

## Basset Griffon Vendéen (Petit)

8 / 2 / 2019

THE YEARS ROLL BY and all things must change. The French saying “Chasse d’abord” rings true for our hunting breed and, in our PBGV book, Valerie Link and I wrote about prominent packs of the time. Here, in the mid-70s, an ardent Nick Valentine,



*The Ryeford Chase parading at Windsor Horse Show, May 2009*

embarked on a lifetime of hunting with PBGVs. By the mid ‘90s he had set up his Bradley Vale kennels. He moved several times, finally settling at Ryeford, near Ross-on-Wye, with his pack name aptly changed to the Ryeford Chase. Over the years, I am sure Nick will not mind if I say that the hounds did not remain pure PBGV. They were a joy to watch and his mastery of them skillful. In 1999 he celebrated 25 years so it was hardly surprising to learn twenty years later he had finally, reluctantly decided to hang up his hunting horn as, with age, looking after and exercising so many dogs was not an easy task. I understand that many, if not all, went to Ireland.

And in America, on 27 January Jim Scharnberg of the Skycastle French Hounds in Malvern, PA, passed away having valiantly fought cancer for several years. Jim became involved with the hounds in 1987 on the death of Elizabeth Streeter. She had first started the pack with English hunting Bassets in 1948, then became attracted to PBGVs and imported from England in 1975 before going to France and importing more from there.

When she died, the private pack was renamed the Skycastle French Hounds and, over the years, Jim continued the tradition of importing PBGVs from France. With this regular infusion of French blood, the hounds showed their prowess both in hunting and conformation. For a fascinating insight into how the Skycastle have welcomed and encouraged adults and children to join them over the years go to <https://skycastlefrenchhounds.com>.

The prizes for February’s Limited Odds Draw go to Lesley & Andrew Bradford who win £15.00, Lynn Wood has netted £10 and Mr & Mrs and H Whitter receive £5.

Having followed up exhibitors’ concerns about lack of PBGV critique for Crufts last year, the KC has today sent me the following:

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Below please find my critiques for my main winners.

BOB: Young dog, full of quality, has all the desired features for the breed s.a. short forface, short back, short ears and tail, exc. coat, correct angulation front and rear, exc,topline, perfectly handled, super temperament, he is going to be very successful in future.

BP: Lovely puppe, correct proportions, nice coat, well angulated, mowes well, exc. temperament.

BB: Very feminine bitch, fits well into the breed standard, sweet face, exc. coat, correct tail, exc,topline, perfectly handled, super temperament,

RBD: Exc. dog, very correct in proportions, correct coat, short ears and tail, sound mower, exc,topline, mowed well, nice temperament

RBB: feminine bitch, typical PGV, correct coat, short ears and tail, exc. topline, well angulated, mowed well, nice temperament.

Per C Knudsen

With just four weeks to go to this year’s Crufts, entries have been published. First in Ring 31 there are 77/80 PBGVs for Yours Truly, followed by 33/34 GBGVs for Graham Hill.

LINDA SKERRITT, 01375 673922, monkhams@outlook.com