

Basset Griffon Vendéen (Petit)

4 / 10 / 2019

BELFAST saw just one PBGV entered, Ch Soletrader Magic Mike at his first show for around 4mths. He sailed through, being awarded BOB by Frank Borg (Malta), Hound Group 1 by Tom Johnston and finally BIS by John Thirlwell. This was his second such win at Belfast, the first being in 2016 when at only 15mths old and he went BIS under Stuart Plane.

Thanks to Sue Marshall and Kim Culyer-Dawson, with Martin Bishop as the email messenger, the Autumn 2019 e-voice hit everyone's inbox at the end of last week. I say everyone though I gather there was one email from someone who didn't seem to have received it. I know I am getting a lot of emails that end up in my Junk folder these days, mostly on the lines of "Hello my dearest, I need your urgent reply" but occasionally something important gets routed there by mistake. So, if you haven't received the e-voice, check your Junk folder first before emailing Martin Bishop on vendeen48@gmail.com or phoning 07779 300761.

As a reminder, Club members receive a printed newsletter (Voice) twice a year – Summer (June) and Winter (December) and, if on e-mail, bi-annual Spring and Autumn editions of the club's electronic (e)voice. This decision was implemented following a survey of members in 2016, the results of which were published in the Winter 2016 Voice and are on the club website www.bgvclub.co.uk/membership-voice-lod.

The Winter Voice is well under way with only a few pages now left to fill, including those set aside for the results of our Club championship show which takes place on 23 November at the Sports Connexion, Ryton-on-Dunsmore. GBGV judge is Renaud Buche from France and PBGV judge Paula Heikkinen-Lekhonen from Finland. Postal entries close on 28 October at the end of this month and on-line to fossedata on 4 November.

During the week I watched part of a presentation made by judges Bill Shelton and Doug Johnson at the September AKC Delegates Meeting. Their message was simple, that words are powerful to the extent that some branding has crept into our language with changes in terminology over recent years. For example, in the States dog pounds are now known as "shelters", occupants formally known as strays or mongrels are now classed as "adoptable rescues". In sharing their passion for breeding healthy dogs with predictable type, they felt that it was time that breeders did the same. Their message was that it was no longer good enough to say we are "purebred dog breeders" (as opposed to those who produce mixed breed dogs) but we should say our dogs are "purposefully bred pure breed". Moreover breeders are "preservationists" who intentionally bring these dogs into the world. In the days of declining PBGV numbers this would seem especially true where most breeders consciously aim to invest in a purposefully bred dog's future and, importantly, in the future of the breed. In our own way PBGV breeders are also helping to preserve our breed's temperament with its strong hunting instincts and mental and physical stamina to carry out its "purpose." If you would like to watch this presentation go to <https://youtu.be/U6CSNCXNvTk>.

LINDA SKERRITT, 01375 673922, monkhams@outlook.com