

Minutes of AGM 2015/16

Apologies have been received from Laura Watkin and James Alcroft.

Welcome to the 2015/16 AGM for Ewshot Riding Club.

I'd like to start by thanking Mr & Mrs Watts for allowing the continued use of their beautiful land for our club events. Without their generous support our club could not run and we are always grateful for their help throughout the year.

2015 has been another successful year for the club, both financially and in events.

We have managed to hold a good number of events this year although the first couple of months were blighted with too much rain and then freezing temps. The xc course has been waterlogged on and off for most of the season due to water leaks on the top road but this has had the benefit of filling up our water jump and creating some new water splashes too!

Both ShowCross events ran this year and a new class was added to the 2nd event. We tried a pairs class as a trial and although entries were low, those that did enter had fun. I think we will continue to include this class but may change the running slightly. Advertising for this event still needs improving to encourage more pre-entries but this also applies to all of our other events.

As with previous years, our most popular event has been the Clear Round with XC practice. As mentioned before, the xc course was out of bounds due to waterlogging for part of the year. The C/R has proved popular with young riders, nervous riders and people with new or young horses. It has always been a calm relaxed event and feedback this year has proved this to be the case again this year. Compliments have been plentiful and supportive so we must be doing it right. We also took the opportunity, in September, to help raise funds for a local charitable event. I was approached by the organisers of Paint Fleet Pink Week who were raising money for Frimley Park Hospital's Breast Cancer unit to see if we could do anything to help. We decided to hold a Pink Clear Round where riders and their horses or ponies could wear as much pink

as they liked. This turned out to be the High light of the year for me and was an incredibly popular event. We had to expand our parking area to accommodate the huge number of lorries and trailers that arrived throughout the extended morning. The club grounds were awash with pink – even grown men in pink leotards! We managed to raise an amazing £500 for their appeal which was matched by Frimley Park so our total amount was £1000. As a result of this, the club will hold another charity Clear Round in 2016. Charity and theme to be decided.

We have held a few Dressage competitions this year and revisited our dressage with instruction competition which was well attended. The evening dressage seemed popular and therefore we will be holding another one this year.

On the subject of Dressage, Linda, our Dressage Captain has decided to step down after successfully running this event for a number of years. We would like to thank Linda for all the time she has put into the organising and running this discipline. As we all know, this has not always been an easy job with judges being particularly hard to track down. Linda will remain on the committee in her post of Membership Secretary. The post of dressage captain is now vacant so if you would like to be considered please contact me.

We also held a number of Show Jumping competitions throughout the year including the exciting addition of The Sunshine Tour Qualifiers and a trip to Hickstead for the Championships after 6 of our members qualified. Some of the committee went along to support the team and in the end 2 members got through to the finals. This was a great achievement for our little club and we are all very proud of both riders and their horses. More competitions for this event will be held in 2016. The 3 competitions held at the club were all well attended with the Chase Me Charlie, held at the end, being hotly contested.

Early last year, it was decided that we should arrange some members only events and to organise a members only mini Hunter Trial which would be free to enter. So we arranged a morning of XC practice at Mini Mattingley course. This was very well attended and proved to be popular with all. It was a very hot day so the ponies and horses enjoyed cooling off in the water jump.

A beach ride was arranged for an evening which, although the weather was against us and therefore the turnout was poor, proved to be a fun evening ending at the Fish and Chip shop – horses and all!

The mini hunter trial in November was less of a success. Entries were very poor despite it being a free competition, and the weather was unpleasant. So the decision was made to cancel it.

We welcomed 2 new members on to our committee, Raychell, who has provided us, not only with a club mascot pony (everyone loves Jacob!!) but also with tea, coffee, bacon rolls and cakes. Raychell has also brought to us her knowledge of showing and has achieved a huge amount in improving her jumping.

Our second committee member, Lisa, came along and helped out at some of the earlier events this year but due to family commitments she has had to step down for the time being. We wish her well and hope to see her again.

Our club has been supported, once again, by professional photographer Kevin Hicks. He gives up his free time to come along and provide his services when a lot of photographers now charge just to attend. He has produced some wonderful photos for us over the year and we would like to pass on our thanks to him for fitting us in to his busy schedule.

Looking at the end of the year we decided not to hold the December Clear Round but to concentrate more on the Xmas Gymkhana. This event is always great fun with costumes for the fancy dress being made months in advance. Our judges for this competition remained the same as last year Suzette Watts and Sue McSharry had the impossible task of judging both junior and senior classes. The senior class was won by our very own Raychell whose costume can only be described with words such as “awesome” and “unbelievable”.

The gymkhana games went well with some hot competition although competitor numbers were low this year due to the very wet weather which amazingly held off for the morning! Thanks to Angie Bradford whose company “Dirty Dog Wash” sponsored the horse and hound class and delivered the prize herself.

This year we also decided that the gymkhana would be the ideal time to present our newly re-instated End of Year Awards. Congratulations to all who won. We are now looking forward to the point scoring to begin again this year.

Thanks must go to all members who have helped us run events this year. Those that help us put up jumps and clear the course at the end of an event make our lives so much easier. Some people forget that we give up our free time to do this for them. Our reward is seeing happy members and riders who are smiling because they have achieved something and the thanks given for a good mornings competition. So thanks also to the committee members whose free time is spent arranging and running these events. Our Facebook feedback tells us that we are appreciated and we should all be proud of our relaxed and friendly little club.

Committee

All members remaining for another year.

Chair Person - Anne Watkin

Secretary/Webmaster – Tony Boman

Treasurer – David Watkin

Membership Secretary – Linda Boman

Rules, Regulations, Safe Guarding and Showjumping – Kate Dineen

Committee – Raychell Langan

Laura Watkin

Eleanor Boman

We have 2 new people who we have invited to join our committee. Firstly,

Sue Vincent – Proposer- Kate Dineen

Secunder - Linda Boman

James Alcroft – Proposer – Dave Watkin

Secunder – Tony Boman

Treasurers Report – Accounts were found to be healthy and in order.

AOB

Date for course clearing March 13th – weather willing

Possibility of buying a club camera to be used when Kevin is unavailable - suggestions and prices to be gathered by D. Watkin and discussed at next meeting.

XC repairs will be ongoing as funds allow

Club Training officer - Raychell

Next Meeting – discuss roles in club.

March Clear Round to be held on behalf of The British Heart Foundation and therefore to be a “RED” Clear Round.

Meeting closed at.... 9pm