



THE BASSET GRIFFON VENDEEN CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN

BREED NOTES 2019 - PBGV

4 / 1 / 2019

THE NEW YEAR came in relatively quietly where I live, with most of the fireworks thankfully going off in the distance. The dogs were therefore spared any undue upset and I was equally spared the trauma of calming them down. Of course, welcoming in the New Year has moved on since the days when I was young. If I managed to stay awake until midnight, I would hear people in their back gardens banging pots and pans with a wooden spoon. Of course, in the austere years after the war no-one was going to spend money on expensive fireworks so it was common sense to use anything around the house as "noisemakers". Going back even further into the past, it seems this tradition was also to ward off evil spirits. In America, Westminster KC takes place next month. Monday, 11 February, Michael Canalizo of Mill Neck, NY, will be judging PBGVs and Pat Craig Trotter of Carmel, California will be judging the Hound Group. Top five dogs in PBGVs invited to attend were: GCHB Lacey's Not My Circus, GCHB M & M's Calamity Jane, GCHB Talus Stonehouse I'm A Travelin' Man, GCHG Pink Panther V. Tum-Tum's Vriendjes. GCHS CJ's Sweet Georgia Brown. The schedule and entry form for our BGV Club Open Show on 6 April are now on <http://www.bgvclub.co.uk/>. If you would like a paper copy, contact Colin Makey on 01469 540260 or gairside@btinternet.com who will have them shortly. There are no facilities for entering on-line for this show so, when doing it in the good old-fashioned way, please make sure all details are correct, also remember to use more than one entry form if for a different breed or different ownership. Something new for this show is a Baby Puppy Walk, which will take place after Junior Handling during the lunch break. This isn't a competition, puppies will not be placed in any way but they can come in as a group and parade around. A good chance to socialise and hopefully have a bit of fun. Each will receive a rosette.

11 / 1 / 2019

ABSENTEE RATE hit the PBGV classes at Boston where Peter Marks had 6 missing from the 19 entered. Noticeably these were all in bitches so doubtless seasons had something to do with it, either that or owners succumbing to the various evil germs going the rounds. From Junior, BD went to Ceri McEwan's Marunel Orinoco, with RBD the Open winner Marion Hunt's Soletrader Buzz Aldrin of Bondlea. With RBB going to Phil & Dianne Reid's Fox's Nightmare Jessica Biel at Maudaxi (imp Rus), BB and BOB went to Paul Osbourne's Braego Gladys Aylward ShCM. At 11mths old, Tim & Deborah Bartley's Erylan Zeus Roi des Dieu went BP. In Gothenburg the largest Nordic dog show, MyDog Sweden, took place the same weekend. On day one at the National show with Nordic CACs, from Denmark BOB went to Gitte Winter Arildsen's Fodnote Be My Guest (Fanta's Brand Nobody Does It Better ex Fodnote Hot Shot) who was in the equivalent of our Yearling class, with BOS going to Agneta Kallén's Around Don't Be A Chicken (Ch Soletrader Magic Mike ex Around Snack Attack). There were 11 entered and the judge was Elina Haapaniemi (Fin). The following day at the International show, where CACIBs were on offer, with the same dogs, the results were reversed with Margaret O'Gorman (Irl) awarding BOB to Around Don't Be A Chicken, BOS to Fodnote Be My Guest, handled once again by Holger Busk. Agneta Kallén's Surround Da Capo (Around Another Bad Hair Day ex Surround Bossanova) went BP on both days. Closer to home, at Paisley & DCS, with just one class for PBGVs, Gail Foote's Erylan Aphrodite La Belle went BOB and Hound G4 and, after going BP, Erylan Hebe La Jeune Fille came third in the Puppy Group. Breed and Group judge was Mrs Irene Glen (Wilhome). Into next week, the entry for Manchester is 30 for judge Gavin Robertson. Don't forget there are still a few Limited Odds Draws numbers available to buy. For just £1 a month you have a good chance of winning some money. Contact Geraldine Dodd on 01582 865828 or g_dodd@hotmail.co.uk. Remember proceeds from this monthly draw go towards helping less fortunate BGVs.

18 / 1 / 2019

MANCHESTER, which has become an extra CC show on the PBGV calendar, drew an entry of 30 less 4 for Gavin Robertson who last gave CCs in the breed at WKC in 2009. One of those marked absent was our young dog who annoyingly decided to develop a limp on the day. The show vet attended quickly and, with nothing stuck in his pad, opinion was that he had somehow bruised his metatarsals. However an injection of Metacam didn't kick in sufficiently in time to save the day so he never set paw in the ring. Today, of course, as I write these notes, he is charging around the garden as though nothing had happened. The benching area was snug to say the least with exhibitors having difficulty moving around. A pole in the middle of the ring did little to help the view for judge or spectators and the ring was appreciably smaller than those in the main building, so it did seem improvements could be made. That said, the benching was near the rings and I even managed to move the car close to the building so it wasn't all bad. Both RCCs went to Linda Lewis handling her Tangaer Erique (Nykarth Okie Dokie at Tangaer ex Ch Debucher Sybelle at Callydena), who came 2nd in PD, and Kath Bamford's Tangaer Amour winner of OB (Debucher Quel Chance at Tangaer ex Putjade Utterley Butterley). CCs went to the PD and BP winner, Freer's Switherland Aldia Casanova (Ch Soletrader Magic Mike ex Irina Podkoldernik Jadowity) handled by Marita Rodgers and Lynne Scott's Overbecks Kathy Tiere (Ch Taglines Double the Fun for Soletrader ex Soletrader Ain't Actin Up at Overbecks ShCM) who also went BOB. BV was Paul Osbourne's Ch Nykarth's Kicking Off with Braego ShCM (Ch/Am Ch Gebeba Texas True Grit ex Nykarth Irresistable, the only veteran entered. In the Hound Puppy Group judging Liz Stannard awarded Casanova G2 and it was a good day for Phil Freer who also won the Group with his Basset Smart Image. In Special Beginners Stakes Tim & Deborah Bartley's Erylan Loki Maitre du Mal gained first place under Pauline Luxmoore Ball. Congratulations also go to Lynne Scott as her puppy Soletrader Langham Rose for Overbecks (Soletrader Chip n Pin ex Soletrader Toffee Crisp) went BIS and BPIS at Yeovil Limit Show in December at just 6½mths old. The judge was Mrs J Guvercin. January's LOD winners are Vivien Phillips with £15, Linda Jones £10 and Hilary Cole £5. Remember, you that you have to be in it to win it – buy a number! Contact Geraldine Dodd on 01582 865828 or g_dodd@hotmail.co.uk.

25 / 1 / 2019

FIRST OF ALL I must apologise for the late posting of last week's breed notes. I was without internet for several days so although written I was unable to upload them. Living without internet is difficult if not nigh on impossible nowadays! I seem to be going through a bad patch all round though as, early yesterday evening, a control knob and the spring behind it popped off my oven while it was on and I spent ages trying to turn it off, without much success. It was getting hotter and hotter in the kitchen and conservatory. I went to open the conservatory door to let some of the heat out, only to find it was already open! As the room fugged up alarmingly and the smell of burning increased, the PBGVs stood looking bewildered so I shooed them further away as I began to wonder whether it could catch fire. I think my son-in-law sensed the urgency in my voice when I phoned for help and, after finding the hidden oven point for switching off the electricity and spending maybe 15mins trying to turn what was left of the knob, he thankfully succeeded. With a replacement knob on order I now find that, as with maintenance of cars, gone are the days where oven cleaning was a simple business of being able to remove parts, clean and replace them. That said, the shock of what happened yesterday evening has goaded me into

action to do some early spring cleaning! I am often asked about missing critiques. Every year, when several months have elapsed after a show, if there has been no critique published, I contact the KC and they take up the matter. It is a shame this has to be done when part of a judge's contract is to supply a critique but last year I asked the KC to look into the non-appearance of nine PBGV and GBGV championship show ones. To date four are still outstanding. As you all know, one of these is for PBGVs at Crufts last year. This was going to the KC Shows Executive Committee for a decision on a penalty, which will appear in the Kennel Journal, so I will update you in due course. Of course, the majority of judges take their appointments seriously and I'd like to quote to you a comment I received from one such person yesterday, which I am sure he won't mind me putting in print here. "A critique takes no more than a couple of hours of your time and provides pleasure, reassurance and gives the exhibitor the answers they are looking for. I cannot understand how some judges do not feel that is important. As a non-specialist judge it's important to remember that the exhibitor has far more knowledge about their breed than you do. There is no greater compliment in this hobby than someone paying for your opinion of their dogs. There is no greater insult to the exhibitor than not sharing that opinion and explaining why you made those decisions. If you can't explain, then how can your opinion be worth seeking ever again". As the "last man standing" Our Dogs provides a good facility for club secretaries to check on old critiques or whether critiques have indeed been published at all. However, publication of any critique is slowed down by the volume of reports Our Dogs receives at any one time, also with restrictions on the size of weekly newspaper printed. At the height of the dog showing season they get swamped with over 500 critiques weekly. Reports do not go on their website straight away, they are only uploaded once the staff have dealt with them. This doesn't help the exhibitor who is waiting impatiently, keen to see what the judge thought of his/her dog and getting more frustrated as the weeks pass and no critique. Of course, now the Kennel Club has provided the facility for judges to upload their critiques straight away <https://kcjudgescritiques.org.uk/> with their website sporting a photo of Ceri McEwan judging a Fauve on the home page. We had a good example of swift uploading last year where Mark Coccozza posted his "warts and all" PBGV critique the same day as judging at Three Counties; and you will find that Gavin Robertson uploaded his critique shortly after Hound day at Manchester last week. This is a refreshing change for exhibitors, though someone did make the comment that posting critiques too swiftly allows the Group judge to view results and the judge's view of the BOB. This is a valid comment however, I would imagine, highly unlikely and no more likely than a conversation in the Judges' Room. Nearly the end of January and the days are getting a little longer though some of you have weathered snow this week. Please bear in mind that, if your annual subscription is unpaid by the end of this month, you will be ineligible to receive voting papers should there be any ballot before the AGM. Annual subscription rates are: Single - £10, Joint - £12, Overseas - single or joint £18 (electronic communication) or £25 (postal communication), Junior £2 (under 17 and accompanied by one paying adult). Payment should either be made by standing order, direct bank transfer or by cheque sent to our Membership Secretary Martin Bishop at 1 Longship Way, Maldon, Essex CM9 6UG. Tel 01621 855984, email martin.bishop10@btopenworld.com.

1 / 2 / 2019

IT NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME that practically every year before Westminster, the East Coast of the States is gripped in sub-zero temperatures and there must be so many dog owners/handlers/exhibitors worried about whether they will make it to Madison Square Gardens for America's most prestigious dog show. That said, the PBGV entries are dropping year on year with only 9 this year, just one more than GBGVs who only recently made their first appearance at the show. This surely must be an all time low as there were 14 last year. Other than experiencing the show itself, with such poor entry I can't imagine why anyone would want to travel a long way to sit ringside and watch. Monday 11 February is the day when PBGVs are being shown and I will look forward to viewing on my computer. As I write this, the weather isn't too rosy in parts of the UK either, so I hope anyone who is snowbound is stocked up with food for humans and dogs. Coincidentally, following on from my comments about missing critiques in my last week's notes, yesterday someone posted on facebook that, since Boston 2018, 367 championship show critiques had not been published. These, of course, include those missing from PBGVs. With the full list appearing in print, sadly the same judges' names crop up time and again. It is therefore incredulous that the KC fails to act but, no, they pass the same miscreants for other breeds and other shows time and again. As we slip into the weird and wonderful world of the Judges Competency Framework, today I emailed or wrote to all judges on our C lists. Anyone currently on a C list will need to be registered at JCF Level 1 or above, or be on a breed club B list, to judge that breed from 1 January 2020 onwards. With the jaws of the JCF crocodile snapping from below, any C list judge should clamber up as soon as possible onto the B list as the clock inside the crocodile is ticking away and, before you know it, you will be sunk without trace. On the B list and it will give enough breathing space to carry on judging from the BGV Club's list while the next scramble takes place to achieve Level 2 under the new JCF requirements. If you didn't receive an email from me or don't get a letter within the next couple of days, let me know. Two dates for your diary - the Club AGM and Open show at Weedon Bec, Northants, on 6 April and a Breed Appreciation Day for both Petits and Grands at Corley Village Hall, Coventry, on 3 November. Open show schedules are available from Colin Makey, 01469 540260 or gairside@btinternet.com. The schedule and entry form are also on the club website www.bgvclub.co.uk/diary-dates. For details of the Breed Appreciation Day, contact Claire Cooper, 07855 255287, clairecooper81@hotmail.co.uk. And, at the risk of repeating myself, if you haven't paid your 2019 subs, why not? Contact our Membership Secretary Martin Bishop on 07779 300761, martin.bishop10@btopenworld.com.

