

Ewshot Riding Club AGM 2015

Apologies were received from Laura Watkin.

The Chairperson welcomed all to the AGM and expressed the club's gratitude and thanks, to Mr & Mrs Watts for their continued generosity. Without them allowing the club to hold our events on their land there would, simply be, no riding club.

Throughout 2014, the club held its usual number of events with just a few cancelled due to weather or clashes with bigger local clubs. We recognise that, as a smaller club, we cannot compete with some competitions and Fun rides organised in the area and, therefore, try to change our dates or postpone events around them. Sometimes it becomes necessary to cancel an event all together.

Our Clear Rounds, once again, proved to be very popular with young and old alike and were always busy. It was noted that the reason our Clear Rounds are so popular is our relaxed and friendly atmosphere. New riders don't feel pressured and enjoy the event more. This also proved to be the case for young horses being introduced to competition for the first time. The club always receives positive feedback, after such events, via social networks.

Sadly, the XC course was waterlogged for the first few months of the year and as a result, was unavailable for practice.

The club ran a number of Dressage competitions throughout the year. All were well attended. It was suggested that the Dressage Test with instruction be re-introduced during the coming season as it had been a popular event.

This year the club was only able to hold 1 Show Cross competition due to event date clashes. It was well attended and still proves to be a popular, fun event. It was hoped that 2 comps would be run during 2015.

To encourage people to enter the Show Jumping competitions they were held after Clear Rounds this year. This appeared to work well and there was some fierce competition between some of our club regulars and even the dogs joined in with our "Horse & Hound" classes.

Our Xmas Gymkhana was a great success and enjoyed by all. Thanks were, once again, passed on to Suzette Watts and Sue McSharry for judging the Fancy Dress competition. This year, the committee worked hard to find sponsors for each of the classes. Each of the local companies provided us with a very generous prize for the winners and our thanks were passed on to each of them.

During 2014 Ewshot Riding Clubs longstanding Chairperson, Sue McSharry, announced that she was stepping down from the role as she was moving to another part of the country. The committee expressed their sadness at this announcement but thanked Sue, profusely, for all the hard work she had put in to the club over the years. The club presented Sue with a framed montage of the Club and the promise of "Afternoon Tea" at a convenient time.

Once again, our resident photographer, Kevin Hicks, took many wonderful photos at our club events and we are hugely grateful for his support throughout the year.

A number of our events, this year, were made more enjoyable by the provision of refreshments by Sarah Shadey of My Village Cakes. Sarah warmed us up on many occasions with her bacon rolls, hot soup, tea and coffee. Thanks were passed to Sarah for all her hard work providing those refreshments and also for helping out at events.

This year the club's membership numbers rose again and shows that the clubs popularity is on the rise. We hope that rise will continue. The membership fee has been unchanged for a number of years now but due to increases in the affiliation fees, charged by British Riding Clubs, it was felt that a small increase needed to be made to cover this. During the year 2015 the fees per annum will be:-

Juniors: £20

Seniors: £24

The Treasurer gave his report which was found to be in good order.

Committee – A vote was taken to replace the Clubs previous Chairperson, Anne Watkin was proposed by Linda Boman and seconded by Kate Dineen .We wish her luck and support in her new position. All other committee members agreed to remain in their respective positions.

Two new members were voted on to the committee. The Club welcomes Raychell Langan and Lisa Dale and looks forward to their input in due course.

2015/16 Committee

Chairperson – Anne Watkin

Secretary – Tony Boman

Treasurer – Dave Watkin

Membership Sec & Dressage Captain – Linda Boman

Rules, Regulations & Show Jumping Captain – Kate Dineen

Health & safety – Laura Watkin

Committee – Eleanor Boman

Raychell Langan

Lisa Dale

AOB

It was discussed that the club trophies should be re-instated after the offer of a new one from an ex member who wished to give something back to the club in thanks. The trophy is to be given to the most promising dressage rider (senior or junior) to be decided on by the committee and not points related. It was decided to purchase new trophies in due course.

Clearance of the XC course should be made before the next ShowCross comp so that more jumps could be made available and a change of course made for classes 1 and 2.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

ERC Jan 2015