

Championship Show Schedule 2020 Show Dates - PSD Classes

Date	Show	Location	Judge
18-Apr	Working & Pastoral Breeds of Wales	Builth Wells ** (Cancelled)	
08-May	The National Dog Show	Stafford ** (Cancelled)	
17-May	Scottish Kennel Club	Edinburgh ** (Cancelled)	
22-May	Bath Canine Society	Bath ** (Cancelled)	
04-Jun	Three Counties Agricultural Society	Malvern ** (Cancelled)	
14-Jun	PSD Club Show	Normanton ** (Cancelled)	
02-Jul	Windsor Dog Show Society	Windsor **	Sandie Tadd
12-Jul	East of England Agricultural Society	Peterborough **	Cheryl Pierpoint
11-Jul	National Working & Pastoral Breeds	Malvern **	Derek Smith
25-Jul	Leeds & District Dog Show	Harewood Estate **	TBC
03-Aug	Paignton & District Fanciers Assoc	Exeter **	Mr J Stubbs
09-Aug	Bournemouth Dog Show	Poole **	Mr E. Engh
22-Aug	Welsh Kennel Club	Builth Wells **	TBC
05-Sep	City of Birmingham Canine Association	Stoneleigh **	TBC
13-Sep	Richmond Dog Show	Guildford **	TBC
20-Sep	Darlington Dog Show	Rippon **	Mr M Gilchrist
11-Oct	South Wales Kennel Association	Builth Wells **	Kevin Young
07-Nov	Working & Pastoral Breeds of Scotland	Edinburgh **	TBC

** Indicates shows with breed classes

Open Shows with PSD Classes 2020

Sunderland & District Canine Society	Mrs Morrison	0191 5235202
Seaham & District Canine Society	Mrs Wake	0191 5202930
Ashington & District Canine Society	Mrs Purves	01670 503420

PYRENEAN SHEEPDOG

The Newsletter of the Pyrenean Sheepdog Club of Great Britain



Contact the Committee

President Position Vacant

Chair Eion Flint

email: sandytrail@btinternet.com

Tel: 01751 432599

Vice-Chair Carl Stretton

email: carl.stretton@btinternet.com

Tel: 07563 581281

Secretary Vikki Lucas

email: Shiningtor.PSD@gmail.com

Tel: 07790 095355

Treasurer James Gosnold

email: Shiningtor.PSD@gmail.com

Tel: 07790 095355

Health Representative Vicky Wilford

email: v.wilford464@btinternet.com

Tel: 01775 750500

Committee Members:

Shane Flint

email: sandytrail@btinternet.com

Tel: 01751 432599

Sara Hawkswell

email: sara@dynamicdogs.uk

Tel: 07960 953925

Pat and David Wescott

email: p.d.wescott@btinternet.com

Tel: 01484 865363

Julie Farrar

Email: julie.farrar@poshost.com

Tel: 01784 421852

Rebecca Robson

email: bexrob@aol.com

Tel: 07940 851622

Katie Robson

email: k8t.lou.klr@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

10th August 2020

Send by email to

carl.stretton@btinternet.com

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Disclaimer

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

Last laughs

I thought you might want something to cheer you up, some really funny jokes.

Unfortunately I only have these ones

I went to buy a Pyrenean Sheepdog the other day
When I got there the man selling it asked for £1000
I said "it was only £850 in the advert"
He said "well it's a Sheepdog—I had to round it up!"

*I have been getting really frustrated that I just couldn't spell
"Armageddon"*

Then I realised—it's not the end of the World!



I've started investing in stocks.

So far I have Beef, Chicken and Vegetable.

One day I hope to be a Bouillionaire

Why did Adele cross the road?

To say "Hello from the other side"

If you think of any good fish puns...

let Minnow

Poetry Corner

*Now I lay me down to sleep
This king sized bed is soft and deep
I sleep right in the centre groove
So my human beings can hardly move
I've trapped their legs, they're tucked in tight
And here is where I'll spend the night*

*No-one disturbs me or dares intrude
Till morning comes and I want food
I sneak up slowly to begin
And nibble on my humans chin
For mornings here, it's time to play
And I always seem to get my way*

*So thank you Lord for giving me
The human person that I see
The one who hugs and holds me tight
And shares their bed with me at night*

Pat Wescott

From the Editor

I am sure that we are all doing out bit, as responsible citizens and dog owners to keep ourselves safe from Coronavirus not only for ourselves but out of respect for others, in particular our frontline staff who will be the ones looking after us in the troubling times to come.

I know how much we all love doing the things we so enjoy with our Pyries, from going to Shows to Obedience, Agillity and many other activities but as we face into such a serious epidemic with peoples livelihoods and even their lives in real danger you won't hear me moaning about such trivial things as missing a show.