8 / 2 / 2019

THE YEARS ROLL BY and all things must change. The French saying "Chasse d'abord" rings true for our hunting breed and, in our PBGV book, Valerie Link and I wrote about prominent packs of the time. Here, in the mid-70s, an ardent Nick Valentine, embarked on a lifetime of hunting with PBGVs. By the mid '90s he had set up his Bradley Vale kennels. He moved several times, finally settling at Ryeford, near Ross-on-Wye, with his pack name aptly changed to the Ryeford Chase. Over the years, I am sure Nick will not mind if I say that the hounds did not remain pure PBGV. They were a joy to watch and his mastery of them skillful. In 1999 he celebrated 25 years so it was hardly surprising to learn twenty years later he had finally, reluctantly decided to hang up his hunting horn as, with age, looking after and exercising so many dogs was not an easy task. I understand that many, if not all, went to Ireland. And in America, on 27 January Jim Scharnberg of the Skycastle French Hounds in Malvern, PA, passed away having valiantly fought cancer for several years. Jim became involved with the hounds in 1987 on the death of Elizabeth Streeter. She had first started the pack with English hunting Bassets in 1948, then became attracted to PBGVs and imported from England in 1975 before going to France and importing more from there. When she died, the private pack was renamed the Skycastle French Hounds and, over the years, Jim continued the tradition of importing PBGVs from France. With this regular infusion of French blood, the hounds showed their prowess both in hunting and conformation. For a fascinating insight into how the Skycastle have welcomed and encouraged adults and children to join them over the years go to <https://skycastlefrenchhounds.com>. The prizes for February's Limited Odds Draw go to Lesley & Andrew Bradford who win £15.00, Lynn Wood has netted £10 and Mr & Mrs and H Whitter receive £5. Having followed up exhibitors' concerns about lack of PBGV critique for Crufts last year, the KC has today sent me the following: Crufts 2018 - Bassett Griffon Vendeen (Petite) - March 2018 Below please find my critiques for my main winners. BOB: Young dog, full of quality, has all the desired features for the breed s.a. short face, short back, short ears and tail, exc. coat, correct angulation front and rear, exc. topline, perfectly handled, super temperament, he is going to be very successful in future. BP: Lovely puppe, correct proportions, nice coat, well angulated, mowed well, exc. temperament. BB: Very feminine bitch, fits well into the breed standard, sweet face, exc. coat, correct tail, exc. topline, perfectly handled, super temperament, RBD: Exc. dog, very correct in proportions, correct coat, short ears and tail, sound mover, exc. topline, mowed well, nice temperament RBB: feminine bitch, typical PGV, correct coat, short ears and tail, exc. topline, well angulated, mowed well, nice temperament. Per C Knudsen With just four weeks to go to this year's Crufts, entries have been published. First in Ring 31 there are 77/80 PBGVs for Yours Truly, followed by 33/34 GBGVs for Graham Hill.

15 / 2 / 2019

AFTER 11 MONTHS OF WAITING, the publication on the Club facebook page and in my breed notes last week of the notes on nameless main winners for last year's Crufts resulted in a predictably negative reaction. In fact, quite a few were angry. This is hardly surprising as UK exhibitors, who pay a lot to enter, do expect to see what the judge thought of their dogs. And the Crufts judging contract makes it clear that it is a condition of accepting the

appointment that a critique on the first and second in each class is submitted to the dog press within one month of the appointment. Of course there is a little more to this incident than meets the eye but I do think possibly the KC should not have pressed for even an abbreviated critique. At this late stage this only served to make matters worse. On a brighter note, the KC has now succeeded in getting the WKC 2018 critiques for both breeds in print, also PBGVs City of Birmingham. At Westminster, with 3 absent from the 9 entered, BOB went to Donna Moore & Janice Hayes' GCHB AM CH M&M's Calamity Jane (AM CH Auriga's Just Jack ex GCH M&M's Texas Mae West), handled by Janice; Best Opposite Sex was Cindy & Gary Wood's GCHB AM CH Talus Stonehouse I'm A Travelin' Man; Select Dog Shelley Barclay & Mona Stiles' GCHB AM CH Tetu's Mister Homer; Select Bitch Jan Zigich & Ross Litman's GCH AM CH Mirepoix's Kate Spade; Award of Merit Lynne & Mark Florian and Jeanne & Charles Hurty's GCH AM CH CJ's Rollin' On Five Mile River. The judge was Michael Canalizo. Calamity Jane made it to the final eight in the Hound Group judged by Pat Craig Trotter. Yet again there has been a shortage of Latanoprost. This must be a constant worry for those who have PBGVs affected with POAG who count on a regular supply. I gather it is now back in stock again but, with one supplier, the price has more than trebled. I am thinking the way forward might be to list suppliers on the club website to help those needing either Latanoprost or Xalatan. Email me if you would like to help.

22 / 2 / 2019

AS LAST YEAR, it has now been announced there is a delayed start of 10am for judging in Hall 5, ring 31. So PBGV exhibitors now have an extra hour to get to the NEC, or to wait - whichever way you look at it. I gather entries for the club open show on 6 April are starting to trickle in. With the closing date of 16 March, I am sure many are putting this task on the back burner until Crufts is out of the way but it was one job I wanted to get done and forget about. Of course, there are few shows nowadays where completing a paper entry is called for and it certainly makes you think when having to enter date of birth, names of sire and dam and so on. Hopefully though the errors that cropped up in the Club championship show catalogue such as incorrect details for address will be avoided when exhibitors are forced to put pen to paper. So, if you think one week after Crufts is cutting it a bit fine for entering, do it now! At the time of writing, the Discover Dogs tickets have yet to arrive. Another "cutting it fine" exercise, especially for Lynn Wood who has to send out tickets for two breeds, not one. Sixteen sessions. Envelope are ready but where are the tickets? And then we have to put our faith in a speedy postal service where it seems it makes little difference whether you use a first class or second class stamp these days. Following on from my notes about the Latanoprost shortage Linda Lewis has let me know about someone who has an 8yr old PBGV that is on Latanoprost and Cosopt. The dosage for some time was 1 drop of Latanoprost daily in each eye and the same dosage and frequency for Cosopt. He was in obvious pain with pressures over 30. The vet suggested upping the dose but the PBGV became worse. With an observant, vigilant and caring owner who knew her dog, the decision was instinctively to lower the dose. The PBGV is now on 1 drop of Latanoprost in each eye once every evening and alternate evenings, 1 drop of Cosopt in each eye. His pressures were tested soon after altering the doses and amazingly they had decreased to 20 and 24, the lowest they had been for over a year. He was happier, could see more and is no longer rubbing his eyes. The moral of the story is that sometimes less is more. Sometimes vets generalise and fail to treat each animal as an individual. Remember we spend so much time with our PBGVs, we undoubtedly know them far better than the vets.

1 / 3 / 2019

PREPARATIONS ARE UNDER WAY FOR CRUFTS especially by overseas exhibitors who have to pack their cars for a long drive and think about what documentation they will need, not only for themselves but for their dogs. This is the last Crufts we will all experience before Britain leaves the EU in some shape or form on 29 March. Although the Government remains committed to achieving a deal with the EU there is, of course, the possibility they will not reach an agreement. Like many government departments, DEFRA has had to plan for every eventuality. Interestingly it seems there will be no change to the current requirements for dogs entering the UK from the EU after 29 March. However for anyone here wanting to travel or exhibit in the EU after 29 March, you should contact your vet at least 4 months before travelling to get the latest advice. As things stand at the moment the following may help. Rules for Dog Travel The rules for taking your dog to any EU country will change if the UK leaves the EU with no deal and is treated as an unlisted country. You must get your microchipped dog vaccinated against rabies before it can travel. However, to allow effective contingency planning in the worst-case scenario of the UK not being granted third country status, you'll need to take the following steps to make sure your pet can travel after 29 March 2019: You must get your microchipped dog vaccinated against rabies before it can travel. Your dog must have a blood sample taken at least 30 days after the rabies vaccination. You'll need to talk to your vet about whether you need a rabies vaccination or booster before this test. Your vet must send the blood sample to an EU-approved blood testing laboratory. The results of the blood test must show that the vaccination was successful – that is your dog must have a rabies antibody level of at least 0.5 IU/ml. You must wait 3 months from the date the successful blood sample was taken before you travel. You must take your pet to a Official Veterinarian (OV), no more than 10 days before travel to get a health certificate. And remember, if there's no deal, pet passports issued in the UK would not be valid for travel to the EU. A successful blood test is only required for first time travel to an EU country. This is provided that your dog's rabies vaccinations are kept up to date with boosters before the expiry date of the previous vaccination. Your dog's health certificate would be valid for: 10 days after the date of issue for entry into the EU; 4 months of onward travel within the EU; re-entry to the UK for 4 months after the date of issue. On arrival in the EU, dog owners travelling with their pets would be required to enter through a designated Travellers' Point of Entry (TPE). At the TPE, the dog owner may be asked to present proof of microchip, rabies vaccination and the blood test result alongside their dog's health certificate. Repeat trips to the EU Dogs that have previously had a blood test and have an up-to-date rabies vaccination do not need to repeat the blood test. Your dog will need a health certificate for each trip to the EU. To get a new health certificate you must take your dog to an OV no more than 10 days before you travel. You must take proof of: your dog's vaccination history; a successful rabies antibody blood test result. Return to the UK Your dog must have one of the following documents when returning to the UK: an existing EU pet passport (both for UK and EU citizens); the EU health certificate issued in the UK used to travel to the EU; a UK pet health certificate (issued outside the UK for travel into the UK only) Check the routes before you travel. On existing approved routes your documents and microchip will be checked. If you are not travelling on an approved route talk to your vet about what preparations you need to make before travel. Of course there are other situations that may need clarification, so for more information go to www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brexite. A couple of deadlines coming up are that entries for our Club open show close on Saturday 16 March. See www.bgvclub.co.uk/diary-dates for the schedule and entry form or phone Colin Makey for a schedule – 01469 540260. If you have a young puppy, enter the Baby Puppy walk which is bound to be good fun for everyone, not least the pups who will love socialising. Another closer deadline is on the day of Crufts, by which date proposed and seconded items for the Club's AGM agenda should reach me by post to Sharnden, Fourth Avenue, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex SS17 8HN. Last year before the AGM I posted information about how we intended to carry out the ballot for club show judges, this in view of the evolving changes taking place for the Judges Competency Framework. This year is no different so here is information on how the ballot for judges will be carried out this year: JUDGES NOMINATIONS 2019 FOR OPEN SHOW 2021 AND CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW 2022 Before last year's AGM the Judges Sub-Committee reviewed procedures and trialled a different method of selection of judges. In addition, in view of the uncertainties surrounding contracting of UK judges during the implementation phase of the Judges Competency Framework, a decision was made to select overseas judges for our 2021 championship show. As has always been done, a shortlist of names for the open show 2020 was produced by the Judges Sub-Committee to be voted on and results were announced at the AGM. While this worked well, with the Judges Competency Framework still evolving the Judges Sub-Committee undertook to continue reviewing procedures. The move not to contact every A and B list judge beforehand for availability is a sound one. This cuts out one stage in the selection process where in the past judges' expectations have been raised unnecessarily when many didn't make the short-list. It also avoided the exorbitant costs of a full member postal ballot where the majority of ballot papers were not returned. The next stage has remained as it always has, where the JSC are best placed to decide who would potentially draw a better entry for the Club and pass the recommended short-list on for the ballot. Last year we vested the final decision from the short-list in the committee. To move this forward and again involve members, this year the final vote will be made by those present at the AGM.

8 / 3 / 2019

FOR THOSE OF YOU GOING TO CRUFTS who have yet to have your PBGV DNA tested, this is a golden opportunity to get a 20% reduction on the usual price of £48 for the duration of the show. The Animal Health Trust genetics research teams will be there in Hall 3, Stand 55 to answer any questions and talk about their work. If you receive the quarterly Kennel Club Breed Records Supplement you may have noticed that DNA testing results have recently been mixed with results of eye testing. These are sent to the KC by an eye panel ophthalmologist. The explanation is that there was a systems error. The KC accepts that the DNA tests and eye tests should be clearly separated and this will be corrected for future supplements. A gremlin also crept into the Winter 2018 edition declaring that PBGVs were currently certified for GPRA (Progressive Retinal Atrophy). The only condition we have listed under Schedule A is Primary Open Angle Glaucoma, with Persistent Pupillary Membrane listed under Schedule B. The KC has explained that there are currently restrictions on the system meaning that some details are input manually, hence the error. However I have been assured that, once the KC's new computer system is launched around July/August, errors like this should be prevented. In the lead up to Crufts, quite a few of you were out and about last weekend at open shows. At Wath, West Melton & DCS Paul Osbourne's Ch Debucher Jezebel at Braego ShCM went BV in Group, and at East of Scotland Canine Club Claire Gilluley's Haliston Didier ShCM won Hound Group 1 having gone through from AVNSC Hound. The judge was David Robson (Robricci). We are now nearing the closing date of Saturday 16 March for entries for our BGV Club open show. The schedule and entry form are on www.bgvclub.co.uk/diary-dates. Alternatively contact Show Secretary Colin Makey on 01469 542260 or gairside@btinternet.com.

