

Border Heartbeat



*The Official Newsletter
of the
Midlands Border Collie Club
Winter 2012*

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A Word From The Editor

"On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me.... A mud covered Border Collie"
It's been a wet old summer & autumn & looks set to be a long cold winter if the massed berries on my holly tree are anything to go by. There have been floods & early snow in various parts of the country, so in addition to wishing our readers a very Merry Christmas, I'd like to wish you all a safe & cosy one! Snuggle a dog or two & sit back to enjoy our bumper Christmas issue - some heartwarming tales with the occasional tissue alert...

On the subject of the Festive season, do please remember my annual warning about the dangers of chocolate, raisins, tinsel etc. These things tend to be in plentiful supply just now, so please take care that your dogs can't indulge in things that are harmful to them. As I do each year, let me offer to relieve you of that dastardly chocolate in particular. I'm always willing to go the extra mile for the good of your Border Collies.....

Our website is at <http://www.midlandsbordercollieclub.com> - please visit soon!

Sheila

Submission Of Articles

Any article you submit must be your own work, **or** you must have permission from the author/hold the copyright. Submitting your article to MBCC grants us the right to publish it in Border Heartbeat. It does not entitle you to any form of compensation, financial or otherwise. We reserve the right to reject an article if we feel it to be unsuitable. We reserve the right to correct spelling and/or grammar should that be necessary. Articles should preferably be submitted in Word or .pdf electronic format via email.

Please note – the views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those held by the Midlands Border Collie Club or the Editors.

Forthcoming Events 2012:

January 28 - February 3: Championship Working Trial
(no January Agility Show this year due to the venue being double-booked)
February 2: Championship Breed Show at Stoneleigh
February 23: AGM (please note, this year it will be held at Moira)
March 30: Championship Obedience Show
March 31: Open Obedience Show
May 4: Breed Council Open Day
October 6: Open Breed Show with Limited Obedience
October 17 - 19: Kennel Club Working Trials Championships

Chairman's Chunters

Another year almost over, Christmas a few weeks away & I am reflecting on the MBCC's 2012. We have undertaken all our usual events plus BC of the Year.....

The year started with our Agility Show at Solihull, expertly designed and carried out by Sue and Darren and their crew, followed quickly by the Championship Breed Show and our Working Trial. We had a slight break, then all hands to the plough as it was Easter and our five day marathon Obedience Show at Measham.

My show assistants worked tirelessly all five days, we had drier weather than in previous years but the temperature was really low - almost minus.

We organised a pig roast for Saturday evening but this year the caravans were reluctant to come out and party so we did not have the successful evening of the previous year. Next year we may have a horse racing night with a barbecue to try and raise money for our forthcoming KC Working Trial in October 2013.

In October we held the combined Open Breed Show and Border Collie of the Year. We had decided to run these two events on the same day at Stoneleigh, the show in the morning followed by the BC of the Year in the afternoon. Months of planning went into this event & we hoped to provide those that entered a good day out and a pleasing meal in a good atmosphere. I think we achieved most of what we set out to do, but the best laid plans.....

The event started to go wrong on the Thursday before the show! The caterer rang to say she could not locate the necessary equipment to hire to provide the carvery meal.... After hours



on the phone I located this equipment in Leicester; the company told me we would need a transit size van to carry it!

So I got on the phone again & begged Brian Earp to help me and change his plans for the Friday. He hired the van, collected the gear and delivered it to Stoneleigh that evening. That was the first disaster overcome. Thank you Brian!

Next morning a call from a BCOTY judge to say that she was unable to attend because she was ill. I balloted those entered and they decided that the event should run with two judges not three.

During the judging of the Breed Show a lady fell and injured herself, the ambulance was called and the lady was taken away to hospital aided by one of my right hand men Richard. We carried on an hour late with proceedings.

After the Breed Show finished, we started the afternoon event BC of the Year. At around 3.30pm lunch was ready and we all sat to enjoy our meal which was received well and all enjoyed.

Not our most smoothly run event and a learning curve for us all!

Without the dedication and help of the most willing committee ever we could not even think about running so many events. My five ladies from Leicester Chris, Sheilagh, Joan, Val and Doreen, my two mates Richard and Brian and their wives, Sheila on the PC, Di, Anna, Ann, Barry and Sue the photographers, the two stewards, my car park men, Petcetera and Royal Canin for their sponsorship.....

I THANK YOU!

What's next....? More of the same I hope. Two Working Trials, two Breed Shows and Obedience Shows and an Agility Show later in 2013. We host the KC's Championship Working Trial in October 2013, a mammoth task that we shall endeavour to carry out to the best of our ability.

We are always open to constructive criticism and offers of help - just send us a mail.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a very successful and healthy 2013.

Bob Tunnicliff
MBCC Chairman

Secretary's Salutations

Another year nearly gone, and what a year it has been, with our usual events incorporating many aspects of Border Collies' capabilities, plus our Convention and Border Collie of the Year.

The convention gave us a good insight into many aspects of the Border Collie and was particularly valuable to people new to the breed and up and coming judges who wished to add our lovely breed to their C.V.

It was unfortunate that Ann Arch was unwell on the day of BCOTY; she rang me on the day of the event and was very upset, Ann had stayed in a hotel the night before and had been ill throughout the night. Kathy Burnell and Margaret Crispin managed to judge the event between them and hopefully the exhibitors had a good afternoon.

It is unfortunate that we have had to cancel two events recently, the Open Working Trial last August, due to lack of available farm land, and our planned Open Agility Show this coming January as the venue has been double booked, fingers crossed we will be able to arrange another Agility Show in the future.

Our main event for 2013 is The Kennel Clubs Ch. Working Trials, it is a high honour to be asked to host this prestigious event. It is going to cost a lot of money and Barrie James has been raising money for some time - if you get the opportunity to support him he will be more than grateful. In addition he will require quite a lot of help over the 3 days 17th Oct - 19th so if you can spare some time please get in touch with Barrie at barrie.james@tiscali.co.uk.

Have a wonderful Christmas and may 2013 bring you and your dogs everything you dream of.

Valerie Earp
MBCC Secretary

2013 Kennel Club Working Trials Championships

Midlands Border Collie Club is hosting the Kennel Club Working Trials Championships on behalf of the Kennel Club on 17th – 19th October 2013 at Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire.

The cream of the canine disciplines are invited to compete at Crufts every year except for Field Trial Championship winners and Working Trials Championship winners for the previous year because it is obvious these competitions could not be staged inside the NEC! Therefore a society that stages a Championship Trial in the respective discipline is approved to host their Championships on behalf of the Kennel Club.

This is a major Kennel Club event and the Club Committee carries a huge responsibility to ensure the event is successfully and efficiently staged.

