

Winter 2021

PYRENEAN SHEEPDOG



The Newsletter of the Pyrenean Sheepdog Club of Great Britain

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20th March 2022

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Shane Flint

Disclaimer

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The newsletter 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 newsletter does not necessarily indicate approval or reflect the opinions of the club

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From the Editor

As of the first of September the Smooth Faced Pyrenean sheepdog are on the Import Breeds register and are able to enter classes at KC events.

This is the result of lots of hard work and support from the club for which I am very grateful.



Teresa and I are working to get the dogs registered and transferred so we can enter classes—bearing in mind I have absolutely no idea how to show a dog I hope you will all be tolerant. I know Vicky is already entering classes and I'm sure like me she is looking forwards to seeing you out there.

It just remains for me to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Regards

Carl



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From the Chair

I hope that this, our final magazine of the year, finds you all safe and well and looking forward to spending a good Xmas break with those dearest to you. The threat posed by the new Omicron Covid variant is looming large but I sincerely hope that we will all get through the winter safely and look forward to better times in 2022. These are difficult times but we shouldn't forget our little Berger companions. I have the pleasure of living with 7 of these wonderful little dogs at the moment.

Their individual companionship and sensitivity and boundless energy is like no other breed and they have made such a difference to what has been a difficult 18 months or so. I am sure we all recognise how fortunate we are to share our lives with this wonderful little rare breed.

In November with the KC making the decision to go ahead with Discover Dogs at the Excel we went ahead with manning the breed stand. Many breeds were missing but I am so glad we were there. This was the first time that we were able to have both Long Haired and Smooth Faced variants represented and the interest from the public was very positive. We were kept busy throughout both days and personally I was surprised at the numbers of visitors wanting to meet and discuss the breed in detail. I would just like to thank Carl and Teresa Stretton, Sally Cooper, Ann Coogan, John and Julie Farrar, and Roy and Roz Norman and my son Dan for all their help and commitment in manning the stand.

At our Autumn Committee meeting we mapped out a potential programme of activities and events for 2022 and I would highlight the following:

1. **AGM** - 20th February 2022. This will be a virtual online meeting via Zoom as per last year. Details are included elsewhere in this magazine.

2. **Crufts and Discover Dogs** - 10th - 13th March 2022. We will be manning the breed stand across all 4 days. Breed judging will be on the 10th March. Hopefully we will see some Smooth Faced dogs competing in the Import Breed Register competition.

3. **Breed Open Show** - 10th April 2022 - Bearley Village Hall. This will be held in conjunction with the Catalan Sheepdog Club Show. This year the KC have approved classes for the Smooth Haired variant.

We have an international judge from Belgium who will be judging all the breeds (Catalans, Long Haired and Smooth Faced). We have arranged other supporting activities on the day (Rally and Fun Competitions) so plenty to do. We are looking for maximum support and entries from Club members.

4. **Club Agility Day** - dates and venue still have to be firmed up. Currently a date in May or September is being targeted

5. **Regional Members Walks** - we will be organising a number of regional based opportunities for members to get together for a walk. Different Committee members will be sponsoring and organising a walk in regions where we know we have clusters of members. As a minimum we hope to have Winter/Spring/Summer and Autumn walks during 2022. The first of these will be a **North East Winter Beach walk** organised by myself and Rebecca Robson. Venue will either be Redcar or Filey Beach in the last week of January. Final details will be on the Club Facebook page/ Club Website.

6. **Breed Appreciation Day (Seminar)** - This is currently targeted for an October date. Full details to be confirmed via Facebook/Club Website

7. **Discover Dogs** - November at the Excel London.

All of the above clearly depend on the prevailing situation with Covid rules in 2020. Finally I would just like to thank everyone for their continued support and wish you all a very Merry Xmas and Happy and Healthy New Year.

Eion Flint Chair

Bits and Bobs from the Secretary

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place at 12:00 noon on Sunday 20th February 2022. Due to the continuing uncertainties of future Covid outbreaks the committee have decided, once again, to hold a virtual AGM via zoom to keep all members and committee as safe as possible.