15 / 3 / 2019

CONGRATULATIONS to breeders Gavin and Sara Robertson whose Ch Soletrader Magic Mike (Boom Chicago van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes ex Ch Soletrader Peek a Boo) made it all the way to the Best in Show ring at this year's Crufts. Joint owners are Sara and Wendy Doherty. BIS judge was Swede Dan Ericsson, who awarded Magic Mike RBIS. Frank Kane had put him through from the Hound Group. In the breed ring, there were 5 absent and 1 withdrawn from my entry of 80. Other main awards went to overseas exhibitors with BCC, both Reserves and BP going to the Netherlands. BCC was Gwen Huikeshoven's Bonbon de Noel vTT Vriendjes (Cookie Crunch vTT Vriendjes ex Vivace vTT Vriendjes). RDCC Bonbon's sire Gwen Huikeshoven & Bensri Sittibavornsakul's Cookie Crunch, RBCC Anouk Huikeshoven's Ned/Ger Ch Hatta Mari vTT Vriendjes (Dk/Nordic Ch Vilauddens Ronin ex Ned Ch Pumpkin Cake vTT Vriendjes). Cookie Crunch also sired the BP Gwen Huikeshoven's Meringue Lemon vTT Vriendjes (dam Sacré Coeur vTT Vriendjes). From Denmark BV went to Jette Ramvad's Dk/Int/Pol/Ger/Fin Ch Petit Heroes Canned Heat (Multi Ch Around I'm What I'm ex Dk/Int Ch Petit Heroes Blonde on Blonde). This year saw 17 overseas exhibitors: Denmark 4, Italy 2, Netherlands 8, Russian Federation 3 and Slovakia 1. At the benches, there was a great deal of interest in the breed and I gather those on the Discover Dogs breed booths were kept busy. Thank you to everyone who helped, I hear you all seemed to enjoy the time you were there and several have already asked to help again next year. Needless to say, TV coverage of Crufts and the RBIS win has sparked interest in the breed and I, and many others, are now getting countless emails and phone calls from would-be PBGV owners. It is up to breeders to be wary and decide whether they are genuinely keen to be lifelong dog owners or this is an "Oh I must have one" reaction. In reality there is probably little chance of anyone getting a pup in the near future as litters are few and far between. The winter 2018 Breed Record Supplement showed only 85 registered with the KC during 2018 and, of course, some of these were imports. Thanks to Geraldine Dodd for letting me know about March's Limited Odds Draw winners – a lucky Gail Foote with £15, Chris & Deb Blake with £10 and Carolyn Dexter £5. Final reminder – entries close Saturday 16 March for the BGVC Open Show. Just time if you haven't yet sent off your entry. If you no longer possess a cheque book, you can pay by Postal Order or by bank transfer. Ask Colin Makey for details - 01469 542260 or gairside@btinternet.com.

22 / 3 / 2019

PBGV ENTRIES FOR THE CLUB OPEN SHOW are 27, plus 5 NFC, for our judge Fiona Buchanan (Tarmachan). These follow 15 GBGVs (plus 7 NFC) in the ring which will start to be judged by Sue Marshall (Soufriere) shortly after the end of the preceding AGM, so probably around 11am. Although there are no Junior Handling entries, there will be a break between the two breeds during which Judith Robin-Smith (Willowbrae) will preside over the Baby Puppy Walk. The usual baked potatoes and delicious fillings will be on offer and our catering manager, Claire Cooper, has been asking whether anyone attending would prefer a sweet potato. Let her know on 07855 255287 or clairecooper81@hotmail.co.uk. Bacon rolls will also be available early on. The death occurred earlier this month of Donna Moore's husband, Donnie, of the M&M PBGVs in America. Handler Janice Hayes wrote "He was the backbone to Donna and my M&M PBGV dreams. His support for the past 13 years never wavered and for that I will forever be grateful. He was the man that did everything for his girls". Janice's most recent win was the day after the 19 March funeral at Redwood Empire Kennel Club in Vallejo, California where, from an entry of 750, GCHB M&Ms Calamity Jane went BIS under Mr Alberto Berrios. I am sure Donnie would have approved. Back in the UK, still fit for more after Crufts, a few travelled to Ireland for the Celtic Winners Show and St Patrick's International shows. Gail Foote said Tilly (Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune) won the Bitch Green Star and went BOB both days. Her mother Phoebe (Erylan Aphrodite La belle) was awarded Reserve Green Star and Reserve BOB, also won the CACIBs on both days as Tilly was too young. Tilly also won Best Junior Bitch starting her Irish junior title and gained junior Celtic Winner '19 and Celtic Winner titles too. She added that the girls were beautifully handled as ever by Erin McAulay and, although the only ones entered in the breed, they received some lovely comments from the judges. Breed judge at the IKC Celtic Winners was Ken Sinclair and at the St Patrick's Mrs R Lochs-Romans.

29 / 3 / 2019

BILLED AS A PBGV EXTRAVAGANZA packed with something for everyone, the PBGV Club of America National & Regional shows take place in Kerrville, Texas 9-13 April. Each year a different region in the States hosts this event and, there can be no doubt about it, with thirty or more people involved in bringing the event together, everyone pulls out the stops to put on a great event. The programme for this year demonstrates just how much is involved. Monday 8 April: Agility Fun Runs Match. Tuesday 9 April: Agility. Wednesday 10 April: PBGVCA Board Meeting, Regional Obedience & Rally, Welcome Party, Fun Rabbit Hunt. Thurs 11 April: National Obedience & Rally, Regional 4-6 Month Puppy, Junior Showmanship, Sweepstakes and Breed Competition, Top 20 Buffet Dinner - Diamonds & Denim Celebration. Friday 12 April: Regional & National Scent Work Trial, Breeder Mentoring, Talk by András Komáromy DVM, PhD, DACVO - Developing Gene Therapies for Canine Open-Angle Glaucoma, DNA Blood Draw, Awards Dinner, Trick Training & Titling. Saturday 13 April: Canine Good Citizen/CGC Advanced testing, Judges Education, National 4-6 Month Puppy, Junior Showmanship, Sweepstakes and Breed Competition, National Conformation, Annual Meeting, Cocktails & Annual Buffet Dinner, Raffle/Auction. Conformation judges are - Regional: Four to Six Month Puppy Competition - Nancy D Simmons, Puppy & Veteran Sweepstakes/Jr Showmanship - Katherine Howell, Conformation - Linda Scanlon, National: Four to Six Month Puppy Competition - Nicholas G Frost, Puppy & Veteran Sweepstakes - Jo Quintenz, Conformation and Junior Showmanship - Carol Doerge. If that doesn't leave you exhausted, bear a thought for the mammoth arrangements needed. On a somewhat smaller scale but nonetheless requiring much organisation by far fewer people, our own club open show is ready to go on 6 April, after the morning AGM which commences at 9am. Bacon rolls will be on offer early in the day (no greasy fingers on your Statement of Accounts please) and the usual popular baked potatoes and fillings lunchtime, plus various delicious cakes. Claire Cooper who is organising the catering has also suggested that, to reduce the use of polystyrene, anyone wanting tea or coffee should bring their own mug. So, if you have a bigger one, it will be the same price. That can't be bad! If you forget to bring one, Club mugs will be on sale. For those on email, the Club's voice dropped into your in-box this week, the first one prepared by Sue Marshall, experiencing a learning curve with a little guidance along the way from Kim Culyer-Dawson who is an old hand at producing her South of England Basset Hound Club newsletters. Eager to get the finished article to your in-box, Martin Bishop sent it out just before midnight, omitting to write a short message letting you know what the attachment was. Wise old owl Fred Ellingford, deciding this was from an unknown, suspicious or untrustworthy source, decided it was spam and deleted it. Martin has vowed never to rush into emailing members again in the late hours but wait until the next day when he is bright eyed and bushy tailed.

5 / 4 / 2019

THE WEEKS ROLL BY and here we are on the eve of our club open show at Weedon Bec village hall NN7 4QU. Show opens 8.30am to allow time for you to get your BGVs into the hall before the AGM starts at 9am. Once chairs have been put to one side after the meeting, we will be starting BGV judging first of all around 11am with Sue Marshall taking centre stage. This will be followed by a short lunch break during which our BIS referee Judith Robin-Smith will be enjoying the Baby Puppy Walk, then onto PBGVs when Fiona Buchanan takes over. Claire Cooper knows everyone's weaknesses and will have bacon rolls on the go early morning, then baked potatoes with various fillings later in the day. Jan Bishop and Geraldine Dodd have been busy baking cakes which I am sure will also go down well. Geraldine will also be busy on the raffle table, assisted by Kathy Moulding and, for their sins, they have the additional job of being in charge of selling BGV mugs, some done up specially containing Easter eggs, also leads and purses. If you want to pre-order, contact Kim Culyer-Dawson on 01255 317415, email kimgreen2003@yahoo.co.uk. Raffle prizes will be most welcome, also any items to boost the raffle for the Scottish Fun Day. Still north of the Border, there is a good entry of 18 PBGVs for Suzanne Metcalfe-Bilgin at Hound Association of Scotland on 13 April. A small boast that our Ch Beaujous Ugly Betty of Monkham's JW ShCM did us proud at the Herts & Essex show last weekend where, from an entry of nearly 50, she made the cut twice to be pulled out first in the Open Stakes, winning £50. The judge was Janis Ward (Laurenley). In the breed classes, our Monkham's Memphis Belle went BP and BOB under Kate Broadhead (Tazieff). Herts & Essex is but one of the canine societies to have lost its old Wood Green Animal Shelter venue at Godmanchester and their recent show took place at the equestrian centre at Keysoe, Beds. This too is being lost to dog shows making it more and more difficult for societies to find suitable alternatives. I gather that next year's Herts & Essex is being held at Dullingham Polo Fields, Newmarket. If it rains, we get wet! This month's Limited Odds Draw winners are Joan Hutchings with £15, £10 to Michael Maclaren and £5 to Fiona Morris, who has kindly asked for this to be put back into Club funds.

12 / 4 / 2019

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

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

Thanks go to our judges Sue Marshall, Fiona Buchanan and Judith Robin-Smith, also stewards Tina Parker and Chris Hill, and our photographer and, in Kim Culyer-Dawson's absence, matting delivery man Tim Jennings. Also during the day, the committee was hard at work with Geraldine Dodd and Kathy Moulding in charge of the raffle, which I gather raised a fabulous £105. As ever, cakes made and donated by Geraldine and Jan Bishop were much in demand and Claire Cooper had several helpers in the kitchen, including Jan Bishop, Lynn Wood, Paul Osbourne, Geraldine and Joan Robertson, who helped serve judges' and stewards' lunches. Baked potatoes were popular, with Peter Marks' renowned chilli as one of the fillings. In the morning the early birds got the worm with bacon rolls on offer, courtesy of Claire. Not unusually, over the years, those attending BGV AGMs have been predominantly breeders and exhibitors. Even when last year's AGM was a standalone event due to 40th anniversary celebrations, every member there had a connection with the show world. Therefore, although a return to holding the AGM this year on the same day as the Open Show dictated an early 9am start, this was in the knowledge that exhibitors can rise early to get to a dog show and those with a vested interest would turn up for this obligatory annual event.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And for Open Shows:

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

Crufts trophies for both breeds went to:

