



Maidstone & District Riding Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10th Nov 2016

1 – Chairman’s Welcome

Jo Cottee welcomed everyone to the meeting

2 – Apologies

Apologies were received from Jan Barlow, Lisa Greer and Natalie Harrison.

3 – Minutes of last AGM held on 19th November 2015

The minutes of the last AGM were accepted as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

4 – Chairman’s report 2016

I have just been reading my 2015 Chairman’s Report and I could almost repeat it word for word for 2106. I am having a debate with myself as to whether this is positive or negative. On the one hand are we stuck in a rut doing all the same things without thinking about embarking on new activities or is this merely an indication that we have a successful formula and why change it? I’m inclined to err on the positive side but I also really think it is important for our Club to continue to develop. How can we do this? It is of course by the interaction of a dynamic committee with a membership which has its own ideas for the Club and is prepared to put itself forward to suggest and be prepared to help organize activities both new and tried and tested.

Our membership is buoyant including our Junior section which we value very much. Juniors are very important as we hope they will be the Seniors of the next generation and involved in the running of the Club.

Throughout the year our usual clinics have taken place with Neil Boorman for show jumping, Bridgette Draper for dressage and Sam Jennings for cross country. Wendy Neath has run various events at Street Farm including some trec training and a very popular breakfast ride as well as some standard clinics. Wendy’s quadrilles are popular and the latest was of course, Witches and Demons in honour of Halloween. Thank you to all our regular trainers and to those we only see on occasions, for example, at our highly successful Camp at Littleton Manor.

The Christmas beach ride was more of a dog walk as the weather was inclement but thank you to Alex Taskin for turning up not only with horses but also with mince pies which we washed down with Cottee sloe gin!

More club rides are on the cards and by the time I read this one will have already happened.

We had a successful quiz night organized by Sue Stewart and thank you to Colin and Sarah Leggat for being excellent quizmasters giving their time and effort free of charge enabling the Club to make a reasonable profit. We could have done with a few more people but those who attended has a great evening.

We have had a successful year competing in all the Area 10 qualifiers including the Winter Indoor SJ and Dressage including Dressage to Music, Festival of The Horse Combined Training and Eventers Challenge, Summer Dressage, Riding Test, Style Jumping, Show Jumping and Horse Trials. Well done to all our team members. I know how much commitment there is to riding in a team and your loyalty is appreciated. We were represented at Riding Clubs Championship level in summer dressage, Horse Trials and at FOTH in the Eventers Challenge. I would like to specially mention our Preliminary Dressage Team at the Championships who were placed 5th and had the disadvantage of only fielding 3 team members so were without a discard score. All 3, Sophie Leaney, Mel Jones and Georgie Kneller were placed individually. Sophie also did brilliantly at the Horse Trials Championships where she came 3rd in her arena and 6th overall. Fabulous results!

Competing is not all about qualifiers and we sent 2 teams to the Area 10 friendly show jumping at Eaglesfield in the early spring. Wendy Neath ran some Prix Caprilli and the ever popular versatile trec competition. We have 2 show case events, namely the Dressage and Eventers Challenge Open Show at Bonfleur and our Ride for Life.

The Open Show was run super efficiently by Wendy Thomas and Janice Payne with an army of helpers over 2 days. Entries were excellent, it ran like clockwork and made a good profit. Well done all.

Over 170 riders took part in our R4L on 25th September. A staggering £11,266.49 was raised for Cancer Research through sponsorship and entry fees and a huge thank you to Karen Newman and Janice Payne who organised the event. Over the years our Riding Club has raised over £57,000.00 for Cancer Research. This is truly amazing. The ride would not happen without the generosity of the local landowners who allow the ride to take place over their land. The landowners are Charles Tassel, James Weeks, Chris Maddocks, Dot Taylor, Nigel Edmed and The Ulcombe Trot ride so a huge than you to them. Thank you also to all the helpers who made the day possible.

On the subject of helpers, as you all know we are obliged to provide helpers at Area 10 competitions where we are competing as well as providing help at our own events. A big thank you to all those who have helped this year; no less than 64% of the membership have helped in 2016. It would, however be less stressful if people could commit earlier to helping at specific events to take

the pressure off the team organisers who are often tearing their hair out worrying that our teams will have to pull out if we cannot produce the required number of helpers.

Before I close I would like to thank everyone on the committee for their hard work this year. Everyone pulls their weight and I really appreciate every one of you. I am sad to be losing Wendy Neath, my Vice Chairman, Sue Stewart, Alex Taskin and Lisa Geer from the committee and a special thank you to the outgoing committee members. Lisa, however has agreed to remain in charge of health and Safety from an off-committee position so thank you, Lisa for that.

