and onto cross drive and one eye slopped gate, the shed was good and a good pen scoring 120.

John and Mozzi were up next. Mozz was sent left and held a good line with the lift straight, the fetch had a good line all the way and a good turn onto the drive, the drive was steady with a good cross drive but had a wide turn but a good line back to the shedding ring where the shed was good followed by a good pen scoring 176.

James McGee and Sweep were last to go. Sweep went out to the right and went wide and well behind the sheep, the lift was good, the fetch was slightly off at the start but corrected quickly and had a good line to post and a good turn onto the drive which started well and a good turn onto the cross drive but

Brendan Marley and Green
John Maginn and Mozz: Saturday winners

Clare Somers: Cashen and Clare, Young Handlers

Frank Cashen with Jip and Alex, Brace Champions

Shannon Conn with Harry and Bill, youngest competitor aged 10 pulled the sheep back toward the handler and then pushed back on line but also had a wide turn back to the ring the shed was good but a ewe slipped down side of pen and was brought back and penned scoring 164.

The 2014 Irish National came to an end and the prize giving was conducted. In addition to the team pictured on the centre page, the Shepherd’s Champion was D McAuley with Joe.

Your letters: Your letters welcome on sheepdog and shepherding subjects. Send to the editor – address on page 3. Clarification is needed here. The unedited version of my report described the first grip as the dog hanging on the rear leg of an ewe as it attempted to lift the animal and the second grip was a clear bite on the neck of an ewe as the dog attempted to cover a flank. In no circumstance were either consistent with the judge’s proclaimed policy that only clean grips to the nose in self-defense would be tolerated. This seems to be in line with a tendency among some judges, in my experience at least, to wink at inappropriate grips, while DO-ING for clean and necessary grips. And in this manner faults in the dog-work become tolerated, even when penalized, if not always elevated to a standard.

Alison M Orrisk

The Ray Edwards article by Caroline Wootton is one of the best articles I have read in the magazine. Mr Edwards talked of a number of issues that have been of concern for a number of years to members of the society, and no one has taken the time to put it into print. If Mr Edwards talked about a number of members that I have spoken to over the years who feel this society as being run for the few, who seem to think of it as some sort of a gentlemen’s club. This society needs more like minded people to speak out on issues of the like that Mr Edwards has brought to the attention of other members and to put their views in print.

Eddie McDonough (Life Member)

[Image]