Our son has been returned home a term early from University with the remainder of the year being tutored online— personally I am just glad to get him out of London for the near future.

From all in the Stretton household I wish you all a safe Spring and I look forward to seeing you all later in the year.

Regards Carl

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From the Chair

Covid 19 Crisis.

By the time that you get this edition of the magazine you will already be aware that on the 19th March your committee, faced with the rapid escalation of the COVID 19 emergency, unanimously decided to cancel all our planned Club activities for the foreseeable future.

This was a decision that was taken with much regret as a lot of planning had gone into a number of events already and we were absolutely committed to "up our game" in 2020 by offering a comprehensive programme of activities. However, the deteriorating position along with clear guidance from the Government as well as the Kennel Club meant that we had to ensure that the health and safety of all Club members came first.

Like many other canine organisations our initial thoughts were - Is it just the next couple of months that would be affected? - Should we just postpone and re-book venues and events for the second half of 2020? but after some discussion we felt that with the deteriorating position we had no confidence that we had a basis on which to plan any further activities and therefore we decided the best position was to be as clear as we could be with everyone rather than leave a "half way house" where we would be limping along and cancelling things from month to month.

Clearly we will keep the situation under review as we go through this year and should the situation allow we will give every consideration as to what activities we may be able to organise in the second half of the year, although at the time of writing this remains doubtful.

Crufts - Discover Dogs.

On a more positive note, Crufts just managed to complete ahead of the emerging crisis although it was clear that attendance was down both in terms of the general public as well as exhibitor numbers. We were able to man the Breed Stand in Discover Dogs across all 4 days and I would just like to



Winner of the Rozimba Best Puppy Trophy: Silvia Morgan & Sandytrail Suzette (Suzie)



Winner of the Kelltara Top PSD Trophy: Rebecca Robson & Sandytrail Scheherazade Meslabrits (Hera)

Second place in the Agility trophy
Vicky Wilford & Jester of Nobel's Kingdom at Cavonscourt (Jester), although it is Bunny in the shot!



PYRENEAN SHEEPDOG CLUB—ANNUAL POINTS TROPHIES

AND WINNERS 2020

Club Annual Points Competitions

The following awards were presented:

Show Points

Rozimba Best Puppy Trophy: 1st (121 pts) Silvia Morgan & Sandytrail Suzette (Suzie) 2nd (76 pts) Victoria Lucas & Sandytrail Starstruck (Pixie), 3rd (58 pts) Sara Hawkswell & Sandytrail Angelique (Smidge)

Kelltara Top PSD Trophy: 1st (335 pts) Rebecca Robson & Sandytrail Scheherazade Meslabrits (Hera), 2nd (160 pts) Shane Flint & Sandytrail Sorceror (Marley), 3rd (108 pts) Victoria Lucas & Sandytrail Stargazer (Neon)

Agility Points

Agility Trophy: 1st (433 pts) Pauline Keeble, 2nd (6 pts) Vicky Wilford & Jester of Nobel's Kingdom at Cavonscourt (Jester), 3rd (1 pt) Vicky Wilford & Iffa Noire Forges des Thor at Cavonscourt (Iffa)

The following special awards were presented:

Passing the NHAT at Argeles: Benne Newman & Sandytrail Chimene (Tabi), Victoria Lucas & Sandytrail Stargazer (Neon)

Passing the Test de Comportement at Argeles: Vicky Wilford & Iffa

Kennel Club Good Citizen Bronze: Jen Smith & Etta, Silvia Morgan & Suzie

Kennel Club Good Citizen Puppy: John and Julie Farrar & River

thank Sara Hawkswell for all the organising and re-organising under pressure, when people had to pull out of their commitments to man the stand, given the risks from the emerging COVID problems and also for managing to be our roving reporter across all 4 days.

Particular thanks should also go to Margaret Challans, Pauline Keable, Penny Varnes and Carl and Teresa Stretton for the extra days and the flexibility to provide cover at short notice.

Many thanks also to Chris and Liz Lewis for manning the stand all day on Saturday which left most of us free to concentrate on the Breed Competition, it was much appreciated.

Finally thanks also to Cynthia Milnes who visited on Thursday and provided a "cameo" appearance to help out on the stand.

Crufts Best of Breed

We had 21 dogs entered for the Breed Competition on the Saturday with some very nice entries from the Netherlands and Belgium which really made for a good competition.

It was so lovely and great for the breed here in the UK to see Best of Breed go to long term club member Veerle Vlerick from Belgium and her beautiful bitch Jade (Jolie Joyeuse de L'Oustaou de Padel). Veerle has been a regular competitor with her dogs at Crufts over many years but this was her first BOB which was so well deserved.

