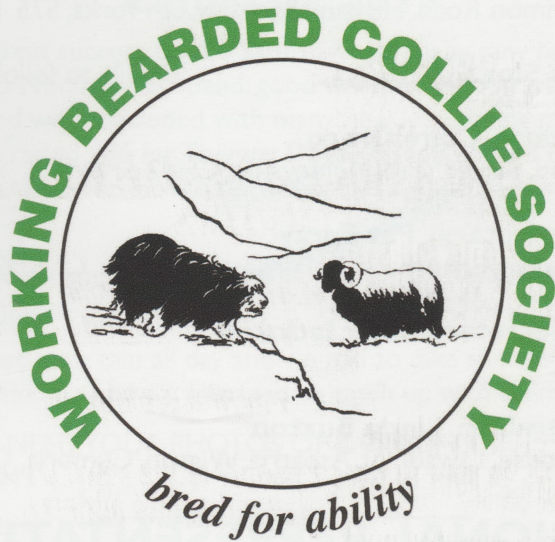




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 **WBCS - Working Bearded Collie Society**



Giggle

Issue 39

Winter 2019



COMMITTEE AFTER LANGDALE AGM 2019

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The contributed items printed within may contain personal options of the writers, which are not necessarily the opinions of the Editor or WBCS.

Langdale 2020 – a date for your diary

It will take place 26/27th September 2020, again a little later in the month due to prior personal commitments of committee members.

Langdale 2019

This year was a great success on the Saturday with many new people attending from Somerset to Northern Scotland; good weather and fun was had by all. The AGM followed and was concluded with many new ideas being mulled over for the future. The raffle raised £86 for Therapy Dogs UK and we had one of their members with us all weekend with her Schnauzers – she has written an article for this issue

The Basic Pet Tests were passed by Andrea Sherlock with both Sven & Millie. Well done to you.

The Sunday poured with rain all day and we had to take shelter in the pub!! New members still turned up and we managed to catch up with them.

WE URGENTLY NEED YOUR PHOTOS OF LANGDALE 2019 AS NO ONE HAS SENT US ANY

Breeding Records

We have been asked many times about the breeding details going online.

There are no plans for the near future for this to happen, mainly due to the amount of work involved and data protection problems. Any member wanting any details need only to call Roly Jackson, who will be pleased to help you.

Dear Committee Members,

Following your Annual Bearded Collie meet at Sticklebarn, Langdale I would like to express my gratitude for your invitation to attend with my Miniature Schnauzers Bramble and Poppy.

We were given a warm welcome and felt inclusive of your event with your beloved breed.

It was like being with friends, even though we had just met.

My dogs and I were honoured and privileged to attend your event as we are volunteers for your chosen Charity to receive funds generated from your smooth, well organised raffle.

Therapy Dogs Nationwide is a registered charity managed entirely by volunteers.

Volunteers are all registered with the organisation, their dogs are all thoroughly temperament tested and are covered by the obligatory insurance for visiting.

Therapy Dogs have been found to have all round benefits for people in establishments such as hospitals, hospices, residential homes, schools, care centres and prisons. .

What a pleasure it was for me to in the company of so many dog loving people and learn more about your beloved beardies. To be able to spread the word about TDN and chat to many interested members of your club in a beautiful location despite the weather.

I often arrange events so know and appreciate how much hard work goes into arranging similar events to yours.

Keep up your good work.

With thanks from the bottom of our hearts for all your hard work, for your support & generous donation to Therapy Dogs Nationwide and for your invitation.

Special thanks to Clare Green for your nomination, for time taken to care for us all over what was a wonderful weekend.

To learn more please visit

www.tdn.org.uk

You are all truly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jan

Therapy Dogs Nationwide - Area Team Leader, Bramble and Poppy.



Jan with Bramble and Poppy



**As New Year approaches we reflect on the year just past.
Constantly saying "I can't believe its December already".**

2019 has been an absolute roller coaster of a year for myself and Giggle (Gitdoon Gee UzA Giggle). From the highest highs to the lowest lows. Our emotions have been all over the place!

Giggle and I have had the most successful agility season yet, full of memories and achievements.

