MINUTES OF THE MANX HORSE COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
Held on Thursday 18th June 2026
At 7pm, Archibald Knox, Onchan

Present:

Suzanne Corlett (Chair), Caroline Millward (Treasurer), Vicky Collister (Secretary), Abby Kimber, Claire Jackson, Michelle Hargreaves, Lottie Moore

1. Apologies for absence

Emma Kinrade, Libby Priest

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

Approved by: Michelle Hargreaves

Seconded by: Caroline Millward

3. Progress Since Last Meeting

Action Points:

The updated action points document was shared and ongoing actions identified.

Completed:

- Sport Academy Year 2 intentions confirmed with current cohort.
- Meeting schedule added to shared calendar.
- Club communication regarding funding allocations and claims process issued.
- WhatsApp Community created.

Ongoing / Amended:

- Annual Sport Academy intake list to be finalised following confirmation of additional rider nominations.
- Communication arrangements continue to be developed through Facebook, WhatsApp and email.

- Website support arrangements remain under review.
- Travel funding model development ongoing.
- Strategic documents continue to be refined following member feedback.

AGM Review

The AGM was successfully held with attendance levels similar to the previous year.

Committee reflected that a significant amount of information had been prepared and shared; however, it was recognised that much of this information may not have reached the wider membership. It was agreed that future AGMs should incorporate a stronger social element to encourage broader attendance beyond club committee representatives.

The committee noted that the introduction of the new Strategic Plan and five-pillar structure had been positively received and provided a clearer framework for the future direction of the Manx Horse Council. Members appeared supportive of the focus on participation, welfare, governance, coaching and collaboration, and the committee agreed that continued communication of the strategy would be important throughout the year.

Committee Roles

Committee roles were confirmed as follows:

- President – Ray Cox
- Chair – Suzanne Corlett
- Treasurer – Caroline Millward
- Secretary – Vicky Collister
- Committee Members – Abby Kimber, Claire Jackson, Emma Kinrade, Libby Priest, Michelle Hargreaves and Lottie Moore

The committee discussed opportunities to co-opt additional members during the year, particularly where specific skills or expertise could strengthen delivery of strategic objectives.

League Review

The league season has now concluded.

Feedback received from competitors was positive and riders appeared to enjoy the format and opportunities provided throughout the series.

Initial discussion took place regarding possible future league planning for 2027–2029.

Prize Presentation

The prize presentation evening was considered a success, with approximately 80 attendees.

Feedback received was very positive regarding the atmosphere, format and overall event. Suggestions for future years included introducing additional social activities such as a beetle drive.

Ride Safe / BHS Stage 1

The programme continues to progress well.

Charlotte Duncan will visit the Isle of Man in July to deliver Ride Safe assessments and Stage 1 mock assessments.

Michelle reported continued progress towards Ride Safe Assessor training. A discussion was had regarding which on Island Instructors were potentials for meeting the required level of coaching required to train and assess the Ride Safe element of the BHS Stage 1 exam.

4. Welfare & Committee Development

Lottie introduced a proposal to develop a rider welfare initiative as part of the Manx Horse Council's wider commitment to welfare and standards of care.

Drawing on her professional background as an Occupational Therapist and most recently within the Community Mental Health Team, Lottie outlined potential opportunities to provide practical support, workshops and resources aimed at improving rider wellbeing, confidence and resilience.

The committee discussed the principle that improving rider welfare can have a positive impact on horse welfare, performance and long-term participation in the sport.

Potential areas of support identified included:

- Confidence building
- Managing anxiety and competition nerves
- Dealing with setbacks, falls and injuries
- Building resilience
- Low mood and self-esteem
- Social isolation
- Managing social difficulties within equestrian environments
- Coping with horse injuries and periods away from riding
- Financial pressures associated with horse ownership
- Time management and balancing horses with work, education and family commitments
- Feelings of guilt associated with not riding or competing as much as desired
- Managing frustration and expectations

Lottie advised that she had begun developing ideas for workshops and support programmes and had also drafted a questionnaire to gauge interest and identify areas where riders may benefit from additional support.

It was agreed that Lottie would join the committee and take the lead on this area of work under the Welfare & Standards of Care pillar. The role will include acting as a point of contact for riders who may wish to discuss concerns or seek support, as well as developing initiatives aimed at improving rider wellbeing, confidence and resilience.

The committee welcomed the proposal and agreed that it aligned strongly with the objectives of the Welfare & Standards of Care pillar within the Strategic Plan.

5 . Roles & Operational Planning

A discussion took place regarding the role of the lead being to set objectives, coordinate activity and monitor progress rather than undertake all of the work personally. Some committee roles, the role of media as an example, will feed into most/all pillars.

Pillar leads were agreed as:

Pillar	Lead
Participation & Pathways	Vicky Collister
Governance & Safe Sport	Vicky Collister
Coaching, Volunteering & Officiating	Libby Priest
Welfare & Standards of Care	Lottie Moore
Sustainability & Collaboration	Caroline Millward

Leads will review the operational plan and bring proposed objectives and priorities to the next meeting.

6. Treasurer's Review

Income & Expenditure

The Treasurer reported that the current year's Isle of Man Sport funding allocation had been fully distributed in accordance with agreed arrangements.

Current bank balance reported: approximately £122.85 in the current account and £4808.58 in the deposit account.

League Finances

The league concluded with a small surplus of approximately £1.69. Acclaim offered to pay for the additional prizes and prize money, but as the event was intended to run at cost neutral, this was politely declined. We are however still waiting for Deloitte to pay their sponsorship fee. Abby to follow up.

