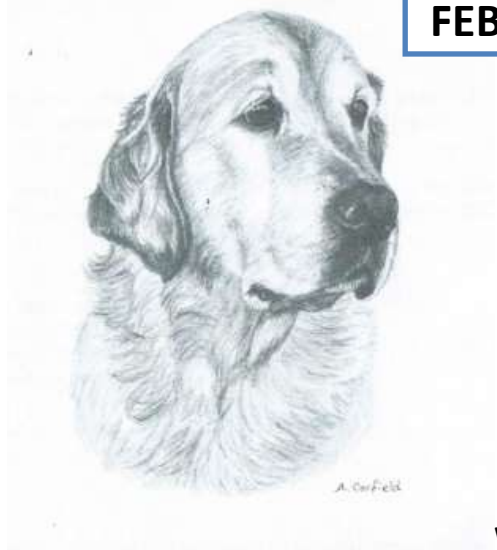


SGRS MEMBERS' NEWS SHEET

FEBRUARY 2018



Welcome to your latest NEWS SHEET.

This edition is extra, extra long...please read to the very last page, lots of exciting and important news and information.

This time of year is a very busy time for the SGRS with several important events in our Calendar.

In a few weeks' time on **Sunday 25th February, there's the CH Show at the Spectrum Leisure Centre, Guildford.** If you haven't already entered, why not come along and catch up with friends and other members. It's a lovely day just to sit and watch our breed.

Shortly after that is the "business" side of the Society with the **AGM being held at Hooley Village Hall, Surrey on Wednesday 21st March.** You have already had prior notice of this before Christmas and you will find all the information you will need for the AGM on the website in the Member's section, in the next few days

[.http://www.southerngoldenretriever.com/](http://www.southerngoldenretriever.com/)

AND....NOW is the time for our members to make their claims for the **Annual Cups and Trophies**. If you think you might be in with a shout, please have a look at the criteria involved and make a claim.

Claims should be made to Mandy Pett mandy.pett@uwclub.net

<http://www.southerngoldenretriever.com/members/ANNUALTROPHESAWARDEDATTHEAGM.pdf>

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SGRS Display Team

The Display Team begin their year of displays at Crufts in March. On Friday 9th there are performances in the Kennel Club Good Citizens Dog Scheme Ring at 11.30am and 3.10pm. On Saturday 10th the team are in the Main Arena at 12.30pm and the KCGC ring 2.55pm and on Sunday, 1.05pm in the Main Arena and 4.10pm in the KCGC ring.

The Team have been practicing outdoors since the middle of January in all sorts of weather and will do their very best to make the SGRS proud at Crufts.

Other confirmed dates for displays are:- 27th May at Fun Day, Horton Kirby; 9th June at Trottiscliffe School Fete; 8th July at the Labrador Rescue Day (venue tbc); 14th July at Ewell Village Fair; 21st July at Byfleet Parish Day; and 28th July at New Romney Country Fair.

WORKING TESTS

There has been a date and venue change for the NOVICE WT. It will now be on **Sunday 13th May at Penshurst Place**. Further details will be on the website shortly.

BUT BEFORE THAT

Special Beginner Gundog Training Day on 29th April, at Aldon Lane, Offham (Venue To be Confirmed) The Society has again arranged a Training day for those interested in the working side of Golden Retrievers. Have you ever wondered if your dog could or would work? The day is intended to be a fun introduction to working tests and for those who have had some experience of working their dogs.

Contact Mr. Ray Gait 01425 619785 or Sue Ashley 01732 846471

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FUN DAY

This year's Fun Day will be held on **Sunday 27th May at a new location – Horton Kirby Village Hall and Heathside Field - DA4 9AZ for Satnavs** – just several minutes away from Junction 3 of the M25. The charities being supported are Medical Detection Dogs and Southern Golden Retriever Rescue.

If you are a Blue Badge holder, and would like to reserve a Disabled Parking place, please contact the Fun Day organiser, David Wimsett at david-[wimsett1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:david-wimsett1@hotmail.co.uk).

Otherwise there is plenty of parking available this year and no one should have problems getting to the day.

The day begins at 11.30am from when you and your Golden Retrievers will have the chance to participate in many activities. There are several Fun Classes to enter, including ones for Rescue Dogs, and 'Have a Go' activities including basic Gun Dog exercises, Scurry, Dummy Retrieve, Hide and Seek, Obedience and Agility. And you can also have a wager on the Golden Retrievers running in the four heats and final of the Steeplechase!

There will, of course, be the Parade of Rescue Dogs – always brings tears to the eyes, and a display by the Southern Golden Retriever Display Team.

