

## **Gwobr Dr Emrys Evans Award 2017**

The theme for the 2017 award was 'Shepherding Skills'

The judges assessed the nominee's skills in animal husbandry, veterinary record keeping, shearing ability, working with sheepdogs, preparing sheep for market/shows etc.

### **Winner: Dewi Jenkins**

I live and farm with my parents at Talybont, in the north of Ceredigion. We keep Welsh Mountain sheep and a herd of Welsh Black cattle.

I do some shearing around neighbouring farms during the Summer. I enjoy competing in the shearing competitions with Welsh sheep at local shows, as well as in the Royal Welsh Show. I had an opportunity to go out to shear in New Zealand some years ago.

My main interest is training sheepdogs. I was very fortunate to get a dog named Sam when I was about six years old. Sam was a very special Welsh sheepdog, and he awoke in me an interest in competing at Sheepdog Trials.

I remember competing at the Welsh Sheepdog open day at Tregaron when I was about seven years old. I received a beautiful cup, with a picture of Welsh Sheepdogs inscribed on it, after winning the Young Shepherds.

I then ventured a little further and competed in the Young Farmers trials for the first time with Sam, the only Welsh dog to compete against Scottish dogs. We were quite successful.

Dai Jones Llanilar then bought me a Scottish sheepdog pup, Moss. Moss was a very intelligent little dog, easy to train and always willing to do his very best.

I've bred many pups from Moss and so far each one of them has been a working dog. Moss and I have had an opportunity to compete for Wales twice, the first time two years ago against Scotland, when I represented Wales in the Young Shepherd class and won. This year, we were both fortunate enough to be one of the 15 members to compete for Wales at Northleach.

Nothing gives me more pleasure than going out after supper to give some of the young dogs a training session. I try to sell around seven sheepdogs each year and every penny helps, especially with the future so uncertain.

Another opportunity came my way through the dogs when I was offered a job by Natural Resources Wales, gathering stray sheep from the forest. We always have a Welsh dog on the farm to gather the mountain, there is a place for both on the farm – the Scottish dog and the Welsh dog.

Thanks are due to those who established the Welsh Sheepdog Society twenty years ago and for continuing to work to ensure their future.