Massive congratulations to her. Jade is an International Champion, a World Dog Show winner in 2018 and holds her "working dog" certification for Herding. Brains and Beauty! Qualities fully appreciated by our Judge on the day, FCI President Dr Tamas Jakkel.

I would urge everyone to take care and stay safe in these difficult times and hopefully by the time we publish our next magazine we will have a more positive outlook where we can look forward to getting back to normal.

Best Wishes

Eion Flint

Around the

Goodbye Crufts 2020

Well that's Crufts over for another year and I have got to say that we were extremely lucky not to have seen this year's show cancelled.

The stress on the organizers must have been immense so well done to them for delivering another very professional event. I am sure if it had been a week later it wouldn't have gone ahead. Whilst I haven't seen the final exhibitor or visitor numbers it was clear that a fair number stayed away due to the Coronavirus risk.

It was no different in the PSD breed classes where 23 entries were reduced to 16 on the day which was a real shame as the Judge, FCI President Dr Tamas Jakkel was excellent and had real knowledge and experience of our breed. He did attract a strong International entry however, which was brilliant, so we had quality dogs from Belgium, Czech Republic, Netherlands as well as the UK making for a really competitive competition this year.

I was so impressed with the thorough way our judge went over the dogs and put them all through their paces with lots of movement.

Unfortunately there were no puppies this year which was a real shame as it is always lovely to see the youngsters out and gives a good indication of the quality that is coming through the breed.

In Post Graduate Dogs, Penny Varnes' Ludo (Larrau de la Mesta Pastores) stood alone but both dog and handler gave good account of themselves with some very nice controlled handling and presentation that was nice to see and suitably impressed the Judge.

The bar was raised in the Open Dog Class with 5 quality exhibits. All the dogs gave really good account of themselves and it was going to be difficult for the judge to sort out his placings but our judge was very focused on type, movement and tail carriage on the move and after a few more circuits of the ring he sorted out his final selections. Open Dog went to Mon

show Ring

In the News



Anne Coogan and Jesse
Remmiwoods
Bright Star

Runner up for medium
grade 3 in the agility
club annual awards and
also for winning out of
grade 4 and 5 agility.



River passes her puppy assessment



Sally and Raven

Exciting to see this pairing
excel at Cani-cross



Magic 2nd Scent trial Level 1

Eye Testing and Elbow Scoring - These tests are not a requirement of the PSD Club however I would encourage members to have their dogs tested if they are able to do so, particularly if you are considering using a dog or a bitch in a breeding programme. This is especially important with 'Eye Testing'. As I have reported before in the PSD Magazine, there are PSD in America that are affected by eye conditions, and we do need to keep a watch on the breed here in the UK. There have been none reported to the PSD of GB Club, but that doesn't mean we should be thinking it does not, or may not affect the UK population, as obviously of course, they all have a history of common ancestry in the mountains and hills of the French Pyrenees.

Elbow Scoring

As Elbows also need to be X-Rayed for scoring – consider the possibility of having them done at the same time as Hip X-Rays while the dog is already under anaesthetic or sedation.

BVA costs for assessment and scoring of Joint Hip and Elbow X-Rays is £127.70

Hip or Elbow Scoring on its own is £70.

Eye Testing

I would actively encourage owners to have dogs eye tested

Routine Eye Testing is £ 60

Two dogs same owner £ 54 each

For dogs over 8 years £ 34.

Litter Eye Screening – 5 to 12 weeks of age

1 to 3 puppies – £ 37 – per puppy thereafter £12

For more information:–

Internet search BVA Canine Health Schemes –Should take you to the BVA website page you need

The Kennel Club Website – Health- what's in you area

Facebook – BVA/KC/ISDS Canine Health Testing Dates

The Kennel Club Inbreeding Co-efficient

The KC published Inbreeding Co-efficient for the Pyrenean Sheepdog (long haired) is 2.0%

The Pyrenean Sheepdog Club of Great Britain's 'Code of Ethics' also contains information with regards to breeding and can be down loaded from the Clubs website.

prices / information correct March 2020

Vicky Wilford Breed Health Co-Ordinator

Gentil Ami Quillan a very nice black natural bobtailed dog owned by Mr C R Spanier from the Netherlands.

So we had the Veteran, the Post Graduate and the Open Dog in the challenge for Best Dog and I was absolutely delighted to see our own Gastibelza win the Best Dog Title from the veteran class at the age of eight and a half.

