

DRAFT MINUTES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 21st March 2018

The Southern Golden Retriever Society held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 21st March 2018 at Hooley Village Hall, Hooley, CR5 3RP.

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

“Ladies and gentlemen welcome to our 2018 AGM and thank you for your attendance. It gives me great pleasure this year to see the Society celebrating its 40th Anniversary. Last year saw two very significant achievements which the Chairman will also refer to her in her report. The first was the Society’s Inter Club Working Test Team won the Golden Retriever Inter Club Event in Wales last June and more recently in the Kennel Club’s Good Citizen Dog Scheme Annual Awards the Society was voted the winner in the club category. The results are contrasting as the Society has competed nearly every year in this Interclub event and whilst team members have had the Top Dog position in past years this is the first time the Society has won but for the Good Citizen award I believe this was the first time the Society had been nominated. Well done though on both counts. None of this would be possible without a great deal of dedication by Officers, Committee members, helpers, members and members with their Golden Retrievers prepared to represent the Society at team events. Will you please show your appreciation for all those involved, particularly in 2017”

The Chairman, Mrs Ashley then opened the meeting.

1] Present.

Mrs S Ashley	Mr & Mrs Menter	Mrs A Stephenson	Mrs S Farmer
Mrs S Pounds-Longhurst	Mrs C Allsop	Miss V Hogg	Mr D Toms
Mr D Wimsett	Mrs A Henderson	Mr & Mrs M Pett	Mrs H Porter
Mrs C Hill	Mrs P Byrn	Mr R Gait	Mrs W Penfold
Mrs R Smith	Mr S Weller	Mrs H Evans	Mr N Webb
Mr & Mrs P Mills	Mrs J Elsey	Mr R Fitchett	Mrs A Libby
Mrs C Carter	Mrs C Jenner	Mr S Brace	Mr J Grzenkowkz
Mrs H Male	Mr A Ward-Smith	Mrs M McGookin	Mrs J Allen
Mr T Hartley	Mr C Estes	Mrs A Codling	Mrs R Clark
Mrs A Hamlin	Mrs J Willcox	Mr & Mrs A Lidinson	Mrs J Jankelow
Mr & Mrs B Farnham		Mrs L Cooke	

Apologies for Absence.

Mrs J Barrow	Mrs J Cook	Mr M Pounds-Longhurst	Mr & Mrs N Austin
Ms C Morrell	Mr Male	Mesdames W & N Bassant	Mr N Clark
Mrs A Gait	Mrs A Hodgson	Mrs D Goodall	Mr & Mrs P Marchant
Mr M Evans	Mr & Mrs Easton	Mrs A Fitchett	Mr & Mrs D Wilton
Mrs I Bird	Mrs E Ward	Mr R Ashley	Mr & Mrs H Robinson
Mr & Mrs Tricker	Mrs A Parris	Miss K Morley	Mr D Wilmshurst
Mr & Mrs Hutchison	Mr J Collins	Mrs A Benefield	Mrs E Allan-Rossiter
Mr & Mrs Sage	Mrs H Carter	Mr & Mrs S Hunsdon	Mr & Mrs Jarrett
Mr & Mrs C Cooper	Mr P Blount	Miss T Pratt	Mr D McGookin
Mrs G Clark			

2] Approval of the 2017 AGM Minutes.

There were no amendments raised and approval of the minutes from the March 2017 AGM was proposed by Mrs R Smith, seconded by Mr Gait, unanimous from those previously present.

3] Matters Arising from the 2017 AGM. Minutes

There were no matters arising.

4] Chairman's Report

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

"Ladies and Gentlemen, I am pleased to present my 2nd Annual Report and review of 2017 - with some information relating to 2018.

At the end of April we held a Gundog Training Morning followed by a Special Beginner Gundog Test in the afternoon. It was a well-attended, fun event; our Trainers/Judges for the day were Ann Gladwin and James Reavil. Hopefully we will again welcome them as trainers in April this year.