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

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

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

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

19 / 4 / 2019

FRIDAY I TOOK THE DE-ICER OUT OF THE CAR, Saturday back it came again as the windscreen was frosted over. No doubt many travelling to the weekend shows had the same problem as we were plunged back into chilly weather. At Hound Association of Scotland both main winners were out of Ir Ch Trezeguet Treacle Sponge at Maudaxi with judge Suzanne Metcalfe-Bilgin (Metadale) awarding BOB to Reid's Maudaxi Pina Colada Parfait (sire Vilaudens Isaak [imp Swe]) handled by Colin Gerrie, and BOS to their Maudaxi Nick Nack (sire Ch Maudaxi Jimmy Choo). RBD was Gilluley's Haliston Didier ShCM ShCEx (Ch Haliston Velu ex Haliston Yelena) and RBB Foote's Erylan Aphrodite La Belle (Ch Taglines Double The Fun with Soletrader [imp Nor] ex Ir Ch Clonallan Just Beginning avec Erylan ShCM). With no puppies entered, Best Junior was Cooper & Ellingford's Afterglow Agnes Gru avec Jayanel and, although there was no Veteran class, BV went to Wyllie's Ch Tangaer Rhapsody at Callydena ShCM (Tidou de la Font Française de Debucher [imp Fra] ex Tangaer Oopsadaisy). There were no absentees from the 15 entered. Onto the various other classes which were well supported by PBGVs - with Fauve Rangali Tigger replacing Caldewriver Lotsa Trouble, Katie O'Brien won YKC Handling (12-17 Yrs) with Debbie O'Brien coming a close 3rd handling Caldewriver Despicable Me. The judge was Maggie Holder (Mascotts). In Junior Stakes the Foote's Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune placed 2nd under Colin Ashmore; and Jim Richardson judging Yearling Stakes – Dog awarded Brown's Erylan Eros Dieu de Sottises VHC. Wyllie's Ch Tangaer Rhapsody at Callydena ShCM came 3rd in Veteran Stakes judged by John Ritchie. Gilluley's Haliston Didier ShCM ShCEx gained second in the Good Citizen Dog Scheme Stakes judged by Jim Richardson and, finally, Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune went into second place in the Breeders Stakes judged by Kevin Young. Ready for more and the following day Claire Gilluley's Haliston Didier ShCM ShCEx (Bilbo) went BOB and G4 at Selkirk & DCS under Christine Russell (Russteck). Further south in Sussex, at the Crystal Palace show, from an overall entry of 22, our Monkham's Memphis Belle (Beaujons Vagabond of Monkham's ex Monkham's Luna Luvgood) went Best AVNSC Hound Puppy, also Best AVNSC Hound, under judge Adrian Marett (Gayteckels). She followed this up with a 3rd in the Hound Group and Puppy G2. At the PBGVCA Regionals in Texas judge Linda Scanlon awarded Winners Dog and Best of Winners to Janice Hayes, Donna Moore, Eric Ciceron & Wendy Doherty's M&M Stellar Spotify (GCH Soletrader Right Said Fred ex GCHB Soletrader Annie Mac) and WB to Jan Zigich & Ross Litman's Mirepoix She's Got the Hammer (Am Ch Mirepoix's Sid Vicious ex Le Mou'v' Mirepoix All About My Mother). BOB went to Janice Hayes & Donna Moore's GCHB M&M's Calamity Jane (Am Ch Auriga's Just Jack ex Gr Am Ch M&M's Texas Mae West) with BOS going to Cindy & Gary Wood's GCHS Talus Stonehouse I'm A Travelin' Man (GCHS Hicotton Can't Stop Rockin' ex Am Ch Celestial CJ Queen Of The Air at Talus). BP was Patricia Opperman & Jan Zigich's Mirepoix's Dubble Bubble (Am Ch Nightmare Cristiano Ronaldo ex GCH Mirepoix's Pierre-Jouet) and BV Beverly & Tony Childs' GCHS HiCotton Can't Stop Rockin' (Am Ch Dehra Amazona Vidal ex Am Ch HiCotton Dance To The Music). Carol Doerge was the National judge. She awarded BOB to GCHS HiCotton Can't Stop Rockin' with BOS to Tim & Vickie Willmann's Am Ch Mirepoix's Straight Up (Am Ch Nightmare Diego Delgado ex GCH Mirepoix's Pierre-Jouet). WD and BOW was Patricia Whitlock's Centerstage Sully (Am Ch McRudge Centerstage Fun Time In Rio at Morganmills ex Centerstage Starlit), WB Teri King's Centerstage Defying Gravity (Am Ch Charlen's Xcaliber ex Am Ch Charlen's Reign). BP was Tony Long, Michael Stewart & Tammy Hensley's Grand-Voile's Juicy Pear (GCH Sonora Hidalgo ex Am Ch Mirepoix's That's My Jam). BV Can't Stop Rockin'.

26 / 4 / 2019

I HOPE YOU ALL HAD A GOOD EASTER. Plenty of open shows on, though I am thankful I didn't enter any as I was felled low for the entire Easter break by vile germs, so would not have been going anywhere. In fact, Jenna and her husband took on the task of getting four of our PBGVs' eyes tested at one of Peter Bedford's sessions in Essex. Although all except one of ours are POAG Clear, having lost a Carrier PBGV to unexplained acute bi-lateral POAG, I like to have the older ones eye tested every few years to ensure nothing else sinister is brewing, other than the expected problems associated with advancing years. It may be costly but gives peace of mind. A motley gang of various breeds congregated at South Woodham Ferrers, though there was quite a gathering to fly the PBGV flag and, for those that are clinically affected, Peter was pleased that all pressures are under control. Praise the Lord for Latanoprost. As usual, Weldricks seems to be the cheapest on-line pharmacy to go to with your prescription and, from all accounts, they are a most obliging and helpful company. However do keep an eye on price from week to week as, although cheaper than most, it seems to go up and down like a yoyo. One show we didn't go to was Dunstable & DCS where there was a change of judge for PBGVs with Elias Vorias going over the 6 entered. With 1 absent, he awarded BOB to Teresa Eaton's Linphil Kili, who went on to G4 under John Purnell (Yikasown). Dunstable had very short notice to find replacement judges for all the breeds that had been allocated to Liz Millward, who I gather had a very sick dog who tragically died around the time of the show. Of course we don't know the difficulties involved but it is a pity that Dunstable didn't use someone from our PBGV judging list as a replacement when there were a couple at the show. Traditionally attracting a larger entry at this first outdoor CC show of the year, there are 38 PBGVs entered for Rod Price at Birmingham National on 11 May. PBGVs are after Otterhounds and GBGVs and not before 11am.

3 / 5 / 2019

ALTHOUGH THERE ARE NO BREED CLASSES AT WELKS there was a good representation of Petits in the Not Separately Classified classes. Of the 17 actually present, seven were PBGVs. The judge was Tim Ball and he awarded Best NSC Hound to Robertson & Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike. Having gone RBIS there in 2017 and BIS last year, he had to settle for Hound Group 2 this time round under Jan Pain. This is one of the few championship shows where there is no competition for Best Puppy in Show, however they continued this year with awarding group placings for Special Beginners, newly introduced last year. In YKC Members Stakes judged by Mark Walshaw, it was a 4th for Charlotte Dalgarno with Vencharno Mojito. Elsewhere the shows in Scotland attracted some. At Drongan & DCS, Marion Sergent was the PBGV and Group judge. With just one class, she awarded BOB to Foote & McAulay's Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune, also giving her top place in the Hound Group. The following day a back-to-back (Falkirk & DCS and LKA of Scotland) attracted a good turnout of Petits with an entry of 10. At both shows BOB went to Foote & McAulay's Ir Ch Clonallan Just Beginning Avec Erylan ShCM. And, Lorna & Steve Wyllie's Ch Tangaer Rhapsody at Callydena ShCM celebrated her tenth birthday in style by going Best Hound Veteran at the Falkirk show. Condolences to Lesley Cooper who has lost Jayanel A Rising Star (Ch Debucher Mioche ex Tangaer Janvier at Tanafei) at the age of 14. One of Star's wins was RBCC at Houndshow in 2009, a spectacular show for all the wrong reasons where it poured with rain so we were moved inside to a tiny, dingy ring, then judging was delayed when a lighting fixture exploded and shattered glass everywhere. And, in America, the death has been announced of Shirley Knipe. Shirley was a retired California teacher. Her greatest love was dogs. With Debbie Perrott, she founded Hootwire Kennel where they successfully bred, raised and trained German Shepherds, German Wirehaired Pointers, Bassets Griffons Vendéens and, latterly, Italian Spinonis with much success. In 1984 Barbara Galbraith imported Wakelyns Noblesse from Ann and Sandy McKenzie. Despite only having one litter when bred to another of Barbara's imports, Wakelyns Javelot, she produced Lacebarks Lydia, born 6 July 1988. Lydia went into joint ownership with Debbie Perrott and Shirley Knipe and she became one of the top winning, top producing bitches in the breed's history at that time and the foundation of many American kennels. Along with Debbie, Shirley was also one of the early people to import the GBGV into the States and was active as a member of GBGVCA Board of Directors for many years.

10 / 5 / 2019

THE BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND saw several shows taking place, notably those in Ireland, where the sun shone the whole weekend. Gavin Robertson was the judge at South Tipperary where he awarded Green Star Dog to Gilluley's Haliston Didier ShCM ShCEX. GSB/BOB went to Foote & McAulay's Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune, whom he also awarded G4. The following day at Fermoy International Show B Zorab judged and once again Bilbo (Haliston Didier) gained GSD and, having gone BOB, Tilly went even better by going G2 under Ms E Caminade Lavault having gone BOB under N Zorab. This gave her her last point for her junior champion title. With 4-6mth old puppies allowed to enter under FCI rules, worthy of a mention is Mrs D Whitehouse's Knotdogs Zoe Winter Gift (Beaujons Vagabond of Monkams ex Afterglow Minnie the Minx) who was the winner of Baby Puppy Bitch at both shows. Finishing the Irish mini circuit, at Hound Association of Ireland it was GSD once again for Bilbo which subject to IKC confirmation makes him an Ir Ch. GSB and BOB went to Erylan Aphrodite La Belle, who went on to G4. At Chelmsford & DCS Ann Makey judged PBGVs, awarding BOB to our Monkams Luna Luvgood (Suton Crepu Visage Love From Roxy to Gemshorn (imp USA) ex Monkams Kiwi JW ShCM), RBOB to Teresa Eaton's Linphil Kili (Ch Debucher Unique ex Tangaer Zibeline avec Linphil). Our Monkams Memphis Belle went BP, then Hound PG1 under Geraldine Dodd and, carrying on the family tradition went RBPIIS under Barry Blunden (Licassa). Three years ago her grandfather, Diana Sadler's William (Suton Crepu Visage Love From Roxy to Gemshorn) went BIS at this show and two years ago her mother won BPIS. And at this her first show, Jan and Martin Bishop's Jamar Ina The Countessa achieved a creditable 2nd place in a large AV Minor Puppy Stakes that had an entry of 32, also judged by Barry Blunden. The weather makes for an unpredictable show at Birmingham National this weekend. Hopefully it will have settled by then and improved in time for SKC the following weekend where there is an entry of 21/32 for Pam Marston-Pollock. May's lucky LOD winners are Martin & Ally Garside with £25, Ceri McEwan £12 and Paula Mobsby with £6. There has been a spate of deaths of well-known PBGVs in the States. One was Karen Clugston's BIS winner Am Ch Jaren's Our Girl Frida, another Multi Int Ch/Am Ch Mirepoix's Sid Vicious. He was diagnosed with a bladder stone a few weeks ago but ultrasound also showed he had prostate cancer which was fast growing, leaving Jan Zigich and Ross Litman with that most difficult decision of all. Sired by Am Ch Mirepoix's Cartoon Comedy out of Mirepoix's La Petit Ingenue, Sid is well known for the fantastic show career he had in Finland. He is notably the sire of Kristina Bergström's Multi Ch Nightmare Ricky Martin, who was bred by Sirkka Sundström. Jan has the consolation that he will live on through litters he sired and his grandchildren that are now around the world. Finally those of you who are Assured Breeders will have been contacted by the KC explaining that DEFRA has issued a note for local authorities in England in which it is made clear that any member of the Kennel Club Assured Breeder Scheme of at least three years' standing should be awarded a five-star breeding licence valid for three years. Following the earlier confusion, DEFRA has also provided clarification on the £1,000 trading income licensing exemption. They have made it clear that the "£1,000 trading income as referred to in the guidance documents should be used as an indicator and not a ceiling, as someone with over £1,000 trading income may not be a commercial dog breeder or pet seller and they may not be making a profit".

