

Basset Griffon Vendéen (Grand)

11 / 08 / 2017

The busiest weekend of the show calendar has been and gone - I drove over 1100 miles in 4 days! Hounds show saw Wendell Moore take centre stage for the first time. He started judging at approx 1145 after undertaking a decent entry of Longhaired Dachshunds, under dark clouds which held off until the Dog CC was called in when the heavens opened. He awarded the CC and reserve and then there was a mad dash under cover with a bit of confusion as to where the wet weather ring was. As such there was a break between the dog and bitch judging.

From an entry of 24 minus 3 absent he awarded the CCs to litter brother and sister Ch & Ir Chs Tarmachan Cartier and Florentine owned and bred but Fiona Buchanan and Michael MacLaren. Both reserves went to my Champions Debucher Matisse and X Factor. Best puppy was Fiona and Michael's Tarmachan Ice Diamond. Best Veteran was Danielle Machent's Wilmit Eclipse.

Even though we were second in the ring it was then a long wait until gone 5pm when the group was called. I remember the days when at about 2.30 - 3pm we were all around the BIS ring watching the group. I wonder why it was so late this year. Shirley Rawlings was the judge and she awarded Group 3 to Cartier and shortlisted Ice Diamond in the puppy group.

We then had the mad dash to Paignton whether it was that afternoon/evening or the following morning where luckily we were third in the ring so it wasn't a ridiculously early start. Colin Gillanders was centre stage and from an entry of 19 with 4 absentees Dog CC and BOB was a repeat of the previous day. Reserve DCC was Ann and Colin Makey's Gairside Good Lord JW. BCC was Danielle's Ch Wilmit Gigi of Grandoreille with Florentine picking up the RCC. Best puppy was again Ice Diamond.

Jeff Horsewell judged the adult group awarding Cartier Group 4 and Tom Johnston the puppy group awarding Ice Diamond group 3. I'm sure that Fiona and Mike sailed home to Scotland on a high.

For me I find no atmosphere at Paignton with it being extremely spread out. This year tent 2 and the main hall were in use with tent 1 being empty until South West hound judging started. This was a shame as many dogs found it difficult to drive off their rear ends on the slippery floor in the hall. Especially as judging did not commence until 1 pm and we did not have the best of entries.

Ramblings over - news and views welcome.

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