**SGRS DRAFT MINUTES - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 23rd March 2022**

The Southern Golden Retriever Society held its Annual General Meeting on 23rd March 2022 EAST MALLING VILLAGE HALL, 14 New Rd, East Malling, Kent,ME19 6DD

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

“Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen

I am sure you will all agree after a three year break it is lovely to be able to see one another in person at an AGM and I thank you all for coming.

Although 2021 was not entirely a return to a full event programme it was a start. I congratulate the Officers and Committee and the many hoops they had to jump through to run three shows and a Field Trial and the Display Team’s return to performances at Discover Dogs and the recent Crufts.

Maybe this would be an opportune moment to show your appreciation for all the work that has been done.

Thank you

The 2022 events diary is almost back to normal and I’m sure Sue the Chairman will be outlining the programme in her report.

Sadly, in the last year the Society has lost two well-known founder members Yvonne Bennett this February and Chris Potts last summer and Frances Cannon who was a member some years ago. Yvonne started in Goldens in the early seventies, showing, then judging and then used her love for the breed by devoting much of her time helping with the Rescue side. Chris started his Jucridor kennel in the 1950’s and is the reason why I stand here before you today as my parents purchased their first golden from him as a pet in the sixties which was then shown. Chris was also one of the Society’s former Chairmen. Our records show Frances was a member at least as far back as 1982 and Valerie our Treasurer will be referring to Frances in her report.

Could we take a short while to remember these members. Thank you”

The following Members attended the meeting.

**1]**

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| Sharon Apps  Sue Ashley  Steve Brace  Pat Byrn  Carole Carter  Rachel Clark  Louise Cooke  Jon Debnam  Robert Fitchett  Sue Fowler | Lucy Henderson  Alison Henderson  Claire Hill  Mollie Hills  Julie Hoad  Valerie Hogg  Sharon Hunsdon  David Jarrett  Martin Leach  Alison Libby | Karen Menter  William Newman  Hazel Porter  Sue Pounds-Longhurst  Tracey Purvis  Ian Richardson  Stuart Sear  Jane Sheppard  Ros Smith  Ann Stephenson | Neil Webb  Stewart Weller  David Wimsett  Mr&Mrs Elsey  Mr&Mrs Farnahm  Mr&Mrs Gait  Mr&Mrs Hutchison  Mr&Mrs Mills  Mr&Mrs Pett  Mr&Mrs Sage |

The following Members gave apologies.

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| Eillen Allan-Rossiter  Chris Allsop  Ray Ashley  Avril Balck  Ann Benefield  Gill Clark  Neol Clark  Angela Codling  Adele Fitchett  Ann Gladwin  Sue Gray | Sue Jackson  Mary Jarrett  Carol Larking  Sheila Leach  Rob Menter  Wendy Penfold  Nigel Porter  Mike Pounds-Longhurst  Tina Pratt  Leslie Thomas  Dave Toms | Mr&Mrs McGookin  Mr&Mrs Pickup  Mr&Mrs C Cooper  Mr&Mrs Howes  Mr&Mrs East  Mr&Mrs H Robinson  Mr&Mrs Male  Mr&Mrs Farmer  Mr&Mrs Wilton  Mr&Mrs Strudwick |

**2] Approval of the 2021 AGM Minutes**

There were no amendments raised and approval of the minutes from the March 2021 AGM were proposed by Mr Pett,seconded by Claire Hill and unanimously approved.

**3] Matters Arising from the 2021 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 2021 with some information relating to 2022.

We have been able to run a few events in 2021 the first was hosting the Joint Golden Retriever Championship show. Judges were Jenny Johnson and Viv Jones who drew an excellent entry at a new Venue for the SGRS, the Doberman Club Showground in Hertfordshire.

It was considered by your Committee that there would still be a preference for outside events this year so we will be holding our 2022 Championship show here, with Judges Sue Porter and Suzanne Zubair, on Saturday 14th May.

We ran our own SGRS 2021 Championship show in conjunction with Richmond Championship Show in September, again an excellent entry, for Lyn and Ray Strudwick.

