SC047280

SOCIETY OF EQUINE BEHAVIOUR CONSULTANTS
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 March 2026

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity name and address
Society of Equine Behaviour Consultants

c/o Secretary Debbie Marsden
PO Box 8776 Biggar ML12 6WL

Current Trustees as of 21th July 2026;

Linda Cassells SEBC PTC
Ashley Durie BSc, BHS PTT, SEBC PTC (Assistant Secretary)
Debbie Marsden BSc, PhD, BHS APC (Chair, Secretary)
Frances Pearson BSc, SEBC PTC, BHS APC (Treasurer)
Alison Rowan MA, SEBC PTC (Assistant Treasurer)
Lyndsey Sneddon SEBC PTC

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Structure Governance and Management

The charity is an unincorporated association. It is governed by its constitution, which was adopted in Sept 2012 reviewed and updated in July 2016.

The charity became registered with the Scottish Charity Regulator on 28 March 2017, number SC047280. The charity operates in Scotland and England.

The Management Committee are the charity's trustees and meet at least once a year in person and more regularly via email and telephone communication. All members are eligible to serve as trustees. Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting. There must be at least 3 and not more than 15 members of this Committee.

The trustees take into account OSCR's guidance regarding public benefit and accountability and take these into account when making decisions regarding activities and expenditure.

As this remains acceptable to OSCR, the trustees conducted the AGM and Committee meetings by Zoom.

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Objectives and Activities

Charitable purpose

To improve public safety and horse welfare by setting professional standards for Equine Behaviour Consultants offering professional services in the United Kingdom.

To regulate the practice of SEBC Registered Consultants.

To provide educational information on equine behaviour and in particular on the safety and welfare aspects of behaviour modification and training techniques, to horse owners, the equestrian industry, associated professions and any other interested person.

To increase awareness of and public access to qualified and insured Equine Behaviour Consultants

Activities

Maintenance of a Register of Professional Equine Behaviour Consultants published 'online' on a web site to assist the public when seeking help with their horse's behaviour, which also offers a helpline and practical advice on safety and welfare issues, with details and links to other professional organisations to assist people with safety around horses and improve their horses well being. Registered Consultants are required to take CPD, maintain insurance and practice according to the Society's Code of Professional Practice and may otherwise be removed from the Register.

Free advice on equine behaviour, training, welfare and safety around horses to other Equine Welfare Charities, related professional organisations and horse owners.

Accreditation of training courses and the examination of prospective SEBC Registered Consultants in the UK, as required, usually once each year.

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Achievements and performance

Members

This year, one member has retired and another taking a break, so there are currently 10 Registered Consultants covering the UK.

Professional Training and Examinations

The professional training programme continues 100% online and 'remote' examination process in development. This has allowed the training programme to continue and become more accessible and affordable. To date there are 42 enrolled students, 2 of whom have completed Module 6 and 1 working through Module 7. Progress self study online is very slow, but the format allows anyone to start the Course and see how they get on. Students range from vets, college lecturers and other equestrian professionals to horse owners. It is expected that a few keen students will continue and complete the course, take the exam and become Registered Consultants in the next few years.

Organisational

We continue to liaise with other Charities and professional bodies for the benefit of horses.

Public Education, Safety and Welfare.

Trustees and registered consultants continue to provide information and advice in their communities, as well as free telephone advice to horse owners and equestrian professionals on safety and welfare aspects of equine behaviour problems and training. Members continue to consult, advise and teach horse owners, and train horses amongst other equestrian activities including teaching and assessing Ride Safe training, assisting journalists with equine behaviour articles and features on horse behaviour for a variety of equestrian magazines, including one for Icelandic horses, teaching and examining at Pony Club, assisting with clinical education at Nottingham University and pursuing academic research on horse behaviour at Queen's University.

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The website continues to include advice on the care and management of horses, promote advice from other equestrian organisations and access to assistance from other equestrian organisations, offer advice on safe working methods for consultants, as well as day to day care and coping with equine behaviour problems for the public. The free helpline remains in place and is well used, with referrals as usual.

CPD

The Society continues to accept online CPD from a wide variety of professional equestrian organisations including BHS, Pony Club, RDA and scientific groups. Modules from the new online Professional Training remain available as CPD and Registered Consultants can access these free of charge.

The AGM was held on the 19th July 2026 by Zoom, which is a good system for us and very useful as we are scattered throughout the UK.

