

Summer 2021

PYRENEAN SHEEPDOG

The Newsletter of the Pyrenean Sheepdog Club of Great Britain



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From the Editor

Well it finally feels like things are beginning to return, if not to normal, then at least to something more like it, I can't tell you how satisfying it was to enter the next show dates on the last page!

I've also completed my first agility Judging appointment since the lockdown began, including a qualifier for the KC Olympia stakes and was thrilled to see lots of Pyries at the show, a really promising sign of things to come I hope.

I was also thrilled to have the standard for the Smooth Faced variety recognised by the KC Breed Standards Committee from 1st September; for someone who has never been in a show ring I feel pretty nervous but will be out there giving it a go—hope to see you there!

I'd just like to say, once again, a huge thank you to the Committee and the club who have been fundamental to the KC decision to recognise our marvellous PSD breed.

Regards

Carl

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From the Chair

It is so pleasing to sit down and write my Chairman's overview for this edition of the magazine. For so long Covid restrictions and lock-down has dominated everyone's thinking and behaviour and whilst the risks of the virus are not to be underestimated we certainly seem to have turned a corner and hopefully this will be maintained as we go through the winter. The Canine world has seen activities safely opening up with the return of major show competitions in both the Show Ring, Agility and Obedience in July and August and many have been active with their PSD's at training events or trying out new disciplines such as man trailing and scent work which seem to have flourished in the restricted environment. Against this backdrop there are a few themes/key messages that I would like to draw to members attention, viz:



Club Open Show

We deeply regret that we had to cancel our Breed Open Show this year. Shane has already covered this in her "Around the Show Ring" article in this magazine so I won't repeat what she has said here, however, it is clear that since our successful "Anniversary Weekend" event in 2017 our annual Breed Show has lost focus and has drifted into sharing the day with our "Summer Fun Day Event" and we think perhaps that both events have suffered as a result. The decision to co-locate our show with the Catalan Club Show in April is intended to raise the profile for both club's with all the added benefits of shared costs and fund raising, more attractive judging appointments with a fixed calendar date each year and a dedicated focus where we can get together to show off our lovely rare breeds, compare dogs and provide an opportunity to meet and make friends and welcome those interested in owning the breed. As I write this I am minded of our number one objective as a KC registered Breed Society and I quote, *"to foster and promote the breed in Great Britain and to impress upon the exhibitors and judges the true type as defined by the breed standard"*. Our annual Show is the primary event where we have the opportunity to see how well we are doing in relation to our main objective here in the UK. More information will follow in the coming weeks but please make sure you support the breed and the club with your attendance at our next show, it will be great to see you there.

2. Smooth Faced Recognition.

As reported on the Club's Facebook page and in the Spring Magazine we have successfully achieved recognition from the KC for the Smooth Faced variant of the Pyrenean Sheepdog. Since then we have been working with the KC to agree an interim Breed Standard and on 1st July we received further confirmation from the KC that they had now approved all of our recommendations and amendments with the new Interim Standard coming into force from 1st September

2021. The new standard reflects all of the main and breed specific points and nuances that highlights the differences between the two variants which were so important to get right at this early stage and from September the Smooth Faced will be able to compete in the Import register classes at UK shows, another major milestone.

Health Survey

Just a quick reminder that our Breed Health Coordinator Vicky Wilford launched our new Health Survey back in May and whilst the survey will remain open until the Autumn we really need you all to make every effort to complete the survey. We want to capture returns for all our UK PSD's, although Non UK dogs are welcome too. For those successfully getting their returns back, there are a number of planned prize draws with some nice goodies to win. Survey forms can be downloaded from the Health page on Club's website at www.pyreneansheepdogclub.com/health Details are also on the Club's Facebook page. Please support us with this very important initiative. It would be really great to get a 100 % return from club members.

