

PBGV BREED NOTES 2017

30/06/17 THERE WERE QUITE A FEW RED-FACED JUDGES AT BORDER UNION. No, not from embarrassment but from spending hours judging in full sun. What glorious weather exhibitors were treated to at this show, which has always been a favourite of mine. Such a shame that we lost CCs there, with the last ones being awarded in 2011. Nonetheless, Jette Vind Ramvad (Denmark) had an excellent entry of 20, with just one absent. Thanks to show helper Fred Ellingford, who kept me updated on progress of judging of GBGVs, I was pleased that I finished judging Fauves and Bassets just in time to sit and watch the Petits. Jette, who several later complimented for her extremely nice manner going over the dogs, found her BOB in Sara Robertson & Wendy Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike. He later went Hound G1 under Pam Marston-Pollock then RBIS the following day under Colin Reed. BB went to Steve & Lorna Wyllie's 9yr old Ch Tangaer Rhapsody at Callydena, with RBB going to her daughter, Callydena Toffee Bon Bon, also owned by them. Her sire is Debucher Quel Chance avec Tangaer. Returning to PBGVs after an absence of some 15 years or so, it was good to see Marion Hunt in the ring. RBD and BP went to her Soletrader Buzz Aldrin at Bondlea (Swe Ch Rainstone Habile ex Ch Soletrader Peek a Boo). In the AV Gundog/Hound/Terrier Ch Stakes Paul Osbourne's Ch Nykarth's Kicking Off with Braego was placed 2nd by judge Mrs Bridgette Bodle (Kitarn) and Lorna Wyllie's Ch Tangaer Rhapsody at Callydena went into first place in the Good Citizen Dog Scheme Stakes under the same judge. In the Junior Handling Association 12-16yrs Stakes Katie O'Brien came third with Caldewriver Despicable Me. The judge was Mrs Elaine Newton (Drumsheugh).

Leaving the showground, on the way to Jedburgh, with my car air conditioning not working, I found a novel way to keep cool. I drove past a field just as a gigantic farm water sprinkler reached the end of its run. It chucked a tsunami of water over the hedge onto my car. The windscreen wipers went at double speed and I can only describe it as like having about ten bath loads of water hit the car; and I had all the windows and sun roof open. I leave the rest to your imagination.

Down south but at an equally scorching venue, at the Whitstable show at Maidstone, Steve & Lynn Wood's Beaujons Whisper (Suton Crepu Visage Love from Roxy to Gemshorn ex B Tickled Pink) had a successful day going BNSC Hound and Hound G1, both under Elizabeth Watson (Carresmar).

Now into the second half of the year and, at East of England, there is an entry of 36 for Stuart Mallard.

07/07/2017 THE AVAILABILITY OF BGV BREED NOTES on the club website has been greeted enthusiastically. Whether this remains a short or long term solution remains to be seen. I took over from Pam Aldous writing PBGV breed notes for DOG WORLD in 2002. It became a way of life, never missing a week, even when abroad. Valerie Link, who at one time worked at Dog World, covered for me once when I went to Australia to judge Bassets, then on to America for the PBGVCA National in Orlando. I sent her information and she compiled the breed notes for me. It does seem that most dog owners go first to the breed notes to keep up to date with events and issues affecting their breed. Like me, many correspondents have been quick off the mark to make alternative arrangements and ensure readers don't miss out. For the moment, this has removed the monopoly of one paper and widened readers' options. It has given you the choice of transferring to the one remaining newspaper, where you will have the whole package concerning all aspects of the canine world or of just reading breed notes, now free in future. If you are on facebook, you will have the additional opportunity to go to "Breed Notes - UK KC registered dog breeds" a facility for previous Dog World breed note writers to post regular notes. Whichever you opt for, if your time is precious and reading breed notes and looking for critiques are your priorities, then for the time being we have the solution. Over the next few weeks, I am now considering the feasibility of including championship show critiques on www.bgvclub.co.uk.

If you are out of pocket following DOG WORLD ceasing to trade, the Canine Alliance would like to hear from you. Whether you have lost some of your regular subscription or are owed a significant amount, as part of a collective group you will be in a stronger position to be taken seriously by the Administrators. If you would like the Canine Alliance to represent you as part of that group of creditors, email dwcreditors@caninealliance.org with your name, address, amount owed and whether it's for subscriptions/ advert/ fees and they will add you to the list. Canine Alliance is on <https://www.facebook.com/CanineAlliance/>.

On to show news. With one absent, there was an entry of just six at Blackpool for judge Pam Marston Pollock. Of the two dogs present BD and BP came from the Puppy Dog class with Taylor's Tangaer Chris Caramak (Callydena Baileys On Ice ex Ch Debucher Sybelle avec Callydena), who just squeezed this in before his first birthday on 23 June. RBD went to O'Brien's Caldewriver Despicable Me (Jayanel Edwardo ex Jayanel Daisy Doo). BB and BOB went to Dalgarno's Nykarth Magic Moment (Ch Soletrader Tom Thumb ex Nykarth Irresistable) and RBB to O'Brien's Caldewriver Lotsa Trouble (Haliston Didier ex Jayanel Daisy Doo). Handled by Charlotte Dalgarno, Maisie was later shortlisted in the Group under Andrew Brace.

In the YKC Members Stakes judge Mark Coccozza awarded third to Charlotte with Maisie and in YKS (17-24yrs) she placed second under Tan Nagrecha. In Special Beginners Puppy Bitch Stakes, fourth place went to O'Brien's Caldewriver Lotsa Trouble. She also came second in YKC (12-16yrs). These classes were judged by Tan Nagrecha.

One exhibitor absent from Blackpool was Gavin Robertson who was judging at the Hound Show in Schöningen, Germany, where he awarded BOB to Anja Mellema's L'Ange Barbu d'Anglais la Vie Bohème (Emir des Ptits Bouts de Chouans ex Ned/Lux/Bel Ch L'Ange Barbu d'Anglais Force du Vivre) from Holland. Vivre went BOS.

Windsor was blessed with balmy weather on Hound day, sun and a nice breeze. Lynne Scott was our judge and she had an entry of 24, less six absent. Her choice for BD and BOB was Sara Robertson & Wendy Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike (Ch/Ned Ch Boom Chicago van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes ex Ch Soletrader Peek a Boo) with RBD going to Jane Brown's Soletrader Valentino Rossi (Ch S Noble Kinsmen ex S Bumble Bee). BB was Linda Skerritt & Jenna Betts' Beaujons Ugly Betty of Monkams JW ShCM (Ch Monkams Jack Sparrow JW ShCM ex Beaujons Tickled Pink), RBB Gavin, Oliver & Erin Robertson's Around Zlightly Different with Soletrader (imp Swe) (Rainstone Dustin ex Around Nothing Else Matters). BP went to Linda Skerritt & Jenna Bett's Monkams Luna Luvgood (Suton Crepu Visage Love from Roxy to Gemshorn (imp USA) ex Monkams Kiwi JW ShCM), who was also short-listed in the Puppy Bitch Stakes under Mike Caple, and BV was Ceri McEwan's Culdaws Diesle from Marunnel (Ch Gemshorn Rocky ex Monkams Hippy Chick). Following a tradition of Soletrader group wins at Windsor, Magic Mike went on to G1 under Ann Ingram (Ireland).

It was good to see Kathryn Moulding at Windsor as she is still receiving regular hospital treatment for various problems, also Pat and Trevor Mellor. Many will remember Trevor in the ring with Reggie, their Grand, and Pat enjoyed being the club show photographer. Now that Pat has recovered sufficiently from long term health issues, she was her usual cheerful self, happy to see old friends and able to move round well in a mobility scooter.

At the Danish Bassetklubben's Very Special Show the same weekend, on both days BOB went to Jette and Christian Ramvad's Multi Ch Petit Heroes Canned Heat with BOS Birgitte Winter Arildsen's Multi Ch Fodnote One in a Million. Jette's Otto went BIS2 on both days.

The schedule and entry form for the BGVC championship show on 18 November can now be seen on www.fossedata.co.uk and on the club website. Judges are: GBGVs Adele Walton Haddon, PBGVs Vivien Phillips, BIS and Junior Handling Linda Skerritt. Stakes: GBGV Rachel Wray, PBGV Mike Caple.

Not long now until the Scottish Fun Day on 22 July, which is being held at Cockrane Hall, West Stirling Street, Alva FK12 5LJ starting at midday. Proceeds are in aid of the Joan Wells-Meacham Fund, which is directed to researches into health issues in BGVs. Cost of the day is £8 for adults, children under 12, £4. This includes buffet lunch, tea and refreshments, also entry to the fun classes. Judge will be Mhairi Scrimgeour (Velvetine). There will also be different levels of obedience classes so all can join in.

The main organisers for this event are Gail Foote and Claire Gilluley, who have been working hard to gain support from local companies and a local rosette company has donated some stunning rosettes for main winners. Another has donated some beautiful bedding towards the raffle and a fabulous photo shoot is on offer for yet another prize. Added to this, there will be plenty of canine goodies and accessory trade stands there on the day, so what BGV owner can afford to miss this great day out, which is also open to owners of all breeds. For more information, contact Gail on rymndft@aol.com or Claire on claireallen2612@hotmail.com.

There is still time to send any high resolution photos to Sue Marshall for next year's club calendar. A chance for your favourite BGV to appear in print! E-mail your images to sue.marshall4@btopenworld.com.

14 / 07 / 2017 THE HOT WEATHER CONTINUED for East of England where the improved layout of rings gave exhibitors far more space ringside as a grooming area. Ch Soletrader Magic Mike once again won the Hound Group, this time under Liz Cartledge, then went one further by going BIS under Anne MacDonald. He went through from breed classes judged by Stuart Mallard who had just one absent from the 26 entered. BCC & BP went to 9mth old Cynetkoy Chilli Romance, handled by Mandy Kenna. Her sire is Stinton Burdock and dam Black Majesty Gossip Girl at Cynetkoy (imp HRV). Both Reserve CCs went to Phil & Dianne Reid with Maudaxi Nick Nack (Ch Maudaxi Jimmy Choo ex Trezeguet Treacle Sponge at Maudaxi) and Ch Trezeguet Plum Crumble at Maudaxi (Wizzkarth Buzz Lite Beer ex Ch Soletrader Apple Crumble at Trezeguet). BV was Paul Osbourne's Ch Debucher Jezebel at Braego (Ch Soletrader Rooster Booster ex Debucher Raison d'Etre).

In the YKC Members Stakes for Hounds, Gavin Robertson awarded first place to Nykarth Magic Moment, handled by Charlotte Dalgarno and Gilluley's Haliston Didier ShCM gained VHC in the Good Citizen Dog Scheme Stakes judged by Peter Clifton.

