

**SOUTHERN GOLDEN RETRIEVER SOCIETY**

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| **Hon Treasurer**  MISS V HOGG  The Lodge Cottage  Yalding Hill  Yalding, Kent  ME18 6AL  Tel: 01622 814400  E-mail: valerie.hogg@btinternet.com | **President**  MRS S POUNDS-LONGHURST  **Chairman**  Mrs S Ashley | **Hon Secretary**  MRS A STEPHENSON  Timberdown  33 Guildford Road  Lightwater  Surrey  GU18 5RZ  Tel: 01276 473320  E-mail: asteph33@aol.com |

**SGRS DRAFT MINUTES - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 22nd March 2023**

The Southern Golden Retriever Society held its Annual General Meeting on 22nd March 2023 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. Welcome to the Southern Golden Retriever Society’s AGM. I think it is fantastic that the Society has now been evolving for well over forty years.

It was good to see the 2022 Events Diary return to normality for both the Society and its Display Team. Sue our Chairman will no doubt be outlining 2023’s Programme in her Report. The most prestigious event undoubtedly will be hosting the Inter-Club Working Test in July for the thirteen golden retriever clubs, for which arrangements are well under way.

It is also pleasing to see a number of recently co-opted Committee members being elected. Clubs cannot exist without dedicated Officers and Committee. I thank you for standing and all the existing Officers and Committee and retiring Committee for their hard work over the past year. Much of which is done behind the scenes. Maybe you would all like to join me in showing your appreciation for everything that has been achieved over the last year.

Thank you and thank you all for coming tonight”.

The following Members attended the meeting.

**1]**

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| Jean Allen  Sharon Apps  Sue Ashley  Irene Bird  Steve Brace  Pat Byrn  Carole Carter  Rachel Clark  Jon Debnam | Jenny Elsey  S Farmer  Robert Fitchett  Sue Fowler  A Hale  Alison Henderson  Claire Hill  Mollie Hills  Valerie Hogg | Sharon Hunsdon  Sue Jordan  Martin Leach  Alison Libby  Mrs C Love  William Newman  N Porter  Sue Pounds-Longhurst  Tracey Purvis | Stuart Sear  Ros Smith  Ann Stephenson  David Wimsett  Mr&Mrs Farnham  Mr&Mrs Menter  Mr&Mrs Pett  Mr&Mrs Wilton |

The following Members gave apologies.

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| Eillen Allan-Rossiter  Ray Ashley  Mrs R Benefield  Gill Clark  Neol Clark  Ray Elsey  Adele Fitchett  R Fowler  Mrs A Gait  A Hale | C Jenner  Mrs J Johnson  Mr R Johnson  Mrs H Male  D McGookin  Mr P Mills  D Morgan  Mrs P Page  H Porter  Tina Pratt | J Sheppard  N Webb  S Weller  D Wilmshurst  S Wilson  Mr&MrsJarrett  Mr&Mrs Richardson  Mr&Mrs Pickup  Mr&Mrs H Robinson  Mr&Mrs Tricker |

**2] Approval of the 2022 AGM Minutes**

There were no amendments raised and approval of the minutes from the March 2022 AGM were proposed by Mrs C Hill,seconded by Mrs A Henderson and unanimously approved.

**3] Matters Arising from the 2022 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 2022 with some information relating to 2023.

It was considered by your Committee that there would still be a preference for outside events last year, so we held our 2022 Championship show in May, at the Doberman Club Showground in Hertfordshire with Judges Sue Porter and Suzanne Zubair. There was a good entry and the consensus is that it was a very suitable venue for the show. In order to keep the entry fees down in the foreseeable future your Committee has decided that the 2023 Championship show should be held there on Saturday 13th May.

Our Open Show, in September, with Judge Mr. K Gawthorpe, was held in conjunction with the Richmond Championship Show. A quality entry. Bitches were judged first in our ring, while the Dogs were in the adjacent Championship show ring, and vice versa in the afternoon.

We held 3 Working Tests in 2022.

The first was a day at Iden Green, Kent, hosted by our morning trainer, Mr James Reville ably assisted by Mrs Ann Gladwin, this was followed by a beginner working test in the afternoon. Thank you, James and Ann, for all your expertise helping those newer to the working side of our lovely breed. They will once again be Trainers/Judges at our Training Day at Yotes Farm, West Peckham in April.

It was our turn to host the June, Novice Dog Novice Handler and Novice, test we run together with the Flatcoat Retriever Society (Southern Area). Our thanks go to Landowner Suzette Watts and Judges Mrs Jean Baveystock and Mr Ray Hardie.

