

THE GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB

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Established 1913

www.thegoldenretrieverclub.co.uk

Patron: Countess Bathurst **President:** Mrs. W. Andrews
Chairman: Ms S. Loach **Vice-Chairman:** Ms. R. Turner

AGM MINUTES 2024

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Golden Retriever Club was held at Meeting Room A, The Kennel Club Building, Stoneleigh Park, Stoneleigh, Nr. Coventry, Warks. CV8 2LZ on Saturday 13th April 2024. At 2pm.

1. Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman Mr. Scott welcomed those present and expressed his thanks and appreciation for all those attending.

As a point of order the Chairman requested all questions come through the Chair and Members to quote their name and membership number before speaking. The Chairman enquired whether anyone intended to raise AOB at the end. Mrs. G. Knox asked for an item to be accepted. Chairman Mr. Scott did not accept the item as he deemed it unsuitable for this AGM.

Present were: President Mrs. W. Andrews, Treasurer Mr. J. Hazelton, Secretary Miss. A. Cooper, Mrs. P. Archer, Mr. G. Bird, Mr. R.A. & Mrs. J. N. Chan, Mr. G. Collis, Mrs. P. Edwards, Mrs. J. Graham, Mrs. M. Haselden, Mrs. L. Hazelton, Miss. M. J. Healey, Mr. J. & Mrs. E. Keene, Mrs. G. Knox (Vice-President), Mrs. L. Jenkins, Mrs. K. Jinks, Ms. S. Loach, Mrs. M. Loverock, Mr. J. Mathias, Mrs. F. Morriss-Garget, Mr. S. O'Gorman, Mr. H. & Mrs. E. Pelham (Vice-Presidents), Mrs. E. Pope, Mrs. L. Rea, Ms. R. Turner (Vice-Chairman), Mr. C. & Mrs. L. Waldron-Smith, Mrs. L. Wedge.

The Chairman then read out an address from the club's Patron Countess Bathurst:

"Another year has passed and we once again find ourselves gathered for the Golden Retriever Club of Great Britain AGM. It was a joy to see so many members taking part at Crufts although it saddened me to hear membership has dropped recently.

The year ahead will doubtless be full of challenges for our new Chairman and I look forward to watching the membership grow, including the fine members of our amazing working dog groups who have done so much in the past to support the club.

I am so sorry once again to be unable to be with you, as you all know the charity I have started, the National Foundation for Retired Service Animals has me travelling all over the UK, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your wonderful donation towards the Lands End to John O'Groats Bike Ride Challenge.

We all look forward to the year ahead. There will be ups and there will be downs, but we must all remember everything we do is in celebration and honour of this wonderful breed to which we are all so devoted. Here's to the Golden Retrievers across the world."

2. Apologies: Patron Countess Bathurst, Mrs. S. Almey, Mrs. L. Best, Mrs. S.V. Blackwell, Mr. I. Briggs, Mrs. L. Bufton, Mrs. J. Burrows, Mrs. L. Collis, Mrs. P. Easton, Mr. R. Edwards, Ms. T. Ewart, Mrs. T. Foreman, Mr. G. Foreman, Mr. R. & Mrs. C.A. Gilbert, Mr. T. Gorrian & Mrs. C. Henry, Mr. B. & Mrs. A. Goddard, Guide Dogs For The Blind, Mrs. C. Haxton, Mrs. S. Hayward, Ms. N. Hazelton, Mrs. G. Hewitson, Miss. P. Hill, Wing Cmdr. W. & Mrs. S. Hush, Mrs. M. Joy, Mrs. T. Kinchella, Mrs. M. Lade, Mr. R. & Mrs. S. Lane, Ms. L. List, Mrs. S. Main, Mrs. H. Male, Mrs. G. Malin, Mr. R. & Mrs. L. Maynard, Mr. B. McCarthy, Mr. R. & Mrs. J. McDougal, Mr. A. Mead, Mrs. H. Mell, Mr. J. Millward, Mrs. D. Morgan, Ms. C. Morrell, Mr. P. Morriss, Mrs. H. Morss, Mrs. P. O'Gorman, Mrs. A. Price, Mrs. J. Pritchard, Miss. A. Sharp, Mrs. L. Smith,

