



Geraldton Combined Equestrian Club Annual General Meeting – Minutes



Date: Saturday 30 November 2024

Meeting Opened: 11.05 am

Apologies: Steph Johnson, Suzanne Roberts, Kerry Fullbrook, Aimee Holmes, Indi Smith, Jodi Tindale-Powell

Attendees: Shantel Dewar, Marieke Jansen, Tanika Parsons, Lyn Whitwell, Susan Seaward, Heike Witt, Sue Ryall, Liz Thomas, Louise Fletcher, Lisa Wallace, Jennine Smith, Sue Mitchell, Christy Poulson, Lucy Lowe, Jo Taylor, Paula McAndrew, Mandy Thorp, Gemma Simkin, Fiona Doyle, Joanne Fabling

ITEM	WELCOME & APOLOGIES
1.	APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER
	Motion to appoint Joanne Fabling as Returning Officer-Heike Witt Seconded-Susan Seaward All in favour None against Motion passed
2	PREVIOUS MINUTES
2.1	26/11/2023 Motion to approve the minutes from last AGM-Lucy Lowe Seconded-Liz Thomas All in favour None against Motion passed
3.	BUSINESS ARISING/ACTIONS
3.1	No business arising from previous minutes
4.	TREASURER'S REPORT
4.1	Presented by Susan Seaward in the absence of Kerry Fullbrook ***Please see at end of document Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report Marieke Jansen Seconded-Sue Mitchell All in favour None against Motion passed
5.	PRESIDENT'S REPORT
5.1	**Please see at end of document Presented by Chair-Heike Witt Motion to approve the President's Report – Sue Mitchell Seconded-Susan Seaward All in favour None against Motion passed

6.	MEMBERSHIP FEES 2025
6.1	<p>Family Membership - \$175 (1 or 2 Adults and any children under 18 years old must reside at the same address) (Full voting rights limited to 1 Senior per Family Membership)</p> <p>Senior Membership - \$100 (Full voting rights)</p> <p>Junior Membership - \$75 (Under 18 years – No voting rights) (Age until end of the year you turn 18)</p> <p>Associate Membership- \$25 (Open to Non-Riding Individuals wishing to support the Club – No voting rights)</p> <p>***Membership inclusive of yards</p> <p>Motion to approve the membership fees for 2025 – Heike Witt Seconded-Lisa Wallace All in favour None against Motion passed</p>
7.	ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS
	Declare all committee members vacant
7.1	<p>Appointment of Club Patron- Lora Halton All in favour No one against Motion passed</p> <p>Appointment of Chairperson-Susan Seaward All in favour No one against Motion passed</p> <p>Appointment of Vice Chairperson-Jennine Smith All in favour No one against Motion passed</p> <p>Appointment of Secretary-Susan Seaward All in favour No one against Motion passed</p> <p>Appointment of Honorary Treasurer-Lisa Wallace All in favour No one against Motion passed</p> <p>Appointment of Discipline Representatives Dressage-Lucy Lowe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All in favour • No one against • Motion passed Show Horse-to be appointed by the Committee (no nominees)</p> <p>Show Jumping-Jo Taylor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All in favour • No one against • Motion passed </p>

	Appointment of Auditor-Midwest Financial Motion to appoint Midwest Financial as auditors for 2025-Sue Mitchell Seconded-Sue Ryall All in favour No one against Motion passed Appointment of Members Protection Officer-No nominations. Committee to appoint –(EWA as per this year)
8.	MEETING CLOSED
8.1	Meeting Closed:11.35am

GCEC Treasurer's Report 2024

Date: 30 November 2024
2024

Period Covered: 1 Nov 2023-31 Oct

Profit/ Loss

Trading Income	
Arena Hire	140.00
Clinic Revenue	32,006.45
Combined Training	300.00
Donations	180.00
Entries-Dressage	12,422.80
Entries-Show Horse	8,435.00
Entries-Showjumping	32,847.26
Income-Cash Deposits Non Specified	4,572.00
Interest Income	1,571.71
Membership	10,685.00
Total Trading Income	103,160.22
Gross Profit	
	103,160.22
Other Income	
Canteen	722.00
Sponsorship- Dressage	20,847.00
Sponsorship- Showjumping	24,526.50
Sponsorship-Show Horse	3,250.00
Total Other Income	49,345.50
Operating Expenses	
Advertising	90.00
Audit Fees	770.00
Bank Fees	20.00
Canteen/Catering	3,309.05
Computer and Internet	1,399.00
Donations & Gifts	215.55
Expenses-Clinics-Coaches (not incl flights)	26,721.70
Expenses-Dressage	2,017.50
Expenses-Show Horse	1,253.84
Expenses-Show Jumping	41,105.28
Ground Fees and Management	3,361.50
Insurance	2,224.52
Judges	4,068.31
Motor Vehicle Expenses	21.21
Printing & Stationery	249.54
Repairs and Maintenance	25,607.83
Ribbons, Trophies, Awards, Prize Money	14,118.01
Subscriptions and Affiliations	4,926.38
Sundries	389.99
Travel - Flights for Coaches, Judges and Officials	14,595.46
Operating Expenses	147,023.17
Net Profit	
	5,482.55