The Flatcoats are the hosts in 2023 on 25th June at Keepers Cottage, Penshurst and are scheduling Open, Novice, and Novice Dog Novice Handler Tests.

The third test day was in July at Chartwell, a big thank you to Mrs. Ann Cairnes, our Landowner, and Judges Mrs Kim Jinks and Mrs Jo Voke. 30 dogs were entered between Open, Veteran, Novice and Puppy Tests.

A big, big thank you to all the wonderful people who turnout to help with setting up, stewarding, dummy throwing, shooting pistols, catering and the many other jobs that go along with events like these. **Without that help the events would not be able to go ahead.**  If anyone would like to contribute by helping out at any of the Societies events please speak to the event organiser, or any committee member.

The Southern is responsible for Hosting the Prestigious Golden Retriever Interclub working test 2023. With teams of 2 Open and 2 Novice working gundogs competing from a possible 13 of the Golden Retriever clubs in Great Britain. It is to be held at Randolf’s Farm, Hurstpierpoint, Sussex on Sunday 9th July. Ray Gait and Jon Debnam with their subcommittee are well into 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, once again, a great success and I am glad to announce that details will shortly be on the website for this year’s 16 dog Trial at the same venue on Wednesday, 13th September.

The Funday was held at the end of May at Larkfield Village Hall, the surplus will be split between SGR Rescue and Medical Detection Dogs. David Wimsett’s incredible organizing was put to the test when Horton Kirby Village hall suddenly announced cars would not be able to go on the ground! With only a few weeks to go David found and negotiated the new venue, altered all the arrangements, publicity and planned a new layout for the whole event. Well done David. You deserve a good rest this year as Pat Byrn takes on the task of Fun Day Manager for Sunday 28th May 2023. Would anyone who would like to help at the Funday please contact Pat on [patbyrn@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:patbyrn@tinyworld.co.uk)

Although fundraising was paused for 2022, as agreed at the last AGM, David Wimsett together with, member, Helen Bradford decided to do their own sponsored walk to take the total Funds raised for Medical Detection dogs by the Society to £60,000 over the years David has been the SGRS Fund Raiser. Another big thank you David.

With the whole of the UK facing financial challenges perhaps fundraising should be remain low key for the next few years. The Funday, however normally makes a fairly substantial surplus – it is already agreed that Rescue will receive 50%. You have voting slips with 4 other charities that have been suggested, you may vote for all to receive a share or just 1, 2, or 3 of them. Any charity receiving a majority of the vote will have share. See item 7 on your agenda.

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’ or obedience class for both our new and longer standing members. Thank you to all the Management Team that make this possible.

At Discover Dogs, at the Excel, in October Sharon Apps 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. Sharon would very much like some more of our experienced owners to help her on the stand next year.

Hard work by the Display Team and especially Karen Menter meant that the Team put on fabulous displays at a few events in 2022 including the Cotswold Show and Discover Dogs. They commenced 2023 with 6 displays at Crufts.

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.

During the 2022 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.

We have continued to nominate judges on our lists, for appointments at our Supported Entry partnership open shows and at other general open shows around the country, so that judges can gain the experience required to progress.

During 2023 there are plans to run other events to assist those who can complete the old-style Judges Education programme before 2026. And there is also a Breed Appreciation Day event in the planning for later in 2023.

During 2022 Ann Stephenson has spent a great deal of time enabling the Society to have online voting for the Judges Ballot. The Website, Facebook page and Show entries with Fosse Data also enable Members to access information. In this manner your Committee can keep Society costs down despite the increase in postage.

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. 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**

**Annual Accounts**

“Good evening everyone,

I am pleased to present to you the Society’s accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022. 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 2022 and a surplus for the year of £7,545. This compares with a surplus in 2021 of £8,998 but this position included a one-off legacy donation of £2,000. In the 2021 accounts the one-off donation, together with £1,000 from the Society’s general funds was transferred to a separate Inter-Club Working Test (ICWT) Fund to help cover the cost of the Society hosting the event this year. In the 2022 accounts we have added a further £1,000 to this fund to make a total of £4,000. If the cost of hosting the event is less than this then the balance will be transferred back to the General Fund, but hopefully it should cover it.