At the beginning of the year I was finishing my final year at university, I had dissertation hand ins and final exams - these had all taken my priority and agility was placed on the back burner for now. With the stress of university pressure, I wasn't enjoying competing and found myself getting quite frustrated at shows.

In April I competed at the Scottish Border Collie show in Lanark. I had both my border collie (Desmond) and Giggle entered the Championships class. At this stage had handled in my university dissertation (so some of the stress had subsided), I vowed that I was here to have fun, regardless of the result and that I was going to relax and enjoy my agility again. Giggle and I had the most amazing day, she ran brilliant in both the jumping and agility class which meant we made the final. In fact, she ran so well in the agility class that when we came out I grabbed the toy and we had the best tug game you could possibly imagine... however this ended badly, in a freak event, Giggle jumped up as I bent down, her tooth hit mine... and a small section of my front tooth chipped off!! Having had a brace for 6 years I was devastated, with tears and all! After I pulled myself together I told everyone about my now 'not so good day'. As Giggle and I stood on the start line for the championship final I jokingly reminded her she had a lot to make up for... as always she exceeded all expectations. We had the most amazing clear round and won the class!!! Her (and my) first Championships ticket. With a chipped front tooth we smiled in every photograph. We had a good cuddle and called it even. (I've still got the chip in my front tooth - it's small, but instead of it making me upset it reminds me of a day and feeling I'll never forget).

In May I had now finished my final university exams. Giggle and I travelled to the Netherlands, where we competed for Team Scotland at the World Agility Open Championships 2019. As a handler I have made the Scottish team multiple years with multiple different dogs - my first team experience was in 2010 with my Border Collie Roy, in more recent years I've made the team with my Border collie Desmond, Giggle's mother Izzy (Izzy Roo at Gitdoon) and now of course Giggle - this was Giggle's second year competing in an international event. This year we were both much more focused and eager. I had just completed training her running contacts and was very excited to give it a go on the international stage. Giggle and I enjoyed every minute and it all came together for us. We won an overall GOLD medal in games - placing top 3 in both the gamblers and snooker events.

As we went out at prize giving I'll never forget the cheer and delight. The team manager kindly asked my mum (who is also Giggle's breeder) if she wished to take the Scottish flag and walk out with me to the podium. We both stood on the podium more proud than you could ever imagine!!

In June I receive my university results I had been waiting on... I couldn't quite believe it. My hard work had all paid off - I received a FIRST CLASS honours degree in 'Applied Animal Science', as well multiple awards: Best student in year 4 Applied Animal Science, Best dissertation in year 4 Applied Animal Science and the Royal Society of Biology prize for the best student in biological science. Wow, we all felt on top of the world.

Giggle - although still young - has great experience of the 'big stage', including, 'Scottish Dog Of The Year' final, 'CSJ Highland' final, Crufts (2018), Olympia (2017), KC international Festival finals, 'Dog Vegas' starters final, 'Agility Secrets' final, Championship Finals and of course two years competing at World Agility Open Championships in the Netherlands for Team Scotland (2018 & 2019).

In 2019 she also qualified for the Scottish Dog Of The Year final* and the Olympia 6/7 semi-finals*. As well as this year's successes, Giggle was officially measured into intermediate for KC shows from 2020 onward, meaning we will be running over a height much more relative to her size.

Maybe things have already begun to turn around... Due to her pregnancy we are unable to try out for the Team Scotland World Agility Open Championships 2020, however as we'd had such a successful year we were able to enter a CV application for Giggle and I. And, in November I received the news that Giggle and I have secured a spot on the team, a much needed happy bit of news.

Trying to look forward now, focus back on having fun... puppies can wait for now, we may try again, we may not... we'll see. But right now we're focused on mending broken hearts and maybe winning some more tickets and medals along the way.

My perfect little shadow, my perfect working bearded girl, Giggle.

Jennifer Hart





SHIVVA

Linda Topliss

My mum has been intending to write an article for the magazine for a long time, now she has me it has given her an incentive.

My name is Shivva, I am a red & white (with a bit of tan) Beardie. I have illustrious lines going back to Tom Muirhead's Beardies.

Janice & Roly bred me and I now live with Linda & Andrew. I've been here about 3 weeks to date.

