

Gipping Riding Society AGM

November 25th 2022 at 6.45pm

Mendlesham Community Centre

Present: Alison Nicholson, Lynne Baines, Jill, Hannah, Kerry and Jessica Baldwin, Lorna Briggs, Kate and Florence Rosten, Sarah Lock, Kirsty and Emma Neve, Rachel and Martha Snow, Rachel, Mandy and Harry Leek, Claire, Tamara and Brooke Sturgeon and Kathy Studd, Katie Hull, Amanda and Charlotte Salmon, Sarah Spice, Tayne and Reggie Eaton. Julia Hicks

Chairs Welcome

I couldn't be more delighted to welcome you to Gipping Riding Society's AGM this evening. Having had two years of virtual AGMs it's lovely that we can all come together in the same room.

1. Introductions.

Present committee members: me - Lynne - Jill - Katie

Absent committee members: Bex - Nicola - Sarah - Holly

2. Our format this evening is first the formal part of the AGM, followed by presenting club awards, in the form of rather splendid rosettes and trophies. During this, Lynne will make a dash to the Fish and Chip shop and return with one of the main reasons we're all here tonight, the food! We'll get the kettle on make teas and coffees if you'd like a hot drink and there's also some cans. During the break I'll set up a tombola to do a bit more fundraising for the Air Ambulance. Just make your way over when I look organised. Afterwards Bex has organised a quiz which we'll intersperse with our traditional Horse Beetle. And we're aiming to finish by 9.30.

3. I feel that after a couple of quieter years, caused by COVID, we have woken up in 2022 and have been back to being pretty busy.

As in the past couple of years, one of our earliest club activities in the year was virtual and could be done in your own time. This year it was challenges to check your horse's manners.

During the year we have offered a variety of training sessions; with a variety of trainers (including Anne Gayfer, Lucy Gooderham, Jake Hall, Georgie Webster, Michael Paveley and Rachel Lee Booker) and at a variety of venues as our membership is so geographically scattered and of course for all ages and abilities from mini members to our golden oldies, and all in between!

Looking back over the year brought home to me just how many competitions we ran – two dressage days, Summer Evening Show Jumping, the Charity Fun Show and after a two year break, Helmingham Show.

Aside from this evening, there have been two social events – something that we couldn't safely organise during COVID. There was a Quiz and Social Evening in March and a BBQ and Social Evening where there was the opportunity to meet the Hamilton Bloodhounds and find out more about them.

We've been very busy with Area 14 competitions, which Jill will tell you about.

Another new thing this year has been extending the range of club clothing and including embroidered club badges which can be sewn on numnahs, tee shirts etc.

4. If I were to pick out a few highlights of the year

*Mini member training.

*Area 14 Junior Dressage Qualifier.

*Participation and success in Area 14 and National BRC competitions.

*Feedback related to how friendly, kind and encouraging GRS continues to be.

2022 hasn't been without challenges though. Do you remember us having to cancel things because of the heat and hard ground, and us being limited by the local strangles outbreaks? It all seems a long while ago now!

5. Our membership this year has increased to 114 from 97 in 2021. I'm particularly proud that we're a club that welcomes and encourages a wide age range – the youngest of our 44 juniors are under 5 and some of the 70 seniors are well into their sixties and still active riders!

I do need to break the news that membership fees will need to rise for 2023, which probably won't come as a surprise to you. The principle of being a not for profit club remains central to GRS and as such membership fees are set at a price to break even. British Riding Clubs will be charging us £20 per member, irrespective of age and additionally we have to pay Webcollect and Paypal fees, insurance and website costs, which also are not age related.

So next year an adult subscription will be £30, junior £25, non-riding £22 and family £85.

We will continue to price training and other club activities at cost price to members.

I would like to end with some thank yous.

My first thank you is to you all. GRS is a great club because our members are kind and supportive to each other.

Next is a huge thank you to the rest of the committee (Lynne, Bex, Holly, Nicola, Katie, Jill and our newbie Sarah) They are a true team: with enthusiasm, hard work and a commitment to making GRS a club that people want to join. And when one of us flags there's always someone who will step up. However there's always space for more committee members and now meetings are done via Zoom it's not overly time consuming. Please don't be shy!

2021 Minutes

were agreed

Treasurers Report

Copies of the report have been sent to members

Constitution

Alison raised the question about changing the constitution and legal structure of the club. The committee are considering whether to become incorporated to reduce the financial liabilities of members. Kate and Sarah have offered to help with the process. Other options include charitable status.

Teams

Jill gave a report on how GRS teams have done in the past year. Juniors have had a number of successes and it was noted how they have become supportive of each other.

The team has qualified for the arena eventing champs next spring.

Jess gained a 3rd place at the Combined Training champs this year.

GRS held the Junior dressage qualifier at Crows Hall which was a lovely day.

A reminder was given that passport details must be lodged with Jill early in the year to make paperwork easier. Send to gippingteams@gmail.com

Election of Committee

The current committee who are standing again and were elected as follows:

Allison Nicholson-Chair & Membership Secretary

Lynne Baines-Secretary

Nicola Hatfield- Treasurer

Jill Baldwin - Teams

Bex Kelly, Holly Haward, Katie Hull

Lynne and Bex stood down and were re-elected. Nominated by Julia and seconded by Lorna

Sarah Ahrens has been elected on to the committee. Nominated by Kate and seconded by Sarah

A.O.B

Everyone enjoyed the quiz and the barbecue, Tayne requested a repeat in 2023.

Presentation of Trophies

Seniors

1st Sarah Lummis

2nd Nicola Taylor

3rd Tayne Eaton and Kerry Baldwin

4th Hannah Baldwin

5th Julia Hicks

6th Michele McCarthy

Juniors

1st Jessica Baldwin

2nd Brooke Sturgeon

3rd Freya Button

4th Florence Rosten

5th Ruby Newell and Kayla Perry

6th= Georgina Flory

Stonebridge trophy for Jumping– Ruby Newell

Double Vision trophy for Dressage – Julia Hicks

Tack and Turnout Training Trophy – Sarah Lummis

AGM Closed 7.20pm