Mellet, used this opportunity to gain invaluable experience in Australia and France with leading consignors: “The bursary from the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust transformed my career. It gave me opportunities to travel and learn how different racing and breeding enterprises operate globally. The knowledge, experiences, and people that I encountered whilst abroad have helped shape me as a person and led me into the direction of the industry that I currently work in today.” - Sophie Mellet, 2021 Gerald Leigh Scholarship for Career Development in the Thoroughbred Industry winner.

The National Stud is immensely proud of the achievements made possible through the generosity of the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust. Their ongoing support has not only created life-changing opportunities for individuals but has also safeguarded the future of the thoroughbred breeding industry by investing in its most vital resource — its people.

**Abbie Taylor, Education Manager, The National Stud**

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The Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust has been a wonderful supporter of the Wavertree Education Trust, over the last ten years. The GLCT has helped us with funding to enable TWET to develop tomorrow’s equine staff at The National Stud. However, GLCT has been much more than a source of funds. The sharing of their knowledge, and their “best practice” has been invaluable to us. Furthermore, the GLCT have been innovative, and interested, and have forged excellent relationships both with the Wavertree Education Trust, and with the students. We very much enjoy collaborating with GLCT.

**William Sporborg, Chair of Trustees, The Wavertree Education Trust**

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The Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust has long been one of the most impactful and trusted partners of the National Stud’s Education Programme. The format and structure of our courses have been through a period of significant change over the past 5 years and GLCT has been at the forefront in supporting the team in its endeavours to enhance relevance, diversity and accessibility.

**Anna Kerr, Chief Executive, The National Stud**

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Gerald Leigh was a remarkable man who managed to turn his talents to horse breeding on an internationally successful scale. His inquisitive mind was something I was always struck by, and he used this to great effect when ascending the bloodstock world.

Through the GLCT, he has given a pathway for many to follow in his footsteps. This is a huge tribute to the man who had the foresight, patience and energy to achieve his goals with great modesty.

**Lord Grimthorpe, Chairman of The National Stud**

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## WheelPower

We are hugely grateful to the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust for their wonderful support of the Inter Spinal Unit Games here at Stoke Mandeville Stadium. Each year, around 100 newly paralysed men and women attend the Games and have the opportunity to try and compete in over 20 different sports. As someone who has lived with a spinal injury for over 45 years, I never cease to be amazed by the impact this event has in transforming people's lives. We see first-hand how sport supports rehabilitation, improving physical health and wellbeing, building confidence, and helping people discover what is possible after injury. Just as importantly, it changes perceptions, breaks down barriers, and creates a sense of community and belonging. Thanks to the generosity of the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust, we can continue to provide this life-changing opportunity to people at the start of their journey, giving them hope and inspiration for the future.

Thanks to the generous funding from The Gerald Leigh Trust, to date, WheelPower has been able to welcome over 350 spinal cord-injured patients to Stoke Mandeville Stadium to take part in the Inter Spinal Unit Games since 2022.

Some quotes from recent participants are shown below.

*"I've really enjoyed the Games, and it's been an eye opener to the things you can do. It's been good to try out lots of things I wouldn't normally try, like the wheelchair rugby, weightlifting, wheelchair tennis and handcycling, and my competitive juices came out which was quite nice. I loved the basketball, but I really liked the physicality of the rugby and will look into a local club when I get home." Mo, 47, Stanmore Spinal Unit Team 2022.*

*"Taking part in the Spinal Games was an incredible experience. It was inspiring to be surrounded by so many athletes, all pushing their limits and trying new sports. I had the chance to explore different activities, but archery and fencing really stood out to me. After an introduction and practice, winning the archery event felt like an amazing achievement. The sense of camaraderie and the joy of competing made the entire event unforgettable." Laura, Belfast Spinal Unit 2023.*

*"The Games opened my eyes and I'm glad I got to try so many different sports. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to attend". Mark, 38, Stoke Mandeville Team 2024."*

To follow on the next page, is a copy of the forward from HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh GCVO and WheelPower's Patron, from WheelPower's 2025 Inter Spinal Unit Games which took place at Stoke Mandeville Stadium from 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> September 2025, which was supported by the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust.

