

Annual Report 2017

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report for this the 71st. year of the Golden Retriever Club of Scotland.

It has been a busy year for all on the Executive Committee. Since the last AGM we have organised a working test, represented the club at the Inter-Club working competition in Richmond, North Yorkshire and three trials in October, an Open Show held in Alva, exhibited and promoted the breed at the 'Burns Dogs Day Out' in Dundee, held a fun Summer BBQ and a Championship Show in October, The Christmas Party was a great success with games, a quiz, puppy walk and masses of food and prizes, even Santa managed to come along. Our magazine editors produced two excellent club magazines. Our rescue co-ordinator re-homed 11 dogs and we handled well over 300 telephone calls from the public seeking advice on our breed. In addition to all these events we had delegates attending 2 Breed Council meetings held at the Kennel Club in London. Earlier this month we held a second Championship Show again a great success attracting exhibitors from around the UK.

As mentioned we held a number of events for our working members. Our Field Trial secretary has worked hard over the year to make each event a success but is finding it difficult to source ground for these events. This problem has placed a financial strain on the club as we are having to pay landowners for their ground which in some cases is £800 for a one day trial.

We are fortunate to have such an enthusiastic and hard working Executive Committee who over the past year have attended 4 executive meetings, 3 show meetings and another 2 meetings to plan our Guisachan Gathering in Cannich in July next year to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first Golden Retriever litter. Although previous Gatherings have attracted Golden Retriever enthusiasts from around the world we are now faced with even more attending, a mammoth task for the committee to undertake.

During open discussion following last years AGM the membership asked us to consider more up to date methods of communicating with our members. Shortly afterwards it was decided to use the MailChimp email system to communicate with as many members as possible. This turned out to be a challenge as the majority of email addresses we had on record were out of date resulting in both our membership secretary and web co-ordinator spending many weeks obtaining email addresses and setting up the system. We are now able to email around 50% of our members, however those who have not given their email information or have changed their e address are unfortunately being left out of the loop.

During recent months we have been discussing succession planning as a number of long serving office bearers and committee members will be retiring in 2019. It is heartening to have so many nominations for committee this year which will allow new members of the committee time to understand what is involved in running a breed club of our size and the responsibilities they have not only to our members but as guarantors of our breed.

It is not my intention to single out any particular committee member for their commitment as all undertake the numerous duties allocated to them and carry out their responsibilities efficiently. We are however losing two from our committee this year, Jan Neilson and Cathy McShane will be missed for their input and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their services over a number of years.

At present we have 651 members and recently offered Mrs Elma Winton life membership in honour of her support to the club over many years. Elma gratefully received this invitation.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I close this report by thanking all of you who have taken time attend this AGM and for your continued support of the club.

David Murray. Honorary Secretary.