Leeds is next in the show diary, where PBGV judge is Fran Mitchell with an entry of 12. As we rocket through the show year, more deadlines approach for entries closing. I was amazed to find one championship show does not cater at all for unentered dogs, other than a steep NFC fee. There still remain a couple of shows who fleece the exhibitor with exorbitant Spectator Dog fees but nowadays the majority of ch shows try and help owners who are unable to leave dogs at home or, let's not be silly, like to have their dogs with them. No unentered tent, no spectator dog and no reasonable NFC fee gives little option other than to not enter the show at all. It hardly makes economic sense for the canine society, does it?

For those thinking ahead, the PBGVCA National next year is being held at Harrah's Casino Hotel, Reno, Nevada from 24-28 April. Many will recognize the name Harrah as a well-known gambling casino in the States. If you want to combine seeing PBGVs with playing the slots or just watching, Harrah's Reno is a complete destination with everything you want for fun, with seven mouth-watering restaurants, a 60,000 sq. ft. casino and headline entertainment. More information on the event as and when it becomes available.

July's LOD winners are Lynne Scott with £15, Joan Puckett with £10 and Nigel Ansley-Young £5.

21 / 07 / 2017 ALL IS NOW SET for the Scottish BGV Fun Day this weekend, which is being held at Cochrane Hall, Alva, West Stirling Street, Alva, Clackmannanshire, Scotland FK12 5LJ. The event starts at 12 noon. Gail Foote says everyone is looking forward to a good day and they are hoping the sun has his hat on. Thanks to the lovely local businesses that have pledged support this promises to be a fantastic day. All are welcome and they are looking forward to meeting many old and new friends. For more information go to <http://www.bgvclub.co.uk/diary-dates> or contact Gail on rymndft@aol.com.

Contrary to the statement on the cover of the Hound Association schedule that there would be no extension of closing date, they did extend to 17 July, so entry figures are not yet known at time of writing. It seems, however, that some exhibitors are going straight on from Houndshow to Paignton as Colin Gillanders has a good entry of 33 PBGVs there the following day, set against 21 at last year's show.

After years of dithering and peering into countless vehicles in dog show car parks, to the extent that it had become a joke within my family that I would never change my car, I have finally bought a new(ish) one. My reliable Peugeot has done me proud through 117,000 miles, most of which has been to dog shows, but I have finally taken the plunge in the knowledge that I had to go slightly larger or slightly smaller as the size car I have into which everything fits perfectly no longer exists. I now have two cars sitting in my driveway while my brain gets used to coping with one that tells me when and how to start the engine and parting with one that has been my familiar mode of transport for 12 years now.

I imagine, like me, many who have personalised number plates have been through the trials of putting the number on retention with the DVLA to enable the transfer to a new car. What no-one warns you about is the additional hard work involved in sorting out problems when computers can't make simple, rational decisions. This ranged from notifying a re-allocation of original 2004 registration number on my Peugeot for the local residents' Dartford Crossing discount to coping with a change of car insurance cover. Three e-mails and two phone calls later, I have extricated myself from having two Peugeots registered for the Dartford Crossing because their computer couldn't cope with showing a change of registration number on the one car. They now keep contacting me thanking me for opening a local residents' discount account, when I have had one for over 2 years but, as they have given me 50 free crossings, I am letting that one ride. It then took three phone calls to my car insurance provider before I could get them to transfer the cover to the new car, with temporary cover on the Peugeot. This allows time for re-allocation of the personalised number. And then, oh joy, when I get the V5 from DVLA, I have to go through the same process all over again – notifying Dartcharge and the car insurance of a change of car on the personalized number. And then there is the car breakdown cover, which is another story. And don't talk to me about how much this has all cost.

Having a medium size breed makes it somewhat easier to put more than one dog in a car but downsizing very slightly makes all that much difference. Put in simple terms, having gone marginally smaller, I have to reconfigure! New dog show trolley, new crate in the back – just a thousand or so more. If anyone wants any advice on changing their car, come to me as I am now an expert.

28 / 07 / 2017 WHAT A SUPERB TIME they had in Alva for the BGVC Scottish Fun Day. Claire Gilluley thanks everyone for making the day such a success with their time, generosity, good humour and for being there and taking part. She says the judges and stewards were amazing as were the kitchen crew and those coping with the tremendous number of wonderful raffle prizes. She thanks Fiona from Handmade by Fifi in Irvine for her amazing donations for BPIS and BVIS. Among the many others to be thanked are Karen Scott who had a great stall and gave a donation, also Tina, Dave and those who took photos of the day.

The day before some had travelled to Leeds ch show at Harewood where there were just nine present of the 12 entered for Fran Mitchell. At just 6mths old, BP, BB & BOB went to Reid's Maudaxi Daiquiri Doughnut (Vilauddens Isaak ex Trezeguet Treacle Sponge at Maudaxi) with BD going to their Maudaxi Nick Nack (Maudaxi Jimmy Choo ex Treacle Sponge). RBD was Bartley's Erylan Loki Maitre du Mal (sire Ch Taglines Double the Fun with Soletrader) with RBB going to his mother Ir Ch Clonallan Just Beginning avec Erylan ShCM (Chouan Total Vision at Clonallan ex Clonallan Chase). BV was Bamforth's Helensfield Wicker (Helensfield Tracker ex Debucher Kandidate at Helensfield).

Looking to future shows, we now know there is a great entry of 45 at Houndshow for Espen Engh, who last judged the breed at Bournemouth in 2013. In days where entries are declining, it will be good to see so many in the ring. Houndshow often attracts friends from overseas and I look forward to seeing Robyn & Russ Wallis (Rokeena) who will be visiting from Australia.

There have been many sad PBGV owners this year who have lost a loved family member. Jenna and I are not exempt. I finalise these notes on 26 July a few hours after our much loved Dixie died during the night. Born on 6

April 2003, Ch Monkham's Dixie Chick ShCM (Ch/Am Ch Afterglow Woody Woodpecker ex Monkham's Astra) had a wonderful life with us, the highlight perhaps being when we took her to Denmark in 2006. In the short time we were there and competing against our other PBGVs, two of whom came back as Danish champions, she won a CAC and RCACIB. She became a champion when 7yrs old, had 5 CCs, 4 RCCs and won numerous BPIS and BIS at open show level. We retired Dixie from the showing in 2015. Having won Veteran Bitch at Crufts and Hound Veteran Group 3 at the National, she went out at the top.

I have also just received distressing news from Jette Vind Ramvad in Denmark. I find it hard to believe that today, just a few hours after our loss, she too has had to say goodbye to one of her PBGVs, Dk/Int Ch Petit Heroes Blonde on Blonde. Rosa was born on 2 January 2007. Her sire was Dk/Ger Ch Monkham's Hash Brown, her dam Soletrader Miss Money Penny. She was the mother of Dk/Fin/Pol/Ger/Int Ch Petit Heroes Canned Heat (Otto). Some of you will have seen them recently when Jette judged PBGVs and GBGVs at Border Union and she and husband, Christian, brought their PBGVs with them.

As dog owners, we know that their lifespan is far shorter than ours and we accept that, in years to come, we will have to suffer the intense pain and emptiness of their death. We balance this up with the many years of joy and companionship they give us. There is no correct way to grieve and work through this process, as everyone walks down a different path with what happens to their companion and in accepting the loss. As part of the BGV family, we are all fortunate in that we have the support of others who have the breed, wonderful friends who share our upset.

04/08/2017 NOT LONG NOW until Linda Lewis' Tangaer weekend at Carmel Village Hall, Carmarthenshire, South Wales. 19/20 August. This is usually restricted to Tangaer PBGVs but, this year, Linda is opening up the festivities to everyone, all BGV owners or those just interested in the breed. It will be a social gathering of like-minded people. On Saturday 19th there will be a little fun show, an auction, raffles and, weather permitting, fun agility. The following day everyone will meet at the village hall for refreshments and cakes, then go on a walk in the local area. This will be followed by lunch in a local pub. All are welcome to attend either one or both days, with a contribution towards the catering gratefully accepted. If you are interested in going or want more details, contact Linda on 01269 844524 or tangaer@hotmail.co.uk. She would also like an idea of numbers for catering.

For those unable to travel to South Wales, on 20 August Sue Brundle will be holding another walk, this time at Petworth Park, Petworth, Lodsworth, Bexleyhill, West Sussex. Meet at the north car park 10.30 for 11am. Petworth Park is off the A283. Parking is free for National Trust Members, otherwise it is £4. Contact Sue Brundle on sue.bgv@btinternet.com or 01243 553722.

July's POAG DNA test results show that the country with the highest number of tests remains the States on 401, with the UK not far behind on 385. Sweden comes in third having had 138 DNA tests carried out. Of some concern is that the UK is leading the way on the number Affected with 24, as opposed to the States' 12, which is the next highest. Set against this, the USA has the highest number of Clears with 232 and the UK comes in second with 189 Clear.

At Kingston, Rhode Island Juli Lacey showed Am Gr Ch Lacey's Deck Plate Leader (Ch Monkham's Jack Sparrow ex Am Ch Lacey's Hare Across Your Path) to Reserve BIS under hound specialist Dr Robert Indeglia. Closer to home, at East of England LKA Teresa Eaton's Linphil Kili won Best NSC and HG2. The judge was Deryck Player.

The club's summer newsletter will be dropping on your doormat before long, held over to include photos of the recent successful Scottish Fun Day.

Our condolences go to Nik Oakley, whose long-time partner Doug unexpectedly lost his fight for life on 1 August.

11/08/2017 THE MARATHON SPELL OF SHOWS got under way with Houndshow at Stafford on 5 August. Hound Association can be proud that, while other championship show entries rise, they keep their prices competitive, doubtless helped by running the show without tenting. It does make you wonder though when the KC requirements for benching will be relaxed, as row upon row of unused benches in Bingley Hall is a complete waste of space, let alone pointless effort by the benching company in erecting and dismantling it, with the cost passed onto the exhibitor who doesn't want it or use it. Of course, the downside of lack of tenting is, if it rains you get wet. With heavy showers throughout the day, most PBGV exhibitors were in, out, in, out, not knowing where judging would take place. Only Paul Osbourne stayed put inside, amused as some of us returned for the second time in our efforts to stay dry. As particularly black clouds moved slowly towards Stafford and we seemed to be the only breed left outside, judge Espen Engh decided we should stay put and hope the rain held off. However, one class into his judging and the downpour started. With a steward deftly signalling towards the building, we all packed up yet again and trundled back inside. Of course, indoor wet weather rings are never as satisfactory as grass rings. In the deserted and rather dismal area at the end of Bingley hall, thanks to space taken by benching, we were the only breed being judged but, despite the stewards removing the tape between two rings, they didn't turn the judge's table round so exhibitors were still confined to the one ring.