Our Open Show, in October, drew a limited entry for Judge Mr. Gorrian due to last minute changes to the Championship show diary.

As I was unable to attend any of these events, due to caring for my husband, I add my personal thanks to all the Committee for covering my duties.

The Working Tests were badly affected by covid in 21 the only event that was able to go ahead was the joint Golden/Flatcoat working test in June hosted this year by the FCRS. In 2022 we have scheduled our usual 3

gundog working events which are listed on the Website.

Jon Debnam will be organizing two teams to represent the Society in 2022 in the interclub working tests. the Northern are hosting this year’s Golden Retriever test with the Southern responsible for 2023. Ray Gait and Jon Debnam are already planning this prestigious event and would like to hear from willing helpers.

The SGRS Novice Field Trial was held at Hawstead Farm, Winchester, our thanks to Mr Dan Gradidge. It was a great success and I am glad to announce that details will shortly be on the website for our 16 dog Trial at the same venue in September 22.

The Funday once again had to be cancelled in 2021 due to Covid restrictions. We will be holding it on Sunday 29th May 22, at Horton Kirby Village Hall, the proceeds will be split between SGR Rescue and Medical Detection Dogs.

After over 30 years of the Southern training at Wrotham we were informed that dogs were no longer wanted in the Hall. Thank you to David Wimsett who undertook to contact many Halls in the immediate area, to find the best was the Hall you are sitting in, where we now run our weekly Good Citizen training, obedience and ‘platinum’. Our thanks to the trainers who willingly give up their time each Wednesday.

At Discover Dogs, at the Excel, in October Trevor Hartley set up a fabulous stand on behalf of the Society and the breed for the KC. Thank you to the experienced owners, breeders and their dogs for their help on the Stand. Trevor Hartley is now standing down from Committee, and handing over the Discover Dogs reins, thank you Trevor for all your hard work redesigning the Stand and making ‘set-up’ so much easier.

Hard work by the Display Team and especially Karen Menter meant that the Team put on fabulous displays at Discover Dogs 2021 and Crufts 2022.

At Crufts, SGRS Fundraiser, David Wimsett, and I had the pleasure of presenting a cheque for £7,860 to MDD CEO Claire Guest representing the money raised by Society members during the two years of Covid restrictions. Much of this came from sponsored walks in 2020 and 2021 and a splendid Christmas raffle organized by Jenny Elsey in 2020. Thank you, David and Jenny Elsey for all your hard work over the last few years. The Society have supported MDD for the last ten years and your Committee are quite happy to now consider other Charities other than MDD, which should still be as dog related. So, if a Member would like to put forward a suggestion with full back up details the Committee will give it due consideration. Our own SGRR will have first call on Charity funds if needed.

There is no specific health research for Goldens being undertaken to contribute to and with the whole of the UK facing financial challenges in 2022 perhaps fundraising should be more low key for the next few years.

The Raffle tonight will, however, be raising money for Ukraine (via the Red Cross) so please give generously.

Once again Thanks go to Pat Brown, Hilary Male and Barbara Mills who have run eye testing sessions with Mr. Mason in Kent and Sussex.

During the 2021 the Judges Sub-Committee and especially Hilary Male were (and continue to be) very proactive in encouraging and supporting the judges education process by constantly reviewing and upgrading judges lists and criteria to comply with KC requirements.

Our listed judges have been encouraged and progressed by being nominated for appointments at our 4 Supported Entry partnership open shows, within our area, and at other general open shows around the country which are supported by the SGRS.

Whenever possible, judges who can achieve the old style judges development programme before 2026 have been encouraged to attend relevant events.  To this end, the SGRS ran a old-style breed specific seminar for 9 candidates all of whom passed.

Additionally, to assist progress under the new Judges Education Programme, a new style Breed Appreciation day was run for 52 aspiring judges, 42 took the exam and passed.  33 individual judges' mentoring sessions were completed, which are also a requirement within the new programme, as is the Points of a Dog seminar which was run for 9 aspiring judges, who all passed.

