



**The Pyrenean Sheepdog Club
of Great Britain
Magazine Summer 2023**

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Shane Flint

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The magazine contains articles and information provided by members and non-members of the PSD Club of GB. The club wishes to make it known that the inclusion of material in this magazine does not necessarily indicate approval or reflect the opinions of the club

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From the Editor

Well it's been a funny Summer from a weather point of view, more cool and wet than hot and sunny for long stretches of time.

I'm still hoping there's time for a few weeks of warm and sunny weather to come as I head off on a couple of weeks holiday in the UK.

I have completed my four Agility Judging appointments for the year which I really enjoyed—its great to see some real success showing and competing with our Pyries—please see articles from Shane and the Congratulations section further in the magazine.

For those of you who are planning on getting to the Breed Appreciation Day (see the back page) I will see you there.

Regards

Carl

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From the chair

Welcome to our Summer edition of the Club Magazine and I hope that you and your “little bergers” are enjoying being out and about whether that be in competition, walking or just chilling out in the garden. Admittedly, July has been a bit of a “write off” in terms of the weather although, at home in North Yorkshire, May and June were fantastic. The arrival of a wet July has at least restored the garden which was really starting to struggle.

Just a few things to bring to your attention in this edition of the magazine viz,

1. Club Finances.

I am pleased to report that Club finances are in a healthy position and continue to improve year on year. We had a very healthy profit of just over £400 from the Club Show in April as well as a super contribution of £200 from an Agility Training event organised by Vikki Lucas.

Maintaining our Club membership income always remains a worry but we seem to have stabilised our membership base so far.

Income from our other activities (Club Calendar and Discover Dogs at Crufts) means that in overall terms Club funds are back to pre-Covid levels.

2. Committee Vacancies

We currently have two vacancies on Committee. The Treasurer’s position is vacant although I have taken this on, along with my role as chairman, on an interim basis in 2023. We also have a vacancy for another committee member. So if any Club members out there feel that they could help or might be interested but just a little unsure

then please give me or Rebecca Robson (Sec) a quick call. We would be happy to talk things through and explain how things work. (contact details in the Magazine)

I am also conscious that Carl Stretton flagged at the start of this year that he

would like to step down in his role as Magazine Editor. Whilst Carl is generously continuing to produce the magazine we would love to hear from anyone interested in giving the role a go. Whilst the editor role has historically been combined with Committee membership it doesn't necessarily have to be this way. So if you have a hidden creative talent and could help but don't necessarily want the extra Committee responsibilities we would love to hear from you.

3. Club Show 2024

Just a date for your diary. Our next club Show will take place on Saturday 13th July at our normal venue of Bearley Village Hall just north of Stratford On Avon.

More detail towards the end of this year.

4. Breed Appreciation Day

The Club will be holding a Breed Appreciation Day on Saturday 21st October. Full details and a booking form are available on the Club's group Facebook page as well as the website. Advert also in this Magazine. Whilst this forms part of Show Judges training it is also relevant for those owners or potential owners wishing to learn about the breed.

Eion Flint

Around the Show Ring

As we near the end of August we are already through most of the summer Championship Show season for this year. Since the end of April we have continually struggled to get breed entries for the shows and our numbers attending have become very marginal to say the least. Although we do have a group of about 6 to 8 “Long Haired” owners that have shown before, representing a potential PSD entry of around 14 dogs, unfortunately, most have not been able or willing to get out and fly the flag for the breed.

Rebecca and Katie Robson with their two, plus my husband Eion with three or four of ours have been the only presence at more than ten major Champ shows since the end of April. Sara Hawkswell did get out to SKC in May and although breed classes were not on offer Sara and Smidge had a great result taking Reserve Best Bitch in the Any Variety Classes.

It really is a soul-less task trying to keep the breed visible at these major shows. Over recent months Eion and I have increasingly been picking up feedback from a number of senior judges as well as KC contacts about the decline of the breed in the UK. Entry numbers are a concern and this includes questions about the Smooth Faced variety as well. With respect to the Smooth Faced the most common talking point appears to be that since getting recognition most judges haven’t seen a “Smooth faced” yet.

