

SOME WEEKS there is little to write for breed notes, others the cup runneth over. The notes following our AGM and Open Show at Weedon Bec in Northamptonshire are one such week.

Fiona Buchanan (Tarmachan) was our PBGV judge with a rather high absentee rate of 9 from her entry of 27. She awarded Best Dog to Phil & Dianne Reid's Maudaxi Nick Nack (Ch Maudaxi Jimmy Choo ex Trezeguet Treacle Sponge at Maudaxi) with Reserve going to our Beaujons Vagabond of Monkams (Ger/Pol/Fin/Dk/Int Ch Petit Heroes Canned Heat ex Beaujons Tickled Pink ShCM). Best Bitch and ultimately BOB went to Paul Osbourne's Braego Gladys Aylward ShCM (Ch Nykarth's Kicking off with Braego ShCM ex Ch Debucher Jezebel at Braego ShCM) with Phil & Dianne Reid's Fox's Nightmare Zeta Jones (imp Rissa) (Maudaxi Jimmy Choo ex Fox's Nightmare Euro Show Non-Stop) standing in reserve. Our Monkams Memphis Belle (Beaujons Vagabond of Monkams ex Monkams Luna Luvgood) was Best Puppy and her granny, Steve & Lynn Wood's 9yr old Beaujons Tickled Pink ShCM (Ch Gemshorn Rocky ex Monkams Dorothy Perkins) Best Veteran. In the final competition against the Grands, Gladys went Reserve Best in Show to Colin and Ann Makey's Ch/Bel Ch Gairside Good Lord JW ShCM and also took Best Opposite Sex in Show over their Ch/Bel Ch Gairside Good Gracious. PBGVs came reserve in the other competitions with Reserve BPIS going to our Memphis Belle (Bea) and Reserve BVIS to Lynn & Steve's Tickled Pink (Pinky).

Thanks go to our judges Sue Marshall, Fiona Buchanan and Judith Robin-Smith, also stewards Tina Parker and Chris Hill, and our photographer and, in Kim Culyer-Dawson's absence, matting delivery man Tim Jennings. Also during the day, the committee was hard at work with Geraldine Dodd and Kathy Moulding in charge of the raffle, which I gather raised a fabulous £105. As ever, cakes made and donated by Geraldine and Jan Bishop were much in demand and Claire Cooper had several helpers in the kitchen, including Jan Bishop, Lynn Wood, Paul Osbourne, Geraldine and Joan Robertson, who helped serve judges' and stewards' lunches. Baked potatoes were popular, with Peter Marks' renowned chilli as one of the fillings.

In the morning the early birds got the worm with bacon rolls on offer, courtesy of Claire. Not unusually, over the years, those attending BGVC AGMs have been predominantly breeders and exhibitors. Even when last year's AGM was a standalone event due to 40th anniversary celebrations, every member there had a connection with the show world. Therefore, although a return to holding the AGM this year on the same day as the Open Show dictated an early 9am start, this was in the knowledge that exhibitors can rise early to get to a dog show and those with a vested interested would turn up for this obligatory annual event.

Admittedly rather dry affairs, AGMs are traditionally never particularly well attended and, to be honest, a low attendance does not necessarily indicate apathy but rather a Club with satisfied members. I remember many years back going with Kim Culyer-Dawson to an AGM for another breed in which we are involved, only to find we were the only two members there. The committee sat with an array of trophies to award with no-one to receive them. And despite it being a numerically larger breed, AGM attendance still usually remains below 20. Looking back over the past five years at our own Club, attendance has been remarkably stable with around 8% of the membership: 30 in 2014, 43 in 2015, 32 in 2016, 37 in 2017, 21 last year and 35 this year. Although numbers attending vary a little each year, interestingly, taking into account fluctuations in membership, only a marginally higher percentage of the membership accounts for exhibitors.

Although no comments had been received beforehand, this year's decision to hold a judges ballot at the AGM met with some opposition on the day. A discussion followed where opposing views were expressed and various suggestions offered for the way forward in future years. One of which, electronic balloting, has been under review for some time now, a free version sourced and a small trial carried out with a larger one planned in the near future. If we are to continue along similar lines with our selection of judges, the right to give every member a vote is naturally appreciated. However, as I wrote in my 1 March breed notes, when a full ballot is carried out, the majority of ballot slips remain unreturned. And, interestingly, the last time the Club did a full postal ballot, of the approx. 27% who returned ballot slips, assuming all exhibitors returned theirs, around 18% would have been unfamiliar with the judges' names. This in itself tells us something.

So, other than pulling a name out of our Chairman's cap, which way do we turn for ensuring the best possible judges for our Club shows? Historically it is accepted the Judges Sub-Committee is in a better position to ensure we place before the membership the best possible judges for our shows, ones likely to draw a decent entry. And for the past 20 years, this has been the case, with numbers being whittled down to present a final six for each breed on which to vote. Taking the needs of the Judges Competency Framework into consideration, the way forward is still under discussion and, as our Chairman Paul Osbourne said at the meeting, comments have been noted.