Our thanks to Sue Norris and Lyn Strudwick who retired from the Judges Sub-Committee in the last few months.

We are unable to schedule either obedience or agility events in the foreseeable future. If a member of the Society is willing to join the Committee and has an up to date knowledge of either or both to Manage a show with the help of the Executive Committee these could once again become viable.

During 2022 the Committee will be investigating ways by which to reduce the burden of ever increasing postage costs and other expenditure by the use of online methods to deliver Society business, in order to avoid a future subscription increase.

We intend to continue to send out our regular E Bulletins and a Christmas Newsletter to keep members informed as to what your Society is doing.

We need more Members to come onto specific activity sub committees. Your Society normally runs too many events for the Executive Committee members to be able to attend every event.

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**

**Annual Accounts**

“Good evening everyone

I am pleased to present to you the Society’s accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021. Firstly, the independent accountant has completed his review of the accounts and there are no changes to make, so the draft version is unchanged.

I’ll start with the Statement of Financial Activities which shows the overall income and expenditure for 2021. It was another strange year with only a limited number of events taking place, and some held in a different way, but we ended the year with a surplus of £8,998. This was helped in part by a one-off legacy donation of £2,000 from Frances Cannon and a further £1,859 from charity fundraising. The overall surplus of £8,998 compares with a surplus of £4,506 in 2020, and a pre-pandemic level of £10,356 in 2019. Setting aside the one-off bequest and fundraising activities and looking just at our General Fund activities in the second column, the accounts show a surplus of £3,351 which compared with a deficit of £2,876 in 2020 which was peculiar in itself due to a timing issue, and a pre-pandemic level surplus of £2,038 in 2019. The events taking place during 2021 were limited to two Championship Shows, the Open Show, the Field Trial and two Breed Appreciation Days with the outturn for each of these shown on the separate Analysis of Income and Expenditure by Activity statement.

The surplus of £404 from the two Breed Appreciation Days has been transferred to the Education Fund. Training activities recommenced during the year, initially free-of-charge in Sue Ashley’s field before moving to this hall in October, and for the year as a whole generated a surplus of £1,081. The Display Team also recommenced training and generated the net sum of £995 from training fees which will be put towards their accommodation costs for this year’s Crufts.

In May 2021 the Society received the sum of £2,000 as a bequest from the estate of Frances Cannon. There were no conditions on its use and the money, together with £1,000 from General Funds, has been transferred to a new Inter-Club Working Test Fund towards the expected substantial cost involved in SGRS hosting the event in 2023. If the cost of hosting the event is less than £3,000 then the balance will be transferred back to the General Fund. The Society will also be dedicating a show trophy in memory of Frances Cannon.

Within the income on General Fund activities, membership subscriptions of £5,072 were down £92 on 2020 and reflects 729 members in 2021. Management and Administration expenses were up slightly from £5,568 in 2020 to £5,951 but, due to the reduced level of activities, are still significantly down on the pre-pandemic level of £7,915 in 2019. There has been a significant increase in the cost of insurance following the inclusion of organisers and volunteers in our public liability cover. A saving of £400 on the 2021 year end accounts examination fee has also been reflected. Other miscellaneous expenditure reflects the cost of small items of equipment purchased during the year and the £100 donation made to Midland GR Rescue following Midland GRC’s gift of their redundant working test equipment.

So overall, as mentioned earlier, we ended the year with a surplus of £3,351 on the General Fund and there remains a healthy balance carried forward of £33,173.

The next column shows our Charity Fund activities and, in spite of the pandemic, charity fundraising continued throughout the year and the sum of £1,859 was raised specifically for MDD including £1,320 from the Sponsored Walks in October organised by David Wimsett, £312 from Malcolm Morecroft’s book royalties and £227 from collection boxes and various raffles.

