

Minutes of Ewshot Riding Club AGM 2017/18

Apologies were received from Laura Watkin & Angie Bradford

Minutes of 2016/17 AGM were agreed and signed off.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the evening by thanking Mr & Mrs Watts for, once again, allowing us to use their beautiful land for our club activities and also thanked them for their help, encouragement and support throughout the year. She also pointed out how privileged we are to have such fabulous facilities.

The club treasurer stated that 2017 had been a good year for the club with all events showing an increase in takings. However, our fees to BRC were high this year and when looked into it was noted that after paying said fees the club only benefitted from them by approx £3 per member. It was suggested that it may well be in the club's interest to look into either increasing fees or pulling out of BRC. Whilst we do not aim to make huge profits from our events we need to gain enough to ensure a good upkeep of both grounds and equipment and also ensure that we are not over-funding member's clinics and events. He also remarked that payments for First Aid increased by a substantial amount to make sure we complied with BRC requests.

Once again, our biggest outlay was for Rosettes, Trophies, medals and awards, all of which are admired by our competitors so well worth the investment.

The treasurer finished by stating that the accounts were healthy and in good order going in to the new season.

The Chairman then went on to talk about the events and activities that the club had run throughout the year. Despite the weather, many of the events were well attended by both new faces and old. Our Clear Rounds remained popular and enjoyed by both old and young riders. The XC course opened for practice on a number of occasions and for 3 ShowCross competitions but as a result, now needs work doing to rebuild before it is re-opened.

2017 saw a repeat Team ShowCross event against AllStars. It was a very close match which sadly, we lost again by 1 point, our efforts will be doubled this coming year! A decision was made during the year to change the ShowCross event from a fastest time round to an optimum time round. This would make the event much safer and add a new dimension to the event by slowing riders down on the XC course.

Our Dressage and Show Jumping Captain Kate, then spoke a few words on these events from 2017. She said that this year we had struggled for entries in the junior show jumping classes and also the Horse & Hound. We had scrapped the 3ft class as there were no entries at all. However, the other classes had done well and we had had our highest ever entry for the Chase Me Charlie.

Kate then went on to thank everyone who has helped her run and score the dressage competitions this year. Despite introducing an “early-bird” pre-entry discount, it hadn’t really worked so we may need to look at the entry fees again going forward. Junior entries were very low but that seems to be the case across the board with all our events.

All our 2017 Dressage and Show jumping events were run as Sunshine Tour qualifiers but we have decided not to do the same in 2018. They were oversubscribed in 2017 and requested the club not to hand out vouchers at events that were advertised as qualifiers. Ewshot RC elected to hand them out anyway as some riders had come to us just to qualify.

This year we will be running our own Club Championship, in September, open to all who qualify.

Our Membership secretary spoke briefly to say that numbers were good again this year but we need to look into trying to increase the number of junior members as they are low. We held a number of members only events again during the year including Beach Rides, XC practice days at 3 Maids and Clinics. A new event, Prix Caprilli, was included in the club calendar this year and initially open to just members. It was opened up to all later in the year and proved popular so in 2018 it will be extended to include it into the End of Year points awards.

The Chairman went on to say that the December Gymkhana had been enjoyed by all with the fancy-dress competition being very popular and very hard to judge. Thanks were passed to Suzette for making the difficult decisions as to which of the wonderful costumes should win, not at all easy!

The end of year awards were handed out to members who had entered and won the most events throughout the year. Members won trophies, rosettes and sashes and all went away very pleased with themselves. Awards were also given to members who the committee thought had made the most improvement throughout the year. The junior winner was Lucy Coomer and the senior Amanda Stewart. The Chairman’s award, this year, went to Steph Richardson. Steph has helped out with so many events this year, even coming along when her horse was lame just to give us a hand.

The Chairman then went on to thank everyone who has helped us run events throughout the year, those who have put up jumps, marshalled, scored or opened and closed the arena gate. She also passed her thanks to the rest of the committee for everything they do behind the scenes and pointed out that the feedback we receive on Facebook shows that we are on the right track and doing a great job.

In line with the club’s constitution, a quarter of the committee are required to stand down for re-election at the AGM. In 2017, those standing down were as follows:

Tony Boman - re-elected
Proposed by Dave Watkin
Seconded by Sue Vincent

Kate Dineen - re-elected
Proposed by Linda Boman
Seconded by Juliet Hamm

Another Committee member was proposed and duly elected:

Juliet Hamm
Proposed by Kate Dineen
Seconded by Tony Boman

The Chairman welcomed Juliet to the committee and explained that she would be responsible for running and organising the Prix Caprilli competitions in 2018.

There were no questions from the floor.

The date for the 2018/19 AGM will be Wednesday 30th Jan 2019.
The AGM closed at 19.45pm.