17 / 5 / 2019

THE WORLD DOG SHOW came and went this year with little effect over this side of the world. It took place in Shanghai, China, where there were just 4 PBGVs entered – 1 puppy bitch and 3 male champions - over the four days of shows. On 30 April, the first day the APAC (Asia Pacific) CH Show (CACIB) took place with PBGV judge Rafael Malo Alcrudo (ESP), also the Shanghai Winner (CACIB) with Gopi Krishnan (MYS); second day was the CKU INT (CACIB) show with Hans van den Berg the judge and Eastern China (CAC) judged by Oleg Yanchev (RUS). The 2/3 May were for the CH (CAC) show where Alex Zee (TWN) was the PBGV judge and the culmination of the exhibition saw Paul Stanton as the judge for the World Dog Show. Tina Romeis travelled from Germany to Shanghai with 6yr old Ger Ch Arthur vom Huzenlaub (Empereur du Parcs des Chaumes ex Daphne). She said there were WDS representatives at the airport to welcome everyone on arrival with a separate channel guaranteeing smooth and efficient quarantine control and bypassing entry queues. A shuttle bus took them to the hotel and there was bus transport for dogs from the hotel to the exhibition centre. Dog boxes went in the storage underneath, dogs on seats with their owners. Rings at the show were spacious, there was comfortable air conditioning and the halls were light. Ring stewards were knowledgeable and friendly with a very good command of English. Although, in total there were six shows (3 CAC, 3 CACIB including WDS) and some exhibitors entered all of them, Tina didn't. I can see why as the high entry fees made this a costly affair. At the China Kennel Union show Arthur won CACIB and BOB under breed judge Hans van den Berg (NL), then G4 under Group 6 judge Mr Alex Zee (TWN). And at the WDS it was another BOB, this time under Paul Stanton and another G4 from Satoshi Bessho (JPN). At Birmingham National Rod Price had four absent from his entry of 38. DCC (his third) & BOB went to Reid's Maudaxi Tommy Holedigger (Multi Ch/Am GCh Ch Soletrader Bjorn Borg ex Ir Ch Trezeguet Treacle Sponge at Maudaxi), with RDCC going to O & E Robertson & Greenslade's Ir Ch Soletrader Buddy Holly (Ch Soletrader Magic Mike ex Debucher Ristourne with Soletrader). BCC, also a third, was Blake's Orleans V Tum Tums Vriendjes At Trezeguet (Imp Nld) (Cookie

Crunch v Tum-Tums Vriendjes ex Iparla Des Echos De Buzet), RBCC Blake & Reid's Ch Vilaudens Midsummer Madness (Imp Swe). BP was Scott's Soletrader Langham Rose for Overbecks, BV Brown's Ch Soletrader Louis Vuitton and Best Special Beginner Bartley's Erylan Loki Maitre Du Mal who was later short-listed in the Group. And, in the KC Breeders Competition Frank Kane awarded Reid's Maudaxis 3rd and Foote's Erylans 4th. In Scotland Debbie O'Brien was the hound judge at Perthshire Canine Club where Lorna & Steve Wyllie's Ailsa – Ch Tangaer Rhapsody at Callydena ShCM went BVIS. In the breed class, her granddaughter, Tangaer Calvera avec Callydena, went BOB and HG2. Hound group and BIS judge was Bill Gregory. The next championship show is Bath where there is an entry of 40 for Fred Ellingford, who is giving CCs for the first time. Racing through the month and only two weeks to go before the "Southern Day of the BGV", the BGV fun day being held at Walberton Village Hall in West Sussex. The last time this was held there was in 2016 so I am sure it will be a popular return for South of England BGV owners and friends. Bring a picnic – there will be light refreshments available all day. For £5 your dog can enter all 10 fun classes, which will be judged by Jackie Hornby (Jacmist). There will also be various items for sale, including the ever-popular breed mugs, an Agility competition and Scenting demonstration. For further details, contact Kathy Moulding on 07929 427246 or nykarth@hotmail.co.uk.

24 / 5 / 2019

AT SKC Pam Marston-Pollock's entry of 20 was depleted by 2, also doubtless further reduced by a few who could not get to a Friday show. DCC & BOB went to Robertson & Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike, with RDCC to Reid's Maudaxi Nick Nack. Phil & Dianne Reid also picked up the BCC with Fox's Nightmare Zeta Jones at Maudaxi (imp Rus). BP and RBCC went to Lynne Scott's Soletrader Langham Rose for Overbecks and BV to the only veteran present O'Brien's Caldewriver Despicable Me. There were a few successes in other classes – Maudaxis coming 2nd in AV Hound Breeders Competition and O'Brien's Caldewriver Despicable me handled to second place in both the YKC Member Stakes Hound and Junior Handling Association 12-16yrs. Once again being fortunate with having good weather for their outdoor show, Wickford, Basildon & DCS saw David Bell (Balintyne) judging PBGVs and awarding BP and BOB to our Monkham's Memphis Belle who subsequently went PG4 under Sue Finnett (Hyndsight). Shows are coming thick and fast now and Amanda O'Day has eight PBGVs entered under her at the midweek Reading show, which uses Southern Counties Newbury Showground. On to Southern Counties and Leila Tarabad has an entry of 20. No CCs and another Friday show, though more central for many. Unfortunately, coming soon after Bath, for those living several hours drive from Newbury Showground, the logistics of two midweek shows make it impossible to attend. Losing CCs at Three Counties has unfortunately resulted in the entry plummeting for Michael MacLaren who has 5 this year, compared with the 31 last year. Again, with this being a weekday show, it doubtless affects numbers when there are no CCs. But first, we have Bath this weekend with 40 for Fred Ellingford, giving CCs for the first time – and, don't forget, for the first time Hounds have been moved to the Sunday of this bank holiday weekend. At this year's PBGVCA National in Kerrville, Texas, blood was drawn from 12 PBGVs and shipped to the Canine Health Information Center DNA Repository. The Repository stores samples to facilitate research on inherited disease in dogs. As of today, the PBGV Health & Rescue Foundation has 577 DNA samples in the bank. As a side issue, many years ago here vet Trevor Turner took blood from PBGVs at one of our shows. This was to be stored at the AHT. We later learned that vets are not allowed to take blood unless it is for a specific reason, when a sample from it may be separated for research purposes. At the National a seminar by Andreas Komáromy DVM, PhD covered canine eye diseases that are prevalent in all dog breeds. He then focused on primary open angle glaucoma (POAG). Dr Komáromy is testing a possible gene therapy for POAG, using Beagles that have a similar (but not identical) genetic mutation to that found in affected PBGVs. His results in Beagles so far are promising with the only adverse events being slight inflammation in a few of the treated eyes. He hopes to test the therapy in one or two affected PBGVs in the coming year.

31 / 5 / 2019

THE WEATHER WAS SOMEWHAT TYPICAL FOR BATH - warm but with overcast sky and, later in the day, heavy drizzle set in. This show has earned a reputation for being one of the best for perfect conditions with good ground, ideal for dogs to make the most of the large, well mown rings and get into their full stride. A bonus this year was a welcome rotation of days, meaning that Hounds moved to Sunday instead of the bank holiday Monday. PBGVs were first in the ring at 9am with only one absent from Fred Ellingford's entry of 40. His DCC & BOB went to Robertson & Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike (Multi Ch Boom Chicago vTT Vriendjes ex Ch Soletrader Peek a Boo), with RDCC going to 2nd in Open, Teresa Eaton's Linphil Kili (Ch Debucher Unique ex Tangaer Zibeline avec Linphil). BCC was Blake & Reid's Ch Vilaudens Midsummer Magic (imp Swe) (Cookie Crunch vTT Vriendjes ex Vilaudens Saga) and. From Limit, RBCC went to Skerritt & Betts' Monkham's Luna Lugvood (Suton Crepu Visage Love From Romy to Gemshorn (imp USA) ex Monkham's Kiwi). BP came from MPD with McCartney's Soletrader Freddie Mercury (Around Another Bad Hair Day ex Ch Soletrader Rita Ora) and BV went to Jane Brown's 9yr old Ch Soletrader Louis Vuitton. There was only one Special Beginner entered, Megan Crowe's Caldewriver Madame Hattie (Caldewriver Despicable Me ex Tangaer Ymarros). The Hound group was judged by Jenny Dove who awarded Magic Mike G3. In other classes judged by Mr C Hastings, Soletrader Freddie Mercury was placed 2nd in PD Stakes, Erin Robertson went 1st in JHA 6-11yrs handling Jane Brown's Soletrader Valentino Rossi and Charlotte Dalgarno placed 4th with Vencharno Mojito in YKC Members Stakes. At Carluke & DCS it was another Best Veteran Hound for Lorna & Steve Wyllie's Ch Tangaer Rhapsody at Callydena ShCM and at Cambuslang Canine Club BOB & HG3 went to Gail Foote & Erin McAulay's Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune under Mrs K Herrington (Kathington). Kathy Moulding reminds everyone that this Sunday the Southern Day of the BGV takes place at Walberton Village Hall, West Sussex BN18 0PQ. Donations, prizes and sales items are taking over her living room. She said not so much space on her sofa now but just as well as she has no time to sit down at the moment. She is praying for a sunny day and plenty of visitors to take part in the fun events lined up to guarantee an enjoyable time. The day starts at 11am and for £5 your dog can enter all 10 fun classes which are to be judged by Jackie Hornby (Jacmist). Light refreshments will be available but bring your own picnic to enjoy at this popular venue which is at the heart of the village. The French Nationale d'Eleavage takes place at Saint Georges d'Oleron on 9 June. The PBGV entry is 48 dogs and 50 bitches, totaling 98 and, over all breeds, there are 8 entries from the UK. PBGV dogs are being judged by Amand Simon and the bitches by Gerard Thomas. Interestingly, a compulsory eye examination certificate is required within two weeks for validation of the PBGV results.

7 / 6 / 2019

WITH NO CCs, SOUTHERN COUNTIES saw an entry of 21, less 2, for Leila Tarabad. This is now one of those shows where, all to the good, the list of winners is getting longer and longer as it now includes a Best Junior and Best Special Beginners. It seems this latter class has replaced Good Citizen at many shows but it is somewhat of a mystery to many. There has been recent speculation in quite a few breeds that people are overqualified for entering. It's unclear, of course, whether they are deliberately flouting the qualification requirements for entry or just don't understand them as the definition "For owner, handler or exhibit not having won a Challenge Certificate or Reserve Challenge Certificate" is certainly open to interpretation. Maybe at some stage the KC will feel the need to clarify. BD / BOB went to Jane Brown's Soletrader Valentino Rossi with RBD to Phil & Dianne Reid's Maudaxi Oddjob. BB was Chris Blake's Orleans v Tum-Tums Vriendjes at Trezeguet (imp NLD), now a champion, and RBB Claire Cooper & Lynne Ellingford's Afterglow Agnes Gru avec Jayanel. BP was Lynne Scott's Soletrader Langham Rose for Overbecks, Best Junior Dalgarno's Legoland Amazine Grace (imp Rus), BV Jane Brown's Ch Soletrader Louis Vuitton and Best Special Beginners Moore's Afterglow Dough Ble Impact, who later went fourth in the Hound Special Beginners Group judged by Jacqui Ward. The constant breeze over the Club's Southern fun day at Walberton, West Sussex on Sunday 2 June was a godsend, keeping the temperature bearable for hounds and humans alike. There was an introduction to scenting hosted by Puppy School Chichester, Mad About Dogs agility, fun classes judged by Jackie Hornby, things to buy, eating, meeting old friends – both human and canine - and making new ones. Organiser Kathy Moulding says "I'd like to thank everyone who attended the BGV Southern Funday near Arundel on Sunday. Thank you to my helpers, judge, training instructors and agility team for all your support and help in making it such a successful day!! My prayers were answered with the wonderful weather. I had several lovely comments from our regulars and newcomers too". Winners of the three agility classes were Maisie the Cocker, Daisy and Jasper, Bloodhound. The fun classes winners were: Puppy – Jan Bishop's PBGV Ina; Prettiest Bitch – Shelley's Sprocker Lucy; Handsome Dog – Elaine's Bleu de Gascogne Coco; Golden Oldie – Clive's PBGV Missy; Best Rescue Bella; Waggiest Tail – Florence Dalmatian; Child and Companion – 17mth old Jacob with Hollie the Collie; Quickest Sit - Julie's Sprocket Bella; Fancy Dress – Claire's PBGV Tatty; Dog The Judge Would Most Like To Take Home – Emma's Jasper Bloodhound. BIS went to Emma Watson's Jasper Bloodhound, Best Puppy to Jan Bishop's PBGV Ina, Best Veteran to Clive's PBGV Missy and Best Junior Handler to Jacob. Sue Brundle was there with her Hound on Heart stall, and Martin and Jan Bishop, Kim Culyer-Dawson and Tim Jennings helped make the day a success, with Tim's candid photographs once again giving everyone lovely memories of the day. The next Club fun day takes place at the other end of the UK in Scotland on 20 July. For details contact Claire Gilluley 07810 702280 / claireallen2612@hotmail.com or Gail Foote 07541 891977 / rymndft@aol.com. Half way through the year and June's LOD winners are Mr & Mrs Jarvis with £15, Mrs D Simpson £10 and Mr & Mrs

Cocks £5. And, on the show front, Three Counties takes place and the French Nationale d'Elevage at Oléron, between Nantes and Bordeaux which has attracted a good number of seasoned travellers from other European countries, including the UK.