2022 Calendar.

At time of writing Rebecca Robson has completed another wonderful Calendar for 2022. Having had the privilege of seeing the final copy I have got to say she has created a beautiful record of the breed. A new really innovative and creative design that is packed full of great photos of our little herders. Rebecca is asking everyone to pre-order their copies, price is £10 with free P&P. Rebecca can be contacted on bexerob@aol.com We really hope that you will support our Calendar initiative and all of Rebecca's hard work. Whilst it would be a first we are targeting all members to order at least one calendar. Thank you for your support.

5 Other Highlights

Carl is organising a member's walk on the 17th September. Full details are on the Club's Website and Facebook page (*and on page 19 of this newsletter—Ed*). If it proves successful we will try and get at least one more in the diary in late Autumn. Look forward to seeing you there.

New Club President Jeff Horswell is already being proactive and showing good support for the breed and the Club. Jeff has accepted the Club's nomination to take up the Club's vacant seat on the KC's Breed Liaison Council. This gives Jeff a formal platform to Champion the breed and raise Club issues and the profile of the Club with the decision makers at the KC.

On behalf of your Committee and myself, I would just like to extend a massive thanks to Vikki Lucas for her contribution, as Club Secretary in what has been a very demanding time for her. With the need to prioritise her personal health Vikki has stepped down from the Secretary role, although I am pleased to say she will stay on Committee where we will retain her knowledge and experience. Equally I would like to extend my thanks to Rebecca Robson who has taken on the role as Acting Secretary and is already making her mark and picking up her responsibilities with energy and enthusiasm. We are in good hands!

Best Wishes to All
Keep safe
Eion Flint

Around the Show Ring

Club Show

We unfortunately had to cancel our 2021 Club Breed Open Show which was scheduled for the 7th June as the prevailing government Covid restrictions and decisions taken by the venue (Bearley Village Hall) meant that our booking had to be cancelled. We did have a potential date to rearrange in late August but judge availability meant that it became too difficult to pull together. Also an informal bit of sounding out with potential attendees suggested that entry numbers would be quite poor and so we took the decision to postpone until next year. More about this will be communicated in the coming weeks but in principle the Committee have agreed to hold our next show in conjunction with the Catalan Sheepdog Club of GB next April.

This is something that we tried back in 2015 which proved to be successful and we think it offers a way forward for both clubs.

We have a number of objectives.

We want to have a standalone fixed Calendar date each year for the show going forward. We are looking to share costs which should make the shows more viable for both Club's. We would like to attract good breed specialist international judges that would judge both breeds and by next April we will be able to add the Pyrenean Sheepdog Smooth Faced as a 3rd Breed which should mean that judges could have a potential judging appoint-

ment of around 50 dogs from the 3 breeds. As a KC registered Breed Society I am passionate that we should be showcasing and promoting the quality of our wonderful breed in our annual show.

Hopefully, we can create an annual event that creates a welcoming atmosphere for all and which promotes the very best of the dogs we have here in the UK and is the place to come for all those interested in meeting and potentially owning the breed. It is really important that we do not create an artificial split between seeing yourselves as a “show” or “non show” person. If you own a PSD, the club and the breed need your support. So why not come along to our annual show meet other Pyrenean owners, compare dogs and take part in some friendly competition and go home with some fantastic rosettes, individual prizes and potentially Club trophies. Perhaps more importantly you will have learned a bit more about your dog and the breed and made some great friends. Hope to see you all next April

Other Shows

On the wider show front July saw the return of the major Championship Show circuit. Southern Counties Champ Show was the first to get off the mark having rescheduled a couple of times during lock-down. First PSD classes were at National Working & Pastoral Breeds at Malvern on 17th July, Leeds on 25th July and Bath on 3rd August.

At the time of writing this article Paignton is just about due on 9th August followed by Bournemouth on the 16th August and

Blackpool on 22nd August.

After an 18 month layoff from showing, largely enforced by lockdown and some family health problems, we made the big decision to return to the July and August shows. Currently Eion and I and our 7 PSD's are out in the caravan for 4 weeks and I must confess we are really enjoying getting away.

