

# SGRS MEMBERS' NEWS SHEET

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**NEW YEAR 2017**



Welcome to your NEWS SHEET. Your Committee will be sending this out a few times a year so please check your emails and your spam folder (just in case).

The **SGRS Championship Show** will again be held at the Spectrum Leisure Centre Guildford on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February. Do come along and see hundreds of our wonderful breed.

The **SGRS AGM** is on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at St Georges Hall, High Street, Wrotham. TN15 7AB. Please come along and support this important process. Home-made soup afterwards.

## **Medical Detection Dogs.**

In the Christmas Newsletter it was anticipated that the Society members, family and friends, would have raised around £5500 during 2016 for MDD. We can now tell you that you have achieved yet another record amount raised of over £7,000. The final figure will be announced after some further allocations are completed. Your continuing support for MDD is amazing and you have now raised almost £28,000 in the past five years.

The SGRS Chairman, Sue Ashley, supported by members of the SGRS Display Team, will be presenting a 'mock cheque' on behalf of the Society to Dr. Claire Guest, CEO of Medical Detection Dogs, at Crufts in March.

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## **Rolling Raffle.**

The Society will, once again, be running a 'Rolling Raffle' during the year with the Draw taking place at the Open Show in October. All money raised will be for Medical Detection Dogs.

There will be 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 has been kindly donated by Stewart Weller. And also the opportunity of having a valuable water colour painting of your own dog painted and donated by artist and SGRS member Trevor Hartley.

Tickets, which will be £1 each, will be first available at the Championship Show on the 28<sup>th</sup> February and then at SGRS events held during the year. If you would like a ticket(s) but can't get to SGRS events you can contact David Wimsett([david-wimsett1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:david-wimsett1@hotmail.co.uk)) who will, on receipt of the appropriate money, be able to allocate you tickets and put you on the register of ticket holders.

At the CH Show there will be a box for exhibitors to "recycle" rosettes that they do not wish to take home. These rosettes will then be reused at forthcoming shows. Unfortunately, we are not able to accept rosettes that you may have had in storage.

There are still several vacancies on the SGRS Committee. Like any organisation, assistance is needed to ensure all the things/events members have grown to expect and enjoy every year are able to be continued. If you would like to contribute to what is involved in running your Society, please contact Ann Stephenson ([asteph33@aol.com](mailto:asteph33@aol.com)).

Do you have any unwanted gifts/items that would be suitable for a Raffle prize? The SGRS are always happy to accept items for prizes at events. Either bring along to any of the SGRS events or training classes or contact a local Committee Member.

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## **Fun Day.**

The SGRS Fun Day will be held at its usual venue, Capel Village Hall, Five Oak Green, Tonbridge, on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May**. There will be plenty of fun activities for you and your Golden to take part in and a good number of Southern Golden Retriever Rescue Dogs will also be there for their own Rescue Parade. Make sure the date is in your diary and we hope to see you there. There will be a reminder in April. Any questions about the day can be sent to the Organiser, David Wimsett, at david-wimsett1@hotmail.co.uk. If anyone has an item of real interest and value that they would like to donate to the **Silent Auction at the Fun Day**, would they please contact David Wimsett as shown above.

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April the Society has arranged a **Training day and Special Beginner Working Test** for those interested in the gundog working side of Goldens or for people who have ever wondered if their dog could or would work. The day is intended to be a fun introduction to working tests and for those who have already had some experience of working their dog. To be held at 2, Aldon Cottages, Aldon Lane, Offham, West Malling, Kent. ME195PH. By kind Permission of Mr. Ray and Mrs Sue ASHLEY. Schedule and Entry Form should soon be on the SGRS Website.

Please remember that w.e.f this year, there will no longer be an annual Year Book published and sent to Members. Most information will be available either within the regular e-news sheets or on the website. If you would like to receive a list of members' contact details then please contact Ann Stephenson (asteph33@aol.com) .

The SGRS Show Team is always happy to have trainee/novice stewards help out at any of our shows. If you would like to learn or expand your knowledge, please contact Ann Stephenson (asteph33@aol.com)

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## **SGRS DISPLAY TEAM**

Karen Menter writes...

Crufts is fast approaching and the Display Team, after much hard work, are ready and raring to go with their new routine. Crufts is the big event of the year for us and we are performing on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

We performed our new routine for the first time in October on both days at Discover Dogs held at the Excel London. The large crowds were very appreciative. Whilst there I was approached by a journalist who will be writing an article about the Team for the magazine "Dogs Monthly". This will be in the edition after Crufts in order to include pictures of us performing there.

Discover Dogs was the culmination of a very busy 2016 which started with two days at the National Pet Show, again held at the Excel. The year included old favourites such as Ewell Village Fair, Painshill Pooch Day, Cobham, and the Heavy Horse Show, Shoreham. We also enjoyed performing at new venues including New Romney Country Fair, Dogfest in Windsor Great Park, and Paws at Hever Castle which was held in a beautiful setting and was very well attended.

We have a full programme of events for 2017 and are looking forward to showing the public what our wonderful dogs can do. The new routine will be premiered at Crufts and then at the National Pet Show at the London Excel Centre in May.

I want to thank all Team members for their continuing commitment and hard work which keeps us at the top of our game. Without this we would not have achieved the recognition that we have in the world of dogs.

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**The University of Cambridge Veterinary School Trust** has thanked Members of Southern Golden Retriever Society very much for the £500 donation to their Ultrasound Appeal. This ultrasound machine is a valuable diagnostic tool and is the main workhorse of the imaging department. The current machine has been used on over 12,000 small animal patients and is vital to their work. Supporting this appeal enables them to continue to offer the best treatment and care to their patients, as well as providing an excellent teaching environment for students.