

Basset Griffon Vendéen (Petit)

06 / 10/ 2017

MY 22 SEPTEMBER BREED NOTES were somewhat prophetic when I talked about trying to keep dogs clean in bad weather, with Windsor 2007 being deep in mud and people slipping everywhere. Hard to believe it was ten years ago. I judged Bassets and Diana Sadler did PBGVs, awarding BD to Soletrader Rooster Booster and BOB to Ch Soletrader My Aphrodisiac. Just a few shows stick in exhibitors' memories and Driffield 2017 will surely also go down as one to remember, with plenty of photos on social media warning of the dreadful conditions which are, of course, outside the show committee's control though doubtless gives them a headache and extra work. Thankfully Hound day was blessed with some sunshine but the damage had already been done in preceding days. Like Wetherby Racecourse shows of the past, the ground was a nightmare of swathes of mud as unfortunately it is prone to flooding. I remember one year when I watched other cars trying to get up the slope to the exit and doubted whether it would get out of the car park. I could do nothing as we slid slowly sideways towards a parked vehicle. At the last minute, I managed to turn and we glided gracefully into the space next to the car I had narrowly avoided hitting. And who remembers 2009 when gale force winds forced judging to be under tenting that contractors were kept busy hammering down; and anyone who braved the portaloos was likely to have their door ripped open by a gust of wind. But this is all part of life's rich tapestry, exhibitors are hardy folk and take it all in their stride and thus it was for last weekend's show. With car parking moved to higher ground, although I don't think many were on hard-standing, at least the grass was firmer.

With a longer walk into the showground, a slatted plastic walkway helped get the dogs so far towards the tenting but it was difficult to negotiate the final stretch into the tent, where the mud was deepest. For dogs in trollies pushing or pulling them was extra hard work and any that walked in ended up with black feet and legs.

There was a lovely surprise for the winners at Driffield when PBGV judge Geraldine Dodd, giving CCs for the first time, presented gifts to them. The talented person who made them, Jim Salmon, was watching ringside. There were 11 absent from a good entry of 44. DCC, his third, went to Teresa Eaton's Debucher Unique (Ch Soletrader Tom Thumb ex Fae-Lemon de Chez Chanou Debucher) with Reserve going to Sara Robertson & Wendy Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike (Boom Chicago van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes ex Ch Soletrader Peek a Boo). In bitches, the award of BCC went to the JB winner, Steve & Lorna Wyllie's Tangaer Calvera Avec Callydena (Callydena Baileys On Ice ex Ch Debucher Sybelle avec Callydena). RBCC was our Beaujons Ugly Betty of Monkham's JW ShCM. BP went to Phil & Dianne Reid's Maudaxi Pina Colada Parfait (Vilauddens Isaak ex Trezeguet Treacle Sponge at Maudaxi). Faye lives with the Gerries in Scotland and was handled by Colin.

Faye seems to be doing quite well for herself as Marion Gerrie let me know that she had a fabulous first Open Show at Selkirk & District CS 90th Anniversary on 10 September. She went BOB, Hound Group 4 and followed this up by winning the Hound Puppy Group and going BPIS.

At South Wales there are 20 PBGVs for judge Sue Virgo, news of this next week.

2018 Club calendars have arrived and Sue Marshall is now busy taking orders. Price £9.00 (+ £1.50 p&p within UK, ask about overseas). To order your copy, contact Sue on 01245 265828 or sue.marshall4@btopenworld.com.

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