

Basset Griffon Vendéen (Petit)

16 / 3 / 2018

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT WE WERE ALL AT CRUFTS A WEEK AGO TODAY? With some areas under threat of more snow, we must be thankful the weather behaved itself for this show as it can be a completely misery getting dogs and paraphernalia in from distant car parks.

Time marches on and suddenly we are at the “entries closing” date of Saturday, 17 March for our club open show, which takes place at Weedon Bec, Northants, on Saturday 7 April. So, if you haven’t yet done your entry form, you need to get it in the post tomorrow, with proof of posting. As a regular visitor, our judge from Norway, Anders Tunold-Hanssen was, as usual, sitting ringside at Crufts so we are looking forward to seeing him again soon. Also, with our 22 April AGM on the horizon, if your nomination for secretary or committee member is not already in the post to arrive with me tomorrow, 17 March, you are too late! However, items for the agenda can be sent up to 24 March.

I received the sad news yesterday that Anne Mackenzie has died. Rather strangely, I wrote about Anne and husband Sandy in our Winter Voice, part of a series of articles planned on the history of our club trophies. Although her health was failing, I learned that Anne, now in Herefordshire for many years, had been thrilled to see the article. Parts of it are reproduced here: “It was in 1979 that Sandy and Anne Mackenzie (Wakelyns), who lived in Suffolk, first saw a Basset Griffon Vendéen, as they were called in those days, at a local agricultural show. They were so attracted to the breed that, in 1982, Sandy joined Anne on the committee of the BGV Club that had only been in existence for four years. Their first PBGV was Twinrivers Duchesse of Wakelyns from Ruth Brucker. In 1986 at the Houndshow Musette, as they called her, became the second bitch champion in the breed. A desire to widen the limited gene pool here in the UK at that time led to the Mackenzies and Ruth going to Belgium in 1982, where they acquired Gourou from R. Noel. As early breeders, Anne and Sandy also welcomed others to BGVs, many of whom are still active and influential club members”.

“From the early 1980s, with their attention firmly fixed on PBGVs, in terms of breed history, an earlier mating between another import, Pacha des Barbus d’Entre Lac, and their Twinrivers Duchesse, produced Angelique, who went to Canada. In 1983, a Jomil Pascal – Wakelyns Angelique mating gave Alexander (Belray Alexander Gebeba) who sparked immense interest in the breed in the States and, a year later, the PBGV Club of America was formed. In 1984, a repeat Gourou-Duchesse mating gave the PBGVCA its first breed Champion, Wakelyns Noblesse”.

Like other breeders such as Kathryn Moulding, my husband and I had Sandy and Anne to thank for one of our first two PBGVs, who was from a Gourou -Twinrivers Duchesse of Wakelyns mating. Willow was born in May 1983. Despite bearing some Grand characteristics, which was to be expected in those days not long after separation of the Grand and Petit in France, she did well at shows. Also, judges were not as aware of the distinguishing features of the breed as they are now.

Details of Anne’s funeral are not yet known.

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