



AGM REPORT 2016

Elstead Riding Club's annual general meeting took place on 2nd December and gave an opportunity to look back on another successful year for the club. At the end of the year the Club had 117 riding and 9 non-riding senior and 49 junior members, a total of 175. It was lovely to see so many continuing to come to club events, riding, helping, attending socials, and in some cases judging, as they juggle work, university and gap years. The club continues to monitor membership and with the aim of improving, changing and/or developing events to ensure the continued success of the club. This year the club trialled a number of changes to events to provide members with more variety, and invested in some new portable working hunter jumps, new show jump wings and poles, enabling the club to run an arena eventing competition. The format of the showing shows was changed to run more classes and qualifiers. Although feedback was good, in 2017 the club will merge the arena event with the showing shows, running after the hunter classes, to give more opportunity for those who wish to jump. During the summer months the club re-introduced evening members-only events and these proved very popular. Other open events during the year included three show jumping, seven dressage (three at our club field and four at the Priory), 3 fun shows including the festive show, and a number of clear round jumping sessions. As well as regular instruction with Brian Hutton and Tracey May, and "have a go" training with Lesley Hill, this year we also arranged training with Harry Dzenis, Heidi Reed and Eloise Mayhead. We also promoted the Young Equestrian Leaders Award for member aged 13 – 25, and have been working on starting a BHS Essential Horse Knowledge Course which will commence in January 2017. In addition to activities that involve horses, we have had several afternoon tea socials, a quiz evening, and the forthcoming Christmas party.

Our club had another very successful year in team competitions, with teams and individuals being placed regularly at both Area and national level. In total 45 of our members (36 seniors and 9 juniors) represented the club. Lincoln was particularly successful as Elstead won four national championships – senior and junior style jumping, team of six dressage and junior riding test, as well as the London & South East dressage and riding test team championships. The success of our teams both locally and nationally has resulted in Elstead retaining the Foss Trophy for the best team performance in our Area.

The club is also fortunate to have the use of the club field and particularly lucky that it can be used all year. The field is also available for members to hire, and has previously been in high demand; however demand has recently reduced. Thank you to everyone who helped at events and the contribution that members make to the continued success of the club.

Annie Denton, one of our longest serving committee members, stepped down from the committee at the AGM and was thanked for all her hard work and Claire Jackson has joined the committee. There were no other changes.

Following the formal business of the evening, members were treated to an informative, interesting and humorous presentation by Stuart Duncan, BVMS CertEP MRCVS and partner at Liphook Equine Hospital, about his experiences as one of the duty vets at the Rio Olympics 2016. After the excellent talk Stuart very kindly stayed to present the annual awards. The overall senior championship (based on points throughout the year in the club's competitions) was won by Annie Denton (and her horse Malingold Mercury) with Marion Spencer Kilcrea Rock) the reserve champion. The overall junior championship was won by Annabelle Tavener (Bonnie), with Hannah Jackson (Alfie) the reserve champion.