

START OF SEASON 2026 NEWSLETTER



POINTS SHOWS & EVENTS IN 2026

1st Points Show	19 April
Team Show Jumping	10 May
2nd Points Show	17 May
3rd Points Show	21 June
4th Points Show	19 July

5th Points Show	16 August
6th Points Show	13 September
Show Cross Event	20 September
with Handy Pony (am) & Hobby Horse (pm)	

(Ground conditions rules for holding all our shows)

Pre Stars Clinic - Sunday 18 October with Katie Jerram-Hunnable - Craven Arena, Skipton

Our 51st Presentation Evening and Celebrating 53 years of the Club
Saturday 28th November at the Kings Hall

WWW.IDRA.ORG.UK

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Visit: www.idra.org.uk and Facebook to keep up to date with all the news





STARS CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS SECOND RESERVE RIDING CLUB OF THE YEAR 2025 & The Highest Placed Yorkshire Riding Club!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STARLETS

Pippa Doherty, Arabella Tasker, Carolyn Johnson, Elsie Farrar, George & Florence Sowray, Katherine Linkogel, Michelle Latham, Eleanor Marsden, Matilda Mason, Emily Monks, Alicia Lambert, Thea Wheeler, Tracey Atter, Lottie Reynolds, Olive Armstead, Erin Marshall, Arya Young, Annabelle Rowland, Anne Everall, Rosie Holden, Beatrice Waite, Isla Hare, Jade and Mark Jennings, Marisa McCulloch, Logan Walsh, Charlotte Carney, Evie Manger, Francesca Dennis and Olivia Metcalfe. Unfortunately Hannah Emmott and Harlie Ward were unable to compete due to pony problems. As STARS rule 1c stated that we can't run a points show after 17th September, we have decided to bring our September show date forward a week so that all points won this year will count towards our class champions as shown above. We have also brought forward our **Show Cross Event with Hobby Horse Classes** to our normal show date of 20th September. Carol and Jen were very honoured to receive flowers and gifts from our Starlets as thanks for their 4 very full days at Stars. Hannah Emmott, George and Tanith Humphreys, Hannah Gamble came to support on foot for 3 days. We are looking to future success at Stars for 2026!

PRESENTATION EVENING

Presentation Evening on Saturday 28th November 2025 was an amazing success with 209 seated and our special guest, farrier and social media star, Sam Wolfenden. He is now an official ambassador for Redwings Horse Sanctuary so we have decided to share our donations from our raffle, and stand up bingo, to Redwings and Yorkshire Air Ambulance. Our Santa's Secret Raffle was very well supported with lots of surprises at the tables when the prizes were unwrapped. Thank you to everyone who generously donated raffle prizes.

THE YEAR OF 2026 - THE YEAR OF THE FIRE HORSE

The year of the Fire Horse in the Chinese zodiac - which only comes round every 60 years - symbolises energy, independence, success and freedom, representing periods of dynamism, ambition and progress. Each horse year aligns with one of the five elements Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal and Water, officially on 17 February 2026 we will enter this rare Year of the Fire Horse, signifying intense passion and unpredictable energy, which concludes on 20 February 2027. As you all know, Horses are powerful, symbolising good fortune, endurance and a strong spirit. So saddle up for an exciting year at IDRA!!

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting held on 3rd February was well attended and we appointed some new committee members.

VALENTINE SHOW JUMPING

We again ran a Valentine Show Jumping competition at Craven Arena on Sunday 15th February. Linda made some more themed fence decorations. We had a lot of entries and everyone enjoyed our first event of the season. Thank you to Jennie Douro for building an excellent course.

VICKY SMITH CLINIC - 22 MARCH - Craven Arena, Skipton.

A super turnout with members and non members receiving informative tuition. Thank you to Vicky Smith for teaching and Jade for organising.

TEAM SHOW JUMPING RETURNS - 10 MAY 2026

We are looking for 10 JUNIOR TEAMS and 10 SENIOR TEAMS of FOUR to compete at this exciting and competitive event. (Juniors in the morning/Seniors in the afternoon). So start selecting your teams and think of a great name too. (60cms Junior Height / 70cms Senior Height). Everyone jumps the first round - best of three top scores per team - with the best FOUR teams going through to a jump off against the clock. Cash prizes to be won!!

QUALIFIERS FOR 2026:

VETERAN HORSE SOCIETY (VHS) APRIL SHOW

THE TRADITIONAL GYPSY COB ASSOCIATION (TGCA) APRIL AND MAY SHOW.

RETRAINING OF RACEHORSE QUALIFIER in May for the National Championships

AINTREE UNAFFILIATED SHOWJUMPING - TOP 6 QUALIFY - JUNE & AUGUST SHOWS

EQUIFEST

STARS CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS - We shall be representing 42 classes. Classes highlighted in yellow in the schedule. (Please read through the 'Rules for Stars' available in our schedule).

NEW POINTS ADDED THIS YEAR

To accumulate points, members need to enter the same horse/pony/rider combination in at least 3 point shows.

1 Point will be awarded for each class entered and judged in the ring for members who have NOT been placed. Otherwise 1st 6 points, 2nd 5 points, 3rd 4 points, 4th 3 points.

ALSO:

5 points be given to each Ring Champion

3 points to Reserve Champion

These points will be accrued towards the accumulator trophies at the end of the season

THERE ARE A FEW CHANGES IN THE SCHEDULE SO PLEASE READ THROUGH CAREFULLY

This year, we are introducing licensed stallions (not colts) for the first time but must be handled or ridden by the competitor 16 years and over and will only be allowed in certain classes.

PREPAREDNESS OF MARTYN'S LAW

Martyn's Law comes into effect in April 2027.

(British Horse Society - British Riding Clubs will be issuing affiliated clubs with guidance on what they would need to be doing for when it officially becomes law).

MARTYN'S LAW AND RIDING CLUBS: WHY NEW SAFETY PROCEDURES MATTER

In recent years, the UK has taken significant steps to strengthen public safety through proposed legislation known as Martyn's Law, formally called the Protect Duty. Named after Martyn Hett, one of the victims of the Manchester Arena bombing, the law aims to ensure that venues and organisations are better prepared to respond to terrorist threats.

While much of the focus has been on large venues like stadiums and concert halls, Martyn's Law will also affect smaller, community-based organisations—including riding clubs. These clubs, often run by volunteers and rooted in local communities, may not traditionally see themselves as high-risk environments. However, the legislation highlights that preparedness is everyone's responsibility.

WHAT IS MARTYN'S LAW?

Martyn's Law is designed to require organisations to take proportionate steps to improve public safety. This includes:

- Assessing potential risks
- Implementing reasonable mitigation measures
- Training staff and volunteers
- Establishing clear emergency procedures

The law is expected to apply differently depending on the size and nature of the venue or event, meaning most riding clubs will fall under a "standard tier" with straightforward, practical requirements rather than complex security systems.

WHY RIDING CLUBS NEED PROCEDURES

Riding clubs host a variety of activities—competitions, training sessions, open days, and social events—that bring together riders, spectators, families, and members of the public. Even if attendance is modest, these gatherings still represent public-facing events.

Without clear procedures in place, clubs may face:

- Confusion during emergencies
- Delayed response times
- Increased risk to participants and visitors

Putting procedures in place isn't just about compliance—it's about safeguarding the people who make up the club community.

KEY PROCEDURES RIDING CLUBS SHOULD CONSIDER

1. Risk Assessments

Clubs should identify potential vulnerabilities, such as entry points, parking areas, and crowd flow. While the risk of terrorism may seem remote, considering "what if" scenarios is essential.

2. Emergency Action Plans

Every club should have a simple, well-communicated plan covering:

- Evacuation routes
- Lockdown procedures
- Assembly points
- Roles and responsibilities

3. Communication Systems

Clear communication is critical. This might include:

- Mobile phone contact lists
- Public address systems (if available)
- Agreed signals or meeting points

4. Training and Awareness

Volunteers, instructors, and event organisers should understand what to do in an emergency. Basic awareness training—such as recognising suspicious behaviour or knowing how to respond to an incident—can make a significant difference.

