

SOUTHERN GOLDEN RETRIEVER SOCIETY

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SGRS DRAFT MINUTES - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 25th March 2026

The Southern Golden Retriever Society held its Annual General Meeting on 25th March 2026
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.

It has become customary at the outset of the meeting to remember members we have lost since the last AGM. The 2025 Newsletter included tributes to Robbie Robinson a former Treasurer and President, Alan Parnell a Founder Member and Ann Benefield, a member and dedicated performer of the Display Team and Trainer at East Malling. In addition, we have also lost Toni Sanders and Wendy Neal. Toni worked her Golden successfully and not only represented the Society at team events but also judged working tests for the Society. Wendy used to take part at obedience and helped at our Fundays. Would you please be upstanding in recognition for all they accomplished for the Society and breed. Thank you.

AGM's give me the opportunity to thank Officers, Committee and helpers for their input over the past year and to congratulate the Society on its events and any successes. All events went well and during the last year the Society fielded four teams at working events, Edenbridge and Oxted Show, the Golden Retriever Inter Club Working Test in Yorkshire, the Inter Counties Team Test in Nottinghamshire and the Southern Inter Club Gundog Team Match in Sussex. The last produced a fabulous result. Our Society's single team of Golden's beat fifteen teams of Labradors. I believe it was also a first for the Society in all the years we have sent a team to this event. However as winners, the Society has to organise this year's event!

The other aspect I wish to draw attention to this year is the Display Teams performances and its Team Manager Karen Menter. With such dedication from all concerned performances are enjoyed by many both in person and on social media especially around Crufts. The Team provides wonderful publicity for the breed the Society and dogdom in general. I am sure you are all very proud of the everyone who has represented the Society over the last twelve months. Will you please join me in showing your appreciation to them, the Officers, Committee and helpers. Thank you. I will now hand you over to Sue the Chairman to take the meeting"

1] The following Members attended the meeting

Mrs S Ashley	Mr N Down	Mr & Mrs D Jarrett	Sue Pounds-Longhurst
Mrs S Apps	Ms E Dowsett	Mrs C Jenner	Stuart Sear
Mr & Mrs Battell	Mrs S Fowler	Mrs S Jordan	Mrs R Smith
Mr S Brace	Mr R Gait	Ms E Herns	Mr & Mrs Menter
Miss P Byrn	Claire Hill	Martin Leach	Mr & Mrs Pett
Mrs L Cooke	Mrs J Hoad	Mr & Mrs Newman	Mrs A Stephenson
Mr J Debnam	Valerie Hogg	Ms E Pearce	N Webb
	Mr & Mrs Hutchison	N Porter	Mr D Wimsett

The following Members gave apologies.

Ray Ashley	Mrs S Dunster	Mrs H Male	Tina Pratt
Mrs C Carter	Mrs A Gait	Mrs M McGookin	Mrs J Sheppard
Mrs R Clark	Mesdames Henderson	Mrs H Porter	Mr & Mrs I Richardson
	Mrs S Leach	Mr M Pounds-Longhurst	Mr & Mrs Wilton

2] Approval of the 2025 AGM Minutes

There were no amendments raised and approval of the minutes from the March 2025 AGM were proposed by Mrs C Hill, seconded by Mrs M Pett and unanimously approved.

3] Matters Arising from the 2025 AGM Minutes

There were no matters arising.

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

On April 13, 2025, Sue Jordan organized an Introduction to Working Tests for ten dogs and their handlers at Gardners Farm, Ashburnham. We extend our gratitude to Andy Ward-Smith for allowing us to use your wonderful grounds.

In 2026, a Training Day was held on March 22, accommodating twelve dogs and their handlers. I am hopeful that Sue Jordan and Jon Debnam will be arranging another training day later this year.

The Doberman Club Showground in Hertfordshire was again the venue for the 2025 Championship Show in May. Mrs. L. Dunbar (Linigor) judged the Dogs, and Mr. G. Foreman (Amberson) judged the Bitches. The referee for the day was Mrs. H. Male (Malenbrook). Special Awards Classes were judged by Mrs. R. Barney (Verrtami). Thank you to everyone who attended, judged, exhibited, or assisted; the weather was pleasant and the show maintained a lovely atmosphere throughout the day. We look forward to welcoming many of you at the 2026 Championship Show, which will be held at the same venue on Saturday, May 2.

This year, our Open Show will also take place on the same day and at the same location. We hope this arrangement provides exhibitors with more opportunities to show their dogs under different judges without incurring additional travel expenses. Your support for our shows is greatly appreciated. If you are able to help with setting up or closing down the show, please speak with Jan Wilton or Claire Hill. The 2025 Open show was held on 4th October at East Malling with Mrs. G Greig (Cranngary) Judging.

