

# CBHS Show Report – AGM, 18th October 2025

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The 2025 show season was marked by both exciting developments and ongoing challenges, with weather, sponsorship, and participation all playing key roles in shaping the year.

We were fortunate to enjoy warm weather in May for the Royal Windsor Horse Show (RWHS), allowing the Cleveland Bays to truly shine under the expert eye of judge Mrs Heather Ketley. A notable addition this year was the introduction of Part Bred classes, made possible through the efforts of Cecilia Lindsay, who secured sponsorship. These classes were well supported, thanks in part to generous attendance sponsorship from Beverley & Jim Heffernan, and a reorganisation of trophies to ensure recognition across all four Cleveland Bay sections:

- The Thomsonbrook Cup – Pure Bred Ridden, awarded to HM The King with Wyevale Harry
- The Penrose Plate – Part Bred Ridden, awarded to HM The King with St Ives
- The Cholderton Cup – Pure Bred In Hand, awarded to Emily Fisher with Bahian Terminator
- The Folds Trophy – Part Bred In Hand, awarded to Jo Strange with Strawacre Ixybelle

Due to time and financial constraints, the inclusion of these new classes meant the Overall Championship was not held this year. However, we are optimistic that with further sponsorship, it can be reinstated in 2026.

In June, at the Royal Three Counties Show, judged by Mrs Laura Hamilton, Bahian Terminator (Emily Fisher) once again took Champion, with Scarholme Gaia (Jackie Sparrow) in Reserve.

July brought record-breaking heat to the Great Yorkshire Show, but Cleveland Bays were fortunate to be first in the Ridings Ring, allowing them to compete in cooler conditions. This show marked a special occasion as Mr James Stephenson, former President and Secretary, judged his final show alongside Mrs Gilly Dimmock, celebrating 60 years of dedication to the breed. Champions included:

- Springlea Serendipity (Elaine Keith) – Champion
- Braithwaite Mulsanne (Messrs Anderson & Lea) – Reserve
- Brackenbrae Magnus (John Bennett) – Champion Part Bred
- Barbarian Hot Gossip (Jo Firth) – Reserve Part Bred

We were pleased to see the Liskeard Show trial a Cleveland Bay section this year, coordinated by Emily Fisher. This represents a valuable opportunity to promote the breed in the South West, and we hope it becomes a regular fixture.

Despite token support from the HBLB, entry numbers across many shows remained low, particularly at the Heritage Show. Nonetheless, quality prevailed, with Jo Firth's colt Barbarian Maverick remaining unbeaten throughout the season.

The Sport Horse Breeding (GB) National Hunter Championships at Addington once again hosted Cleveland Bay classes. Thanks to the dedication of members who raised the necessary sponsorship, the event saw a strong turnout. Judge Sarah Ramsden praised the quality and presentation of the entries. Notable results included:

- Knocksaul Dream Maker (Tina Billingsley) – Champion Pure Bred In Hand
- Villiers Queen of the Night (Tina Billingsley) – Reserve

A new and exciting addition to the calendar was the Search For A Star amateur series, offering grassroots competitors the chance to qualify for Your Horse Live at Stoneleigh. Two Cleveland Bays qualified for the Grand Final:

- Bahian Terminator (Emily Fisher)
- Braithwaite Countryman (Kim Morton)

We wish them the very best as they represent the breed on a national stage in November.

As we approach the end of the season, with only Stokesley Show remaining, we extend our best wishes to all competitors still to take part—whether at local level, HOYS, or YHL. To everyone who has supported the breed by attending shows this year: thank you.

Special thanks go to our dedicated panel of Cleveland Bay judges, especially those assisting with the Judges Assessment Programme. Our two probationary judges have each attended three shows under the guidance of experienced panel members and are progressing well toward full accreditation for next season.