Mrs. J. Stanley, Mrs. D. Stanton, Dr. E. C. Svennvik, Mr. J. & Mrs. B. Taylor, Miss. H. Taylor, Mr. B. & Mrs. F. Thurm, Mrs. V. Tregaskis, Mr. R. & Mrs. P.M. Tricker, Mrs. J. Williams, Mrs. A. Whitby, Mr. C. Woolley, Mr. A. & Mrs. G. Wood.

3. Tributes: The Chairman asked that thoughts and condolences be given to those that have passed away in the last year, and a minutes silence was held for: Mr. I. Ferris, Mrs. J. Johnson, Mrs. H. Johnson, Mrs. G. Riley, Mrs. S. Cullimore, Mr. P. North Mrs. P. Smith,

Mr. C. Whelan, Miss. Y. Froud.

Past Executive Committee member.

If there are any omissions please let us know for inclusion in the yearbook.

4. Minutes of the previous 2023 AGM: It was agreed by those present that the minutes be accepted as true record.

Proposed: Mrs. E. Keene

Seconded: Mrs. F. Morriss-Garget

Carried.

5. Matters Arising: Secretary Miss Cooper informed the members present that the rule changes proposed by the Executive Committee and passed at the 2023 AGM to Rule 3.2, 4.1, 4.7, 4.10, 5.1, 6.1, 6.5 and 12.2 had all been accepted by the Kennel club and were published in the current yearbook. Also a better explanation on the accounts to be published in the yearbook as request by Member Mrs. G. Knox Membership no. 621 had also been put in place.

6. Chairman's Report: Madam Patron Madam President, Vice Presidents, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am delighted to welcome you again to the Annual General meeting and thank you all for your continued support. We have had another very successful year and the committee; the officers and helpers have worked extremely hard to deliver a wide range of events for the membership. I thank them personally and on your behalf. On the show side Lindsay Wedge has taken over the reins from Pete and run, with the full support of all, two very successful shows, the Championship in July and the Open show in November. Now firmly into her stride Lindsay and the show team will have many more exciting additions to these events in 2024. This is not just events for the show people but something for ALL members of our Club at the shows. The working arm of the Club, have organised several very successful trials. In addition to the one-day trials a very successful two-day Open Stake was held in the grounds of Windsor Castle supported by Judy Rainey. We thank Graham and all the FT Subcommittee members and their helpers for their dedication for this past year of events. Your President has also been very active and pro-active with this side of the Club and had a tremendously well organised and supported working day. On top of this she and her merry band of helpers organised an amazing event – The Best of the Best which due to its great success and the very positive feedback is to become an annual event! At this point I must also give grateful thanks to Henry & Elizabeth Pelham, our vice presidents, who have helped enormously supporting Club events; and Wendy!!! The publishing side of the Club works extremely hard to produce a high quality Year Book, at an affordable price. Ruth takes on an amazing amount of work and she gives a lot of free time to the page setting and other technical issues. In addition to the publishing side Ruth has been active working alongside Tracy Kinchella to update and modernise our website. The website has had the addition of the financial side enabled. It now means that numerous financial transactions can happen online making it easier for UK and overseas members to pay. Grateful thanks to Teresa, our UK and Overseas membership secretary. She is updating the files of members as we move towards a more email-based contact system which will allow more information of events etc being sent direct to members inbox without the enormous expense of postage. Our stand at Crufts continues to be a very productive and profitable event. It is a great point of focus for us to meet and greet many of our home and overseas members. As well as lots of new merchandise being sold, we have had many memberships paid and quite a number of new members on the day. This was mainly attributed to having good cover at the stand to provide both verbal and printed information. All made easier by allowing card payments for all Club matters. As I move to finish my report, I must take this opportunity to thank my fellow officers for their work for the Club. Angie, as our secretary does an amazing amount of work supporting the membership, the committee and the Officers. And Jack, our treasurer, who continually looks at ways to cut costs and budget the finances of the Club as well as running the very successful shop. Finally, I must give individual mention to Sally Hayward as Committee member of long service who is stepping down at this AGM. We wish her all best wishes and thank her for her work within the Club. Madam Patron, Madam President Vice Presidents Ladies and Gentlemen I finish by thanking you all for your support of OUR Club.

7. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Hazelton read out his 2023/24 report to the meeting. Patron, Madam President, Vice Presidents, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am pleased to deliver the Treasurers Report for the financial

year 2023/24. The audited accounts show a deficit for the year of £5,300. It is important to understand the key contributing factors which are a one-off investment in the Club website refresh costing £3300, an increase in our annual insurance premium of £1000 and an increase in the total Honoraria payments of £1100. I will elaborate on those in a moment. Historically the Club has two key sources of income, those being membership subscriptions and a surplus from our Championship show.

Subscription income is under pressure, down £700 versus last year, and income from the Championship Show was only £300, whereas pre-covid we regularly generated a surplus of £1500-£2000. Revenue from Yearbook Adverts continues to fall and at the same time printing and postage costs are increasing. We are fortunate that our Publications Editor Ruth Turner undertakes work for the Yearbook that would otherwise have to be done by our printer. This represents a considerable saving to the Club of over £900. Our Field Trials will run at a deficit most years and 2023 was no exception, however our Field Trial Secretary Graham Bird did a wonderful job in 2023 to keep this to a minimum. A robust surplus from the Working Test and Water Training events organised by Wendy Andrews meant that the full working programme broke even this year which is very pleasing. In 2022 we invested in the Club website to add an online payments facility which has been used very successfully to accept membership and Yearbook advert payments from Overseas and UK members. We have continued to invest in the website with a significant refresh completed in 2023 at a cost of £3300. This is a one-time cost included under Repairs and Renewals and represents over half of the deficit for the year. Due to unacceptable conditions imposed on us at renewal, we were forced to find a new insurance company which added over £1000 to our annual policy. This is included in Insurance Premiums. We can eliminate this and return to a more affordable policy once we have completed a trophy valuation exercise which is in hand and should be completed before our next renewal. That exercise will come at a cost but is unavoidable. Total honoraria payments have increased this year by £1100. These were last increased in 2013. The amounts offered for each role, as detailed in the Income and Expenditure Report, were reviewed and set by the Executive Committee with all honoraria recipients absenting themselves from the discussion and decision. Our Travel & Meeting expenses have been contained by utilising virtual meeting technology for two of our four committee meetings. We are exploring ways to reduce our printing and postage costs included in General Postage and Stationery. For the moment, postage remains a very significant cost currently outside our control. The Treasurers job is to document the financial activities of the Club and provide appropriate advice and guidance to the committee who develop and deliver the programmes for our members. The accounts reflect the excellent work that your committee have done in 2023. We must continue to diligently manage costs while also offering an interesting, compelling, and varied programme of events and publications for our members. I commend this report to the members.

Questions asked of the Treasurer:

1. Mr. Johnathan Mathias, member 6933 commented that the accounts show the Club has £90,000. What are we doing with it and does the Club intend to generate profits.