I can only imagine what the overseas visitors thought of the weird judging arrangements brought on by our changeable English climate but they seemed to take it all philosophically. It was certainly good to see PBGV enthusiasts Jeff Pepper from the States, Russ & Robyn Wallis from Australia, Anders Tunold-Hanssen from

Norway and Holger Busk from Denmark. Others included David Johannes Øbro-Hansen showing his Bassets, with whom Holger travelled and Bryan Mangelsdorf, Yarramba Bassets, also from Downunder.

From an entry of 45, there were just 4 PBGVs absent. DCC and BOB went to Sara Robertson & Wendy Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike; BCC, her third, to Sara Robertson, Wendy Doherty & Lizzie Greenslade's Soletrader Rita Ora. Reserves went to Jane Brown's Soletrader Valentino Rossi and the Dalgarno's Nykarth Magic Moment, whom the judge had awarded BP at Bournemouth 2013. BP at this show went to Lynne Scott's 8mth old Overbecks Kathy Tiere (Ch Taglines Double the Fun with Soletrader ex Soeltrader Ain't Actin' Up at Overbecks) and BV to Paul Osbourne's Ch Debucher Jezebel at Braego ShCM. In other classes, Bartley's Erylan Loki Maitre Du Mal gained Reserve in the MPD Stakes judged by Gavin Robertson and Foote's Erylan Aphrodite La Belle was also Reserve in Dorwest Special Beginners YD/B under Rachel Barney.

As part of the KC initiative to encourage clubs to join together for holding their shows on the same site, eight were hosted this year by Houndshow. Despite the early start to judging, this inevitably meant that priority was given to these clubs for being first in the ring for Houndshow, allowing them to hold their own shows later in the day. Those clubs, including the BGVC, not wishing to go back-to-back were treated to a late start. This may have been welcomed by some but the afternoon start to judging meant a late getaway for those travelling down to Exeter for Paignton the following day.

There judge Colin Gillanders had five absent from his entry of 33. He chose the same PBGVs for DCC/BOB, BCC and BP, with RBCC going to the puppy. RDCC was Linda Lewis' Tangaer Charles Bronsen. Magic Mike went on to Hound G3 under Jeff Horswell and Kathy Tiere won the PB Stakes under J Richardson. Soletrader Ain't Actin Up at Overbecks ShCM was placed 3rd in the KW Woodall Memorial Stakes judged by A Stewart.

Those already at the Bournemouth showground for this weekend's judging are experiencing heavy rain. Let's hope the rings dry out for the 26 PBGVs entered for Jeff Horswell. Then on to Builth Wells for WKC where there is an entry of 39 for Anne MacDonald.

LOD winners for August are Mrs A Collins with £15, Sue Brundle £10 and Nicola Quadling £5. There are still some numbers available if you wish to take part and have the chance of winning some money. Raising cash this way gives the club much needed funds to help support the BGV Club's Welfare and Rescue. Contact Geraldine Dodd on 01582 865828 or g_dodd@hotmail.co.uk.

18/08/2017 THE TORRENTIAL RAIN hit those camping at Bournemouth showground before the show but fortunately Hound day dawned promising and stayed dry. Comments had been made about the low entries in many breeds and thus it was once more for PBGVs. There were only 20 present from Jeff Horswell's entry of 26. From just 6 dogs, DCC (his second) went to Reid's Maudaxi Tommy Holedigger (sire Soletrader Bjorn Borg), with reserve going to their Nick Nack (sire Maudaxi Jimmy Choo). RBCC went to Reid's BP Maudaxi Daiquiri Doughnut (sire Vilauddens Isaak). All three are out of Trezeguet Treacle Sponge at Maudaxi. From VB, BCC, her 12th, went to Osbourne's Ch Debucher Jezebel at Braego ShCM.

Although too far south for some, Bournemouth is a favourite, a lovely show where many use the camping and caravanning facilities to visit this beautiful area of England. However, this year some in the caravan area drew the short straw as picking up dog waste in the extremely long grass proved nigh on impossible and the toilet block was as unpleasant as it could be, needing constant attention to unblock and clear. The heavy rain made exit from the area precarious but anyone shrewd enough to do a recce beforehand to find an alternative route avoided sinking into well-used tracks of soft ground.

After WKC it is on the City of Birmingham where there are 27 PBGVs entered for Sue Hewart-Chambers, giving CCs for the first time.

Anyone who takes an interest in the POAG DNA test results may have spotted that the link from the club website to the KC on-line results has been broken for some weeks. This was queried with the KC and they let me know they were upgrading their systems to make the site more ipad and mobile phone user friendly. The link has finally been restored but results only show up to May. Although the AHT has sent figures to the KC, it seems we will have to wait until September when all files will be updated.

25/08/2017 THE HILLS SURROUNDING BUILTH WELLS are prone to draw in the rain clouds. Diana Sadler lives less than 25 miles away from the showground and, with the heavy rain falling and her mind turning to tractors for towing, as she optimistically but amusingly put it "Everything changes when you get over the hill".

Out of the entry of 36 at Welsh KC, there were 30 for judge Anne Macdonald to go over. It was a good day for Soletrader as DCC, BOB and a subsequent Hound Group win under Miss Elina Haapaniemi went to Sara Robertson & Wendy Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike. From Limit, BCC went to Katherine Bamford's Tangaer Amour (Debucher Quel Chance avec Tangaer ex Putjade Utterly Butterly), handled by Linda Lewis. Reserves went to Jane Brown's Soletrader Valentino Rossi (Ch Soletrader Noble Kinsmen ex Soletrader Bumble Bee) and Sara Robertson & Wendy Doherty's Soletrader Rita Ora, who is now a champion. BP went to Sara and Oliver Robertson's Soletrader Buddy Holly (Ch Soletrader Magic Mike ex Debucher Ristourne with Soletrader) with BV to the only one present Jean Hood's Tangaer Savoir Faire ShCM (Ch/Ir Ch Tangaer Magique ex Enklassique Kiss Me Quick at Lavierge), also handled by breeder Linda Lewis. The strikingly coloured Tomos later went on to Veteran Group 2 under Vivien Phillips.

In other classes, Katie and Lilly O'Brien were both short listed in large YKC handling classes, and Katie gained a VHC in the Junior Handling Association Qualifying Heats (12-16) under Robin Alner.

Over the following two days, a good number of BGV owners joined together at Carmel in South Wales for Linda Lewis' Tangaer weekend, which was as popular and successful as ever. Linda had undoubtedly put in a lot of hard work to guarantee an enjoyable weekend and there was a good mix of Petits, Grands, Fauves and other breeds. Plenty of food, entertainment, a great auction and raffle, not to mention the agility display, which was available for all to have a go with their dogs, the sausage race and fun dog show. There were plenty of laughs and, for those who still had the energy left, there was a walk at Llyn Llech Owain Country Park though by then the good weather had deserted them. However, a good lunch at the Stag and Pheasant Inn, Carmel made a great end to a great weekend.

The same weekend in another part of the UK, Sue Brundle hosted another walk, this time at the 700 acre Petworth Park, West Sussex. With the reluctance nowadays for people to travel far for events mostly local folk attended, though Paul and Ann Stallard from Uxbridge were made most welcome. Paul said the number of deer was almost too much for their PBGV Rupert, whose nose was soon picking up their scent. Petworth Park has been the home of this magnificent herd of fallow deer for over 500 years. It seems Henry VIII got in first before the BGVs by reportedly hunting them on his visit there in the 1500s.

Emily Jeanes from the Animal Health Trust has been up to Scotland. She had unfortunately been unable to attend Linda Lewis' Tangaer weekend as she was booked to go to Edinburgh, where she completed her Masters Degree. Apart from taking in Edinburgh Festival and the Fringe, at Linda's suggestion she also seized the opportunity to measure the height of PBGVs living north of the border as part of the ongoing research into whether dogs with mutations in ADAMTS17 (a mutation associated with Primary Lens Luxation) tend to be short in stature. In all, she measured nine. Although having already done some at Crufts earlier in the year, this allowed her to double check. The day was a relaxing one with an enjoyable pub lunch in the Lomond Tavern in Falkland, then a woodland walk in lovely weather before Emily returned by train to Edinburgh.

Overseas, the same weekend, Phil Freer was judging at the Swedish PBGV Club's 25th Anniversary Show at Tånga Hed where he had an entry of 49. With help from Cilla Gylen, Inge Hansen (Vântans) had a good show with BIS Breeder, BPIS (Vântans Rock 'n Roll Raffa), BIS Hunting Dog and BIS4 (Vântans Qoketta Qarin). With BOS going to Around Another Bad Hair Day (Around Surprise Surprise ex Around Jar of Jam), BOB went to Annicke Lofgren's Swe/Nor Ch Around Ultra Exclusive (Swe/Dk Ch Rainstone Dustin ex Swe/Nor Ch Around Nothing Else Matters), who also went BIS.

Finally, it can't have gone unnoticed that a few days back parts of America experienced a total eclipse. This phenomenon turned day to night in much of the States, with the first experiences on the West Coast in Oregon. Valerie Link returned there more than 2yrs ago to be with her family and, over the past weeks, they have been experiencing extremely high temperatures of well over 30C. Last week an estimated 1.5 million eclipse hunters were flocking north past her Grants Pass home on Interstate 5, all headed towards the Salem area. People travelling through were calling in at the store where Valerie helps out. Putting it mildly, trade was brisk. A wildfire started up nearby between Grants Pass and Rogue River, possibly due to someone throwing a cigarette out of a car window and reduced visibility caused traffic to slow down. There were tense moments with planes flying overhead fighting the fire and Valerie not knowing whether any towns nearby would be evacuated.

Where she lives they experienced 94% totality. However, despite witnessing this once in a lifetime event, Valerie said another local fire subsequently resulted in not fog, not clouds but smoke filling the air and reducing visibility. One big fire is near Brookings on the coast about 80 miles from her and she says "Your eyes burn, your throat hurts, it is terrible. Apparently this fire started by a lightning strike last month and advice was to leave it to burn itself out due to where it is. However, it then got out of control with the winds and even jumped a river so has now spread to 100,000 acres and evacuations are taking place at Brookings". It is a worrying time all round for this normally relatively quiet town and, of course, after the eclipse, reverse visitor flow has been in full force down I-5 so things have never been so exciting in Grants Pass.

01/09/2017 OVER THE YEARS there are constant changes of committee members but we should not forget the contribution many gave to BGVs, devoting time, effort and enthusiasm to the breed they loved. One such person was David Currah.

David was on the committee from 1993 to 1999, serving as Vice Chairman from 1995 to 1997. Even after David stood down, until 2004 he and his wife Judy represented the breed at outside events, including purchasing and taking club merchandise to sell at about five functions a year, the most important one being Hound day at Crufts. Sometimes they raised over £1,000 at this event, which was no mean feat going back well over 10 years.

