

Basset Griffon Vendéen (Petit)

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THE MARATHON SPELL OF SHOWS got under way with Houndshow at Stafford on 5 August. Hound Association can be proud that, while other championship show entries rise, they keep their prices competitive, doubtless helped by running the show without tenting. It does make you wonder though when the KC requirements for benching will be relaxed, as row upon row of unused benches in Bingley Hall is a complete waste of space, let alone pointless effort by the benching company in erecting and dismantling it, with the cost passed onto the exhibitor who doesn't want it or use it. Of course, the downside of lack of tenting is, if it rains you get wet. With heavy showers throughout the day, most PBGV exhibitors were in, out, in, out, not knowing where judging would take place. Only Paul Osbourne stayed put inside, amused as some of us returned for the second time in our efforts to stay dry. As particularly black clouds moved slowly towards Stafford and we seemed to be the only breed left outside, judge Espen Engh decided we should stay put and hope the rain held off. However, one class into his judging and the downpour started. With a steward deftly signalling towards the building, we all packed up yet again and trundled back inside. Of course, indoor wet weather rings are never as satisfactory as grass rings. In the deserted and rather dismal area at the end of Bingley hall, thanks to space taken by benching, we were the only breed being judged but, despite the stewards removing the tape between two rings, they didn't turn the judge's table round so exhibitors were still confined to the one ring.

I can only imagine what the overseas visitors thought of the weird judging arrangements brought on by our changeable English climate but they seemed to take it all philosophically. It was certainly good to see PBGV enthusiasts Jeff Pepper from the States, Russ & Robyn Wallis from Australia, Anders Tunold-Hanssen from Norway and Holger Busk from Denmark. Others included David Johannes Øbro-Hansen showing his Bassets, with whom Holger travelled and Bryan Mangelsdorf, Yarramba Bassets, also from Downunder.

From an entry of 45, there were just 4 PBGVs absent. DCC and BOB went to Sara Robertson & Wendy Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike; BCC, her third, to Sara Robertson, Wendy Doherty & Lizzie Greenslade's Soletrader Rita Ora. Reserves went to Jane Brown's Soletrader Valentino Rossi and the Dalgarno's Nykarth Magic Moment, whom the judge had awarded BP at Bournemouth 2013. BP at this show went to Lynne Scott's 8mth old Overbecks Kathy Tiere (Ch Taglines Double the Fun with Soletrader ex Soeltrader Ain't Actin' Up at Overbecks) and BV to Paul Osbourne's Ch Debucher Jezebel at Braego ShCM. In other classes, Bartley's Erylan Loki Maitre Du Mal gained Reserve in the MPD Stakes judged by Gavin Robertson and Foote's Erylan Aphrodite La Belle was also Reserve in Dorwest Special Beginners YD/B under Rachel Barney.

As part of the KC initiative to encourage clubs to join together for holding their shows on the same site, eight were hosted this year by Houndshow. Despite the early start to judging, this inevitably meant that priority was given to these clubs for being first in the ring for Houndshow, allowing them to hold their own shows later in the day. Those clubs, including the BGVC, not wishing to go back-to-back were treated to a late start. This may have been welcomed by some but the afternoon start to judging meant a late getaway for those travelling down to Exeter for Paignton the following day.

There judge Colin Gillanders had five absent from his entry of 33. He chose the same PBGVs for DCC/BOB, BCC and BP, with RBCC going to the puppy. RDCC was Linda Lewis' Tangaer Charles Bronsen. Magic Mike went on to Hound G3 under Jeff Horswell and Kathy Tiere won the PB Stakes under J Richardson. Soletrader Ain't Actin Up at Overbecks ShCM was placed 3rd in the KW Woodall Memorial Stakes judged by A Stewart.

Those already at the Bournemouth showground for this weekend's judging are experiencing heavy rain. Let's hope the rings dry out for the 26 PBGVs entered for Jeff Horswell. Then on to Builth Wells for WKC where there is an entry of 39 for Anne MacDonald.

LOD winners for August are Mrs A Collins with £15, Sue Brundle £10 and Nicola Quadling £5. There are still some numbers available if you wish to take part and have the chance of winning some money. Raising cash this way gives the club much needed funds to help support the BGV Club's Welfare and Rescue. Contact Geraldine Dodd on 01582 865828 or g_dodd@hotmail.co.uk.

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