The Treasurer responded that most of these funds are kept in savings accounts with Lloyds Bank. The Club does not exist to make a profit or a loss, our focus is delivering events and activities for the benefit of our members. Ideally, we will at least breakeven but that is not a requirement and will vary from year to year. There will be years such as 2013 when we had our Centenary events that require considerable funding so these funds give us the opportunity consider special events, and are a cushion for a rainy day. If we continued to make a £5k loss as we did this year, then we would soon run out of funds. (Treasurers comment not stated at the AGM, we have £35000 in reserved funds so available funds for general use is restricted to £55,000, not £90,000)

2. Mrs. Lucy Jenkins, member 4728 asked why the accounts were not sent out with the agenda for the AGM.

The Secretary clarified that Rule 6.5 was amended at the prior year AGM but was not ratified by the Kennel Club before the Year Book was printed. The amended rule will be included in the next Year Book published.

3. Mrs. Lucy Jenkins, member 4728 asked what was included in the judges amount of £575 for the 2-day Field Trial, and £205 for the Working Test.

The Treasurer stated that this included judges' specific expenses such as travel and hotels as these could vary from trial to trial. The Travel and Hotels cost stated in the accounts relates to the costs incurred by the FT Secretary. The Treasurer stated that he would be happy to make the profit and loss accounts for each event available for members to download from the new members section of the club website.

4. Mrs. Gwen Knox, member 621 asked why the Interclub and Crufts costs were combined in the Income and Expense statement, they are not related in any way and this has been pointed out in previous years.

The Treasurer stated that the Income & Expense statement and Balance Sheet was a summary of the Clubs finances and some items have to be aggregated. The detail was stated in the Events and Publications table and as previously suggested the event P&L's will be provided on the website following each event in future.

5. Mrs. Freda Morris-Garget, member 4441 asked about the Best of the Best Gala. She knows that it was this year, so will be included in next year's accounts but wanted to know if it was a financial success.

The Treasurer stated that it generated a surplus of approximately £1500 which was much higher than he had expected, so yes it was a great success.

Proposed: Ms. R. Turner

Seconded: Mrs. P. Edwards Approved.

8. Field Trial Secretary's Report: (Field Trial Secretary's End of season report. Patron, Madam President, Vice-Presidents, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I had planned and put in place four trials for the 2023/24 season. Novice 1 - 20th September at Teffont Magna Wilts. By kind invitation of Henry and Elizabeth Pelham. All Aged – 7th November at Six Ashes, Shrops. By kind invitation of M.G. Walker & Sons. 2 day Open Qualifier 2nd & 3rd October Windsor Great Park. By kind permission of HRH King Charles III Novice 2 – 5th December Six Ashes, Shrops. By kind invitation of M. G. Walker & Sons. All the Judges were confirmed, along with the shoots and guns. We had Sp

onsorship from BASC (British Association of Shooting), also Skinners sponsorship of food vouchers for the prize winners. Last year it was agreed that the entry fee for our trials remained the same, but this year on my recommendation the EC agreed that we bring our entry fees into line with the other breed clubs running breed only stakes. The fees agreed with the Executive committee were: Members entries: 2 day open £70.00 and one day trials £50.00. Non-members: 2 day £90.00 and one days £70.00. Our first trial was a 14 dog Breed only Novice stake, on Wednesday 20th September at Teffont Magna, Wiltshire by the Kind Permission of Mr. Edward Waddington and the generous invitation of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Pelham. We just managed to have 14 dogs run on the day. Judges: Mr. N. Coates, Mr. K. Green, Mrs. J. Mann and Ms. H. Burnie, Steward of the beat Mr. Richard Kilgour & Chief Steward Mrs. Dawn Rose.

