

Minutes of Ewshot Riding Club AGM 2025/26

Apologies were received from Amie Partridge, Sonia Davies, Rachel Bodimeade and Justin Wilson.

The Chairman, Mrs Anne Watkin (AW), opened by welcoming everyone to the meeting and started by passing her thanks to Mrs Watts for her continued and enduring support of the Riding Club this year, and for allowing us the continued use of her beautiful grounds for our club events. AW said how lovely it was to see Mrs Watts out supporting the club when she was able to.

AW reflected back on 2025 and previous years and noted that it was her 19th year on the committee, 14th overlooking the accounts, and 11th as “temporary” chairperson!

AW then went on to say that the club provided a welcoming & supportive environment for riders of all ages and abilities and was somewhere that riders could develop their skills and enjoy their horses with little to no pressure.

AW stated that the weather, as usual, had played a part in the postponement or cancellation of some events but most had run as advertised. Entry numbers had been up and down with the economy and lack of spare cash affecting the numbers.

AW went on to say that the BRC membership system had been difficult to use and provided us with little to no income and that nearly all of the membership fee went to cover BRC admin fees and insurance with Ewshot RC having to subsidise Junior members to cover the Sport 80 fees. As a result, it was decided that the club would have to increase membership fees ASAP.

AW explained that in late 2025 she had put out a plea, via FaceBook, to ask people to consider joining the club. With so few members ERC was in a position of not having enough to re-affiliate and with that losing our committee insurance. Simply put, without enough members the club could not continue. The FaceBook campaign brought a small flurry of joining members, old ones who just wanted to support us and a few new ones too.

AW then passed over to Tony Boman for a quick review of the membership numbers.

TB stated that the club has a total of 30 members, 13 x Committee Members, 1 x Honorary Member, 9 x Senior members and 7 x Junior members. TB said the FaceBook campaign had added 9 new members and ultimately allowed us to re-affiliate.

AW then passed over to Dave Watkin for comment on the ERC accounts.

DW said the total for the 2 bank accounts, this year, was £8740.70 and last year was £7749.87 showing a £990.70 increase on last year. However, he explained that the figure included a payment transfer from our PayPal account to the bank for £1083.02, so in fact, the total would have been down against last year without the transfer. The biggest expenses this year were for Rosettes (£568.50), BRC affiliation fees and Committee & honorary membership (£562), 1st Aid for ShowCross (£200) and jumps insurance (£198.52).

DW said that event takings were ok with some down on last year and some very much improved

- Clear Round £143.79 less
- Showjumping £139.68 less
- Gymkhana £126.88 less
- Dressage & PC £333.50 more
- ShowCross £794.90 more

DW went on to say that PayPal payments had been limited this year with most event entries being made via STRIPE straight into the bank account. Payments from the PP account went out for storage boxes, bending poles, our website and the bank transfer. Payments in came mainly from Clear Round entries.

DW finished by saying that although the club had not made any increases, the accounts remained in good health for the coming year. DW handed back to AW.

AW stated that Dressage and Prix Caprilli events were held again in 2025, part organised by Lauren Ellis and then taken over by Kate Wilson when Lauren sadly left us. Aw passed over to KW for more on both events.

KW said that although Dressage and Prix Caprilli had been re-instated this year, entries for both were still very low despite making Prix Caprilli free to enter for all. KW stated that finding judges had been a real problem but one had been found in the end and she was hopeful of finding more judges for 2026. KW handed back to AW.

AW, as ShowCross Capt., said that the club had held 2 ShowCross events this year in April and October, and that both were very well attended. The April event had a very strong turnout of Junior riders which was lovely to see. Both events were successful and the club had great feedback from them. The 1st aid, for both, was, once again, provided by Mat Sprake who has become a valued addition to the Ewshot team. AW added that his help after events was much appreciated as were the ice creams he very kindly provided for us all!

AW then moved on to say that the annual members camp at Bucklebury had been cancelled in 2025 but that it would be back in 2026 where it would hopefully boost the membership numbers.

AW said that the Gymkhana had been held in late November, to avoid clashes with other Xmas events locally. There was a good number of lovely fancy dress entries which made it very difficult for Mrs Watts and AW to choose the winners. Trophies and rosettes were handed out alongside a large amount of chocolate. AW the stated that, at this point, she would like to give her thanks to a very special helper, Finley, who gave out many awards and trophies throughout the morning, she said she would have struggled without Finley's enthusiasm and help. AW then awarded Finley with the Helper of the Year Award for ERC. The trophy was passed on to Laura W to give to Finley at a later date as the meeting was past his bedtime 😊

Looking forward to 2026, AW said that the first 6 months events were planned and on the calendar and the members camp at Bucklebury was booked for August.

AW then passed her thanks to the members & non-members who attended and supported the club. She said the positive comments showed that the club was doing something right and that we should continue to pride ourselves on being a relaxed, friendly, non-judgemental club that is supportive and inclusive of all ages and abilities.

AW passed on her thanks to the committee for setting up and running events throughout the year & thanked Linda Boman for harrowing the school and warm-up arena so diligently. She also thanked Tony Boman for his work behind the scenes with our website, PayPal account, BRC and Sport80 and also for answering her many questions.

AW then moved on to the annual AGM housekeeping, re-election of committee. In line with our club constitution, 2 committee members must stand down, in rotation, and be re-elected. This year, the 2 members were Kate & Justin Wilson. They were re-elected as follows:

Kate Wilson – Proposed by L. Watkin, seconded by T. Boman

Justin Wilson (in his absence) – Proposed by S. Weaver, seconded by L. Boman

Leaving the committee earlier this year, was Lauren, who sadly left us to move back up North. AW passed on her thanks for all of Laurens help and enthusiasm whilst she was with us, and wished her well for the future.

AW then went on to say that Jade Fuller had been working with the committee for a few years now, mostly helping L. Watkin with the annual camp. AW had asked Jade if she would like to be formally elected on to the committee this year and she agreed to join us officially.

Jade Fuller – Proposed by L. Watkin, seconded by A. Watkin

AW welcomed Jade to the team.

AW closed the 2025 AGM by saying that it had been a challenging year with successes and changes along the way but that we should all remain proud of our club.

AGM closed at 21.15pm

Date of next AGM – Friday 5th Feb 2027

AOB -

Membership fees were discussed and it was agreed that a small increase would need to be made to cover BRC fees.

The decision was taken to abandon “Sunshine Tour” qualifiers this year.

More advertising online was needed for events where possible.

The committee agreed to charge a small entry fee for Prix Caprilli this year unless entering dressage on the same day, in which case, entry would be free.

The XC course was discussed with the purchase of new jumps around the arena agreed on. Sian offered to look into getting some quotes.

Linda Boman informed the committee of her intention to step down from the committee with immediate effect. We wish her well for her future in Wales and thank her for her many years help on the committee.

END