So onto the Bitches. Post Graduate Bitch was affected by 3 absentees but Sara Hawkswell's Sandytrail Angelique and Sylvia Morgan's Sandytrail Suzette competed for the class with Sandytrail Angelique catching the judges eye on this occasion. The Open Bitch Class was another strong entry with 5 quality females. Our judge really took his time over this class putting each exhibit through their paces but after much deliberation he decided it would be between just two - Veerle Vlerick's "Jade" (Jolie Joyeuse de L'Oustaou de Padel) and our own girl "Blue" (Sandytrail Ensorcele). Once again both dogs were moved individually before asking both to complete a couple of circuits of the ring together. It was close but Dr Jakkel had no hesitation in awarding the class to Veerle and "Jade" who then went on to win the Best Bitch title with "Blue" taking the Reserve Best Bitch.

So who was going to be Best of Breed for 2020? Would it be the dog - "Gastibelza" or the bitch - "Jade". Under the watchful eye of the judge both dogs came out of the blocks running, demonstrating typical breed movement and type. Gastibelza who hadn't been shown much in 2019 was really up for it and on his toes and really enjoying himself. Equally Jade was in top condition and moving with ease looking every inch a typical working type with her harsh rustic coat. After a couple of more circuits moving around the ring together Dr Jakkel gave his BOB to Jade which was so well deserved.

I had the privilege of judging her last year at East of England Champ Show and I had no hesitation in awarding her BOB but she has matured so much since then. It was nice to hear that Dr Jakkel was really pleased to find out at the end of judging that both Gastibelza and Jade were from the same breeding kennel, Agnes and Andre Audibert's L'Oustaou de Padel kennel in the Ardeche France. It was fair to say he was certainly judging to type.

Long term Club member Veerle has been coming to Crufts with her dogs for many years and it was really great to see her take top honours this year. It was so well deserved and I was so pleased for her. Both of them looked great in the televised Group final flying the flag for the breed superbly. Well done Veerle and Jade.

Shane Flint
Sandytrail

Around the

Crufts 2020 Results

Veteran Dog

1st Bel/Fin CH Gastibelza de L'Oustaou de Padel (Imp Fra)

BV & BD (Mr E & Mrs S Flint)

Post Graduate Dog

1st Larrau de la Mesta Pastores (Imp Fra) (Mrs P Varnes)

Open Dog

1st Mon Gentil Ami Quillan **RBD** (Mr C R Spanier)

2nd Mon Gentil Ami Quest (Mr R Fellman & Miss Y Clements)

3rd Sandytrail Sorcerer (Mr E & Mrs S Flint)

Res Int CH/Multi CH Blue Fang OBY-Wan (Mrs C Cleenwerck)

VHC CIE CH Kaspar de la Vielle Chapelle (Miss K Vesla)

Good Citizen Dog

1st Larrau de la Mesta Pastores (Imp Fra) (Mrs P Varnes)

Veteran Bitch

1st Hob Nobs Gemme (Mr R Fellman & Miss Y Clements)

Post Graduate Bitch

1st Sandytrail Angelique (Mrs S Hawkswell)

2nd Sandytrail Suzette (Mrs S Morgan)

Open Bitch

1st Int CH/Multi CH Jolie Joyeuse de L'Oustaou de Padel

BB & BOB (Mr E Van Pelt & Mrs V Vlerick)

2nd Bel/Fin CH Sandytrail Ensorcele **RBB** (Mr E & Mrs S Flint)

3rd Mon Gentil Ami Ravine (Mr R Fellman & Miss Y Clements)

Res Swiss CH Queen Erica of Nobles Kingdom (Mrs C Cleenwerck)

Good Citizen Bitch

1st Sandytrail Suzette (Mrs S Morgan)

SHOW RING

The PSD Club - PDA Heart Testing

Patent Ductus Arteriosus is when the small duct that by-passes the lungs in the womb, and which becomes redundant and closes off after birth, fails to do so.

In the womb, the mothers blood supplies all nutritional and oxygen needs of the growing pup.

When it is born the lungs take over.

If the duct fails to close it decreases the efficiency of the heart.

The Club recommends that all puppies are tested.

It should be noted that puppies, and especially those from responsible breeders will visit the vet for check ups and their vaccinations. PDA if present, should be detected at this time.

For both Tests contact your Veterinary Surgeon.

For more information- Visit the BVA & KC Websites

Lets talk - HEALTH TESTS

Information is knowledge and knowledge usually leads to more understanding.

Recording health test outcomes, regardless of the results, can prove to be a valuable resource that can be looked back on - and provide us with information to go forward into the future.

The Club would be grateful to receive any Hip, Elbow or Eye test results, or indeed any other health test results. There is a *Health Report form that can be downloaded from the Clubs website.

You can use this to send us any health information at any time.

*You can also use this to let us know if your dog has passed away.

Recording the fact the your dog has had a long and happy life with no real problems is as valuable - if not more so - to our health records.

As a numerically small breed in the UK we need to keep gathering all the information we can get.

