

Basset Griffon Vendéen (Petit)

27 / 10/ 2017

WHAT A BUSY WEEKEND the club has just had. On Saturday Sue & Nick Marshall were at ExCeL for opening time to set up the BGV breed booths for Discover Dogs. Kim Culyer-Dawson and Tim Jennings helped. As storm Brian lashed the UK with winds of 70mph and above on Saturday, we were all wondering whether this would deter people from travelling to ExCeL. However the worst of the transport chaos, power cuts and bouts of flooding were centred away from London and, by midday, we could hardly move for the throngs of people milling around. Jenna, Glenna Clark and I were kept busy all morning answering questions at the PBGV breed stand and Kim took over in the afternoon, having recovered from falling gracefully at the side of the booth earlier in the day. It was the same on Sunday when Jan and Martin Bishop, then Pat Gregory talked to visitors keen to learn more about the breed. I have to admit I seemed to put quite a few genuinely interested people off having a PBGV when they learned off the amount of grooming, that they couldn't leave them on their own all day and a flat in London with no garden wasn't really suitable. Mention must be made of the Club Treasurer, Colin Makey, who with wife Ann attended to take part in the JW competition with their young GBGV, Gairside Good Lord JW, who made it to the short-list of 10 for the group in which he competed.

On to Sunday and breed seminars and assessments took place at Corley Village Hall, near Coventry. As the Club is responsible for two breeds, the timetable must be adhered to for getting through two in one day and, if it slips at any stage, this has a knock-on effect. My personal stress levels subsided just before 9am when I finally managed to get the projector working and the first frame of the PBGV powerpoint presentation appeared on the wall. Ex-PBGV owner, Glenna Clark, who had travelled up from Devon to help at the weekend events, was kept busy in the kitchen all day alongside Lynn Wood, who carried on despite having had a nasty fall and hitting her head at home early in the day. They were helped by Kim Culyer-Dawson in the afternoon and Joan Robertson was also occupied, preparing tables for lunch and ferrying refreshments to assessors and helpers alike.

Gavin Robertson gave the talks, assisted afterwards by too many to mention who all came with examples of the breeds for the candidates to go over. Thirteen undertook the PBGV hands-on assessment, followed by twelve for the afternoon GBGV session although two were unable to stay and attend the assessment.

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