Comments:

- **Profit:** While this may not be as significant as in past years, we do still have some monies outstanding-OTTWA are still processing sponsorship of approx. \$6800 and we are also waiting on reimbursement from the City of Greater Geraldton of approximately \$3361 after being incorrectly charged for levies (received notification Friday pm that this had been approved).
- **Audit:** We were pleased that we were able to have our audit completed prior to our AGM and move ahead with confidence into this coming financial year knowing that we are on the right track.
- **Membership:** We saw a slight increase in membership numbers this year which positively impacted our income. We see cost of membership as being great value for money and hopefully this positively impacts member uptake of our events.
- **Financial Management System:** We moved to Xero software so that we had a club based accounting system in place that was fairly user friendly. This means that whoever moves into the Treasurer role can be added to Xero fairly easily and helps to futureproof the club.
- **Sponsorships:** We secured a significant amount of sponsorship for our events which helped us to facilitate our major events. It was great to have some new sponsors on board as well as our usual sponsors who give so generously.
- **Expenses:**
 - Most of our financial income and expenses were similar to 2023 with the exception of grounds and maintenance. We spent a significant amount on upgrading half of the grass arena after safety concerns were raised by a number of members and others. Recognising the importance of duty of care and risk management, we took necessary actions to address these concerns.
 - We did make some savings in the area of insurance where we examined our assets and then made some adjustments based on estimated current market value.
 - Cost of securing judges, officials and coaches including flights and costings were a major expense, that were offset by sponsorship and rider entry fees. We also had some grant money available to us for some of these events which was extremely helpful.

Future Outlook:

- **Budget Planning:** We aim to apply for more grants in 2025 to offset the cost of some of our maintenance, add more seating and possibly a round yard (seems to be a number of members who would like to see one at the grounds). We are looking towards an indoor arena in the future so also need to generate funds to contribute to this.
- **Interest:** This year we did make a reasonable amount of interest and plan on increasing this in 2025 by looking at an alternative bank account structure which we have been investigating in 2024.
- **Cashless 2025:** Due to challenges in managing some bank deposits, we plan to transition to a cashless system in 2025. All funds will be deposited via internet

banking or through member deposits directly into our bank account. Moving forward, we will no longer accept cash for event entries.

Thank you to our members for being so patient as we have navigated our way through the complexities of our finances. We definitely have things we would like to refine as we gain a greater understanding of what processes work best for a club like ours.

GCEC President Report 2024

Welcome to our AGM 2024

I would like to thank all our members for their wonderful support and the positive feedback during the season 2024. It has been a challenging year for us with huge changes in governance, but with a very positive, skilled and enthusiastic Committee and Subcommittees we achieved so much together.

It has been a pleasure to work with the committee towards an inclusive, fun and family friendly club and bring the disciplines together. To encourage young Riders and new Members, we have organised Combined training days at the beginning of the season where everyone can have a go and get support from other club members. These were very well received.

This year GCEC Committee introduced strategic working group meetings to work on Strategic plan, Future development and Governance procedures. GCEC was holding this strategic planning workshop meetings outside of regular meetings. This is to allow the committee some time to actually work on strategies and the clubs shared visions based on Members feedback. At monthly committee meetings we reviewed our strategy on a regular basis.

During the Year 2024 the committee participated in a couple of workshops with MIDWEST Sports Federation in Person and online. It was very well received and encouraged GCEC Committee to define their Strategic plan and they helped also with great advice and tools for conflict solving and Volunteer recruitment within organisation.

We also held Meetings with Council and Sports Department to discuss GCEC Future Development and possible lease extension. This would allow GCEC to apply for a wider range of Grants. Next year we also have the opportunity to present our long term vision for our grounds and facilities to the Council. During this process we make sure all Members have their input.

To improve the Clubs Media Presence and communication we have launched our own Web page this year with all important club Information for everyone to access. Gcec Facebook page has also been upgraded for more streamlined club community relevant information.

