

IceHNZ Newsletter

OCTOBER 2015 ISSUE 3



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From the Board

I'm glad to say that winter seems well and truly over, as the birds are busy building their nests, the trees are in full bloom and our horses are shedding their mammoth coats like there is no tomorrow! Sudda certainly is, as you can see, and being a blue dun, she's changing colour as she goes from browny beige to blue-ish grey, quite fascinating! I hope you are all getting yourselves and your horses fit and ready for some lovely trail rides as the weather gets better and we move towards summer.

Speaking of trail rides; have you signed up yet for the FEIF Home to Hólar ride? It is the new virtual ride to Landsmót 2016, where you count your kilometres as you ride about on the trails and have fun sharing your experiences with others. This is a great chance to be part of something worldwide, no matter where you are, and connect with leisure Icelandic horse riders from all over the globe. New Zealand's team the Southern Belles welcomes new riders, so get in touch if you want to know more.

In this newsletter you can read about the survey we sent out in August regarding activities for all you Icelandic horse lovers. We've had a great response, so thank you all for that! Hopefully we can get some fantastic events happening in the upcoming summer period, but remember, we need you to make it happen too! Some members have already stepped up to organize something, which is wonderful.

The World Championships Icelandic Horses 2015 took place in Herning, Denmark, and, while New Zealand did not participate as such, we had our very own representative Monika Huber there, who has recently moved to New Zealand from Austria. She was present in Herning and you can read her report in this issue.

What else can you read about in this newsletter? The members in the Christchurch area had another great clinic with Jennie Boerema, see impression and photos. One of our new members, Carmen, introduces herself and her lovely horse Mila; welcome to IceHNZ Carmen! And Julia Reeves writes about Le Trec, a fairly unknown but exciting discipline within the equestrian world. As we can conclude from the member survey results, most members would love to hear what others are doing with their Icelandic horses, and what better way than to write something for our newsletter! We love your photos too, so if you've done something exciting with your horse, achieved a great milestone in their training, enjoyed a wonderful ride...or you think you just have the best horse ever...send us your stories and photos. Enjoy spring!

On behalf of the Board,
Sofia



Icelandic Horses New Zealand Inc.

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Member Profile: Carmen Schill

Hi all,

My name is Carmen and since 6 weeks I'm the happy owner of an Icelandic horse.

My first contact, 9 month ago, with the Icelandic horses, was at Inga's horse trek, in Christchurch. It was great, I just loved it.

I'm from Germany. My family and I moved 7 years ago to NZ. I always wanted to ride, but it didn't work out in Germany. But here, in NZ, I started 3 years ago with riding lessons. I enjoyed it very much. But I wasn't confident enough to have my own horse.

This changed when I was riding an Icelandic horse. After some research, my husband and I decide I would get an Icelandic horse.

As you probably all know this is not easy. There are not a lot around. I was looking for a well-trained older one. We found a 7 year old mare, but it didn't work out.

Then there was Mila, 4- 5 years. An energetic Icelandic horse from Kenneth, in Pukekohe. I thought this would be too much for me as a starter horse. But we decided to fly to Auckland and have a look. I saw her and really liked her. Even my husband, who is not into horses, liked her immediately. After I had ridden her I was sure this is my horse and with some help I can make it work. So we bought her.

I did a two day horse training with Mila at Kenneth's place. This was really helpful. Many thanks to Kenneth and Snejina.

At the moment I just do some ground work with her and we go out for walks. It's all so new for me, and thanks to Inga, Lizz, Jennie, my horse neighbours and many others, I can do it. I really enjoy working with Mila, she is so willing, and likes to work.

Unfortunately my saddle hasn't arrived yet, but I'm looking forward to go riding with her.

My horsey neighbours already offered, they would ride with me, because Mila is still young and needs a calm horse with her. She also has a nice paddock mate from the neighbour, which is great.

We often just enjoy watching her. She is really sweet and lovely. I think, I'm so lucky to have her and can't wait to go riding with her.

Carmen Schill

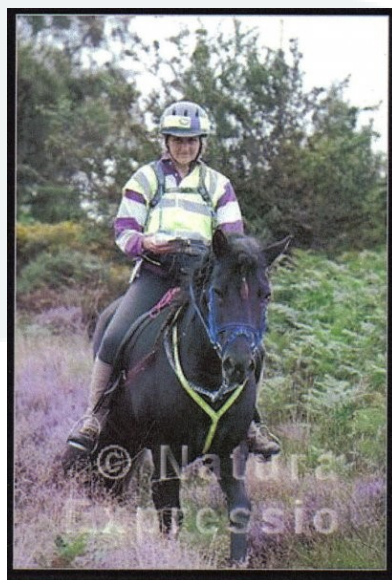


My Adventures into Le Trec

By Julia Reeves, ably supported by Lizz Read

Back in my former life in the UK just before we emigrated, having been there done that with showing, jumping and dressage I decided to have a go at Le Trec. Le Trec was originally started in France. A full event consists of 3 phases - a 20 km (at the beginner level) orienteering/map reading ride with set speeds and an optimum time. One penalty is given for every minute early or early plus penalties added or subtracted at spot checks which may be on or off the trail so you don't know if you're in the right or wrong place. The second phase is the control of paces. You ride along a set corridor marked with cones, sand etc. You need to canter as slowly as possible without breaking pace for up to 150m. At the end you turn around and walk back as fast as you can, again without breaking pace. The final phase and the best part is a course of 16 obstacles usually set out as a cross country course would be across farmland.

