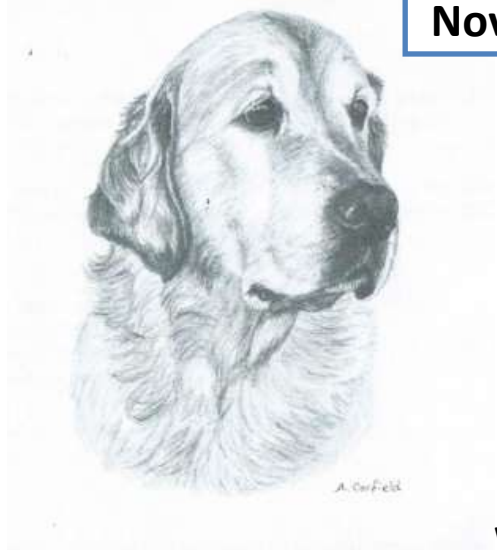


SGRS MEMBERS' NEWS SHEET

November 2017



Welcome to your latest NEWS SHEET.

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

Some of our longer-serving members may realise that 2018 is the **Society's 40th Anniversary**. The Committee have decided to commemorate this milestone by giving all our member households something to remember the occasion by. Your Christmas Newsletter will be hitting your doormat very shortly, look for the **surprise**.....

Now is that time of year when preparations for the Society's AGM in March begin. More especially it's the time for our members to start compiling 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.

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

The **AGM** is also the time when the members have opportunity to voice their preferences for the Charity the SGRS supports during 2018/19. The Society has supported Medical Detection Dogs for several years, but is always open to alternative proposals for/at the AGM.

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The Committee are always glad to welcome new Executive **Committee Members** or members, who would like to learn more about how the Society works and runs its events by joining one of our sub-committees.

There will be several vacancies on the Executive Committee at the end of March 2018 and nominations can be sent to Ann Stephenson at asteph33@aol.com. Details within the Christmas mailing.

If you are interested in joining any of our sub-committees, here's a list of the activities covered.

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

If you would like further information, please contact:

Sue Ashley ashley258@btinternet.com

2017 sees 25 years of the KC Good Citizen Dog Scheme.

A number of special birthday honours have been awarded by the KC to recognise and reward clubs for their efforts over the last 25 years. In total there are 125 clubs that have hosted over 200 GCDS tests each and have awarded in excess of 1000 passes. The top 5 clubs will each receive a special certificate to mark their achievements.

The SGRS Committee is pleased to report that the SGRS Training Classes have come 4th, having held 645 tests and given 3565 passes. We are the ONLY breed club to be in this illustrious Top 5, the other being general training clubs.

Well done to all the Trainers that have helped achieve this.

Once again, as it has established itself as an annual event in the calendar, there was a **SGRS Sponsored Walk** at Lullingstone Country Park. The final amount raised for Medical Detection Dogs this year was £2845. Well done everyone who took part and raised this fantastic amount. Put it in your diaries for 2018.

The organiser is david-wimsett1@hotmail.co.uk Shorter walks also organised for puppies, older dogs – or older handlers!

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DISCOVER DOGS

Once again this was held at EXCEL and was a tremendous success with thousands of visitors loving our very patient breed. A massive thank you to all who volunteered with their dogs and gave up their time to spend time on the stand over the whole weekend.

Rolling Raffle.

During 2017 the Society held a 'Rolling Raffle' with the Draw taking place at the Open Show in October. All money raised went towards Medical Detection Dogs and amounted to £350.

There was a choice of two prizes this year.....a beautiful limited edition print, by artist Lynn Paterson, of three Golden Retrievers posing at Guisachan in Scotland. This was been kindly donated by Stewart Weller and won by Ian and Sue Richardson.

There was also the opportunity of having a valuable water colour painting donated by artist and SGRS member Trevor Hartley. This was won by Barbara Brown who owns a rescue Golden.

