

DRAFT MINUTES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 22nd March 2017

The Southern Golden Retriever Society held its Annual General Meeting on the Wednesday 22nd March 2017 at St George's Hall, Wrotham, Kent, TN15 7AB.

The President, Mrs Pounds-Longhurst. welcomed to the AGM and thanked everyone for attending.

"Despite moving home in the year I was able to attend some of the Society's events in all weathers! The weather was kind for most but the field trial had to be the coldest I had attended, even some birds had frozen before they hit the ground! I also continued to have involvement with the field trial and judges sub-committees and for continuity helped with the Society's website and the recently launched revamped site. More photos are to be added but please take a look if you haven't recently. Hopefully you will enjoy the new look.

Finding members to serve on Committees these days is no longer an easy task and to maintain this Society in its current successful format does require some to make a commitment. The Society is indebted to those that have. If you would like to find out what is involved or be considered in the future I urge you to please speak to our Chairman or Secretary, at any time.

Finally, my congratulations goes to the Chairman on her first year in office, her fellow officers, committee members, numerous helpers and members who have all helped to make the last year so prosperous for the Society. As a mark of appreciation maybe you would join me in showing your thanks".

The Chairman, Mrs Ashley then opened the meeting.

1] Present.

Mrs S Ashley	Mr & Mrs D Wilton	Mrs G Robinson	Mrs A Hodgson
Mrs S Pounds-Longhurst	Mr & Mrs Menter	Mrs A Stephenson	Mr & Mrs D Hutchison
Mr D Wimsett	Mrs C Allsop	Miss V Hogg	Mr R Fitchett
Mrs C Hill	Mrs I Bird	Mrs M Pett	Mrs A Codling
Mrs R Smith	Mrs A Henderson	Mr & Mrs M Brown	Mrs J Ward
Mr & Mrs P Mills	Mr & Mrs D Padden	Mr R Gait	Mrs J Jankelow
Mrs W Penfold	Mr & Mrs G Underwood	Mrs C Carter	Mrs S Povey
Mr M Morecroft	Mrs A Libby	Mr S Wellar	Mrs A Gladwin
Mrs A Haydon	Mrs P Byrn	Mr & Mrs McGookin	Mr S Brace
Mr A Chapman	Mr & Mrs Sage	Mrs L Cooke	Mr D Toms
Mr & Mrs I Richardson	Mrs R Clark	Mr & Mrs D Farnham	Mrs H Porter
Mrs C Jenner	Mrs C Collie	Mr & Mrs M Jarrett	Mr S Hunsdon
Mr J Tuckfield	Mrs S Farmer		

Apologies for Absence.

Mrs J Barrow	Mr D Robinson	Mr M Pounds-Longhurst	Mr N Webb
Ms C Morrell	Mr H Robinson	Mesdames W & N Bassant	Mr I Pett
Mrs A Gait	Mrs J Cook	Mrs D Goodall	Mr & Mrs N Austin
Miss L Henderson	Mr & Mrs Male	Mrs A Fitchett	Mr S Hunsdon
Mr & Mrs M Evans	Mrs C Morecroft	Mr R Ashley	N Clark
Mrs J Elsey	Mrs L Baker	Mrs D Ewings	Mrs A Benefield
Mrs R Mitchell	Mr & Mrs C Cooper	Mr C Estes	Mr & Mrs P Marchant
Mr & Mrs J Burren			

2] Approval of the 2016 AGM Minutes.

There were no amendments raised and approval of the minutes from the March 2016 AGM were proposed by Mr Weller, seconded by Mrs Robinson, unanimous from those previously present.

3] Matters Arising from the 2016 A.G.M. Minutes

There were no matters arising.

4] Chairman's Report

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

"Ladies and Gentlemen, I am pleased to present my 1st Annual Report with a review of 2016 with some information relating to 2017

In April at Ad Astra, Hazel and Mike Evans lovely Home, we held a Gundog Training Morning followed by Special Beginner and Novice Dog Novice Handler Gundog Tests in the afternoon. It was a well-attended, fun event; our Trainers/Judges for the day were Carole Carter and Andy Ward-Smith. And we hope that some of them go on to greater things.

In May The Fun Day at Five Oak Green made a record £2520.00 the proceeds were split between Medical Detection Dogs and Southern Golden Retriever Rescue. The Event was run by the Society's largest subcommittee, Congratulations to you all it was a great day and a superb chance to see the rescue owners and dogs.

At the end of June we had a 'Pet Trim' Educational Evening aimed at helping the Novice owners keep their Golden tidy.