14 / 6 / 2019

WHAT A WEEK! Into June and the weather on the whole is pretty grim. The less I say about how wet we got at the Newmarket show, the better. Judging was indoors at Malvern for Three Counties where Michael MacLaren awarded BOB to his Best Bitch, Chris Blake's Orleans v Tum-Tum's Vriendjes at Trezeguet (imp NLD) who gained her third CC recently at Birmingham National. From Junior, Best Dog went to Linda Lewis' Tangaer Erique, the only dog entered. Reserve Best Bitch was second in OB, Linda Lewis' Tangaer Chamlee. It is such a shame that even a breed specialist could not bring forth the entries for this show which suffered from a combination of having lost CCs, it being on a weekday and clashing with the French National d'Elevage. At the Elevage in Saint-Georges-d'Oléron the PBGV judges were Simon Amand (dogs) and Thomas Gerard (bitches). BOB went to Gwen Huikeshoven's young Banana Crunch v Tum-Tum's Vriendjes (Cookie Crunch v Tum-Tum's Vriendjes ex Kiwi v Tum-Tum's Vriendjes). I awarded this PBGV Best Puppy Dog at Crufts in March. Both DCAC and RDCAC came from Working Males, the Dog CAC was Claude Jehanno's Mr Tango des Echos de Buzet (Durdur des Echos de Buzet ex Finette des Echos de Buzet), with Reserve DCAC Jopeau des Ronciers de la Brenne (Darko des Ptit's Bouts de Chouans ex Gamin), owned and bred by Nicolas Marache. Bitch CAC from Open was Joesph Freuchet's Myrtille des Ptit's Bouts de Chouans (Emir des Ptit's Bouts de Chouans ex Capucine des Ptit's Bouts de Chouans and RBCAC Frederic Marin's Mirabelle des Rosiers d'Anjou (Éclair des Rosiers d'Anjou ex Gala). There were several representatives entered from the UK, though I can't be certain of the results. Third place in Champion Males went to Phil and Dianne Reid's Ch Maudaxi Tommy Holedigger (Multi Ch/Am GCh Ch Solettrader Bjorn Borg ex Ir Ch Trezeguet Treacle Sponge at Maudaxi and, with the same mother, they gained a fourth place in Open Males with Maudaxi Nick Nack (sire Multi Ch Maudaxi Jimmy Choo); and Ceri McEwan was elated when her Marunnel Miss Adelaide (Vilaudens Isaak ex Ch Maudaxi Coco Chewnel from Marunnel) headed Intermediate Females. With no CCs and falling on a weekend day, there are respectable entries at the next two championship shows. At Border Union Jolanda Huisman from the Netherlands has 18 and at Blackpool the entry is 17 for Luis Pinto Teixeira (Portugal). It came as a shock to hear of the death late last week of Alan Curry, who judged PBGVs at our Club Championship Show last November. Alan first started showing Cocker Spaniels in 1976, they were followed by Dandie Dinmonts and then in 2002 a PBGV arrived. Blanche had a successful show career and when Alan's wife, Margaret, lost her brave fight against cancer just before Christmas 2006, she was content in having seen their Switherland Mystique at Lodore winning well under the expert handling of Marita Rodgers and it was with determination and courage that she attended autumn 2006 Driffild where Blanche was awarded the RBCC. She gained her third CC at Bath 2007. Over the last few years Alan's showing had concentrated on Golden Retrievers and latterly a Cocker Spaniel which completed the circle. His judging commenced in 1982 and he judged Gundogs, Terriers and Hounds on many occasions since first awarding CCs in Cocker Spaniels in 1991. He gave CCs in five other breeds including PBGVs, which he first awarded at East of England in 2012. Everyone will remember Alan as being a true gentleman and I am sure you all join me in sending our condolences to his family.

21 / 6 / 2019

WHATEVER THE RESULTS from Border Union, first prize must go I think to Ceri McEwan who, barely recovered from her Elevage trip to the island of Oléron off the Atlantic coast of France, then drove 948 miles up to Kelso and back to compete. With no CCs, Jolanda Huisman from the Netherlands had just 1 absent from her entry of 18. Ceri's long drive proved worthwhile as BB went to her Marunnel Miss Adelaide, with RBB to Wyllie's Ch Tangaer Rhapsody of Callydena ShCM who was also BV. BP went to Feasby's Caldewriver Wizard of Oz at Torcarhian. With RBD going to Bartley's Erylan Loki Maitre du Mal, BD & BOB went to Robertson & Doherty's Ch Solettrader Magic Mike who was subsequently placed Hound Group 1 by Martin Sanders. The following day he was rewarded by going RBIS under Mark James. And it was a second place in the Breeders Competition for Foote's Ir Ch Erylan Aphrodite La Belle judged by Simon Parsons. Blackpool this weekend then on to Windsor where we have CCs once more. This has resulted in an entry of 37 for Jeff Horswell. A possible downside of this now being an all-breed CC show is that PBGVs are fourth in the ring after three other CC breeds. Looks like it will be a long day with possibly a rush for the BOB to get into the group. Speeding on to East of England the following weekend, Val Jackson has 34 PBGVs to go over. The summer newsletter is now at the printers so should be with you shortly. Let's hope there is something for everyone within the thirty-six pages.

28 / 6 / 2019

MOST OF US have been experiencing the extremely humid weather and occasional thunderstorm. With high temperatures at shows, make sure your dogs are safe, as cool as possible and have plenty of water. For those not attending, there was a frustrating wait for Blackpool results due to a hitch on the fossedata website. Of course, we should all be grateful that nowadays news is instant. Remember the time when we had to wait a week for the dog paper to arrive? And, even then, it only gave the best dog, best bitch and Best of Breed. Judge Luis Pinto Teixeira awarded BD and BOB to Dalgarno's Vencharno Mojito (Solettrader Valentino Rossi ex Nykarth Magic Moment) with RBD and BP going to Reid's Maudaxi Egg Nog Eddie (Ch Maudaxi Tommy Holedigger ex Maudaxi Ja Maica Me Crazy). Junior Bitch winner Foote's Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune (Ch Solettrader Tom Thumb ex Ir Ch Erylan Aphrodite La Belle), claimed BB and also went Best Junior, with reserve going to the Post Graduate class winner, Reid's Fox's Nightmare Zeta Jones at Maudaxi (imp Rus) (Ch Maudaxi Jimmy Choo ex Fox's Nightmare Euro Show Non-Stop). For those unable to get to Blackpool, there were plenty of open shows on. At Clacton & DCS under Claire Boggia our Monkams Memphis Belle (Beaujous Vagabond of Monkams ex Monkams Luna Luvgood) went BP, notching up another BOB at the same time. She later won Hound Group 3 and Puppy Group 2, also under Claire Boggia (Boughton). The following day at Hound Club of East Anglia the judge was Ann Defaye who awarded BOB to Wood and Vin Ramvad's Beaujous Velvet (Ger/Pol/Fin/Dk/Int Ch Petit Heroes Canned Heat ex Beaujous Tickled Pink ShCM) with BP going to Bishop's Jamar Ina The Countessa (Culdaws Legend of Gold ex Jamar Angeliou) who at the end of a long day went PG4 under Mrs Maureen Blanks (Westmount). The club championship show schedule and entry form are now on fossedata, also on the club website www.bgvclub.co.uk/diary-dates and www.bgvclub.co.uk/club-shows. Both our judges, Renaud Buche from France and Paul Heikinen-Lekkonen from Finland say they are looking forward to the show, so please make sure we give them a good entry.

5 / 7 / 2019

LAST WEEKEND saw the annual Very Special Show take place under blue skies at Hverringe Camp, Dalby on the island of Fyn. Jette Vind Ramvad had a successful weekend, going home with six 15kg sacks of dog food. BOB and BOS results were the same for both days with Ramvad's veteran Multi Ch Petit Heroes Canned Heat "Otto" (Multi Ch Around I'm What I'm ex Dk/Int Ch Petit Heroes Blonde on Blonde) taking BOB and BOS going to Gitte Winter Arildsen's 2yr old Fodnote Billion Kisses (Fanta's Brand Nobody Does It Better ex Fodnote Hot Shot) handled by Holger Busk. Day one Otto later went BIS2 behind the Basset and day two saw him in third place. He also won BIS Veteran. On the first day the judge was Torsten Lemmer from Bulgaria and on the VSS day Wenche Skogli from Norway presided. To top off the successful weekend, Otto won the Very Special Cup thanks to secret judge Mette Krog Andersen. There were plenty of rumblings going on before Hound day at Windsor which took place at the same time in glorious sunshine at Home Park near Windsor Castle. With a return of CCs for PBGVs, even so they were fourth in the ring after 114 Bassets, Fauves and GBGVs, give or take some absentees. Add on time for critique writing, signing CC cards, change of breeds and it looked like a 6hr wait before PBGVs would get in the ring. And so it turned out to be, with judging starting at 3pm. Fortunately the Hound Group was second in the main ring. Jeff Horswell had his entry of 34 depleted by 2 absent. BOB with a third CC went to Ir Ch Solettrader Buddy Holly, owned by Oliver & Erin Robertson and Lizzie Greenslade. BCC, a second, was won by Phil & Dianne Reid's Fox's Nightmare Zeta Jones at Maudaxi (imp Rus). Reserves were McCartney's Solettrader Freddy Mercury, who was also BP, and Scott's Solettrader Langham Rose for Overbecks who was mostly handled by Lynn's grandson Jason. In other classes, Robertson & Doherty's Ch Solettrader Magic Mike came second in Champion Stakes, judged by Dave Killilea. Erin Robertson was placed second in JHA under Lucy Green. McCartney's Solettrader Freddy Mercury came third in Puppy Dog Stakes judged by Anthony Moran; and in the Hound Breeders competition under Ken Bartlett Foote's pack took first place with Reid's third. There are 44 entries for Patsy Hollings at Houndshow, where judging of all breeds is taking place inside.

12 / 7 / 2019

AN INTERESTING UPDATE on events in the States, where the American Kennel Club Board has voted to approve a request from the PBGV Club of America making

breed members eligible to apply for various AKC hunting titles for their PBGV such as Hunting Hound (HH). This will be after successfully passing a hunt test conducted by the Basset Hound Club of America. Guidelines and rules for the Hunting Instinct Test were approved by the PBGVCA Board of Directors as long ago as 2000 and since then they have held regular tests, including a separate event held in conjunction with the annual National and this latest move gives recognition to their efforts to preserve the inherent hunting instincts of the breed. The 2020 National will be at the Roberts Centre in Ohio. As usual there will be a hunt off-site and everything else held at the main venue. At meetings held at the National this year in Kerrville, Texas it was announced that Helen Ingher had been elected AKC Delegate, an important and influential role which is suitable for someone with her long experience in the breed. Helen reported that PBGVs now rank 157/193 in the low number breeds. On the health front Dr Komaromy continues to present valuable seminars, now on gene therapies. Blood draws are still paid for by the PBGVCA if they cannot be done during the National. For eye testing the Health Foundation will reimburse \$50 for any PBGV, 1 year or older, going to a Veterinary Ophthalmologist for examination. And for DNA testing, the PBGVCA Health Foundation recommends that owners use the AHT here in the UK because the American company does not cover PBGVs. All Club members were asked to check the accuracy of information recorded on their PBGVs and update it if necessary. One valuable piece of information that does not get passed on to the PBGVCA is where a PBGV is POAG Clear by parentage, therefore the PBGVCA asked owners to send results to them with a copy of the DNA certificate. Dr Komaromy suggested testing offspring of Clear parent to Clear parent. The PBGVCA currently recognises 2 generations of Clear by parentage. This is somewhat at a variance from the practice here. Hereditarily Clear/Clear by parentage is how the Kennel Club defines dogs whose parents have both been DNA tested Clear of a mutation, meaning they do not themselves need to be DNA tested. Currently this hereditary Clear status lasts forever, however it is possible the KC will be changing this soon so that a DNA test will need to be repeated once every three generations. With implications for our breed, we will be watching progress on this. Limited Odds Drawwinners for July are Diane Quadling with £15, £10 to Nik Oakley and £5 to Sue & Terry Cole. And what happened at East of England? Most exhibitors arrived dressed expecting hot weather but the skies clouded over, it was decidedly chilly with wind gusting through the tenting and it even rained! PBGVs were second in the ring after 54 Irish Wolfhounds so it was well after midday before getting in the ring. There were 2 absent from the 34 for judge Val Jackson. It was a good day for two exhibitors as both CCs went to Claire Cooper and both RCCs to Chris Blake. DCC & BOB was Marion Hunt's Soletrader Buzz Aldrin of Bondlea, handled by Claire, with RDCC going to Vilauddens Magnificent Mile (imp Nld), now with Chris Blake but still in the ownership of Gwen Huikeshoven and Marie Mård. BCC went to Afterglow Agnes Gru avec Jayanel, owned jointly by Claire and Lynne Ellingford, with RBCC to Chris Blake and Dianne Reid's Ch Vilauddens Midsummer Madness (imp Swe). BP was Reid's Egg Nog Eddie, BV Paul Osbourne's Ch Debucher Jezebel at Braego ShCM. Best Special Beginner Bartley's Erylan Loki Maitre Du Mal who came fourth in the SB group judged by Jenny Millard. It was also a fourth place for the Maudaxis in the Breeders Stakes judged by Marion Sergeant. In the Puppy Bitch Stakes VHC went to Diane Whitehouse's Knotdogs Zoe Winter Gift handled by breeder Karen Powney. With Houndshow this weekend, the following weekend sees the well-planned Scottish Fun Day taking place at Ravenstruther & Cleghorn Village Hall ML11 8NL. The fun classes start at midday to be judged by Grace Purdie (Dunnybrae) and £5 gives a dog entry to any number of classes. There will be dog trade stands, scent games and refreshments available. Something for everyone. If the previous years' successful events are anything to go by, this is one day out not to be missed. However, if you are unable to get there, don't worry. Go to a link to an on-line auction which you will find on the BGVC facebook page and you will have the opportunity of bidding for special items donated by various traders and dog folk. For more information contact Claire Gilluley on claireallen2612@gmail.com or Gail Foote on rymndft@aol.com.

