

THE BGV WORLD CONGRESS had been on many lips for the past year and it is hard to believe that the weekend is now behind us. It was the third such event of its kind, the first being here in Newark, Notts in 2000, the second in Rhode Island, 2005. A gathering in the UK had first been mooted nearly three years ago and the chosen venue was Honiley, Warks. With delegates arriving from many European countries and as far afield as Australia, America, Canada and Israel, the event started on Friday evening with an informal get-together of about 35 who took part in a quiz. I gather rather unruly groups vied against each other to answer general dog related questions. After a tie-breaker, The Numpties headed by Sara Robertson were overall winners, with Jolanda Huisman's group coming top on specific breed related questions. The following day saw Nick Frost (Dehra, USA) judging an entry of 76 PBGVs with only a few absentees. Breeders dog/bitch were combined, also Veteran dog/bitch and the awarding of DCC did not take place until after bitch judging, keeping dog class winners on tenterhooks but resulting in a smooth run through every class. Betty Barth sitting ringside must have been elated to see that both DCC and RDCC winners were sired by her home-bred Ch/Am Ch Gebeba Texas True Grit. DCC went to Paul & Maureen Osbourne's Ch Nykarth's Kicking Off With Braego (dam Nykarth Irrestistable), RDCC Ceri McEwan's



BOB PBGV Ch Nykarth Kicking Off with Braego, BOS Ch Solettrader Peek a Boo

Maudaxi Tycoon Ginger from Marunnel (dam Ir Ch Solettrader Sherry Trifle at Maudaxi). BCC was Sara Robertson & Wendy Doherty's Ch Solettrader Peek a Boo (Cappuccino ex Ch Solettrader My Aphrodisiac), RBCC Jackie & Lewis Fraser's Solettrader Poker Face from Wyvisview (Ch Solettrader Judgement Day ex Solettrader Absolute Abba). The room's low ceiling was undoubtedly raised with the cheer that went up when BOB was awarded to Kicking Off With Braego.

BP went to Diana Sadler's new American import, Suton Crepu Visage Love from Roxy to Gemshorn (Am Ch Crepu Visage Jolly Mon Sing ex Am Ch Gemshorn You Were Made For Me) and BV Linda Lewis' Ch/Ir Ch Tangaer Magique (Dutch Ch C'est Ça du Greffier du Roi ex Tangaer Hourra).



BOB GBGV Ned/Fr/Int/Eur Ch Xpreszo du Greffier du Roi, BOS Silvermoon Sweet Sapphire

At the end of the second day after Lydia Erhart had judged the GBGVs, awarding BOB to Dutch/Fr/Int/Eur Ch Xpreszo du Greffier du Roi and BOS to Silvermoon Sweet Sapphire, BIS judge Jeff Bunney, founder member of the BGVC, had the difficult decision of deciding between the BOB GBGV Ned/Fr/Int/Eur Ch Xpreszo du Greffier du Roi and the PBGV.

His choice was the GBGV, Jolanda Huisman's & Marlou Könings' Xpreszo. Kicking Off With Braego went RBIS and, with both winner and reserve being dogs, Best Opposite Sex in Show went to PBGV Peek a Boo.

BPIS was Makey's



BIS GBGV Ned/Fr/Int/Eur Ch Xpreszo du Greffier du Roi

GBGV Gairside Ferdinand, with RBPIS to Diana Sadler's PBGV.

Winners throughout the show received special 25th anniversary championship show rosettes, goody bags, dog food and special BGVC cushions created by the hard-working Sue Brundle.



BPIS GBGV Gairside Ferdinand, RBPIS PBGV Suton Crepu Visage Love From Roxy to

The first part of the World Congress took place on Saturday afternoon following PBGV judging with a welcome from Hector Heathcote, Hound Association Chairman. As a member of the Kennel Club, he described the important liaison between the KC and breed clubs, not only on general matters but on maintaining the Standards, all the more important for the BGVC, being the custodian of two breeds.

Peter Bedford followed this by a talk on the current status of eye health in the BGV. He said that, unfortunately, as with many eye problems, veterinary circles could only ameliorate onset of glaucoma and not stop it. He stressed the importance of regular eye examination, as early diagnosis was the answer. Club records showed that, as of August 2012, 300 BGVs had been examined with 26 affected with POAG. The number of carriers is not known. The worldwide health survey carried out by the PBGVCA in collaboration with the BGVC supported the view that, in live PBGVs, eye problems remain the most significant area of concern, topped only in America by dermatological problems. One explanation offered for this was the extremes of temperature and humidity levels in the various States. Whilst POAG remains the top eye problem in the UK, cataracts and PPM are prevalent in the States, with glaucoma featuring to a much lesser extent. Joint, cardiovascular and dermatological problems are high on the UK live PBGV list, as are problems with ears, urinary, reproductive and gastrointestinal systems. In total information was gathered on 787 PBGVs and I think it worth a mention that, in 189 of the 296 live UK PBGVs, no problems were reported.



Helen Ingher, Chairman of the American Health Committee, was there to represent the PBGVCA with their findings. To see results of their health survey, which is illustrated by simple pie-charts and gives a breakdown of complaints, go to www.pbgv.org/images/Health/HealthSurvey-short/PBGV_2011_Short_Form_Survey_Final_Report_111312.pdf.

A Q&A session followed, and the day finished with Jolanda Huisman, Peter MacCormack and Betty Barth giving interesting talks about hunting in their respective countries.



There was a good gathering for the evening meal, when various auctions took place raising much needed funds. Entertainment was by Clement Johnson aka Cartledge who, as ever, charmed a captive late night audience with his passion for music and talented singing.

The second day of the conference started with an informal "Breakfast with Frost" where I am sure the answers Nick Frost gave to Jeff Pepper's unique style of interviewing delighted those who had managed to get up early enough to listen. Certainly it was a golden opportunity for those relatively new to the breed to hear how Nick had been instrumental in introducing both PBGVs and, subsequently, GBGVs to these shores. Dr Cathryn Mellersh from the AHT Canine

Genetics Research Group followed with a talk on current researches into seizing. She said that they now hold DNA from 480 PBGVs, also DNA from 21 PBGVs diagnosed with POAG or lens luxation. After a short summary of health findings from day one for those who were unable to attend on both days, Bill Lambert from the KC described the full range of work they do in support of pedigree breeds; and the subsequent breeders round the world forum was useful in that it highlighted not only various subtle differences between countries but also where everyone is working very closely together on matters of health. It was suggested that a website might be the way forward where information on health issues across the globe could be shared for the benefit of the breed. Hopefully this will finally progress embryo plans put in place in Orlando 2008 when a meeting of health delegates from various countries had suggested a similar approach and Gunnar Nymann, Denmark, had already bought a domain name for this very purpose.

The congress closed with surely the highlight of the weekend, when Jessica Holm showed everyone her delightfully comical cartoons based on all BGV-related words and the World Congress theme.

Elsewhere in the hotel, Marina Scott ran a masterclass for ten junior handlers, most of whom had come in especially for the chance to learn how to handle BGVs. An examination followed a breed specific presentation and the handlers were treated to demonstrations from Gavin Robertson, professional handler Janice Hayes from America, also GBGV owners Tim Jones and Stephen Jepson. With trade stands, club shop and raffle to interest delegates and exhibitors alike, it was a full and enjoyable weekend for everyone.

