

## Basset Griffon Vendéen (Petit)

18 / 10 / 2019

WITH A SPECTACULAR CLASH of events, SWKA took place at the same time as Discover Dogs in London. This prevented those who were committed to decorating breed booths and promoting their breeds from travelling to Builth Wells. There the PBGV judge was Sue Ergis, who had 5 absent from her entry of 34. BOB went to the BCC Soletrader Beatrix Potter, owned by Oliver & Erin Robertson and Lizzie Cadmore. From the Puppy Dog class, DCC went to Gemma McCartney's Soletrader Freddie Mercury, who also gained BP having just squeezed in at his last show in puppy before his first birthday on Monday. RDCC was Hunt's Ch Soletrader Buzz Aldrin at Bondlea and RBCC Phil & Dianne Reid's Maudaxi Candy's Caning It.

In AV Hound Breeders with one absent from the entry of three, judge Mark James had two PBGV groups to judge from. First place went to Foote & McAulay with Ir Ch Erylan Aphrodite La Belle, second to Reid's Maudaxi Egg Nog Eddie. It was the same judge for Yearling Stakes, awarding third place to Bartley's Erylan Zeus Roi Des Dieux. And, judged by Kyle Adams, first place in both Junior Handling Association 6-11 and Young KC 6-11 went to Erin Robertson handling Soletrader Vocal in Venice.

At London's ExCel Glenna Clark and I arrived well before doors opened to those who were decorating the breed booths. There was a slight hiccup though as, in the flurry of activity to leave home, I left the car park ticket behind! I usually pack everything the day before but, on this one occasion, I had left all the tickets out ready to go in the car before leaving. Glenna took the entry tickets, I messed up. After several minutes of heart sinking and "Can't believe what I've done", I phoned Jenna who was dog-sitting the rest of the pack and she photographed the ticket and sent it to me. I rather sheepishly told the car park attendant what I had done and he asked me to park just inside the car park, where another attendant photographed my registration number. Note to self – must remember to do that again, as I got to park closer to the building!

As those on facebook will have seen, the breed booth had a makeover this year. The previous decorations, made by Sue Drew (then Polley), of L'Artiste PBGVs had lasted well, having been first used in November 2000 at Discover Dogs, Earls Court. In an attempt to also speed up booth decoration, this year I had large vinyl banners made which, plus revamping some of the old decorations and some artificial garlands, everyone seemed to like. I have to say they looked more impressive at the show than in the photo here.



*BGV breed booth decorations - from Earls Court, November 2000 to ExCel, October 2019*

Kennel Club figures were 30,000 visitors over the two day show and, from the moment the doors opened at 10am, there was a steady flow of people keen to see both Petits and Grands. The usual questions? Of course.

Lynn Wood, who organised the rota for the weekend, thanks everyone who took part. More than enough people asked to be involved which is great and she is already well into compiling the rota for the four days at Crufts next year. So, if you would like to offer your help, now's the time to ask. You can contact Lynn on 01268 555072 or wood\_stephen9@sky.com.

Having been at Discover Dogs on the Saturday, the following day we opted to go to the nearby Hitchin show which was held at Stapleford Abbots. Seemed preferable to a 3.30am start and a minimum of 8hrs' drive to and from Builth Wells. Prof Elise Cartmell judged PBGVs and awarded our Monkham's Luna Luvgood BOB. She was short-listed in the Group, also judged by Elise Cartmell. RBOB went to Paul Osbourne's Braego Gladys Aylward.

Thanks for Geraldine Dodd for October's LOD winners who are Louise Parker with £15, £10 to Marion Gerrie and £5 to Claire Cooper.

The Breed Appreciation Day is only two weeks away now. To be held at Corley, near Coventry, this is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about both PBGVs and GBGVs. For information contact Claire Cooper on 07855 255287 or clairecooper81@hotmail.co.uk

LINDA SKERRITT, 01375 673922, monkhams@outlook.com