I decided to start with an indoor winter event. My horse at the time was a very laid-back 18 year old Icey called Randver fra Ey who I had on loan and who I loved to bits. The only thing he didn't like, according to his owner, was loading into a float which could well be on the course. I also found out he really didn't like pigs but luckily pigs weren't generally a Le Trec obstacle.



At this event which was to be just the obstacles section the course included a bridge, bending poles, immobility, a small jump a narrow canter corridor and other obstacles that we could meet out on a ride. We rode into the eerily quiet indoor school to start our round, not knowing how anyone else had got on and with no idea how the next 6 minutes were going to unfold or whether we were about to make total idiots of ourselves.

We started off crossing the bridge easily, followed by tölting the bending poles which counted as trot so we scored 7/10. As we successfully completed obstacle after obstacle both Randver and I were thoroughly enjoying ourselves. As suspected, there was a float to walk through, I presented him at it, got a big fat no, so moved quickly to the remaining obstacles which we also completed easily and fooled the judges into believing we knew what we were doing. As we crossed the finish line, the previously silent gallery erupted into applause. When we went to check the results my friend told me we were the only one to get applause and she reckoned we were top 3. I was gobsmacked to learn that even with no score for the float, we had not only won but won easily with many maximum scores and had had such a blast at the same time.

A Friday afternoon the following spring found Randver and I going north from our home in Birmingham to Shropshire to compete in our first 2 day, 3 phase Le Trec. Despite an eventful journey involving a double tyre blow out on my horse truck and the whole 6 lanes of the motorway having to be closed because of it (whoops), we made it to the event much earlier than many who had got stuck in the most horrendous traffic jam on the motorway and did I see anything? I said very honestly that I didn't see any problems in front of me!!

Saturday came and we had 5 minutes in the map room to copy the route from the master map onto our own copy. Then we were off whilst trying to work out which way was up, where was north and where the heck were we supposed to go? We had a fabulous ride across lovely countryside. There were a few tricky moments when the map indicated I should go one way but the compass indicated I went another. I managed not to get lost and came back within a decent time to put me in 3rd place overnight which I was stoked with. Randver then publicised he was a laid-back Icelandic by doing just that - he lay down in the warm sunshine in his makeshift paddock and snored loudly for the rest of the afternoon attracting lots of attention by doing just nothing.

The next day dawned bright and sunny. We got a few points in the slow canter and a few more for the fastest walk. We then had great fun on the obstacles set on a cross country course and included the usual selection of low branches, gate opening and water crossing. Our practice over the winter with the horse float paid off as we got full marks for it. I thought we had done a half decent round and really enjoyed ourselves. We had to leave before the results were out to make the return, uneventful journey. It wasn't until the next day when a friend emailed me congratulating me on our win and an amazing score for the obstacles section, that I realised we had won our first full Le Trec. We did a few more Trecs that year, coming 3rd at the British Championships and 4th in the year's overall championship all in our first year.



Le Trec hasn't really taken off here yet although Lizz and I took Linda for her first public outing to an indoor Trec in Christchurch in August. Linda was a total star. Being the smallest in the competition she was the first to go as the low branches would be raised for each competitor. She took everything in her stride and was an awesome ambassador for the breed. From 30 competitors they were 5th in the control of paces and 5th in the obstacles. We were absolutely delighted to learn that when the 2 phases were combined they came second. Not bad for a first outing!

Lizz and I play at home with Linda and Brynja using a home-made bridge, poles, curtain, narrow corridors, tarpaulin and anything else we can come up with. We would like to invite anyone with an Icey, whether a member of IceHNZ or not, to come and have a playdate with us. The only stipulation is that your horse has had at least some training in groundwork/leading as my hubby may object to the possibility of horses running around the garden escaped and unaccompanied.

Once I know the interest we will work out what the day would entail. I envisage one of us will demonstrate in hand and then people can have a go. I am hoping there may be an opportunity for non-owners to have a go and absolutely all are welcome. We could have a very informal competition and then move on to ridden where again Lizz or I will demonstrate not how it should be done but how it could be done!! Then everyone gets to have a play and again we can have a little competition. We have paddock and camping space. Please let me know your interest by 12 December. Then I will send possible dates around to those people aiming for some time in February. The only charge would be if people would like me to order some ribbons.