With the Club having been without a President since the death of Yvonne Dean, members present gave unanimous approval to the honoured acceptance by Professor Peter Bedford of becoming its next President. As an Honorary Member, Peter is regarded highly with his background within the breed of at least 23yrs of unswerving support, eye-testing PBGVs, pre-empting Primary Open Angle Glaucoma, advising treatment and continuous support for any afflicted PBGV. He continues post-DNA eye testing and is vigilant in detecting other eye concerns. Gavin Robertson was returned as Vice-President. There being no other nominations, Paul Osbourne retained his position as Chairman and committee members Claire Cooper, Geraldine Dodd and Lynn Wood retained theirs on the committee, with co-opted committee member Martin Bishop picking up his post as Membership Secretary.

Points trophy winners for 2018 were announced with Championship Shows PBGV trophies going to:

FLAXBRIDGE TROPHY – TOP PBGV	CH SOLETRADER MAGIC MIKE	SARA ROBERTSON & WENDY DOHERTY
ILSHAM TROPHY - BOS	VILAUDDENS MIDSUMMER MADNESS	CHIRS BLAKE & DIANNE REID
JACLIN SHIELD – RESERVE MALE	LINPHIL KILI	TERESA EATON
CHANTALLE SHIELD – RESERVE BITCH	OVERBECKS KATHY TIERE	LYNNE SCOTT

KASANI SHIELD – TOP PUPPY	SOLETRADER BEATRIX POTTER	LIZZIE GREENSLADE, OLIVER & ERIN ROBERTSON
JACLIN SHIELD- RESERVE TOP PUPPY	AFTERGLOW AGNES GRU AVEC JAYANEL	CLAIRE COOPER & LYNNE ELLINGFORD
JOMIL ZADOK TROPHY – TOP SIRE	BOOM CHICAGO VAN TUM-TUM'S VRIENDJES	GWEN HUIKESHOVEN
LORMORAMI TROPHY – TOP DAM	CH SOLETRADER PEEK A BOO	SARA ROBERTSON & WENDY DOHERTY
RANGALI PLAQUE – NON-CC WINNER	LINPHIL KILI	TERESA EATON

And for Open Shows:

DEANOUND TROPHY – TOP PBGV	HALISTON DIDIER ShCM	ROO & CLAIRE GILLULEY
ALABETH TROPHY – TOP MALE	HALISTON DIDIER ShCM	ROO & CLAIRE GILLULEY
PETERSTOWN TROPHY – RES TOP MALE	ERYLAN LOKI MAITRE DU MAL	TIM & DEBORAH BARTLEY
ALABETH TROPHY – TOP FEMALE	BEAUJONS UGLY BETTY OF MONKHAMS JW ShCM	LINDA SKERRITT & JENNA BETTS
PETERSTOWN TROPHY – RESERVE TOP FEMALE	ERYLAN APHRODITE LA BELLE	RAY & GAIL FOOTE
BGVC TROPHY - TOP PBGV PUPPY	ERYLAN ZEUS ROI DES DIEUX	TIM & DEBORAH BARTLEY
RUSHGROVE TROPHY – RES TOP PUPPY	BEAUJONS VAGABOND OF MONKHAMS	LINDA SKERRITT & JENNA BETTS

Crufts trophies for both breeds went to:

CRUFTS 2018 GBGVs	DOG	OWNER
DEBUCHER SALVER - BOB	CH DUTCH/DK CH FROSTY SNOWMAN	GWEN HUIKESHOVEN & PHIL REID
DUNTECH SHIELD - BOS	WILMIT INDEPENDENCE DAY JW	BARBARA MILTON
CRUFTS 2018 - PBGVs	DOG	OWNER
WELLS-MEACHAM ROSE BOWL - BOB	CH SOLETRADER MAGIC MIKE	SARA ROBERTSON, WENDY DOHERTY
CYNBA TROPHY - BOS	BONBON DE NOEL VAN TUM-TUM'S VRIENDJES	GWEN HUIKESHOVEN

Before the end of the meeting the winners of the judges ballots were announced:

Open Show 2021: PBGVs Michael MacLaren, reserve Jackie Hornby; GBGVs Kim Culyer-Dawson, reserve Tina Parker.
 Championship Show 2021: PBGVs Brian Foster, reserve Ben Reynolds-Frost; GBGVs Jenna Skerritt, reserve Nick Frost.

It was good to welcome exhibitors from Scotland to our show and has been gratifying to see so many congratulations to the committee for a well-run show appear on the Club's facebook page. Certainly we can attribute part of the smooth running to our hard-working stand-in photographer, Tim Jennings. Thanks to him I was able to put photos from our show on the club website within three days www.bgvclub.co.uk/2019-open-show. On to our championship show in November!

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