

# SOUTHERN GOLDEN RETRIEVER SOCIETY

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## SGRS DRAFT MINUTES - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025

The Southern Golden Retriever Society held its Annual General Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
EAST MALLING VILLAGE HALL, 14 New Rd, East Malling, Kent, ME19 6DD

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

“Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen, It is lovely to see you all gathered here tonight. Since our last AGM sadly we have lost several of our long-standing members, Jayne Eve, Pat Marchant, Geoffrey Farmer, Gill Clark a former committee member and Secretary and Dawn Rose who was due to officiate as the bitch judge at our May Championship show. Both Pat and Gill were also active in Southern Rescue for many years. Would you please be upstanding briefly in recognition for all they accomplished in and for the breed and the Society.

Jenny Elsey has asked me to say that Gill Clarks funeral had taken place that morning and if anyone was interested it was going to be streamed live in a few days and they could see her after the meeting for details.” Thank you

Sue, our Chairman will as usual, report on the past years events and those up and coming in 2025 but the outstanding thing I became aware of in 2024 was how well our Society was doing at working events. The highlight had to be winning the Golden Retriever Inter Club Working Test in Northern Ireland. Many congratulations. I'm sure you would all like to show your appreciation to team members and their lovely goldens, Officers and Committee who all made this possible and for the other Society events; all that assist behind the scenes in the running of the club and last but not least the Display Team whose goldens demonstrate the breeds wonderful will to please.

Well done and thank you”

### 1] The following Members attended the meeting

Mrs S Ashley  
Mr R Gait  
Mr G Harvey  
Mrs A Henderson  
Claire Hill  
Mrs J Hoad  
Valerie Hogg  
Mr & Mrs D Jarrett  
Mrs C Jenner

Mrs S Jordan  
M Kaur  
Mrs C Larking  
Martin Leach  
Mrs A Libby  
Mrs S Margetts  
N Porter  
Sue Pounds-Longhurst  
Stuart Sear

Mrs R Smith  
Mr & Mrs Menter  
Mr & Mrs Pett  
Mr & Mrs I Richardson  
Mrs A Stephenson  
N Webb  
Mr D Wimsett  
Mr & Mrs Wilton  
Ms V Woronecki

The following Members gave apologies.

Mrs S Apps  
Ray Ashley  
Mrs A Benefield  
Mr S Brace  
Mrs C Carter  
Mrs S Dunster

Mrs A Gait  
Mrs S Leach  
Mrs H Male  
Mrs D Morgan  
Mr M Pounds-Longhurst

Tina Pratt  
Mr & Mrs M Sage  
Mrs J Sheppard  
Mrs L Thomas  
Mrs S Wilson

### 2] Approval of the 2024 AGM Minutes

There were no amendments raised and approval of the minutes from the March 2023 AGM were proposed by Ms P Byrn, seconded by Mrs M Pett and unanimously approved.

### 3] Matters Arising from the 2024 AGM Minutes

There were no matters arising.

### 4] Chairman's Report from Mrs Ashley

"Ladies and Gentlemen, I am pleased to present my Annual Report and review of 2024 with some information relating to 2025.

The 2024 training day and Special Beginner working test was held at a changed venue, Beech Rd, Mereworth. Our thanks to James Reavil and Ann Gladwin for both training and judging the day.

On the 13th of April this year Sue Jordan is organizing an Introduction to Working Tests for 10 dogs and handlers at Gardners Farm, Ashburnham, thank you Andy Ward-Smith for allowing us to use your lovely ground

Once again, we used the Doberman Club Showground in Hertfordshire for our 2024 Championship show in May, with Melissa Loverock Judging Dogs and Pam Wooden judging bitches. The Referee was Ray Strudwick.

Special Awards Classes were judged by Scott Williamson. Thank you to all that attended to Judge, exhibit, or help the weather was kind to us and the show had a lovely atmosphere throughout the day.

We look forward to greeting many of you at the 2025 Championship show which will be held at the same venue on Saturday 3rd May.