As we go into 2017, I will be entering my 10th year as Chairman. I do feel that it will soon be time for a new Chairman to take over to give a fresh approach to the running of the Club. It is all too easy for things to remain static especially if things are basically going well. It is therefore my intention to retire at the AGM of 2017 and reduce the average age of the committee by a significant amount!

I do hope you are all looking forward to having fun with your horses in 2017 and enjoying all the Riding Club has to offer.

5 – Treasurer’s report

This report will follow later

6 – Election of Officers

	Proposed	Seconded
Jo Cottee – Chairman	Karen newman	Sue Stewart
Wendy Thomas– Vice Chairman	Karen newman	Sarah Leggatt
Natalie Harrison – Treasurer	Karen newman	Sarah Leggatt
Karen Newman - Secretary	Jo Cottee	Sue Stewart
Kate Richardson – Membership Secretary	Karen newman	Jess Hawkes

Thank you to Wendy Neath for your hard work as Vice Chairman

7 – Election of Committee

	Proposed	Seconded
Justin Byrd	Jo Cottee	Wendy Thomas
Becky Howells	Jo Cottee	Hilary Moon
Sarah Hall	Jo Cottee	Wendy Thomas
Wendy Thomas	Jo Cottee	Wendy Thomas
Neil Boorman	Jo Cottee	Wendy Thomas
Janet Barlow	Jo Cottee	Wendy Thomas

Sarah Leggat	Jo Cottee	Wendy Thomas
Janice Payne	Jo Cottee	Wendy Thomas
Vanessa Martin	Jo Cottee	Wendy Thomas
Georgie Kester	Jo Cottee	Wendy Thomas

Thank you to Lisa, Sue and Alex who has come off the committee and welcome to Vanessa, Georgie and Justin who will be joining us in 2017.

8 – Presentation of trophies

The following trophies were awarded by the Club's Chairman, Jo Cottee and Vice Chairman, Wendy Neath. These trophies were presented by Peggy Skinner.

Mr Gingham Trophy to the best team all-rounder. Brenda Hawkes.

Black Rearing Horse to a none- member in recognition to service to the club.

Kim Bates

Brishing challenge Cup to the junior with the best overall performance in junior jumping. Alisha Jordan

Leybourne Horse to the most Improved Jumping Combination. Jaimie Hollis

The Barney Cup, kindly donated by Sarah Leggat to the most improved dressage combination. Alex Taskin

Wooden Mare and Foal to a none committee member who has been the most helpful at our riding club functions. Jennie Hutchinson

Large Silver Horse to the Committee Member who has made the most contribution to the Riding Club. Wendy Neath

Bronze kindly donated by Kate Connell to the person with the best performance at one of the Riding Club Championships. Sophie Leaney

The Pauline Moore Memorial Trophy for Equestrianism: Georgie Kneller

Points Championship 2015

Point's championship for 2016, points are awarded throughout the year for representing the club at area events, entering our competitions etc.

Rosettes and trophy was presented by Peggy Skinner.

1st Melanie Jones 106.5 pts

2nd Georgie Kneller 89 pts

3rd Kate Richardson 56 pts

4th Alex Taskin 54 pts

5th Lucy Field 51 pts

6th Brenda Hawkes 45 pts

7th Wendy Neath 45 pts

8th Vanessa Martin 41 pts

9th Jessica Hawkes 36 pts

10th Erin O'Loughlin 32 pts

Brenda Hawkes and Wendy Neath are on the same number of points but Brenda represented the club on more occasions than Wendy hence the placings.

9 – Any other business

Newsletter – please can everyone send any information to Sarah and please include pictures.

Helpers at events – discussion around giving a financial incentive for helpers, possibly a prize draw for a ticket for Olympia and the draw could be at the AGM. Also, to put something into the newsletter – have a slot every month for helpers – who has helped in the last quarter.

Also, sending out the dates in advance so that members can commit early on. For example, the EC needs about 40 helpers to run the event.

Trainers suggested for 2017 – Stuart Atkins and Frances Whittington.

Marion Bush pole work clinics at Stilebridge

Members only dressage show in 2017?

Members only dressage test training day – possibly use Leanne wall?

Style jumping – could we run some training on this in 2017.

Holiday with horse to consider – Home Farm Norfolk or Paddocks Jevington.

10 – Presentation from Lynette from Alex Taskin

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Date