

Minutes of Ewshot Riding Club AGM 2018 – 2019

Apologies were received from James Alcroft and Tony Boman

Minutes of 2017/18 AGM were agreed and signed off.

The Chairman (AW) 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 to thank them for all their help, encouragement and support throughout the year. The Chairman also pointed out how hugely privileged we are to have such amazing facilities.

AW went on to explain that 2108 had been quite a poor year for the club, with numerous events cancelled due to frozen ground earlier on and then rock solid, dried out ground, which was too hard to ride on safely, later in the summer.

The treasurer (DW) explained 2018 had seen another downturn in takings for the club but that the figures were still quite healthy overall. The banked amounts were down on last year for 2 reasons:

- 1 - The weather and cancelled events
- 2 - More people are paying by PayPal. The PayPal accounts are shown separately.

The club (ERC) saw an increase in spending with the need to purchase a new harrow and new Gazebo along with arena fencing and xc course repairs.

As usual, our biggest expenditure has been for Rosettes and trophies which we should look at as an investment due to the number of riders who come back to us because they love them. It is very important to the club to give back to our riders and our rosettes are admired by all. DW then went on to explain that our BRC affiliation fees remained the same but, because of our low membership fee, we make very little out of these fees and paid out £627. However, the fees do cover our liability insurance.

The treasurer noted that our events have been not brought in as much as previous years. Our normally popular Clear Rounds brought in a fraction of the amount they usually do - £590 against £1500 to £2500 previously. Other events were also down but Dressage saw a small increase. Our charitable donations this year came to £400.

DW finished by saying that although takings were down and expenses higher the club was still in good order going into the new season. He then handed back to The Chairman. AW went on to talk about the year's events and activities. Despite the appalling weather early on, and the very hot spell later on, the club ran a good number of events. We saw new faces and returning familiar faces, new ponies and favourite ponies. The XC course was open for practice on a few occasions but will need further work for this season. We held a few clinics this year, in Pole work (in a blizzard) Prix Caprilli, XC and Dressage – none of which were well attended. We also offered a junior dressage clinic but had to cancel through complete lack of entries. All the clinics were open to non-members and advertised extensively.

Our ShowCross event ran only once this year and was well attended in the end. We attempted to run the Team ShowCross against AllStars, as we have in previous years, but after buying in trophies and rosettes we had to cancel the event when AllStars forgot to put a team together. The rosettes etc didn't go to waste however, some of the trophies were re-badged for Showing and we ran a competition, between the riders in our Ewshot ShowCross team, and the winners went home happy – everyone got at least one rosette and/or trophy.

AW then handed over to the Dressage Captain Kate Dineen. Kate gave her report of the years dressage competitions and started by saying that we had struggled for entries at most of the competitions. The new “early bird” entry fee discount didn't seem to encourage more. However, we had seen an increase in Novice and bitless entries. We had also found a few more friendly judges to help us out.

Show Jumping competitions were held throughout the year and although we did not hold Sunshine Tour qualifiers this year, winners were entered into our own championship. Sunshine Qualifiers have been re-instated for the 2019 season.

AW handed over to KD, our Show Jumping Captain for her report. Kate started her report by saying that, once more, we were struggling for entries and had cancelled classes and even whole events because we just didn't have enough entries to run. Holding the Show Jumping after the Clear Round has 2 advantages, firstly, the jumps are already up and secondly, some riders coming to the Clear Round decided to stay on and enter the SJ on the day. KD ended her report by pointing out that scrapping the bigger class had made little difference to entries.

2018 saw the introduction of our first Club Camp at Bucklebury Equestrian and was organised by Sue Vincent.