Looking at the breakdown of the overall surplus, the position on our General Fund activities in the second column, after the transfer to the ICWT Fund, is a surplus of £3,060 which compared with a surplus of £3,351 in 2021. Members’ subscriptions are up £120 on 2021 and reflect 751 members in 2022. Events and activities (broken down further on the separate schedule headed Analysis of Income & Expenditure by Event) produced a net surplus of £5,366 compared with £5,414 in 2021, a reduction of £48, although the range of events held varied between the two years. With the exception of the Field Trial which is expected to run at a net cost, all SGRS events held during 2022 produced a surplus.Management and Administration expenses charged to the General Fund of £6,683 are up £792 on 2021 but this includes £426 expenses for the ICWT which didn’t take place in 2021. A saving of around £300 is reflected under the Administrative Expenses heading following the decision to undertake the Judges Ballot using voting software rather than by post. The Other Miscellaneous heading includes the net cost of reprinting one of two boxes of newsletters lost by the courier, the purchase and engraving of the Cantel Cup 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 surplus of £3,060 on the General Fund and there remains a very healthy balance carried forward of £36,233.

The next column shows our Charity Fund activities and a total raised during the year of £3,208 of which £2,843 has been donated to MDD and the £365 raised at last year’s AGM to the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. All the amounts have been paid over to the Charities so the balance carried forward on the Charity Fund is zero. There were also two amounts handed over to other Charities during the year from event income shown under the General Fund being £1,679 as 50% of the Fun Day proceeds to Rescue and £50 from the July Working Test to a charity nominated by the landowner in place of a venue charge.

In the next column, the position on the Health Fund reflects the contribution from the 100 Club, which has reduced from £244 in 2021 to £232 due to the loss of one participant 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 a form. The £232 raised this year, when added to the balance brought forward, gives a total of £11,649 available on the Health Fund. The Education Fund has increased by a net £44 in 2022 to give a balance available of £758 to be used for expenditure involved with progressing the Judges Competency Framework. The final column for 2022 shows the Inter-Club Working Test Fund with a balance carried forward of £4,000.

Total funds carried forward are £52,640 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 2022. There were two additions to Fixed Assets at a cost of £349, a trolley for use at events and a new PA system for the Display Team both being charged over three years commencing in 2022. Items held as stock amount to £1,208 and we have a total of £50,849 in bank and cash balances. Debtors and Prepayments amount to £2,190 and is made up of Training cash held at year end plus amounts paid in advance for Kennel Club event licences, first aid courses, website domain fees, and event venue deposits. Sundry Creditors includes £56 for membership subscriptions received after 1 October and carried forward to 2023, Eye Testing fees of £708 and Training fees of £181 also relating to 2023, together with the accrual of £78 for December’s Training Hall hire and £393 for Newsletter postage, both of which have been paid in 2023.

This completes my report on the Society’s accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 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 2022.”

Proposed Mrs R Smith, seconded Ms P Byrn, unanimous.

**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 2023 accounts.

Proposed Mrs J Elsey, seconded Mrs T Purvis, unanimous.

**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 2024. 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.

Thank you.

Proposed Ms P Byrn, seconded Mr D Wilton, unanimous.

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

**CHAIRMAN’S ADDRESS FOR 2022 delivered by Mr N Porter on behalf of Mr Ray Elsey**

2022 saw the Charity fully transition out of the restrictions imposed due to Covid. It was a busy year for our coordinators.

Dogs Rehomed – 2022, 39 Dogs

19 (standard rehoming)

15 (requiring financial assistance)

5 in long term foster care

In comparison - 22 dogs in 2021 & 23 in 2020.

We also had to put 4 dogs to sleep, 2 oldies whose time had come, a dog with a poor temperament and 1 we originally supported with epilepsy in 2021 , finally had to be euthanized. We refused to rehome several dogs, perhaps 8 , with significant temperament problems and provided advice to many owners to enable them to keep their companion.

There are undoubtedly more dogs to be rehomed due to the surge in purchases during the pandemic but the availability of the various selling websites keep many away from our charity. The significant pressure on family finances increases the need of owners to recover their costs through selling in preference to passing them to us.

Of the 19 rehomed on our straightforward adoption paperwork making no reference to tricky temperament many of those have arrived with behaviours we accept as normal juvenile exuberance but their owners see as out of control mouthing and insatiable energy levels which they cannot manage. Finding good homes who understand these dogs and have the skills to cope with them is increasingly difficult.

We had almost as many bitches needing help as dogs. There was no real pattern in ages, the juvenile youngsters aged 1 - 3 are common, we had two pups aged less than 3 months and then a range of ages up to 15.

The health complexity of the dogs that we have helped include a pair who had sarcoptic mange and we had to eventually ask Battersea and D&CH to take in. We have supported two bitch pups born with ectopic ureters and both are doing well. A young bitch was referred to us from Battersea with hip dysplasia.

We have needed to foster 5 dogs requiring long term foster care, two owners have serious medical conditions. The others are requiring ongoing costly medical support and we are appreciative of the foster homes willing to continue with their complicated care.

