

## **Basset Griffon Vendéen (Petit)**

**22 / 11 / 2019**

WE HAVE A CHANGE OF JUDGE for PBGVs at our Club Championship Show on Saturday. On Monday I received an email from Harri Lehkonen letting me know that his wife, Paula, had been in an accident in Tallinn, Estonia. She had hit her head quite badly and was in intensive care at a hospital there. Thankfully her condition is now stable but obviously there is no way she could be at our show, which she had been looking forward to. Since Harri's email, Paula has contacted me from the hospital saying she is so sorry she will not be able to judge for us. Phil Freer, who came second in the 2020 Championship Show judges' ballot, has kindly accepted being the emergency replacement judge and will be taking over Paula's excellent entry of 65 / 70.

Our Chairman, Paul Osbourne, is unable to get to the show this year but has asked me to say he hopes you all have an enjoyable day. The show opens at 9am and, with the usual two rings in operation, judging of PBGVs starts at 10am. If any of you want to pay for either next year's LOD subscription or your 2020 club membership, I am sure Geraldine Dodd and Martin Bishop will be pleased to see you during the day. Similarly, 2020 Breeders Directory payments fall due shortly. You can find the application form at the bottom of this page on the club website [www.bgvclub.co.uk/breeders](http://www.bgvclub.co.uk/breeders). Money to me please. And of course, raffle prizes will be most welcome.

There is a lot of interest in the breed so it is likely plenty of visitors will be at the show, those who are thinking about welcoming a PBGV puppy into their homes. Of course, the situation remains the same with litters few and far between so some would-be owners will have to patient. KC statistics show that 23 PBGVs were registered in the autumn quarter bringing registrations to a total of 74 year to date. With only 85 registered last year, we may just about top this by the end of the year but it is a far cry from the numbers of some years back.

Diana Sadler's funeral took place on 19 November at March in Cambridgeshire, where I and three BGVC committee members joined with her two sons and their families in celebrating her life. The eulogy referred several times to her lifetime passion for dogs and her tireless work for BGVs. And, with the family's similar passion for music, time to reflect on her life was to the strains of Sicilienne played on the cello by Diana's daughter-in-law. Joining with them afterwards at a nearby country club gave an opportunity to talk and, as we all prepared to leave the car park, rather poignantly we realised Paul Anka's Diana was playing on our car radios.

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