One of my friends at dog club (he judges Beardies) commented on how well put together I am, but then he said 'Whatever is happening with her ears?'

My mum then told him it was up to me how I wear my ears.

I have played with a lot of people but somehow they always get tired before I do.

Mum says I am very clever, I come when called, do little sendaways, retrieve anything, but I'm not always keen to give it back. I like tracking and can speak on command.

At club there is a mini agility course with wobble boards and loads of other exciting things – I love it.

I will let you know how I am getting on

Bye, love Shivva



That's me on the left!

The winter of 2018-19, while not being anything like as bad as the previous one (The beast from the East etc) was, here in the North Pennines, not without its interesting moments.

Just before Christmas came the freezing rain.

Heavy rain froze on contact with any solid surface causing a more slippery surface than I have ever experienced before. We managed to get ourselves home in the afternoon clinging onto walls and gates which were as slippery as the ground. We expected a nice long evening in front of the TV and a roaring fire.

At 10 to 9 the power went off. 'Never mind' we said, let's take the dogs out for a short walk and then have an early night.'

Great idea – but our only door was frozen shut!

The dogs had to go out for a wee before bed. The first window we tried was also frozen, but luckily the other window overlooking the garden would open. We lifted the dogs out of the window and watched them doing Bambi impressions all around the garden. When we called them to come in, Penny came to the window and we helped her in, but Buzz, aged 15, deaf as a post and senile had gone to the door which was the other side of the porch and out of sight. Neither of us was keen to climb out and go for him. Luckily David remembered that Buzz's favourite puppy game was chasing a torch beam around the floor. He shone the beam into the garden and Buzz remembered the game and was led back to the window. Obviously his long term memory was ok! There is never a dull moment when you have dogs.

And the moral of the story is- when you buy a house, make sure it has two doors!

Anne Fowler

3 schoolboys were walking in the playground in a school in Coventry.

First boy – my dad works for JCB and he can run faster than any of the tractors he works on.

Second boy – My dad is in the Army and he can run faster than any of the bullets he fires from his gun.

Third boy – My dad works for the Council, he finishes work 5 pm but he is always home by 3 pm!

Our youngsters Megan and Lennox – First steps in Herding Trials

by Christiane and Laura Grosser

This year our youngsters Megan (WBCS No. 1266) and Lennox (WBCS No. 1265), both just 2 years old, started at their first Herding Trial at the Circle-C-Ranch in Austria. Since quite a few years Gerlinde Krachler organizes an International Pentecost Trial according to the FCI Traditional Herding Style rules close to Vienna.

The FCI Herding trials on the continent are a bit different from the UK trials. So, before you can start at a trial, the dogs have to do two tests

1. The NHAT (Natural Herding Aptitude Test) which is open for all herding dog breeds, and
2. The HWT (Herding Working Test), where (as in the trials) there is a differentiation between different herding breeds and therefore this test is specified for different herding styles: the Collecting Style (CS) and the Traditional Style (TS).

Whereas the Collecting Style only applies to Border Collies, all other herding breeds are tested and trialing according to the specific FCI rules of the Traditional Style. For each style there are three different levels in trials with different demands: IHT-1, IHT-2 and IHT-3.

The trial in Austria was only for Traditional Style, so no Border Collies were allowed to compete, but beside Bearded Collies there were other herding breeds: Shetland Sheepdog, Briard, Australian Shepherd, Terveuren, Beauceron, Bouvier de Flandres, Mudi etc.

This year we met teams from Austria, France, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Hungary and of course Germany – not all with Beardies, but quite a few Beardies took part in the tests and trials. Judge was Henri Cornier from France, who set ambitious courses, judged very fair and had a good eye for the work of the team.

And as Megan and Lennox had passed the NHAT last year, they now started with the Herding Working Test (HWT TS), where the dogs had quite a few special tasks to accomplish: In the beginning they had to show protection inside the round pen, that means the dog has to keep walking near the handler (without a leash) not letting the sheep come close to the handler. After sending the dog behind the sheep and bringing them out of the pen – in a controlled way – the dog had to stabilize the flock outside the pen so the handler could lock the pen without losing the sheep. Then the handler had to walk through a course with the dog holding the sheep behind him: First we had to walk through a slalom (so the dog could demonstrate his flanks on both sides), pass a "bridge" and a tube. Letting the sheep graze (while the dog had to keep them in place) was also a part of the test. The dog had to show that he can head to the front and stop the sheep and also stabilize them again in front of the pen, so the handler could open the door before sending the dog behind the sheep to bring them back into the pen.