There is now **Ringcraft training at Wrotham**at 7.00pm on the First Tuesday of each month through the winter months.

Contact Claire Hill clairehill75@aol.com

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Brenda Hutchison has reported on the Judges Competency Framework Seminar held by the SGRS in October, important for any Members that judges.

The Southern Golden Retriever Society (SGRS) hosted a session on the Judges Competency Framework (JCF) at Bletchingley. To my knowledge, this is the first presentation to focus exclusively on the JCF in the South-East. Ann Stephenson is secretary to breed clubs in two of the pilot breeds (Goldens and Lagotto Romagnolo), and so when she had the chance to invite **Gerald King** to come and speak on the subject she snapped it up. A good number of people from various breeds braved the M25 on a Friday evening to travel to Bletchingley and have their questions answered.

As chairman of the Training Board at the Kennel Club, this is a subject dear to Gerald's heart, and his presentation lasted for two hours, interspersed with plenty of questions. Those present were very appreciative of the chance to hear about the latest incarnation of the evolving scheme. It was made clear that the changes were made for the benefit of exhibitors, judges and societies. Anyone wanting to judge at any type of event from limited shows upwards will need to become a member of the Kennel Club Academy (KCA). There will be demands made on breed clubs to enable the changes, and clubs which decline to co-operate will risk losing their CCs.

Gerald began with slides demonstrating the different levels of judging and what will be required to progress after the transition period. The basic information is available on the KC website. One of the basic requirements for new judges will be to complete the stewarding days, which will now entail doing six (previously four) full days. This is also the point at which the mandatory seminars must be taken. Secretaries of societies appointing judges for shows from January 2019 will be expected to inform the judges that they must have completed all the requirements before undertaking the appointment. A template letter for secretaries will be coming soon.

In order to progress to Level 2 judges will have to attend a Breed Appreciation Day and pass a multiple choice assessment based on the breed standard. At this point a critique writing seminar, a one-off event, must be

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taken. Existing CC awarding judges will also need to do this if progressing in a new breed. And the Requirements of a Dog Show Judge (RDSJ) seminar must have been passed or updated in the last 5 years. Existing CC judges will be able to do this online.

At the point of moving from L2 to L3 (Judge Awaiting Final Assessment), as well as having a current RDSJ pass, and three Stud Book entries as at present, the judge will need to be observed judging at a breed club open show, supported entry show or at a championship show without CCs. They will also have to complete three 1:1 mentoring sessions on the breed. For gundog people this is the point by which they must have attended a field trial or open working test in the relevant sub-group. And finally, in order to progress to L3 judges will have to pass an Eye for a Dog seminar. L3 contains considerable assessment. When the judge reaches L3 the KC will monitor people at this level and organise assessment for them. Judges currently on A3 lists will transfer to L3 but will have to take the critique writing seminar.

The Eye for a Dog seminar is another one-off, not breed-specific. Multiple breeds will be present and the judge will be expected to note basic faults. Essentially it will be a live Conformation and Movement assessment. It is based on the assessment used in Finland, where people have failed the assessment for not being properly dressed for judging.

Mentoring received quite a bit of attention. Mentors may be former judges, consistently successful breeder/exhibitors or other people with a wealth of knowledge about the breed. As such they may not have taken the mandatory seminars and care will need to be taken in the selection of mentors regarding the accuracy of the information they might give. Mentors will not need to be members of the KCA, and neither will people who only referee or judge BIS at breed club shows.

There will be four main formats for mentoring: (1) at breed mentoring days (2) by watching breed judging with a mentor (3) judging Special Award classes at a breed club show and receiving feedback (4) being a student

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judge in the ring usually at a breed club show, for one class only, subject to the agreement of judge and exhibitors. It has also been suggested that mentors might allow people to come to see their dogs and discuss them. A course on mentoring is in the pipeline.

Observation of judging will be more structured than at present. It will normally take place at a breed club open show, a supported entry show or at a championship show without CCs.