The AGM will follow the normal format including reports from the Chair and Treasurer.

There will be an informal discussion after the meeting to bring members up to speed with the current status of both breeds and to discuss the challenges that the breeds are facing in the UK. Your committee would like to share their thoughts on the way ahead for both the breeds and the club and to get member's own ideas and thoughts.

David Wescott is required to stand down as a committee member but is eligible for re-election without nomination. David is willing to stand again.

Vikki Lucas stepped down from the Secretary's position in May of this year due to health issues but was willing to remain on committee and was co-opted back on to committee at that time. Vikki is willing to continue as committee member.

Angie Fieldsend was nominated to join Committee in March, post last year's AGM and was co-opted on to committee at that time and is willing to continue as a committee member.

The Treasurer is required to stand down annually but is eligible for re-election without nomination.

The Secretary is required to stand down annually, this year I (Rebecca Robson) took over Vikki Lucas's Secretary duties in the position of acting Secretary as per the Club Constitution. I am also willing to continue in the position as Secretary.

Nominations for anyone wishing to stand as Secretary, Treasurer or a committee member must be accompanied by a proposer and a seconder and sent to the Acting Secretary by 22nd January 2022. Applicants need to have been a member of the Club for at least a year to be eligible for election to the committee. Nominations will be accepted by email provided they are properly worded and signed electronically.

Any items to be included on the Agenda should be properly worded and signed and accompanied by a proposer and seconder and should be received by the acting Secretary by the 22nd January 2022.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

In accordance with the Club Constitution and Rules, membership should be renewed by 31st January 2022. If you have not renewed your membership by then you are deemed to no longer be a member of the Club.

Please try to renew your membership by the end of January. Membership of the Club has many benefits including receiving the Club Magazine and meeting up with other PSD owners at our committee organised events when Covid restrictions allow. In 2022 committee are planning a fuller programme of activities than we have been able to achieve in 2020/2021 and we are also keen to see if we can engage with more of our Club members via smaller regional based activities. The Annual Club Open Show will be held at Bearley Village Hall on 10th April. The show will be held in conjunction with the Catalan Club Show and there will plenty to do with some fun activities running concurrently with both Club Shows. This is a chance to catch up with friends and make new ones. Supporting your Club events helps preserve our special Long Haired and Smooth Faced Bergers here in the UK and helps fund our important breed rescue programme.

A membership renewal form is included in this Magazine. Payment can be made by cheque, bank transfer or direct debit. If you have any questions please contact James Gosnold, Treasurer.

ANNUAL POINTS COMPETITIONS

If you have been out and about competing with your dogs this year, please send your points by 1st February 2022.

If your dog has achieved something special this year, please let me know as they may be eligible for a Certificate of Achievement.

Please visit the downloads section on the Club's website to download a copy of the Club Points form: <https://www.Pyreneansheepdogclub.com/downloads-docs>

Showing and Junior Handling points should be sent to Shane Flint, The Aspens, Marton, Sinnington, York, YO62 6RD. Or email sandytrail@btinternet.com

Agility, Obedience and Rally points should be sent to Vikki Lucas, Highfield Lodge, Highfield, Leek, Staffordshire, ST13 8SG. Or email: shiningtor.psd@gmail.com

A trophy is awarded to the dogs with the most points in each discipline and Certificates of Achievement are awarded to those who come second and third.

Please do send your points in so that we can celebrate your success.
Best wishes, keep safe and well everyone.

Rebecca Robson
Acting Secretary

Club Dog Walk

The club dog walk took place in Fineshade Woods in East Northamptonshire on Friday 17th September. The weather was spot on and the woods were fairly quiet allowing us to have the dogs off the lead for most of the time.



The rolling Northamptonshire landscape provided the perfect backdrop to a very pleasant woodland walk.

Left to right: Pan, Blue, Madge, Howie and Bear

Although the cake selection at the cafe was a bit disappointing the home-made Gelato was very nice.



The dogs were very well behaved and enjoyed foraging (and the muddy puddles) while the owners got to know each other and talk about all things Pyrie.

