



EXECUTIVE NEWSLETTER, NOVEMBER 2023

The 2023/24 Executive Committee would like to improve communication with the NZGTA affiliated clubs, and the extended membership. With that in mind the committee is undertaking to produce regular, short newsletters that summarise the actions and tasks that the committee members are undertaking on behalf of our organisation.

This newsletter is longer as it includes an update following the 2023 AGM.

INTRODUCTION to the 2023/24 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Firstly, it is with great pleasure that we announce that **David Murray** has agreed to join the Executive, filling the North Island position that was left vacant after the AGM.

Most of you will have read the resumes provided by the nominees prior to the AGM, the summaries below show that we have a versatile and experienced group with all of our Gundog groups being well represented.

President: *Helen Grant*. Helen has more than 20 years' experience with our sport, interrupted at times due to the demands of raising a family. Starting with GWP and an active association with the ARGSP, WGDC, and P&S clubs, followed by a WCS and a stint of spaniel trialling, to today, the owner of two Deutsch Drahthaar.

North Island Executive:

Bob Whitehead. Bob's extensive contribution to our sport spans 50 plus years and Bob is possibly the only trialist to compete in all three gundog groups, P&S, spaniel and retriever. Bob is a Life Member of the P&S Club and the Working Spaniel Club and has titled numerous dogs, both Pointers and Spaniels. Bob is a star judge for P&S, an A panel judge for P&S game trials and an approved judge for Spaniel natural game.

Jacques Pienaar. Born and raised in South Africa, Jacques appears to have had the hunting bug from a very early age. Jacques joined the South African Hunters Association and later became a committee member of this prestigious organisation. After moving to New Zealand Jacques joined the ARGSP club and became an active committee member. Jacques went on to become an approved P&S judge. One of Jacques ambitions for our sport is that it becomes a pathway to produce better gundogs for future generations.

David Murray. David started trialling with his first Labrador in the early 1980's. Shortly after joining the South Auckland Gundog Club David was elected on to the committee and has been on the SA committee ever since and has been awarded Life Membership of that club.

David has also previously served on the NZGTA Executive, including two terms as President, and is a Life Member of the NZGTA. David is a star judge for Retriever, All Breeds and Spaniel and recently included spaniel live game to his judging platform. David has successfully trialled with Labradors, taking 4 to GFTCh status and one to FCh status, and is now competing with two ESS in live game trials.

South Island Executive:

Neville Alexander. With 46 years' experience, Neville is yet another committee member who has already made extensive contributions to our sport. Neville and Indrea have moved throughout NZ over the years, and I believe that Neville always made significant contributions to the local clubs in those areas, continuing to do so today for Waimate and SIWS. Neville is a Life Member of the SIWS club. Neville also served on previous NZGTA Executive committees including a term as President and has also been honoured with Life Membership of the NZGTA. Neville is a star judge for Retriever, All Breeds and Spaniel events. He has been a very successful competitor with both Labradors and Spaniels, and being a tiger for punishment is currently training a young, talented Labrador dog.

Terry Wilson. Another very experienced triallist with over 40 years participation. Terry is President of the South Otago Gundog Club. The Wilson family, Terry, Maree, son David, and David's wife Lauren, are largely responsible for keeping gundog trials alive and well, not only in South Otago, but the Southland region as well, running multiple events, all very well organised and supported. Terry has served previously on the NZGTA Executive, and both Terry and his wife Maree are Life Members of the NZGTA.

David Faichney. Born and raised in Scotland, David was brought up in a hunting and fishing environment, where the merits of a well-trained gundog were appreciated. In Scotland David had experience handling both Retrievers and Spaniels. When he arrived in NZ, he spent some time researching local Labrador pedigrees and purchased his Labrador bitch, Juno. David and Juno are regular competitors at southern events and have enjoyed considerable success.

Sue Sinclair and Bill Taylor round out the executive, Sue as Secretary/Treasurer and Bill as FT Secretary.

At the first Executive meeting, **Neville Alexander** was appointed **Vice-President**.

Patrons:

This year, our long serving Patron, Robert Ruffe-Thomas, made the decision to step aside for "someone younger" to take over.

For the departing Executive, it was a very easy decision to nominate a somewhat younger *Maree Dickey*. With Maree's acceptance of the nomination, we continue to have two Patrons, Ken May and Maree Dickey.