In June The Interclub Working Test was run by the GRC of Northumbria and our Team Captain, Andy Ward Smith handled Benson to win Top Open Dog and Top Dog, unfortunately the team was unplaced.

At the beginning of July Ann Gladwin, Sue Jackson and Trish Taylor ran on behalf of the Society at the Southern Interclub Working Test in Windsor Great Park, details of the day can be found on the SGRS Website. Andy Ward Smith has once again agreed to be Interclub Secretary for the Society and will be selecting the teams for this year.

We also have to thank Ann Cairnes for the use of her Ground at Puddledock Lane in Westerham where we held the Open, Veteran, Novice and Special Puppy Working Test. It was a great success with a number of Members helping your Committee at this event covering stewarding, dummy throwing and superb photography.

We returned to Ad Astra, at Crowhurst, Surrey, in August for the Limited Obedience and Agility Show. Thank you again Hazel and Mike Evans. This successful event was once again run by a subcommittee, made up of SGRS Committee and Society Members, it is a busy day with 3 obedience rings, main and practice agility rings, scurry, raffle and of course Hazel and her team's excellent food area.

The Sponsored Walk at Lullingstone, Kent in September, raised a fantastic £2,255 for MDD and we were once again lucky with the weather. Think of joining in next year, the dogs love it and it is good exercise for the owners!!

Discover Dogs at the Excel, in October, was very busy. Lisa Baker, Sue Norris and Claire Hill ran an impressive stand, on behalf of the Society for the KC. Experienced owners and or breeders are needed to help on the Stand next year, many of the visitors to the stand are not in a position to give a Golden a good home and need gently steering away to a more suitable breed or a Goldfish!!

The following week was the Open Show, held for the second year at Hazelwood School, Oxted. It is a very suitable venue and very accessible only a few minutes from the Godstone turning off the M25. Nicky Hughes had a quality entry.

The Field Trial this year was won by Labradors in first, Second and Third.... Come on Golden Members enter your dogs. Come along to the training days or Working Tests – practice makes perfect.

The Championship Show had a great atmosphere this year and although the entry was slightly down there were few absentees and loads of quality. Thank you to Committee for their hard work and the non-Committee Helpers without whom we would be unable to manage the Event. Please if you are able to help at the shows add your name to the helpers lists held by Ann Stephenson. At the show David Wimsett launched this years "rolling raffle" for MDD, tickets are available at the back of the hall, it will be drawn at the Open Show in October.

Just 10 days ago the Southern Golden Retriever Society Display Team was in the Main Arena at Crufts on Saturday and Sunday. This starts a very busy year for the team both with local events and a visit to Martin Clunes Charity event at Buckham Fair. This year raising funds for Air Ambulance.

SGRS Wrotham training has been extremely busy this year, during the winter months there have been so many people wanting to train their dogs that we have met both Tuesday (senior) and Wednesday (bronze, silver and gold) evenings. This is in addition to meeting most Saturdays for Display training. I would like to thank all the trainers and helpers for their commitment. As well as training the Wrotham subcommittee organise fundraising events and parties for the Members who come to the classes.

Thank you to Jenny Elsey who has arranged most of the raffles for events in 2016 and has agreed to organise all the raffles in 2017.

Pat Brown, Hilary Male and Barbara Mills have run eye testing sessions with Mr Mason in Kent and Sussex.

I hope you have all received your email Bulletin, please see Ann Stephenson afterwards if not. Some members have found their servers are sending it to the junk or spam folders. This will keep you updated on what is going on. Also the Southern Golden Retriever Facebook page has lots of News about events and some lovely photos.

We can no longer publish the Yearbook so information can be found on the Society Website. You can download the SGRS Diary of events and access schedules and entry forms as well as results of past events and shows. If you need a contact list of SGRS members, then please contact our Secretary.

The Fee for inclusion of litters on the Puppy List has been reduced to £5 to try and encourage Members to use it we are getting some lovely enquiries.

Sue Pounds- Longhurst mentioned last year that we were encouraging Members to come onto sub committees as you can see by this year's success this is working well. Please add yourself to Ann Stephenson's helpers list (on the table at the back), your Society is running too many events for the Executive Committee members to be able to attend every event. If we cannot get enough people to run an event without too much of a struggle it might unfortunately end up being taken out of next year's diary. We now have too many helpers to name individually but my thanks to all of them. My thanks go also to the hardworking Committee. Special thanks to Sue Pounds-Longhurst who has advised me and helped so much. Tracey Kinchella our Website Administrator has designed a new Website for the SGRS take a look, there is still a little work to do on it but it is great, Thank you Tracey
20 years ago Ann Stephenson and I both joined the SGRS Committee and my personal thanks and gratitude must go to her for all she has done and continues to do for the Society. Thank you Ann.