Future Plans

The Society will continue with its current charitable activities, including but not limited to, maintenance of the Register, the website, the professional training programme, the free helpline for horse owners and to liaise with other Charities and professional bodies for the benefit of horses and the safety of those involved with them.

The Society will continue with Zoom meetings (as long as these remain acceptable to OSCR), will maintain 100% online courses for accreditation and ‘remote’ examination procedures, to allow students to continue to progress to examination and Registration with confidence and keeping the process inclusive, accessible and affordable.

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Students on the online professional training programme are taking some time to complete Modules and get Portfolio work to the required standard, but it is hoped that over the next few years, this will continue to grow and provide new Consultants to replace those retiring or no longer practicing for a variety of reasons, including lifestyle changes and other demands on time.

Financial Review

The bank balance was £1,085.73 (at end March 2026) in the BOS account, now the Society's only bank account, so there are sufficient unrestricted funds available to allow the Society to meet its forecasted liabilities as they fall due for at least 12 months from the signing of this report.

APPROVED BY THE TRUSTEES AND SIGNED ON THEIR BEHALF;

Debbie Marsden

Dr Debbie Marsden (Chair) **19th July 2026**

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Independent Examiner's Report

To the Trustees of the Society of Equine Behaviour Consultants SC047280

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026 which are set out on pages 9 – 11 of this trustee's annual report.

Respective responsibilities of trustee and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10 (1) (d) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply.

It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44 (1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiners Statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirement:
   to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44 (1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
   to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
   have not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Sarah Smith

DATE : 21 July 2026.

Examiner: Sarah A Smith MSc. BSc. FCCA. FCIE. SEBC PTC. NAVP.

Chartered Certified Accountant, 8 Main Street, Cold Overton, Oakham, LEICS LE15 7QA

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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS	**BOS Account**	
INCOME	**2026**	**2025**
Voluntary receipts	£	£
Bank interest	0	0
Donations	0	2.00
HMRC Gift Aid	0	0
Transfer from SEBC Old RBS account	0	40.74
Receipts from Charitable Activities		
Membership fees	478.00	232.00
Portfolio marking + LANTRA	0	560.00
TOTAL	**478.00**	**834.74**
EXPENDITURE		
Examiners fees and expenses	0	0
Exam venue and catering	0	0
Website	388.80	484.20
Subscription ICO	52.00	40.00
Insurance	207.20	207.20
Postage and Stationery	0	0
AGM and CPD	0	0
TOTAL	**648.00**	**731.40**
SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	**(170)**	**103.34**

IN TOTAL DEFICIT of £170.00 for this tax year

THE NOTES ON PAGE 11 FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF THESE ACCOUNTS

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STATEMENT OF BALANCES AS AT 31 March 2026

	2026	**2025**
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	£	£
Treasurer's account (BOS account)	1,255.73	1,152.39
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		
Total Opening Funds (BOS account)	1,255.73	1,152.39
Surplus/Deficit for the year (BOS)	(170)	103.34
Total BOS		**1,255.73**
BANK AND CASH BALANCES		
Treasurer's Account (BOS)	1085.73	1,255.73
Total	**1,085.73**	**1,255.73**
LIABILITIES		
Portfolio marking	0.00	0.00
Total	**0**	**0**
ASSETS		
Subscriptions	192.00	0
Total	**0**	**0**

APPROVED BY THE TRUSTEES AND SIGNED ON THEIR BEHALF;

Debbie Marsden

Dr Debbie Marsden (Chair) **Dated 19th July 2026**

THE NOTES ON PAGE 11 FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF THESE ACCOUNTS

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Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of the Accounts

These Accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The trustees have prepared the accounts on a going concern basis. This is defined as being able to pay the liabilities of the charity on time. There are no known contingent liabilities at the balance sheet date which would prevent this situation from continuing for at least another 12 months.

The trustees are satisfied that the current level of reserves is sufficient for the needs of the charity.

2. Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity. Unpaid subscriptions, shown as assets in these accounts, were all collected in the following Financial Year.

Restricted Funds may only be used for purposes specified by the donor.

There are no Restricted Funds in the Financial Year ended March 2026.

3. Related party transactions

The trustees are related parties to the charity. Trustees are all Registered Consultants and from time to time are called upon to act as Examiners or mark Portfolio work for the Charity. However, there were no related party transactions in the Financial Year to 31 March 2026.