Their first PBGV was Maquisard Martine of Kykesow (Ch Jomil Zadok ex Ch Maquisard Champenoise) who was born on 1 March 1989. Although their main interest was PBGVs, in 2002, they weakened and acquired Duntech Etalon from Val Jackson and Peter Marks. Then, as part of the seeming mass migration of dog folk at the time, they moved from Essex to Lincolnshire at the end of 2005. Only ever breeding two litters, in 2012 they lost their last PBGV Kykesow Bangels De'vell, who was born in 1997, sired by Sweetdean Sentinal, dam Polly Flinders of Sweetdean.

David was diagnosed with cancer late 2009/early 2010 and it was his inner strength and support from Judith that saw him through the treatment to give him quality of life for the remaining time he had. On 28 August while in hospital David lost that fight. As yet, funeral arrangements are unknown but thoughts are with Judith and daughter Tegan at this distressing time.

Another sad loss is Colin Wells who has also passed away after a long battle with cancer. A servant to the world of dogs and Basset man through and through, Colin served on several Hound show committees and was one time Treasurer of the Midland BHC and BHC Secretary. He judged BGVs and for a few years, with wife Trish, was a regular visitor to the annual Danish Bassetklubben Very Special Show. His funeral will be held at 2pm on Monday 11 September. Those attending are asked to meet at Catwick Village Hall, Rowpit Lane, Catwick HU17 5PR before making their way to the church. His family requests you wear cheerful colours, not black. No flowers either, rather voluntary donations to Dove House Hospice. Condolences go to Trish and daughter Geraldine.

Fresh from judging at Border Union, Jette Ramvad (Petit Heroes, Dk) has been on her travels again, driving up to Sweden to judge at the Swedish Basset Club Show, Öst Eksjö. BOB and BIS went to the bitch, Annicke Löfgren's Swe Ch Around Ultra Exclusive (Rainstone Dustin ex Around Nothing Else Matters) with BOS going to Swe/Dk Ch Surround Amoroso (Multi Ch Zalazar Murphy's Pride ex Swe/Nor Ch Petit Heroes Corinna Corinna), bred by Agneta and Johan Källén and owned by Göran Björsall.

With no breed classes at SKC and no PBGVs entered in AV, there are a few open show wins to report. At Horley and her first show out of Puppy, our Monkham's Luna Luvgood (Suton Crepu Visage Love From Roxy to Gemshorn [imp USA] ex Monkham's Kiwi JW ShCM) went BOB under Elina Haapaniemi (Aspenella, Finland) and was awarded G4 by Michelle Chapman (Ellemich/ Galrhia). Meanwhile at Norfolk & Norwich, Paul Osbourne's Braego Gladys Aylward ShCM went Best NSC Hound and G1 under Hazel Fitzgibbon (Smiliesam).

Remember the BGVC fun day takes place soon on 9 September at Brae Lodge, Thornton Road, Beachampton, Milton Keynes MK19 6DU. Price £8 adult, £4 children. There will be agility, fancy dress, games, fun classes judged by Joan Hutchings, a raffle (contributions welcome) and more. Jim and Ann Salmon will also be there with their array of breed items for sale. If you are going, please let Hilary Knowles know as she needs to ensure plenty of food for everyone. I gather the ice cream last time was very popular too! Contact her on hk@buckinghamcolour.com or 01908 568140.

08/09/2017 CITY OF BIRMINGHAM took place last Friday. One I missed as Jenna was judging Fauves. There were 2 absent from the entry of 28 PBGVs for Sue Hewart-Chambers, giving CCs for the first time. DCC, BOB and subsequently Group 1 under Luis Pinto Teixeira went to Sara Robertson & Wendy Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike, with BCC to Gavin, Oliver & Erin Robertson's Around Zlightly Different with Soletrader (imp Swe) who was also Best Junior going forward to take part in the Junior Group contest later in the day. A regular feature of FCI shows, I think City of Birmingham is now the second general championship show here, after Blackpool, to hold a Best Junior in Show competition and it would be nice if this catches on.

From VD, RDCC and BV was Paul Osbourne's Ch Nykarth Kicking Off with Braego ShCM and RBCC Phil & Dianne Reid's Trezeguet Plum Crumble at Maudaxi. BP was Sara & Oliver Robertson's Soletrader Buddy Holly.

Over the last weekend of August there were three days of shows at Kiev as part of Euro Dog Show 2017. Entries were low and brief results were as follows: Euro Dog: 9 PBGVs entered. From Champion Class, BOB went to Paolo Jose Malvar's Soletrader Noble Kinsmen. From Intermediate, BOS went to Gotfrid Zili's Kan Trace Best Shaldag. CAC-UA: 4 PBGVs entered. BOB was again Noble Kinsmen, with BOS going to Iva Riac's Black Majesty Griotte, also from Champion Class. At the CACIB show with 5 entered, from Working Class BOB went to Tatiana Zadarenko's Black Majesty Hall of Fame and BOS to Gotfrid Zili's Kan Trace Best Shaldag.

Fun day at Brae Lodge this weekend and praying for good weather as it looks as though it will be showery. For details, see www.bgvclub.co.uk/diary-dates. There are 17 PBGVs entered for Darlington, unfortunately one more I will not be at as Jenna's very close friend from her Beaconsfield high school days is getting married in Chester. Jenna is matron of honour and her boys pageboys. An exciting time but I have already said what I thought about the lack of consultation on her friend's part!

Places are now full for the seminar/assessment on both Petits and Grands, which is taking place at Corley, near Coventry on 22 October. However the more the merrier for attendees at the seminars. If you would like to learn more about BGVs, the booking form is on <http://www.bgvclub.co.uk/diary-dates> or contact me.

15/09/2017 WITH THANKS TO HILARY KNOWLES, the BGV Fun Day took place at Brae Lodge, Beachampton, on Saturday 9 September. After weeks and weeks of hot temperatures, unfortunately the weather had been working up to being highly unpredictable. However, with plenty of gazebos and shelters, including trees, the show carried on in between showers with everyone enjoying the day. Fun classes judge, Joan Hutchings, braved the rain showers valiantly and selected Geoff & Jan Trotter's GBGV Rufus for her BIS, with Stephen & Louise Preece's PBGV Lucy RBIS. BPIS went to Jim & Ann Salmon's GBGV Fern (Emma Jane at Scarscot), who will be a year old in November. All received splendid rosettes, made by Sue Marshall, though Lucy decided to play with hers after the show, leaving not much left of it and owner Louise somewhat distraught.

Kim Culyer-Dawson had worked hard before the day to contribute towards great raffle prizes and Harrison Smith, who won Best Child Handler with Ella was also the lucky recipient of a new pal Big Ted, given to him by raffle winner Jules Metselaar-Williams, who I gather bought rather a lot of tickets! One other person worthy of a mention is Martin Bishop who topped the Best Six Legs class with PBGV, Lemmie. Website company allowing (they have been having major issues of late, not good for custom) photos of the day are now on www.bgvclub.co.uk/fun-days-walks.

Hound day at Richmond took place the day before where, thankfully, the rain stayed off for getting dogs into the showground. However, by the time PBGV judging was well under way, sheets of rain were blowing across the field and plenty of water dripping from the tenting edges, leaving exhibitors trying to avoid the steady waterfall as they moved or stood their PBGVs. Brian Foster was giving CCs for the first time and, from an entry of 27, less four absent, his choice for BOB went to Robertson & Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike, with BCC going to the JB winner, Robertson's Around Slightly Different with Soletrader (Imp Swe). RDCC was Reid's Maudaxi Odd Job, RBCC Dalgarno's Nykarth Magic Moment, both winning through from Limit. BP went to Robertson's Soletrader Buddy Holly and BV Osbourne's Ch Nykarth Kicking Off with Braego ShCM. Sue Hewart-Chambers, who judged the breed the week before at City of Birmingham, gave top Hound Group spot to Magic Mike and it was a RBIS for him on the final day, under David Guy.

The funeral for David Currah will be held at 1.30pm on 22 September at Boston Crematorium, Marian Road, Boston PE21 9HA. There will be a gathering afterwards at Supreme Inn, Bicker Bar, Bicker PE20 3AN by the A17 leading out of Boston, making it easier for those who have a long journey afterwards. If anyone wishes to send flowers, the funeral directors K E Addlesee, 01205 311303, will be pleased to advise.

Those on social media will have seen the generosity displayed by many American BGV owners living outside the path of Hurricane Irma, which hit Florida a few days back but also extended to the other states as it headed north. Hundreds of thousands also lost power in the Carolinas, Alabama and Georgia, where at one point 800,000 were experiencing outages on Tuesday, though that number declined during the day. Many with camper vans, rooms, enclosed dog runs, kennels and other shelter offered a safe haven to other BGV owners who needed to evacuate to avoid one of the most powerful hurricanes in history. Although many have now returned to flooding, damage, trees uprooted and power outages, it seems most Floridian BGV owners are philosophical and have set about cleaning up, repairing fences, getting trees removed and checking kennel roofs. When we complain about UK weather, we must be thankful we don't experience such extremes of weather as in the States with possible earthquakes, forest fires, tornados and hurricanes.

22 / 09 / 2017 WE HAVE SLIPPED FROM HOT SUMMER DAYS TO AUTUMN with wet grass underfoot at outdoor shows and skill needed to exhibit a PBGV who doesn't soon have bedraggled coat clinging to its legs. I will always remember that day at Windsor when torrential rain had left the entire showground deep in mud and water with people slipping everywhere. Some dogs not lucky enough to be transported on trolleys were being carried onto the showground, even slung round exhibitors' necks. However not all were kept in pristine condition. I was judging that day and many that appeared in the ring were a sad sight indeed. One person, however, breezed in with an absolutely spotless dog. As she knelt in front of me, standing her dog, she gazed up and whispered "Well, you have to make an effort, don't you?"

And so you should. You pay a lot to enter and get to a show so don't throw it away this time of year by not presenting a clean and dry dog to the judge. Although shown against an ideal breed standard, cleanliness is part of this equation and one that looks immaculate is bound to impress the judge over a bedraggled one. Keeping a show dog's legs clean and dry can be a challenge. The simplest way is to avoid extremely dirty situations in the first place. Steer clear of mudholes and puddles, and clean your dog's legs off as soon as possible if they do get grubby. If the coat is light-coloured or white, watch for stubborn green grass stains too. Have a towel with you and any product put in the coat to help clean and prepare should be removed before entering the ring.