Please email me on randjreeves@gmail.com We are in Fernside, 45 km north of Christchurch between Rangiora and Oxford.

Come and play with us - you know you want to :)

Workshop with Jennie Boerema

By Inga from Christchurch Icelandic Horse Treks

Since Jennie's first workshop here in Christchurch in November last year was very well received, it was time to have her back again. Luckily we had picked the gloriously sunny weekend of 22/23 August to invite her to share some more of her knowledge in riding and working with Icelandic horses with the South Island Icelandic horse enthusiasts.



We had 7 participants with a wide range of knowledge – from complete beginner riders to good riders who just had no Icelandic horse experience to the ones who wanted to improve their skills in riding the gaits. It was great to have two people bring their own horse and

another three who have their own young Icelandic horse waiting at home for their owners to get the necessary skills to ride them when they are broken in.

On Saturday morning everybody arrived with platters of food that would see us through the weekend. After a short introduction the day started with a 30 minute individual lesson for everybody. I had helped Jennie to match my horses to the riders. The morning went quickly and soon it was time for a yummy lunch outside in the sunshine. In the afternoon the participants were grouped in pairs and had a longer lesson together. It certainly was a very busy day for Jennie, who powered on with her usual enthusiasm for these wonderful horses.



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On Sunday morning Jennie took three groups out for a one hour ride along the local horse treks. The skills learned in the arena the day before were now put into practice out in the open. Jennie emphasised how important it is to not only train the Icelandic horse in the arena but also to give them the opportunity to exercise out and about. She gave the participants some ideas how to use the natural terrain for training, for example by using trees to practise bending or hills to improve the gaits. Often a horse is much more willing to work when ridden out – it simply is more fun for horse and rider! The young horses also did very well since they were nice and relaxed being alongside the more experienced trek horses.



After lunch we just had enough time to have a look at some different saddles and how they fit on different shapes of horses. Saddle fitting is certainly an area a lot of horse owners struggle with and which needs lots of experience and knowledge to come to the right decision. We had a variety of saddles from a traditional GP over a treeless model to some saddles made specifically for Icelandic horses. It was very interesting to see how they fitted on the horses and also to try out what it felt like for the rider to sit in them. Jennie gave us some points to look out for when fitting a saddle. She recommended drawing on the advice of a good saddle fitter regularly in order to check if the saddle still fits the ever changing shape of the horse. Certainly a tricky topic especially since Icelandic saddles are hard to come by in New Zealand and it is often not possible to try a variety of saddles on your horse.

Once again the participants left with lots of new skills and tips and food for thought. Jennie was very impressed how riders and horses had progressed positively over the past year and very much enjoyed teaching in Christchurch again.

Thank you very much, Jennie !

Inga from Christchurch Icelandic Horse Treks



Family Fun Day in Christchurch

When? : Saturday 21 November 2015
Where? : Christchurch Icelandic Horse Treks
For who? : Anybody between 2 and 99 years old
What to bring? Your Icelandic horse (if you have one), fancy dress, and your best mood to have some fun!

It is time to have some fun! We're holding a Fun Day for the whole family, with games on foot and on horseback, levels suited to all abilities. Fancy dress competition for kids, adults and horses; and more! Ribbons/spot prizes to be won. Inga from Icelandic Horse treks has very kindly made her horses available for this day., but own horses are very welcome!

If you and your family are interested in attending, can you please email Julia Reeves on randjreeves@gmail.com by Mon 2 November and mention how many people will be coming, their ages, riding ability (if any), and if you are bringing your own horse.

A fun day out for the whole family with the horses... See you all there!



(advertisement)

Christchurch Icelandic Horse Treks

offers horse treks in a small group of up to 4 persons along a tidal lagoon, the beach and in the forest. Christchurch Icelandic Horse Treks is located at the northern outskirts of the South Island's largest city-Christchurch, about 20 mins from the city centre.

If you want to be active and refresh your mind and soul, come and enjoy an exhilarating beach ride with us. Having fun on horseback is what we are about, trying a new and rare breed of horse is an adventure on its own, take a look at our [Trek Options](#) and [Contact Us](#) today.



Two Trainers from Hólar, Iceland at Neðri Bakki in Auckland

Neðri Bakki will host two highly educated trainers, Guðbjörg Matthíasdóttir and Ólöf Rún Guðmundsdóttir, on site for training Icelandic horses and/or riders. They will stay with us from 11 November to 8 December 2015. Both Guðbjörg and Ólöf have been riding and training horses since early age. They have professionally trained Icelandics since 2006. They graduated in 2015 with a Bachelor of Science in Riding & Riding Instruction from Hólar University in Iceland, the official center for education and research in horse-breeding and horsemanship (<http://iceryder.net/holar.html>.)