Whereas there will be specialist working trials help available there will be numerous non-specialised helpers required such as Competitor and Spectator Escort Stewards for example. If any member, or friend, or relative could volunteer to assist in any of these non-specialist tasks it would be a great help to the Committee.

The Championships run on Thursday 17th, Friday 18th and Saturday 19th October 2013. The day will start around 8:30am and the competition each day will finish around 3:30 – 4pm.

The Base for the event is at Scaford Hall, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. There is evening entertainment there on the Thursday & Friday and we finish with a Presentation Dinner on the Saturday night.

If anyone can volunteer to help please drop me an email: barriejames@hotmail.co.uk

Barrie James
Working Trials Manager, MBCC

Border Collie of the Year 2011 Report

On Saturday the 27th October 2012, BCOTY 2011 was hosted by the Midlands Border Collie Club at Stoneleigh. The event was sponsored by Royal Canin and all qualifiers received a bag containing dog food, chocolate, a few doggie treats of course and vouchers for dinner plus the option of a framed photograph taken of their beautiful dogs.

But the week of the show started with Bob the chairman having nightmares. He was dreaming that he had forgotten to order the plates for the dinners and the ladies were standing there with the food and nowhere to put it. Bob woke the next day and just had to check that we would have plates available. Glad to say they had been ordered!

The hall was set up the evening before by various members of the committee, some of whom stayed at the Lodge on Friday night and dined together with four Italians who had brought

their dogs over to show that weekend. They commented next day on how much they had enjoyed showing in the UK, well one did, as three of them spoke very little English.

The judges for the day were Margaret Crispin (Tracelyn) and Kathy Burnell (Fieldbank), the third judge Ann Arch was taken ill and unable to attend. A ballot was taken and the decision was made to go ahead with two judges. These two ladies worked very hard assessing the dogs.

The dogs were presented to both of the judges and marks were given on all aspects of the breed standard. These were added up and given to the co-ordinators, the scores were both computerised and checked manually. While the committee members concerned were working on the figures, dinner was served.

The dinner ladies deserve a mention as they provided us with a warm meal and "scrummy" puddings. Tables were laid out throughout the hall which made for a lovely atmosphere and gave everyone a place to eat their food. The hard working ladies also provided us with various drinks and eats throughout the day, in fact the chips served earlier were very nice. Well done and thank you....

We then had our final six dogs and the judges had the difficult task of selecting BCOTY 2011. This must have been difficult as they all looked wonderful. They were moved for what seemed like ages, but eventually we had our winner and reserve. BCOTY 2011 is Sh Ch CALEYKIZ RHYTHM IN BLACK owned and bred by Mrs C and Miss D Wiltshire, reserve BCOTY 2011 is LITTLETHORN LACETTI owned and bred by Mr R Tunnicliff. Prizes were presented by Sophie Langdon representing Royal Canin. They were Tutbury Crystal Rose Bowls, hand made leather leads and a large bag of dog food.

A lot of hard work went into the day; everyone had a good time and the day can be considered a success. Both Margaret and Kathy, our judges, worked very hard, going over the dogs and eventually sorting out our winners; well done. Also well done to Barrie James and his wife Sue, who took the photographs, and the stewards Brian, Richard and Joan. I must say Bob, Brian and Richard looked very smart in their matching outfits especially the red dickie bows. Thanks also to Richard Lucas and Brian Earp who worked for most of the morning in the freezing cold to sort out the car parking.

So congratulations to our winners and all of the qualifiers for turning out so many beautiful dogs. A lot of bathing and grooming must have taken place.

All in all the day was a great success but I'm glad that the committee didn't have to do the washing up!!!

Adrienne Marshall
Co-Editor, Border Heartbeat

BC of the Year 2011 Comments - Margaret Crispin

I was very honoured to be asked to judge at this event with my co-judge Kathy Burnell.

I found the entry very interesting and quite diverse. All the dogs were full of quality, of course, they had to be to be present. Having been involved with Border Collies since before they were classified as a show breed, I have watched the evolvement of the show Border Collie with interest. My preference has always been - and will always be, a collie that is fit for function - at least anatomy and movement, as no show judge can test working instincts in the ring!

If I was looking for a collie to work sheep on a Welsh mountain - who would it be? I can see no reason for the heavy boned, heavy coated collies. They look 'showy' that is true, but they

must be fit for function. No farmer would see a need to feed a top size dog when a correct size is available! Also, some agile sheep could outrun a 'heavy-build' dog!

With the agreement of my co-judge Kathy Burnell, we chose Sh Ch Caleykiz Rhythm in Black JW. A striking bitch, b/w correct confirmation, outgoing temperament, feminine and correct size. True, she could have been in better coat but that is a temporary item - her outstanding movement was a delight to the eye. She covered the ground with the minimum of effort, her forward reach is so correct, she could work all day.

Reserve is Littlethorn Lacetti, black and white, correct balanced confirmation and size. In good coat and well presented, sound and a good mover, very typical of good working type.

BC of the Year 2011 Comments - Kathy Burnell

Gary and I had a thoroughly enjoyable day with you all.

The dogs entered for the BCOTY I felt were numerically strong and very interesting to go over and score. Thank you to all who put the effort in to make this event a success. It was lovely to meet up with some of the older characters of the breed that I have not had a chance to speak to for many years. Margaret Crispin (Evans) and I go back a long way as she awarded me my first ticket with Bodie (Sh Ch Fieldbank Professional) about 30 years ago. How time flies!

Kennel Tales

Welcome to our look at some of the Kennel Names within our breed. How did their owners first become involved in the wonderful world of Border Collies and how did their affix come into being? Our thanks to Jacky Lloyd, of the Brooksbid kennel, who has kindly contributed this issue's instalment:

Having just started the local college on a newly formed 'Horse Course' and being the only student on it from the area, it was, I suppose, destiny that one night when I was collected, I had with me a Border Collie [with damaged tail] and another student who had been thrown out of her digs! The Border Collie [Biddy] was never claimed and became my introduction to the breed; Tessa ended up staying for the 2 years the course ran and has remained a close friend.

'Biddy' as she was christened [suggested as suitable by a Welsh girl on the course who said she was a Welsh BC!] became my shadow and truly started my love of this wonderful breed. She could have been the model for the famous Pollyanna Pickering print of a BC laying down that was done around that time. One of Biddy's favourite pastimes had been going in the water at the local ford. Hence, when I came some years later to apply for an affix, the Bid came from Biddy and the Brook from the water connection. [I was refused Bidsbrook which I had already used some years previously to register Jessie]

Going to work, and taking Biddy with me, I worked for a famous NH Racehorse Trainer [who trained a Grand National Winner amongst others] as Secretary and which involved riding out each morning; however I suffered a bad fall, breaking my back. Sadly whilst I was recovering, I lost Biddy after over 12 years. This also put paid to my riding career.

