

Basset Griffon Vendéen (Petit)

15 / 12/ 2017

OH MY, ARE YOU ALL KEEPING WARM? What can I say about the experience that was LKA which hasn't already been said on social media? I have never had so many phone calls and text messages as I had while driving to the NEC early Sunday morning. Jenna acted as my secretary to let people know where we were, what the roads were like, how bad the snow was, commiserating with those who were forced to abandon their journey and give updates when we got stuck in jams. It doesn't matter how careful you are, I have to say there are some lunatic drivers on the roads. But, despite those that slid round in circles on the outside lane of the M1, that drove past far too fast, had to get out and push and others that slid gracefully over into our lane nearer the NEC, we somehow made it with time to spare. My harassed look remarked on by several on arrival said it all but, once I had calmed down, it was an enjoyable day.

There were absentees in all breeds, not least in PBGVs where Brian Ballan had 12 missing from his entry of 35. Judging of GBGVs before us was delayed as there was no steward. One can only sympathise with the problems the LKA committee had to overcome with some judges and stewards unable to get to the show. We have to thank Sheelah Bamford, who happened to be nearby and who gave in gracefully as we all said "You can do it" – and how good she was in making light work of the job. DCC & BB went to Robertson & Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike, with BCC going to Reid's Ch Trezeguet Plum Crumble at Maudaxi. Reserves were awarded to the younger Robertsons and Lizzie Greenslade's Soletrader Buddy Holly, who was also BP, and our Beaujons Ugly Betty of Monkams JW ShCM. BV went to Ceri McEwan's Culdaws Diesle From Marunnel. With the show committee speeding things on to ensure all got away and on the roads at a reasonable hour, Hound BOBs were called to the collecting ring before our breed judging was quite finished. Magic Mike made it in time though and was awarded with a G2 by Renee Spore-Willes (Sweden). There were only 8 present out of 38 entered in the Junior Bitch Stakes judged by Darren Clarke, who awarded VHC to Steve & Lorna Wyllie's Tangaer Calvera avec Callydena.

The same weekend the Holland Cup and Winner Show took place in Amsterdam. The entries for this event have dwindled year on year and, for the Holland Cup, there was just one entered for Cindy Kerssemeijer (NL) with five for Valerio Nataletti (IT) at the Winner Show, where BOB went Anouk Huikeshoven's Hatta Mari van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes (Vilauddens Ronin ex Pumpkin Pie van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes).

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