

Basset Griffon Vendéen (Petit)

10 / 8 / 2018

AT PAIGNTON judge John Thirlwell could hardly afford to lose two from his entry of 18. From the six dogs entered, DCC and BOB went to Robertson & Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike with RCC going to second in OD, Reid's Maudaxi Nick Nack. From the 10 bitches present, BCC was awarded to Oliver & Erin Robertson's Around Zlightly Different with Soletrader, who recently became a champion. From Post Graduate, Reserve was Reid's Maudaxi Pussy Galore. BP went to Oliver & Erin Robertson's Soletrader Beatrix Potter. Best Special Beginner, the only one present, went to Crowe's Caldewriver Madame Hattie. And it was another Group win for Magic Mike, this time under Mrs Sandra Marshall.

I read the results while in Denmark at the well-organised Billund show which attracted an entry of over 2,200. There the PBGV judge was Malgorzata Wieremiejczyk-Wierzchowska (Pol), who worked hard all day judging countless breeds. But here too there was a low PBGV entry, not uncommon as there are nowadays far fewer PBGVs exhibited in Denmark than there were 14 years ago when I first started enjoying their shows. Only the more prestigious events, such as the Bassetklubben's Very Special Show, attract a higher entry, when exhibitors enter from other Scandinavian countries and Germany or further afield. BOB at this show went to Annette Faaborg's Ruffled Beards Cool like Conte (Ebouriffe Spikes and Sparrow ex L'ange Barbu d'Anglais Haut de Gamme), bred and handled by Lisa Nielsen. BP was Jette Ramvad's After Me a Piece of Heaven (Nightdream Cristiano Ronaldo ex Soletrader Just Jazz), bred by Kristina Bergström in Finland.



The differences between how championship shows are run in the UK and in other countries is always food for thought. No benching for starters but a multitude of colourful exhibitor tents set up around each ring. I counted 18 around the one where PBGVs were exhibited. There are very, very few catalogues printed nowadays. Anyone, including exhibitors, can view the catalogue free on-line on www.hundeweb.dk and as usual the judge's critiques were posted immediately after judging. No, these Basset exhibitors aren't checking their e-mails, they are looking at their dogs' critiques!



On his way from Norway to Amsterdam to judge at the World Show Anders Tunold-Hanssen was there as a student judge for several breeds and, as we are now moving in this direction in the UK, I took the opportunity of talking to him about the system.

The judge has no choice in the matter but is told beforehand he/she will be having a student judge. The judge discusses his/her impressions of the dog in front of the exhibitor and the student can make his/her own observations but this, of course, will not influence the judge's views, neither will there be any differences of opinion leading to a heated debate! Afterwards the judge completes an important form to hand to the student judge on the day as evidence they have observed the breed and their considered ability.

As FCI judges give a critique at the time on each dog they judge, this in itself makes for a slower pace of judging than in the UK so I wonder which system PBGV exhibitors feel is better – taking longer to judge the breed but with instant critiques, or swifter judging then waiting some weeks, even months, to see the critique. Certainly whatever system we use it will never please everyone but it is a shame there is no way of combining the procedures to get the best of both worlds.

Here Bournemouth takes place this weekend where Zena Thorn-Andrews has an entry of 19, on a par with Paignton's poor entry. Then on to Welsh KC for Jeff Luscott's excellent entry of 47. Gavin Robertson is judging the Hound Group.

A small update on the Latanoprost situation. One owner has let me know that cost of Latanoprost for his PBGV has soared to £24 a bottle whereas by hunting on line he has found it at £1.45 per bottle with a vet's prescription. It pays to shop around.

August's LOD winners are Anita Roberts with £15.00, Pamela Lilley with £10 and £5 to Jim Salmon.

LINDA SKERRITT, 01375 673922, monkhams@aol.com