

GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB OF SCOTLAND
ANNUAL REPORT 2015/ 2016

President, Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman,

It gives me great pleasure to present to you my Annual Report at this the end of the Clubs 69th year.

Little did we know that at this time last year and at this very venue our outgoing President, Eric Fogg, would address us in his usual eloquent manner for the last time.

Eric raised the subject of our Constitution and his input into such issues associated with the Club will always be recognised.

Aside from his on going role with the Club, he was involved in many other activities.

In a previous Magazine, an obituary, on behalf of the Club, was written by David Murray.

To Edna and her family, please be assured we think about you.

In January of this year, we learned of the death of Doctor Albert Kleinglass. Since being introduced to Albert, I, along with many others, had an immediate respect. It was obvious that he was a loyal and willing servant of the Club and whilst carrying out all of his duties, looked after his wife, Irene, who was ill for many, many years , until her subsequent death.

Almost immediately after that Albert himself suffered ill health but still wished to carry on, such was his commitment.

To Saunders, his son, and other members of his family, we pass on our condolences.

It goes without saying that this Club has lost two of its finest gentlemen.

After my nomination to Vice Chairman 2 years ago, it was always known that at some stage I would stand down as Secretary. As such, now is that time.

In my past 7 years as Secretary, I have always acknowledged the work that is undertaken by the Committee , so once again, thank you all for what has been achieved during the past 12 months.

In that time, I have responded to many letters and e-mails.

With hand in heart, by far and away, the majority of communications have been in the positive. Some have offered personal opinions, all of which are discussed at Committee Meetings and whether accepted or rejected, they are very much appreciated.

It would be amiss of me not to mention e-mail, received very recently, from a person with a long time association with the Club, pointing out, in her opinion, that we had erred in our ways with regards our Constitution.

That lady was correct and we are glad that the matter was brought to our attention to enable us to make the necessary amendments at this time.

During the year, I was asked to view a social media site regarding on-going comments concerning the Committee in general.

I will reserve most of my opinions to myself on this subject, but just to say, irrespective of the sender, whether a non-member, a member or indeed, an honorary member, some comments were disgraceful and hurtful.

There are people who seem to exist primarily for the purpose of berating others, whether it be other dogs , judges, exhibitors or indeed committee members, most of which appears to lack any kind of evidence, moderation or control. These are best ignored or indeed avoided, as many of the participants seem to derive endless pleasure from simply perpetuating pointless arguments.

The often inane and certainly ill considered comments made on this site should determine our objective to think before you press the send button.

We are sure that many of you will have had the urge to give your reaction to what you have seen, might have seen, what you have heard, might have heard, but really, very often, silence is truly golden.

Coincidentally, I would wish to inform you if you do not already know that the Kennel Club introduced a code of conduct and this Club, with KC approval, inserted it into our Code of Ethics, clause 21.

If you do not know all of its contents, these can be found on our website .

Irrespective, as always, we had a huge response from our members wishing to have it known how greatly their views differed from persons who pressed the “send button “ Many thanks to you all, especially Dawn Rose and Wendy Pickup.

In the past 12 months, we have lost the services of Mary Neil , Sharon McCormack and Jane Russell. We thank them all for their commitment to the Club and wish them all the best for the future.

This, being our 70th Anniversary, there is much to look forward to, not only for the remainder of this year, or 2017, but planning is already in place for another major event in 2018, which we hope to make an official statement very soon.

We have already had a Championship Show at Perth with another one scheduled for October.

We also held a working test for AV Retrievers at Auchineden Estate., organised by our new Field Trial Secretary, Lin Mitchell.

A Breed Specific Seminar was held here at Denny, a Supermatch at Alva and a Health Seminar for all Gundog Breeds.

I said at the beginning that I always acknowledge the work undertaken by the Committee, and in supporting me as Secretary has been a real bonus. This has very much been a great learning curve, has enabled me to meet and discuss matters with knowledgeable people here at Committee Meetings, at Breed Council and with the Kennel Club.

Whilst indebted to all, special praise must go to Jim Richardson, for introducing me onto the Committee all those years ago, to Doreen McGugan, initially for teaching me about the role of the Secretary and thereafter, the solid working relationship we had, David Murray and Lesley Dickson , who with their vast experience I was able to feed from, and also, their appreciation for nominating me as Vice Chairman.

The fact that these people represent the President, the Chairman, the former Chairman and the longest serving member of the Committee, does NOT necessarily make me a crawler !!!

I would wish my role as Vice Chairman to be an active part, and with upcoming events over the next 2 years, I certainly think that will be the case.

To my successor as Secretary, a fresh faced up and coming youngster who I think has a good future with the Club, I would wish Mr David Murray well.

As always, thanks to the Chairman and Treasurer for the sandwiches.

Lastly, if I may quote from a GRCS Newsletter dated 1955,

“The preservation of the breed and the maintenance of its high standards on the field and in the show ring depends on some active support. At the very least, this support ought to become tangible at the AGM, . Even dissent at such a time on any point indicates the Club’s vigour .

Come ye in peace or come ye in war, your presence is welcome”

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

JIM KINNAIRD

SECRETARY

DATED 24TH April 2016