Although these have only been informal discussions I do believe that on our current trajectory we will lose breed classes at many Champ shows and in the medium term we may well be under scrutiny with the KC in terms of recognition.

I hate to sound so gloomy but I just can’t see how as a breed and as a Club

we are going to reverse the trend. Clearly cost of living and personal budgets are part of the problem but the fall off in show entries has been going on for some years now and I guess all I am flagging for Club



members in this article is that we are at a new low point.

However, to finish on a positive we really do have some excellent quality PSD here in the UK. Although we are small in number in the breed classes, our Best of Breed winners more than punch their weight in the Pastoral Group competition regularly making the final 8 shortlist or even going on to take a Group place. In this regard many congratulations to Rebecca Robson for taking Pastoral Group 4 at Working and Pastoral Breeds Association of Wales in April and a well earned shortlist recently at Paignton with “Hera”

Finally, a key date for your diary, our own Club Show date for next year will be Saturday 13th April 2024 at our normal venue - Bearley Village Hall.

Please do come along and support us, you and your Pyreneans will be very welcome.

For those that like to see the Show results but don’t get the dog paper I have summarised below the main PSD results since April.

Shane Flint

Sandytrail Pyrenean Sheepdogs

Championship Show Results (April - August)

April

Working & Pastoral Breeds Assoc. of Wales

Judge: Graham Hill

BOB/BB/ Group 4 - Robson's Sandytrail Scheherazade Meslabrit (Hera)

BD - Robson's Sandytrail Séraphin Meslabrit (Odie)

May

National Dog Show

Judge: Toni Wescott-Smith

BOB/BD/BV - Flint's Gastibelza de L'Oustaou de Padel (Gasti)

RBD - Flint's Sandytrail Sorcerer (Marley)

BB - Robson's Sandytrail Scheherazade Meslabrit (Hera)

RBB - Flint's Sandytrail Sauterelle (Tiggi)

BP - Sandytrail Séraphin Meslabrit (Odie)

SKC

Judge (AVNSC Classes): Mr E Paterson

RBB - Hawkswell's Sandytrail Angélique (Smidge)

June

Windsor Champ Show

Judge: Sandie Tadd

BOB/BD: Flint's Sandytrail Sorcerer (Marley)

BB: Flint's Sandytrail Sauterelle (Tiggi)

July

East of England Champ Show

Judge: Toni Jackson

BOB/ BD: Flint's Sandytrail Sorcerer (Marley)

RBD/BV: Flint's Gastibelza de L'Oustaou de Padel (Gasti)

BB: Robson's Sandytrail Scheherazade Meslabrit (Hera)

RBB: Flint's Sandytrail Magie Noire (Madge)

1st JD: Robson's Sandytrail Séraphin Meslabrit (Odie)

1st JB: Flint's Sandytrail Sauterelle (Tiggi)

National Working & Pastoral Breeds

Judge: Paul Conway

BOB/BD: Flint's Sandytrail Sorcerer (Marley)

RBB/BV: Flint's Gastibelza de L'Oustaou de Padel (Gasti)

BB: Flint's Sandytrail Sauterelle (Tiggi)

RBB: Flint's Sandytrail Magie Noire (Madge)

Leeds Champ Show

Judge: Jill Peak

BOB/BD: Flint's Sandytrail Sorcerer (Marley)

RBD: Robson's Sandytrail Séraphin Meslabrit (Odie)

BB: Robson's Sandytrail Scheherazade Meslabrit (Hera)

August

Paignton Champ Show

Judge: Mrs D Stewart-Ritchie

BOB/BB: Robson's Sandytrail Scheherazade Meslabrit (Hera)

BD: Robson's Sandytrail Séraphin Meslabrit (Odie)

Club Walk

Devils Bridge—Kirby Lonsdale, Thursday 29th June

A big thanks go to Sara Hawkswell for organising the club walk held at the beautiful Devils Bridge in Kirby Lonsdale.

The three-arched bridge spans the river Lune and dates from the 12th or 13th century. At the apex of the bridge, there's a deep impression in the stone – often referred to as the devil's handprint. According to legend (and the Kirby Lonsdale Tourist Board) the folk tale surrounding the handprint tells of an old woman who lived on the banks of the Lune with a few animals.