In order to make the move to L4, as well as the RDSJ requirement, the judge will need to overcome a final hurdle in order to award CCs. This is to pass a Breed Competency Assessment. The panel will consist of two group judges and two breed specialist judges, to be appointed and paid by the KC. Breed clubs will be asked to provide dogs for examination. It was stressed that people will need to be members of the KCA before being passed to award CCs (although it is unlikely that they would have got to this point without joining).

Having reached L4 the judge will be able to judge varieties, groups and BIS up to open show level. In all subsequent breeds they will follow the process as a L2 judge. To then progress to L5 it will be necessary to judge 30% of breeds in the relevant group. Group judges will have to do three groups to be passed to judge BIS at championship level. In all these cases the up to date RDSJ certificate is still needed.

There was considerable debate throughout the evening, much of it light-hearted. Several issues which have frequently come up on social media were discussed, including the hot potato of the person who only judges one breed at infrequent intervals and feels it is unfair that they should have to pay their £26 per year. People were pleased to hear that there is some pressure within the KC to acknowledge their situation, possibly by charging them a one-off registration fee. Undoubtedly there will be some who feel that this is also unfair, but it would definitely be a positive change.

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WORKING

The photo is the beautiful ground on the Ilchester Estates that will be the venue for the 2018 Anniversary Breed Working Weekend on 19th & 20th May 2018. Near Abbotsbury, with Chesil Beach nearby, it is the home of the famous Holway Golden Retrievers. Robert Atkinson (Holway) has kindly allowed the event to be held there. A very lovely place that is part of the history of the breed. For full details... www.thegoldenretrieverclub.co.uk . It will be a great opportunity to see UK and International friends visiting or working their dogs in very special surroundings.



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Society Events Calendar 2018

Friday 19 th January	Field Trial – AV Novice Retriever Stake – Owley Estate, Appledore Road, Tenterten, Kent Contact davidhutchison116@virginmedia.com
Tuesday 6 th February	Eye testing – St George's Hall, High Street, Wrotham, Kent TN15 7AB. Contact Mrs Pat Brown 01795 511940
Wednesday 21 st February	Eye testing – Washington Village Hall – Washington, West Sussex, RH20 4AD, Contact Mrs Hilary Male - 01903 767582
Sunday 25 th February	Championship Show Spectrum Leisure Complex, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 1UP. Judges: Mrs C Zingg (Dogs), Mrs S Golder (Bitches) Contact vallhund@btinternet.com OR www.fossedata.co.uk/show_schedules/schedule.aspx?id=SGRS_FEB_18
Wednesday 21st March	AGM, Hooley Village Hall, St Margaret's Road, Hooley, Surrey CR5 3RP
Sunday 29 th April	Special Beginner Gundog Training Day, Aldon Lane, Offham (Venue To be Confirmed): Contact Mr. Ray Gait 01425 619785 or Sue Ashley 01732 846471
Sunday 27 th May	Fun Day, Kent. (Venue to be Confirmed) Contact david-wimsett1@hotmail.co.uk
Sunday 10 th June	Novice and Novice Dog Novice Handler Working Test Hampshire(Venue to be confirmed) Contact Mr. Ray Gait 01425 619785
Sunday 29 th July	Special Puppy, Veteran and Open Working Test, Kent. (Venue to be confirmed) Contact Mr. Ray Gait 01425 619785
Sunday 12 th August	Limited Agility Test with Limited Obedience – Crowhurst, Surrey, RH7 6LY (TBC) Contact vallhund@btinternet.com
Tuesday 4 th September	Eye testing – St George's Hall, High Street, Wrotham, Kent TN15 7AB.Contact Mrs Pat Brown 01795 511940
Sunday 14th October	Open Show, Hazelwood School, Oxted, RH8 0QU Judge Mr R Grimmett. Contact vallhund@btinternet.com