We were a bit apprehensive given the ongoing Covid risk but I must admit we have been very impressed with the whole set up and the way that the shows are being organised. The old style marquees with crowded fixed benching have disappeared, the organisers have provided large open space under cover with 3 metre spacing for exhibitors to set up safely in. Also most shows are providing large outdoor spaces, adjacent to the rings, for those that prefer to set up their own pop up tents and gazebos giving a much more Continental feel to the show which has created a really safe and positive atmosphere.

For those that follow these things I have set out below the official show results for those that have completed. We had a nice group of 10 dogs entered at Leeds and the photo below shows all the dogs and handlers with judge Ed Forsey. The second photo shows the main winners at Bath viz, Eion and me with "Marley" (BOB) and "Blue" (BOS) and Jeannie Gwilliam with her new puppy "Twist" (BP).

Shane Flint
Sandytrail Pyrenean Sheepdogs



Championship Show Results

Working & Pastoral Breeds Society (2 entries)

Judge Miss L Birmingham

Best of Breed, Best Bitch and Best Puppy: Gwilliam's Ready or Not du Pic
d'Espade of Amienko

Res Best Bitch & Best Veteran: Gwilliam's Norlyght Sebelas of Amienko

Leeds Championship Show (10 entries)

Judge Mr Ed Forsey

Best of Breed, Best Bitch & Best Veteran: Flint's Bel/Fin CH Sandytrail
Ensorcelé

Around the Show Ring

Best Dog: Flint's Bel/Fin CH Gastibelza de l'Oustaou de Padel

Res Best Dog: Flint's Sandytrail Sorcerer

Res Best Bitch: Robson's Sandytrail Scheherazade Meslabrit

Best Puppy: Flint's Sandytrail Chevalier Noir

Best Special Beginner: Morgan's Sandytrail Suzette

Junior Dog:

1st Flint's Sandytrail Chevalier Noir

Veteran Dog:

1st Bel/Fin CH Gastibelza de l'Oustaou de Padel

2nd Robson's Ivydale Choirboy Meslabrit

Special Beginners (D/B)

1st Morgan's Sandytrail Suzette

Post Graduate Bitch

1st Morgan's Sandytrail Suzette

2nd Flint's Sandytrail Magie Noire

Open Bitch

1st Flint's Sandytrail Ensorcélé

2nd Robson's Sandytrail Scheherazade Meslabrit

Veteran Bitch

1st Flint's Sandytrail Ensorcélé

Bath Canine Society (9 entries, 3 absent)

Judge Mr B Croft

Best of Breed & Best Dog: Flint's Sandytrail Sorcerer

Res Best Dog: Flint's Bel/Fin CH Gastibelza de l'Oustaou de Padel

Best Bitch: Flint's Sandytrail Ensorcélé

Res Best Bitch: Flint's Entre Nous Romance Sand Paroles

Best Puppy: Gwilliam's Ready or Not du pic d'Espade of Amienko

Best Veteran: Flint's Bel/Fin CH Gastibelza de l'Oustaou de Padel

RALLY

After what has been a longish break enforced on us all by the global pandemic, dog related competitions are getting going again, and I was really pleased to be able to get to Haxey and compete in the two days of Kennel Club RALLY competitions there in July.

The weekend started with a 'Rally Training Day' on the Friday which was very informative and enjoyable, and also meeting with other keen 'Rally - ers'.

Midas really enjoyed his training day and we both improved our skills

I knew that on the competition day we would probably not produce quite the level of performance that we were capable of as he can be quite sensitive, but I was surprised that he was overcome by the number of people and dogs, and the busy atmosphere.

So seems the lockdown, and the lack of being at bigger dog events has left him out of practice with coping with all the activity going on around him. So things to work on there.

However, somehow, we managed to get enough marks to 'Qualify' in three of the competitions I entered, with one being a 'Qualified Excellent' score.