19 / 7 / 2019

NOT MUCH TIME LEFT to get your bids in for the on-line BGV Club Scottish Fun Day auction. And, if you have bid, check to make sure you're still the top bidder on your chosen lots or you won't be getting that body warmer, dog food, soft leather lead, jacket, dog shampoo, Salmon Plasma Art PBGV or any of the other great items. The auction can be found on facebook or via the BGV Club facebook page and, at time of writing, bidding closes tomorrow, 9pm Thursday 18 July. Fun Day organiser Claire Gilluley says "All money raised will benefit research into epilepsy and promoting DNA testing for POAG within our wonderful breed". The fun day takes place on Saturday at Ravenstruther and Cleghorn Village Hall, ML11 8NL, where you are assured of an enjoyable time. An interesting start to the day at Houndshow where there was no lighting in the BIS hall where PBGVs were to be judged. This delayed start of judging slightly. A great cheer went up when the lights finally went on, to be followed shortly after by "Ohhh!" when they went off again. A group championship show on a large scale, there is something about this show that sets it apart from the all-breed ones and the efficient running could doubtless be attributed to the band of friendly, dedicated committee who all set to ensuring the day goes smoothly. There were 3 absent from the 43 PBGVs for Patsy Hollings to go over. From the Junior classes both CCs went to Kyle Cadmore & Lizzie Greenslade with 15th old littermates out of Ch Soletrader Tom Thumb ex Ch Soletrader Peek a Boo. The bitch winner was Soletrader Only in Oslo, handled by Erin Robertson, and the dog Soletrader Dancing in Deli, who was also awarded BOB. RDCC went to Jane Brown's OD winner Soletrader Valentino Rossi (Ch Soletrader Noble Kinsmen ex Soletrader Bumble Bee), RBCC Oliver & Erin Robertson and Lizzie Greenslade's Soletrader Beatrix Potter (Ch Soletrader Magic Mike ex Soletrader Simply Suzy). BP was Feasby's Caldewriver Wizard of Oz at Torcarhian (Caldewriver Despicable Me ex Tangaer Ymaros) who was shortlisted in the Puppy Group, Best Special Beginner Bartley's Erylan Loki Maitre Du Mal (Taglines Double The Fun with Soletrader [imp Nor] ex Clonallan Just Beginning with Erylan) who subsequently gained third place in the group judged by Martin Sanders. Best Veteran went to Jane Brown's Ch Soletrader Louis Vuitton who was also short-listed in the Veteran Group under Ken Sinclair. In Bred By Exhibitor Stakes, where there seemed to be a lot of absentees throughout the classes, 2nd place in OD/B went to Foote & McAulay's Ir Ch Erylan Aphrodite La Belle. In the Terry Thorn Memorial Junior Stakes it was a first for Bartley's Zeus Roi Des Dieux under Anita Roberts and Foote's PBGVs came 4th in Breeders judged by Mrs L Mackenzie. Finally, MPD Stakes under Zola Rawson saw Feasby's Caldewriver Wizard of Oz at Torcarhian go into second place. There are 37 PBGVs entered for Espen Engh at Leeds on 28 July.

26 / 7 / 2019

THE ENTRIES AT PAIGNTON have been dropping steadily over the last couple of years from 33 in 2017 to 18 last year and, oh, what a difference it makes when CCs are removed at a championship show. Down to 8 this year for judge Suzanne Emrys-Jones. Combining the sexes is a killer too. I can't help feeling that, when other breeds enjoy separate sex classes, this leaves any combined sex breeds at a distinct disadvantage. There were quite a few open shows on over the weekend and, while we were at Kingston collecting a BP and BOB, Jan and Martin Bishop went to Norfolk & Norwich at Easton & Otley College, Norwich, where their Jamar Ina The Countessa went BP and PG4. The judge was Lloyd Cross. It had been months in the making and everything came together on Saturday 20 July where a warm welcome awaited those who enjoyed the BGV Club Scottish Fun Day at Ravenstruther & Cleghorn Village Hall. The weather allowed plenty of activities to take place outdoors ranging from scenting to Have A Go Agility. Indoors the filled fun classes were judged by Grace Purdie (Dunnybrae) who awarded BIS to Pam McGregor's Hugo (Claela Reaumur), a remarkable achievement to win for the second year running. He went through from winning Best BGV. It was also a second year running win for little Cora Irvine who received the gigantic Best Junior Handler 0-11 rosette. Thanks to event organiser Claire Gilluley, aided by Gail Foote and a host of others, a magnificent £876.01 was raised and Claire has been busy posting items to winners of the on-line auction, the furthest away being to Canada I think! There are obviously outgoing things such as hall hire but this was truly a magnificent effort to raise money to support our less fortunate BGVs either needing rescue or with health concerns. Winners of the fun classes were: Cutest Puppy 3-6mths – Donald Whyte with Labrador Bramble, Cutest Puppy 6-12mths – Lyndsey Goodhall with Cockapoo Barney, Prettiest Bitch and RBIS – Audrey Arnold's Whippet Reza, Most Handsome Dog & BIS – Pam McGregor's GBGV Hugo, Golden Oldie 7-10yrs – Robyn Lewis' Westie Maisie, Golden Oldie 10yrs+ & BVIS - Michael MacLaren with GBGV Lottie, Waggiest Tail – Susan Allen with PBGV Evie, Best Trick – Lyndsey Goodhall with Cockapoo Daisy, Best Six Legs – Stuart McGarry with Staffordshire Bull terrier cross Mylo, Best Rescue and winner of the timed scentwork game with a time of 9 seconds – Sully the GSD owned by Gemma Timpany, Best Irish Brace – Dougie with Shane the GSD and Lynette with Jelly the ETT (I think!), Dog the Judge would most like to take home – Pam Scott's Betty the Border Terrier, who won BPIS at the 2017 Scottish fun day, Junior Handling 0-11yrs – 4yr old Cora Irvine with Logan the MLH Dachshund, Junior Handling 12-16yrs – Amber Russell with Basset Fauve de Bretagne Morag, Adult Handling 17yrs+ – Audrey Arnold with Reza the Whippet, Fancy Dress – Lorna Wyllie with PBGV Bailey (Callydena Baileys on Ice). Photos of the day are on the BGV Club facebook group page, also on a new page set up by Claire Gilluley – BGVs in Scotland. Still in embryo form it is a place for all things Scottish BGV related. Claire has uploaded the photos from the last three fun days so they're all easy to find in the one place. She invites everyone to share their own photos and give news of any events that might be of interest. This page will hopefully be a reference for any BGV related events/meetings/walks north of the border and encourage new people into the breed.

2 / 8 / 2019

PBGV MISSING! We all dread the thought of ever losing our dog. Our heart sinks when we realise we don't know where he is. We don't know which way to look, as how do we know in which direction he has gone? This awful situation has happened to a family in Nuneaton who, last week on Wednesday 24 July, woke to find their 8mth old PBGV dog pup had disappeared from the house. A bad storm during the night resulted in a house door being wrenched open and Barney, bred by Jan Bishop, got out. The family had a little more information that most as he could be seen on their security camera for some time, trying to get back in but, with the door blowing open and shut, he was unsuccessful. One of the family's sons found him missing at 6.30am. The camera showed that just after 5am he was clipped by a car moving at slow speed on the A5 near The Longshoot A47 junction. He ran off. A recheck of the CCTV footage then showed that, immediately after this, a white van pulled up into a lay-by and hazard lights went on. Have searched thoroughly, including a drone being used to over nearby fields, this turned the family's thoughts to Barney being possibly stolen rather than lost. While efforts were being made to get the registration number of the van, last weekend the family reported Barney to the police as stolen and they now have a crime reference number. Enormous attempts have been made to trace Barney ranging from spreading the news on Facebook, alerting vets and shops and local volunteers have been out searching for him. His disappearance was announced on Fosse radio and there has been huge ongoing media coverage, including in the Nuneaton News. Of course, if he was taken, he could by now be many, many miles away. There has been ongoing support from DogLost and Nik Oakley has been an enormous help, also offering advice. Barney was due to be trained as a therapy dog for one of the family's children, who has autism and, although buoyed by the support they have received from the community around them, they are not unnaturally devastated at not knowing what has happened to him. Please help to find Barney. If anyone has any information or dashcam footage, contact Nik on 0208 950 1440 or 07976 906273 or DogLost on 0844 800 3220 or 07973 899597. As far as I am aware, unfortunately technology has not yet reached the stage where trackers can be incorporated with microchips so, if your dog has been stolen, the first thing the person will do is remove the collar. Microchips don't work like GPS systems. They are tiny radio frequency identifying devices, roughly the size of a grain of rice. As we all know a microchip is implanted under your dog's skin and each chip carries a unique number. A scanning device can detect this number, which is then linked to your contact information on a pet recovery database. A tracker which is attached to your dog's collar works differently. GPS Trackers are cutting edge technology that allow you to pinpoint your dog's location in real time. You can see a history of where he has been on your device (usually an iPhone). Generally depending on type of tracker and the greater the cost, some track further than others. Some attract a monthly subscription. Radio Trackers use a somewhat dated technology and have been used for decades. Maybe 35 years ago or more I looked into the only ones available at the time. They were used to track ferrets so range was not great. On a plus side, these devices don't need a monthly subscription. Nowadays Radio Trackers are commonly used by hunting dogs and cover roughly the same distance as a walkie talkie's range. To sum up, bear in mind that the more you spend the greater the range will be. But, if you decide to invest in a tracker, any type is only as good as when it is working, as batteries usually only last for 2-3 days until they run down. The weather wasn't too kind in the run-up to Leeds championship show resulting in quite a lot of comments about the state of the ground at Harewood Estate. Of course, hardworking committees cannot control the elements and most dog folk are a hardy bunch and tolerate most things and the show must go on. Now with CCs, this attracted a higher entry and PBGV judge Espen Engh had 37 to go over, depleted by 4. DCC went to Marion Hunt's Soletrader Buzz Aldrin at Bondlea, RCC to Jane Brown's Soletrader Valentino Rossi. BCC and BOB was Gavin & Sara Robertson's Soletrader Party in Paris, handled by Gavin, RCC Lynne Scott's Overbecks Kathy Tiera. BP went to Feasby's Caldewriver Wizard Of Oz at Torcarhian and Best Veteran, the only one entered, Jane Brown's Ch Soletrader Louis Vuitton. In other classes Erin Robertson achieved 3rd place in JHA 6-11 and, in JHA 12-16, Katie O'Brien came 3rd and Elizabeth O'Brien 4th. The judge was Robin Alner. Tom Mather judged the Breeders Competition and awarded 2nd place to Foote's PBGVs. Finally, in YKC Handling Classes Erin Robertson came 4th in 6-11, while Charlotte Dalgarno topped the 18-14 class. Judge was Olivia Busby. As much as we would have loved to go to Leeds, rather than travel 450 miles there and back, we opted to enter a local show less than 20 miles away. Breed classes and the Group were judged by Lisa Tyler-Jackson and our Monkham's Luna Luvgood went BOB and Hound Group 4. Now out of Puppy, her daughter Memphis Belle went RBOB. Jan Bishop's Jamar Ina The Countessa was BP and Hound Puppy Group 3. Do let me know of any other open show results. Finally, it was sad to hear of the death of Jim Nixon (Brackenacre Bassets) who awarded CCs in several hound breeds, including PBGVs. Jim was involved with Paignton Championship Show for over 40 years, rising to President. Our condolences go to Marianne.