Guðbjörg has worked as a trainer and instructor in Denmark 2009 and was Assistant trainer for Mette Mannseth (2012), Anton Páll Níelsson (2013) and Sigurbjörn Bárðarson (2014). She competed at Landsmót in 2012 in the young adult class.

Ólöf has worked as Assistant trainer for Sigurður Óli Kristinsson (2010, 2011), Sigurður Sigurðarson (2014) and as a riding teacher at the riding club Máni (2015). She was Icelandic champion in fivegait 2009, reached the Landsmót final as well as the Icelandic championship finals.

Three different options for training with Guðbjörg and Ólöf

You will have the following options to make use of Guðbjörg's and Ólöf's knowledge and expertise while they are at Neðri Bakki:

3-week training of your horse

From 13 November Guðbjörg and Ólöf will take horses in training that will take place at Neðri Bakki Icelandic Horses Stud. You will clarify the training objectives directly with Guðbjörg and Ólöf in the beginning of the programme. Is it about improving tölt, flexibility, subtleness, straightness, transitions or something else? You will have the opportunity to talk to them and agree on what can be achieved in the period. Your horse will be trained 6 times a week and get 1 day off.

3-day workshop – December 4, 5, 6

The workshop will cover various issues around training your Iceland horse and will allow for the opportunity to have individual sessions tailored for your particular needs and wishes. The workshop will cater for all levels of needs - from the more basic issues around preparing for tölt to refinements in terms of how your horse is performing in tölt, e.g. lift, beat, and speed. Depending on individual needs, the workshop will also cover issues, such as preparation for tölt training, improving the tölt by using transitions and speed changes, controlling the topline of the horse, and lateral movements.

All participants will get tailored exercises for themselves and their horse to improve tölt and tölt transitions. The rider learns a step-by-step approach to teach the horse how to do tölt exercises and how to incorporate these exercises into the day-to-day training.

The workshop will be a combination of individual sessions and short presentations of different topics and new perspectives on training Icelandics.

Individual sessions

If you are not living too far away from Neðri Bakki, Pukekohe, you can also book individual sessions with either Guðbjörg or Ólöf during the period they are with us.

Prices

Horses in training: 160\$ per week plus 10\$ per day boarding fee

Workshop: 185\$ per person

Individual sessions of 50 min., anytime from 13 November to 3 December: 45\$

How to book or request more information

Please send an e-mail to husted.kenneth@gmail.com or info@icehorse.co.nz

Trail Ride in Christchurch

31 October 2015

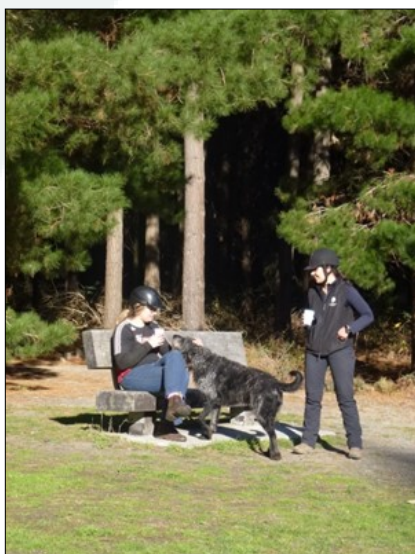
I would like to invite members to take part in a trail ride on Saturday, 31 October 2015. You can either ride one of my horses or bring your own horse to join us for all or part of the ride.

We will start at my place and take about 2 hrs to ride either along the beach or through the forest (tide depending) to a picnic spot where we will have a nice picnic and give the horses a rest. Then we ride back the other way which will also take about 2 hrs. Non-riders are most welcome to join the picnic, which will be at the Bottle Lake Forest horse float parking area.

You are welcome to join us with your own horse and there are several options to shorten the route or just do one way and float the horse back in case they are not fit enough to go the whole way. If you are from further afield, you and your horse are welcome to stay overnight at my house.

At this stage there are still 2 spots (half a ride each) available on one of my horses. Please let me know soon if you are keen to take part and need a horse.

Contact Inga for further information at inga@icelandichorsetreks.co.nz or 027 5050542



Go Southern Belles!

New Virtual Ride: Home to Hólar

Join the New Zealand team on the way to Landsmót 2016

A new virtual ride, 'Home to Hólar', has recently started after the worldwide success of the previous ride to the World Championships in Herning, which finished in August. This time riders from all over the world ride to Hólar, Iceland, where at the end of June 2016 the National Championships will be held at the famous Landsmót.

As this was a fantastic and fun way to connect Icelandic horse riders from all over the world and be involved in leisure riding, some riders of the previous New Zealand team (Kiwi Tölvers) have formed a new team, the 'Southern Belles', to once again ride together to get to Hólar. However, we would love more riders from NZ to join us! If you ride out your Icelandic horse on the trails and would like to join in this fun event, then register here <http://feif-virtual.weebly.com/registration---and-other-forms.html> today! More info/rules about the ride can be found on the same 'Home to Hólar' website.