The SGRS 2025 Open, Veteran, Novice, Special Puppy, and Novice Dog Novice Handler Working Tests were held on August 3 at Billingshurst. It was a busy day with five judges, all starting at 9:00 AM. This year the subcommittee have decided to avoid the possible summer high temperature and the event will be held at the same venue but on Sunday 12th April once again with the 5 levels.

As our President said earlier, due to the wonderful success of our team, we will be hosting the Southern Interclub Gundog Team Mat ch on Sunday 7th June. Andy Ward Smith has made available all the facilities at his lovely ground near Battle. Please can anyone willing to help at this event please talk to John Debnam or Sue Jordon as soon as possible.

On Wednesday 10th September we held our Novice A.V Retriever Field Trial at Hawstead Farm, Hursley, Winchester with kind permission of Dan Gradidge. The Judges were Jason Mayhew, Matt Gould, Angie Townsend and Keith Townsend. Mary Hogg was dog steward. There will be a Trial in September 26.

It is so good that the working activities are going from strength to strength doing the Society proud.

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. Sadly, the much-loved BVA Ophthalmist Ian Mason has now retired so the future of the SGRS eye session is unknown.

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. A big thank you to Hilary especially for organizing and running a breed seminar for new judges.

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' class. Thank you to all the Management Team that make this training possible.

We are so sad and have greatly missed Ann Benefield as our gold class trainer but are so pleased that David Wimsett has now taken on the task.

In addition, Mandy Pett and Claire Hill have been running a ringcraft for members' Goldens at 8 pm on the first Wednesday of each month to help them get the best out of their dogs in the ring.

The Display Team had a very successful time at Crufts this year, as well as the normal 6 displays, we were joined at our rehearsal in the Arena by Claudia Winkleman. There was more of the team on channel 4 than ever before.

Part of the thank you from the Kennel Club said "Visitors to the show value most highly the opportunity to visit you as part of the wonderful experience that is Crufts, and your presence is one of the 'jewels in the crown' of the show itself." Thank you Karen Menter for all your hard work and commitment in Managing the team and for all the others who put in such a lot of hard work.

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 summary.

We need more Members to come onto specific activity sub committees. Life is too busy for 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 2025. Firstly, I am pleased to report that 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 2025 and a small surplus for the year of £445. This compares with a deficit in 2024 of £516 although it should be noted that the 2024 position was the consequence of two unusually large items of expenditure which had they not occurred together the position would have been a surplus of £4,184. Compared with the adjusted 2024 position, the main reasons for the deterioration in the 2025 outturn are a reduction in events income of £2,573 with only a small reduction of £174 in event expenditure, together with reductions in membership and other income totalling £677 and an increase in administrative and other expenses of £668.

Looking at the breakdown of the 2025 surplus, the position on our General Fund activities in the second column, is a deficit of £1,086 for the year compared with a deficit of £606 in 2024. However, in April 2025 the Committee agreed to earmark the proceeds from the previous year's Working and Field events, plus a further £500 pa for the first two years, to create a separate budget and provide greater financial autonomy for the Working side. This is reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities as a transfer of £1,190 from the General Fund to a new column headed Working Fund. The cost of the entry fees for the two Southern Interclub tests, together with the cost of team shirts will continue to be met from the General Fund but the Working Fund will be used to cover any other event fees and team travel/accommodation expenses for interclub and other events and any other expenses for Working and Field activities. At the same meeting, in recognition of the fact that the majority of the balance on the General Fund has been generated over the years from Training activities, which is run by Display Team members, it was agreed that 50% of the net surplus made by East Malling Training in one year be made available in the following year towards the Display Team's accommodation costs at Crufts. This is in addition to the longstanding arrangement that amounts raised by the Display Team through their previous year's net performance income and any sponsorship funding be used for Crufts accommodation costs. Training & Display Team activities will continue to be handled within the General Fund.

Other matters relating to the General Fund are that for 2025 members' subscriptions are down £409 on 2024 and reflect 666 members in 2025 (down from 720 in 2024). Events and activities (broken down further on the separate schedule headed Analysis of Income & Expenditure by Event) contributed a net surplus of £2,678 compared with £1,877 in 2024 although the range of events held varied between the two years, with a net contribution to the General Fund of £1,756 from the two Breed Shows, Training and Display Team activities.

Management and Administration expenses charged to the General Fund total £6,849 and were up £77 on 2024 after excluding the additional £1,505 cost of sending a team to the ICWT held in Ulster. Insurance and the cost of retirement and other gifts have increased slightly but all other expenditure charges against the General Fund are at the same level or lower than in 2024. This heading now excludes fuel allowances paid to helpers which, from 2025, have been charged to the individual events. The other Miscellaneous heading includes 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 £1,086 on the General Fund but this still leaves a very healthy balance carried forward on the General Fund of £37,769.