On the 2nd of June we once again invited Flatcoats to join us at Parklands, Ewshot for Novice Dog Novice Handler and Novice tests.

On the 11th of August we held Open, Veteran, Novice and Special Puppy working tests at Puddledock Farm, Chartwell. It was a scorching hot day, and the water tests were much appreciated as were the refreshing drinks taken around the ground as well as at base camp!

The SGRS 2025 Open, Veteran, Novice, Special Puppy and Novice Dog Novice Handler working tests will be on 3rd August at Billingshurst. Sue Jordan expects a busy day with 5 Judges all starting at 9 am

Our Open Show, in September, had to be moved to East Malling at the Last Minute as we were let down on parking at the planned venue. The Judge for the day was Mrs Christine Schofield (Cwsscwn), Your Committee have decided to keep the Open Show at this hall for 2025

Once again, we held our A.V Retriever Novice Field Trial at Hawstead Farm, Hursley, Winchester with kind permission of Dan Gradidge on the 11th September 2024. Judged by Nick Coates, Jill Gardner, Jane Manley and Keith Townsend.

1st Place and the SGRS Perpetual Trophy for the Winner, The Camrose Evenpatrol Trophy for the Best Golden Retriever and the Sandcliffe Trophy for Guns Choice all went to Jinkster Goldencrest a Golden Retriever dog owned and handled by Mary Hogg.

Enormous thanks must go to all the helpers, many from other breeds, who once again put on a great driven trial.

All the results for show and working events are on the Society

Website

Hard work from the Display Team and especially Karen Menter meant that the Team put on fabulous displays at a few events in 2024 and they commenced in 2025 with 6 displays at Crufts. The Team was supported at Crufts by Paw-Cura who were extremely pleased with the media coverage this year.

Once again eye testing sessions with Mr. Mason were held in Sussex and Surrey, which are always sold out as soon as they become available. Thanks to both Hilary Male and Ann Stephenson for the huge admin task this involves.

The Judges Sub-Committee and especially Hilary Male remained very proactive in encouraging and supporting the judges' education process by constantly reviewing and upgrading judges lists and criteria to comply with KC requirements.

East Malling Village Hall has proved an excellent venue for the Good Citizens and Senior training classes run on behalf of the SGRS. Most Wednesdays we run a KC Puppy Foundation, Bronze, Silver and Gold Class as well as a senior 'Platinum' and 'Palladium' classes. Maurice Sage, who we thank for many years of obedience training and support is now retiring, thank you Maurice, I am glad you are still keeping your beady eye on us!!!

Thank you to all the Management Team that make East Malling Training possible. We have the pleasant task of handing out, to our newer Members, some special Annual Trophies presented to us in memory of Barbara Taber: Matt McCarthy for perseverance with training his very strong-minded Rosie. Sara Margetts for excellent training of Tuuli to Silver, and Melanie Lake with Hugo for great efforts training to prepare for Gold.

A big thank you to David Wimsett and all who supplied copy for the super bumper newsletter which gives a much better record of the year's happenings than my brief summary.

We need more Members to come onto specific activity sub committees. Your Society runs too many events for the Executive Committee members to be able to attend every event. Thank you to all the members of The SGRS Committee for their hard work in the past 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 by Ms Hogg

"Good evening, everyone.

I am pleased to present to you the Society's accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024.

I'll start with the Statement of Financial Activities which shows the overall income and expenditure for 2024 and a small deficit for the year of £516. This compares with a surplus in 2023 of £1,454 although it should be noted that the 2023 position was lower than usual as it included the net cost of hosting the Inter-Club Working Test of £2,957. The deficit in 2024 is the consequence of two unusually large items of expenditure which both occurred in 2024. The first was the larger than usual cost of sending a team to the ICWT in Ulster which amounted to £1,505 and secondly, due to a gap in sponsorship, the Display Team used some of its reserves to fund an extra night's accommodation at Crufts which amounted to £3,200. Had these two expenditures not occurred together last year then the position would have been a surplus of £4,184. It is anticipated that these unusual expenditures will not reoccur in the foreseeable future and that the position will return to an annual surplus.