Reading in the weekend paper about Old English Sheepdog rescue, I thought – if there is a Breed Rescue for one breed then there must be one for Border Collies?! Enter Hazel Monk! [Monkfield]; Hazel kindly found me my next dog, Jessie, a 13 month ISDS bitch that she said

'she's nice enough to have a bit of fun with showing her if you wanted to'. Gosh, Hazel has a lot to answer for !!

Needing a name for Jessie to register her with the KC I came up with Bidsbrook. She went on to introduce me not just to the world of showing, but also agility [in its infancy in those days], obedience and sheep dog trialling. With the kind help and support from Barbara Sykes who at the time lived locally, Jess and I competed in some nursery trials; I was also lucky enough to be allowed to run some of Barbara's dogs in the Nursery and Novice trials. However, I had really got the showing bug and having been allowed to take Jessie to Sh Ch Fieldbank Professional [Bodie] was hopeful of a puppy to bring on. Sadly it was never to be, as Jessie took an intense dislike to the whole process! Kathy [Lister/Burnell] however, very kindly helped to source a puppy for me, and went with me to view a litter, bred by Elaine and Jo Ratcliffe of Grandver fame. Kathy and I agreed we would, after seeing the pups, go and have a drink somewhere before deciding if one was suitable. That of course never happened as one look sold Rosie! 'Grandver Ebony N Ivory', who was to become my foundation bitch. I will be forever grateful to Kathy for her help and Elaine and Jo for trusting Rosie to me.



After achieving her JW and gaining her Stud Book number as a Junior, I decided to mate her to a young dog with one CC already, that doubled up on the Bodie/Flint [Sh Ch Melodor Flint at Dykebar] lines [granddaughter of each to grandson of each]. Not only that but I felt that each complemented the other for type. The resultant litter contained two bitches and 4 dogs. Hazel, Jo, Bob Rushton and more came to see them to help me decide what to keep. Gracie [Brooksbid Call Me Madam] was really staying from day 1 as she was more flashy than her litter sister. I had no intention to keep more than one puppy bitch. Moss [Sh Ch Brooksbid Country Classic] was about to change all that. No one that came chose him and so at about 10 weeks I was left with Gracie, Moss and Bobbie who was later to be better known as 'Twist'. Taking a call one night enquiring about an advert from a few weeks previously, I agreed to let 'Bobbie' go to Jennie Watson, an internationally renowned Obedience competitor. Soon to become 'Twist' he won an Obedience CC and was successful in the Breed ring on the few occasions he was shown.

When it came to showing, Gracie went, if I recall correctly, unbeaten at Open Shows as a puppy. Her very first show at Rugby she won BP and BOB and won the Fieldbank Trophy! Moss, being slower to mature took longer to make his mark. It wasn't until they were 9 months old at a large open show with separate classes for Dogs and Bitches that Moss won a class under Juliet Mockford [who was later to award him a CC] and beat Gracie for BP.

Their final classes as puppies were at the BCC of GB under judges Hazel Monk [D] and John Ritchie [B]. Both winning their classes, and their respective puppy challenges, with Jo stepping in [quite literally] to handle, superbly as always, Gracie, they won BPIS and RBPIS. What a day!



Moss's next Show was Southern BC under judge Mrs Bray from Australia. After winning both Junior and Novice I thought I had had a good day. It got even better; winning the first of Moss's and my, first ever Res CC behind the legendary Sh Ch Viber Travelling Matt from Corinlea.

Moss went on to win 2 more Res CCs as a Junior [and a total of 7 in all]. Never extensively shown he won 5 CCs including the ticket at Crufts in 1999 under Kathy Lister and BIS at East Anglia BC Championship show under Kate Duncan and referee, Kathy Kinton.

Gracie also did well but was hardly shown; in my eyes and in many others who have commented, she was also every inch a Champion too. What a litter.

Moss started his stud career at a fairly early age, and the pups from the early litters did well. He became the sire of Champion winning show progeny around the world; not only did he produce beauty though he also produced brains, including a Working Trials Champion, Search and Rescue dogs, Obedience dogs and he remains today an influence behind many lines that produce winning working dogs.

He was my shadow throughout and both he and his sister lived well into their 16th years. Moss's last public appearance being the Champions parade at just a few days short of his 16th birthday. I lost him that November and no dog will ever take his place.

Having had an ageing population of dogs for some time, I decided that it was time to introduce a puppy. Having looked around carefully and seen some offspring from a Bekkis litter that was double Moss, I spoke to Alison [Hornsby] and Jenny [Jefferson] and was delighted that they planned a repeat mating and that I would be allowed pick of the girls!

Thus Mabel [Bekkis Masquerade at Brooksbid AW[G]] joined the household. Unfortunately at the time, there were no ringcraft classes around locally and so I took her to the puppy course at the local dog training club and followed this up with some 'pet agility' classes [that were however trained by Lucy Osbourne!]. Julian having nothing to do one night came along to look and wanted a go. That was the last I have seen of the pair of them!! Having never trained a dog before at all! and certainly knowing less than nothing about agility, Julian and Mabel have worked through from Grade 1 to Grade 6, and are currently on 3 x G6 wins [you need 4 for Grade 7]. On their journey they have won many awards, and qualified for many finals, including the Starters Cup at Crufts and the Chikaramor Challenge at the BCC of GB Champ Show in March 2012.



Thus, having lost Mabel to Julian I was again looking for a puppy; I really liked some Littlethorn dogs I had seen and went to see a litter, by Sh Ch Grandver Celtic Quest to Sh Ch Littlethorn Xsara [both big favourites of mine]. They were a lovely litter, and indeed had Sh Ch Littlethorn Sapphire in it.] However, before I left, I saw the other litter that Bob and Alison Tunnicliff had at the time. I walked into the sitting room and saw Rolo trying to climb out of his box; offering to take him there and then I was disappointed to learn he was already spoken for. Thankfully Bob managed to arrange for me to have him. Thanks Bob. He was shown as a Junior and won every class at Championship level he took part in; at Crufts the next year, Heather Donnelly was stewarding [a friend from the early days] and she told me I should work this little dog and suggested Working Trials. Speaking to Barrie James he kindly recommended someone who did training locally; I remember taking Rolo for an assessment to Chris Bell at Lincoln GSD & ABTS to see if they would take us on and recall the summary 'dog will work, not sure about the handler!' We owe a lot to the hours that Chris has put in with us, to Margaret Robinson for her input and to Kamal Fernandez for his fine tuning! Not to forget Heather who is always ready with training tips for when something is not going according to plan! Coming to it late then, Rolo has now retired from competition but on the way has won CDex and UDex qualifications, the Working Trials Class at Crufts [he also has his Stud Book number in Breed] and gave me the urge to continue working. He has also introduced me to something I wished I had discovered years ago which now [especially as I am Secretary of the Society and we hold a Championship and Open Working Trial each year] takes up most of my leisure time!