In the next column, the position on the Health Fund reflects the contribution from the 100 Club, which has reduced from £256 in 2020 to £244 due to fewer participants in the 100 Club, but the Health Fund has also benefitted from two members donating back £150 of their prize money. Added to the balance brought forward, this gives a total of £11,417 available on the Health Fund. The Education Fund has increased by £395 in 2021 to give a balance available of £714 to be used for expenditure involved with progressing the Judges Education Programme. The final column for 2021 shows the new Inter-Club Working Test Fund with a balance carried forward of £3,000.

The second statement headed Balance Sheet shows the Society’s assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2021 and a healthy overall financial position. The only addition to Fixed Assets during 2021 was a new floor mat for this hall, as our new training venue is twice the size of the hall at Wrotham. Debtors and Prepayments amount to £1,915 and is made up of Training cash held at year end plus amounts paid in advance for Kennel Club event licences, first aid courses (both human and dog), website domain fees, and event venue deposits for 2022. Sundry Creditors includes £68 for membership subscriptions received after 1 October and carried forward to 2022, Event entry fees of £10 and Training fees of £75 also relating to 2022, together with the accrual of £234 for December’s Training Hall hire and £308 for postage, both of which have been paid in 2022.

This completes my report on the Society’s accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 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 2021.”

Proposed by Ms P Bryn, seconded by Mrs Elsey and unanimously approved.

**Approval of Auditor**

The Society’s regulations require its annual accounts to be subject to an independent examination by a qualified accountant. We made a considerable saving in switching from the firm of accountants used up until 2020 so I would therefore like to again propose using Mr Jack Foster FCA of Chessington, Surrey for the independent examination of the Society’s 2022 accounts.

Proposed by Mr Weller, seconded by Mrs Hutchison and unanimously approved.

**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 2023. 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.

Proposed by Ms P Bryn, seconded by Mr Pett and unanimously approved.

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

**CHAIRMAN’S ADDRESS FOR 2021 delivered by Mr Ray Elsey**

“On behalf of everyone involved with the Charity I would like to start my address by paying tribute to Yvonne Bennett who sadly passed away earlier this year. Yvonne was a kind and remarkable lady, who along with her husband Gordon, was fundamental in Rescue in the early years and then in the creation of the Charity. Many years of dedicated service followed and there are a significant amount of Goldie's who were given a second chance by the actions of Yvonne & Gordon. They finally retired from Rescue in early 2018 but continued to run their stall at the Fun Day in 2018 & 2019. After consultation with Gordon, we intend to name a trophy in Yvonne's honour to be presented at the end of the Fun Day Veterans Parade each year.

In my written address to the Society last year I explained how the Charity continued to operate during the pandemic. We amended our ‘Working Practices’ for the duration of the pandemic in that all enquires received by our co-ordinators had to be shared with our Trustee co-ordinator, Rachel Clark. She would work with the individual co-ordinator to determine what action could be undertaken. These measures continued into 2021 and lasted all year. Lateral Flow Testing become a necessity

With a year of experience behind us operations became easier but very time consuming for the co-ordinators, with the majority of contact being via phone, email & video conferencing.

During 2021 we re-homed a total of 22 dogs, 23 in 2020. Of the total, 6 were re-homed needing on going vet treatment. We only had one aged over 10 this year. We had 5 pups under 6 months, 10 dogs aged between 1 and 3 and 6 aged 4- 8. There were twice as many dogs as bitches which is the usual pattern.

We have helped 12 other dogs and owners in addition to the 22 re-homed. These were either able to remain in their original homes, fostered or be re-homed without the direct support of SGRR. We have declined to re-home dogs that have demonstrated very serious levels of aggression unacceptable to our re-homing Working Practices.

Here are some of the financial highlights of 2021. These are provisional numbers only (excluding bequests) pending the release of our audited Financial Statement later in the year.

• Income decreased from £ 17,913 to £ 14,731

• Expenditure increased from £ 17,715 to £ 24,704

• Medical Support Fund (MSF) \* £ 63,250

\* This is the fund for future veterinary expenses for all the current dogs that we underwrite.

• Maximum Available Funds £ 196,726

The charity made a deficit of £ 9,972

No specific fund raising activities were undertaken in 2021

On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to extent our grateful thanks the Society for agreeing to share the proceeds of of the coming Fun Day. We are looking forward to this event and we will maintain the same format that we had in 2019.