Carl Stretton

More dog walks are planned in different parts of the UK in 2022,
we hope to see you there

Around the Show Ring

Can't believe it is nearly Xmas already! Just a few shows to report and comment on in this our final magazine of the year.

As reported in the summer edition, the second half of the year saw a return to show activity with quite a few of the main Championship shows as well as many open shows managing to take place. Eion and I managed to get out to most of the Champ Shows which I feel were very well organised and attended. Most were outdoors with extra large tenting allowing lots of space to set up. Many also did away with formal benching and allowed space for individual pop up tents and gazebos which I think gave a more spacious and relaxed feel to the show and certainly allowed plenty of space from a Covid perspective. Listed below are all of the main PSD results along with a few photos of those stalwarts who managed to fly the flag for the breed in the show ring. I would just comment on a few highlights.

At Driffeld Champ Show we didn't have Breed Classes but Rebecca Robson managed to get along with Hera (Sandytrail Scheherazade Meslabrit) entering the AVNSC classes and managed to come through the other breeds winning a great Best of Breed under judge Darren Clarke. Hera was great in the Group ring where she didn't put a foot wrong and looked stunning. Being seen in the Group ring and showing off great breed quality to the senior judges and influencers at the KC is so important for the breed here in the UK. Well done Rebecca and Hera.



We have so few litters and new registrations at the moment that it was really great to actually see 4 new puppies out in the shows this summer. Joan Snelling had her new puppy boy "Bob" (Sandytrail Chevalier Noir) out at Leeds Champ Show in July. Bob is such a lovely masculine boy and so full of energy at the moment which kept the judge on his toes, but lovely to see. Jeannie Gwilliam with her new Pic d'Espade puppy Twist (Ready or Not du Pic d'Espade at Amienko) was out at a number of shows during the summer and performed with real confidence in the ring. Twist is leading in the Our Dogs Top Puppy points competition at the moment. Roy and Roz Norman's youngster



"Bear" (Sandytrail Ours Noir) managed a first visit to the Show scene at Bournemouth Champ Show. Bear took everything in his stride at this very friendly show and wore his Best Puppy rosette with pride. Finally Vikki Lucas entered her new French import puppy Selkie (Selkie des Haies de Chenes Verts at Shiningtor) at Blackpool Champ Show in August, winning Best Puppy and Best Junior. A gorgeous girl so full of breed quality, that holds lots of promise for the future.



That's about it from me. Just a reminder to get the Club Show date into your diaries for next year (10th April 2022). We really need our members to support our show. Please do try and get along with your Pyreneans and enter the show, Schedules available in January. Finally for those members that have been showing in 2021 don't forget to send me your completed Club Show Points Competition Forms by 1st February 2022. Forms can be downloaded from the Club website (downloads section). My contact details are on the forms. Here's wishing everyone a very merry Xmas and a healthy and successful 2022.

Shane Flint
Sandytrail Pyrenean Sheepdogs

KC Official Show Results (Aug - Nov):

1.Bournemouth Championship Show (Aug 16)

PSD Classes (Judge. M Sargent)

- Best Bitch & BOB: Flint's Bel/Fin CH Sandytrail Ensorc  
- Res Best Bitch: Flint's Entre Nous Romance Sans Paroles
- Best Dog: Flint's Bel/Fin CH Gastibelza de L'Oustaou de Padel
- Res Best Dog: Flint's Sandytrail Sorcerer
- Best Puppy: Norman's Sandytrail Ours Noir

2.Blackpool Championship Show (Aug 22)

PSD Classes (Judge. S Bird)

- Best Dog & BOB: Flint's Sandytrail Sorcerer
- Res Best Dog: Flint's Gastibelza de L'Oustaou de Padel
- Best Bitch: Flint's Sandytrail Ensorc  
- Res Best Bitch: Robson's Sandytrail Scheherazade Meslabrit
- Best Puppy/Best Junior: Lucas' Selkie des Haies de Chenes Verts at Shiningtor

Post Grad Bitch

- 1st: Flint's Sandytrail Magie Noire
- 2nd: Lucas' Sandytrail Starstruck at Shiningtor

Post Grad Dog

- 1st: Lucas' Sandytrail Stargazer at Shiningtor

3.Driftfield Championship Show (Aug 26)

AVNSC Classes

- Best Bitch & BOB : Robson's Sandytrail Scheherazade Meslabrit

4. Darlington Championship Show (Sept 17)

PSD Classes (Judge K Young)

- Best Bitch & BOB: Robson's Sandytrail Scherazade Meslabrit
- Res Best Bitch: Morgan's Sandytrail Suzette
- Best Dog: Sandytrail Sorcerer

5. B.A.C.P. - Nationale d'Elevage (Sept 18/19)

PSD Long Haired

Open Male: Lucas' Sandytrail Stargazer at Shiningtor (graded Excellent)

Open Female: Lucas' Sandytrail Starstruck at Shiningtor (graded Excellent)

Open Female: Vercoutere's Pommelle de L'Oustaou de Padel (graded Excellent)

Puppy Female: Lucas' Selkie des Haies de Chenes Verts at Shiningtor (graded Très Prometteur)

Veteran Female: Vercoutere's Lorelei de L'Oustaou de Padel (graded 4th Excellent)

PSD Smooth Faced

Champion Female: Wilford's CH Iffa des Forges de Thor at Cavronscourt (graded 1st Excellent)

5. The National Dog Show (Sept 24)

PSD Classes (Judge H Fitzgibbon)

- Best Bitch/Best Vet & BOB: Such's Jazlyn de Pic de Pioulou
- Res Best Bitch & Best Puppy: Gwilliam's Ready or Not du Pic d'Espade at Amienko

Limit Bitch

- 3rd Such's Norlyght Milliemoo

Open Bitch

- 1st Batt's Norlyght Satu Juta

Veteran Bitch

- 2nd Gwilliam's Norlyght Sebelas at Amienko
- 3rd Batt's Norlyght Satu Juta

6. Scottish Kennel Club Show (Oct 2)

PSD Classes (Judge K Nathan)

- Best Dog & BOB: Flint's Gastibelza de L'Oustaou de Padel
- Best Bitch: Flint's Sandytrail Magie Noire

CANADIAN PYRENEAN WIN

I received the following photograph from new Club President Jeff Horswell. Back in September Jeff was invited to judge in Canada at the Oakville & District Kennel Club Show.

On the first day of the show Jeff was judging all of the herding breeds and gave the group winner to a Pyrenean Sheepdog. This turned out to be Can Ch Chaparral's French Tryst owned and bred by Top Canadian PSD breeder Susan Buttivant.

Susan is well known to many club members here in the UK and is a regular contributor to the Club's Facebook page. Susan was delighted with the

result and the

following

facebook post

best sums up

Susan's thoughts.

" This show win was made extra, extra special by the judge, Jeff Horswell of the U.K. Before the closing of the show I inquired to my U.K. friends as to whether or not the judge was familiar with the breed. LOL!!!!

Eion and Shane

Flint of the

Pyrenean

Sheepdog Club of

Britain told me that he was the President of the Pyr Shep Club in Britain!!! I jumped to enter that show with my fingers crossed! Always an honour to be judged by someone who knows the breed and when he placed us "1st in Group" I was over the moon with gratitude! And what a knowledgeable and nice man he was to meet. In a year of missing all the Specialty Shows in France and the U.S. this show was my own little Canadian National"

Well done Susan and Jeff.



Eion Flint

Nationale d'Elevage

This September we decided to travel to France to enter the French breed club's annual National Pyrenean show for the second time. We are still very much new comers but had such a wonderful time in 2019 that we decided it was just something we had to do again. The French breed club (the RACP) hold their annual show in Argelès-Gazost so it's a great opportunity to combine entering a show with a holiday in a



beautiful part of the world. I think Argelès is pretty much the biggest event for Pyreneans and you can see all the breeds there - the long-haired and the smooth-faced along with Pyrenean Mountain Dogs, Mastiffs and Catalans. Although the breed show is the main highlight there are lots of other activities held across the weekend including sheepherding, agility and a behaviour test. There is also a little market full of local Pyrenean delicacies and crafts plus a parade through the village of all the dogs. A real festival for the Pyrenean enthusiast!

There weren't as many Club members at the show as there have been in previous years and regular attendees, Eion and Shane Flint and Chris and Liz Lewis were very much missed. Whilst not as busy as previous years, there was still a good entry of dogs over the weekend. Our new puppy, Selkie, who we imported from France in June, was first in the ring. We were delighted that she was awarded 'very promising' under judge Mr A Pecoult (former president of our Club). The biggest entry of the day is always the open female and open male. We had Pixie and Neon entered in each class. Typically as they were in different rings, the classes began at the same time. Although fortunately as the entry was so big the judges only wanted a few dogs in the ring so we were able to manage, but there was a lot of running backwards and forwards to check where we were up to. After Neon was judged I raced over to the female ring with Pixie and whilst I was in there talking to the judge, unbeknownst to me, Neon had been called back into the male ring as he'd been awarded an excellent by the judge so had been shortlisted. Fortunately James decided to make his showing debut and took Neon in the ring for me. I believe he did very well! We were also very pleased with Pixie who also got an excellent from the judge and was shortlisted.

Congratulations also go to club members Vicky Wilford and Iffa who won the Champion Female class and; Marie-Anne Vercoutere and Lorelei who came fourth in the veteran female class and also Pomelle who was awarded an excellent in the open female class. Best in breed for the smooth-faced was taken by Patricia Princehouse's La Brise Matisse De La Nuit Etoile (all the way from America). Best in breed for the long-haired was taken by Mme Marie-Claude Person's Nina Blue Du Moulin D'Ebene who also went on to take Best in Show. Nina is a beautiful free moving blue Merle bitch who really is on top form at the moment and is doing a lot of winning in France.



It was great to have the opportunity to watch so many quality Pyrenean shepherds and we must also say a huge thank you to our Belgian friends who kept us company throughout the day.

Whilst we were attending the show we stayed in a fabulous gîte on a cheese farm up in the mountains. We had a beautiful view across the valley and were able to use it as a base to do lots of mountain walks. The scenery really is spectacular and it was great to get out in the fresh air. The high Pyrenees have a unique gnarly, ruggedness about them and there is something special about experiencing the area which seems to give you a deeper understanding of the character and spirit of our little breed. When you see the isolation and harsh beauty of the area for yourself you understand a little better the independent streak that runs through our dogs.



After a week of walking and enjoying the local delicacies (the local cheeses and mountain honey are fabulous). We set off back home, spending a few days on the Atlantic coast at La Rochelle where we enjoyed some very nice seafood, before a final stopover in Normandy. We are looking forward to returning in 2022, although I think we might stay a little longer in France next time. It is such a beautiful, varied country with so much to explore!

Vikki Lucas

Pyrenean Sheepdog Breed standards

Pyrenean Sheepdog Long Haired

Key Features

- Rectangular in body shape, never close to square
- Well angulated front and rear
- Triangular head (Equilateral), muzzle to skull ratio 2:3
- Ground skimming gait with strong rear drive and exceptional front reach
- Max nervous energy and stamina for size
- Coat: long to semi-long, combination of coarse goat hair and sheep wool. Can form felts/cords.
- Highly intelligent, distrustful and wary which manifests as highly vigilant
- Strong herding instinct. Valued as a courageous herder in the annual transhumance movement of flocks in the high mountain pastures of the Pyrenees

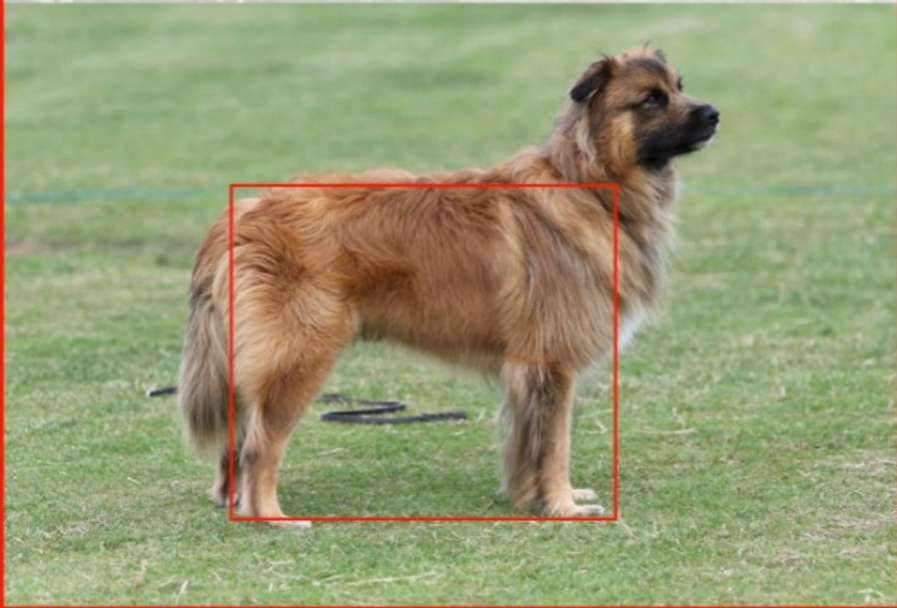


side-by-side comparison

Pyrenean Sheepdog Smooth Faced

Key Features

- Body shape almost square
- More open angulations front and rear compared with the long haired variant
- Longer muzzle to skull ratio, marginally shorter than 1:1
- Moderate angulation generates a free, vigorous, fairly short striding gait.
- Coat: fine type hair/ dense and fairly short. Shaved appearance on head/ face.
- Leg hair has fringing on front legs and breeches on hind legs. Hair on the front of the limbs is a defining feature and must be short. Front legs fringed behind, hind legs have breeches.
- More substance/bone and typically bigger in size than Long Haired variant
- Alert, lively, mischievous & enquiring. May be wary of strangers, but never nervous or aggressive. Biddable
- Strong herding instinct. Particularly valued as a droving dog by horse traders and stock dealers operating in the Pyrenees.



Lest we forget

It was good to see Remembrance day may be in November and it was two of our Pyries showing their respect on Remembrance Day.

We remember those who gave their lives in Service of our Country and around the World



SAD NEWS

Jean Rawlings, owner of Gypsy and Wispa, and a keen supporter of the PSD Club of GB sadly passed away in August at the age of 84.

Jean bred two litters with Gypsy under her Parbrook affix.

Jean's passion was doing Obedience with her dogs. First with German Shepherds and then with her Pyrenean Sheepdogs. She was an active member of Billingshurst Dog Training Club. She spent many weekends driving to Obedience shows all over the country in her motor home. And introduced many of us to the breed.

She will be greatly missed and our thoughts are with her family

Argeles Gazost

the RACP Nationale d'Elevage 18th & 19th September 2021

I was lucky enough again, to be able to go to the National Breed Show of the French Club for the Pyrenean Breeds.

Although I am familiar with what happens over the weekend of the 'Fete de Chiens' I thought perhaps I should give an outline of what the weekend is all about for those who don't know.

The very picturesque spa town of Argeles Gazost in the Pyrenees National Park is where the show is based, and the beautiful Parc de Casino is the venue where it is held.

The area around Argeles is beautiful, there are many places of interest to visit - for those with or without dogs, and some of the famous routes of the 'Tour de France' cycle race are not far away, and Lourdes is only a short distance.

The breeds included in the RACP Club – The 'Reunion des Amateurs de Chiens Pyreneens' are:- The Pyrenean Sheepdogs, both long haired and smooth faced varieties, The Catalan Sheepdogs - The Pyrenean Mountain Dog and the Pyrenean Mastiff.

A total of 243 dogs were entered, numbers still down with the Covid Pandemic playing a part, but more than enough to make the Nationale d'Elevage "THE place to be with your Pyrenean dog" with participants from six different countries, USA, Spain, Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, UK as well as many from the home nation of France.

There is more to it than the just the Breed Judging, there are other activities to watch or to take part in, and for those who have never been, I will outline below what generally takes place to give you a flavour:

The Test of Herding Ability, which was in the past restricted to young dogs, is now the Natural Herding Ability Test – NHAT - and that is open to dogs of any age.

If spaces allow, other breeds can be entered in this test as well.

The Test de Comportement, is a behaviour test. This looks at the dogs natural responses, and the partnership of the dog & handler. The exercises are not difficult and are tailored to suit the breed taking part.

The Agility 'Championate de France' for the Pyrenean Breeds was held on the Saturday, and is only open to dogs who are LOF, that is registered with the French Kennel Club.

This year, on the Sunday there was an Agility Competition for any breed, French Registered or not, so an opportunity for anyone to enter.

Saturday also there are often Breed Education Sessions.

These vary from year to year, and the time and subject will be advertised in advance.

The AGM of the RACP normally takes place in the afternoon at the Casino.

Later on the Saturday afternoon / early evening, when the day's activities have come to a close, there can be an informal parade of the Pyrenean dogs taking part over the weekend which starts from the Parc. This is led by the President and some members of the Committee of the RACP and goes into the town of Argeles Gazost where the Mayor and local officials give a speech and propose a toast to those present. It's quite a sight as all these people and dogs wind their way up to the Market Place and an amazing event to take part in.

On the Saturday evening there is an RACP meal that you can attend if wish, by booking in advance.

Around the town the Fete de Chiens is celebrated with posters, and sometimes shops put a display in their windows, and on the main routes entering the town there are flags advertising the weekend.

Sunday is busy with the Breed Show, and the Herding Ability Tests continue.

This is also the day that the Artisan Stalls are put up round the Casino, looking very colourful with stalls selling hand made goods, food and ice cream, and as the day progresses the parc fills up with lots of visitors and really becomes alive.

After the judging in the breed rings has finished, the focus moves to the 'Ring d'Honneur' This usually attracts a good crowd to watch the final judgements.

There is a parade of the different countries taking part, which can be quite colourful, watching dogs and handlers going round the ring with their national flags flowing. Then on to the prizes recognizing the success of different disciplines. The Tracking Challenge, which has already taken place on another date is among them. There are cups to be won for the best Pairs, Couples, and Breeding Groups.

In each breed, the first three in the Intermediate, Open, Working and Champion Classes, along with the Winners of the Baby, Puppy, Young and Veterans come into the ring.

Judging continues till the Best of that Breed is chosen. The Champion of the whole Nationale is chosen from the Five Best of Breed winners.

I had enjoyed taking part in the Agility Championate de France last year and so I entered Iffa again.

Keeping an eye on the weather forecast in the days before the show, I was really hopeful that they had got it wrong and by time it came to the Saturday it would have changed.

Sadly my hopes were dashed as getting ready to set off that morning it was

raining. First time I remember it raining during the day when I have been attending the Nationale weekend. It rained and it rained, with not much of a break in-between. Iffa was not impressed - she did not like the rain at all !!!

With lots of happy 'good girl' and encouraging 'come on' - I just managed to persuade her to do about eight obstacles, but she was getting slower - and slower - and slower, then she said that's enough and wandered off. She was not enjoying it. So I signalled to the judge I was withdrawing her, and I scooped her up and carried her off the course. I gave her a hug and told her I loved her and we went back to get dried off and warmed up. I can't say I blame her, I really don't remember the last time I have been so so wet, I was completely saturated, even the reasonably waterproof coat I had gave up and it came through.

Sunday was a different day, back to the usual lovely sunshine!

It was so nice after the soaking the day before. The flowers and the ground in the Parc had stood up to the deluge well and were drying out as the day progressed, and the Parc looked as impressive as it always does with the sun shining and the mountains in the background.

Iffa was graded Excellent and worthy of 1st place in the Class Champion Female, and we enjoyed our trips round the 'Ring of Honor' in the International Parade and the final of the Breed Judging.