Laura and Megan were the first team to do this course and the sheep were quite fast, but Megan did a fantastic job, passing the HWT TS with 93/100 points (Excellent) as the best dog of 9 teams. Lennox (together with Christiane) also passed this test with 86/100 points (Very Good). So both of them were allowed to start on their first trial FCI IHT-I TS the next day.

Again both of them worked very focused and effective for this trial level, quite a challenging course. Trial class I started quite similar to the HWT: We also had to show protection in the roundpen and stabilize the sheep to shut the gate after getting them out of the pen. Then we had to walk along a fence (including a corner) and the dog had to keep the sheep in the corridor. Right after we had to move the flock through a slalom, so the dog had to get the sheep away from the fence. Next there was a stop at 90 degrees in front of the bridge (dog stopping the flock in the front) and afterwards we had to cross the bridge. Then we had to walk a close 8 (a stick marked where all sheep had to go through) around tyres and then into a small grazing field, where the dog had to stay outside and control the sheep. There the handler had to pull out one sheep and as soon as the judge said "ok" we had to walk back to the round pen, stabilize the flock and reopen the sheep.

Both, Megan and Lennox did a great job: Megan passed trial class I with 90/100 points (Excellent) and a 5th place (same points as the third place) and Lennox even came into 2nd place of 11 teams with 90,5/100 points (Excellent), only 0,5 points behind the winner (a Beauceron)!

We were so happy and proud of our two youngsters, that they managed all these tasks so well!

So due to these results both of them are now allowed to start in FCI IHT-2 TS. However there is still quite some work to do to be able to manage also more complicated tasks in higher level trials. But we will take time, they are still very young – and for us it's more important to have our Beardies as reliant partners in the everyday handling of our own small flock of sheep!

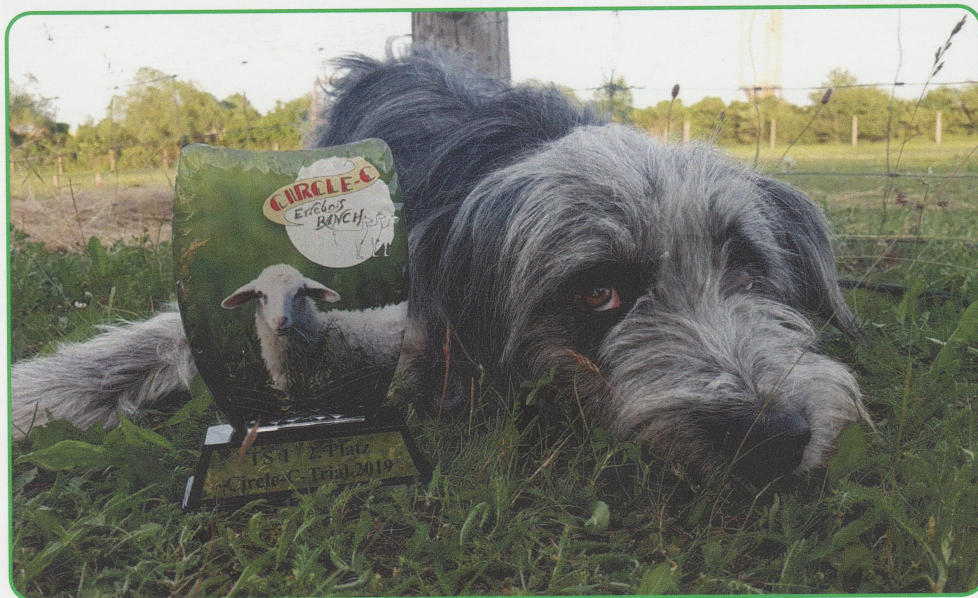
Megan and Lennox at the Pentecost Trial 2019 in Austria



Megan – walking through a corridor



Lennox – at the slalom



Lennox – with his 2nd place trophy