**Martin McElhatton OBE, Chief Executive, WheelPower**

## **The Inter Spinal Unit Games at Stoke Mandeville**

### **Benefits for Participants who attend the Games -**

- Teamwork/Sportsmanship.
- Pushing physical activity boundaries and breaking down the barriers to physical activity – linking in with disability sport to facilitate their needs.
- Opportunity to see a variety of different sports with amazing coaching and support staff. To try sporting equipment not otherwise accessible locally (ie some sports chairs, handcycles etc).
- Opportunity to have peer support with others of a similar injury – share rehabilitation journeys and learn from each other on how they approach different tasks.
- Exposure to flying to/from the event in an aeroplane with special assistance and being able to direct their own needs. (e.g. what is advisable to bring into the cabin versus put in hold bags”.
- Learning to navigate a different environment in the residential dormitories.
- Exposure on how to integrate with their own families when participating in sport.
- Inspiring to the participants to be in such a positive/fun environment.

### **Benefits to the Spinal Unit/Staff who attend the Games –**

- Linking the WheelPower staff who support the Physical Activity Advisors in the Units.
- Networking and peer support with other Units to see how they facilitate sport locally/how much they offer/identifying what are the barriers/facilitators to this?
- Networking with the Coaching Staff from each sport and relating this locally to where each sport can be accessed.
- Linking up with the Coaching Staff to attend the Unit for sports sessions.
- Being able to see equipment used to facilitate different sports, for potential to fundraise and purchase for the Unit.
- Huge job satisfaction from being part of the Games – many staff have said previously that this embodies why spinal injuries are their speciality as it is 24 hours/holistic rehabilitation.

### **Feedback from Participants from the 2025 Inter Spinal Unit Games –**

“I did not realise the amount and scope of different activities that are available to people with limited mobility. In addition, the easiness of some activities, which previously I would have thought of as difficult”. Mark, Oswestry.

“A lovely experience, nothing like I expected. Lots of good fun with different people from all over the UK and Republic of Ireland. Thank you so much”. Dot, Oswestry.

“I have enjoyed the past few days. It has been interesting learning new sports and activities and meeting other people with disabilities. Since being home, I’d like to source local tennis or badminton clubs”. Alison, Oswestry.

“I have definitely taken so much away from the last few days. The whole team has been fantastic. I don’t think I have smiled so much post spinal cord injury”. Craig, Glasgow.

“Up there with one of the most inspirational experiences of my life”. Steve, Glasgow.

“I’m so buzzing to try out some sports and hopefully be playing with a team in to time.” Steven, Glasgow.

#### **Feedback from Participants from the 2024 Inter Spinal Unit Games -**

“It’s a really fantastic event that opened my eyes to so many opportunities in sport. It was definitely the pinnacle of all my rehab. I’m still not over the second-place table tennis”. Dublin.

“Rugby was the last sport I wanted to try post spinal cord injury, but after playing at the Games, I am now playing competitively.” Dean, Glasgow.

“A brilliant week that I won’t forget. Memories for life and I had so much fun. I am now pursuing disability sports coaching at college after my experience at the Games.” Paul, Glasgow.

“Such an amazing experience for life skills as well as sporting activities. I have since been on five flights, one of them just two weeks after the Games, so that I could present a conference in London. The overall experience gives you confidence meeting new people, pushing your boundaries and getting to know and direct your needs. Hugely beneficial to living life post spinal cord injury and great fun”. David (ex-MP), Glasgow.

**Lynsey Warnock, Team Lead Physiotherapist, Queen Elizabeth National Spinal Injuries Unit, Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow**



It is my great pleasure to welcome you to WheelPower's 2025 Inter Spinal Unit Games here at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, the birthplace of the Paralympic movement and a truly inspiring place to begin your journey in sport.

These Games offer a unique opportunity to explore a wide range of sports and activities, helping you discover what you enjoy and what you may wish to continue after this event. Sport and physical activity can play a vital role in your rehabilitation, helping to rebuild strength, confidence, and independence. Many who have come before you have found that sport is not only a way to stay active but also a powerful tool for enhancing physical and mental well-being, fostering friendships, and opening doors to new experiences.

WheelPower are committed to supporting you, not only during these Games but throughout your journey into an active life. Whether you are trying a sport for the first time or rediscovering your competitive spirit, we want to help you achieve your personal best.

These Games are the cornerstone of WheelPower's mission, and we are proud to provide an environment where you can challenge yourself, connect with others, and create lasting memories. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our coaches, volunteers, event organisers, and the generosity of our donors and supporters, including the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust, whose contributions ensure that this event continues to change lives year after year.

We hope that your time here is filled with inspiration, achievement, and joy. Sport has the power to transform lives, and we want you to know that WheelPower will be here for you now and in the future, helping you stay active and connected to a community that believes in your potential.

Enjoy every moment, embrace new challenges, and most of all, have fun! Good luck to all the teams taking part this year, I wish you every success.

HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh GCVO  
Patron