In May The Fun Day at Five Oak Green once again made over £2,000. The proceeds were split between Medical Detection Dogs and Southern Golden Retriever Rescue. The Event was run by David Wimsett together with 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. We are trying a new Venue at Horton Kirby this year for our 40th anniversary which should give us a bigger area for events and less parking problems.

Direct Charity Fund Raising activities this coming year will once again support Medical Detection Dogs. In addition our raffles at the gundog working events will be in aid of Hounds for Heroes.

In June the SGRS Team WON The Interclub Working Test run by the GRC of Wales. Our (Captain) Andrew Ward-Smith was accompanied in this great achievement by Philip Blount, David Godding and Adrian Phillips.

At the beginning of July Jean Bavistock, together with Toni Saunders and Irene Bird, 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 thank Mrs Suzette Watts for the use of her lovely grounds Parklands at Ewshot, Surrey for our Novice and Novice dog Novice Handler tests in June. This year we have been invited by The Flatcoat Club to join them at Penshurst Place in May for this level of Tests. We hope to be able to reciprocate next year and host a similar event inviting them to join us. Our hosts Mr John and Mrs Liz Barnes were also our judges for the day in July at Deerbridge House, Elstead, Surrey, for very demanding Puppy, Veteran and Open Working Tests.

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 was a busy day with 3 obedience rings, main and practice agility rings, scurry, raffle and of course Hazel and her team's food area. Special thanks to Colin Estes for doing a brilliant job as Show Manager.

Once again we were lucky with the weather for the Sponsored Walk at Lullingstone, Kent in September. And, once again over £2,000 was raised for MDD. Think of joining us next year - the dogs love it and it is good exercise for the owners!!

Discover Dogs at the Excel, in October, was very busy. Claire Hill set up 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 gentle guidance

The following week we once again returned to Hazelwood School for the Open Show. It is a very suitable venue and very accessible, being only a few minutes from the Godstone turning off the M25. Anthony Allen drew a quality entry; his critique together with photographs of the winners is on the SGRS Website. We drew the running raffle, thanks to Stewart Weller and Trevor Hartley for the prizes which raised £250 for MDD. My thanks to everyone who helped this show run so smoothly with a lovely atmosphere.

At the Field Trial in January, held at The Owley Shoot Tenterden, only two dogs were placed – both Labradors. The best Golden was handled by Kim Jinks.

We were so lucky with the timing of the Championship Show. The weather was kind to us – with the recent spell of harsh weather arriving the very next day. Our Judges Mrs Suzi Golder and Mrs Catherine Zingg had a lovely entry.

Thank you to Committee for their hard work and to 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.

This year Southern won the breed club category of the Kennel Club's Good Citizen Dog Scheme Annual awards. At Crufts on Sunday, in the Good Citizens ring, I accepted a certificate on behalf of the Society.

The Southern Golden Retriever Society Display Team was in the Main Arena at Crufts on Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday the crowd had a bonus when Blue Peter presenter Radzi joined the team for an encore.

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 on both Tuesday (senior) and Wednesday (bronze, silver and gold) evenings.

Once a month we have re-introduced ringcraft. Barbara Mills and Claire Hill have been helping Members show their dogs to advantage. This is now stopping for the summer but we hope that this will continue on the first Tuesday of the Month through next winter. In addition, some Members meet on Saturdays for Display training.

I would like to thank all the Wrotham 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 2017 and has now agreed to join the SGRS Executive Committee

Thanks go to Pat Brown, Hilary Male and Barbara Mills who have, once again, 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. The Bulletin 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 also download the SGRS Diary of events and access schedules and entry forms as well as results of past events and shows.

