**East Shropshire Riding Club**

**Annual General Meeting**

**held on 1 December 2020 (online via Starleaf)**

Present:

Patsy Pyke (chair) Jenny Millman Sue Bullock Heather Stiles Cath Westwood

Claire Pearce Bev Higgs Chris Kneller Deborah Farrell Hannah Grennan

Elaine Soones Liz Mills Elle Padfield Lynn Aucott Frances Hampton

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Welcome

Patsy Pyke (PP) welcomed all present and invited the committee to introduce themselves and give a brief outline of their duties on behalf of the club. She gave special thanks to Bev Higgs (BH) former chair, for handing over a club in such good order with a hard-working committee.

**1. Welcome** by Patsy Pyke

Apart from having to contend with the Covid 19, a new home has been located for Summer shows at Kingsnordley. Thanks were noted to Chris Kneller who found the new site and arranged for the safe relocation of the caravan, SJ trailer and all equipment. Thanks were also extended to Bev Higgs and Denise Billingham.

PP thanked the committee for their support and enthusiasm throughout the period of restrictions. Committee Meetings were held via Zoom, set up by Jenny Millman. Thanks were recorded to Kerry Brummell who enabled committee to have a socially distanced meeting in her barn near Pattingham.

FaceBook quizzes and competitions had been posted by Cath Westwood (CW) which members appreciated and these are still available.

**2. Chair’s report** by Patsy Pyke (PP)

As an official BHS British Riding Club, ESRC members compete against other clubs in the Area 5 region and on to National level. Obviously events were severely curtailed in 2020, however ESRC teams were able to compete occasionally, observing Covid restrictions and were very successful. Members were urged to put themselves forward for area competitions - the club will provide training from top coaches for those who feel they need extra tuition to give them confidence.

PP thanked all the loyal members who act as back up crew to the committee, including Sam Davies who keeps our website up to date, and those who have given up their time to help with events this year: Bev Higgs, Jane Gregory, Elle Padfield, Heather Ireland, Siobhan Elizabeth, Lisa Cowley and Kim Hall.

Despite the lock down the club still managed to have quite a few clinics which were well attended and new coaches and venues are planned for the future across all areas.

Clinics: a thank you was noted to organisers Sarah Coulson - the Jon Rogers clinics, Judith Gittens - the Judi Kemp clinics and Cath Westwood for the Hannah Jackson clinics. In future, to simplify the process, members to pay by BACS referencing the coaches and date.

**3. Membership report by Sue Bullock**

SB paid tribute to all the members who have resolutely stood by the club this year, not one of whom has asked to leave the club, asked a refund of membership fees or complained about the lack of activities during the Covid-19 crisis. Their loyalty is much appreciated.

The club approaches the end 2020 with 119 members, approximately 25% down compared to recent years, but understandably so due to ESRC not being able to run the customary summer shows, however the membership bill from BRC (always a year behind) remained at full cost. In spite of requests to BRC for some leeway on membership fees no help was forthcoming. SB complimented Jenny Millman on her prudent stewardship of the club’s finances which has enabled the club to pay its way and maintained a healthy balance.

Nevertheless, BRC has announced an increase to the “cost per head” fees the club pays as an affiliated Riding Club by £1 per person for 2021 to cover increased insurance charges from their insurer. Consequently ESRC will be increasing its membership fees for 2021 to £26 senior rider and £18 for junior or non-Riding members. This increase only applies to people joining the club 2 December 2020. The membership form will be amended accordingly and published on Facebook and the web page .

SB further advised that she would be handing over the role of membership secretary to Claire Pearce, who has set up a dedicated membership email address for all matters and queries Club related ([esrcmembership@yahoo.com](mailto:esrcmembership@yahoo.com)).

In conclusion SB said how much she had enjoyed her years on the committee and meeting so many great colleagues. She thanked them all for making East Shropshire Riding Club a pleasure to be a part of for so many years added her best wishes for the future.

**4. Treasurer’s Report** **by Jenny Millman**

JM reported that despite a strange year with limited shows the clubs finances were in a very good place. ESRC entered 2020 with £6500 and the current balance still stood at about £6000 with the major expenses after BRC affiliation fees being insurance for show equipment and cost of moving to new show ground ready for 2021.

The possibility of a reduction in BRC fees due to lack of competition and rally opportunities during season had been raised with BRC Area 5 and central BRC office on a number of occasions but advised this was not feasible.

However, JM added, there would no need to invest in new show equipment and so the committee had agreed at their November meeting that the money normally reinvested should be used to cover 2021 BRC affiliation fees.

This decision had resulted in the club being able to offer everyone who was a member in 2020 a free ESRC membership for 2021, as a way of saying thank you to members for their ongoing support during these difficult times.

**Auditors**

Diane Hickman audited the books for 2019 and had agreed to do so again for 2020.

**5. Facebook** **by Cath Westwood**

CW reported on photo competitions for best show jump, best cross country, jump collage, fancy dress and even the best fall! Emoji quizzes had been very popular. A fancy dress competition for junior members was running in December and may be opened to adults.