HOW?

The idea is simple: (1) you calculate the distance from your home to Hólar - [here](#) , and (2) you follow your normal riding routines. (3) Register, and start noting down and adding up all kilometres you spend riding out (you can use an app on your phone, such as MapmyRun or Endomondo, or estimate your distance with a map). Every month you send in your total ridden km, and your personal total distance is displayed on a common scoreboard. You will be astonished as to how far we all get.

As we are so far away in New Zealand, the distance to Iceland will be quite daunting! This is why all riders may become part of a team and add their ridden distances together to get to the target. The size of the team is somewhat determined by the total distance you have to achieve, and additional riders can join in at any time. Also remember, our horses are social creatures, they love good company. Team work is half the work, and shared fun is double the fun!

Once you have registered, please also join our Facebook site, become part of a community with a common aim, and share the highlights of your ride. And for those of us lucky enough to actually be at Landsmót in 2016, there will be an opportunity to meet other riders from the virtual ride face to face.

So, if you've decided you want to join the Home to Hólar ride this year, this is what you need to do:

1. **Register** yourself individually here: <http://feif-virtual.weebly.com/registration---and-other-forms.html>. You have to do this first, or you won't be in the 'central' system.
2. To join the NZ team 'Southern Belles': please email Sofia on secretary.icehnz@gmail.com , so I can add your name to the list!
3. Happy riding! (don't forget to submit your individual distances each month, I will send reminders out for those who've joined)

Don't forget, the actual riding that you do can be by yourself or (more fun!) in a group. It doesn't matter if you ride almost every day or only a few times a month (like me J). The Home to Hólar ride is not a race, it is all about bringing people with a passion for the Icelandic horse together and having fun while out riding! If you're on Facebook, don't forget to join the Facebook group 'Home to Hólar' (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/811892652263570/>), where you can share photos and experiences of your rides and connect with others doing the same.

Hope to see many of you join the team!



Summary of Findings IceHNZ Survey - August 2015

As you may recall, the IceHNZ Board sent out a survey in August to all members, asking you to supply us with some feedback regarding activities for Icelandic horse owners and enthusiasts in New Zealand. As IceHNZ Board, we aim to encourage members to engage in activities involving Icelandic horses and share their passion, knowledge and enjoyment together.

Thank you very much to all of you who responded to this survey, your time and effort is much appreciated. Your responses provide us with very valuable feedback and show us what you, as members, want to take part in within the Icelandic Horse community in New Zealand.

As we are only a small association with a small membership, and have our members spread out over the whole geographical area of New Zealand, organizing activities that are accessible to everyone can be quite a challenge. Through this survey we wanted to find out what sort of activities people are interested in, and gauge interest for specific events among our members if anything was to be organized in their area.

Results

The survey was sent out to 38 members, and 71% responded, which is a great participation rate.

The results show that trail rides, clinics specifically for Icelandic horses and getting together with other Icelandic horse owners are the most popular types of activities that our members are interested in by a large margin. (trail ride 85%, social get together with other Icelandic horse enthusiasts 81%, clinic by an Icelandic horse coach 78%).

With regard to clinics, a large majority of respondents (96%) would like to work most on riding and training the gaits of the Icelandic horse. Groundwork and health/maintenance of the Icelandic horse were of interest to 42% of respondents.

When it comes down to travel time to attend an event, most respondents would be willing to travel 1-3 hours (58%) and still a considerable proportion (38%) would be willing to travel more than 3 hours and/or inter-island. And, 80% of respondents would be willing to bring their own horse to an event, where practical and feasible (this may be dependent on distance, fitness of horse/rider or suitability of event).

The last two questions consisted of other ideas for activities or events that were not mentioned in this survey, as well as general comments regarding IceHNZ as an association.

One suggestion for an event was for a 'Have a Go at Le Trec', which is a relatively unknown discipline of equestrian sport here in New Zealand. One of our members has taken the initiative to organize one such activity in the Christchurch area, and more information will be in this newsletter.

General comments were very positive, which is encouraging for the IceHNZ Board to hear.

We would like to thank all those who have taken the time to fill out the survey, it provides us with great insight and feedback as to what you want the association to be.

North Island

In addition to the above survey, an email was sent out afterwards to all North Island members asking for specific feedback regarding activities. In the South Island around Christchurch, a quite close community of Icelandic horse owners has developed over the past year, who regularly organize events and activities, which is very enjoyable for all involved and a great example of what IceHNZ would like to achieve for all members.