We need to recruit at least two new coordinators to support Sussex and Surrey. We are trying the quiet route, putting out feelers in the Golden Retriever clubs and groups and amongst the people we have rehomed dogs to in the past. The skills needed are an empathetic attitude to the owners of the dogs as well as confident dog handling skills to assess the temperament of complex dogs. Our coordinators also need to quickly get to know applicants who may be capable of caring for our dogs’ needs. These volunteers are not easy to find. In my address last year I announced that our Treasurer, Lynn Ferguson, was to stand down. I am pleased to say that we have a replacement, Nigel Porter. Nigel is currently ‘shadowing’ Lynn and once they are both comfortable, Lynn will stand down as both Treasurer and Trustee. We are so grateful to Lynn for ensuring a smooth transition and also for all her accounting expertise and input to the running of the Charity.

Here are some of the financial highlights of 2022. These are provisional numbers only ( excluding bequests) pending the release of our examined Financial Statement later in the year.

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| • | Income increased from | £ 14,588 to £22,577 |
| • | Expenditure increased from | £ 24,245 to £ 39,892 |
| • | Medical Support Fund (MSF) \* | £ 57,850 |

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

• Maximum Available Funds £ 197,598

The charity made a deficit of £ 17,315

On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to extend our gratitude to the Society for sharing the proceeds of the 2022 Fun Day as well as the upcoming event in May this year.

We are all proud of the care our charity provides. We continue to evolve as the needs of the families and dogs change.

So, in-conclusion, due to the 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:**

The Chairman, Mrs Ashley reported the outcome.

All the Committee Officers standing for re-election are returned unopposed, Mrs Sue Pounds- Longhurst, Mrs Carole Carter,  Mrs Barbara Mills, Mrs Ann Stephenson, Mrs Valerie Hogg and Mrs Jan Wilton.

The Four nominations for the Committee vacancies have been elected. Mr Steve Bancroft, Mrs Sue Jordan Mrs Charlotte Love and Mrs Tracey Purvis, were co-opted during 2022 and have been working with the Committee for a few months.

Sadly, standing down from Committee are Mrs Heather Carter, Mr. Robert Fitchett and Mr Derek Wilton.   Thank you all for the many years work you have given the Society you will be sadly missed but each one of you have offered to help at some events in the future.  Please accept these small tokens of the Society’s appreciation.

**8] PROPOSAL**

Ms Byrn explained the rationale for the proposal which had been raised at the 2022 AGM.

The members present at the AGM were asked to vote to decide which of the nominated organisations listed

would become a SGRS designated charity for 2023. Charities needed 50% of the vote to be successful.

Four charities were listed and the voting was as follows:

Medical Detection Dogs 21votes Hounds for Heroes 37 votes

Dogs for Autism 37 votes The Cinnamon Trust 28 votes

The outcome was that all four charities would receive an equal share of any monies raised at the SGRS

Funday once SGR Rescue has been given 50% of the excess.

**9) Annual Award of Trophies for 2022:**

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| Marresa Salver  Presented by Mrs McKenna and the Late Mr McKenna | For dog/bitch winning most Challenge Certificates in 2022  *Mrs S Zubair’s SH CH Thornywait I Spy JW* |
| Hare of the Dog Trophy  Presented by Miss R Wilcock | Best opposite sex to the Marressa Trophy  *Mrs H Male’s SH CH PutjadePay the Piper at Malenbrook JW* |
| 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 2022  *1st – Mrs S Pounds-Longhurst’s–Mossburn Galloping Major JW*  *2nd – Mrs P Todd;s Kelbadora Dream of Dreams at Toddrosa JW*  *3rd – Mrs S Pounds-Longhurst’s–Mossburn Good Golly Miss Molly JW*  *4th – Mrs P Todd’s Toddrosa Oasis Charm JW*  *5th – Mrs S Pounds-Longhurst’s Rosgar Dolly-O-Dare among Mossburn* |
| 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 2022  *Mrs S Pounds-Longhurst’s Mossburn Galloping Major JW* |
| 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 2022  *Mr D Wimsett’s Rosgar Coconut Bellini* |

**10] Any Other Business.**

Mrs Elsey requested that if anyone had items suitable for the Funday Raffle and Bric-a-brac stall then please,

let her know or bring them along to Training or on the day.

Mrs Jordan explained the new Working Mentoring Scheme that a group of working trainers were setting up in various counties to support and encourage newcomers. She encouraged those interested to join a Facebook group call “ Working Golden Retrievers Test and Trial Results”.

The Chairman thanked members for attending the AGM which closed at 8.55pm.