Please be assured that all submissions will be kept in confidence, no personal details would be published or released. Only general information on the statistics of the breed will be published and be available from time to time when appropriate.

Health Schemes 2020

BVA/KC Hip Dysplasia Scheme

The British Veterinary Association (BVA) jointly with the Kennel Club (KC) run a scheme for X-Raying and assessing Hip Structure, and recording the results for future reference.

A Veterinary Surgeon will take X-Rays of the dogs Hips, these are then forwarded to the BVA where they are examined. Points are awarded for each of 9 aspects of each hip joint.

These are then added together and a total combined score is arrived at.

Min Score 0 --- Maximum Score 106 [53 each hip]

The lower the total score number - the better.

Each Breed has a different overall structure, so results should be compared with that Breeds Scores

<i>In last 15 years</i>	<i>In the year 2018</i>	15 YEARS	15 YEARS	5 YEARS <i>01/01/2014 – 31/12/2018</i>	
Tested	Tested	Mean - Median	range	mean	median
89	5	12.9 - 11.00	3 - 53	15.3	13

PYRENEAN SHEEPDOG -long haired

Mean – the sum of the all scores divided by the number of dogs

Median – a figure in mathematics at which an equal number of items are both higher and lower

Source – KC - published 01/01/19 – covers 2019 / 2020

It is recommended that dogs should be tested, and that individuals with significantly high scores should not be considered for inclusion in a breeding programme.

The current BVA cost for one dog Scored is £70 - (plus your Vets fees & X-Ray fees.)

KC BREED RECORDS SUPPLEMENT

NEW REGISTRATIONS

Mr C.J.& Mrs P.M. Such 20/07/19 C-EM, Gazost Li Dit Oscar Du Pic D'espade Keltara (IMP Fra) * AP2 – Norlyght Satu Juta AQ3 (23/03/13, 1/3)

NORLYGHT MILLIEMOO ,b.c. Fawn

NORLYGHT RIVERSONG, b.c. Fawn

NORLYGHT WICKETY WICKET, d.c. Fawn

JOINT KC/BVA HIP DYSPLASIA SCHEME

SANDYTRAIL STARGAZER AU4 RH 8 /LH 9

Total : 17 (23/10/2019)

JOINT KC/BVA ELBOW DYSPLASIA SCHEME

SANDYTRAIL SCHEHERAZADE MESLABRIT AU1 – 0

(18/12/19)

SANDYTRAIL STARGAZER AU4 – 0 (23/10/19)

	1 st Qtr	2 nd Qtr	3 rd Qtr	4 th Qtr	Total
2018	0	0	5	1	6
2019	0	2	1	3	6

Against all odds

With all of the fear and uncertainty we are all facing at this time I thought I

would like to share a story of hope and determination succeeding against all odds.

My better half (who knows about such things) had decided upon the next mating in the Notterts Kennel some time ago.

Having studied the available Face Rase lines across Europe (I think there was consideration of some dogs in the USA at one point) we had settled on the magnificent Blue Merle Jedi Knight Joverly Blue a Pas de Loup sur l'Astazou owned by Luca Guastalla in – wait for it – Italy as a mate for our Jess (Notterts Al Fa Black Beauty).



So it was then simply a matter of waiting for the little one to come into season before a hop over to la belle Italia – what could possibly go wrong.

With the unfolding tragedy of Coronavirus through February we thought we had better opt for a plan B and an Artificial Insemination (AI) kit was duly ordered.

When the time arrived even getting the kit delivered to Italy was problematic with our normally trusty Royal Mail refusing to take the parcel, these were uncertain times!.

We managed to get it delivered to Luca using TNT – but by now the

PYRENEAN SHEEPDOG CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2019

	2018	2019
	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank	1,620.13	762.78
Cash at Bank held for Rescue & Welfare	1,201.00	1,201.00
Petty cash	88.87	72.33
Total cash at bank	2,910.00	2,036.11
Prepayments - First Aid £60/36 X 11.5	0.00	11.50
Prepayments - Web hosting £209.56/36 x 13	0.00	75.67
Prepayments - Insurance £152.50/12 x 7	88.96	88.96
	2,998.96	2,212.24
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
Audit & Accounts Preparation Fee	-50.00	-40.00
TOTAL NET ASSETS	2,948.96	2,172.24
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	2,948.96	2,172.24
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	2,948.96	2,172.24

AUDITORS REPORT FOR THE PYRENEAN SHEEPDOG CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

I have completed the audit for the year ended 31 December 2019 for the Pyrenean Sheepdog Club of Great Britain. The records were complete and represent the state of the club's finances as at 31 December 2019.