So, in-conclusion, due to dedication of our small team, the Charity has been able to continue to help the breed we all love. Thank-you”.

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

All the Officer and Committee Members were re-elected unopposed. Mrs S Apps was duly elected to the Executive Committee having been coopted in 2021.

**8] Annual Award of Trophies for 2020:**

Due to the Covid restrictions in 2021, there were no submissions for the Obedience Treena Trophy, Sheena Trophy or the Sheena Cup.

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| Marresa Salver  Presented by Mrs McKenna and the Late Mr McKenna | For dog/bitch winning most Challenge Certificates in 2021  *Mrs S Zubair Thornywait Cassiopeia* |
| Hare of the Dog Trophy  Presented by Miss R Wilcock | Best opposite sex to the Marressa Trophy  *Mr & Mrs O’Gorman’s Berrymeade Grand Central JW* |
| 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 2021 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 2021  *1st – Mrs S Pounds-Longhurst’s–Mossburn Golly Miss Molly JW*  *2nd – Mrs P Todd;s Toddrosa Oasis Charm*  *3rd – Mrs S Pounds-Longhurst’s–Mossburn Galloping Major*  *4th – Mrs S Pounds-Longhurst’s–Rosgar Dolly O’Dare Among Mossburn*  *5th – Mr & Mrs Pett’s Rumwoods Three Times A Lady* |
| 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  *Mrs S Pounds-Longhurst’s Brodene Tempestivity to Mossburn* |
| Mossburn Trophy  Presented by  Mr & Mrs Pounds-Longhurst | For dog/bitch winning the most Best of Breeds at Open Shows only in 2021  *Mrs T Kinchella’s Honeymill Elder Warrior* |
| 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 2021  *Mrs V Prichard’s Vamp Jiaogulan* |

**10] Any Other Business.**

As mentioned in her Chairman’s Report and as listed on the Agenda under Any Other Business,

Mrs Ashley as for comments regarding future fundraising. Given the financial challenges that most people will be facing in 2022, is it time to have less fundraising activity.

Mr Wimsett commented that since 2012 when fundraising for MDD was started, some £60k has been raised, however, donations significantly dropped during Covid restrictions.

Mrs Ashley asked is there another charity that Members may with to support that supports dogs and people?

Mr Weller suggested the SGRS supports Rescue. However Mr Elsey commented that despite making a deficit in 2021, the Trust now has £200k available following a recent bequest, so the Trust is actively looking for ways to increase their expenditure rather than acquiring additional funds.

Mrs Elsey suggested the Cinnamon Trust which the SGRS had previously supported.

Mrs Hutchison suggested the PDSA.

Mr Mills suggested Pat Dogs as they have a big connection with Golden Retrievers .

Mrs Hill suggested Veterans with Dogs, a charity which supports ex-service personnel.

Mr Hutchison commented that it is now a rock and a hard place for charity fundraising as Ukraine appeals seem to be taking precedence currently.

Mrs Henderson commented that people like to know where their donations are going to at the time of contribution. Mr Wimsett confirmed that recipients were always identified in advance of any fundraising for that charity

Mrs R Clark then suggested that perhaps in view of all the financial constraints that many people would be facing going forward in 2022, that no fundraising be undertaken in 2022, save for any donations made at/for the Funday, which had already been advertised.

Mrs Ashley suggested that since there was no clear indication of choice here at the meeting, then perhaps the Executive Committee could receive and consider suggestions during 2022.

Mrs Pounds-Longhurst suggested an agenda item for 2023 AGM for a decision. A request for worthy Charitable cause suggestions could be made in future newsletters (supported by detailed information).

There was general consensus from those Members present that this was a suitable and acceptable way forward.

Mrs Pounds-Longhurst than asked how many years the Chairman and Secretary had served on the SGRS Committee. As of 2022, both had served 25 years and a presentation was made to both Officers.

The meeting closed at 9:03pm.