AW handed over to Sue for her report. SV started by saying what a fantastic event this had been held over the May Bank Holiday weekend, we had a total of 12 horses and riders with various foot followers. XC, Polework and SJ clinics were held on the Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, led by JO Bishop, and were quite popular. A lovely BBQ led by Mark and Megan was held on Saturday evening with an under tent cinema, set up by James Thomas to entertain into the night. A pub ride was held on Sunday, with riders heading to a very pretty local pub, in the blazing sunshine. Horses and riders all appreciated a cool drink. A fun rosette giving event was held on the Sunday evening, with prizes for tidiest camper to tent with the most empty cans & bottles.

It was a great weekend with marvellous weather including a lightning storm circling the area one evening. Bucklebury is a great venue. The Horses were relaxed and happy, as were the riders. Sarah and Gordon, from Bucklebury were brilliant hosts and let us have free rein of the whole place. To be repeated in 2019.

AW handed over to Linda Boman for a short membership report. Our membership numbers were quite good again this year with 2 honorary members, 39 senior members and 12 junior members. The club are finding it hard to encourage junior members after a resurgence in Pony Club popularity.

The Chairman then thanked Dave Watkin for taking on the role of club photographer once again this year. He has taken some lovely pictures and is appreciated by all.

A new event was introduced to ERC this year, November saw the 1st part of the new Winter Showing Season organised and run by Raychell Langan who gave a quick rundown on how the event had gone and said she was looking forward to parts 2 and 3.

This year's Xmas gymkhana and annual prize giving was held during mid-December. The Fancy Dress competition was very poorly attended this year but hotly contested by those that did join in. The costumes were amazing as always! The games were fun and enjoyed by junior and senior alike.

Each year, Ewhsot Riding Club award trophies to members of the club who have accumulated the most points, throughout the year, in Dressage, Show Jumping and Show Cross. This year, trophies were also awarded to most improved riders and a Chairman's award given too.

End of Year Awards 2018

Senior Dressage - Jessie Alcroft & Flash

Runner up - Helen Lodge & McMoo

Junior Dressage - Meghan Thomas & Tianna

NO RUNNER UP

Senior ShowCross - Fenton Tyrrell & Layla

Runner up - Elise Hart O'Hagan

Junior Show cross - Lucy Coomber & Polo

Runner up - Ben Vincent & Trudi

Senior Show Jumping - Fenton & Layla

Runner up - Kate & Beth

Junior Show Jumping - Meghan Thomas & Tianna

Runner up - Lucy & Polo

Senior Prix Caprilli - Fenton & Layla

Runner up - Kate & Beth

Most improved senior rider(s) - Caroline Thomas & Helen Lodge

Most Improved Junior rider - Meghan Thomas

Chairman's award - Kate for outstanding event organisation

The Chairman went on to thank all members and families who have helped run the club and events this year. They have put up/down jumps, marshalled, scored, dismantled courses and manned the arena gate on many occasions. AW said that without their help the club would simply not function. She also thanked the committee for all their help and pointed out the

amount of positive feedback on Facebook which shows what an amazing little club we run and should all be very proud of it.

In line with the clubs constitution, a quarter of the committee are required to stand down. They may offer themselves for re-election at the AGM. However, the Chairman announced that in 2018, 2 committee members have decided to come off the committee and are not offering themselves for re-election at this time.

Firstly, James Alcroft, he has been such a help to us over the years, building jump courses singlehandedly, time keeping and moving equipment around the xc course. These are just a tiny number of the things he has done for us. We will miss James immensely but hope you will come back when time allows.

Secondly, Juliet Hamm. Juliet hadn't been on the committee long but had done a great job of taking over the Prix Caprilli and entertaining us all with her lovely horse Hector.

3 new committee members were then elected as follows:

Jessie Alcroft
Proposed by Anne Watkin
Seconded by Dave Watkin

Carl Titchmarsh
Proposed by Kate Dineen
Seconded by Sue Vincent

Laura Watkin
Proposed by Linda Boman
Seconded by Raychell Langan

All 3 were duly elected to the committee and welcomed by the Chairman.

AW then closed the meeting at 20.40pm
Date of 2019/20 AGM - Weds 29th Jan 2020