There will be a Bric-a-Brac stall, Silent Auction, Raffle, an MDD stall, a SGR Rescue stall and, for the first time, a few Trade Stalls. A Vet will also be on site to give advice about your Golden Retrievers health and wellbeing.

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There will also be plenty of refreshments from the kitchen and BBQ. All items sold in the Kitchen are made and donated by a few excellent cake makers! If you have this skill please feel free to bring along some goodies on the day. They won't go to waste!!

These days always rely on a regular number of SGRS members manning activities and stalls and with more activities planned this year more help will be needed on the day. The more help given, the more helpers can have a time off from running activities to enjoy what is available. If you would like to help out for a time on the day please contact the Fun Day organiser, David Wimsett, david-wimsett1@hotmail.co.uk.

For items you may think suitable for the Bric-a-Brac stall please contact Jane Sheppard at janesheppard@live.co.uk. to discuss suitability and collection. For Silent Action items contact David Wimsett, as above, and for donations to the Raffle contact Jenny Elsey at jenny.elsey@btinternet.com.

Our usual provider of plants for the Plant Stall is seeking other members who might like to take over much of the organisation of this. If anyone is a keen gardener and plant grower, with plenty of friends who could supply plants, seedlings etc, please contact Robert Fitchett at robert.fitchett@gmail.com who will be pleased to give guidance as to what is required.

I hope that this Fun Day will be as successful as the last few years and that is down to you, dear members, and any friends with Golden's who you could encourage to come along and enjoy the fun of this day.

Hope to see you there. David Wimsett, Fun Day Organiser.

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Sponsored Walk for Medical Detection Dogs.

A 5th Sponsored Walk to raise funds for MDD has been requested by popular demand! This year's will take place again at **Lullingstone Country Park on Sunday 23rd September**. Society members who have not taken part in this walk should put the date in their diary. It's a great walk in beautiful scenery and challenging enough to warrant the sponsorship you get! Look for more details of how to enter from around June. If you have any questions about the walk contact david-wimsett1@hotmail.co.uk

A colleague who has another breed has written the following article for her own club, but she has allowed it to be shared and altered slightly to make it relevant to our breed club and membership.

For 2018, the SGRS Executive Committee again finds itself with 2 vacancies, no nominations were received via the Membership.

Ultimately this could mean that the viability of future events that everyone has come to both look forward to and enjoy may have to be reconsidered as, without a full complement of people to help organise and manage events, the few available volunteers are stretched to capacity.

Activities and Event Sub-Committees include:

Agility & Obedience	Fun Day	Shows
Seminars	Field Trials & Working Tests	

Please read and reflect on the article and if you think you could participate in any capacity at events or on Committees, please contact our Chairman, Sue Ashley ashley258@btinternet.com

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Why do Breed Clubs matter?

A breed club exists to support a breed and to ensure that the breeders & owners of that breed have a voice. It is there to protect a breed by overseeing that the breed is keeping true to a standard, to monitor its health & temperament, to provide knowledgeable & specialist advice to both experienced & new owners. It is there to support people who need support & to help celebrate the breed's achievements. It has a role in training judges & educating its members.

What do breed clubs achieve?

- Producing educational material to help new owners , exhibitors & judges.*
- Help protect & develop the breed standard*
- Working together with other clubs, provide valuable information to allow health to be monitored and to prevent dogs with potential health problems being born;*
- With openness and honesty (and financial contributions) of the clubs and their members have most obviously resulted in the gene tests and health research we are all now relying on. There is still work to be done.*

Breed club shows are always the most popular dog shows of the year. They provide value for money for the exhibitor, often have experts who have been passionate about the breed for many years to judge, and are a place to encourage new owners and exhibitors. It is also an opportunity for a much larger number of enthusiasts to get together, enjoy each other's company and learn from each other.

Numbers of our breed are decreasing at many shows despite previously being a "bread and butter" breed for most general societies. The breed clubs give us the opportunity to choose our breed specialist judges in the main.

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The club website provides the opportunity to help knowledgeable, responsible and health conscious breeders find good homes for their puppies and for people to find a good puppy where they will have support and aftercare. Club newsletters inform, educate and link us as a breed - and give us the opportunity to share our love of the breed at various activities.

So breed clubs do so much with an enthusiastic membership supporting an energetic and passionate Executive Committee.

Let's not let lack of volunteers affect how much the SGRS can provide for its members and the breed we all love. Unless members put themselves forward to volunteer for help run both the business of the Society and all the activities, opportunities to enjoy all the activities previously provided will diminish.

Together we can do so much for the SGRS and create a legacy for those to follow in our footsteps.