We had a good turnout of helpers who turned up even in the bad weather, and a lovely spread for all at the end of the Trial, laid on by Mrs. Pelham. The guns shot well for the dogs and I was really pleased with the day although we were rather wet! I would like to thank Vice Presidents Mr & Mrs. Pelham for their enormous generosity in providing a trial for the club and their support of me as field trial secretary. Mrs Pelham has also been a great help as the working trophies cup steward. The second trial was the 2 day Open Qualifying Stake on Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd October 2023, at Windsor Great Park, Berkshire, by gracious permission of His Majesty King Charles III and the Crown Commissioners. The club is also indebted to Judy Rainey for all her help in securing and arranging this trial. It was a fabulous 2 days with lovely ground and good company. The trial ran with 23 dogs. Judges Mr. J. Stubbs, Mrs. B. Kuen, Mrs. D. Stevens, Mr. C. Perry. Steward of the beat was Head Keeper Mr. Peter Clayton, Chief Steward Mrs. Dawn Rose. The winner Keith Bedford with ANGEL CHORUS AT KAYTEENS qualified to run in the International Gundog League Retriever Championships held at the end of November at Queensbury Estate, Dumfries, over 3 days, along with 3 other Golden retrievers qualified. Unfortunately this year none of the 4 qualified went on to the 2nd day. Our 3rd trial was held on the 7th November 2023. The All Aged stake for 14 dogs received an entry of 18 but ended up running with 11 dogs on the day. Very close to not having the 10 dogs needed on the day for the trial to go ahead. It was held on Tuesday, 7th November, 2023 at Six Ashes, Nr. Bridgnorth, Shropshire. By kind Invitation of M. G. Walker & Sons, and the Generous Support of the Guns. Judges: Mr. S. McGrath (A3010) Mrs. K. McCarthy (B3201) Mr. S. Elliott (NP3800) Mr. R. Edwards (NP3725). Steward of The Beat Jim Scott, Chief Steward Mrs. Dawn Rose.

We did not get a first place but did get 2 awards. Our 4th trial was to be our Novice 2 trial for 14 Golden Retrievers on Tuesday 5th December 2023, at Six Ashes, Nr. Bridgnorth, Shropshire. By kind invitation of M. G. Walker & Sons Judges Mr. S. Richardson (A2849), Mrs. S. Richardson (B3214), Mr. N. Onens (NP3352), Mr. A. Phillips (NP). At close of entries we only had 11 entries. 10 dogs are needed to turn up on the day for the trial to go ahead. With the amount of withdrawals encountered on the previous trials I had to make the very hard decision to cancel this trial. I could not put the club or the shoot in a position that they would incur costs if I waited until the trial was imminent. It is very sad but unfortunately without the support of the members and those trialling golden retrievers, then Breed only trials cannot go ahead. Guns, Judges, helpers and the club committee's give up their time to put on these events but if there is not the support then they will be lost.

We are privileged to be licenced to run Breed only events BUT without the support of members it may be taken out of our hands as to whether we can continue to do this. This is the same situation for all breed clubs running breed only events, they must be supported to continue.

I have decided that I will not stand for re-election to the post of field trial secretary for the 2024/25 season.

Questions to the outgoing Field Trial Secretary: Mrs. L. Jenkins Member 4728 said that the word should have been spread to get entries for the cancelled trial.

Mrs. P. Edwards member 78 disagreed with Mrs. Jenkins saying that a field trial secretary should not be expected to chase entries and the event had been well publicised. Mrs. G. Knox member 621 asked why Mrs. Dawn Rose had been the Chief Steward at the club's trials and stated that she would have claimed expenses and not done it for free.

Mr. Bird replied that Mrs. Rose had not claimed any expenses at all of the trials. Secretary Miss Cooper replied to Mrs. Knox that she and Mrs. Rose had helped Mrs. Knox for many years even before her time on the committee and that they had always done that at their own expense and never claimed expenses. Mrs. Knox replied yes they had and that she had taught them everything they knew. Mrs. F. Morris-Garget member 4441 stated that any help offered from members should be taken, without help the events struggle to go ahead.

Mrs. Knox then asked what trials Mr. Bird had put in place for the 2024/25 season?

He replied that it was no longer his job, she replied that it was but he informed her that he had informed the Executive Committee that he would not be standing for re-election as Field Trial secretary in January of that year.

9. Appointment of the Auditors: The Executive Committee recommend the current Auditors GC Accountancy Limited of Evesham, Worcs. be retained.

