



AGM REPORT 2015

Elstead Riding Club's annual general meeting took place on 4th December and gave an opportunity to look back on another successful year for the club. As well as various competitions including dressage, show jumping and horse shows which are open to all but with discounted entry fees for members, a wide range of training was offered to members. In addition to regular sessions with Tracey May and Brian Hutton, other training has included advice on show jumping course design and how to walk the course with Johnray Farrell, practising how to ride a dressage test with advice from judge Helen ApSimon, and a 'have a go at something new' training day with Lesley Hill which was offered at a reduced rate thanks to a grass roots training grant from British Riding Clubs.

The opportunity to take part in teams is open to all members and one third of the club's members represented Elstead in 2015, doing very well at local and national level, including winning one London & South East championship and three National championships.

Charlotte Smith, Helen Klein, Susanna Milton, Emma Kampa, Sara Malpass, and Melanie Lusted won the National Team of Six Dressage Championship. Charlotte Smith, Lucy Collecott, Emily Weeks and Jazmine Merrifield won the National Junior Team of Four Championship. Lucy Collecott, Emily Weeks, Hannah Jackson and Emily Baigent won the National Junior Riding Test championship. Emily Weeks was the individual national junior riding test champion, having had the best score across all five riding test arenas. At the London & South East Championships, Melanie Lusted, Emma Kampa, Susanna Milton and Emily Weeks won the Riding Test Championship.

Elstead has again retained the Foss Trophy for the Club in Area 11 (Surrey) with the most points in teams – now the 19th year in succession and the 22nd time in total!

Richard Terry stood down as Chairman at this year's AGM having served on the committee for 39 years. Richard and Di Terry were among the first members of the club, with Richard taking part in the club's inaugural ride which set off from Elstead village green in 1973. A presentation was made to Richard including a Certificate of Life Membership in recognition of his long service to the riding club. Flowers were presented to Di who was also thanked for her contribution to the club. Other retiring committee members were Dan Shean and Diana Standing who were thanked for their contribution to the club. Penny Jann was elected as Chairman and Tish Harwood as Secretary, and Bryony Briscoe and Caroline Dobbin joined the committee.

Following the formal business of the evening, members were treated to a very interesting and entertaining talk by guest speaker Harry Dzenis on preparing for three day eventing, giving us a bit of insight into "behind the scenes" at top level including Badminton Horse Trials where Harry and his horse Xam jumped clear cross country in 2015. Harry also achieved the prize for the best under 25 rider at Burghley Horse Trials in 2014.

The evening finished with the presentation of awards to members. The overall senior championship (based on points throughout the year in the club's competitions) was won by Marion Spencer (and her horse Kilcrea Rock), with Clara Jollands (Lily) the reserve champion. The overall junior championship was won by Charlotte Smith (Ronaldo Firecracker), with Anna Holmes (Sunnydale Drifter) the reserve champion.