

Chairman's Report

This year seems to have flown by as I find myself reflecting on the events of 2023. Memories of joy as I recall sharing the successes of friends in the ring with new Show Champions gaining their titles, new puppies showing great promise and new people entering the show world for the first time. But also tempered with sadness at the loss of people who have enriched our lives over decades. At this time I particularly remember David Laidlaw, a fellow Scot with whom I shared the occasional 'wee dram' and who I will fondly remember as a lovely man with a good heart who was always smiling. Also, the more recent loss of Olivia Henson. Olivia was a force of nature who was never shy of giving her opinions, was always immaculately turned out and who worked tirelessly raising funds for rescue. I will never forget her cheery greeting of 'Hello Darling!' whenever we met. Olivia was given Life Membership in recognition of her work for rescue shortly before her passing and she proudly displayed her certificate in her room. I was really touched to see it also displayed on her coffin at her funeral. A sign of just how much this meant to her.

And finally, David Wade, another Life Member, who also recently passed. David, a member since 1967, was a great support to this club while his wife Val was serving as a committee member and was a great help on show days, marking up catalogues and offering his help wherever needed. My heartfelt sympathies go to their families and to the families of all members who have lost a loved one during this year.

At our AGM this year we welcomed some new committee members in Joy Russell, Lindsey Dewar, Ruth Lewis and also confirmation of Wendy Holehan-Green who had been previously co-opted.

We also said goodbye to two long standing committee members; Jim Cuddy, who had been our show secretary for a number of years and had done a fantastic job organising all our shows during his service to the committee. He had a particularly difficult job to do working around everything that Covid introduced with all the extra organisation that involved. As a previous show secretary, I know just how much work goes into this role and I offer my personal thanks to Jim for all his hard work. Paula Lucas has now taken on this role and I'm sure she will also do a great job.

Chris Sheldon had been our treasurer for a significant number of years and had done an absolutely fantastic job of keeping everything in order. Always efficient and on the ball we will miss her greatly and in recognition of her hard work and dedication she was made a Life Member at our AGM. We welcome David Pike into this role now and with his background in banking I'm sure he will be a great asset to our club.

I'd like to end by thanking you all for your continued support of our club and wish you all a happy, healthy and successful 2024. I look forward to seeing you all at our shows and education days throughout the year and remember everyone is welcome. If you don't show but would like to come and spend the day with other setter lovers please come and join us. We're here for everyone.

George Stevenson

Chairman ISBC