Again, on looking for a dog, Bob had a litter planned that would again be double Moss and I was very kindly allowed pick of the boys. Story of my life though, on visiting the [very nice]

litter, we were talking outside when a gust of wind blew a giant metal dog bowl from the large wall to the hard yard area; a pup that Bob was running on and was at that time 12 weeks old on hearing this CRASH, jumped up, ran AFTER the bowl, picked it up and rang off with it [it was bigger than he was!]. That did it for me. It took until Cooper was 5 months old before I could persuade Bob to let me have him and now at just turned 18 months I have never regretted that decision. He is an amazing dog and if he does not succeed it will be a handler problem and not him! I have not rushed him and we aim to do a few trials early in the New Year but nothing really serious until later. Julian does sometimes say though I know now why Bob let you have that dog!

I still retain an interest in Breed and in fact for me the two go well together – a Border Collie SHOULD be physically capable of doing an active sport such as agility or Trials [either working or Sheep]

It's why I came into the breed and why I am passionate about a dog, when I am judging to be physically of the type that COULD.

Jacky Lloyd

Brooksbid Border Collies

Grace's Story - Knocking On Heaven's Door

(Grace - Littlethorn Cortina)

It was Sunday 15th April; I woke up at 7am as usual. I went downstairs to find Grace, our two year old Border collie, had been sick. I let her outside and after going into the garden she came back in and started being sick again. About 9am I offered her a little breakfast, but she had no interest in it so I thought it best to leave her till a little later when she was feeling better. Throughout the day she was chomping on grass but wasn't sick again. I offered Grace some cooked chicken and rice for tea but she just looked at it and walked away I thought she must have a stomach upset. That evening Grace came and sat upon my lap for her usual cuddle and I noticed that she kept kicking out her back legs. I commented to my eldest daughter Sami that she may have tummy ache.

On the Monday morning I wasn't happy with Grace she was quiet – not her usual self, so I booked her into the vets. I explained how she had been to the vet and after an examination they gave her some antibiotics in case she had an infection. They also took some blood from Grace. We took her home hoping that in a couple of days she would be back to normal. She remained quiet throughout the day. Just before 6pm I bent down to stroke Grace, I ran my hand across her body and she made a groaning sound. I called the Vet to say I was bringing her back in. On arrival they examined her again and said her blood results from the morning had come back normal but would take some more and test for Pancreatitis. They also scanned her for Pyometra which was clear. They asked us to bring her back the next morning so they could x-ray her.

The following morning Grace was taken back to the vet for the x-ray, by this time Grace was quite poorly there was no need for sedation as Grace lay quiet and still while they carried out the x-ray. They x-ray revealed that Grace had a large object in her intestine which the Vet was unable to feel during the examination as it lay behind her ribcage. I gave my permission for them to operate; we could not imagine what she had swallowed.



The vet asked us to come back at evening surgery to see Grace; she entered the consultation room holding a small clear bag in her hand. It contained a stone similar in size to a 50p coin. She told us that the stone must have been in Graces stomach for some time as the lining of the stomach had thickened trying to pass it through. I told the Vet that Grace didn't pick up stones but had used to steal them from my ornamental fountain on the patio when she was a puppy. I was always running outside to take them off her and eventually she lost interest in them, but unbeknown to me she had obviously swallowed one. The stone must have lay in her stomach for nearly two years.

The nurse brought Grace through to the consultation room for us to spend a little time with her as she would have to stay in overnight. I called the vet first thing Wednesday morning and they said she had had a comfortable night and we would be able to take her home that evening. I asked Becky my youngest daughter and joint owner of Grace to call the vets in the afternoon as I was in work until 8pm; Becky was allowed to fetch her home. Poor Grace came home wearing one of those big collars to stop her pulling at her stitches. She was bumping into furniture and getting stuck. She just stood with her head down and looked so miserable, I gave her a huge cuddle and told her she would be back to her normal self very soon. About 11pm I said goodnight to her and left her lying in her bed. I got up twice in the night to check on her and on both occasions found her standing next to her bed with her head down. I put it down to her having to wear the collar.

She refused to eat on Thursday morning and she didn't look very happy so we took her back to the vets. Her temperature was slightly higher than normal so they kept her in for the day, gave her some food via syringe during the day and let her come home at tea time as they said her temperature had settled. She seemed to drink more than usual that evening then at 9.30pm I took Grace into the garden and she threw up all of the water, Then again during the night, as in the morning I found her lying curled up in the corner of the room on water soaked carpet. She seemed so unwell so me and Becky got her into the car and drove back to the vets for when they opened at 8.30am.

The vet kept her in again and put her on a fluid drip, she also contacted the vet who had operated on Grace to come over from her surgery to examine Grace. She phoned me at 11.45am to tell us that Grace had septic peritonitis from the surgery and gave me three choices. The first was to open Grace back up and try and flush out the infection, the second was to refer her to a specialist, and the third option was to have Grace put to sleep. Becky and I were horrified at the thought of losing her, we could not give up on this young dog, she has a wonderful nature and loves everyone but most of all we love her to bits. She has changed my life and brought me together with new friends in the dog world. So of course we chose the specialist.

The vets arranged for us to see specialists at Willows in Solihull. We went to collect Grace from the Vets and started our journey. Becky thought it would be quicker to take the motorway. I told Becky to do what she thought was best. I never travel on motorways I am a very nervous passenger I was dreading it. I sat in the back of the car with Grace , who just lay very still all the way there I stroked her head and told her "I'm only going on the motorway for you Grace!" which made Becky smile as she looked through the rear view mirror. I worried for Becky as god knows what was going through her mind. She had to concentrate on driving and getting us there safely. I buried my head in the map book sorting out the route from the motorway to Willows my mind was all over the place – I was dreading the worse for grace, It was my birthday and if Grace didn't make it I swore I would never celebrate another birthday again. I sent a message to all my special friends and family to let them know what was happening as they had been enquiring all week on Graces condition. Before I knew it we were on the slip road to leave the M42 so I then directed Becky to

Willows with the help of my map book. We arrived at Willows at 1.10pm it took 40 minutes to get there thank goodness there were no hold ups.