Ladies and Gentlemen I thank you and other members for your support and submit my annual report for your acceptance"

5] **Treasurer's Report**

Annual Accounts

"Ladies & Gentlemen -I am pleased to present to you the Society's accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016 and am delighted to report another excellent year, a further improvement on the previous year's position. Total income for 2016 was £35,783, an increase of £963 on 2015, and the net position after deducting expenditure was up £1,972 at £13,424 compared to £11,452 in 2015. For those of you who have the draft accounts from the website, the final net position is £120 less due to an increase in the charge for the accountant's independent examination fee, which had not increased for at least the last ten years. Once again the year's outturn was helped by the large sum, of £7,080, and again an improvement on the 2015 figure of £6,516, raised for our supported charity - Medical Detection Dogs.

The statement of the Society's Income and Expenditure for the year can be found on page 2 of the accounts. The column headed General Fund shows the income and expenditure for the general activities of the Society and the net result shows a surplus for the year of £6,136 which is up £1,443 on the equivalent figure for 2015. Within the income on General Fund activities, membership income is down just £38 on 2015 and reflects 770 members for 2016. Income from events has increased very slightly from £21,794 in 2015 to £22,816 despite only having the benefit of four months of Hooley training activity in 2016. On the other hand the Display Team had a bumper year for contributions to their expenses and generated an excess of £3,403 in 2016, but which will be used towards their expenses in 2017. The details of income and expenditure for each of the various events are shown on page 4 of the accounts. At the bottom of the left hand column you will see that the net surplus on events run during 2016 is £8,210 compared with £6,281 during 2015, an increase of £1,929, with all events held this year producing a surplus. Income generated at the Fun Day was up £431 on the previous year, and a total of £2,520 was split equally between Rescue and Medical Detection Dogs.

Turning back to page 2 (about half way down the page) under the heading Other Expenditure you will see that management and administration expenses totalled £7,753, which is just £13 higher than in 2015, and reflects continued tight financial control on expenditure wherever possible. The position was also helped by significant reductions in the cost of Inter Club Working Tests and Sundry expenses when compared to 2015. So overall, as I mentioned earlier, we ended the year with a surplus of £6,136 on the General Fund which has increased the balance carried forward to £24,758.

The next column on page 2 shows the amount raised for Medical Detection Dogs, a grand total of £7,080 (on top of which a further £110 was paid directly to MDD), an increase of £564 on the amount raised in 2015, which itself was an all-time high. As well as the half share of the Fun Day proceeds there has been a steady stream of other fundraising activities and donations throughout the year which have added to the total, including over £2,000 from the Sponsored Dog Walk at Lullingstone Country Park and over £800 from Ann Gladwin's Gundog Day. From the amounts raised in 2016 and the balance carried forward from 2015 we paid a total of £8,214 over to Medical Detection Dogs during the year and the accounts show a balance of £1,593, of which £1,000 has since been sent to MDD.

The penultimate column on page 2 shows the position on the Health Fund and the contribution of £208 from the 100 Club (compared with £244 in 2015). Two donations were made from the Health Fund in 2016, these were £500 to the Golden Retriever Breed Council for the AHT 'Give a dog a genome' project and £500 to Camvet for their Ultrasound Appeal. This leaves a balance of £9,631 available on the Health Fund. We currently have sixteen vacancies in the 100 Club so if anyone has not already signed up and is interested in paying just £12 a year for the chance to win one of four prizes - £100, £50, £30 or £20 – drawn four times a year, then please let me know. Filling all of the vacancies would increase the amount raised for the Society's Health Fund back up to the maximum level of £400 a year.

The Balance Sheet on page 3 shows our assets and liabilities and a healthy financial position. You will see under tangible assets that there were no new equipment purchases made during the year. Debtors includes income of £1,139 relating to the 2016 Financial Year but banked after 31st December.

Prepayments amount to £866 and cover amounts paid in advance for Kennel Club event licences, first aid courses, web-hosting fees and schedules and deposits for future events. Sundry Creditors includes £132 for membership subscriptions received after 1 October and carried forward to 2017 plus the accrual of costs relating to activities in 2016 or earlier but not invoiced and paid by the year end.

This completes my report on the Society's accounts for the year ended 31st December 2016 and I would be more than happy to answer any questions. Otherwise, ladies and gentlemen, I should like to ask for your approval of the Annual Accounts for 2016.

