



ENGLISH NATIONAL SHEEPDOG TRIAL 2018 - JERVAULX ABBEY - 27-29 JULY

There is something for everyone at the English National this year when handlers will gather at the historic and picturesque site near Ripon. Alongside the sheepdog trial, the event will host an open quoits championship, trade stands and a craft marquee, as well as an exhibition of

local sheep breeds. The Young Farmers Club will be putting on a programme of activities to occupy the children, who will also be entertained with traditional funfair rides and games. The ISDS tent will include a display of sheepdog heritage from the ISDS Sheepdog Archive, Barbara Carpenter and Mary Heaton's



Collections. Among the trade stands will be two local dog rescue organisations, with volunteers from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust on hand to answer queries from visitors on conservation issues. A wide range of refreshments will be available over all three days; the Black Sheep Brewery will be running the bar, while the catering marquee organisers have promised a varied menu to suit all tastes. Another welcome addition is Kielder Organic Meats, which will be offering freshly-cooked burgers, sausages and other family favourites. Visitors who can spare some time away from watching the trial may wish to take a wander around Jervaulx itself, which is the country's largest privately-owned Cistercian Abbey and is a popular film and TV location, sitting in the midst of the stunning North Yorkshire countryside. The Jervaulx tearoom and visitor centre will be open throughout all three days; entry is by donation. Not far away is the highly recommended Brymor Ice-cream Parlour. The entry fee for trial spectators is £5 and there is no charge for children under 16. The site will be open from 8am until early evening; no need to book in advance.

The event is being organised by the Northern Sheepdog Association, with Local Chairman Brian Bell (07808001149) and Local Secretary Lynn Morland (07415516859). Contact Lynn to take part in the open quoits championship.

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Written by Kim Gibson/Pauline Hall

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INTERVIEW WITH BRIAN BELL and LYNN MORLAND

by the ISDS Sheepdog Archive

Do you come from an agricultural background?

Brian: Yes. My father farmed in Durham so I was brought up to it really.

Lynn: Sort of, all my dad's brothers are farmers. He worked on farms, but was more into building. I have always had horses and dogs even, after I left home. Horses were the main thing, dogs were pets.



Brian with Moss

Is yours a mixed farm or do you have sheep only?

Brian: It is only a small farm and we only keep sheep. Mainly for training the dogs but I do have some lambs. The ewes are mainly Hebridean and Texel crosses put to the Texel.

Do you breed your own and what lines do you favour?

Brian: Yes. They are home bred and go back to all the old good dogs as so many do. I like line dogs rather than the forever flanking fraternity.

Lynn: Actually all of mine go back to Brian's Moss. Nell is a Moss clone, and has been the best first working dog I could have wished for. I have three or four by Sweep and Jock.



Who is/was your best dog?

Brian: Moss was the best. Always the boss and never the bully. He was steady on all kinds of sheep and very loyal. A one man dog you could say. At eleven years old he was still winning but I sadly lost him soon after to cancer. Hutch, a good dog I have at the moment, is Moss's son and has inherited a lot of his ability. Lynn's Nell is a daughter and shows all his good qualities.

Lynn: Since meeting Brian, I breed my own dogs. My best dog is Nell, and second best is Trixie. Both are by Brian's Moss.



How do you see the sheepdog's use today and are you optimistic as to the future?

Brian: The quad has had a great impact on the working dog. The dogs don't get the work they used to and should. Mediocre dogs can be used more than they would have been previously. Young people are coming into trialling and we should encourage them even if they are not from a farming background.



Lynn: I don't know why anybody would rather have a quad and no dog. There is no feeling in the world like a hard days work alongside your dog. For me, Nell is just an extension of me.

Can you tell us a little about the Northern Sheepdog Association?

It was formed in 1966 and has been run on various farmers' fields and on their sheep. We are reliant on the goodwill of those who lend for this purpose and are very careful to see that sheep are not abused on the course.

Brian with Hutch



Do you run Nurseries and Opens?

Yes. We use the Swaledale and Mule hogs for the Nurseries and the Opens are run mainly with Mules (Swaledale ewe put to the Blue Face Leicester tup). There are seven Opens in the summer and the Nurseries run throughout the winter. The main problem with Nurseries is that the sheep are not used to dogs and the dogs are novices! Not the ideal combination. I would estimate about 30% of the Nursery dogs come through into the Open season. Some just disappear, possibly because too much pressure has been put on them too soon. There is a ready market for young work dogs at the end of the season.

I believe Maurice Collin was one of your loyal supporters?

Maurice was Secretary of the Association at one time and worked tirelessly for the club. He thought that smooth coated dogs were more sharp and took more handling than the rough coated ones.

Do you have a healthy number of members?

We have about 40 entries at our trials. We have older guys like John Edgar, who is in his eighties, and younger people like Emma Proctor who is eighteen. We usually have one or two new handlers in the nursery season, some of whom come from other areas. We try to encourage them as much as possible.



*Lynn winning Malton Show 2016
with Nell*

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What's it like running a national?

Lynn: Organising a National, half the time, I'm excited, and half the time, I am in a panic. My problem is that I like things to be right so put everything into a project. It's just me and it's not hard really. The hard part is that I was already busy from dawn till dusk, like never time to sit down, so now dusk has to stretch into the next day. Never



having done anything like this, and being much more an outside person, building walls etc type of person, Brian has to check everything. I am an atrocious speller and grammar is not my strong point. I can tell you better after it's over! There is a really good local committee, that's essential.

Thank you to both Brian and Lynn for sharing their thoughts.

Tess has been deaf from birth, she does agility and is mad keen on sheep, but needs carrying away from them as she can't hear the 'that'd do' commands! (photo: Ruth Downing)

Duke, Lynn's nursery dog, he is by Gordon Watt's Storm, out of Kerry Watt's Reba (photo: Jackie Goulder)



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