2023 NZGTA LIFE MEMBERS:

The Executive accepted two nominations for Life Membership to the NZGTA.

Bob Whitehead. Bob has made an outstanding contribution to our sport during his 50 plus years of participation. In the Pointer & Setter events, Bob has titled five dogs (one a grand), won two NZ championships and five Island Championships. Bob also titled seven Field champions in three different breeds, two ESS, four ECS and one pointer. He has also won game trials with GSPs' and English Setters. Bob titled the first Field Champion Spaniel, the first Cocker Spaniel and the first Pointer. He was also the first trialist to title a dog in different game trial disciplines, Spaniel and Pointer & Setter. Bob's judging experience goes back 40 years, being a highly regarded star judge for P&S, and A panel judge for P&S game trials and an approved judge for Spaniel Natural Game.

Pat O'Connor. Pat started gundog tralling in 1966, and was one of the foundation members that restarted the Wairoa Gundog Club in the early 1970's. His first trial dog was a black Labrador that he made into a FTCh, after which Pat became an avid advocate for the English Springer Spaniel. Pat travelled extensively, the length and breadth of NZ, his passion being the pigeon Spaniel trials. Pat made up two ESS to FTCh status, and another to GFTCh. Between them they won 5 NZ Spaniel championships, three North Island championships and two South Island championships. Pat's last trial was at South Auckland in 2020, after which an injury and failing health stopped him from being able to compete. 54 years of active participation.

2023 ADMISSIONS TO NZGTA HALL OF FAME:

GFTCh & GFCh Game Master Tanner (imp Aust), Irish Setter owned by Robyn Gaskin.

Tanner gained 38 challenge points by winning 13 Natural Game trials, 4 Brace Pigeon trials and 21 conventional pigeon trials. Tanner won three NZ P&S events as well as one North Island P&S event.

GFTCh Gunsmoke Rex, Labrador Retriever owned by A McKay.

Awarded 44 challenge points, a record held for the most challenge points gained between 1935-1968. He won the NZ Retriever in 1960, 1962 & 1967, also winning the NZ Allbreeds in 1962. He won the South Island All Breeds in 1962, 1063 & 1966.

GFTCh Sanford Texas Ranger, Labrador Retriever owned by David Murray.

Tex was awarded 58 challenge points, gaining GFTCh status at four years of age. Tex won he NZ All Breeds in 2002, the North Island All Breeds in 2004 and the South Island All Breeds in 2005.

Newly Affiliated Club:

The Working Retriever Club was affiliated at the 2023 AGM. The club secretary is Nicola Johns, the President is Mike O'Donnell. For club secretaries wanting to add the club email to your list for mail outs, the contact email address is theworkingretrieverclub@gmail.com

From the Executive Committee Meeting held 30th October 2023:

Priorities. Two major priorities were identified for the 2023/24 executive.

- 1) Total revision of the NZGTA constitution to meet the standards required under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.
- 2) Establish and test the technology required to allow increased participation at future AGMs'.

Honorarium. Both secretaries, Sue and Bill, declined the honorarium. The honorarium is a taxable item and as such the NZGTA should have been paying PAYE on the amount paid. A resolution was passed that the NZGTA should stop paying the honorarium, and continue to reimburse the committee members for expenses incurred whilst working on the NZGTA's behalf.

2022 Rule change to allow virtual AGMs, SGMs etc. Undertake to get this rule change registered with Incorporated Societies. Although the updates had been made to the rule book, the rule had not been registered with Incorporated Societies.

- This item was completed in November 23 with the rule changes now registered, reviewed and accepted by the Societies Office.

Communication and Engagement with clubs and extended membership. The Executive will regularly send out summaries after their meetings to keep the membership updated and will be looking at how they can better utilise the website.

We discussed the social media presence, and noted that the current Facebook group "New Zealand Gundog Trialling" is not an official NZGTA platform as it was originally setup by an individual.

Other activities

- 2024 Trialling Calendar has been emailed to secretaries and is on the website
- DogsNZ website updated with the correct Exec details, and affiliated clubs list is being prepared for updating.

We noted that the NZ and both Island Championship events are vacant. We encourage all clubs to consider how the events can be held – teaming up, or working together.