It was lovely to see Vikki and James with their dogs, and they did the UK PSD long haired proud, with excellent results for all three. Well Done Guys..

I must finish with a grateful thanks to the efforts of the RACP Committee, the Maire and the Town of Argeles Gazost, and the volunteers who made this weekend happen. The Covid regulations made a lot of extra work for all involved as everyone had to provide proof of their Covid status before entry to the Parc was allowed.

A 'Grand Merci' also to Monsieur Alain Pecoult who kindly drew two names out of the Jester's Hat for the Autumn Prize Draw for those who had sent in completed PSD Club of GB Health Survey Forms. He then went on to model the hat for a bit of fun, and very smart he looked too !!

And thank you to Lynn, without your kindness and generosity I would not get to the show.

I hope I have given you a flavour of the Fete de Chiens RACP Nationale. The weekend really is a celebration of the dogs and for those who are serious about any of the breeds involved.

It is a show that should be visited at least once in your lifetime. I don't think you will be disappointed, maybe I will see you there?

Vicky Wilford

DISCOVER DOGS

London Excel Centre



Day One

Saturday 20th Nov

A steady stream turned into an almost continual flow of people wanting to check out the two Pyrenean Sheepdog breeds who for the first time shared a stand at a KC event.



Attendees:

Long Haired:

Marley and Blue (Eion and Dan Flint)

Scrumpy (Julie and John Farrar)

Smooth Faced:

Pan (Carl and Teresa Stretton)

Raven and Nevar (Sally Cooper)

DISCOVER DOGS

London Excel Centre

Several people that spoke to us were clearly looking for a dog like the PSD—either a similar size or appearance—but wanted to get to know more about the temperament and what the dogs were like to live with.



In this type of situation we always try to be honest and open about the energy level of the dogs and the need for them to have a job to do to keep them interested and happy.

We feel it can be just as important to have a knowledgeable would-be owner tick the PSD off their list if what they're after is a quieter type of dog.



DISCOVER DOGS

London Excel Centre

Day Two

Sunday 21st Nov

Newcomers Bear and Skye joined us today and rapidly worked out that the reward for saying Hi to a complete stranger was a tasty treat. They rapidly turned it into another opportunity to train their owner. As a stranger approached the dogs looked at their owner with that “come-on then—you know what to do” look on their face.

Attendees:

Long Haired:

Marley and Blue (Eion Flint)

Bear (Roz and Roy Norman)

Smooth Faced:

Pan (Carl and Teresa Stretton)

Skye (David Anderson)



DISCOVER DOGS

London Excel Centre



The KC officials were pleased to see us and were clearly happy that they were able to stage the event. It was good to see so many people who despite wearing face coverings and having to show proof of double vaccination or take a lateral flow test were enjoying being able to get to see the dogs.

Thanks to all involved over the two days and an extra shout out to Eion who went the extra mile (literally) who drove to Scotland from North Yorkshire to collect the stand.

Carl Stretton

Send us yours

I couldn't resist posting this stunning image of Tabi sent in by Bea Newman.

Please let me have your photos and I'll try to pick the best ones for us all to enjoy.



Another case for Inspector Song



Ha ha, no one will ever know it was me that stole all the biscuits

(River saying)

Allo allo, what do we have here !!



(River saying)

He may be my uncle, but I will not be bribed by one measly biscuit..



Will Inspector Song succumb to the biscuit bribery & let her uncle get away with his dastardly crime ...find out in the next exciting episode of:

Another case for Inspector Song

Well done



Anne Coogan's Luca
(Notterts Char Ly
Blazing Sun) showing
off his Hoopers
rosettes and
Scentwork Level One
certificate



Sylvia Mor-
gan's Suzie
(Sandytrail
Suzette) has
passed her
Good Citizens
Silver Award.





Super Sooty (Bon Sooty de la Belle Folie) Imp. gets 16th place at the KC stakes agility semi final



Jessica Barton's Meeko (Notterts Al Fa Petit Mischif) took 5th place in the Pure Agility Intermediate final



PYRENEAN SHEEPDOG CLUB OF GB PRESENTS
CALENDAR 2022



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