Magic Mike went the full way at Darlington, awarded BOB by Rebecca Peek, then HG1 under Anne Macdonald, who judged the breed recently at WKC and BIS under Paul Harding. The PBGV entry was disappointingly low with only 3 dogs actually present. RDCC and BV went to Paul Osbourne's Ch Nykarth's Kicking Off With Braego ShCM. BP went to the remaining dog, Sara & Oliver Robertson's Soletrader Buddy Holly. Of the 11 bitches present, from LB, BCC went to Ray & Gail Foote's Erylan Aphrodite La Belle, a first for her, with RBCC to Paul Osbourne's Ch Debucher Jezebel at Braego ShCM.

There have also been some good PBGV wins in other parts of the world. In Iceland, Karen Ösp Guðbjartsdóttir went BIS at Reykjavik with Icelandic Ch Red Hot Chili Van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes. Breed and group judge was Rune Fagerström and BIS judge Torbjörn Skaar. This puts him in first place for Top Dog Iceland 2017. At Carlow & DCS all breed ch show, Ireland, Ivor & Michelle Keelan's 4yr old PBGV Ir Ch Tejas Heartbreaker (Afterglow Chunkey Monkey ex Tejas Betty Boop) won Group 6 under Con Hackett then went BIS 4. And, in the States, Annie Mac (Ch Soletrader Dunc 'n Disorderly ex Ch Soletrader Peek a Boo) continues to win well with handler, Janice Hayes. Group wins are the norm and, following closely on from a recent RBIS, it was BIS under judge Judy Webb, who also judged the Hound Group at West Central Oklahoma KC.

Also in the States, although Juli Lacey now has GBGV Henley to show (Sidekicks Life In The Fast Lane), she is still winning well with Gr Am Ch Lacey's Deck Plate Leader (Ch Monkham's Jack Sparrow ex Am Ch Lacey's Hare Across Your Path) who went BIS at Central Main MC early this month. Juli says this ties for the BIS record for owner handled PBGVs so now needs one more win to break it. Chief currently holds the record for BISs for breeder/owner/handled PBGVs also the record for life time Grand Champion points.

One time PBGV owner Gabriela Garcia is recovering from the fright of being in Mexico City when the latest earthquake struck. Having escaped from the building she was in at the time, where she said everyone bounced from side to side, it took her four hours to drive home. Thankfully she, her daughter and dogs are safe. She has lost a wall and some valuable items but, put into perspective, says these are only material things, nothing to compare with the magnitude of what has happened to others.

Back in the mid 2000s there were few PBGVs in Mexico and Gabriela found it was best to show Soletrader Copycat (Ch Soletrader Dunc 'n Disordely ex Monkham's Daphne Moon) under international judges, who were more familiar with the breed. Handled by Martín Egozcue, Tilly, born on 31 October 2004, soon became a Mexican champion. However, Gabriela never had any luck with breeding from her so her allegiance, which coincidentally is her kennel name, has remained with her Irish Setters.

We are now approaching the busy month of October, leaving September with an excellent entry of 44 at Driffield for Geraldine Dodd, giving CCs for the first time. Everyone is invited to join the Bassets at their annual Aquadrome walk in Rickmansworth, Herts, 8 October, meeting at 10.30am for 11am. For further details contact me. 21 and 22 October sees the GBGV and PBGV breed booths busy at the annual Discover Dogs Exhibition at London's ExCeL. On 22 October the breed seminars/assessments take place at Corley, near Coventry. Although places are now full for undertaking assessment, anyone wishing to come to the seminars is more than welcome. Contact me, or the booking form is on <http://www.bgvclub.co.uk/diary-dates>.

29/09/2017 THE PBGVCA has a new section to its website www.pbgvca.org designed to have the most current information readily available for providing optimal health care and for making wise choices in managing breed-specific health care issues. The goals and objectives are: to develop and maintain educational information targeted to general health care of the PBGV; to develop and maintain a knowledge base of medical problems specific to the PBGV including clinical resources to assist with diagnoses, treatment and management of breed specific health issues; and to have the resources available to assist PBGV breeders and owners in making decisions for the health and welfare of the breed. This is an interesting project and I am sure owners here will be able to make good use of the information made available.

On the subject of PBGV health, you may have received an e-mail from the AHT. This is a final request for owners of DNA tested (or hereditary clear) PBGVs to send them their height measurements. It will help in research into their theory that PBGVs that are not quite as tall are more likely to carry the mutant gene responsible for POAG. The request has been broadcast worldwide and the AHT reports that further measurements are now coming in from all over the globe. For more information and details on how to measure your PBGV, go to www.bgvclub.co.uk/health-news. It is a short deadline, 13 October, so don't delay!

Congratulations to Phil & Dianne Reid who now have a baby daughter, Liúsaidh, born on 17 September.

Just the one PBGV entered at Belfast and from BOB by Mr A Kelly Ch Soletrader Magic Mike went on to G2 under Espen Engh, who awarded him BOB at Houndshow early last month. This puts Magic Mike head of the Hound Group and at #2 All Breeds.

Rather more local, over the past couple of weeks Steve & Lorna Wyllie's Callydena Diamond Star went BOB at Perthshire Canine Club from a wonderful entry of 11., the second largest behind Whippets. The judge was Sandra Johnston (Burnvale). Our Beaujons Ugly Betty of Monkham's JW ShCM went BOB at South Eastern Hound under Lana Johnson (Houndslin) and Paul Osbourne's Braego Gladys Aylward was Best NSC Hound and Hound G3 at Great Yarmouth. The judge was Moray Armstrong (Bitcon).

Simon Parson's recently contemplated whether group and best in show judging is really necessary, leading on to posing the question whether certain breeds are more 'group dogs' than others. He recognised that some exhibitors sense their breeds, however good, are more often than not ignored at group level. Those with glamorous coats, an impressive, imposing presence or extrovert, showy movement may have an inbuilt advantage. That said, he added that many Whippets and Greyhounds do well in the group ring, a tribute to the breeders who have developed such an amazingly high standard.

He goes on to say that one thing which is easily forgotten is that many breeds which regularly do well at group level haven't always done so. "The PBGV has one of the best records of any breed (and not only in the UK), yet I can well remember when they started being shown in this country they were regarded by some as something of a joke, certainly not one which was ever likely to take BIS at Crufts or Top Dog all breeds. Yet some clever breeders quickly began to produce dogs which had the style and quality to appeal in the big ring, and tidied up presentation styles to show off the breed's shape without losing its rustic charm". It is certainly true that the show animal has changed in appearance worldwide, some more so than others, making them more competitive at top level but, aside from the harsh words about the first PBGVs to be shown in this country in the '70s, many would beg to differ about the retention of the rustic charm. The two do not sit well together.

Perhaps the American Standard puts this into perspective. Under General Appearance it says "Important to breed type is the compact, casual, rather tousled appearance, with no feature exaggerated and his parts in balance". The Coat section was revised in 2014 to strengthen the requirement for the essential rough, unrefined outline and tousled appearance of this rustic hunting hound. "Any sculpting, clipping, scissoring or shaping of the coat is contrary to PBGV breed type. The PBGV coat should be clean, neatened as necessary, but always remain casually disarrayed. Any deviation from the ideal described here and in the General Appearance Section of the official standard should be penalized to the extent of the deviation".

We all spend much time grooming our PBGVs before a show, to not do so is akin to throwing money down the drain, so I am not too sure that "causally disarrayed" would score well in the ring. This may be taking the "natural look" rather too far. However, those that go the extra mile, exhibiting a PBGV that is prepared skillfully to show off certain aspects of the Standard, is glamorous and a dream in motion are certainly bound to attract the group judge's eye, for how many judges take stock of the requirement for the "au naturel" aspect of the breed when selecting their winners?

In Bassets, back in the early 1890s, owners split into two groups. Although the breed had first been introduced as a hunting animal, it had mainly found its way into the show-ring. Exhibitors strayed from the conformation requirements of those that performed in the field as breeders of show dogs exaggerated certain points. They lost the practical aspects desirable in the hunting hound and this led to what became known as the "Show - Hunt Divide".

Should we now accept that a similar situation has crept into PBGVs? Structurally the same but coat preparation of the show PBGV is far removed from the natural requirement called for based on breed appearance in country of origin, where hunting is still their passion. I'd be interested to hear your views.

06/10/2017 MY 22 SEPTEMBER BREED NOTES were somewhat prophetic when I talked about trying to keep dogs clean in bad weather, with Windsor 2007 being deep in mud and people slipping everywhere. Hard to believe it was ten years ago. I judged Bassets and Diana Sadler did PBGVs, awarding BD to Soletrader Rooster Booster and BOB to Ch Soletrader My Aphrodisiac. Just a few shows stick in exhibitors' memories and Driffield 2017 will surely also go down as one to remember, with plenty of photos on social media warning of the dreadful conditions which are, of course, outside the show committee's control though doubtless gives them a headache and extra work.

Thankfully Hound day was blessed with some sunshine but the damage had already been done in preceding days. Like Wetherby Racecourse shows of the past, the ground was a nightmare of swathes of mud as unfortunately it is prone to flooding. I remember one year when I watched other cars trying to get up the slope to the exit and doubted whether we would get out of the car park. I could do nothing as we slid slowly sideways towards a parked vehicle. At the last minute, I managed to turn and we glided gracefully into the space next to the car I had narrowly avoided hitting. And who remembers 2009 when gale force winds forced judging to be under tenting that contractors were kept busy hammering down; and anyone who braved the portaloos was likely to have their door ripped open by a gust of wind. But this is all part of life's rich tapestry, exhibitors are hardy folk and take it all in their stride and thus it was for last weekend's show. With car parking moved to higher ground, although I don't think many were on hard-standing, at least the grass was firmer.

With a longer walk into the showground, a slatted plastic walkway helped get the dogs so far towards the tenting but it was difficult to negotiate the final stretch into the tent, where the mud was deepest. For dogs in trollies pushing or pulling them was extra hard work and any that walked in ended up with black feet and legs.

There was a lovely surprise for the winners at Driffield when PBGV judge Geraldine Dodd, giving CCs for the first time, presented gifts to them. The talented person who made them, Jim Salmon, was watching ringside. There were 11 absent from a good entry of 44. DCC, his third, went to Teresa Eaton's Debucher Unique (Ch Soletrader Tom Thumb ex Fae-Lemon de Chez Chanou Debucher) with Reserve going to Sara Robertson & Wendy Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike (Boom Chicago van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes ex Ch Soletrader Peek a Boo). In bitches, the award of BCC went to the JB winner, Steve & Lorna Wyllie's Tangaer Calvera Avec Callydena (Callydena Baileys On Ice ex Ch Debucher Sybelle avec Callydena). RBCC was our Beaujons Ugly Betty of Monkams JW ShCM. BP went to Phil & Dianne Reid's Maudaxi Pina Colada Parfait (Vilauddens Isaak ex Trezeguet Treacle Sponge at Maudaxi). Faye lives with the Gerries in Scotland and was handled by Colin. She seems to be doing quite well for herself as Marion Gerrie let me know that she had a fabulous first Open Show at Selkirk & District CS 90th Anniversary on 10 September. She went BOB, Hound Group 4 and followed this up by winning the Hound Puppy Group and going BPIS.

