

Basset Griffon Vendéen (Petit)

31 / 1 / 2020

LOOK AT THIS! January is over already. The month that strikes terror into many BGV owners and attacks their bank balances is all but over. Other than crying over the cost of entering Crufts, most have paid their annual BGV Club subscriptions, Limited Odds Draw subs, Breeders Directory payments and even come out of it almost smiling. But, if you haven't yet paid your annual subscription, this is a final warning. If not paid by 31 January, you will lose your right to a vote for our AGM.

On to February and many will be seeing which open shows they can go to before Crufts to get a bit of practice in, especially with the younger PBGVs. Having had my rant on the Club facebook page a few days ago, I may as well repeat it here. We don't get to as many open shows as we used to a few years back but did go to 13 last year. No critiques have been published for 6 of them. To make matters worse, two of the judges were breed people. I can see both sides of the coin in questioning the value of critiques, especially when some only appear months after a show. They range from an obvious crib of parts of the breed standard to ones confirming that the judge hadn't got a clue about the breed. And how many are disinclined to enter an open show when they find the judge allocated to do PBGVs is judging, for example, the Working Group and it seems that our breed has been added on as an afterthought "Will you do this breed as well?" It is a lottery.

I look forward to the winter months when I don't have to mow the grass – I think. I have spent most of this week mopping muddy floors as equally dirty PBGVs chase around, having brought in swathes of mud and wet from the garden.

There has been an amazing amount of interest in the Breed Celebration Lunch at the KC but I can still take a few more if you are interested. Before this, don't forget that on Thursday 23 April you have the opportunity of a tour round the Animal Health Trust's small animal clinic and laboratories. You will be taken into areas of the AHT normally reserved for vets, technicians and other staff so this is not to be missed, especially if one of your dogs has ever received treatment there. It gives you the opportunity to see the full range of equipment, vets at work and how they treat small animals. Before then, in the morning, we have been invited to presentations and updates on the Give a Dog a Genome project and Epilepsy, with time for Q&As. A courtesy lunch follows and I know from experience the AHT lunches are not to be missed! To book a place to enable me to give the AHT an idea of numbers, please contact me.

LINDA SKERRITT, 01375 673922, monkhams@outlook.com