

Basset Griffon Vendéen (Petit)

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DESPITE THE ABYSMAL WEATHER, open shows were well supported over the Easter weekend. At Edwinstowe Paul Osbourne's Braego Gladys Aylward went BOB and G4 under Barbara Milton. The following day at North Lincs Dog Club the judge was Pamela McKenzie-Hewitt (Woolhouse) who awarded BOB and BP to Stuart Watson & Many Kenna's Alonzo Grande Cuore Mit Cynetkoy.

At the Swedish KC Int Show in Malmo, Jette Ramvad awarded BOB and G2 to Annicka Lofgren's Around Drama Queen and at Imatra Int Show in Finland Vivien Phillips awarded BOB to Kristina Bergström's Soletrader Just Jazz, who went on to G4 under Miodrag Vretenicic.

April's LOD winners are Vivien Phillips with £15, Hilary Cole £10 and Mr & Mrs Hardy £5.

With entries closed, not long now to the PBGVCA's National, which can be hard to resist taking place in Hurrah's Hotel & Casino, Reno, Nevada. On 26 April Mary Ann Brocius is the Regional Conformation judge and, following Obedience and Rally on 27th, 28th see Bill Shelton judging the National.

Also in America, the death has been announced of Barbara Oxholm. With husband Gary she was known for their Polygor PBGVs. In the early '80s Barbara saw a slide show by noted canine writer Louise Shattuck. It included a BGV. From that date, she started looking for one. On seeing the famous Alexander at the 1983 "Supermatch", the PBGV who kickstarted interest in the States, she surprised George Barth by saying she recognised the breed. George told her where he and Betty had bought Alexander and, borrowing all the cash she could from her dog friends, Barbara jumped into her car and drove upstate to buy a Belray dog and bitch. Belray Polygor Foxy, became her foundation bitch. Since then many Polygor PBGVs appeared in the ring and Barbara became a respected judge and mentor of the breed.

Latterly she became the first President of the GBGVCA and worked very hard to get the breed AKC recognition in the early years of the club and, in 2017, was granted Honorary Membership.

The death has also been announced of Michael Bruzzone. His wife Lisa is a professional dog handler at American shows and, as a PBGV owner, has supported the breed for many years.

Here we are now just before a rather different day for the club show on Saturday when, after judging, to celebrate the 40th year of the BGV Club there is a special afternoon of fun events for all club members. The inaugural meeting of the club took place on 19 February 1978 in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. During that year the first newsletter was published and work began on producing a breed standard. However, as French imports to the UK were initially registered in France as Bassets Griffons Vendéens, these and others born in England were similarly registered at the KC in England. This confused matters slightly and the question arose of whether there should be one BGV Standard incorporating both sizes. An old 1920s French Basset Griffon Vendéen Standard formed the basis of the draft. Following correspondence between the Club and the KC who made it clear there could be no Standard for a breed that at the time didn't exist in the country, by 1983 one was eventually issued solely for the Petit Basset. GBGVs subsequently arrived in 1989 and the process started again, with presenting an interim Standard to the KC.

The show opens at 9am at Weedon Bec Village Hall, Northants NN7 4QU with judge Anders Tunold-Hanssen from Norway commencing judging of 19 Grands at 9.30am. There will be a very short break before he continues with his entry of 33 PBGVs. If you have a trophy, please do not forget to return it on the day and tombola prizes will be gratefully accepted as this will be running all day and will be replenished regularly with more great prizes. Food and refreshments will be available from when you arrive and there is the return of the well-liked baked potatoes for lunch, with a choice of fillings including Peter Marks' popular chilli.

During this time other members will be arriving to join in the afternoon's celebration event which, apart from the tombola, sees fun classes, including fancy dress for the dogs, a quiz, musical mats and goodies for all. Refreshments will continue to be available and lots of delicious cake. What more could you ask for? I look forward to seeing you.

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