At South Wales there are 20 PBGVs for judge Sue Virgo, news of this next week. 2018 Club calendars have arrived and Sue Marshall is now busy taking orders. Price £9.00 (+ £1.50 p&p within UK, ask about overseas). To order your copy, contact Sue on 01245 265828 or sue.marshall4@btopenworld.com.

13/10/2017 THE BGV CLUB'S BREED HEALTH CO-ORDINATOR Vivien Phillips attended the recent Breed Health Symposium mounted by the KC at the KC Building, Stoneleigh. Of particular interest for our breed was a talk given by Professor Holger Volk, Head of Clinical Science and Services and Professor of Veterinary Neurology and Neurosurgery at the RVC. He spoke about epilepsy, explaining how it is the most common chronic neurological condition in dogs.

He said epilepsy is not a pure seizure disorder but also causes co-morbidities such as behaviour changes. The cause of epilepsy can vary but more and more genetic factors have been identified in recent years. Research highlights that drugs are not the only answer for regaining control when managing a patient with epilepsy. A comprehensive approach is essential to improve quality of life and the management of epilepsy. Thankfully the incidence within PBGVs is small but nonetheless upsetting for any owner who finds their Petit is seizing. Even more so should they lose a PBGV at a relatively young age through this complaint.

Dr Cathryn Mellersh, Head of Genetics at the AHT and Dr Louise Burmeister, Postdoctoral Research Scientist, gave an update on the Give a Dog a Genome project. Attendees learned that the project is now two thirds of the way through sequencing 75 samples and that the results are already making a difference for participating breeds. Unfortunately, the long queue to speak to Cathryn and Louise meant that Vivien Phillips was unable to get to speak to them afterwards with the list of questions she had pertinent to our breed but she will be contacting them to progress several issues.

Immediately after this symposium, Vivien was off to South Wales at Builth Wells, where she awarded the Hound Group to Ch Soletrader Magic Mike, who on the last day went BIS under Tom Johnston. There were two absent from Sue Virgo's breed entry of 20 where Magic Mike had gone BOB under Sue Virgo, giving CCs for the first time. From Junior, BCC went to Tangaer Chamlee, litter sister to Calvera who won the BCC at Driffield the weekend before. Not only that but litter brother Charles Bronsen was awarded the RDCC. What better birthday present Linda. The sire is Callydena Bailey's On Ice, the dam Ch Debucher Sybelle Avec Callydena. RBCC went to Lynn Scott's Soletrader Ain't Actin' Up At Overbecks ShCM and BP to Phil & Dianne Reid's Maudaxi Daiquiri Doughnut (Vilauddens Isaak ex Trezeguet Treacle Sponge at Maudaxi).

Good news from Christine Marett on Jersey where her Limier Didier at Gayteckels is not only embarking on a career as a PAT Dog spending time with children to help their reading abilities but he has also just been awarded his Gold Good Citizens.

LOD winners for October are Mr & Mrs Bradford with £15, Linda Lewis £10 and Lynne Scott £5. Don't forget to enter the club championship show, which takes place at Ryton-on-Dunsmore on 18 November. An event not to miss as this is the club's 30th championship show so there will be a gift for every exhibitor, specials and a surprise celebration. Postal entries close 21 October, on-line with www.fossedata.co.uk on 29 October.

20/10/2017 CAROLINE FRIEND-REES (AMICAL) judged at Hound Association of Scotland Open Show on 15 October where there was a good entry of seven PBGVs for the one class scheduled. BOB went to Steve & Lorna Wyllie's Tangaer Calvera avec Callydena (Callydena Baileys On Ice ex Ch Debucher Sybelle avec Callydena), who Caroline also short-listed for BIS. The same day at the other end of the UK, Steve & Lynn Wood's Beaujons Whisper (Suton Crepu Visage Love From Roxy to Gemshorn ex Beaujons Tickled Pink ShCM) was awarded BOB at Gravesend & Medway by Mark Walshaw (Janmark) and went on to get fourth in the group. This is the first time a Maidstone based show has put on breed classes for us but, unfortunately, the judge had already judged the breed earlier this year at Herts & Essex, so this must surely have affected the entry.

Sue Brundle has an entry of 20/30 for Midland Cos at Stafford this coming week. This is excellent for no CCs. With a busy weekend coming up - Discover Dogs at ExCeL, London, then the club seminars and assessments at Corley, near Coventry the following day, we are approaching 21 October, closing date for postal entries for our club championship show on 18 November. If you enter on-line with fossedata you have a few days more, until 29 October. There will be surprise specials and much more at this 30th show so not to be missed. Anyone who wants a club calendar, order it beforehand from Sue Marshall, 01245 265828 or sue.marshall4@btopenworld.com, and you can collect it at the show. Either pre-pay or pay on the day.

27/10/2017 WHAT A BUSY WEEKEND the club has just had. On Saturday Sue & Nick Marshall were at ExCeL for opening time to set up the BGV breed booths for Discover Dogs. Kim Culyer-Dawson and Tim Jennings helped. As storm Brian lashed the UK with winds of 70mph and above on Saturday, we were all wondering whether this would deter people from travelling to ExCeL. However the worst of the transport chaos, power cuts and bouts of flooding were centred away from London and, by midday, we could hardly move for the throngs of people milling around. Jenna, Glenna Clark and I were kept busy all morning answering questions at the PBGV breed stand and Kim took over in the afternoon, having recovered from falling gracefully at the side of the booth earlier in the day. It was the same on Sunday when Jan and Martin Bishop, then Pat Gregory talked to visitors keen to learn more about the breed. I have to admit I seemed to put quite a few genuinely interested people off having a PBGV when they learned off the amount of grooming, that they couldn't leave them on their own all day and a flat in London with no garden wasn't really suitable. Mention must be made of the Club Treasurer, Colin Makey, who with wife Ann attended to take part in the JW competition with their young GBGV, Gairside Good Lord JW, who made it to the short-list of 10 for the group in which he competed.

On to Sunday and breed seminars and assessments took place at Corley Village Hall, near Coventry. As the Club is responsible for two breeds, the timetable must be adhered to for getting through two in one day and, if it slips at any stage, this has a knock-on effect. My personal stress levels subsided just before 9am when I finally managed to get the projector working and the first frame of the PBGV powerpoint presentation appeared on the wall.

Ex-PBGV owner, Glenna Clark, who had travelled up from Devon to help at the weekend events, was kept busy in the kitchen all day alongside Lynn Wood, who carried on despite having had a nasty fall and hitting her head at home early in the day. They were helped by Kim Culyer-Dawson in the afternoon and Joan Robertson was also occupied, preparing tables for lunch and ferrying refreshments to assessors and helpers alike.

Gavin Robertson gave the talks, assisted afterwards by too many to mention who all came with examples of the breeds for the candidates to go over. Thirteen undertook the PBGV hands-on assessment, followed by twelve for the afternoon GBGV session although two were unable to stay and attend the assessment.

03/11/2017 MIDLAND COUNTIES saw another group win for Ch Soletrader Magic Mike, who went into third place behind the Whippet and Rhodesian Ridgeback. Group judge was Fran Mitchell, who despite having since taken a tumble and injuring a leg quite badly wasn't going to let it stop her getting on a plane to fly to Australia. Breed judge at this show was Sue Brundle who had four absent from her entry of 20. From PD, RBD went to Oliver & Erin Robertson and Lizzie Greenslade's Soletrader Buddy Holly. BB was Gavin, Oliver & Erin Robertson's Around Zlightly Different with Soletrader, with RBB going to Phil & Dianne Reid's Maudaxi Daquiri Doughnut, who was also BP. A nice touch was that each BP received £20 prize money though there was no competition for BPIS.

There have been extremes of emotion in the Keelan household. A G1 win in Group 6 at the recent Bull Breeds show in Ireland has cemented Ivor & Michelle's Ir Ch Tejas Heartbreaker's position at the top of Group 6 for the year, as Ivor says no other dog can catch him now. Set against this, they have had the upset of saying goodbye to Am Ch M&M's All About Mia at Tejas, at 13½. Mia's sire was Carcinet Dumbledore of Gebeba and her dam Pine Edge J Joli Luxeux.

The club championship show takes place on 18 November at Sports Connexion (formerly Sky Blue Connexion). Entries closing date was extended to midnight 2 November. Numbers will be announced next week - posted on the club facebook page and the club website, also in next week's notes. The show sub-committee has been working hard to make this an event to remember with a gift for all exhibitors and other "specials" during the day.

10/11/2017 ENTRIES FOR THE CLUB'S CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW are now in with 53 PBGVs for judge Vivien Phillips and 15 in PBGV Stakes for Mike Caple. With two rings running as last year, judging of PBGVs will start at 10.30am, 30 minutes before the 30 GBGVs being judged by Adele Walton Haddon with 8 in GBGV Stakes for Rachel Wray to be judged after BIS.

Following the success of the themed raffle at September's Brae Lodge Fun Day, this 30th anniversary show will see a somewhat different raffle this year. The 'themes' are as follows: Candles, Stationery, Crafts, Pamper yourself, Pamper your dog, Afternoon tea, Stay at home cinema, Gardening, Car kit, Fruit basket, Christmas basket, Manicure/pedicure, Dog treats, Alcoholic delights. Donations towards any of these themes will be gratefully received and added to what will already be there on the day. Anything you donate coming under the banner of "foodstuffs" will be raffled separately. If you already have something set aside to bring and it doesn't fit neatly into any of these headings, don't worry. Geraldine Dodd is already collecting items for our bumper raffles on 7 April next year when we have a double celebration of the club open show followed by a fun afternoon, celebrating the 40th year of the club.

This time of year championship show results slow down, so do let me know any news of open or limit show wins. Clare Boggia was the judge at Clacton Limit Show held at Weeley, where she awarded Reserve Best in Hound Group to Jan Bishop's Jamar Angeliou (Ch Monkshams Jack Sparrow JW ShCM ex Jamar Barefoot Contessa). With a total of 19 Hounds, I gather Penny was in stiff competition against 15 Whippets!