Looking at the breakdown of the overall surplus, the position on our General Fund activities in the second column, is a deficit of £606 (for the reasons I've just mentioned) compared with a surplus of £2,184 in 2023. Members' subscriptions are down £111 on 2023 and reflect **720 members in 2024**. Events and activities (broken down further on the separate schedule headed Analysis of Income & Expenditure by Event) contributed a net surplus of £1,877 towards the General Fund compared with £2,557 in 2023 although the range of events held varied between the two years.

Management and Administration expenses charged to the General Fund totalled £8,277 and were up £259 on 2023 but include the additional £1,505 cost of sending a team to the ICWT held in Ulster. Insurance and the depreciation charge have increased slightly but all other expenditure charges against the General Fund are at the same level or lower than in 2023. The Other Miscellaneous heading includes the purchase of small items of equipment and the write off of various catering supplies used at the different events but not specifically accounted for.

So overall, as mentioned earlier, we ended the year with a deficit of £606 on the General Fund but this still leaves a very healthy balance carried forward on the General Fund of £38,854.

There was no charity fundraising during the year so the next column shows just the amount of £23 from a single Medical Detection Dogs collection box which has been paid over to MDD leaving a zero balance carried forward on the Charity Fund.

In the next column, the position on the Health Fund reflects the contribution from the 100 Club, which has reduced from £208 in 2023 to £172 due to fewer participants in the 100 Club. We currently have a number of vacancies so if anyone is interested in the chance of winning one of four prizes up to £100 in the four draws that take place each year, for the cost of £12 per year and help raise funds for the Society's Health Fund then please ask me for details. Including £60 in donated prize money the £232 raised this year, when added to the balance brought forward, gives a total of £12,094 available on the Health Fund.

The Education Fund received donations of £242 and expenditure incurred was £408 which reduces the balance carried forward on the Education Fund to £1,747.

Total funds carried forward on the General, Health and Education Funds total £52,695 and the second statement headed Balance Sheet shows how this total is made up by the Society's assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2024. There were four additions to Fixed Assets at a cost of £256, a new printer for the Society Photographer and Newsletter Editor and three pistols for use at Working Tests, all being charged through depreciation over three years. Items held as stock amount to £1,988 and we have a total of £49,426 in bank and cash balances. Debtors and Prepayments amount to £1,480 and is made up of amounts paid in advance for Kennel Club event licences, first aid courses, website domain fees, and event venue deposits for future years. Sundry Creditors includes £40 for membership subscriptions received after 1 October and carried forward to 2025, Training fees of £25 also relating to 2025, together with the accrual of £156 for December's Training Hall hire.

This completes my report on the Society's accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 and I would be more than happy to answer any questions. If there are no (other) questions, I should like to ask for your approval of the Annual Accounts for 2024."

There were no questions asked. Acceptance of the Annual Accounts 2024 were proposed by Mr Gair, seconded Mrs R Smith, unanimous.

### Approval of Auditor

The Society's regulations require its annual accounts to be subject to an independent examination by a qualified accountant and I would therefore like to again propose using Mr Jack Foster FCA of Chessington, Surrey for the independent examination of the Society's 2025 accounts.

Unanimously accepted.

### Annual Review of Subscriptions

With respect to the annual subscription rates, there is no doubt that things are getting tighter but we believe that with continued careful control of expenditure we can manage without raising subscription rates for 2026. 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.

Unanimously accepted.

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

**CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS FOR 2023 delivered by Mr N Porter**

We took 37 dogs into our care in 2024, (40 in 2023). Over 40 % of the dogs were aged 3 yrs or less presenting us with the more challenging and immature characters. Part of what we also do is to try and help families who think they need to rehome their dog to actually keep them, by giving advice and training guidance.

We currently have 254 dogs still active from all our previous rehoming activities and who we keep in touch with.

