

Basset Griffon Vendéen (Petit)

13 / 7 / 2018

IT IS ONLY PROPER that I start these notes with the sad news of the death of Hubert Desamy who deserves the soubriquet the Father of the Breed. He was 98 and the last of a family who devoted their lives to the Basset Griffon Vendéen and the Grand Basset in particular. Hubert followed in the footsteps of his grandfather Paul Dezamy who created a type, hunting under the name "Rallye Bocage" and breeding under the name "de la Levraudière". With Hubert's passing, an era of almost 140 years has come to an end.

It was during his presidency of the French Club du Griffon Vendéen that interbreeding between the Grand and Petit was finally stopped and he placed great store on judges judging to type and not just the difference in height. At that time (early 1970s) the Grand and Petit BGV were named BGV de grande taille and BGV de petite taille and the centimetres made all the difference - Basset Griffon Vendéen de 34-38cm and Basset Griffon Vendéen de 38-42cm, so at 38cm it could have gone either way depending on type. For the French it was no problem as type was the most important aspect. However in other countries, especially in Holland under the direction of Mrs Gondrexon, a judge Dutch judge with much influence in the Dutch Brakkenclub and the Raad van Beheer, emphasis remained on height, considered to be the most important difference. In Biars sur Cère (France) in June 1975 a Dutch friend of Hubert's, Thelma Vlas, asked the committee at the Assemblée Générale to change the names to Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen and Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen, without the "taille" (height). The Président and the whole committee understood the problems and M. Désamy asked the SCC in Paris to change the Standards. In 1976 they were changed by the FCI (Fédération Canine Internationale). This was to be followed by every member country, although Thelma had a fight on her hands as, under the influence of Mrs Gondrexon, most judges in Holland continued placing emphasis on height. M. Désamy did all he could to make clear that it was the type. He even wrote a letter to the Brakkenclub and the Raad van Beheer but they would not listen. They refused registration for Thelma Vlas' puppies from Ibis des Genêts Roux x Idée des Genêts Roux, both Grands and confirmed as such in France, saying they were a cross between a Petit and Grand (due to height). It was thanks to Hubert Desamy's further intervention that the director of the Société Centrale Canine informed the FCI. They made enquiries and the situation was corrected. A rather embarrassing outcome from this seems to have been that Mrs Gondrexon was deprived of the right to judge in France for life.

At East of England, Serena Parker made it a clean sweep for Soletrader with DCC and BOB going to Magic Mike, who went on to G2 under breed specialist John Walton Haddon, BCC (her third) to Around Zlightly Different with Soletrader (imp Swe) and BP to Soletrader Beatrix Potter. Reserves went to Reid's Maudaxi Tommy Holedigger and Blake & Reid's Vilauddens Midsummer Madness, another Swedish import. BV was Brown's Ch Soletrader Louis Vuitton.

Critiques four our club open show are now on <http://www.bgvclub.co.uk/2018-open-show-results>. On to Houndshow which takes place this Saturday and the Association has announced moves to tackle hot weather concerns. All judging will be inside so there may be minor ring number changes. There will be increased and frequent patrols of the car park and a strict zero tolerance policy of any dogs left in any vehicle at any time, however short that might be. Exhibitors have been advised to arrive at the show with a method of getting dogs in straight away and not leaving them in vehicles while they set-up. If any are found in cars judging will be immediately suspended in the rings concerned and those responsible made the subject of a complaint by the Hound Association to The Kennel Club while in addition those concerned could be banned from exhibiting at Houndshow for up to five years.

Thanks as usual to Geraldine Dodd for the Limited Odds Draw winners for July who are Jean Hood with £15, £10 to Deborah Dunseith and £5 to Christine Stevenson. Don't forget, if you would like a chance every month to win some money, contact Geraldine on 01582 865828 / g_dodd@hotmail.co.uk for details and to get your own number.

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