Becky carried Grace into the reception area and stood her on the floor while I spoke to the receptionist. As I turned around I noticed fluid dripping from the large blue bandage that was wrapped around her tummy, I pointed it out to Becky, and it then started trickling like a tap. Becky knelt down beside her; she looked at me with horror in her face and said "what's happening to her?" Just at that moment a female vet came through reception and came to our rescue. She called for the nurses to help, they fetched a trolley and lifted Grace onto it and wheeled her off. I think at that moment Grace was knocking on heaven's door, since reading Graces notes at the time of admittance to Willows grace had high blood pressure a fast heart rate and the pouring fluid was septic fluid from the infection in her intestine.

We were taken through to a consulting room by a very helpful receptionist, who made us a hot drink and sat with us making sure we were alright. She asked us about Grace, just talking about her helped us settle down as we were in bits worrying about her, Chris Shales, the specialist, came to speak to us. He told us one of his colleagues was working on Grace to get her settled and ready for theatre, he said he could not promise it would be a good outcome but assured us he would do everything possible to help Grace. I signed the consent form and off he went to try and save our little girl.

Becky and I sat in the waiting area for some time, sorting out the paperwork for pet plan etc. The female vet that had come out to help us when we first arrived came over to us, wished us well and said that she would look in on Grace and give her a cuddle when she came out of theatre. Everyone at Willows was so kind and helpful to us I knew she was in the safest possible hands. We decided to return home as we had been advised Grace would be in theatre for a while and as it was my birthday I was expecting my Grandchildren to visit after school.

We received a call from Chris Shales about 6pm saying that grace had come through the surgery and that he had removed 9 inches of her intestine as it was infected. He said she was a very hardy little girl and was lifting her head. He said he still could not guarantee a positive outcome but as long as Grace continued to tick all the boxes he needed her too he would be happy. We knew we had to take each day as it came, he said he would phone me with an update the following morning.

We went to bed that night hoping and praying that grace would make it through the night. The next morning arrived and I tried to carry on with my normal routine to take my mind off waiting for the call. About 10am the phone rang, it was Chris with an update on grace. He said she was stable and settled through the night, but it was still too early to predict an outcome of likely success at this time. Grace was fighting to stay with us but was reluctant to eat at that time but was not worried about this considering what she had been through. He told me they would continue to tempt her with food throughout the day.

On Sunday morning I received a call to see if we could visit grace and bring some treats to tempt her with. as she might take them from us. I arranged for Becky and her partner Simon to go. I cooked some chicken and white fish for them to take. Becky had mixed emotions about going, on one hand she was exited on the other she was worried in case Grace wouldn't take the food from her either. When they arrived at willows the main entrance was closed, they rang the bell and it seemed like an eternity for them to answer the intercom. Becky told them they had come to visit Grace and they were told to make their way to the side door then someone would let them in.

They were led through to the intensive care unit where Grace had spent the last two days. Becky looked around the room anxiously trying to spot Grace – there were quite a few poorly dogs and cats being cared for. Becky glanced across the room and there she was our beautiful girl whose eyes were fixed on a cat that one of the nurses had sat on her lap trying to tempt it to eat. Grace didn't see Becky and Simon at first until the nurse called out her name. She looked straight at the nurse then moved her head to the side to see who was standing behind her. Grace's eyes lit up and her tail started wagging when she caught sight of Becky. The nurse opened the cage door to let her out. Grace looked so fragile with tubes and drains hanging out of her, the nurse unclipped her from the drip, put her lead through the harness and led them through to the consultation room to spend some time together.

Becky opened the tub with the treats inside and Grace's ears pricked up and she started sniffing at it. Becky offered her some and she gently took it out of her hand. Becky was so relieved to see Grace eat something and

hoped she would continue as she was so thin, this was the first piece of food Grace had eaten in a week. Grace was on a protein drip as her legs were swollen due to a lack of food. Chris came into the room to speak to Becky and Simon. He told them that Grace still wasn't out of the woods but was making positive progress. She had a little more food from Becky and they spent about



an hour with Grace before the nurse came to take her back to ICU to rest. Becky gave her a cuddle and whispered in her ear "I love you Grace!" She hated the thought of leaving her there but knew she was in the best possible care.

On Monday morning Chris phoned as promised with an update. He said that Grace had become quite unsettled after Becky and Simon had left and thought it best for Grace's recovery if we did not visit Grace again until she was stronger. We totally agreed with what he said as we wanted the best outcome for Grace so anything we could do to help we would. He said she was eating better now with small meals throughout the day and was still showing positive progress. She was moved out of ICU later that day.

On Tuesday they told us that the drain from her wound may be taken out later in the day if they were happy with her. We waited with anticipation for the next phone call which came on Wednesday morning from Chris. He said Grace was doing extremely well and he was happy for her to come home to us. I arranged with Becky for her to finish work at lunchtime and we made our journey over to Willows this time avoiding the M6, we just had to make a short journey along the M42 which didn't take long.

When we arrived I settled the rest of my bill which had exceeded my insurance limit by quite a lot. We were then taken into the consultation room to wait for Chris to come and speak to us. He advised us on how to look after Grace with regards to feeding and exercise and told us if we had any concerns we should contact him or his colleague Stephen Baines who knew all about Grace's case history. He then walked us through the corridors and showed us some of the hospital on our way to collect Grace. We were amazed on how clean it was. We arrived at the kitchen where they prepared the meals for the animals; he told us that he had walked Grace to the fridge during her recovery to see if there was anything she fancied to eat. We then walked to the ward where Grace had spent the last couple of days. We stood and watched her through the window. She was standing in her cage watching the nurses working with some of the other patients. Chris took us in and it took Grace a few seconds to realise it

was her family that had just entered the room. She was so excited to see Becky, she then noticed me and my husband standing there she came over for a fuss then returned to Becky for more. Grace just loves Becky to bits. We put her lead on and thanked the staff in the ward for taking good care of our beautiful girl. Chris showed us the way out to reception but was called away for an emergency; thankfully we had had time to thank him for saving Graces life. As we passed other staff they were all saying goodbye, wishing Grace well and everyone we spoke to commented on what a lovely dog Grace is, even Chris had said she was a very good and well behaved patient and such a lovely dog, I think he was quite smitten with her, but who wouldn't be?

After all the goodbyes we made our way home. Becky sat in the back with Grace, she was a very different girl to the one we arrived with at Willows, and she was so excited it was hard for Becky to keep her calm for the journey home. Once back home she soon settled back into her routine but was wary if we needed to go out, after a few days though she realised that if we did go out we would soon return.

For the first three weeks she was only allowed in the garden on a lead and it was if the weather knew I would need to take Grace out several times a day, yes you have guessed it; it rained and rained so it was mac and wellies at the ready. Two weeks after the discharge from Willows we had to take her back for a check-up. We were seen by Stephen Baines as Chris was on holiday. I mentioned any concerns I had but he assured me they were nothing to worry about and Grace was doing really well considering what she had been through.