Proposed: Mrs. K. Jinks Seconded: Mrs. E. Keene. The recommendation to retain the current Auditors was Approved Unanimously.

10. Election of Officers and Committee 2024: With the resignations during the previous year of Overseas Membership Secretary Mrs. S. Jolly and Executive Committee member Mr. M. Whitlock, following the due process of inviting those with the highest number of votes from the previous year's ballot, Mrs. L. Wedge was invited and agreed to join the Executive Committee. Mrs. Wedge had also agreed to be the new Show Manager. Mrs. K. Jinks was also invited and agreed to join the Executive Committee. Mrs. Jinks had agreed to be the Minute Secretary and Working Test Secretary.

OFFICERS:

No nominations for the Officers post of President had been received, therefore Mrs. W. Andrews is re-elected unopposed.

One nomination for the Officers post of Chairman had been received, therefore Ms. S.A. Loach is elected unopposed.

No nominations for the Officers post of Treasurer had been received, therefore Mr. J. Hazelton is re-elected unopposed.

No nominations for the Officers post of Secretary had been received, therefore Miss A. Cooper is re-elected unopposed.

COMMITTEE:

The Following 4 Committee Members were due to retire but offered themselves for re-election:

Mr. G.J. Bird, Mrs. K. Jinks, Mrs. V. Jones, and Mrs. M. Loverock. With Ms. Loach becoming an Officer, this meant there were also a further 4 vacancies for executive committee.

Three nominations for the Executive Committee have been received. Therefore Mr. G.J. Bird, Mrs. K. Jinks, Mrs. V. Jones, and Mrs. M. Loverock have been re-elected for a further three year term.

3 nominations for Executive Committee vacancies had been received; Mrs. J. Chan, Miss. M. Healey, and Mr. S. O'Gorman had been elected onto the executive committee unopposed.

As agreed at a previous AGM the incoming executive committee's CV's to introduce them the membership would be published on the clubs website once the members page was up and running, and also on the Facebook page.

11. Propositions:

The Executive committee proposed to insert into Rule 9.2 (Proposed addition in bold and underlined):

All trophies are the property of the Club and are to be covered by insurance where possible. In the event of the Club being wound up they shall be dealt with as the conditions of any gift may provide, or set out in Rule 7.1. with the Rationale:

1. Many of the Club's trophies are deemed to have no intrinsic value and the cost to insure them is uneconomic. The Club needs insurance cover on those trophies of value not "All" trophies.

2. Most insurance companies are requesting formal valuations plus an active register of all 'at risk' trophies with any address changes to be notified within a specified timeframe. If a current trophy holder changes address without notifying the Club, cover for that trophy would lapse and the Club would unintentionally be in breach of

its own rules. Voted for unanimously and Miss Cooper informed that this change had been pre-approved by the Kennel Club so as now passed through an AGM would be in place from the AGM date.

Mr. Mathias member 6933 questioned the new wording, Mr. Hazelton said the change was needed as the trophies needed to be valued in the next 2-3 weeks. Mr. Philip Serrell a dog lover had agreed a good deal.

Proposed: Mrs. L. Wedge Seconded: Mr. S. O’Gorman 22 votes FOR - 4 Abstentions CARRIED

Miss Cooper informed the AGM that the Kennel Club had pre-approved the rule so as now passed through the AGM it could be put into place immediately so as the valuation would keep the club within its rules.

14. Any Other Business (by kind permission of the Chairman).

Concerns were raised re members details in the back of the yearbook.

Mrs. Knox suggested that with yearbooks being available through members passing them on with members details in the back that an option would be as URC does with just a slim book with members and details listed only. Mr. O’Gorman was looking at options for the website with an Opt In option re members details being published.

Treasurer Mr. Hazelton presented outgoing Chairman Mr. Scott with a gift thanking him for his time on the committee.

Secretary Miss. Cooper Presented the incoming Chairman Ms. Loach with a Chairmans badge and Mr. Scott passed on the clubs Gavel.