Likewise, there are quite a few members in the North Island, especially in the Auckland area, and it would be great to see this area develop some closer ties as well. We realize some of you are pretty much the only Icelandic horse owner in a wide geographic area, and this obviously creates more of a challenge to connect with others and attend events. However, we would still like to encourage you to get involved, perhaps by hosting an event yourself.



We asked what people would like to see organized, how far they would travel and if they would be willing to host an event. We've had a very good response to this! A few members have offered to host a trail ride (bring own horses) and there would be options south of Auckland, Northland (Kerikeri) and lower North Island (Fielding/ Palmerston North area). A small group of Icey owners goes riding on a very regular basis in the South Auckland area, and anyone wanting to join this group would be most welcome.

Another couple of members have offered to either welcome people to their existing clinic (Neðri Bakki) or host a clinic with use of their facilities, including an arena and oval track, if there were a professional Icelandic horse trainer available for coaching. These are all fantastic opportunities to organize events and bring the Icelandic Horse community together.

Our IceHNZ Board members are working hard to make things happen, but remember, IceHNZ would not exist without the efforts of its members! It seems there are quite a few opportunities that can be developed, but we need people to take the initiative and ownership to follow through and transform those opportunities into reality. So, if you are happy to organize something and get the ball rolling in your area, get in touch!



Press Release



VM2015
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR ICELANDIC HORSES

Everyone has a share in the success of the WC2015

When everything works out well, success is the result. At the World Championships for Icelandic horses in Denmark in August, everything worked out very well. This international event was a great success because everyone contributed in a positive way. Even the weather was awesome during the eventful days.

After a huge international event, nothing beats the feeling of tiredness, happiness and satisfaction, because you know that everything went extremely well.

- This is exactly how we feel after the WC2015 for Icelandic horses. We owe thanks to all the people who came to Denmark, and who brought along a great positive spirit, says Bo Hansen on behalf of the WC2015 Organization, and Manager of the WC2015.

The WC2015 Organization wishes to express its gratefulness to everyone, who took part in the championships: The riders from the 15 participating Nations, the officials from the International Icelandic horse organization, FEIF and the Nordic Icelandic horse organization (NIF), the 500 volunteers (team leaders, track team, cleaning team, security team, parking team, stable team, information team, cafeteria team), sponsors and exhibitors, employees at the city of Herning, Visit Herning, employees at Messecenter Herning, the 90 incoming international journalists and photographers, and the thousands of happy spectators from all over the World.

-No matter where we have been and who we have spoken to, we have been met by smiles and positivity, Bo Hansen emphasizes, as he tries to express his gratitude. Along the way, many have contributed with good ideas, and everyone has shown their good will regarding the WC2015. The support has come not only from people inside the Icelandic horse world, but also from people outside this world.

Bo Hansen stresses, that everyone – participants, organizers, spectators, sponsors, exhibitors, the city, and the media – has a share in the great and unforgettable WC2015, which has been said to be one of the best World championships for Icelandic horses because of the spectacular atmosphere and abundance of happy faces.

- The WC2015 has been an extremely positive experience. We must thank everyone who has in some way or other been a part of this event. To us, this has been extraordinary. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

The WC2015 Organization: Søren Gram, Jens Krarup and Bo Hansen

World Championships 2015 in Herning, Denmark

By Monika Huber

Time is flying and already more than two months passed since I touched down at the Herning competitions grounds to see top riders and their horses competing in all the Icelandic Horse disciplines. As always this week was truly amazing and I can highly recommend a visit to a World Championship to all Icelay fans as it's great to see so many beautiful horses and meet other people who share the same passion.

There were many, many great riders, horses and performances at this WC but for this article I only chose a couple of who I thought were the absolute highlights. Of course this is my personal opinion so please don't be disappointed if your personal favourites are not under the following. The WC blog is still online on www.northbeat.net and quite a lot of posts have also got a slide show with the best shots of the day so there are actually heaps of photos on there if you are interested.

The pace disciplines were a true highlight of these Championships and with two riders breaking the world record especially the pace race was of a very high entertainment factor. The horse-rider combination who really caught my eye were Tumi frá Borgarhóli and Teitur Árnason. They showed very strong performances in all the pace disciplines with very supple and beautifully ridden transitions followed by flying pace at high speed. This extraordinary team came first in the pace test with a total of 8,50, third in the pace race with a best time of 21,52 and sixth in Speedpace with 7,43 seconds.



Photo: Ulrich Neddens

The winners of the Fourgait V1 and new World Champions in this test are Guðmundur Björgvinsson and Hrímnir frá Ósi from Iceland. At high speed these two Vikings were racing around the oval track in the last section the fast tempo tolt which was rewarded by the judges with three nines for this part of the test. 'Gummi' as the Icelanders call him did an amazing job showing his white stallion in a very harmonious way.