I was delighted to realize that Midas had achieved his 'Rally Level 1 Excellent Title'

So now I can write 'RL1.Ex' after his name.

It was a very nice Birthday Present for me.. Thank you Midas (Cavronscourt Midas Touch RL1.Ex)

What is RALLY?

Probably most of you will know what the dog activity called " RALLY " is all about, but for those that are not that familiar with it, I will give a brief run down of what it involves.



In the USA it is known as 'Rally O' and although it has been in the UK a while, it is still a relatively new form of Kennel Club dog competition in comparison to most of the other KC dog activities.

It does not require the precision of the 'Obedience' competitions that we have been used to for many years.

Unlike 'Obedience' the handler is not given verbal instructions during their round by a steward, but the dog and handler negotiate a pre-set course with signs already in place instructing the handler what is required and which way to go. These can be called stations.

The handler gets the dog to perform the required exercise at the sign and moves on to the next. The handler can give verbal commands and encourage the dog and the first two levels are performed on the lead.

Competitors start with a full score sheet and marks are deducted for inaccuracies, but the Judging is not rigid and it is an activity for all types & sizes of dogs, as well as all abilities.

Handlers in wheelchairs and those using crutches or walking sticks can take part too, a form can be sent in with the entry and the course can be altered and prepared when it is their turn to compete.

Although place prizes are awarded, progression does not depend on winning.

Progress to the next level is gained by getting enough qualifying scores.

Qualifying scores are from 175, and a Qualified Excellent score is 190 or above.

Dogs can enter in Level 1 & 2 from six months of age, and from 12 months for Level 3 and above.

I was never sure that I would like Rally but I have two dogs that seem to enjoy it, so that has spurred me on to do more, and I am finding I am enjoying it too....



Vicky Wilford

More thoughts from Geordi

Bonjour mes amis! It's been a while since I last wrote, so I thought that I would let you know what I've been up to.

Sadly, although I was hoping to go to France in September, we weren't able to go due to the Covid situation. This also meant that Liz and Chris weren't able to take me to the Nationale d'Elevage and we were all very sorry to miss it.

Instead of going to France in September, we went to a cottage in Suffolk for a few days. The cottage was in the country with good walks nearby. On our second night there, I started to cough, snuffle and retch. Liz and Chris couldn't work out what was wrong with me. Although I was fine when I went upstairs to bed, I started to cough again in the morning. Liz thought that I might have kennel cough. Liz and Chris weren't sure if they should take me out walking all day but decided to risk it. We went to Southwold and did a lovely walk ending up at the harbour where we had fish and chips for lunch. I really enjoy fish and chips.



I didn't cough at all while we were out but started again as soon as we got back to the cottage. Liz wondered if I might be allergic to the rug that was on the floor so she picked it up and put it in a cupboard and I was fine after that. We enjoyed another few days in Suffolk before coming home again.

One of the things that Liz and Chris were able to do during lockdown was to

go walking. I have heard Liz and Chris say that we have discovered places in Leicester and Leicestershire that we had never been to before. Sometimes it was just the three of us and other times we walked with friends. I was able to see Lily, Fizz, Pirie and Effie, which I really enjoyed.



All through the various lockdowns and restrictions, when we were allowed, we have been training with our agility club and having one to one training sessions as well, but we hadn't been to any shows. Last October, after a lot of thought, Liz decided that we would retire from competing in agility. I am ten and a half now and having had a whole year off from shows, it seemed a good time to stop. I have also had some problems with my shoulders. We are still going to club training which we are enjoying and I am working well. Liz and I enjoy seeing all our friends canine and human at club training.

Once again we were very disappointed not be able to go to France in May although the Régionale d'Élevage which is organised by my breeders was cancelled so I would not have been able to see my Belgian friends. Liz and Chris are very frustrated that we have not been able to go to our house in France for eighteen months now. I love going there and I really miss it. Travel regulations change so quickly at the moment that Liz and Chris don't want to risk it. I have heard Liz and Chris say that we might try to go in the autumn.

