

Geraldton Combined Equestrian Club

Annual General Meeting – Minutes

Date: 15 November 2025

Time: 3pm

Location: Woorree Park Hall

1. Welcome & Opening of Meeting

Chair declared the meeting open at 3.10pm

2. Attendance & Apologies

Attendees: Gemma Simkin, Liz Thomas, Louise Fletcher, Louisa Spicer, Prue Wilkins, Mel Hammerquist, Cass Moody, Hayley Smythe, Suzanne Roberts, Matt Bennett, Raelene Prater, Joanne Fabling, Jennine Smith, Susan Seaward, Steph Johnson, Lucy Lowe, Lisa Wallace, Jo Taylor, Natasha Pearce, Christy Poulson, Mandy Thorpe, Steve Hunt, Alice Hunt, Jodie Tyndale-Powell, Stella Bunker, Sam Bunker, Skyla Dalton, Mitch Caimanos, Limara Matthews

Apologies: Heike Witt, Carol Conway, Paula McAndrew, Aimee Holmes, Marieke Jansen, Rowena Chant, Leta Mitchell, Indi Smith, Sue Mitchell.

3. Appointment of Returning Officer

Jennine Smith appointed as returning officer

4. Confirmation of Previous AGM Minutes

- Motion: Jennine Smith moved that the minutes of the 2024 AGM be accepted as a true and accurate record
- Mover-Liz, seconded by Limara

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

- Updates or actions from last AGM
No actions/updates from last AGM

6. Chair's Report

- Attached at end of minutes. Motion to accept report-Susan
- Moved-Jo Seconded-Lucy

7. Treasurer's Report & Presentation of Audited Financials

- Statement of income, expenditure, assets, liabilities
- Auditor's report tabled
- Questions from members
- Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted

- Moved-Liz, Seconded-Lucy

8. Appointment of Auditor

- Nomination of auditor for next financial year-Susan nominated Midwest Financials
- Moved-Jo Seconded-Lucy

9. Election of Office Bearers & Committee Members

- All positions declared vacant
- Elections conducted (secret ballot)
- Results of Elections

	Appointed to Positions		
Patron	Beth Still/Lora Halton	Both appointed to Patron (joint)	
Chair	Susan Seaward		
Vice Chair	Christy Poulson		
Treasurer	Lisa Wallace		
Secretary	Louisa Spicer		
Assistant Secretary	No nominations		
Show Horse Representative	Rowena Chant		
Show Jumping Representative	Jo Taylor		
Dressage Representative	Lucy Lowe		
Grounds Committee	Liz Thomas	Sue Mitchell	Hayley Smythe
Sponsorship	Paula McAndrew		
Woorree Park Management Committee	Hayley Smythe	Susan Seaward	
Media/Communications	Hayley Smythe		
Rider Representative	Louisa Spicer		

10. Membership Fees for the Coming Year

- Proposal of membership fee structure/changes

- Motion: Fees will increase by \$10 per category in 2025. However, if fees are paid prior to February 1st 2026, there will be a \$10 “earlybird” discount.
Moved-Jo Taylor, Seconded-Susan Seaward

11. Meeting Close

- Meeting closed at 3.54pm
- Thanks to members and volunteers

Chair’s Report – AGM

I would like to start by acknowledging how incredibly proud I am of our club and what we have achieved this year. We are ready to apply for our arena grant (when it finally comes out), we have returned a significant profit and we have a clear direction of where we are headed and have plenty along for the ride. Our progress reflects consistent effort, clear priorities, and a genuine commitment to the long-term success of GCEC and its members. We have all worked hard to strengthen unity across all disciplines. We have worked with a shared purpose and a team-based approach. This has made the club more cohesive and efficient, ensuring our time and resources are used well. As a club we have continued to refine how the club operates. This includes stronger budgeting and accountability, improved event planning and documentation, and consistent adherence to first aid, rider safety, and general club procedures. These improvements build a safer, more organised, and more professional club.

To our volunteers – you have been outstanding. From committee and subcommittee members to grounds maintenance, major event support, and behind-the-scenes work- your generosity with your time has kept the club moving forward. We deeply appreciate every contribution. We also encourage more members to jump on board and share the load with the essential tasks that keep GCEC running smoothly. It is reassuring that at a time when many sporting clubs are finding it increasingly difficult to keep things moving forward, we are in a healthy position.

To my fellow committee members - you have continued to ensure that decisions are guided by one priority: what is in the best interests of our members and the club. At times this has been challenging, particularly when matters involve privacy or sensitive information. This can make situations appear different from the outside. Please be assured that the committee aims at all times to make decisions that are considered, fair, and driven by member safety and wellbeing. On behalf of GCEC, I sincerely thank the committee members stepping down this year-Jennine Smith and Steph Johnson. Your

service and commitment have been invaluable. I would also like to acknowledge Ross Newman who is also stepping down from his role as the GCEC representative on the WPMC after many years. Thank you for your dedication. Thank you also to Beth Still for your service on this committee.

Our grounds have improved significantly thanks to regular maintenance and dedicated volunteers. The arenas and surrounding areas are safe, presentable, and visually appealing. Judges, coaches, and competitors have consistently commented on these.

This year we moved from three separate discipline-based sponsorship streams to a unified club model. This has streamlined processes and strengthened our financial position. Thank you to our sponsors, and to Paula for her hard work in securing, managing, and supporting our sponsorship partnerships. Just to give you some perspective-last year we secured \$15000 in major grants-this year, mainly due to our healthy bank balance I believe and a competitive grant situation, we secured just over \$3000 in goods in kind with regard to grants yet still returned a strong profit. Paula's relentless quest to lock in sponsors and keep applying for grants really took some of the pressure off the subcommittees when organising events. To our many sponsors-you have made running the club possible-we couldn't do it without your generosity.

Our long-term priority-the undercover arena-remains a focus. We have continued saving, planning, and working with key stakeholders. Grant preparation and consultation have been major focuses this year and will continue to be a significant part of our forward planning. Thank you to those members who formed part of our project committee. Your efforts are deeply appreciated.

Like all sporting clubs, we understand that there will be challenges along the way. While we can't please everyone all the time, and we can't always get everything right, we do try to genuinely listen, reflect, and make decisions that support the broader membership and long-term success of the club. We remain committed to continuous improvement and genuinely value constructive feedback. Sharing concerns directly and respectfully helps us problem-solve and maintain a healthy club culture.

Our goal remains clear: a club that is united, safe, transparent, respectful, and sustainable.

Thank you to everyone-volunteers, committee members, riders, parents, coaches, and supporters for everything you have contributed this year. Every effort, big or small, helped move our club forward. We look forward to an even more positive and successful year in 2026.