One night her cow strayed across the river and would not be tempted back, no matter how much she coaxed and implored. The devil appeared to her, offering to build a bridge in exchange for the soul of the first body to cross it. The devil constructed the bridge with his own hands, leaving a print in the wet stone. The next day the woman met the devil at the bridge and agreed to fulfil her part of the bargain. She took a bun from her bag and threw it across the bridge, whereupon her small dog raced across to retrieve it. The devil, in a fit of rage at being outwitted, howled in anger and vanished in a cloud of brimstone.

No such sightings were in evidence as Sara with Smidge, Alan Bray with Bobbie, Andy March with Kei, Teresa with Finn and myself and with Panther crossed the bridge for a lovely walk around the town then on into the woods before walking along the lovely Lune river.

It was great to meet up with new club members and the dogs enjoyed running freely (Smidge tells us about her experiences in her article later in this magazine).

Thanks for organising Sara—we look forward to the next walk which is being organised soon—keep watching the Facebook page.

Carl Stretton





Breed Records Supplements

for January to March 2023

Importations (2)

TOURMALINE NEON BLUE DES DRAYERS (IMP FRA)

SCCLOF1BPYRPL38201/0, b, 26/08/22, c, Blue Merle, br. N Garcia; Guppy
Bleu Du Pic D'arbizon - Passion Des Drayeres; ow- Ms V Harry; origin-
France.

TOYAH DE LA MESTA PASTORES (IMP FRA) SCCLOFB.PYR.P.L38232/0, b,
15/09/22, c, Black, br, A&P Bedu; Nabai De La Mesta Pastores-Peguerre De
Loubajac; ow- Mr A Bray; Origin France

JOINT KC/BVA HIP DYSPLASIA SCHEME

RICOCHET DU PIC D'ESPADE OF AMIENKO (IMP FRA)

AY2 RH 6/ LH 7 Total 13 (24/03/23)

JOINT KC/BVA ELBOW DYSPLASIA SCHEME

RICOCHET DU PIC D'ESPADE OF AMIENKO (IMP FRA)

AY2 - 0 (24/03/23)

QUARTERLY REGISTRATION STATISTICS FOR THE PASTORAL GROUP

Pyrenean Sheepdog (Long Haired)

2022

1st Qtr 0, 2nd Qtr 0, 3rd Qtr 5, 4th Qtr 3 total 8

2023

1st Qtr 2

Pyrenean Sheepdog (Smooth Faced)

2022

1st Qtr 14, 2nd Qtr 7, 3rd Qtr 0 4th Qtr 0 total 21

2023

1st Qtr 0

RAINBOW BRIDGE

PUSSEL

Swe & Nor Ch Hob-Nob's Soleil of Jentilima

9/2/08. - 24/6/23

Pussel was bred in Sweden by Monica Westerberg and Ulrika Lund at their well known Hob- Nob's kennels. He came to me to show when he was two years old, having been successfully campaigned to his Swedish and Norwegian titles before leaving for the UK. He was a pleasure to have him live with us. He was an easy going placid lad who enjoyed life and settled in straight away with the Beardies and Jenny.



He had a superb temperament and he enjoyed working as a Therapy Dog and did this for over ten years. The residents loved his visits and he put his heart and soul into his "Job"

A phone call came from the BBC one day inviting us to the Salford studios to talk on Radio 5 Live about Therapy Dogs and the important role they play in the community. We were interviewed by Nicky Campbell. Pussel got lots of attention from the BBC staff, and he particularly enjoyed sampling the breakfast in "The Green Room"

Pussel was very adaptable and enjoyed obedience training. He passed the KC Good Citizen tests. Bronze, silver, and gold in a short space of time. We participated in the new Obreedience competition at Crufts the first year, and also the following two years. On the team was Piri and Deva, Pussel's offspring. They like Pussel, were unflappable in the unfamiliar setting and took it in their stride.

Pussel did very well in the show ring. BOB at Crufts and many more BOB's at champ shows. He was also successful in France and Belgium.

A wonderful boy who I was so proud to own.