Proposed Mrs C Hill, seconded Mrs Robinson, unanimous.

Mr Weller asked what the grand total for MDD was. Mr Wimsett confirmed it was in excess of £28k.

Approval of Auditors

The Society's regulations require its annual accounts to be subject to an independent examination, and although the Kennel Club rules are now more flexible as to who can carry out the certification, I would like to recommend continued use of Lindeyer Francis Ferguson, Chartered Accountants of Tonbridge.

Proposed Mr Weller, seconded Mr Wilton, unanimous.

Annual Review of Subscriptions

With respect to the annual subscription rates, we believe that with continued careful control of expenditure we can manage without raising subscription rates for 2018. I am therefore proposing no change to the current rates (last increased at the 2009 AGM) of £8 for a single membership and £12 for joint membership.

6] SOUTHERN GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE (Registered Charity No. 1098769)

During 2016 we re-homed 49 dogs. Unfortunately one had to be euthanized due to temperament difficulties.

SGRS organised another extremely successful fun day. As always the Trust is very grateful for receiving part of the proceeds from this day but equally grateful for the wonderful opportunity this provides for many rescue dogs and owners to have a great time, meeting up and taking part in the various activities on offer.

Peter Mills retired as a Trustee in 2016. Along with Robbie Robinson, he was instrumental in setting up the Trust from the outset, and took on the role of Secretary. Peter will be missed for his quiet and efficient manner which has been much appreciated by his fellow Trustees.

Three new Trustees were appointed in 2016. Fiona Appleyard-Dyer, Ray Elsey and David Farnham. Fiona taking on the role of Secretary. All three 'new recruits' have much to offer and will provide fresh input and personal expertise to the Trust.

Over the past year The Trust's reserves have dropped by £7,000 and now stand at £178,000; £40,000 of this

is committed to meet on-going veterinary needs.

Two of our co-ordinators, Rachel Clark and Wendy Penfold very kindly put together a brief outline of some of their work to share with the new Trustees. This clearly demonstrates how committed they are as indeed are all our co-ordinators to ensuring health and happiness for all Golden Retrievers in need, however hard they may be to rehome. I shall now quote just a few of their comments:

'6 of our dogs were aged over 10 including two aged 13 and all needed some basic good medical attention, mostly for diseased teeth, uncomfortable, unnecessary skin conditions and several worrying lumps. Including the old lady that I (Rachel) adopted, they are all now enjoying the autumn of their years in comfort.'

Continuing to quote

'Epilepsy continues to feature in our breed and we supported three dogs; there is a wide range of affordable medication and if the right tests are regularly carried out these dogs too can go on to have a good quality of life. We have known Max with epilepsy now for 6 years and Southern Golden Retriever Rescue has been a real financial life line in a home that could not otherwise have considered adopting him.

We also homed a pup with a high grade heart condition into a super family, underwriting her future associated veterinary needs.

A dog from a previous year who we thought may have to have a back leg amputated continues to gallop about on all four legs, whilst the owner manages the persistent wound satisfactorily with medication that we provide.

The commercial breeders/puppy farms in our area still churn out the pups. We helped several families who had bought pups from these or similar locations with basic care guidance and they have managed to go on and enjoy their dogs avoiding the need to rehome.'

Many thanks to Rachel and Wendy for this small insight into their work.

The Trust would like to set up and maintain a data base containing information on all the dogs that we re-home. We are looking for a volunteer to do this and would be delighted if somebody here tonight feels able to take this on. If you are interested and want to know more please take the opportunity provided after the formal conclusion to tonight's AGM. to speak to David Farnham or Gillian Robinson.

On behalf of the Trust and my fellow Trustees I give many thanks to all our friends for their continued support of rescue, through various fundraising events and their time and expertise volunteering as Co-ordinators, transporters, fosterers, and home vetters; your help really is so very much appreciated. We are always very grateful for volunteers, if you feel able to assist in anyway please look at our Website for further details.

www.southerngoldenretrieverrescue.org.uk

This will be my last report to the Southern Golden Retriever Society as I am standing down as a Trustee. The last of the original Trustees to go, I am confident that the Trust has been left in very able hands and will continue as a life line for members of our wonderful breed for years to come.

Anne Hodgson Chairman 2016

7] Election of Officers and Committee:

The Chairman confirmed all the Committee Officers standing for re-election are returned unopposed, Mrs Sue Pounds Longhurst, Mrs Carole Carter, Mrs Barbara Mills, Ann Stephenson, Valerie Hogg and Jan Wilton.