At the Danish double international show in Herning, it was a clean sweep both days for van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes with BOB going to 2yr old Vilauddens Magnificent Mile (Boom Chicago van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes ex Vilauddens Zara) owned by Gwen Huikeshoven & Marie Mard. BOS went to Gwen's Sacré Coeur vTTV (Soletrader Bjorn Borg ex Paris With Love van TTV). BP was Abricot van Tum-Tum-s Vriendjes (Felix dit Finistre du Chemin des Bruleurs ex Kiwi vTTV), who went on to RBPIS. On both days Anouk's daughter, Josephine, handled the PBGVs to top spot. Judge at the International show was Jette Vind Ramvad with an entry of just 7 and at the following day's Danish Winner Show the judge was András Korozs (Hungary) who had 8 to go over. Meanwhile Anouk was holding the fort back at home at the Bleiswijk show in Holland, where on day one, BOB went to Bensri Sittibavornsakul & Gwen's Biscuit Crunch v Tum Tums Vriendjes (Cappucinno ex Unlimited Ping Crunchy Roll for TTV). Day two was another success but this time for Anouk's Hatta Mari vTTV (Vilauddens Ronin ex Pumpkin Pie vTTV) who won the group under Jan Coppens then went on to BIS5 under Mr Grüttner. A mention must also go to day one's Best Baby Puppy, Anouk's home-bred Jour Apres Jour Saint Honoré born on 2 June, who went on to win Best Baby Puppy in Show first day under judge Jeff Luscott. The parents are Felix dit Finistere du Chemin des Bruleurs and Brown Sugar vTTV.

PBGV entry for the World Dog Show at Leipzig on 9 November is 46 for judge Burkhard Seibel (GER) but, surprisingly, only 7 for the German Winner show the day before being judged by Aidan McKiernan (IRL).

17/11/2017 LAST WEEKEND WAS DOMINATED BY THE SUCCESSFUL WORLD DOG SHOW. It is amazing so many people went from the UK to Leipzig either as exhibitors or spectators. Preceding the WDS, the Winner Show took place on 8 November and, from the seven entered, judge Aidan Mckiernan (Ire) chose Olga Agapova's Aldia Billi Bom as his BOB with BOS going to Ines Wüstner's Beliese Vom Divenhof.

On 9 November Group VI was on at the World Show and BOB went to the Netherlands with Cookie Crunch Van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes, owned by Gwen Huikeshoven & Bensri Sittibavornsakul. BOS was Zili Gotfrid's Kan Trace Best Shaldag from Israel. BOB Veteran was awarded to Kimberley Kruize's Mirepoix's Precocious Paddy from the Netherlands and BOB Junior went to Russia with Aldia Billi Bom, now listed under the ownership of Olga Agapova and Irina Antipova. BOB Puppy was Cirkos Csongor's Fox's Nightmare Jack Sparrow from Hungary. Many Kenna, who was there showing her Border, gained a Very Good in PBGV Junior Bitch with Cynetkoy Chilli Romance. The judge was Burkhard Seibel. BIS Breeders Group 2 went to four extremely well matched Van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes PBGVs, judged by Espen Engh.

On the third day over the other side of town for the CCF Special Club Show, which was open to all French and Swiss hound breeds, Gitte Finnich Pedersen from Denmark was the judge. She awarded BOB in PBGVs to Gitte Winter Arildsen's Fodnote One in a Million, handled by Holger Busk, with BOS to Anja Mellema's L'Ange Barbu d'Anglais La Vie Boheme (Chagal). Millie went on to BIS3 out of nine breeds.

Here there was a spate of open shows though a lack of breed classes. I know of three PBGVs who won Best NSC Hound - Teresa Eaton's Linphil Kili at Huntingdon under Anthony Oakden, our Beaujons Ugly Betty of Monkham's JW ShCM at Guildford under Rebecca Peek and Paul Osbourne's Braego Gladys Aylward ShCM at Burton-on-Trent under Trish Wells. In the group, Watson and Betty gained G2 at their respective shows, while Gladys went one better to go G1. Our own Monkham's Luna Luvgood won Junior Stakes at Guildford and her litter brother Lemony Snicket did owner Jan Bishop proud by gaining his KC Bronze Good Citizen award.

For anyone who is interested, James Hall in the States is now selling off copies of his "How To Groom The PBGV" DVD at the reduced price of \$15. To contact him, his e-mail address is jahapbgvs@yahoo.com. James sent me a complimentary copy when this first came out and, although there are some slight differences between how a professional groomer would groom a PBGV and the skills needed for someone who just wants to keep their PBGV tidy and well groomed, this gives lots of good tips and advice. James is also on facebook though doesn't seem to be checking his posts.

November sees the big draw for the Limited Odds and the lucky winners are Claire Cooper with £50, Gill Goulden £25 and £12 to Marion Gerrie. If anyone wants to join the monthly LOD giving a chance of winning big money while also helping Rescue, Geraldine Dodd will be at the club championship show this Saturday with forms for you to complete, also ready to collect 2018 subscriptions for existing number holders, easier than sending through the post. And Sue Marshall will have 2018 club calendars for anyone to collect who has pre-ordered and extra for anyone else to buy. Price £9. I doubt if any of you need reminding - the show is at the Sports Connexion, Ryton-on-Dunsmore. It opens at 9.30am and judging of PBGVs starts at 10.30am with Vivien Phillips having a good entry of 52 to go over. If you haven't entered, why not come along and watch? I look forward to seeing you all and hope you have a good day.

24/11/2017 TIME PASSES and it is already nearly a week since the successful club championship show at Ryton-on-Dunsmore. The weather was kind, with just a little drizzle, no fog or hard frost as we have experienced in days gone by. As I was judging, I arrived later than usual and, entering through the side door I thought I was going into Santa's grotto as everywhere was so dark. This was soon explained by finding that preparations had already been made for an Indian wedding reception to be held that evening in the half of the hall which we normally occupy.

This included elaborate ceiling drapes which blocked out much of the light. Not to be deterred, the committee had swiftly re-organised the usual layout and made good use of the backdrop of drapes to hang up a 30th Anniversary show banner in front. There is almost too much to mention which made this a somewhat different show from the usual so forgive me if I omit anyone who contributed to making the day a success. Of course, a lot of work had gone on before the show, not least arranging for the special gift coasters to be made for every exhibitor - thanks Sue Marshall, also for the splendid cakes which Kim Culyer-Dawson had baked herself - no, arranged to be made, and the bottles of bubbly supplied by Joan Robertson. The themed raffle was a great success, baskets supplied by Kim, with all committee members contributing to the contents. This I understand raised a magnificent £193.

Kim was on her feet all day doing various jobs including inviting people to guess the weight of the cake before Vice President Gavin Robertson's daughter, Erin, cut it during the lunch-break, guarded by all the club officers. We were on cake overload as there were others in the hall celebrating various achievements. One such person was Cilla Gylen (Krut's), visiting from Sweden to watch the judging. Her good friend, Inge Hansen (Vantans), had brought her over as a surprise to celebrate her 50th birthday and the club presented Cilla with her own special cake and a PBGV candle holder, which Jim Salmon had made to replicate those won for the Guess the Weight of the Cake competition.

Sue Marshall was kept extremely busy all day taking photos of the winners and, along with others including Lynn Wood, Claire Cooper, Mike MacLaren and Marion Gerrie who worked tirelessly from setting up the rings and tables, to selling raffle tickets, clearing up after dogs, stewarding, marking up catalogues and not least clearing up after the show, a big thank you for making this one to remember.

On to the results and, in PBGVs, judge Vivien Phillips awarded BOB to Ch Soletreader Magic Mike, handled by Lizzie Greenslade as Gavin and Sara were in Mexico. BOS went to Gwen Huikeshoven & Bensri Sittibavornsakul's Biscuit Crunch van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes (Multi Ch Cappuccino van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes ex Unlimited Ping Crunchy Roll for TTV), handled by Anouk Huikeshoven. Reserves went to Gwen Huikeshoven's & Maree Mard's Vilauddens Magnificent Mile (Boom Chicago van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes ex Vilauddens Zara) and Steve & Lorna Wyllie's Callydena Toffee Bon Bon (Debucher Quel Chance avec Tangaer ex Ch Tangaer Rhapsody at Callydena ShCM). Best Puppy was also a van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes with the award going to Gwen Huikeshoven's Bonbon (Cookie Crunch van TTV ex Vivace van TTV) and Best Veteran was the 9yr old Ch Tangaer Rhapsody at Callydena ShCM owned by the Wyllies. The winners all received extra rosettes and gifts kindly donated by Inge Hansen.

During the lunch break I judged a 6-11 years Junior Handling class of two confident girls both handling PBGVs. Best Junior Handler went to Maisie Allenby with Erin Robertson a very close second.

At the end of the day I judged BIS with the competition being between two superb examples of their respective breeds. My decision went to the PBGV over the GBGV breed record holder Buchanan & MacLaren's Ch/Ir Ch Tarmachan Cartier, who I awarded BP to at the start of his show career at Crufts in 2013. RBIS also went to a PBGV, Biscuit Crunch. BPIS again went to a PBGV, Bonbon with RBPIS to the GBGV Machent & Milton's Tioga Lautrec with Grandoreille. Best Veteran was Amanda o'Day's GBGV Ch Silvamoon Sweet Sapphire ShCM, who at 9yrs old is still winning well.

Stakes classes came after BIS and Mike Caple had 11 present from his PBGV entry of 15. Firsts in Special Junior and Special Open went to litter mates, Linda Lewis' Tangaer Chamlee and Tangaer Charles Bronsen, while Special Junior went to Teresa Eaton's Linphil Kili.

01/12/2017 AS WE DRIFT INTO THE LAST MONTH OF THE YEAR the club championship show already seems a long time ago. It was good to see so many positive comments about the day, especially gratifying as the committee was down by quite a few people for various reasons ranging from "just born" puppy duties, to sickness, to the secretary (me) being one of the judges.

There are 36 PBGVs entered at LKA for Brian Ballan, who is giving CCs for the first time. We are third in the ring, not ideal but at least the dreaded 3am start from home has been staved off.

Sixteen months ago I let you know that Robyn Higgs, who has a PBGV, was appealing for help as Louis needed life-saving heart surgery. Robyn had him checked regularly and one heart scan uncovered that he had a right arterial enlargement and what looked like pulmonary stenosis. He was referred to the RVC. There the cardiologist confirmed Pulmonary Stenosis. This is a birth defect that obstructs the blood flow through the pulmonary valve. The heart is working harder to pump the blood around and eventually the heart tires of working so hard and goes into failure. Surgery was needed to relieve the pressure within his heart and give him years of quality life, not months. As Robyn had disclosed the slight heart murmur when insuring him, the insurance company would not cover surgery. Robyn's circumstances meant an expensive operation was beyond reach, so she started up a fund. Many friends and BGV folk donated and I am pleased to say that, with a final further generous gesture from Louis' breeder, the goal has nearly been reached and the operation set to go ahead on 8 December. Robyn says "I want to say a massive thank you to everyone who shared and donated. Thank you all again. Words cannot explain". I'm sure we all wish Louis well for the procedure, giving him a long and happy life with Robyn, who dotes on him.

