

## MINUTES

The Golden Retriever Club of Greater Toronto  
General Meeting  
Saturday February 9, 2008  
(Carol Lee's Home)  
Palgrave, Ont.

Attending: Michele Rebelo, Tony Rebelo, Carol Lee, Sandy Hillier, Betsey Ryan, Anna Morison, Don Morison, Rob Patterson, Eileen Ansell, Norm Bowler, Sandy Brodie, Muriel Kerr, Gord Kerr, Molly Barber, Tim Marshall, Shelly Blom, Linda Brox, Doug Walford, Kim Walford, Vicki Ellery

- 1) Call to order at 2:05 pm
- 2) Acceptance of the Agenda - Michele presented the agenda. Motion to accept by Anna, seconded by Sandy Brody. All in favour.
- 3) Minutes of the last General meeting – Nov 3, 2007 – see Secretary's report
- 4) Reports:
  - a) Secretary's Report – Vicki Ellery – the minutes of the Nov 3, 2007 meeting were read by Vicki Ellery. One amendment was made to indicate that the prices mentioned for the Strickland seminar were only approximate as all the expenses were not known. Motion to accept by Anna; seconded by Sandy; all in favour.
  - b) Treasurer's Report - Bruce Russell – Michele read the Treasurer's report supplied by Bruce. Please see attached statement. One question raised by Bruce was whether the Club wanted to put more money in a GIC. Rob and Vicki made alternate suggestions; for example, a money market account. This would give us more interest, chequing privileges, etc. One suggestion from Bruce was to put enough money into another GIC to reduce the bank balance to \$10,000. Discussion followed about possible uses for the surplus cash. These included a therapy dog, guide dog, donation to Smiling Blue Skies Cancer Fund. Gord Kerr made a motion to have the Treasurer open a money market account for \$5000; seconded by Anna; all in favour. Michele made a motion for the approx. \$3700 funds we currently have in the GIC to be earmarked for a charitable donation of some kind, providing the club is in a sound financial position when the amount reaches maturity; seconded by Betsey; all in favour. Gord also suggested that a forum should be started on the website to determine where the club should use the funds that accumulate in the GIC.
  - c) Membership – Molly Barber –
    - i) The total membership is now 43. There have been a few new members apply, and there was one inquiry about Junior membership, but we don't offer this anymore.
    - ii) Molly asked about the current status of participation re the obedience trial. Members reported that Cathy Park had not provided a final breakdown. There was discussion about how to keep this updated. Attendance at meetings will be recorded by the secretary and submitted with the minutes.

Event chairs will be responsible for sending participants to Molly within one week of the event.

- iii) A discussion was held about privacy issues surrounding publishing of members address/phone info on the Members Only section of the website. It was decided that the membership renewal form should include a privacy statement and a check box authorizing the Club to publish the information.

5) Old Business

- a) Obedience Trial – Michele R gave a report on behalf of Cathy Park. The members present congratulated Cathy on putting on a successful event. Michele read out the report, which included the number of dogs entered, entry fees, and expenses. See attached statement.
- b) Newsletter – Michele reported that the first newsletter in 18 months has come out and has been delivered to most members. There was discussion initiated by Linda Brox about having the newsletter on the website. Linda B made a suggestion to have the membership renewal form include a check box to request print delivery of the newsletter. The default will be electronic version only.
- c) Website – Discussion was held about the new website. Most members have logged on and seem to like the new interactive format. Everyone was encouraged to participate. Don indicated that some future changes include online entry for WC/Hunt tests and seminars using PayPal.

6) New Business:

- a) Educational Seminar – Carol Lee informed the members that the address had changed and this has been indicated on the website. The venue will cost \$200/day. Carol said that there has been quite a lot of interest. She also indicated that there was a need for volunteers, but they need to commit. Carol will take the applications in, send out an e-mail with all of the required equipment and will also send out the receipts. Carol indicated that Erik will be doing some handling as well. Erik will be put at the Holiday Inn. The Comfort Inn in Barrie is offering a room rate of \$89 and this includes breakfast and you can have dogs there. If you mention you are with the GRCGT, then you will be put on the ground floor. Carol indicated that the number of helpers must be limited because of the way Erik conducts the seminar. He does not want a lot of Club members there as "observers"; if they are there as paid participants, that is not a problem. There will be a need for a registration desk to insure that people coming in are supposed to be there, with dogs, or without. There will be help needed for lunch – Subway or Swiss Chalet could be ordered in. The number of helpers will be determined by Carol Lee shortly and the helpers will be contacted through Sandy. Michele asked if there was a budget for the Seminar. Carol indicated that she expected the costs not to exceed \$6000. Vicki volunteered to pick Erik up from the airport and taking him to Barrie. He wants to go to the site before the show. Carol will ask if he can stay over until Monday as the last flight to Colorado will require us to end the seminar on Sunday at 3:30 pm.
- b) Health Clinic Update – April 4-6. Michele reported that the result of her meeting at Graham Animal Clinic was that the prices have gone up. Michele is looking after the organizing along with Sandy Hillier.
  - i) Heart \$55