(advertisement)

Neðri Bakki Icelandic Horses

is located in Pukekohe and offers a wide range of services and products: ☐ Training with certified ESNZ coach ☐ Breaking in Icelandic Horses ☐ Trail riding on our well-trained Icelandics ☐ Workshops ☐ Tourist accommodation ☐ Top quality Hrímnir saddles and bridles ☐ Service from chestnut stallion with top pedigree (of Gustur frá Grund) We offer all members of IceHNZ 5% discount on all training, trail riding and tourist accommodation.

Please go to www.icehorse.co.nz for more information or contact us via phone on 092384845 or 021745133 .



Another highlight of the WC 2015 were the winners of the fourgait combination Johanna Tryggvason and Fönix frá Sydra-Vatnsholti who were in the lead in T2 after the preliminaries and in second place in the Fourgait. Johanna and Fönix impressed with accentuated tolt and extreme trot and canter.



This years spectators had the privilege to see the first woman in history to ever win the famous tolt horn. Kristín Lárusdóttir and Þokki frá Efstu-Grund convinced audience and judges with very precise speed changes and a high speed extended tempo tolt. Þokki is now located in Germany with his new owner Irene Reber.





He was the undefeated tolt champion for so many years...defending World Champion Jóhann Rúnar Skúlason was in the lead one more time after the preliminaries but ended up in the fourth place in the finals. It is still always a pleasure to watch this man and his horses in the oval track and in fairness the newcomer horse Garpur frá Hojgaarden is only 7 years old. So I think it's safe to say that they will be back :-)

Last but not least I would like to mention a couple of the amazing young riders of these World Championships. Especially the host country Denmark can be very proud of the next generation of young Icelandic horse riders. See below Danish Kristian Tofte Ambo and Tónn frá Ólafsbergi who won bronze in Tolt, won silver in the fivegait combination and came sixth in the fivegait F1. Kristian presented Tónn in very powerful but elegant tolt in both disciplines.

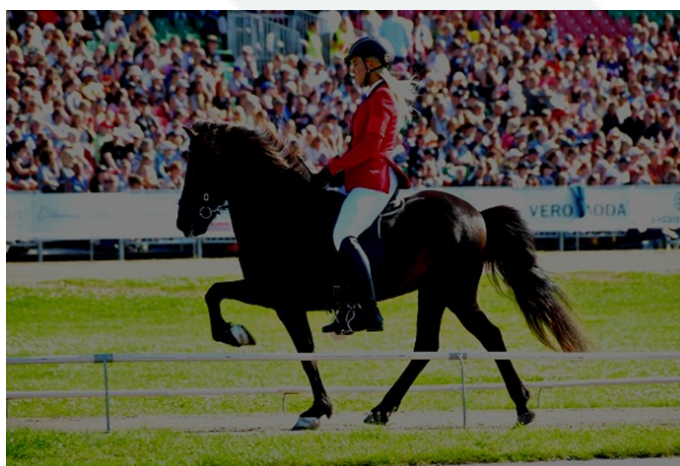


The most successful Danish young rider combination would have been Caroline Poulsen and Helgi frá Stafholti. This team won the T1 tolt final with a dream result of 7,56, came sixth in the fourgait and won gold in the fourgait combination. Caroline and Helgi impressed with their very supple but energetic, harmonious performances. Hopefully we will get to see them in the oval track again at future events.

The ticket sale for the next World Championships in Holland has already started so even if you did not make it this year you can already start saving for 2017 :-)

See you there.

Monika



IceHNZ Activity Agenda 2015/2016

Now- June 2016	Home to Hólar Virtual ride to Landsmót in Iceland 2016 more info see this newsletter or email secretary.icehnz@gmail.com
Sat 31 October	4 hour trail ride (forest/beach) + picnic Christchurch Icelandic Horse treks open to all members, own horses very welcome email inga@icelandichorsetreks.co.nz
Sat 21 November	Family Fun Day Christchurch Icelandic Horse treks dress up and games on horseback for young and old more info in this newsletter or email Julia randjreeves@gmail.com
13 Nov-3 Dec	individual lessons available with two trainers from Hólar university in Iceland Neðri Bakki Icelandic Horses, Pukekohe, Auckland for more info email Kenneth husted.kenneth@gmail.com
4-6 December	3-day workshop with two Hólar university trainers organised by Neðri Bakki Icelandic Horses, Pukekohe, Auckland all levels of riders and horses, own horse or ride one of Neðri Bakki more information in this newsletter or email Kenneth husted.kenneth@gmail.com
January 2016	Marina Nyberg, Icelandic horse trainer from Sweden Christchurch Icelandic Horse treks Marina will be available for individual lessons and horse training for more info email Inga inga@icelandichorsetreks.co.nz
February 2016	Give It A Go: Le Trec event at Julia Reeves' place in Fernside, between Oxford and Rangiora exact date to be confirmed more info in this newsletter or email Julia randjreeves@gmail.com
March 2016	IceHNZ Family weekend more info to follow
May 2016	IceHNZ AGM/activity day more info to follow

Recurring events:

There is a small group that rides out regularly together in the South Auckland area;
contact Jennie on skogarrond@gmail.com for more info.