I have shown a creditor of £50 for my fees as this relates to this year's expenditure to therefore give a true surplus for the year of £776.72. Overall income is higher compared to 2018, membership income has increased by £60.00. Expenditure is £723.56 lower than 2018, mainly due to merchandise purchased in the previous year.

I wish to express my and your thanks to Diane for her good management of the financial affairs of the club.

I am happy to continue to audit the accounts for you next year if this meets with your approval. I wish the club continued success in the coming year.

Mrs Lorraine Phelps FCCA

10 Feb 2020

PYRENEAN SHEEPDOG CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

	2019	2018
	£	£
INCOME		
Membership Subscriptions	760.00	700.00
Breed Seminar	385.00	
Fun Day	155.80	
Calander sales	77.50	
PSD Rescue Welfare		85.00
Donations for show entries	123.50	9.29
Raffle		60.00
Show entries	18.00	88.88
Open show	125.35	0.00
Discover Dogs	348.00	251.00
Merchandise sales	178.00	179.90
TOTAL INCOME	2,171.15	1,384.07
EXPENDITURE		
Dog Show expenses:		
Tollerton Hall Hire		195.00
Rosettes		83.00
Kennel Club	35.00	35.00
Bearley Hall		235.00
	35.00	548.00
Discover Dogs Day:		
Expenses	0.00	232.00
Stationery		0.00
Postage	140.72	118.51
Newletters	190.00	288.00
Insurance	152.50	63.54
Kennel Club show licence	45.00	45.00
NWPS Rosettes		0.00
First Aid CSE (3 years)	11.50	27.67
NW PBS		0.00
Website	91.26	69.85
Farewell Presents		110.00
Merchandise		437.77
Seminar catering expenditure	89.00	0.00
Crafts	220.00	
Fun Day	106.83	
Open Show	50.00	
Justice for dogs donation	20.00	20.00
Hall hire for committee meetings	150.00	110.00
Refreshments for meeting	42.62	7.65
Audit	50.00	40.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	-1,394.43	-2,117.99
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	776.72	-733.92
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT B/F	2,172.24	2,906.16
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT C/F	2,948.96	2,172.24

virus had really started to spread and Italy was going into lockdown. The whole thing was beginning to look more unlikely as each day passed.

When Jess finally came into season we counted the days until the time to ask for Jedi to visit a Vet for the procedure.

Luca was brilliant – obviously as determined as we were to do what he could in difficult times for this marvellous breed. He was able to secure the necessary paperwork to be allowed out and one Monday in March the deed was done and the precious package posted to an AI specialising Vets an hour's drive away. All the time we expected there to be some issue, what with all of the precautions and restrictions in place in Italy and by now also in the UK.

But remarkably the package arrived safely and on the Tuesday night



we took Jess along and put her in the capable hands of the experienced Angelika and a range of high tech machines. Jess was a little superstar and in no time at all the AI procedure was complete.

As this article goes to press we still don't know if there is another litter of Face Rase due in May; we won't know until late April – but what we do know is that with determination and resolve we have got a lot farther than I thought possible.

Watch this space...

Carl Stretton

Crufts 2020



CH Gastibelza de L'Oustaou de Padel
Best Dog and Best Veteran



Larrau de la Mesta Pastores
Post Graduate Dog



Mon Gentil Ami Quillan
Open Dog

Membership

At the time of the AGM, 51 households or 75 members had renewed their club membership. 16 households and 20 members were on follow up to see if they wanted to renew their membership. Last year club membership stood at 65 households or 91 members. On average we are losing around 5/6 members per year but also gaining 5/6 members per year. So the numbers remain fairly static. In terms of the overall membership once you take away committee members, judges, supporters of the breed, foreign members and those living in extreme geographical areas (Scotland, Kent, Cornwall), there are about 25 households who live within a reasonably central area of the country who have dogs but have not attended events.

It was felt that it would be good to try and connect with these members and try to encourage them to attend club events and build a more proactive relationship with this group of members by establishing a more direct and personal contact. Organising more events such as an agility training day, a sheep herding day and regionally based club walks may help.

New Committee members and officers

Kim Randall (Secretary), Jonathan Pattison and Diane Newton (Treasurer) were all standing down at the AGM. The Chair expressed his thanks for their hard work over the years on behalf of the Club and members.

Victoria Lucas was elected Secretary and James Gosnold was elected Treasurer. Carl Stretton was elected as Vice-Chair. Rebecca Robson and Katie Robson were elected as Committee members.

The Club's President post is vacant following Alain Pecoult standing down, although he in effect remained as a figurehead for the duration of 2020. It was acknowledged that links with the French breed club remain important, at the same time it might be a good idea to consider a senior member of the KC that may help to support the Club in achieving KC recognition of the Face Rase.