One good thing recently is that more visitors are coming to the house, outdoors and indoors. I really enjoy having visitors and couldn't understand why, for a long time, if anyone came to the house, they stood and talked on the doorstep!

One good thing about lockdown was that I didn't go to the boarding kennels at all. However, a couple of months ago Liz and Chris left me there for a couple of nights.

They were going to visit my older human brother as they hadn't seen him for nine months. I thought that that part of my life was over but seemingly not!



To make up for sending me to the kennels, Liz and Chris took me to a cottage in Shropshire for a few days. The cottage was right in the country, with a big garden and two Kuni pigs for neighbours.

There were some woods nearby where Liz and Chris took me every morning. On our first day we walked up Carding Mill Valley on to the Long Mynd.

I enjoyed the first part of the walk as I could paddle in the stream, but I got a bit tired towards the end and wanted to sit down! We had a lovely week and visited some lovely gardens. One day we met a couple of people who Liz had been to school with and walked with them.

Hopefully, when I write again we will have been to France and that all will have gone well. I've heard Liz say that it will be a bit more complicated to take me to France since Brexit. On verra!

A bientôt and stay safe

Geordi

Another case for Inspector Song



Just checking how many biscuits I should have in my account

Oh no!! my biscuit account is empty, where did they all go...



Nothing to dunk in my coffee now....I blame the others, it definitely wasn't me that ate all the biscuits.



Was it Scrumpy the not so goody two shoes, that ate all the biscuits...find out in the next exciting episode of:

Another case for Inspector Song

Calendar 2022 Competition Winners



1st



2nd

1st Joan Snelling's photo of Bob.
2nd John Wilford's photo of Iffa
and Darwin
3rd Gabi Maue's photo of Anuk
vom Wandersman

Thank you everyone for your beautiful photos. It has been my great pleasure to judge this competition and compile our PSD Calendar for 2022. Pre-print Orders taken now by emailing me, Rebecca Robson at bexerob@aol.com, cost £10 per Calendar, Free P&P. Have a fabulous Summer.



3rd

Club Dog Walk

The next club dog walk is to be in Fineshade Woods (details below) in East Northamptonshire on Friday 17th September. The venue is a Forestry England wooded park with well-marked routes through the largely deciduous woods on gravelled pathways, there are some undulating hills but nothing too strenuous although sensible walking shoes are advised. There are two walks that follow the same route to the mid-point with the longer one taking a longer loop. The Dales Wood Walk is 3 miles and the Mill Wood Trail is 5.5 miles. We plan to do the longer walk but for anyone wishing to turn-off at the mid-point this would be an option – you might just have to spend longer in the café if you want to wait for the rest of us! The café is a bit limited but there are options to bring your own food and drink at the benches on the grassed areas outside the café.

Venue details:

Fineshade Woods <https://www.forestryengland.uk/fineshade-wood> Post code: NN17 3BB There are toilet amenities and even a large indoor room where dogs are welcome. There's a Caravan and Motorhome Club campsite (see photo - Top Lodge, Fineshade) and other local campsites such as New Lodge Laxton, <https://www.newlodgefarm.co.uk> about a mile away. All day car parking is £6. For those making a weekend of it Stamford and Oakham are close by for exploring or shopping and Rutland Water is a couple of miles away where you can see Rutland Ospreys <https://www.lrwt.org.uk/rutlandospreys> and the Rutland belle cruises <https://rutlandwatercruises.com/about-us/run>



A vet's perspective

New Travel Regulations

With restrictions on travel lifting (somewhat!), I expect some of us will start thinking about travelling with our dogs in the coming months. For those who haven't already, this will mean that you need to familiarise yourself with the new EU travel regulations post-Brexit.

Gone are the happy days of little blue pet passports and last-minute trips... say hello to Animal Health Certificates (AHCs) and all the hassle that goes with them.