We cannot thank Chris Shales and all the wonderful Staff at Willows enough for saving Grace we will be forever in their debt. And to Grace our beautiful little girl we are so grateful to still have you with us thank you for fighting so hard we are so proud and love you with all our hearts.



Grace's story is also on www.willows.uk.net from the vets' version of events.

Lyn Hodson

An Update from Holly - Lydeardlea Lavenders Blue

I have been asked to let you have an update on my latest exploits. Well, where to start?

Firstly though I must say how very sad I was to learn that my famous Dad Littlethorn Continental (Tally) has passed on to Rainbow Bridge - I met him once, he really was a great guy and will be sorely missed. Another wonderful relation of mine - Lydeardlea Desert Song (Sage) also passed on; her amazing achievements were in the last newsletter. (Sage's Memoriam is included further on in this issue. Ed)

I read and was so impressed by the article in the last Heartbeat Newsletter about that fantastic partnership of Mynx and Alan although it made me quite depressed and made me realise that I have an uphill battle to try and train my pilot. I was warned that this was the year that reality hits. I am now up against the big boys and girls in grade 3.

I hear talk that the trick is to travel like the wind, cutting corners and hurtling over the Dog Walk, A Frame and See Saw and STILL hit the contacts, AND to remember there are 12 weaves and not 10 - I ask you how can a girl be expected to remember all this especially with my master huffing and puffing behind me. At one point when I was competing in one of my first 3-5 grade courses as I was coming out of a tunnel I heard Master shout "weaves" while racing towards the dog walk so I thought to myself "what shall I do?" but as he was still heading towards the dog walk I decided perhaps that was the right course of action. We then went on to finish the course and Mistress was waiting with my tuggy reward and a delighted "Well done, despite your instructions she went clear!" At which point the Judge shouted out "Thank goodness that dog can read the numbers!" Then, only a week later, right at the end of a really fast clear agility round he sent me over the wrong last jump before the finish, just because the previous dog made a mistake and did the same wrong jump - how stupid was that! I saw the judge hold his hands up in disbelief. I think the judges are really beginning to feel quite sorry for me!

Now I wouldn't like you to think I am always perfect and the master pilot has read this draft and insisted that I add the following. Last month we had to go to training in the motorhome because mistress needed the car. Each time after my turn he puts me back in the motorhome cos I get very excited and think it's my turn ALL the time. How was I to know when I looked out of the front window that I would accidentally lock all the doors - how embarrassing was that. Panic! - the keys, phone, money and me all locked in with no accessible windows to rescue me!! 3 hours later mistress arrived with a spare key - she wasn't too pleased! The other day I was in a pairs competition with my friend Star - a collie just like us - and we were doing really well - the pilot said "Go" which we have agreed means if the obstacles are in a straight line in front of us we go as fast as we can until the line changes - so I obeyed orders as usual and ended up in a tunnel - the only problem was the tunnel was in the next ring!! How was I to know? I was going so fast I didn't even notice the two ring ropes that I went under!

Just back from the 2 day show at Taunton - well that was exciting, on the first day the pilot really messed me around in the first class so I thought I would take the matter into my own hands, or should I say paws. Well I am renowned by everyone as having a "rock solid" wait to let the pilot get into the best position at the start of the course. He told me to wait as usual and strode off to block off the dog walk to ensure I went through the tunnel. It is difficult to image the look of surprise and amazement on his face when I broke my stay and got to the dog walk just before the master!!! To say he wasn't best pleased is real understatement - the judge put his hands on his head and master asked if we could start again. We did, but would you believe it the judge sneaked on me and told master that I was crawling so he put me back again - how indignant was I - I was furious so when master said "go" I decided that I really didn't like the judge or his course so I made up my own course - took no notice of master's lefts, rights, in, out and all the other commands. Wow was that fun I even got my contacts spot on, just to pacify master!!!

I really thought I had gone a bit far so I thought I had better pull out all the stops the next day and really behave - well remarkable results - lovely placed clear round in a difficult grade 3 jumping, and a 3rd place in the agility class out of over 100 dogs.

Competition is certainly tough - a few weeks ago I did a lovely clear round coming 9th out of 128 dogs and was only 2 seconds behind the winner!

Good luck to all my friends - we are all an amazing lot whatever we turn our hand to (or should I say "paws") but I would be most grateful for any help in handling my wayward pilot.

Love

Holly xx

K-9 Sage - Memoriam



January 8, 1999 - August 13, 2012

Pentagon 9/11 2002
Search for Natalee Holloway - Aruba
Hurricanes Katrina & Rita
Iraq – 6 months searching for missing U.S. soldiers
Numerous statewide searches

2001 Milagro Award, presented by Ali McGraw
2002 AKC Humane Fund Award (ACE), Honorable Mention
2008 New Mexico Veterinary Association Hall of Fame Award
2009 AKC Humane Fund Award for Canine Excellence, (ACE) Search & Rescue Category
2011 American Humane Association Hero Dog Award, Search& Rescue Category

After a life that was nothing short of full, on August 13, 2012 I lost my beloved Sage, also known as Lydeardlea Desert Song, AKC CD, FEMA Type One Disaster Response, NNDDA Advanced Human Remains Detection Dog.

Although her titles and accolades are many, to me Sage was so much more. Sage was my hero, my partner and my life has never been so completely impacted by anyone, dog or human, as much as it was by Sage.

She came to me sight unseen from Bill and Prue Welsh at the tender age of only ten weeks of age. I drove eight hours from New Mexico to Dallas, Texas to pick her up. She had been shipped to me in cargo from London. Needless to say it was a long trip for such a young pup but she made it just fine. I opened the crate expecting to be greeted by a happy, bouncy and forever grateful puppy. After all I had just released her from that horrible kennel! Instead, this little puppy that I was yet to get to know was completely offended by the experience. She had urinated, pooped and thrown up in the kennel and apparently, at least in her mind, it was all my fault. It was clear; she wanted no part of me or this country. I think if she could have spoken she would have demanded that she be returned immediately to her home in Taunton with her mum and brothers, Bill and Prue! Instead I added insult to injury by taking her to a hotel where the two of us climbed into a shower where she got her first bath. She was less than impressed by me.

On the drive back to New Mexico she maintained her evasive posture probably hoping that if she ignored me long enough I would give up on the notion that we could become friends and that I would eventually send her back to her home in England.

By the end of the first week at her new home she was beginning to settle into the routine and I had begun her basic training. Looking back, I realize that Sage was never really a puppy. I mean that in the sense that she seemed to be an old soul in a puppy body. Her name "Sage" fit her perfectly as she was wise beyond her years and seemed all knowing of things she had just been exposed to for the first time. As far as Sage was concerned, everything was serious business!