The Winter Voice is now at the printers and will hopefully be with you before the Christmas mail gets too heavy. Of course, this time of year subscriptions are due for so many things but bear in mind the following: BGVC annual subs, Breeders Directory, Limited Odds Draw. There is also something else to think about. Next year, the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the BGVC, the club will be issuing a yearbook. The last one covered up to 2012 and this one will span the years 2013-2017. If your BGV has achieved great things during this period, or you would purely like to advertise your kennel or tell everyone about your beloved BGV, contact Claire Cooper on 07855 255287 or clairecooper81@hotmail.co.uk who will be compiling this important edition. As usual, the handbook will be A5 and price of a one-page colour advert is £25. Premium pages can be arranged, price on enquiry. Don't delay, book your space now as Claire would like ads to be in by the end of the year.

08/12/2017 HAVING LOOKED AT MY BREED NOTES for this week last year, I see I was struggling then for something to write about. It is obviously the pre-Christmas lull with just LKA to come this weekend. For this year only, last weekend two Hound shows clashed with South Yorkshire Hound taking place at Elsecar, near Barnsley, and Hound Club of East Anglia at Godmanchester, Hunts. For some, the decision on which show to attend was easy but those living between the two were torn which show to support, as both are extremely popular and well run.

At South Yorkshire Elise Cartmell had an entry of six, giving BOB to Katherine Bamford's Tangaer Amour (Debucher Quel Chance at Tangaer ex Putjade Utterley Butterley). Meanwhile at Godmanchester Sue Marshall had an entry of 11, with 2 absent, at HC of EA and awarded BOB to our Beaujons Ugly Betty of Monkams JW ShCM

(Ch Monkham's Jack Sparrow JW ShCM ex Beaujons Tickled Pink ShCM). Jack Sparrow, making an appearance in the ring himself after a long absence, went RBVIS under Alan Mease. Stewards working hard were Chris Hill, fresh from his stint at the club championship show, Geraldine Dodd and Kim Culyer-Dawson.

While minds are now occupied with sending Christmas cards, buying presents, putting up decorations and stocking up with food, BGVC matters are doubtless far from everyone's thoughts but here is a little list for you to tick off things that need doing - and more money to pay out.

Membership dues - Unless you pay by standing order, time to pay your 2018 annual subscription. Rates are: £10 single, £12 joint, £25 overseas, £2 junior (under 17). Renewal form is on the club website www.bgvclub.co.uk Mrs Susan Brundle, Homefield Crescent, Wallberton, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 0PX.

Club calendar - it's not too late to buy a calendar for 2018 - contact Sue Marshall on 01245 265828, sue.marshall4@btopenworld.com.

Club Points Trophies Start thinking about claiming for a 2017 Points Trophy by completing one of the forms on the club website www.bgvclub.co.uk/membership-voice-lod.

LOD Payment is now due for your 2018 LOD number/s. Points forms and LOD money should go to Geraldine Dodd, 28 Leaf Road, Houghton Regis, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU5 5JH, 01582 865828 / g_dodd@hotmail.co.uk.

Breeders' Directory To be on the 2018 Breeders' Directory and for your kennel to be advertised at Crufts, complete the form in Voice, which will be with you shortly or on the club website www.bgvclub.co.uk/breeders and e-mail/send to me with your payment - Sharnden, Fourth Avenue, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex SS17 8HN.

If you pay direct into the club account, please let our Treasurer, Colin Makey, know what your payment is for, especially if for more than one item otherwise he will be sitting there scratching his head, trying to work out what the money relates to.

With exhibitors being encouraged to wear pink at LKA this weekend for charity fund-raising, I can't wait to see it all, especially what the men will be wearing!

15/12/2017 OH MY, ARE YOU ALL KEEPING WARM? What can I say about the experience that was LKA which hasn't already been said on social media? I have never had so many phone calls and text messages as I had while driving to the NEC early Sunday morning. Jenna acted as my secretary to let people know where we were, what the roads were like, how bad the snow was, commiserating with those who were forced to abandon their journey and give updates when we got stuck in jams. It doesn't matter how careful you are, I have to say there are some lunatic drivers on the roads. But, despite those that slid round in circles on the outside lane of the M1, that drove past far too fast, had to get out and push and others that slid gracefully over into our lane nearer the NEC, we somehow made it with time to spare. My harassed look remarked on by several on arrival said it all but, once I had calmed down, it was an enjoyable day.

There were absentees in all breeds, not least in PBGVs where Brian Ballan had 12 missing from his entry of 35. Judging of GBGVs before us was delayed as there was no steward. One can only sympathise with the problems the LKA committee had to overcome with some judges and stewards unable to get to the show. We have to thank Sheelah Bamford, who happened to be nearby and who gave in gracefully as we all said "You can do it" - and how good she was in making light work of the job. DCC & BB went to Robertson & Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike, with BCC going to Reid's Ch Trezeguet Plum Crumble at Maudaxi. Reserves were awarded to the younger Robertsons and Lizzie Greenslade's Soletrader Buddy Holly, who was also BP, and our Beaujons Ugly Betty of Monkham's JW ShCM. BV went to Ceri McEwan's Culdaws Diesle From Marunnel. With the show committee speeding things on to ensure all got away and on the roads at a reasonable hour, Hound BOBs were called to the collecting ring before our breed judging was quite finished. Magic Mike made it in time though and was awarded with a G2 by Renee Spore-Willes (Sweden). There were only 8 present out of 38 entered in the Junior Bitch Stakes judged by Darren Clarke, who awarded VHC to Steve & Lorna Wyllie's Tangaer Calvera avec Callydena.

The same weekend the Holland Cup and Winner Show took place in Amsterdam. The entries for this event have dwindled year on year and, for the Holland Cup, there was just one entered for Cindy Kerssemeijer (NL) with five for Valerio Nataletti (IT) at the Winner Show, where BOB went Anouk Huikeshoven's Hatta Mari van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes (Vilauddens Ronin ex Pumpkin Pie van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes).

22/12/2017 ONLY A FEW DAYS NOW TILL CHRISTMAS and I expect most of you are too busy to read these notes - you will be buying food, presents, wrapping paper and writing last minute cards. Of course, dogs still have to be walked and cared for so, in general, far too much to do. This includes the interminable cleaning as, now the weather has warmed up for a while, muddy paws go everywhere. However, if you are a "doggy" person, you accept it and get on with it. I invested in a steam cleaner some time ago. What a good buy that was as it deep cleans without leaving the floors wet and, with disinfectant down as well, leaves the house smelling fresh for two or three days. Of course, having a puppy hanging like a Christmas bauble on the lead this morning while I was cleaning didn't help matters much but the cleaner still works and pup is still alive.

At Carluke & DCS Steve & Lorna Wyllie's Callydena Diamond Star (Debucher Quel Chance avec Tangaer ex Ch Tangaer Rhapsody at Callydena ShCM) gained BOB giving her final point for her ShCM, subject to KC confirmation. Tangaer Rhapsody won Best Hound Veteran.

Meanwhile some GBGV folk accompanied by Fauve exhibitors travelled to Belgium for the Brussels Dog Show which offered 2 CACIBs and 3 CACs in the one weekend. It is great to experience shows in a different country but the PBGV entries were practically non-existent. Day one was the Brussels Trophy where there was only one PBGV entered for Liliane De Ridder-Onghena (Bel); and it wasn't much better on the second day where there were two for the Brussels Dog Show judged by Viera Staviarska (SL). Here BOB went to Anja Mellema's L'Ange Barbu D'anglais la Vie Bohème, which qualified him for Crufts. BOS went to Tina Romeis' Frieda.

Lynn Wood has let me know she still has a couple of spaces left, both in Grands and Petits, if anyone would like to help for a session on the breed booths at Crufts between 8-11 March. Contact her on 01268 555072 or wood_stephen9@sky.com and she will let you know which days and times are still available. You need to have a good knowledge of the breed and, for spending time talking to visitors to the show, you will receive free parking and entry tickets to the show. For this enjoyable day out, you will also have your palm crossed with silver. Wishing you all an enjoyable Christmas, when you can hopefully relax and spend quality time with your PBGVs.

29 / 12 / 2017 SO WHERE DID 2017 GO? Hopefully you all had a fairly peaceful Christmas and were able to relax for the day. It was a shock to see so many old PBGVs leaving us in the first half of 2017, thirteen reported in the Club's summer Newsletter. This is a terrible wrench for those who have loved them for so many years but, as we know, this is sadly all part of owning dogs. We never forget the old ones but we move on and photos of puppies can melt anyone's heart. There have been a couple of litters born just before Christmas and I am sure that, before long, they will be bringing happiness to their new owners.

December's lucky LOD winners are Chris & Deb Blake with £15, Claire Gilluley with £10 and £5 to Mrs Diane Watt.

At the end of this year, congratulations to breeders Gavin & Sara Robertson, whose Ch Soletrader Magic Mike achieved UK number one Hound and number three all breeds 2017.

PBVG judges known so far for 2018 championship shows are: Boston Tim Jones, Manchester Wendell Moore; Crufts Per Knudsen. Hound Association of Scotland Ed Casey (to be confirmed), Birmingham National Jill Peak, SKC Marita Rodgers, Bath Nigel Luxmoore-Ball, Three Counties Mark Cocozza, Border Union Fran Mitchell, Blackpool Karl-Eric Johanssen (Swe), Windsor David Knights, East of England Serena Parker, Hound Association Alan Mease, Leeds Bert Easdon, Paignton John Thirlwell, Bournemouth Zena Thorn Andrews, WKC Jeff Luscott, City of Birmingham Ron James, Richmond Paul Osbourne, Darlington Liz Cartledge, Drifffield Eddie Webster, South Wales Jan Pain, BGV Club Graham Hill. LKA Nick Bryce Smith.

There are a few open shows coming up early in the new year, though it does seem pointless when the same person keeps judging our breed in a relatively short space of time and within a fairly small area. It is doing the canine societies a disservice as, win or lose, exhibitors won't want to keep on showing under the same judge.

Entries for Crufts close on 22 January. Have you noticed that we have fewer classes in 2018? No Minor Puppy and no Yearling. With an entry fee of £30 per dog, this is becoming a show for the more affluent and I can't help wondering whether Crufts will lose out as the choice for some will be to leave one or more dogs at home to cut their outlay to a manageable amount.

A reminder that, if you would like an advert in the BGVC's 2013-217 Handbook, you need to get it to Claire Cooper now. You can contact her on 07855 255287 or clairecooper81@hotmail.co.uk. 2018 subscriptions are due for BGVC annual subs, Breeders Directory and Limited Odds Draw.

It only remains for me to wish you all a happy and healthy 2018.

LINDA SKERRITT, 01375 673922, monkhams@outlook.com