5. Coordination with Local Authorities

Building relationships with local police and emergency services ensures that clubs are not working in isolation and can access guidance tailored to their area.

BALANCING SAFETY WITH PRACTICALITY

A key principle of Martyn's Law is proportionality. Riding clubs are not expected to implement airport-style security. Instead, they should adopt sensible, achievable measures that reflect their size and resources.

For many clubs, this might simply mean formalising what is already done informally—writing down procedures, briefing volunteers, and reviewing plans regularly.

THE CULTURAL SHIFT

Perhaps the biggest change Martyn's Law brings is a shift in mindset. Safety planning becomes a routine part of organising events, much like checking tack or inspecting arenas. It encourages clubs to think ahead, communicate clearly, and take shared responsibility for wellbeing.

CONCLUSION

Martyn's Law represents an important step in improving public safety across all sectors. For riding clubs, it's an opportunity to strengthen organisation, build confidence among members, and ensure that everyone—riders, spectators, and volunteers—can enjoy activities in a safe and prepared environment.

By putting clear procedures in place now, clubs not only move towards compliance with future legislation but also demonstrate a commitment to the welfare of their entire community.

We are very fortunate to have Simeon Yates on our committee as we are now starting to prepare ourselves for the introduction of Martyn's Law 2027. There will be changes throughout the coming season and your co-operation will be greatly appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP OF FRIENDS IDRA

We are trying to encourage more friends to join that do not compete, as during 2025 it has been pleasing to see families gathering for lunch and supporting the competitors in the parking area and we wish to encourage it for the future. We are asking for Friends of the Association to be supportive with a £15 per year contribution. You will receive an annual members badge and car park hanger, plus newsletters, emails and an invite to the presentation evening. Membership forms are available on our website together with our competition rider forms.

ENTRY FEES:

This year to encourage online entries (to help ease the congestion at our Entries Cabin) we have kept the same entry fees as 2025 being Members £6 and Non Members £9 per class plus £4 towards First Aid Services per competitor. The entry fees have gone up by £1 on show days – Members £7 and Non Members £10.

FAST FEAST FOOD AND THE COFFEE PORTER

will be back this year to provide us with excellent catering and refreshments.

YORKSHIRE DALES ICE CREAM

with their amazing selection – don't forget the Club benefits each time you buy an ice cream as we get 20% of their takings.

HELP IS ALWAYS NEEDED

On the **FRIDAY** (occasionally Thursdays) before show days, we need your help to build the show jumping and working hunter courses. We usually start around 5.30pm. We are rewarding our hard working helpers with a **free class entry**. Any Offers?

A HUGE THANK YOU

We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all who make the Ilkley & District Riding Association the thriving organisation it is today — our sponsors, members, stewards, judges, volunteers, helpers, Nell Bank and above all, our dedicated committee. Everyone, your unwavering support and commitment underpin our success and allow us to continue providing high-quality, enjoyable events for all our members and visitors.

We are looking for volunteers again this year to help on showdays so if you are able to help, please contact Carol Dawson or Jenny Keir.

We look forward to seeing you at our first points show on 19 April and wish you all success for the season ahead.

YOUR 2026 COMMITTEE ARE:

Carol Dawson (Chair), Stephen Freegard (President/Treasurer),
Jenny Keir (Points/Secretary/Schedule), Peter Ridley (Groundsman),
Jennie Douro (S/J Course Build/Steward), Linda Jones (Artistic Designer),
Angeline Briggs (W/H Course Build/Steward), Jade Jennings (Sponsors),
Pippa Ridley (Website), Simeon Yates (First Aid Services, Child Safety Officer,
Healthy & Safety, Martyn's Law), Tracey Atter, Joanne Kay, Alicia Lambert,
Katilyn Lambert and Eden Greenwood.