As her training progressed and as we began to work on her search skills it was apparent that she was an extremely gifted dog. She possessed the perfect balance of working drives that are needed for the work she was about to do. Again, everything was serious business. Even in her play, the Frisbee was fun but it was also very serious business. Sage approached everything with a sense of urgency and with a desire to do it right and to the best of her ability, and she did.

From the beginning I knew she was special. Sage was certified as a FEMA dog at the youngest possible age by FEMA rules, at eighteen months of age. To put this in perspective, in dog sport I have trained and competed at high levels of obedience competition and tracking. Professionally I have trained and certified police dogs for all aspects of police work and search and rescue but the FEMA certification is by far the most difficult. I have referred to the FEMA certified K-9s as the Special Forces of the canine working world and she was among the best of them. Sage was simply a dog trainer's dream.

After returning from Iraq, Sage was diagnosed with cancer and the next three years we fought with her against the disease. She had an entire team of specialists from the best animal cancer center in the world treating her at Colorado State University Animal Cancer Center. She deserved and she got the best treatment there from the best doctors that we could find.

In the end Sage was still the hero. Even in the last year we were still attending events at universities and churches and clubs as the main attraction giving demonstrations and talking about the importance of dogs in our lives and our work at the Sage Foundation for Dogs Who Serve.

August 2012 was here and we had run out of options. Her calcium was again rising, she was no longer a candidate for more surgery, her veins were collapsing and the medications were no longer effective. Her doctors had run out of ideas. Basically everything they had done in the last year had been experimental and their efforts had extended her life beyond all expectations. Her quality of life had always been our greatest goal for her throughout her treatment and I am forever grateful that she was able to live out the end of her life with the same dignity that she had throughout her entire life.

I had no idea when I woke up on August 13 that it was to be her last day with me but when we talked to the vets it became clear that we had come to the end. With her quality of life in mind I knew that it was my turn to be her hero. With calcium levels climbing and no way to bring those back down Sage would have gone into renal failure within hours to days at best. As difficult as it was I had to tell the doctors no more. They placed an IV in her little arm and I brought her home. We had some quality time together playing Frisbee and we even blew up about ten balloons for her to pop. She was unusually cuddly so we had some quiet time together as well. I was able to talk to her telling her the things that I thought she should know. Close friends came over to say their goodbyes and Lauren, Sage's massage therapist gave her a soothing massage to make the passing even smoother. Our Vet Tech, Robin from the animal hospital was here at home with us and I held her as she walked onto the Rainbow Bridge. I had a few more moments with her before she was placed into a cooler that had been prepared for her. She was then put on a plane that took her to Michigan State University for necropsy. As a 9/11/01 dog, the necropsy was the last part of the Post 9/11 Canine Health Study for Sage. Her cremains would be returned to me once the necropsy was complete. Unlike most animal cremations, special care is taken for all of the 9/11 dogs to insure that they have private cremations called a primate cremation. It is done so that there is no chance of the cremains from other dogs or cats being mixed in with one of the 9/11 dogs.

On August 25, 2012 a memorial service was held for her. A proclamation issued by Governor Martinez proclaimed that day



"Sage Day" throughout New Mexico. Friends of Sage came from all over the state to pay their respects and say good bye to our sweet girl. Canine comrades from the military as well as my retired New Mexico Corrections Police Dog, K-9 Cisco were also in attendance. Sage had become quite the notable hero in the states and on that day it was more evident than ever. Over 200 people attended her service that began with a funeral procession at the north end of our town. Sage's cremains were escorted by the Patriot Guard Riders with Sage riding in a side car. The rest of the riders were in a missing man formation riding behind. Ahead of them all were several police cars and huge fire rescue trucks stopping traffic and leading the way. People all along the route stopped and saluted our hero as we passed. It was Sage's last ride. Once at the church we passed through a line of people holding American flags. News media from TV and news papers were everywhere to cover her service. In attendance were government officials and many military veterans and their families. People that I had never even met!

The mayor of our town, State Representative Ezzell and a representative from the US Congress were among those in attendance. Her Hero Dog video was played and the minister

gave a beautiful service citing scriptures about God's creatures. Several people walked up to the pulpit and had kind words to say during the service. I don't think that there wasn't a dry eye in the house. Members of the US Army were there to execute the "Folding of the Flag" ceremony as a US Soldier played taps on his trumpet as they presented me with the US flag.

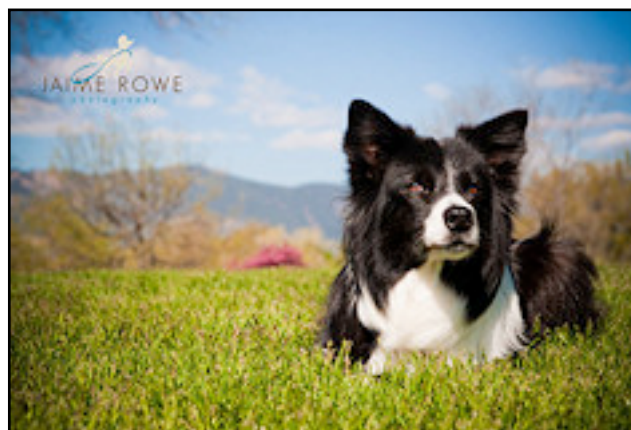


There was a reception after the service where people gathered and refreshments were served. You should know that I had no part of organizing her service. This amazing tribute to Sage was the doing of Sage's friends, fans and a wonderful community that showed to me that they truly appreciated Sage and the service that she had given to her country. It is difficult to describe this service as it was the most beautiful and well attended service that I have ever seen and even more amazing, it was all for a little Border Collie from England. I know of no dog that has been so honored and I am forever grateful.

It has been hard to write this. Words cannot express the void I feel in my heart. My life with Sage was a true gift. I know that time will go by and I will cry less and smile more when I think of her but for now, I smile and tear up at the same time as I remember her. In our only too short 13.5 years together we traveled to many countries. Sage accumulated more sky miles than most people do in a lifetime and because of her status as a working dog, she was able to fly in cabin as a passenger riding with me on planes her entire life. Everyone who was fortunate enough to meet Sage would tell you that she was magnetic. People were drawn to her and so fascinated by her everywhere we traveled.

I will never forget the places we went, the things we saw and the wonderful people that we met, the things we were able to do for others and last but not least, the way we were together.