There was no charity fundraising during the year so the next column shows just the amount of £61 from Medical Detection Dogs collection boxes 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 £172 in 2024 to £88 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. Together with

£268 in donations the £356 raised for the Health Fund in 2025, when added to the balance brought forward, gives a total of £12,450 available on the Health Fund.

The Education Fund received income of £796 from a Breed Appreciation Day and supported activities costing £406 increasing the balance carried forward on the Education Fund to £2,138.

In the final column the new Working Fund reflects the transfer from the General Fund of £1,190 plus £126 generated from Working and Field Trial events in 2025 less expenditure of £593 to give a balance carried forward of £723. Total funds carried forward on the General, Health, Education and Working Funds total £53,080 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 2025. No equipment was purchased during the year so there are no additions to fixed assets. Items held as stock amount to £2,116 and we have a total of £49,118 in bank and cash balances. Debtors and Prepayments amount to £2,813 and is made up of amounts paid in advance for Kennel Club event licenses, first aid courses, website domain fees, and event venue deposits for future years together with monies held at year end by East Malling Training. Sundry Creditors includes £88 for membership subscriptions received after 1 October and carried forward to 2026, Training fees of £88 also relating to 2026, together with the accrual of £324 for December's Training Hall hire and our 2025 Zoom license which were paid after the year end.

This completes my report on the Society's accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025 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 2025.

There were no questions asked. Acceptance of the Annual Accounts 2025 were proposed by 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 and I would therefore like to again propose using Mr Jack Foster FCA of Chessington, Surrey for the independent examination of the Society's 2026 accounts. Unanimously accepted.

Annual Review of Subscriptions

With respect to the annual subscription rates, there is no doubt that things are getting much tighter but we believe that with continued careful control of expenditure and sufficient cover in our reserves we can manage without raising subscription rates for 2027. 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 2025 delivered by Mr N Porter

We took 29 dogs into our care in 2025, (37 in 2024). A further 23 owners were in contact with us, some for help, some not choosing to rehome but needing support from us to enable them to keep their companion.

We currently have 254 dogs (same as last year) still active from all our previous rehoming activities and who we keep in touch with.

5 volunteers who have completed a variety of training provided by Battersea Dogs and Cats Home.

The health complexity of the dogs we have helped included: 1 with a ruptured cruciate ligament ("TPLO"), 1 with an under developed brain, and 2 puppies suffering from an Ectopic Ureter. These dogs will require our lifetime financial support.

On the Financial side: -

Operating deficit was £26,780 compared to a surplus of £13,182 in 2024.

Overall income (excluding bequests) was £32,570 this year, about 40% lower than last year (£53,353).

Bequests - £10,000 (Jean Fooks) - (£10,578 in 2024)

IMO (In Memory of) - £1,733 - (£1,314 in 2024)

Expenditure: -

Veterinary and medical bills were £42,089 (£26,499 in 2024). A significant increase.

The Medical Support Fund ("MSF") 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. Currently, the MSF stands at £144,938 (£163,203 in 2024)

Funds held with Banks totalled £250,632 (£266,918 in 2024)

The amount of available funds at year end was £105,694 – Funds held less MSF provision. (£104,209 in 2024). Additional fund raising is needed and the Trustees are looking at various avenues.

As with previous years, each dog we help has its own special circumstances and requires a carefully thought-out individual plan. We are proud that together we helped many families and their dogs through some sad circumstances and on to happier times.

Help is required in the following areas: -
Coordinator – Surrey/Sussex area
Volunteers – Home checkers/2nd person (safeguarding policy)
Fundraising

Thank You”

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.

The four Committee Members standing for re-election are returned unopposed. Mrs M Pett, Mrs J Elsey, Ms P Bryn and Mrs S Jordan. Miss M Newman (nee Hill) was co-opted during 2025 and is elected.

We would still welcome other Members that would be able to help on our Committee as there are vacancies.

8] Any Other Business.

Mrs Hutchison had bought some old Golden Retriever books to see if anyone wanted them.

Mrs Pounds-Longhurst asked about the future of the annual group Eye Testing sessions now that Mr Mason was retired. The Secretary explained that there are BVA Panelists prepared to do a session for the SGRS, but now there are so many new Panelists running their own frequent sessions charging full price at many more locations, the number attending/travelling to SGRS sessions had been diluted and it was now difficult to run a viable session.

The Chairman thanked members for attending the AGM which closed at 8.40pm.