Membership & Future Income Generation

Membership has been received from:

- BHS Isle of Man
- Glebe Riding Club

Current club membership remains £30 per annum.

The committee discussed opportunities to broaden engagement with those who support equestrian sport but are not necessarily directly affiliated to a member club, or who would like to support the work of the Manx Horse Council on a personal level. Discussion included the concept of a low-cost "Supporter of the Sport" scheme, allowing individuals, volunteers, parents, officials and supporters to engage more directly with the work of the Council.

The committee also revisited the purpose and value of membership, recognising that membership should represent more than simply access to funding opportunities. Discussion focused on the role of the Manx Horse Council in supporting and developing equestrian sport across the Island through collaboration, communication, training, rider development, welfare initiatives and shared opportunities. It was agreed that continued work is required to clearly communicate the benefits and purpose of membership to both clubs and the wider equestrian community.

A wider discussion took place regarding opportunities to increase income and create additional funding streams to support rider initiatives, development programmes and training opportunities.

Ideas discussed included:

- A "100 Club" style fundraising initiative.
- Additional social fundraising events throughout the year.

- Building on the success of the annual bingo event.
- Exploring further social activities, including a beetle drive.
- Identifying sponsorship opportunities to support rider development and travel initiatives.

The committee agreed that generating additional income would help facilitate a greater range of rider support initiatives and training opportunities in the future.

7. Communications Review

WhatsApp Community

An update was provided on the new WhatsApp Community.

Whilst the Community has been promoted through club contacts, coaches, social media and at the Prize Presentation evening, take-up has so far been lower than anticipated.

The committee recognised that building engagement will take time and discussed the importance of demonstrating value through regular updates, useful content and opportunities for members to connect and share information.

Further discussion took place regarding the structure and functionality of the Community, including whether certain groups could be hidden from general view, the challenges associated with new members being unable to access previously shared information, and the type of information that should be shared through the platform.

Agreed actions:

- Continue promoting the Community through member organisations and communication channels.
- Explore opportunities to increase engagement and participation.
- Investigate Community settings and functionality to ensure the platform meets the needs of member organisations.
- Review the effectiveness of the platform as usage develops.

Website

Initial discussions have taken place regarding redevelopment of the MHC website.

Indicative costs:

- Approximately £500 for basic design work.
- Annual hosting costs estimated at £100–£150.

A key requirement is that committee members can update content independently.

Action: Abby to prepare a specification outlining website requirements.

Communication Protocols

The committee discussed social media responsibilities.

It was agreed that:

- Abby, as Media Rep, will continue to publish the majority of the promotion and development work.
- Other committee members are encouraged to contribute content aligned with MHC objectives, this might be shared posts from other Equine bodies, local clubs or other similar posts.
- Future communications should include promotion of:
    - Spirit of the Sport Award
    - Introduction of Rider Welfare initiative
    - Individual and club achievements
    - Funding opportunities and recognition of funding from IOM Sport
    - Good practice examples from across member organisations
    - Updates from other Governing bodies and sharing of good practice/information

8. AOB

Sport Academy

Potential candidates entering Year 10 in September were discussed.

Nina Corrin is compiling a list of potential Sport Academy candidates. Consideration will be given to nominations from outside Pony Club as well as instructor recommendations.

Action: Vicky to progress this.

First Aid Training

An update was requested regarding previous discussions concerning first aid provision and potential course levels.

Action: Caroline to investigate further.

Spirit of the Sport Award

Further discussion took place regarding promotion of the award and the nomination process.

Travel Funding & Sponsorship

The committee discussed future travel support arrangements and recognised that demand for assistance is likely to continue to exceed available funding. Communication with the IOM Steampacket has so far proved futile, but all agreed it should be re-visited.

Potential sponsorship opportunities were discussed as a way of supplementing existing funding streams and increasing the support available to riders representing the Isle of Man off-island.

The committee also acknowledged that individuals seeking travel support may wish to approach potential sponsors directly, supported where appropriate by Manx Horse Council.

9. Date of Next Meeting

- Monday 27th July @ Suzanne's

Action Points:

- Abby to prepare a specification outlining requirements for the proposed MHC website.
- Abby to explore potential sponsorship opportunities, including support for rider travel initiatives.
- Abby to follow up with Deloitte re sponsorship of the 25/26 series.
- Abby to introduce "Supporter of the Sport" through media channels.
- Caroline to contact clubs directly re membership.
- Vicky to send Caroline contact details and membership leaflet.
- Caroline to investigate first aid training options and report back to the committee.
- Lottie to develop proposals for rider welfare initiatives, including support resources and workshop opportunities and how she feels this would best be promoted.
- Vicky to follow up on the 2026/27 Sport Academy intake and coordinate identification of potential candidates.
- Pillar Leads to review the Operational Plan and identify priority objectives for 2026/27.
- Committee to investigate additional fundraising opportunities, including a 100 Club (potential as Supporter of the Sport initiative or stand alone) and social fundraising events.
- Committee to review WhatsApp Community settings, functionality and structure, including visibility of groups and information sharing arrangements.

Communications Focus

- Promote and highlight projects, training and initiatives supported through Isle of Man Sport funding, ensuring appropriate recognition is given to Isle of Man Sport.
- Introduce Lottie Moore and the Rider Welfare initiative to the wider equestrian community once a direction has been agreed.
- Develop and publicise the Spirit of the Sport Award nomination process.
- Arrange presentation of the inaugural Spirit of the Sport Award.
- Continue development and promotion of MHC communication channels, including the WhatsApp Community.