I love you Sage and you still amaze me,
Mom



Sage's name is permanently inscribed in the marble walls of the AKC headquarters in New York City and she is remembered with a brick on a memorial walk at Colorado State University Animal Cancer Center. It simply says:

K-9 Sage
An American Hero
Loved by family and a grateful nation.
To mom, I never let you down,
not even once, Sage

The Sage Foundation for Dogs Who Serve carries on Sage's spirit of service through education and financial aid for other hero dogs in need of cost prohibitive veterinary treatment.

Sage herself is still serving. Key body tissues have been harvested from Sage and are currently involved in continuing research for a cure for cancer. This study combines animal and human cancer research for the ultimate goal of "ONE CURE"

B. Diane Whetsel

Health & the Border Collie

(on behalf of the PBHF)

I am proud to chair the Pastoral Health Breed Foundation, a group promoting the health and welfare of the Border Collie in particular but also other breeds within the Pastoral Group. Many of you will have been following the group's work over many years, but for those of you new to the PBHF and what we do I will start with a brief summary.

Over the last 20 years dedicated owners and breeders have improved no end the chances of **not** producing problems in the breeds. Hip scoring, eye testing, DNA testing, hearing testing have come on leaps and bounds during this time.

The breed is very healthy thanks in part to the number of tests undertaken by responsible breeders, the fact that we have a lot of tests available for the Border Collie means that it is in fact in a better position than some breeds that have less tests available.

The tests developed are to find out which dogs are the least likely to produce these conditions, or in the cases of DNA tests ensure that puppies do not have the condition and can have a happy and active life.

So what tests do we have? Anyone purchasing a puppy should ask the breeder about the following:

Firstly, DNA tests – these have been developed for CEA/CH (stands for Collie Eye Anomaly/Choroidal Hypoplasia) TNS (stands for Trapped Neutrophil Syndrome) and CL (stands for Ceroid Lipofuscinosis – this kills off healthy brain cells and the dog will die) This involves sending a blood or swab sample to a specialised laboratory to see if a particular gene is present.

This testing can tell if a dog is genetically clear and has no copy of the undesirable gene at all, so can never develop, pass on, or produce the condition in any future generations. If both the sire and dam are genetically clear then the pups will all be clear and no further testing of the pups is required. The pups will be clear by parentage.

If one of the parents however is a carrier, some of the puppies will also be carriers and will need to be DNA tested to check their status. The puppies will never develop the condition but could pass it on.

Under no circumstances should two carriers be mated together as some will develop the condition and the rest will carry the undesirable gene.

Other conditions can be looked for a physical examination from a vet specialising in the relevant condition. Helpful in telling whether a dog is affected or not, but cannot tell if a dog is a carrier and likely to pass on the condition to pups. These tests are used where we do not yet have a DNA test for the condition.

So physical eye tests – Gonioscopy – a new test for the Border Collie and the test must be performed by a specialist vet (clinics are held throughout the country).

Currently work and research being undertaken by the PBHF.

1. The pre-disposition to glaucoma

We have been working with the Roslin Institute in Scotland to find how the genes are passed on to pups (the mode of inheritance) and then to develop a DNA test to find out the carriers, affected and clears.

Many owners have submitted blood and or swabs to the research from those that have either failed the gonioscopy physical eye test or those that have lost eyes due to glaucoma.

Prof. Summers has reported to the group that she is working in the first instance of the samples and those closest related and the start point is to check if it is recessive in nature.

We are awaiting the next report from her, and she will be giving a talk at the Breed Council Day on the 4th May 2013 on the progress of the research.

In addition we have connected Ian Mason (BVA Head Eye Panellist) with Kim to discuss their findings from both the physical eye test and the DNA (Genes) it is hoped Ian will be attending the Breed Council Day to take questions alongside Kim.

2. Fitting

We recently received a request to the PBHF for a database so owners can report Border Collies that have been formally diagnosed as "fitting" or with epilepsy. Some early work by a committed helper was already in place. With the swift help of Lyn Norton and Sheila Gay (and with my occasionally interference) within weeks of this being passed by committee we have the database up and running.

In addition we continue to support the research being carried out by the AHT in conjunction with the researchers in Finland. Hilary Kerr in particular has been attending clinics and taking swabs for the research. Many have also sent them direct or to me to send on to Finland.

If anyone has a BC that has fitted or owns any one's siblings or parents then please send your DNA swabs or blood to help this research.

3. Hearing Tests

At the next meeting we will be considering if we should have a database for owners to record their hearing tests – watch this space.

The PBHF has a website site www.pbhf-dog.com and you can find the glaucoma database at <http://bc-glaucomadatabase.synthasite.com> and the fitting database at <http://pbhfbcfittingdb.yolasite.com>

These databases are run in good faith and without liability the responsibility for accuracy lies with the person inputting the information.

Many have asked about how things get passed at the PBHF meetings, these are voted on by the members of the committee, made up of representatives from all Border Collie Clubs, one Sheltie representative and one Lancashire Heeler representative. We have on many occasions asked other Pastoral Breeds to become involved but to date only have these few – so by far the majority are the BC people.

Clubs can then ask their members for input into the discussions and/or agenda. Midlands Border Collie Club I am pleased to say have done just this over the Schedule A or B debate on gonioscopy eye testing results – please see the link on the website. They have asked their members to say if they think we should be on A or B. Your comments are welcome.

Other tests: Hip Dysplasia is a common inherited orthopaedic problem in dogs. It is a complicated mode of inheritance, and can be influenced by the way a puppy is reared and environmental factors once it is in its new home. The lower the score the better the hips – but remember the highest score is 106 so a total score of 12 would be a very good score, and would not cause problems for the dog concerned. Hips can be x-rayed over 12 months of age. So puppies cannot be tested but the parents should be and the breeder can provide the scores.

Deafness: It is believed that deafness could be hereditary, but at the moment, it is not clear to what degree. Special tests are available called BAER hearing testing. The PBHF hope to work with specialists in the future to look into the deafness in the Border Collie.

You will also find us on Facebook and we welcome new members to the group.

What for the future? Well we keep fund raising.....early date for your calendar – the Breed Council Day Saturday 4th May 2013 in the Midlands. We have a number of speakers giving talks on understanding the health conditions associated with the breed. Also available, eye testing, hearing testing and we also have some fun – so a Companion Dog Show, have a go Agility, Rally, KC Good Citizen awards and lots lots more.

For your special entertainment we will have some of your favourite Border Collie people in the stocks for you to throw wet sponges at – first one in the stock your Chairman Bob.

Come along and support the Border Collie, learn more help us raise some money so we can nail these final tests!!

Kathie Kinton

Kinaway Border Collies and Chair of the PBHF

Short Story Competition

Disappointingly, no entries were received for the competition. We may revisit it one day but for now we'll assume that no entries equals no interest & shelve the idea.

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