

Basset Griffon Vendéen (Petit)

28 / 07/2017

WHAT A SUPERB TIME they had in Alva for the BGVC Scottish Fun Day. Claire Gilluley thanks everyone for making the day such a success with their time, generosity, good humour and for being there and taking part. She says the judges and stewards were amazing as were the kitchen crew and those coping with the tremendous number of wonderful raffle prizes. She thanks Fiona from Handmade by Fifi in Irvine for her amazing donations for BPIS and BVIS. Among the many others to be thanked are Karen Scott who had a great stall and gave a donation, also Tina, Dave and those who took photos of the day.

The day before some had travelled to Leeds ch show at Harewood where there were just nine present of the 12 entered for Fran Mitchell. At just 6mths old, BP, BB & BOB went to Reid's Maudaxi Daiquiri Doughnut (Vilauddens Isaak ex Trezeguet Treacle Sponge at Maudaxi) with BD going to their Maudaxi Nick Nack (Maudaxi Jimmy Choo ex Treacle Sponge). RBD was Bartley's Erylan Loki Maitre du Mal (sire Ch Taglines Double the Fun with Soletrader) with RBB going to his mother Ir Ch Clonallan Just Beginning avec Erylan ShCM (Chouan Total Vision at Clonallan ex Clonallan Chase). BV was Bamforth's Helensfield Wicker (Helensfield Tracker ex Debucher Kandidate at Helensfield).

Looking to future shows, we now know there is a great entry of 45 at Houndshow for Espen Engh, who last judged the breed at Bournemouth in 2013. In days where entries are declining, it will be good to see so many in the ring. Houndshow often attracts friends from overseas and I look forward to seeing Robyn & Russ Wallis (Rokeena) who will be visiting from Australia.

There have been many sad PBGV owners this year who have lost a loved family member. Jenna and I are not exempt. I finalise these notes on 26 July a few hours after our much loved Dixie died during the night. Born on 6 April 2003, Ch Monkams Dixie Chick ShCM (Ch/Am Ch Afterglow Woody Woodpecker ex Monkams Astra) had a wonderful life with us, the highlight perhaps being when we took her to Denmark in 2006. In the short time we were there and competing against our other PBGVs, two of whom came back as Danish champions, she won a CAC and RCACIB. She became a champion when 7yrs old, had 5 CCs, 4 RCCs and won numerous BPIS and BIS at open show level. We retired Dixie from the showing in 2015. Having won Veteran Bitch at Crufts and Hound Veteran Group 3 at the National, she went out at the top.

I have also just received distressing news from Jette Vind Ramvad in Denmark. I find it hard to believe that today, just a few hours after our loss, she too has had to say goodbye to one of her PBGVs, Dk/Int Ch Petit Heroes Blonde on Blonde. Rosa was born on 2 January 2007. Her sire was Dk/Ger Ch Monkams Hash Brown, her dam Soletrader Miss Money Penny. She was the mother of Dk/Fin/Pol/Ger/Int Ch Petit Heroes Canned Heat (Otto). Some of you will have seen them recently when Jette judged PBGVs and GBGVs at Border Union and she and husband, Christian, brought their PBGVs with them.

As dog owners, we know that their lifespan is far shorter than ours and we accept that, in years to come, we will have to suffer the intense pain and emptiness of their death. We balance this up with the many years of joy and companionship they give us. There is no correct way to grieve and work through this process, as everyone walks down a different path with what happens to their companion and in accepting the loss. As part of the BGV family, we are all fortunate in that we have the support of others who have the breed, wonderful friends who share our upset.

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