AOB

There is a proposal to look at the obedience trophy and points that could be used for Rally. The rules for this will be discussed and agreed at a Committee Meeting. The meeting closed at 12:25

Winners Gallery

The club website is working well, is easy to administer and has met the objective of replacing the old web site which had many problems and limitations. Improvements are planned going forward and we have the tools to add a Club Shop, modern style photo galleries and member only pages etc, although it should be noted that Club event photos would mainly be displayed on Facebook and posted live at the time of the event.

Newsletter / magazine

It was felt that the newsletter is good quality, professional looking and about the right length. Thanks were expressed to Carl Stretton (CS) for his ongoing work in producing it. The summer edition was slightly delayed but this was due to personal circumstances highlighted above

Conclusion

Overall, the Chair felt it had been a reasonable year with a good first half year with much done offset by a much more difficult second half year for the committee.

Treasurer's Report

Apologies were received from Diane Newton, Treasurer. The Chair (EF) delivered the report in her absence.

Auditor's Report

The club's accounts show a healthy surplus. 2018 was fairly neutral in terms of growing income. There is an issue with some income / expenditure showing up in the wrong year. This is because historically the accounts have been done on the basis of when money has gone in/out of the account rather than being recorded in the year that the expense/ credit actually occurred.

As a consequence of this there is an overstatement of club income for 2019. But the important thing to acknowledge is that the funds showing as having been paid in / out of the bank account are correct. It was agreed to approve the 2019 Financial Report as being correct (Proposer: CL, Seconder: Klaus Senkpiehl). It was also agreed for the sake of continuity that using the same Auditor for the 2019 accounts would be a good idea (Proposer: CS / Seconder: CL)



**CH Jolie Joyeuse de L'Oustaou
de Padel
Best Bitch and BOB**



**CH Sandytrail Ensorcele
Reserve Best Bitch**



**Sandytrail Angelique
Post Graduate Bitch**

Crufts Breeder Competition Final



Team Sandytrail had the good fortune and privilege to qualify for the televised final of the Crufts 2020 Breeder's Competition but the story really started at the beginning of 2019 when we decided to enter the competition for the first time.

Whilst the competition had been around for a few years, historically, interest in the competition had been mixed with qualifying rounds taking place right at the end of a long show day and typically only at a handful of Championship Shows. In 2019 however, the competition was significantly elevated with all the major championship Societies (about 22) agreeing to host the event after the Kennel Club put its own endorsement behind the competition.

Prize money for the first four places at each competition was introduced (£20, £15, £10 and £5 for the 1st four places at each show). For a KC Assured Breeder team winning 1st place, then prize money was elevated to £25. Points were also



acknowledged that some venues suit the Club better than others. In terms of the content of the Fun Day it was also acknowledged that if there are too many different activities going on at the same time then the day may suffer from a slight loss of focus and it may be better, given the smaller numbers, to keep activities more central with everyone involved. In terms of finances, dogs attending the breed show definitely bolstered numbers and this added to the profit made on the day.

Agility day / Autumn beach walk

As previously acknowledged 2019 was a challenging time for many committee members and in July there was limited capacity to organise the usual Agility Day. Subsequently the Beach Walk at the end of September was also cancelled at the last minute. It was acknowledged that this wasn't communicated to members and should have been.

Discover Dogs

The stand at "the Excel" exhibition centre was well manned and supported by members across both days. Given most members home location the club recognises that the Excel is not the easiest location for most to get to and really appreciates the efforts of all those who commit to fly the flag for the breed and the Club in manning the stand. Many thanks to John and Julie Farrar with Scrumpy, Jenni Gemmill with Sooty and Hippy, Carl and Teresa Stretton and Sara Hawksell with Smidge for doing the honours this year.

Club Facebook group

New policy rules for the Club's group page were established and are working well with the Group admin's pro-actively involved in monitoring this. Much goes on behind the scenes with contentious posts and material breaching the Club's policy actively removed. The Committee are keen to maintain a visible presence on the group page with participation in discussions, providing answers to queries and uploading photos from Club events etc. It was acknowledged however that we should be more structured in advertising events using the page to inform members about late cancellations.

Club Website

Review of the year

Looking back over 2019, there had been a good turn out for the breed at Crufts both in breed classes and also in agility. The Discover Dogs breed stand had been a success and the Chair passed on his thanks to club members who had given their time to man the stand. In the breed ring, "Best of Breed" went to Rebecca Robson's Sandytrail Scheherazade Meslabrit. Many congratulations to her.