We are still 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 - 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 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 this year must go to the training teams and especially to Maurice Sage who has helped the more senior handlers improve their working ability once they have got their Gold Certificate.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am sure you will agree that the SGRS, is one of the more active breed societies – with a real breadth and depth of events, bringing benefits both to members and to our wonderful breed. We can be proud of what the society has achieved this year, and I am sure that with your and the Executive Committee's support we will be able to build on this success next year. I look forward in particular to welcoming our new Committee members and to seeing as many of you - and indeed all our members - at our events in the coming year.

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

5] Treasurer’s Report

“Ladies & Gentlemen, I am pleased to present to you the Society’s accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017 and am delighted to report another good year. For those of you saw the draft accounts at the Committee Meeting or looked at them on the website, the final version as reviewed by the independent accountant are unchanged except for their different treatment of rounding to a whole pound in a couple of places. Total income for 2017 was £30,825, just under £5,000 less than in 2016, due partly to the bumper Charity fundraising total in 2016 and also the loss of Hooley training activities. The net position after deducting expenditure was similarly reduced at £8,193 compared to £13,424 in 2016. Once again, the year’s outturn was helped by the large sum, of £4,820, raised for our supported charity - Medical Detection Dogs, which takes the total raised over the past six years to over £34,000.

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 £2,937. Within the income on General Fund activities, membership income is down just £32 on 2016 and reflects 766 members for 2017. Income from events has reduced slightly from £22,816 in 2016 to £20,167 due mainly to not having the benefit of four months of Hooley training activity in 2016 and a lower entry at the 2017 Championship show. 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 2017 is £5,054 compared with £8,209 during 2016, with all activities producing a surplus except for the Agility Show where there was a small loss of £20. The Fun Day generated a surplus of £2,193 which was split equally between Rescue and Medical Detection Dogs. A number of the other activities also show donations to various charities from the amounts raised at the raffles held at those events.

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 £7,519. Whilst most headings show the same cost or increases on 2016, and also include the one-off cost of the trolley coins issued as a 40th anniversary gift to members, these are offset by the saving of £1,800 from not producing a Year Book. So overall, as I mentioned earlier, we ended the year with a surplus of £2,937 on the General Fund which has increased the balance carried forward to £27,695.

The next column along on page 2 shows the amount raised for Medical Detection Dogs, a grand total of £4,820 (on top of which a further £850 was paid directly to MDD). 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 around £2,000 from the Sponsored Dog Walk at Lullingstone Country Park in September. From the amounts raised in 2017 and the balance carried forward from 2016 we paid a total of £5,000 over to Medical Detection Dogs during the year and the accounts show a balance of £1,413 due to be paid to MDD.

The next column on page 2 shows the position on the Health Fund and the contribution of £268 from the 100 Club (compared with £208 in 2016) to give a balance of £9,899 available on the Health Fund. The penultimate column shows a new Education Fund which has been created using the £168 proceeds from the Judges Competency Framework Seminar held in October. The Education Fund will be used for expenditure involved with progressing the framework.

The Balance Sheet on page 3 shows our assets and liabilities and a healthy financial position. The addition of £237 under Fixed Assets represents the cost of a new Gazebo and Fencing purchased during the year. Debtors includes income of £215 relating to the 2017 Financial Year but banked after 31st December. Prepayments amount to £747 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 £52 for membership subscriptions received after 1 October and carried forward to 2018 plus the accrual of costs relating to activities in 2017 but not invoiced and paid by the year end.

This completes my report on the Society’s accounts for the year ended 31st December 2017 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 2017”.

Acceptance of Accounts proposed by Mrs C Hill, seconded Mrs M Pett, unanimous.

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.

Approval of Auditors proposed by Mr S Weller, seconded Mrs M Pett, 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 2019. 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)

Mr Elsey, as Chairman of the SGR Rescue Trust gave his report:

"As this is my first address to the SGR Society AGM, I thought it pertinent to briefly introduce myself to those I have not met before. My name is Ray Elsey and after being approached by Peter Mills, I became a Trustee in May 2016. Following the departure of Ann Hodgson, I was elected Chairman in March 2017. Through my wife Jenny I have had an association with the Society, especially the Display Team for many years.

