



**CHAMPIONS:** Gwenllian Pyrs with dad Eryl and Glen, the £4,000 dog

# Gwenllian tops sales of sheepdogs

Schoolgirl trainer who was second in international trials tops her rivals



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A SCHOOLGIRL sheepdog enthusiast trounced more experienced rivals when topping the autumn sale of dogs at Bala.

Gwenllian Pyrs, 15, from Padog, near Betws y Coed, represented Wales at the International Sheepdog Trials at Stoneleigh in September, and was runner-up.

She has also represented Wales in the One Man and His Dog competition which was on BBC1's *Countryfile* and was awarded second place in the competition.

Her more experienced bitch Eryri Meg was used for these competitions. She has now mated Eryri Meg with the current Welsh National Champion, Jimmy, owned by Kevin Evans of Brecon, and is hoping for some champion Christmas pups.

Gwenllian is currently studying for her GCSEs at Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy in Llanrwst.

Her father Eryl, who also trials sheepdogs, said: "At the Bala sale Glen (the dog sold by Gwenllian) made 4,700 guineas (one guinea is worth around £1.05). He was bought in May and Gwenllian trialled him and her bitch Eryri Meg throughout North Wales during the summer, and was placed numerous times.

"In August Gwenllian was also one of two representing North Wales in the

young handler's competition at the Royal Welsh, and competed in the Welsh National sheepdog trials in Llandrindod Wells."

Glen, who is just over two years old, is off to live in Cumbria, where he will be working on a hill farm.

The talent for sheepdog handling runs in the family, as five years ago at the Bala Autumn Sheepdog sale, Gwenllian's older sister Elin - who was also 15 at the time - got the top price of the day for her bitch.

Eryl said: "I have 10 children, five daughters and five sons, aged from five to 23.

"It turns out the girls have always been far more interested in the dogs than the boys. The boys are more into the farm animals and the tractors.

"Elin is now at Aberystwyth University studying agriculture and business. She came to Austria with Gwenllian and I to do masterclasses with the dogs.

"Non, my 12-year-old daughter also has two dogs; Alaw, seven, has a dog, Rhodri, nine, has one; and our youngest Siwan, five, says she wants to share my dog."

The Bala Sheepdog Sale of working dogs and young dogs was held at the Rhiwlas Estate in Bala. There were 71 catalogued entries. Glen's success was closely followed by Doug Lambie of Llangwm who sold an 18-month-old young bitch called Tess, selling for 4,000 guineas to Chetwynd of West Sussex.