**7. Communications Report by Heather Smith (HS)**

HS extended a thank you to everyone who had organised, run, and attended the variety of events held during a very difficult year. Support from members at our rallies and socially distanced shows had been remarkable and as such the finances of the riding club had remained strong. ESRC was delighted to offer a diverse and varied programme of events for 2021 alongside summer shows, offering members plenty of opportunity to develop skills, enjoy activities and compete.

An exciting programme of events had been put together for Winter / Spring 2021 and the committee plans to build on this. All members should make sure to check with the event organisers prior to paying for the events and travelling, due to the ongoing Covid situation and ever-changing restrictions. Members should also check ESRC’s FaceBook page and website, for updates with details of events and potential changes to restrictions.

**6. Dressage report by Louise Green**

Louise Green reported that dressage teams competed at Area Competitions. She stressed that up to date vaccinations are vital especially when competing on behalf of the club. Information on upcoming competitions can be found on the club’s FaceBook page.

In the Area 5 Music qualifier Tina Smith did the dressage to music and won at Elementary level. Sally Wainwright competed in the Intermediate qualifier in September and then Novice 28 at the Novice Winter dressage in November. Harriet Fox-Davis also represented the club in September. In the Open Winter Dressage Lynn Aucott, Sally Wainwright and Tina Smith took part (this had been rearranged) and on both occasions Tina was placed.

**7. Show jumping report –by Lisa Hansford**

No Area competitions attended this year due to the lock down.

**8. Eventing report** **by Jenny Millman**

The ESRC teams at the Area Arena Eventing in October were extremely successful: Alice Robinson jumped clear in 80cm to finish 7th in a huge class of 50 entries. Then our 90 cm team of Jenny Millman, Racheal Kneller, Sarah Turner and Harriet Fox-Davies won the event and qualified for the final in March 2021. Well Done Team ESRC!

**9. Shows by Chris Kneller, Vice Chair**

Due to lock down from March to July no shows were organised, however two dressage and jumping mini shows were held at the Apley arena in August and September. These were well attended and thanks to all those who helped make the events run smoothly.

The club also ran a ‘No Stressage!’ event at Bissell Woods in September with a good turn out and beautiful weather. Another similar event may be held in Spring 2021. Many thanks for the sponsors and helpers that made the event possible*.*

Future shows at Kings Nordley are scheduled to start on 2 May and will be run on the first Sunday of the month until September.

**10.Charity rides by Chris Kneller**

This was a new idea put forward and organised by Debrah Farrell. So far there have been four rides, with ride leaders being Sab Kaur and Bev Higgs. £140 was been raised for various charities including The Gambia Horse and Pony Trust, Little Paws Cat Haven, Cuan Wildlife Rescue and Air Ambulance. More are planned for all areas so that members can get together and have fun with their horses.

**11. Camp by Chris Knelle**r

This will be held on June 11th, June 12th and June 13th 2021 at Lincomb.

**12. Re-election of committee**

Cath Westwood and Chris Kneller were due for re-election.

Proposed by Patsy Pyke

Seconded by Sue Bullock and Bev Higgs respectively.

**Retiring committee members**

Three members of the committee were not standing for re-election. Bev Higgs (former Chair) paid tributeAll three will be very sadly missed.

**Sue Bullock**  
Sue joined the club over 10 years ago with her horse of a lifetime Magic and competed in dressage at shows.

She planned special lessons for the club with top trainer Moray Nicholson before being invited onto the committee and rapidly became membership secretary due to her ability and organisational skills Sue started helping at shows taking entries, meeting and greeting competitors and it is mainly for this role she will be remembered - ‘queen of the caravan’ - although she could be called upon to help with absolutely anything.

**Louise Green**

Louise was introduced to the club by Kym Scott-Jacob and they will both be remembered for introducing and organising the popular ridden and in hand showing classes at ESRCmonthly shows. Louise also helped with setting up showing arenas and with the entries

She has been a very supportive chef d’equipe for ESRC dressage teams at area level selflessly juggling work and her young family in order to travel to competition venues to film and photograph their performances on the day.

**Fran Hampton**

Fran joined the club over 10 years ago with her mare Woodlark. She has helped in many ways one as Safeguarding Officer responsible for the safety of juniors and vulnerable members. She became chief minute taker at meetings and always helped with show jumping and judging on show days.

PP thanked the retiring members and advised that presentations would be made to show the club’s appreciation of their years of service.

**10. Election of new committee members:**

**PP welcomed**

**Lynn Aucott** (Nick Lawson clinics).

Proposed by Sue Bullock

Seconded by Cath Westwood

**Elaine Soones** (RoR training and RoR showing classes)

Proposed by Louise Green

Seconded by Patsy Pyke

**Debrah Farrell** (Charity rides)

Proposed by Chris Kneller

Seconded by Heather Stiles

**Meria Price** (good club sponsor support)

Proposed by Sue Bullock

Seconded by Jenny Millman

**11. AOB**

There was no further business for discussion and PP declared the meeting closed.

**12. Date of AGM 2021**

To be advised.