I am not going to set out exactly what the new regulations are – you can find these on the gov.uk website. But here are the headlines from a vet's perspective:

You still need a valid rabies vaccine to travel in the EU. If this is a first vaccine, or if your previous vaccine has lapsed, you still need to wait 21 days after the vaccine before you can travel.

But you now ALSO need to visit your vet within 10 days of your departure date so your dog can have a physical exam, and so that the vet can issue your AHC. This is the document that replaces your passport. This is valid for 4 months for onward travel in the EU and/or re-entry to the UK, but you will need a new one for each trip that involves you leaving the UK to go to the EU or Northern Ireland.

An animal health 'certificate' sounds like it might be a nice little one page document – a bit like an agility warrant certificate, or a certificate you get for passing a KC good citizens test. It is nothing like this. AHCs are long, they are complicated, it is easy to make mistakes.

Because AHCs are long, and time consuming to fill out, they cost more.

Even though expensive AHCs might sound like a nice little earner for us vets, we mostly dislike them at least as much as you do. In fact, my practice has decided to stop doing them completely – we now outsource our AHCs to a third party pet travel company. I work for a small independent practice where only two of our vets are 'OVs' (have the additional qualifications needed to produce travel documents).

We decided it just wasn't viable for us to continue to dedicate the time and energy of two team members to endless form filling during a period where we (like most practices) are already stretched by increased pet ownership, a recent practice closure due to covid, and almost constant staff shortages with people off self-isolating.

One way you do seem to be able to get around the AHC issues is to have a pet passport (like we used to have) issued in an EU country. As long as these are EU issued, they can still be used to travel between the UK and the EU in place of an AHC. Only EU vets can enter rabies vaccination details into EU passports – so you'd need to be in the EU regularly enough to have your rabies vaccines done there – but for some people this may be a good option.

As always – please speak to your own vet regarding advice for your animals. I'm not an OV so the info above is mostly what I have picked up hearing my poor colleagues who are OVs trying to field calls and fill out certificates around all their other clinical duties! Bottom line: allow more time and money to prepare to travel, and please be kind to your vet. This is hurting us as much as it is hurting you!

Happy holidays!

Bea Newman

HEALTH I CORNER

The Pyrenean Sheepdog Club of Great Britain—



would like to say “THANK YOU “ to those who have already sent in a

2021 Breed Health Survey Form

We are planning to have - SURPRISE BONUS DRAWS -

Depending on how any Survey Forms we receive

The more we receive – the more we may do !

The first one has already taken place at the Kennel Club International Agility Festival on Saturday 14th August.

Two lucky people received a prize

This Health Survey is intended to gain an overall view of the general health of the breed in this country.

To gather facts, but also anecdotal evidence of areas that may need an eye on into the future

It is primarily aimed at the population of Pyrenean Sheepdogs in the UK but completed Health Survey forms are welcome from overseas owners.

Please make sure you clearly indicate which Country you live in...

All information will be kept confidential, no individuals details will be published only overall figures

Even if your dog has **never** had health problems we would like you to **fill in a form** -

Information on healthy dogs is very important too.

We would also like to hear about dogs that have died in the last few years.

It will take an average of 10 minutes to complete the form

Information on the 2021 Health Survey and the Survey Form is available to download

on the Clubs Website.

This is the Greatest Contribution you can make to the Health and Welfare of the Breed

Information gathered today helps to give us ALL the tools to make better decisions in the future

~ The closing date for the Survey is 1st November 2021~

- For news, notifications & announcements see our Facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/43654884626/
- Please download the survey at www.pyreneansheepdogclub.com/health

*Vicky Wilford
Breed Health Co-ordinator*

HEALTHCARE

Next Show Dates (PSD Classes)

Darlington Dog Show Society:	17-19 September
National Dog Show:	23-26 September
Scottish Kennel Club:	30 Sept- 3 Oct
Working & Pastoral Breeds (Scotland)	November

