

Basset Griffon Vendéen (Petit)

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CRUFTS ENTRY NUMBERS have now been announced with 75, 79 for PBGVs, a drop on the 86 last year. Could it be the escalation in entry charges that is putting it out of reach of many? Open shows are plentiful in the run-up to the big event and Isle of Ely took place last weekend with our Beaujons Ugly Betty of Monkham's JW ShCM going BOB under Kim Culyer-Dawson. She was later short-listed in a large Hound Group judged by Karen Simkin (Simeldaka). Isle of Ely is one of the many shows held successfully at the Wood Green Animal Shelter, Godmanchester. The Britten Arena there is one of the Eastern region's most popular international size indoor arenas. The large flexible space is licensed to hold up to 3,000 people and is the ideal venue for large scale conferences, parties, auctions, exhibitions and not least dog shows. It has therefore been met with dismay that time is now ticking on the last few shows to be held there. It seems the arena is due for redevelopment so all canine societies who have used this ideal venue for many years are hunting for alternative venues. Luton, who dropped PBGV classes some years back, reintroduced them for one year, then dropped them again, has already announced it will be moving to the KC Building, Stoneleigh. This is a far cry from East Anglia so, like other shows (eg Isle of Ely who are going to Grantham) it will lose quite a lot of its regular exhibitors from over the years but gain some from a new catchment area.

I can sympathise with the difficulties in finding a suitable venue for an open show as the few that do allow dogs are often outside the financial reach of many. Finding a venue for our BGV Club shows can be equally frustrating when we have to ensure the hall is big enough, there is a kitchen, an annexe, the car park can take enough cars or there is nearby street parking and, most important of all, it is within the Club's budget.

Thoughts are with Philip and Beryl Beugelaar who have had to say goodbye to Mollie. She was 10yrs old and suffered from epilepsy, though Philip and Beryl can be proud that she has played a huge part in contributing towards the AHT's researches into identifying the mutant gene responsible.

The Afghan Hound Association is holding an event entitled Memoirs, Mentors & Mayhem on Saturday 21 April 2018 at Chieveley Village Hall, Berkshire RG20 8TE starting at 11am. This is promising to be an informal, fun packed day! They will have historic archives and information on their sighthounds on display and, for those considering the mentoring programme of the Judges Competency Framework, they will be discussing all aspects with a chance for practice. After lunch the mayhem starts with their popular fun classes, a chance to try your hand at 'judging' and a new venture called 'Fun-Obreedience'. You are invited to go along with your hounds and join in. All details from Melinda Hitch (melinda.hitch@yahoo.co.uk) or Susan Rhodes (susan@shadowfaxafghans.com). Book early as space may be limited.

LINDA SKERRITT, 01375 673922, monkhams@aol.com