The GCEC Committee also developed a GCEC asset register, updated Insurance policies and bylaws, implemented a new finance system linked to bank accounts, developed a number of new policies and procedures and Sponsor packages for the whole club.

Introducing annual online feedback surveys to our members was a huge success. This gives the Governing Body the opportunity and foundation to reflect on our Strategy moving forward. This Feedback opportunities were well received.

Reflecting on Showjumping this season it has been a wonderful experience for our riders to have visiting course builders in Kim Lindsay, Max Conti, Kevin Tully and Ed Murphy as well as our local Ross Newman. The unwavering support from our volunteers to ensure these

events can run, with a special mention to Carol Conway who makes herself available to judge these events.

Geraldton Combined Equestrian Club welcomed riders to their annual 3-day Classic at the beginning of July this year. Offering competition to both Equestrian Australia and Pony club Australia riders, working in conjunction with Equestrian Western Australia & Moonyoonooka Horse & pony club to host this event.

GCEC offered 3 days of competition with two arena's jumping classes from 40cm to 135cm with over \$20,000 in prize money up and incredible support from ongoing and newly welcomed sponsors. Riders, officials, sponsors, friends and family were all invited to warm up Saturday evening and enjoy a dinner provided by local members

2024 has also been a very successful year for Dressage at GCEC. We have had a strong committee of 8 who have stuck with it for the whole year and each have contributed to help make 2024 a success. This year we had 6 Official shows with visiting EA interstate and state judges and were able to offer protocol test the next day. This is the most events we have provided in a few years and they were well supported and set up our 3 junior riders who attended State Dressage Championships.

Our Dressage Championships in August were smaller than last year (for many reasons) and we had torrential rain but pushed through and we felt the smaller show and trying conditions made for much camaraderie and fun. We received many compliments on the show and our facilities. Our Eastern States judges were awesome and loved the atmosphere both saying they would happily come back to Geraldton to judge.

Having these Eastern States judges was also a draw card for the higher level riders who attended from Perth including Grand Prix rider Melanie Nixon whose riding and horse were an inspiration for us all to witness.

This year offered flat work clinics with Nadine Merewether, Ron Paterson and Katrin Kuentler to our members and they were very well received. Dressage finished the year with a Freestyle Fun day which was a hit and we hope to run something similar next year.

With Show horse The year started strongly with our 'Matchy-Matchy' TP series going down a treat. Numbers, as always for the TP series, was good, and running 2 rings allowed us to start late and finish at a respectable time to avoid the heat!

We had 2 breed shows this year, the first one in April with Perth judge Leisa Clarson. The 2 day format seemed to not appeal to the majority of competitors, so we did a condensed one day breed show in September, with local breeder Penny Piggford presiding for the breed in-hand and ridden, and Fiona Currans and Sue Mitchell judging the ridden afternoon program simultaneously to ensure no-one was waiting too long for classes and the event finished at a respectable time. This proved to be a big hit, with over 40 horses entered, making it one of the biggest Show horse shows for many years.

Being very much a grassroots year for Show horse, we were fortunate to have the support of local judges to run the shows unofficially. This gives riders confidence to give show horse a go and get genuine feedback which is always very encouraging. Reducing the arena size was also a big success, concentrating the action in front of the canteen and grandstand for spectators and keeping classes moving along to not drag out the day for riders, judges and volunteers.

HOTY is always an anticipated event for riders that have competed in show horse all year, and this year was no exception. Perth judge Jane Fisher came to judge for us, and her post-

event feedback had high praise for the level our local combinations were at. Jane also commented on the quality of the grounds and stated that the arena size was double what she often had to work with in Perth.

All this events wouldn't be possible without our local sponsors, we have had an overwhelming support from so many businesses and this is truly amazing! Please take every opportunity to thank them personally and support their businesses when you have the chance.

This year GCEC were also lucky enough to get a generous OTT Sponsorship towards our clinics this year. GCEC will continue providing highly qualified judges, course builders and coaches for the next year for members to ensure everyone from grassroots and all the way up the levels get the support. We have 2 GCEC Members being appointed on the EWA Regional Advisory group for 2025, this gives us a voice and an opportunity to discuss all the challenges being a regional club.

GCEC has been nominated for Club of the Year, this will be the opportunity to celebrate our achievements. I am very confident we will have an even better season next year.

Thanks again to all our wonderful volunteers, without you nothing could be achieved. I wish you a lovely Christmas break and enjoy your lovely horses

Heike Witt
GCEC Chair Person