

Golden Retriever Club of Scotland

ANNUAL REPORT 2014/ 2015

President, Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman,

It gives me great pleasure to present to you my Annual Report at this the end of this the Club's 68th year.

During my time over the years in submitting these reports, I have always tried to acknowledge as much as I can the work that is conducted by the Committee in general and where appropriate, to mention individual members in recognition of what has been achieved by them. I regard this forum as an appropriate time and place and indeed, perhaps the only time that such recognition is given. I therefore intend to carry on as before.

Louise Ogilvie, at present, with regards Club Rescue, works tirelessly in her role. A large proportion of the cases are as a result of family breakups or unsuitable work patterns. There are also the commercial dealers who still prosper selling dogs, many of whom we see having originated from these outlets. Our thanks must go to the Club members who have assisted Louise sometimes at short notice.

Prior to detailing in full our activities throughout the year later in this report, the authorisation of our Shows, in accordance with Kennel Club Rules, is the responsibility of Carol Wilkinson, our Show Secretary. With praise to Carol, the same sentiments must be given to our Show Manager, Tom Gorrian, who assisted with Carol Henry, is always first on the scene with the layout of the mats and many other accessories required for the smooth running of the Show.

Thanks also to our official photographer, Linsey Dunbar.

On the Working Scene, we are indebted to our Field Trial Secretary, Mary Neil for her tireless efforts in trying to acquire land, judges etc. to provide the various Tests and Stakes.

Our Club Magazine is published twice yearly. The editors, Carol Henry and Tom Gorrian work extremely hard time and time again in producing articles, photographs and any news of interest with the aim being to make a first class and popular publication.

We are indebted to our Treasurer, Ian McGugan, who works extremely hard behind the scenes to ensure that the Clubs financial position remains sound, and accurate records are presented to the Club's Accountant.

The Club Shop, overseen by Jennifer MacDonald and Sharon McCormack, continues to be popular. New and topical ideas are regularly introduced with regards the sale of merchandise.

There is so much going on with regards health, all of which has to be collated, discussed and regular correspondence adhered to. A time consuming task but very much worthwhile if it is to benefit our breed. All of the aforementioned is undertaken by Andy Ramsay, to whom we convey our thanks and appreciation.

Despite the many websites available, many sound and credible, there are others which are totally inappropriate and despicable when it comes to the advertising of puppies for sale. Irrespective of the warnings concerning the latter, some people still persist in utilising them. For all that is against us, as a club, we still continue to advertise with regards responsible buying and are there to assist prospective puppy owners and guide them in the right direction and as such, our thanks to Marjorie Murray for her endless patience in this matter with regards the Puppy Line.

Marjorie is presently our Membership Secretary, who continues to oversee the various amendments and anomalies which regularly occur in order to maintain up to date and accurate records of the fully paid up members. At this time, once again, thanks Marjorie.

As the longest serving Member on the Committee, I can only commend Lesley Dickson in her continued role as representing the Judges Sub Committee. The rules, regulations and paperwork is immense but even so, has to be adhered to in order to provide accurate up to date Judges List with criteria in order to meet Kennel Club requirements. On a personal note, as Secretary, I am obliged to submit all the necessary paperwork initially to Breed Council and always delighted to get a very positive feedback with regards accuracy and time constraints. That's very much down to you Lesley, thanks.

As mentioned earlier, our activities throughout the year were many and varied. We held our 2 Open Shows as normal in June and October and yet again, proved popular with those attending. Similar comments were also in abundance for our recent Championship Show in April.

They rightly say that no matter what dog you are showing and the rewards it may or may not get, you always take home your champion. With regards our Open Shows, you also get rolls and sausage / bacon and other tasty treats. Thanks to the kitchen crew.

August saw the Friends of Guisachan Statue Unveiling. Although a damp and drizzly day, the event was well supported and all that were there witnessed the statue of our breed. Having consumed a wee dram, courtesy of the local hotel, we attended back to the local Shinty Hall for our Match with tea and foodstuffs provided

In December we held a Xmas fun day, which included a demonstration from Dogs for the Disabled, a magician for the children, games for the dogs and many, many parcels and gifts, some of which were given graciously by some of our members who were in attendance.

On the Working Scene, in September, a 12 Dog Open Breed Stake was held at Selkirk. This was followed in October with 2 events, namely a 12 Dog AV Open Stake at Duppinn and then a 16 Dog AV Novice Stake in Glenalmond, Perth

Whilst well supported, it should not be forgotten the time and effort Mary Neil had to overcome to ensure these events went ahead. I am assured that, not just for this Club, to get land and judges is becoming more costly and difficult.

From its initial outset, this Club endeavoured to seek out persons both from the Committee and other members primarily concerned in the Working side to assist Mary. Whilst the former has been achieved, on a personal note, I am saddened that the latter may not yet have been accomplished. I am of the opinion that this situation cannot continue in its present form, and whilst this Club's intention has always been to wholly support and progress the working side, we need the assistance of others if we are to make this a success.

Having been privileged to serve under two Chairpersons, I am confident that under their leadership, the policy of this Club remains both the same and sound and the best way forward.

This committee are all voluntary members, with our 3 newcomers all contributing well. We do what we consider best for our breed and Membership, consisting presently of 561.

May I assure you that we are not all about our Showing or Working Members. As already mentioned, we have held a Xmas Fun Day which was open to all dog owners. A Breed Specific Seminar has also been arranged for October this year. Other events have been organised in the past but with lack of support, have had to be cancelled at the last minute.

Never the less, we still plan ahead and have much to look forward to next year, with 2 Championship Shows scheduled.

As mentioned earlier, Jim Richardson, our new President passes on his profuse apologies for not being here today due to unforeseen circumstances.

He would like it known how privileged and proud he is to attain this position and wishes a certain individual, whom I am going to speak about now, all the best.

That individual is our outgoing President, Eric Fogg. Eric has served this Club in many different capacities over a period of many years. Throughout his association, he has acquired a wealth of knowledge, worked extremely hard, been dedicated and has shown leadership qualities which have been a credit to himself and of benefit to the Club.

On many occasions, he has totally immersed himself in his work and for that he has to be congratulated.

A profile of Eric and his association with GRCS will feature in the next edition of our Magazine.

Finally on this topic, they say behind every great man there is a great woman, and it would be unjust of me not to acknowledge Edna, as some would describe her as Eric's rock.

To both of you, from Committee and Members, thanks for the past and all the best for the future.

Once again, my thanks to the Chairman and Treasurer for providing the sandwiches for this afternoon.

President, Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask you to accept my Annual Report.

JIM KINNAIRD
SECRETARY
DATED 26TH April 2015