- ii) Doppler \$325
  - iii) Eyes \$45
  - iv) Thyroid \$100
  - v) vWd \$80
  - vi) OFA \$270 H&E
  - vii) OFA \$235 H
  - viii) OFA \$165 E
  - ix) OFA prelim \$260 H&E
  - x) OFA prelim \$225 H
  - xi) OVC \$250 H&E
  - xii) OVC \$200 H
  - xiii) OVC \$160 E
- c) Specialty Show – July 18-20, 2008 –
- i) Michele reported about the search for an alternate site for the Specialty. The Club needs to decide very soon where the show will be held. She described Halton Place, which has enough grounds for obedience, rally, agility and the conformation show. This would be a great venue for a National as well. There is a huge banquet hall. There will be a horse show on that weekend, but we can share the facilities, plus there will be a caterer on site. There are two hotels nearby which will take dogs. The National Agility Trial was held at this site and was really well received by the participants. There will not be any facilities for RVs & trailers cannot be left overnight. Halton Place has provided a budget. See attached.
  - ii) Michele also reported on the Delta Meadowvale Inn. There is 23 acres of land, but there is really only room for conformation – not obedience or agility. They offered quite a good deal for the rooms as it is a five star hotel, but the grounds are really a problem. There also is no place for RVs and people would not be able to kennel out of their cars.

Michele mentioned that we need to focus on fund-raising. Carol suggested that one possibility is to try to have the show sponsored by a car company; for example, have the show focus on one model of car. Rob P. mentioned that he has a contact at Honda in Aliston that may be able to help. Michele mentioned that everyone should brainstorm ideas. Also, there needs to be a committee put together to pursue sponsors. Some ideas might be dog/horse food companies, Wal-Mart. Linda Brox indicated that the Flat-Coat Club is holding its National Specialty at a horse farm in Burlington. She will bring info for us for consideration as a site for future years.

A vote was held on which venue the Club should choose and the unanimous vote was for Halton Place. Michele will contact Halton Place to discuss future arrangements.

- iii) Obedience at the Specialty – Gord Kerr volunteered to be the Obedience chair. Bruce Russell asked someone to be table steward; Gord to contact Bruce to find out who it is. We will be holding two trials each day. Based upon the web poll, the two choices for obedience judge are Michael Calhoun and Leslie Marshall. Gord to contact them to see if they are available.

- iv) Conformation Judges – the top two suggestions from the web poll for the Saturday show are Janice Provenzano, Marjorie Martorella.
  - v) Show Chair – Michele asked for a volunteer as a Chair or Co-Chair for the Specialty Show. Carol Lee volunteered to co-chair.  
Show Secretary – Linda Brox suggested that, for future years, we should consider switching to Colmar Show services as they are really detail oriented and will, for example, post a marked catalog online within three days. The Club agreed to look at this for next year.
  - vi) WC Test – There will be a test held on the Friday. The proposed venue is TNT Campground. Sheila/Anna to contact them for use of the land & water.
  - vii) Agility Trial – Vicki reported that she has approval dates for the Specialty weekend, but she will not hold the trial at Prudhommes. She wants an alternate venue, but is not able to get approval for other dates.
  - d) AGM – The AGM will be held at the Delta Meadowvale this year. The meeting will start at 4:30 with the dinner planned for 7:00pm. The cost per person would be \$50/person. The Club will look at subsidizing the cost. Gord offered to look at what would be available for achievement plaques as an alternative to what we have done in the past. Any proposed changes to the constitution, by-laws, etc. need to be out to the members 30 days before the AGM. Michele will look after this, but she asked to have members send in suggestions by Feb. 19 via e-mail.
  - e) Membership Rewards –
    - i) A discussion was held about subsidizing members at events. Gord made many good suggestions on the web forum; including a “gold star” system for rating participation. A system needs to be created to track members participation to give rewards – the members would accumulate “points” toward things like membership, discounts on seminars, etc. Gord suggested that the discussion be continued on the forum.
    - ii) The discussion was continued about how to offer discounts/rebates. Linda Brox suggested that we should offer two prices – non-member and ordinary member prices for all seminars, etc. The discounted price would only be available for ordinary members. Linda will propose a change to the By-Laws for the AGM to this effect.
  - f) Hunt Test – Tim Marshall has offered to chair. Anna has offered to be secretary. There was discussion about having a co-secretary as part of a mentoring program. There was a discussion about holding a Master, and the consensus was that the committee should decide what to run, but the thought was that there should be JH, MH on Saturday and JH, SH on Sunday.
- 7) Next Meeting – AGM
- 8) Motion to Adjourn – motion to adjourn by Tony R; seconded by Linda B. All in favour
- 9) Meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm