

Basset Griffon Vendéen (Grand)

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A FEW NOTES FROM ME while Claire Cooper flies off to warmer climes for a well-earned break. There were just ten present in AVNSC Hound at Richmond, no GBGVs. This event is now the only general championship show of the year not so schedule GBGVs alongside PBGVs. The last time was in 2011 when the judge was Anthony Rees. Only two were entered with BB and BOB going to Amanda O'Day's Silvamoon Sweet Sapphire and RBB to Sue Marshall's Kandecx at Last at Soufriere so it is hardly surprising the classes were dropped. However, over the years a breed population can change substantially in any area of the UK and it seems a great shame that Richmond does not join the other shows and mount classes again. Despite the downside of location of venue, they might be pleasantly surprised.

At Darlington Tim Jones awarded BD and BOB to Fiona Buchanan & Mike MacLaren's Ch/Ir Ch Tarmachan Cartier with RBD going to their Macaroni V Tum-tums Vriendjes of Tarmachan (Imp NL). BB and BP was Yvonne Moults Zamdilsa Trick Or Treat, RBB Buchanan & MacLaren's Tarmachan Ice Diamond, who recently became a champion at Paignton. BV went to Danielle Machent's Wilmit Eclipse. And it was a thrilled Yvonne whose Ivy (Trick Or Treat) went second in the Hound Puppy Group judged by Simon Parsons.

Not entered at Darlington, Sue Marshall flew the flag for Grands at Sheringham & DKA show held at Frettenham, near Norwich. With breed classes judged by Graham Osborne (Beaters), her 7mth old home-bred Soufriere One Vision (Gairside Good Lord JW ShCM ex Silvamoon Saffron at Soufriere) went BOB and Hound G4, also topped the Hound Puppy Group under Maggie Holder (Mascotts).

The AHT recently provided information on their researches into whether PBGV height is correlated with genotype. In other words, were the POAG affected and/or carriers slightly shorter than the clear/normal dogs. The POAG mutation is in a gene called ADAMTS17. Humans that have mutations in this gene are invariably of short stature, as the gene also affects bone development. This of course had raised the question of whether there was some substance in this theory, as the slightly taller GBGV has never been affected even though GBGVs and PBGVs were originally born in the same litter (until early 1970s in France). Curiously, even though today we can have a GBGV on the lower end of the height range that is the same as a PBGV on the top end of the height range, there has been no evidence of any Grand being affected by POAG.

With this knowledge, the AHT did not consider it useful to take on board a comparative study. They say that, from researches, it looks like there are lots of other genes that also control height as well as ADAMTS17, so it is likely there is some variation of other genes within the PBGV and GBGV populations.

Onto a lighter subject, not long now to the third BGV Club fun day of the year which takes place on Sunday 30 September at Steventon Village Hall O13 6RR. Joan Robertson is masterminding the day and she can be found on 01235 851914 or joaniws71@gmail.com. What I can tell you is that she has been working hard contacting sponsors, who have been generous in donating all manner of prizes. After deduction of outgoings, proceeds of the day will be shared between the BGV Club's Welfare & Rescue fund and the Peek a Boo Trust. Entries for the fun classes will be taken from midday, with judging at 1pm. £5 gives a dog entry to any number of classes, which are 1. Puppy – up to 12 months old, 2. Prettiest bitch, 3. Most handsome dog, 4. Best sausage catcher, 5. Best rescue, 6. Best six legs, 7. Golden oldies – over 7 years old, 8. Child handling – up to 15 years of age, 9. Waggiest tail, 10. Best in Show – selected from the winner of each class. Club members are invited to bring friends and dogs with them, the more the merrier.

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