With respect to Charity volunteers 2017 continued where 2016 left off. After many years of dedicated service Yvonne and Gordon Bennett stepped down as co-ordinators as did Chris and Mike Hadley. They have our sincere gratitude and thanks and we wish them all well for the future. Further changes continued with the departure of Ann Hodgson as Chairman of the Trustees and the appointment of Fiona Appleyard-Dyer as Secretary of the Board of Trustees. Gillian Robinson announced that after 36 years of excellent service she had decided to hang up her 'co-ordinators hat' and stand down as our administrator. This would take effect following the Management Committee meeting in 2018. Thankfully Gillian will stay on as a Trustee and continue her invaluable work with respect to the Fun day and Newsletter. We therefore had to start work on the replacement of these dedicated individuals.

We are delighted to announce that Rachel Clarke has agreed to become a Trustee and take over the reins from Gillian in the position now called Co-ordinator Trustee. Rachel will be very ably assisted by Wendy Penfold who will assume several administrative duties in the position of Secretary to the Co-ordinator Trustee. Rachel and Wendy will assume these roles at conclusion of the 2018 Management Committee meeting. We are also delighted to announce that in 2017 two individuals have agreed to become co-ordinators, they are Adrian Chapman and Pam Murphy.

There was a small drop in the number of dogs being signed over to us in 2017. The total number was 43, which is 6 fewer than the previous year. Of these 16 originated from breeders or pet breeders, 13 from pet shops or dealers and 14 were from unknown sources with no papers. Happily, none needed to be put to sleep. However, it is worth noting that we are only 10 weeks into 2018 and already the number of cases is fast approaching 20.

In 2017 we have had quite a few difficult cases to deal with during the year and several have been referred to a behaviourist. Thankfully they all responded and were able to be successfully re-homed. We have also had a lot of cases which needed veterinary support, and we are very fortunate to be able to underwrite this where appropriate.

Once again, the Kent Fun Day was blessed with a sunny day and 35 dogs were paraded round the ring by their proud owners. Many of them also enjoyed taking part in the various classes and games. The Holly Trophy for the oldest Rescue dog present was awarded to Maureen Norman's Sally, who was nearly 15 years old. Unfortunately, Farlington Dog Training Club were again unable to hold the Fun Day they used to run for us in the Hampshire area SGRS. As always, the Charity is very grateful for receiving part of the proceeds from the Kent day.

It is worth noting the growing importance of 'Social Media' to the Charity. Our Facebook page has over

1,600 followers and the same again in 'Likes'. It is fast becoming a major source of incoming correspondence. I pay tribute those who monitor and run the page. We have a response rate of 100% of answers to questions within an hour of receipt.

That brings me to the financial side of the Charity. In 2017 our balance sheet reserve total increased to just over £202,000. However, the maximum available funds stand at just under £141,000. This is because over the past two years it became evident that the Charity needed to urgently make provision in the balance sheet for future veterinary expenditure for those dogs we rehome with existing conditions which the Charity underwrite. Our Treasurer Lynn Windell maintains accurate financial records of the expenditure on all living dogs in this category, this allows her to project forward potential future expenditure on each dog. This is an extremely complex procedure and we are extremely grateful for the huge amount of work Lynn undertakes to calculate this. Although this actual figure for the 2017 accounts is not available yet, Lynn has provided, as an illustration, that it stands in the region of a staggering £61,500. This figure is known as the 'Medical Support Fund' (MSF) and is very important as it ring fences funds to meet our future commitments for the full life of each dog.

Actual expenditure in 2017 was circa. £27,600 against £28,100 in 2016. Of this £23,000 was for veterinary fees. The escalating fees vets charge is of immediate concern. In 2014 it totalled £12,200, in 2015 £11,600, in 2016 it leaped to £23,700. So, in the last 4 years up to the end of 2017 the Charity has expended £70,500 on vet fees. Total expenditure for the last 4 years stands at £89,400

As a direct comparison with expenditure, the Charity's income in the last 4 years (excluding bequests) stands at £39,200.