We have recently been accepted to join ADCH, (Association of Dogs and Cats Homes) which is a resource we hope will be of benefit. It is a voluntary membership organisation for dog and cat rescue and rehoming charities promoting good welfare standards and good practices for volunteers in our sector. The Trustees felt it important to be part of a recognised and highly valued welfare organisation and the thorough process we had to undertake to be admitted assisted us in the review of our own Working Practices. Our sector does not have any governing legislation, but legislation is on the way and ADCH and its members are influencing HM Gov. in writing it.

Some Trustees and coordinators have attended via Zoom several of the training sessions offered by the Battersea Academy. These have also helped us with our own Working Practices. The safety of all volunteers is paramount and the increased number of dogs presenting with a bite history is of great concern. We have a responsibility to each volunteer interacting with the dogs and to the homes we recommend adopting them.

Julie Hoad has joined us as a Trustee and Secretary to SGRR and Roger Simmon as a coordinator. We still need support in the Surrey/Sussex regions. If anybody knows of a person that may be willing to help from these regions, please get in touch with Rachel Clark.

We have completed the full review of our Working Practices, and updated procedures. We believe that they reflect up to date and safe procedures for rehoming the dogs we are asked to help. We are increasingly using Google Cloud to store our documents , slowly moving to the age of a paperless society.

On the Financial side, our income leapt this year due to a large donation received from the Northumbria Golden Retriever Club of £20,000 (received as a direct result of a fundraiser undertaken in relation to the "Lullingstone strays" at the end of 2023), and the bequest from the late Gillian Robinson of some £10,000. Without these, our expenditure would have exceeded our income by about £3,500.

The 2024 figures (unaudited) are: -

Total income: £63,718 (£32,261 in 2023)

Total expenditure: £37,166 (£42,812 in 2023)

Excess of income over expenditure £26,552 (£10,551 loss in 2023)

Medical Support Fund ("the MSF") stands at £168,265 (£150,557 in 2023)

The Medical Support Fund is a provision for future expenditure based on the medical needs of dogs taken into our care with pre-existing medical conditions, costed over the expected life of each dog.

Funds held with Banks totalled £266,918 (£239,420 in 2023)

Unrestricted Reserves £99,873 (£88,863 in 2023)

This is basically the difference between total Funds held with Banks less the MSF.

2024 was a busy year with new people, the overdue review of our Working Practices, becoming a member of ADCH and Battersea training for our co-ordinators. As with previous years, each dog we help has its own special circumstances and requires a carefully thought-out individual plan. The Trustees would like to thank all our very hard working volunteers for the work carried out during the year.

Help is required in the following areas: -

Coordinator – Surrey/Sussex area

Volunteers – Home checkers/2<sup>nd</sup> person (safeguarding policy)

## **7] Election of Officers and Committee:**

All the Committee Officers standing for re-election are returned unopposed.

Mrs. Sue Pounds-Longhurst, Mrs. Carole Carter, Mrs. Ann Stephenson, Ms Valerie Hogg and Mrs. Jan Wilton.

Welcome to Andy Hale who is joining The Committee.

The three Committee Members standing for re-election are returned unopposed. Mrs S Apps, Mr S Bancroft.

Mr J Debnam

After many, many, years on the Committee Ray Gait is sadly retiring as Working Test Secretary but I am very pleased to announce he will become our 2nd Vice President.

Sue Jordan will become Working Test Secretary.

We would still welcome other Members that would be able to help on our Committee.

**8] Rule Change:**

The Secretary explained that the Kennel Club recommended an addition to all Club rules to incorporate the Royal Kennel Club's Child Protection Policy. Whilst the Society wouldn't normally expect minors to be at any club events without their guardians and neither does the SGRS run events, such as Junior Handling, for transparency and insurance purposes, it will now be incorporated. Unanimously accepted.

**9] Any Other Business.**                      None was raised.

The Chairman thanked members for attending the AGM which closed at 8.47pm.