"The Four nominations for the Committee vacancies have been elected. Irene Bird and Janis Ward were co-opted and have been working with the Committee most of this year. Pat Burn and Steve Brace will be joining the Committee now. Would you please come forward and collect your Committee Badges.

We are sorry to lose Pat Brown who has served on the Committee for 3 years and has helped with a great variety of tasks, Agility Chief Steward, a wonderful Steward at Gundog events, and arranging two eye test sessions per year to name but a few. Hopefully Pat is continuing to help where she can and still head the eye sessions.

My thanks goes to Hazel Evans who has been on the Committee for 7 years, she will be sadly missed, Hazel has amongst other things edited the Society year book for many years, this is a very exacting and time consuming job and unfortunately nobody felt able to take on the task. Hazel is not leaving us entirely as she has promised still to do her delicious food at the society shows and of course host the Agility/Obedience Show at her lovely home.

Colin Estes will also be sadly missed, unable to attend tonight, he is standing down from Committee after 3. Years but I am glad to say has agreed to continue as Agility/Obedience Show Manager to help our new Show Manager learn the ropes”.

8] Proposals:

As there are no proposals submitted for this AGM I hand you over to Malcolm Moorcroft for the Annual Award of Trophies

9] Annual Award of Trophies:

Mr Morecroft thanked the President, Mrs Pounds-Longhurst for her assistance in compiling the respective points totals.

Marresa Salver Presented by Mrs McKenna and the Late Mr McKenna	For dog/bitch winning most Challenge Certificates in 2016 <i>Morss's Ch/Ita Ch Xanthos Ferrari JW</i>
Hare of the Dog Trophy Presented by Miss R Wilcock	Best opposite sex to the Marressa Trophy <i>Mrs L Coles' Rooksbury Fuzzy Felts</i>
Eng.Berm & Can Ch Camrose Evenpatrol Trophy Presented by Mr. & Mrs R.A. Johnson	Presented by Mr & Mrs Johnson to be awarded for the dog/bitch achieving most points in 2016 gained in the show ring and any one of the three remaining disciplines of obedience, working tests or field trials. NO CLAIMS
Ch Scotangus of Mossburn Trophy Presented by Mr & Mrs Pounds-Longhurst	For dog/bitch and owner/handler living in the SGRS area with highest number of points won at shows in breed classes only in 2016 <i>1st Mrs & Mrs Pett's Stormerick High Hopes at Rumwood</i> <i>2nd Mrs Gayler's Carolake Remember Me JW</i> <i>3rd Mrs Hodgson's Laurenley Phoebe at Rikita</i> <i>4th Mr & Mrs Pett's Lady in Red De Ambersclan of Rumwood</i> <i>5th Mrs Pounds- Longhurst's Brodene Tempestivity to Mossburn</i>
Mossburn Sandpiper Trophy Presented by Mr & Mrs Pounds-Longhurst	For the highest placed dog/bitch competing for the Ch Scotangus of Mossburn Trophy which has also gained a Show Gundog Working Certificate <i>Mrs S Pounds-Longhurst's Brodene Tempestivity to Mossburn</i>
Mossburn Trophy Presented by Mr & Mrs Pounds-Longhurst	For dog/bitch winning the most Best of Breeds at Open Shows only in 2015 <i>Mr & Mrs I Pett's Stormerick High Hopes At Rumwood</i>
Treena Trophy Presented by Mrs G Green	For dog/bitch gaining the most points in SGRS Obedience Classes in 2016 <i>Ms C Fagan's Weisgelden Breaking Dawn</i>
The Sheena Trophy Presented by Mrs P Clarke	For dog/bitch gaining the most points in Obedience at Open and CH Obedience Shows. <i>Mr D Jarrett's Maluraya Mozart</i>
The Sheena Cup Presented by Mrs C West	For the Runner-up to the Sheena Trophy <i>Mrs L Sage's Argyll Potter for the Sheena Cup</i>
The Peredhil Annual Trophy Presented by the SGRS in memory of the late Miss J Lavender	For dog/bitch belonging to a member gaining the most points in SGRS working events in 2016 <i>Mrs M Brooks' Mollie Moonlight</i>

10] Any Other Business.

There was no official business requested.

In recognition of their 20 years of service on Committee, the Secretary and Chairman were presented with bouquets. Mrs Ashley also gave Mrs Stephenson a personal gift for her assistance and guidance during her first year in office as new Chairman.

The Chairman then thanked all those present for attending, the members of Committee and the Wrotham catering team who had catered and closed the meeting at 8.45pm. The meeting was invited to partake of the refreshments.