This means over 4 years there has been a deficit of £50,200 of income verse expenditure.

The reason I have shared more detailed financial information than in past addresses is that I am aware that the Charity's reserves were deemed in 'a comfortable position'. However, even without considering an increased number of dogs coming into the charity, inflation, further increases in vet fees also driven by advanced capabilities of vets and medication (again resulting in increasing vet fees), running at this level of deficit our current available reserves will be exhausted in just over 7 years. Please remember that this does not include those dogs covered by the 'MSF'.

The Trustees view this with concern. We are jointly responsible for the financial wellbeing of the Charity. In the short and medium term our position is stable. However, our level of reserves for the long-term future of the charity is clearly in question. We need to consider ways to reduce the deficit over the next few years and consider how we fund new dogs who come into the charity with difficult health conditions.

So interesting times are ahead of us. 2018 will continue as a year of transition while the new volunteers and those accepting new positions settle into their new roles. But all the trustees and co-ordinators are dedicated to taking the charity forward and when required helping the breed we all love 'the Golden Retriever.'

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. Heather Carter and Trevor Hartley were co-opted and have been working with the Committee most of this year. Jenny Elsey and Philip Blount will be joining the Committee now. Would you please come forward and collect your Committee Badges.

We are sorry to lose Claire Hill and Ros Smith who have served on the Committee for 3 Years and have helped with a great variety of tasks and have attended most of the Society events"

8] Proposals:

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

9] **Annual Award of Trophies:**

Marresa Salver Presented by Mrs McKenna and the Late Mr McKenna	For dog/bitch winning most Challenge Certificates in 2017 There was no overall winner for this salver as there were 5 individual dogs which all won 1CC in 2017, 2 bitches and 3 dogs of members, they are: <i>Mrs H Male's Sh Ch Malenbrook Master Mind JW SHCM</i> <i>Mrs L Hennesey Sh Ch Thornywait McShay At Ritzlyn JW</i> <i>Mr J & Mrs B Taylor – Rosinante Loverboy by Tannadice JW</i> <i>Mrs A Beer Ch Tasheen Martinque JW</i> <i>Mr P & Mrs J Seamons – Messano Expialidocious JW</i>
Hare of the Dog Trophy Presented by Miss R Wilcock	Best opposite sex to the Marressa Trophy <i>Mrs A Beer Ch Tasheen Martinque JW</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 2017 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 2017 <i>1st – Smith & Hill's Serendipity Dog Principe James Con Rosgar JW</i> <i>2nd – Mr & Mrs Pett's Stormerick High Hopes at Rumwood</i> <i>3rd – Mrs A Hodgson's Laurenley Phoebe at Rikita</i> <i>4th – Mr & Mrs Pett's Lady in Red de Ambersclan of Rumwood</i> <i>5th – Mr & Mrs Male's – Putjade Pay the Piper at Malenbrook JW</i> <i>6th – Mrs S Pounds-Longhurst's– Sh Ch Mossburn Eva MindfulJW ShCm</i> <i>7th – Mrs S Pounds- Longhurst's – Brodene Tempestivity to Mossburn</i> <i>8th – Mr & Mrs Male's - Sh Ch Malenbrook Master Mind</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 2017 <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 2017 <i>Mrs B Hewitt's Quamaara Kazanjian</i>
The Sheena Trophy Presented by Mrs P Clarke	For dog/bitch gaining the most points in Obedience at Open and CH Obedience Shows. NO CLAIMS
The Sheena Cup Presented by Mrs C West	For the Runner-up to the Sheena Trophy NO CLAIMS
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 2017 <i>Mrs J Willcox's Procaster Samuel Junior</i>

10] **Any Other Business.**

There was no other business requested.

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