Cynthia Milnes

A Dogs Day Off

Club group walk at Kirby Lonsdale

Thursday 29th June

Mum was spending a few days at Lune Valley Agility Show so we were camped at Westmorland Show ground. I was loving the trip as she had left Abi at home so there was no bickering over who got to sleep on Mum's head at night.

Thursday was a "day-off" and so we went off out in the van to Kirby Lonsdale. We parked up at Devil's Bridge and got out to go for a walk



but Mum seemed keen to hang around. Good job she did because Shortly we saw some of my friends arrive – that was a really lucky coincidence.

A few more looky likely dogs turned up and so we set off for a walk with our people. We started off on our leads (that was a bit frustrating) and walked up the path into the town (lots of great smells though – clearly a very popular place with the local dogs).

We left the town behind and walked down to the river where we all got a bit of free running. So a great chance to get to know each other better. We climbed up the Radical Steps (don't ask me, why they are called that – I'm just reporting on what humans called them) I went on ahead with Carl as Mum was so slow climbing up the steps – she really would be better off with four legs instead of just two. At the top we were in a churchyard and the humans starting playing the photo game – we had great fun messing them about, sitting still just long enough for them to think they could get a photo then one of would run-off and we all got to follow!

Next we went back down the river and all of us were let off our leads



again so we could run in and out the river and play on the stones. This was fantastic fun. Panther got a bit obsessed with chasing me



everywhere I went so I led him a merry dance up and down the bank, in and out the water and round in circles. Boys they really are a bit daft aren't they?

Then one of the humans got some treats out – I think they were meant for Kei but we soon all managed to get in on the act and get some snacks.

The day was really looking up!



The humans kept standing around and talking and pointing at us - I think they were discussing us. I made sure I went up to everyone so they all knew I was the most special of all the dogs.

When we got back to the bridge we all had to go back on our leads because there were lots of little people about – its seemed a bit unfair that they didn't have to go on leads so we could carry on playing.

We all said goodbye and got back in our beds for a drive. I settled down for a sleep but we stopped after five minutes and got back out. Great news I got to go into a pub for lunch with my new pal Bobbie. They were really nice in the pub and even bought us biscuits (bit annoyed the people got their food first). Everyone kept saying that Bobbie and I looked like each other – she was still only a baby so I was very gentle with her, when she's bigger I'm hoping we can play more games.

Then is was back to the caravan for a proper snooze. I definitely liked that day -off – hoping we have another one soon.

Licks & woofs

Smidge



Can you help?

A call for budding Editors



Having edited the magazine for 5 years I am looking to stand aside.

If you would be interested in taking on this important role that spreads the Pyrie word amongst our member community please get in touch.

Full training and a proper handover will be given along with any support needed on future editions of our brilliant magazine.

Carl Stretton

Congratulations



Vikki and Pixie 9th in
championship agility at Hinckley



Ace wins into grade 7



Congratulations Mr & Mrs Sim on
your wedding day with Bridesmouse



Raven wins into grade 7 and
Nevan into Grade 3 Agility

**Iffa (Ifa Noire des
Forges de Thor at
Cavronscourt)**

**BOB at 57th Antwerp
Dog Show**



Selkie Grade 2 win

Apologies

I'm sorry to have missed Sylvia Morgan of the list of members who helped us out at Discover Dogs at Crufts this year. Sorry Sylvia



**Rudy 2nd in the Starters
agility final**



Pyrenean Sheepdog Club of GB

Breed Appreciation Day with MCE, Group Mentoring, and Hands On Assessment

Bearley Village Hall, Bearley, Warks CV37 0SB

Saturday 21st October 2023

Arrive 9.00 am for 09.30 am start

- Breed Talk with Live Exhibits
- Interactive Group Discussion/Picture Case Studies
- Multiple Choice Exam (MCE)
- Group Mentoring Option with live exhibits (JEP route)
- Hands On Assessment Option (Grandfathering route)
- Breed talk only £18 - plus MCE £20 - plus mentoring/Hands On £25
- All prices include hot lunch - Discount available for Club members
- **Speaker** - Eion Flint (Sandytrail)

Contact: Eion Flint (Club Chairman) to reserve a place at
sandytrail@btinternet.com or call/text 07577488977

