

Basset Griffon Vendéen (Petit)

20 / 7 / 2018

FIRST OF ALL, a reminder that the BGV Club's Scottish Fun Day takes place from midday until 5pm this Saturday, 21 July, at Carnock & Gowkhill Community Centre in Dunfermline KY12 9JP. This is the second year running the hard-working Scottish fans of the breed have mounted an event for everyone. Last year's was highly successful and this year there will once more be fun classes and scent games to take part in, as well as lovely rosettes, goodie bags and prizes for the lucky winners. £5 entry covers all dogs. All breeds are welcome, pets and show dogs. There will be some great raffle prizes and excellent stalls at the event too, whose owners have kindly donated to the raffle. It should be a special day for everyone with their four-legged friends and all the organisers looking forward to seeing you. For more details go to www.bgvclub.co.uk/diary-dates.

At the time of writing, the very hot weather is continuing and Houndshow's precautions of having all judging inside were indeed wise, as unlike other championship shows, they have no in-and-out tenting but rings are set up outside. This creates a wonderful atmosphere for this prestigious show but if it rains (as last year), you get wet unless moved to an indoor ring; if it is hot, you melt. With this year's extraordinarily long hot spell I am sure exhibitors were grateful for the consideration given to the wellbeing of their dogs, though I gather it was pretty stifling in the halls. PBGV judging took place in the Prestwood Building following 19 GBGVs (with one entered in more than one class). Both breeds were judged by Alan Mease. In PBGVs there were four absent from the 31 entered. He awarded DCC and BOB to Sara Robertson & Wendy Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike with RDCC going to the only entry in JD, Ceri McEwan's Marunnel Orinoco. BCC went to Sara, Erin & Oliver Robertson's Soletrader Beatrix Potter who was also BP. RBCC was Chris Blake & Dianne Reid's Vilauddens Midsummer Madness (imp Swe). With Paul Osbourne sweeping up both Veteran awards, the choice for BV went to Ch Debucher Jezebel at Braego ShCM. Best Special Beginner, the only one entered, went to Bartley's Erylan Loki Maitre Du Mal.

Magic Mike conquered all again, going on to BIS under Marie Bryce-Smith. In other classes, VHC in the Bill Home Memorial Stakes judged by Graham Hill went to Foote's Erylan Aphrodite La Belle. A special mention must also be made of Min Witheyman who borrowed Swede (Vilauddens Midsummer Madness) for the Hound JHA 12-16yrs Semi-finals judged by Charley Donaldson. Min was thrilled to win, made even better by Katie and Lilly O'Brien being placed 2nd and 3rd with their PBGVs. This was Min's last ever JHA semi-final which made this win even more special. It was certainly a PBGV day as, before this, the 6-11yrs winner was Erin Robertson handing Around Zlightly Different with Soletrader.

Meanwhile, at the ILKA in Ireland, Ir Ch Soletrader Buddy Holly went BIS2 under Janet Duke having won the Group under Carla Bollard-O'Callaghan and the breed under Evelyn Hurley. Buddy, who is shown by Cathy Neill, now tops the ICP/ GAIN leaderboard., standing at #1 All Breeds. And at open shows, Gilluley's Haliston Didier ShCM went BOB and G3 at Annandale CS and Lynn & Steve Wood and Jette Ramvad's Beaujons Velvet won the Puppy Group at Peterborough & DCS, having gone through from NSC Hound, both judged by Elizabeth Watson. Unfortunately it seems there were a few unhappy puppy exhibitors for BPIS as apparently the judge failed to go over the pups.

The death has been announced of Alec Mackenzie, who gave CCs in PBGVs. The last time he judged the breed was at East of England 2011 where he awarded DCC to Sara Robertson's Soletrader Rant or Rave and BCC/BOB to her Ch Soletrader Peek a Boo, who went on to RBIS under Ron James. A regular visitor to the club open shows when held at Steventon not too far from his home, I think the last time he came was in March 2014. Early 2017 he was moved to the PBGV Honorary judging list after the KC confirmed he had withdrawn from judging.

As we move towards 2019 and introduction of a new way of training our breed judges, the BGVC's Breed Education Co-ordinator, Claire Cooper, went to last weekend's BEC Information Day mounted by the KC. Claire said it was incredibly useful and now has a clearer picture of the new judging process. All Co-ordinators were given a copy of the KC's Judges Competency Framework Overview, which can now be seen on www.bgvclub.co.uk/judges-competency-framework.

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