



Cleveland Bay Horse Society

Registered Charity No. 293872
Registered Company No. 00022866

Bents Farm
Braithwaite
Summerbridge
Harrogate
HG3 4AN

Telephone: 07895 535147
Email: clevelandbayoffice@gmail.com
Website: www.clevelandbay.com

CHAIR'S REPORT TO MEMBERS

Annual General Meeting 2026

Dear Members,

As we approach this year's Annual General Meeting, I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has supported the Cleveland Bay Horse Society over the past year.

The Society continues to rely heavily on the commitment of its volunteers, committee members and Council. I am extremely grateful to everyone who gives their time, whether regularly or occasionally, to help with the many tasks required to keep the Society moving forward. I would also like to thank those members and supporters who have contributed financially through donations and fundraising. Every contribution, however large or small, is appreciated and helps us to continue our work.

It is particularly encouraging that we have seen an increase in fundraising activity over the past year. Because our financial year ends relatively early, much of this improvement is not yet fully reflected in the accounts before members at this AGM. Nevertheless, it is a positive development, and I hope that we can build upon it. Fundraising remains an important part of securing the Society's future, and I would encourage members to become involved wherever they can.

More broadly, Council continues to work on improving the Society's financial position. There is no single solution to this, and it will require a combination of careful financial management, appropriate fees, fundraising and continued support from our membership. These are not always straightforward matters, but they are necessary if we are to put the Society on a sounder footing for the future.

This brings me back to a question that members have reasonably asked: "What do I get for my subscription?"

The answer is more than a list of individual membership benefits. The Cleveland Bay Horse Society exists to promote, preserve and support the continued survival of the Cleveland Bay horse. As a rare breed, we have a particular responsibility to maintain the breed and support those who are working to produce the next generation.

A significant proportion of the Society's resources is invested in this work. Your subscription helps to fund breeding support and other activities undertaken for the benefit of the breed. It also contributes towards the Society's wider work, including maintaining the breed register, supporting members and breeders, providing information and representation, and promoting the Cleveland Bay.

Membership also provides a number of more immediate benefits, including preferential registration rates, access to HBLB-associated grants, Society representation at shows, regular communications, and the opportunity to participate in the governance of the Society through voting and attendance at the Annual General Meeting.

In other words, membership is not simply a subscription for a service. It is a contribution towards the continued existence and future of the breed we all value. We make no apology for saying this plainly: without the support of its members, the Society could not undertake this work.

There is, however, some particularly encouraging news from the registration side of the Society. We have seen a significant increase in applications for basic licences over the past year. This is a welcome development and provides some positive evidence of renewed activity around the breed. We hope that this will translate into further breeding and registration activity in the years ahead.

There is still much to do. We need to continue to encourage breeding, support our breeders, raise funds and involve more people in the work of the Society. Above all, we need to continue working together. The Cleveland Bay is a remarkable breed with a long and important history, but its future depends upon what we do now.

I would therefore encourage all members to take an interest, get involved where they can, and consider how they might contribute. Whether through volunteering, fundraising, breeding, promoting the breed, making a donation, or simply remaining an active member, every contribution helps.

On behalf of Council, I would once again like to thank all our volunteers, donors, breeders, members and supporters for everything they have done during the past year. We are working to improve the Society's position and to create a better and more sustainable situation going forward, both for the Society and, most importantly, for the Cleveland Bay horse.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Stonehouse', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Matthew Stonehouse

Chair, Cleveland Bay Horse Society