

THE BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND saw several shows taking place, notably those in Ireland, where the sun shone the whole weekend. Gavin Robertson was the judge at South Tipperary where he awarded Green Star Dog to Gilluley's Haliston Didier ShCM ShCEX. GSB/BOB went to Foote & McAulay's Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune, whom he also awarded G4. The following day at Fermoy International Show B Zorab judged and once again Bilbo (Haliston Didier) gained GSD and, having gone BOB, Tilly went even better by going G2 under Ms E Caminade Lavault having gone BOB under N Zorab. This gave her her last point for her junior champion title.

With 4-6mth old puppies allowed to enter under FCI rules, worthy of a mention is Mrs D Whitehouse's Knotdogs Zoe Winter Gift (Beaujons Vagabond of Monkham's ex Afterglow Minnie the Minx) who was the winner of Baby Puppy Bitch at both shows.

Finishing the Irish mini circuit, at Hound Association of Ireland it was GSD once again for Bilbo which subject to IKC confirmation makes him an Ir Ch. GSB and BOB went to Erylan Aphrodite La Belle, who went on to G4.

At Chelmsford & DCS Ann Makey judged PBGVs, awarding BOB to our Monkham's Luna Luvgood (Suton Crepu Visage Love From Roxy to Gemshorn (imp USA) ex Monkham's Kiwi JW ShCM), RBOB to Teresa Eaton's Linphil Kili (Ch Debucher Unique ex Tangaer Zibeline avec Linphil). Our Monkham's Memphis Belle went BP, then Hound PG1 under Geraldine Dodd and, carrying on the family tradition went RBPIS under Barry Blunden (Licassa). Three years ago her grandfather, Diana Sadler's William (Suton Crepu Visage Love From Roxy to Gemshorn) went BIS at this show and two years ago her mother won BPIS.

And at this her first show, Jan and Martin Bishop's Jamar Ina The Countessa achieved a creditable 2nd place in a large AV Minor Puppy Stakes that had an entry of 32, also judged by Barry Blunden.

The weather makes for an unpredictable show at Birmingham National this weekend. Hopefully it will have settled by then and improved in time for SKC the following weekend where there is an entry of 21/32 for Pam Marston-Pollock.

May's lucky LOD winners are Martin & Ally Garside with £25, Ceri McEwan £12 and Paula Mobsby with £6.

There has been a spate of deaths of well-known PBGVs in the States. One was Karen Clugston's BIS winner Am Ch Jaren's Our Girl Friday, another Multi Int Ch/Am Ch Mirepoix's Sid Vicious. He was diagnosed with a bladder stone a few weeks ago but ultrasound also showed he had prostate cancer which was fast growing, leaving Jan Zigich and Ross Litman with that most difficult decision of all. Sired by Am Ch Mirepoix's Cartoon Comedy out of Mirepoix's La Petit Ingenue, Sid is well known for the fantastic show career he had in Finland. He is notably the sire of Kristina Bergström's Multi Ch Nighdream Ricky Martin, who was bred by Sirkka Sundström. Jan has the consolation that he will live on through litters he sired and his grandchildren that are now around the world.

Finally those of you who are Assured Breeders will have been contacted by the KC explaining that DEFRA has issued a note for local authorities in England in which it is made clear that any member of the Kennel Club Assured Breeder Scheme of at least three years' standing should be awarded a five-star breeding licence valid for three years. Following the earlier confusion, DEFRA has also provided clarification on the £1,000 trading income licensing exemption. They have made it clear that the "£1,000 trading income as referred to in the guidance documents should be used as an indicator and not a ceiling, as someone with over £1,000 trading income may not be a commercial dog breeder or pet seller and they may not be making a profit".