BAD Seminar

The Breed Appreciation Day (BAD) seminar was re-designed to reflect the Kennel Club (KC)'s emphasis on training and educating judges. The day covered a variety of topics including conformation, structure and also the origins of the breed. The seminar particularly focused on how the breed's, physical construction and unique character, was shaped by the mountain terrain, the type of sheep in the Pyrenees and the particular culture of the Basque mountain communities and the annual transhumance. There is now a need to fit in specific content in order to deliver the requirements of the KC. There were 22 attendees (5 members and 17 judges) plus 10 committee members making for an audience of c.30. The club have received very positive feedback from judges on the quality of the BAD. The BAD also returned a healthy profit for the club of around £200.

Annual Fun Day

It was acknowledged that there is an ongoing debate about whether the breed show and fun day should be run together or as two separate events. The 25 year celebration weekend, that was held in 2017 was a great success but took a lot of committee's focus and in 2017 we got out of sync in planning and booking the Club Show (i.e. KC licence, judge and venue) which really needs to be done 12-18 months in advance. Since then, the Club has been working to a six month lead time which often isn't enough and consequently the only realistic decision has been to combine the Show and Fun Day. It was also important to note that committee had been influenced by the fact that stand alone Fun Day attendances had been falling since 2015 largely due to structural changes in club membership which in the past was driven by big breeders producing a higher number of puppies than are being produced at present. It was also

Crufts Breeder Competition Final

awarded for any team placed in the first four at each Show (1st - 30 pts, 2nd - 15 pts, 3rd - 10 pts and 4th 5pts). A minimum of 40 pts was required to be considered for the Crufts Final but only the 40 highest scoring teams at the end of the year would actually be invited. In 2019 the newly focused competition really took off with good entries at most of the shows meaning that qualifying became really competitive. In 2019 Team Sandytrail entered 12 Breeder qualifying competitions at various Championship Shows and had some amazing results. Out of the 12 competitions entered we took four 1st places, three 2nd places and two 3rd places. We were unplaced in one competition and in the other two Shows we were unable to compete as the Breeder Competition clashed with our main Breed Classes.

Team members for 2019 was myself with Sandytrail Ensorcele (Blue), Rebecca Robson with Sandytrail Scheherazade Meslabrits (Hera), Katie Robson with Sandytrail Magie Noire (Madge), Vikki Lucas with Sandytrail Stargazer (Neon) and my wife Shane with Sandytrail Sorcerer (Marley). We had a great time throughout 2019 with some real laughs on the way and we can't thank Rebecca, Katie and Vikki enough for travelling all the miles and being so committed to the competition.



In the Crufts final we had a really super day with all competitor teams benched together. The atmosphere was so friendly and I don't think we laughed so much for ages, a temporary reprieve from the looming COVID crisis. The only downside was that Vikki and Neon who had been team regulars in 2019 had to drop out of the final, as the health risks were just too great for Vikki. They were certainly missed but not forgotten.

The final competition itself was actually pre-judged in the afternoon with the televised

final in the evening. Although we didn't manage to progress to the

Crufts Breeder Competition Final

final shortlist, it was wonderful to show case the breed in the main arena. For us it really was about promoting the breed and of course our own Sandytrail breeding. Throughout last year we received lots of interest and positive feedback from judges new to the breed as well as from fellow exhibitors.



For the final we really went to town, organising a traditional Basque shepherds outfit to reinforce the origins of our little French herding breed. Again the feedback from fellow competitors and the event organisers and sponsors Agria was very positive. The dogs had clearly captured the hearts of everyone and we think they did so much to raise the profile of the Breed. Hopefully we will manage to be there next year but much will depend on the emerging crisis facing us all.

Eion Flint

Pyrenean Sheepdog Club of Great Britain:

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Date: 22 February 2020

Venue: Swannington Village Hall, Main Street, Swannington, LE67 8QL

Meeting start: 11:07 AM

Apologies: received from Julie and John Farrar, Benne Newman, Margaret Challans, Emma and Jono Slack, Jenni Gemmill, Jen Smith, Jean Rose, Mary Abbott, Jonathan Pattison, Cynthia Milnes,

Minutes from the AGM held in 2019

There were three matters arising from the minutes (concerns about club membership levels, promoting the breed and the Discover Dogs stand). It was agreed that these would be discussed later on during the meeting, as they were all items that the Chairman intended to cover in today's agenda.

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the 2019 AGM (Proposer: Chris Lewis (CL), Seconder: Sara Hawkswell)

Chair's report (Eion Flint (EF)):

Committee capacity during 2019

It was acknowledged that it had been a tough year for many Committee members who had encountered various significant personal health and family issues that had impacted on the work of the Committee overall but particularly had impacted Committee capacity from July onwards.

2019 AGM

There was positive feedback that members had been happy with the format of the 2019 AGM that added a Presentation and hot lunch to the normal AGM format and consequently it was decided to follow a similar structure for the 2020 AGM.