From March 2016 onwards there will be monthly trail rides in Christchurch, contact Inga at
inga@icelandichorsetreks.co.nz for more info.

If you have an idea or suggestion for an event or want to organise something, trail ride, clinic etc in your area,
please let us know, we are keen to organise events for members and non-members in all corners of New Zealand!
Email Sofia on secretary.icehnz@gmail.com with your ideas and suggestions.

IceHNZ DVD Library

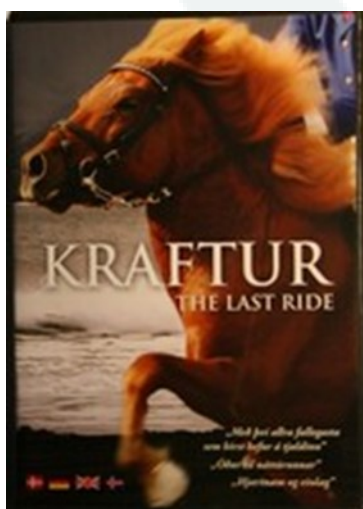
Do you know that we have a small selection of DVDs about Icelandic Horses in general and training DVDs with tips regarding the training and riding the tölt available to borrow for members?

The rules (updated March 2015)

Any member of IceHNZ can request and receive at no cost a maximum of 3 DVDs at the time. You can keep the DVDs for a maximum of 4 weeks, or for a longer period in prior arrangement with and at discretion of IceHNZ. After this period the DVDs need to be sent back to Inga Currey or on to the next member at your own cost.

Here is an overview of what we have available at the moment:

1. "Iceland's favourite horses": History of the Icelandic Horse and general information about the horses and Iceland
2. "Herd in Iceland": A short film about Iceland, the Icelandic people and their love for their horses and the annual horse roundup.
3. "Kraftur- The last Ride": A true story about the journey of an extraordinary horse and its owner/trainer from Iceland to Holland to compete in the World Championships.
4. "Tölt with Diddi": Tips on riding and caretaking of the Icelandic Horse
5. "On Horseback- a Few Basics": An Icelandic Trainer presents the Training and Horsemanship for Icelandic Horses.
6. "On Horseback 2- Outline and Balance": A follow on explaining the basic principles to develop better movements of the Icelandic Horse"
7. "On Horseback 3 - communication between man and horse"



If you would like to have any of these DVDs sent to you, please contact Inga at curreys@xtra.co.nz

T-Shirts, Polos, Vest and Caps for Sale!

The Association is now selling the following articles with a print or embroidery of the logo and name of the association:

1. Black T-Shirt (Cotton) with round neck or V-neck for \$25



2. Black Caps for \$12



3. Dark blue Hoodie with zipper \$40



4. Black Vest (Polyester outer, Microfleece lining, 2 way zipper, zippered outer pockets) for \$65



Postage will occur an additional fee of \$4 to \$6 depending on the size of the bag required.

Orders will be placed from time to time as required. We need to order at least 6 items at the time to be able to deliver at the prices quoted. Payment is required prior to delivery.

If you would like to place an order, please contact Inga on curreys@xtra.co.nz and indicate what size you are usually wearing.

IceHNZ Board Members 2015/16

President:

Jennie Boerema (president@icehnz.org.nz)

Treasurer:

Inga Currey (inga@icelandichorsetreks.co.nz)

Member :**Others:****Registrar/ subscriptions World Fengur**

Sara Russell (sara@dairylivestock.co.nz)

Jennie Boerema (skogarrond@gmail.com)

Website coordinator:

Lizz Read (dizziliz27@gmail.com)

Vice President:

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Secretary:

Sofia Hansrod (secretary@icehnz.org.nz)

Sara Russell (sara@dairylivestock.co.nz)

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Sofia Hansrod (secretary@icehnz.org.nz)

IceHNZ Newsletter layout

Judith Benignus (judith.benignus@gmail.com)

Education Coordinators

Jennie Boerema and Lizz Read

Membership Benefits!

For a small yearly fee, being a member of IceHNZ offers you really great benefits:

- ◆ Free access to the WorldFengur (WF) website. WF is a great resource of information, not only for the breeder but for anyone interested in Icelandic Horses
- ◆ Receive the IceHNZ Newsletter with the latest information and news on Icelandic Horses in New Zealand
- ◆ Discounts on various services / products (see advertisements)
- ◆ Discounts on clinics and trail rides organised by IceHNZ
- ◆ Opportunity to get in touch with other Icelandic horse owners and enthusiasts
- ◆ Advertisements for members in this newsletter are free!

