

Bassets Griffons Vendéens (Grand)

07/07/2017

At Windsor Championship show Serena Parker judged GBGVs. From an entry of 22, less 5 absent, she found her DCC (his 16th) and BOB in Claire Cooper's Ch Debucher Matisse (Debucher Hors d'Oeuvre ex Frou Frou van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes (imp Ned)), who went on to BOB. BCC (her 8th) went to Fiona Buchanan and Mike Maclaren's Ch/Ir Ch Tarmachan Florentine (Ir Ch Tarmachan Albanwr ex Ch/Ir Ch Tarmachan Arc-en-Ciel). RDCC & BP went to her son Tarmachan Nice Over Ice (sire Frosty Snowman), who went on to top the Hound Puppy Group judged by Jenny Dove. RBCC was won by Colin & Ann Makey's Gairside Good Gracious (Can Can van TTV ex Ch/Ir Ch Gairside Sans Souci). BV was Amanda O'Day's Ch Silvamoon Sweet Sapphire ShCM (Aretbleu Burning Love ex Ch Silvamoon Sunflower. One person worthy of a mention was PBGV owner Ann Salmon who, having become the owner of an extremely nice "pet" Grand has been tempted into the GBGV show-ring, with Emma Jane at Scarscot (Minskuhoff's Diamonds Are Forever avec Braillement (imp Fin) ex Vivienne Westwood).

The long journey down from Scotland was certainly worthwhile for, as breed classes finished, Fiona and Mike followed up their wins with success in Puppy Bitch Stakes, where Nice Over Ice's litter sister handled by Fiona, Tarmachan Ice Diamond, went into first place under Mike Caple, though overall BP of the day went to the Whippet dog.

Kathryn Moulding managed the outing to Windsor as she is still receiving regular hospital treatment for various health problems; and it was good to see Pat and Trevor Mellor. Many will remember Trevor in the ring with Melanter Grandtully at Mellwarrior ShCM, their Grand, and Pat enjoyed being the club show photographer. Now that Pat has recovered sufficiently from long term health issues, she was her usual cheerful self, happy to see old friends and able to move round well in a mobility scooter.

Overseas, in Finland Dianna Spavin was judging at Tuusula show and awarded BOB to Heidi Örling's Fin Ch Debucher Orlando (Ch Debucher Rigole ex Debucher Waspish). Heidi said he was the only exhibit awarded the CQ, the award presented to a dog worthy of the CAC. And in Denmark at the annual Very Special Show, held this year at Karrebæksminde on Sydsjælland, on day one there were just three Grands present with BOB going to Zelina Olesen's Grand Awards Johan Gustavsson (Swe). Other entrants were a du Greffier du Roi Baby Puppy and a Grand Awards Puppy. In the final competition between all the basset breeds, Johan Gustavsson went BIS3. The following day for the VSS only the Baby Puppy was present.

Vivien Phillips has let me know that, on Saturday 1 July, she made the unhappy decision to have Sophie - Debucher Sauve Qui Peut (Debucher Xtrovert ex Debucher Faites Vos Jeux) put to sleep. She was 13½. Sophie was a granddaughter of two of her foundation sires, Ch Debucher le Barbu and Dehra Esperance de Debucher. Vivien said she was the sweetest bitch and produced some wonderful puppies in her three litters. One was Debucher Gitane, whose progeny formed the backbone of her kennel; and Debucher Greffier became the foundation of Nancy McLean's Ethos GBGV kennel in the States while Ch Debucher Tambour went to Mafalda Marques' do Casal dos Choupos kennel in Portugal. Sophie will go down in history as being awarded the first bitch CC in the UK, which was at Crufts in 2006. She also went to France to the Nationale d'Elevage, where she was 3rd and graded Excellent in a huge Open Bitch class behind two from the Dutch Van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes kennel. One time "nanny" to numerous puppies, she became a house dog sharing her basket with many Dachshund pups.

The schedule and entry form for the BGVC championship show on 18 November can now be seen on www.fossedata.co.uk and on the club website. Judges are: GBGVs Adele Walton Haddon, PBGVs Vivien Phillips, BIS and Junior Handling Linda Skerritt. Stakes: GBGV Rachel Wray, PBGV Mike Caple. Finally, there is still time to send any high resolution photos to Sue Marshall for next year's club calendar. A chance for your favourite BGV to appear in print! E-mail your images to sue.marshall4@btopenworld.com.

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