



Cleveland Bay Horse Society

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SHOW COMMITTEE REPORT

Annual General Meeting 2026

Despite the wider, economy-related decline in entries experienced by many breeds and shows across the UK, we have retained all but one of our Cleveland Bay sections. The sole loss resulted from the cancellation of Malton Show itself. Exhibitors appear to have concentrated on fewer, larger events, with entries at county shows maintaining or increasing numbers and quality.

The CBHS continues to offer incentives to encourage show attendance, and the HBLB show attendance funding budget has been maintained for 2026. Grants have been offered to members attending any UK show with a Cleveland Bay section, subject to a cap per owner. HBLB-funded breeder recognition for champions and reserves at the major shows has also been well received. These payments are intended as a modest contribution rather than a subsidy towards the cost of showing. HBLB funding continues to require matched funding, and the Society is not in a position to offer prize money or sponsorship directly to shows.

Individual sponsors, many of them members, remain exceptionally generous in providing prize money, rosettes and trophies. Some have supported us for many years, and we have also welcomed new prize and trophy sponsors this year, particularly for youngstock where classes have been amalgamated rather than lost.

Our wealth of Cleveland Bay trophies, available at both large and small shows, is a valued legacy of the breed's distinguished history. Alongside the silverware presented at the AGM for the points competition, the President's Challenge for 2026 offers a substantial prize fund. Together, these incentives reflect the Show Committee's commitment to encouraging participation in pure-bred and part-bred Cleveland Bay classes and membership of the Society.

The CBHS website remains the principal source of information for those wishing to enter Cleveland Bay classes in the UK. We welcomed P&P's initiative in 2026 to introduce a Showing Directory within the website's Shows section, alongside the main Show Diary, entry rules and guidance on showing etiquette.

Shows and competitions provide an important shop window for the breed. With this in mind, the Show Committee has decided to focus on promoting the Cleveland Bay as an excellent and versatile riding horse, capable of holding its own across a wide range of Riding Club activities against other breeds. We are also exploring opportunities for Cleveland Bays in qualifying competitions, such as those offered by Equine Sports UK, where qualifying for national finals could help raise the breed's profile.

Although recent retirements have reduced our Judges Panel, three new or returning member judges will join the panel for 2027. Our President travelled to the USA to judge Cleveland Bays, a huge privilege and one which we hope we can repeat in future years. We continue to consider candidates for assessment, and collaboration with other breed societies remains essential to this work. We have received an invitation to a Conformation Clinic from the Irish Draught Society in October and encourage aspiring judges and stewards as well as existing judges to attend.

The work of the Show and P&P Committees often overlaps, and effective collaboration enables the two to complement one another. Inviting committee volunteers to attend meetings this year has given enthusiastic members an insight into the role of a trustee and the work of these two prominent, often frontline committees. Their work has included organising sponsorship, liaising with show secretaries, coordinating judging appointments, and collating and publishing results. I am most grateful to everyone on the Show Committee for their commitment to ensuring that this year's show season ran as smoothly as possible.

Show Committee members

Elaine Keith (Chair), Coleen Benfold, Claire O'Connell, Sarah Ramsden (cv), Michelle Snooks (cv), Tracey Williams (cv), Reece Wolfenden (cv)