9 / 8 / 2019

THERE CAN BE FEW who did not hear the good news that Barney is back home again. After being missing for 10 days, hard to believe but he just walked in through the back gate, which had been left open in hope. I cannot begin to comprehend the elation the family must have felt to have him home safe and sound. Of course, they are unlikely to ever discover where he had been for the entire 10 long days but, after they got an indication he was in a field adjacent to the one at the back of their house, they tried to tempt him back home. The family put food out, placed his basket by the edge of a brook between the two fields and built a bridge over it. They also put one of their son's bedsheets down to lead him through the hedgerow to the field at the back of their house. This all helped him find his way to the back gate and into their garden. What a good boy! At the vets, with not enough flesh to make stitching viable, a decision was taken to let the few open wounds he had to his armpits heal on their own. He had 40 grass seeds removed from his paws, which are now being bathed daily in salt water to help ward off any potential infection. It goes without saying that this was such a stressful time for the family. They are so very grateful for all the help and advice they received and I somehow think all doors will be double checked in future. A salutary lesson for us all. At Paignton Championship Show, the loss of CCs and combined sexes resulted in an entry of 8, less 1 absent, for Suzanne Emrys-Jones. No more than an open show but at greater cost to the exhibitor. There were, in fact, only three exhibitors. Of course, when any of us enters a show, we have no idea what the total entry will be but certainly the breed is now poorly served at this show after having had CCs for so many years. There is now little incentive to enter. The stalwarts who travelled to Devon were rewarded with Best Dog going to Stuart & Joan Puckett's Soletrader Bobs Your Uncle, RBD and Best Puppy to the only puppy entered, Phil & Dianne Reid's Maudaxi Egg Nog Eddie. Best Bitch and BOB went to Lynne Scott's Overbecks Kathy Tiera, RBB to her Soletrader Langham Rose. Egg Nog Eddie also took 5th place in Junior Dog Stakes under J Carter. Following on from Bournemouth this weekend where, after weeks of sun and high temperatures, it looks as though the weather might cause a few problems, there are 19 PBGVs entered for Sara Robertson at WKC. A gentle reminder that, if you change your contact details – especially your email address – please let our Membership Secretary, Martin Bishop, know. He can be contacted on 07779 300761 or martin.bishop10@btpenworld.com.

16 / 8 / 2019

WHERE HAS THE SUN GONE? Exhibitors camping at Bournemouth for the week enjoyed the good weather leading up to the show but the forecast high winds hit them shortly beforehand resulting in a rather scary time and having to batten down the hatches. There was a lot of rocking and rolling for caravans overnight and some tents went completely with people having to take shelter in their cars. The showground suffered in other ways with the committee having to make changes to the usual arrangements for the safety of exhibitors, while many traders took down their tents and sold direct from their vans. But, as usual, it was "The show must go on" and fortunately the weather had calmed down somewhat by Hound day. The PBGV judge was Tom Johnston who had an entry of 28 depleted by 3. It was a clean sweep for Soletrader with DCC and BOB going to Marion Hunt's Soletrader Buzz Aldrin at Bondlea. He was later short-listed in the Group. This was his 3rd CC with Marion being unable to show him for any of these awards having been "less than mobile" as she put it after an operation on her foot early July. RDCC was Kyle Cadmore & Lizzie Greenslade Cadmore's Soletrader Only in Oslo. BCC Gavin and Sara Robertson's Soletrader Party in Paris, RBCC Gavin Robertson, Wendy Doherty & Lizzie Greenslade Cadmore's Ch Soletrader Rita Ora. BP went to Lizzie Greenslade Cadmore & Ander Tunold-Hanssen's Soletrader Patsy Kline and BV to Jane Brown's Soletrader Ch Soletrader Louis Vuitton. Plenty of extra stakes and other classes at this show and Lynn Wood & Jette Vind Ramvad's Beaujous Velvet made the cut in a large Yearling Stakes judged by Helen Wayman. Linda Lewis has her traditional Tangaer get-together this weekend where those attending are guaranteed the usual warm hospitality and an enjoyable time. With time and shows flying past, Sara Robertson has an entry of 19 today (Friday) at WKC, the following weekend there is 16/26 at SKC, with no CCs. The judge there is Steve Jepson. And at another Friday Hound day show, City of Birmingham on 30th, Brian Foster has 30. LOD winners for August are Sue Wilde with £15, with £10 going to Annie Collins and £5 to Jackie Gough.

23 / 8 / 2019

WALES LIVED UP TO ITS REPUTATION of the rain keeping the grass green in the valleys with a rather wet Builth Wells on Hound day. I was sorry to miss the show but the lure of Orlando for Jenna and her family was too great. Almost a year's planning came to fruition as the Betts family jetted off to see Mickey for a few days before they move on to Universal and the Wizarding World of Harry Potter. I was somewhat horrified when I realised my last visit there was eleven year

ago in 2008, a combination of the PBGVCA National and Disney. Back to reality and there were no absentees for Sara Robertson at WKC giving her 18 to go over. DCC & BOB went to Linda Lewis' Tangaer Bryntelych. BCC was Lynne Scott's Overbecks Kathy Tiera. Both reserves went to Ceri McEwan with littermates Marunnel Orinoco and Marunnel Miss Adelaide. Katie O'Brien's Caldewriver Queen of Hearts was BP and Paul Osbourne's Ch Nykarth Kicking Off with Braego BV. In other classes, the Bartley's Erylan Loki Maitre du Mal won VHC in Special Beginners Stakes and Foote's PBGVs were the only entry in Hound Breeders, both judged by Tony Allcock. From all accounts Linda Lewis' Tangaer get-together on 18th was the usual great success, allowing Tangaer PBGV owners to meet up and chat. Thankfully the rain held off and celebrity of the day who put in a half hour appearance was 16 year old Mikey (Ch / Ir Ch Tangaer Magique), growing old gracefully and keen to sample his special liver birthday cake. There can be little doubt that those attending were all grateful for the continued contact, help and advice Linda has given them over the years and especially for welcoming them into the extended Tangaer family. Some with stamina have been doing the annual Irish circuit and one little snippet of news is that Ray & Gail Foote's Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune is now an Ir Ch, handled as usual by Erin McAulay. A special mention to for Steve & Lorna Wyllie's Ch Tangaer Rhapsody of Callydena who, aged 11, has gained her Veteran Warrant, the first PBGV to do so.

30 / 8 / 2019

Hot, hot, hot! We have all been melting over the past week and those going to outdoor open shows especially found it hard to tolerate the high temperatures. With little shade, save that provided by exhibitors themselves, staying the course for the Group judging proved too much for some. Some gentle rain has now eased things slightly and, although temperatures are still high, the weather has taken on the more typical, fresher late August feel. Steve Jepson was the judge at SKC last weekend with a respectable entry of 17, less 1, spread over just four combined sex classes. This show was well supported, mainly by Scottish exhibitors, certainly with a good presence in comparison with Paignton's combined sex classes which only rustled up an entry of eight following the loss of CCs. BD and BOB went to Gilluley's Ir Ch Haliston Didier ShCM ShCEX, BB to Cooper and Ellingford's Afterglow Agnes Gru avec Jayanel. Reserves were Feasby's Caldewriver Wizard of Oz at Torcharchian, who was also Best Special Beginner, and Wyllie's Tangaer Calvera avec Callydena. With BP going to O'Brien's Caldewriver Queen of Hearts, Wyllie's Ch Tangaer Rhapsody at Callydena ShCM took BV. In the YKC Members Stakes fourth place went to Charlotte Dalgarno with Vencharno Tequila Sunrise; and Lorna Wyllie's Ailsa (Ch Tangaer Rhapsody at Callydena ShCM) came in at third place in the Good Citizen Stakes. Both were judged by Sharon Pinkerton. And, under Elaine Tullis, Junior Handling (12-16) saw Katie O'Brien take 2nd place with Caldewriver Queen of Hearts. Some of you may have noticed there has been no recent update to the POAG DNA testing results issued regularly to us by the Animal Health Trust. Earlier in the year a change of staff at the Trust resulted in a request for me to provide a letter of authority for them to continue sending us the results. It seems that, despite the General Data Protection Regulation being introduced well over a year ago, the needed to cement the arrangement. In the past, the BGV Club received the stats monthly but, now that so many PBGVs have been DNA tested, and with some litters being Hereditary Clear, the numbers tested are obviously declining. However, it is good to continue publishing these stats, which serve to remind breeders and owners of the importance of DNA testing.

6 / 9 / 2019

CH/IR CH TANGAER MAGIQUE has died. He was 16, having been born on 15 August 2003. Arguably the most successful PBGV ever bred by Linda Lewis, he went BOB at the BGVC championship shows in 2007 under Rose Phillips, entry 51, and again in 2010 under Colin Gillanders when the PBGV entry was 74. Mikey's sire was the well-known C'est Ça du Greffier du Roi at Tangaer, his dam Tangaer Hourra. Linda wrote "Even though he attained 15 CCs and 18 RCCs apart from other awards, these fade into insignificance as the bright light of loving that wonderful dog takes the foreground! Thank you, Mikey, from the bottom of my heart for being you, leaving some lovely progeny and getting me through some serious lows! Run free my darling boy." Brian Foster took centre stage at City of Birmingham, having no absentees from his entry of 30. DCC went to the only dog in Junior, Kyle Cadmore & Lizzie Greenslade-Cadmore's Soletrader Only in Oslo, who also went Best Junior. BCC and BOB to Sara Robertson & Wendy Doherty's Ch Soletrader Annie Mac who, returned from the States and 6yrs old, is now an American Grand Champion. Both Reserve CCs went to Chris Blake. Still awaiting the export pedigree so shown under her ATC number, the DCC was Huikeshoven & Mard's Vilaudens Magnificent Mile, BCC his and Dianne Reid's Ch Vilaudens Midsummer Madness. BP was Phil & Dianne Reid's Candy's Caning It, BV Jane Brown's Ch Solerader Louis Vuitton. With City of Birmingham being one of the championship shows that mounts a Junior in Group competition, Only in Oslo was placed first in the Hound Junior Group by judge Patsy Hollings, who only seven weeks ago awarded him the DCC at Houndshow. At shows in Guernsey, now 10 years old, Christine Maret's Limier Didier of Gayteckels (Ch Soletrader Peter Pan ex Limier Chamois) is still notching up the wins with a recent Reserve Veteran in Show and Best Veteran in Show. And, here, at South Eastern Hound, where the entry seems to go down every year, Jan Bishop's Jamar Ina The Countessa won herself into 4th place in the Special RBOB Competition judged by Diane Webber. Well, it had to happen, straight after letting you know there was a delay in the AHT sending out their latest figures for POAG DNA testing, I received the update, which is now on the club website www.bgvclub.co.uk/eyes, also on the Club facebook group page. Curiously, this time round, the new stats have elicited some comments, including the question whether DNA testing is compulsory. Whether or not to DNA test depends on several factors, one being the health status of the sire and dam and whether the litter is therefore Hereditary Clear. Our Club Code of Ethics doesn't make it compulsory to DNA test puppies from a Clear x Carrier breeding as, at the very worst, a pup will be a Carrier. However, care needs to be taken as in the future a Carrier pup could be bred from. Endorsements of any Clear x Carrier litter are the wise option then, before lifting an endorsement, the breeder can help ensure an outcome with pups free of future POAG eye problems. It does seem many are of the opinion that, in any event, it is the safe and conscientious thing to do to DNA test all puppies anyway. In my 12 July notes, I mentioned that the KC was thinking of changing the "for life" Hereditary Clear status to a requirement for DNA testing to be repeated once every three generations. Although an item on the agenda of their September Breed Health Symposium confirmed this, in a Press Release issued this week they now say "From January 2022, the Kennel Club will limit the assignment of 'Hereditary Clear' status of registered dogs to two generations. This change will be put in place to safeguard against the impact that dogs with an incorrect 'Hereditary Clear' status could have on health issues within a breed". With these current deliberations, it therefore remains to be seen how this will affect our breed in the future.

13 / 9 / 2019

AT LONG LAST Richmond Championship Show heeded the voices of many and changed their tenting layout this year to in and out. No longer were the tents and benching a long way from the rings and it seems everyone was pleased with the new arrangement. The only slightly problem was that benches for many breeds were nowhere near their rings, so many exhibitors moved their ring numbers to empty benches nearby. Heidi Allenby was our judge, giving CCs for the first time. From the Limit class DCC, his third, went to Kyle Cadmore and Lizzie Greenslade-Cadmore's Soletrader Only in Oslo. RDCC was Gwen Huikeshoven & Marie Mard's Vilaudens Magnificent Mile, handled by Chris Blake. BCC and BOB was Claire Cooper & Lynne Ellingford's Afterglow Agnes Gru avec Jayanel and, from JB, RBCC went to Gavin & Sara Robertson's Soletrader Party in Paris. BP was awarded to Phil & Dianne Reid's Maudaxi Candy's Caning It, BV to Jane Brown's Ch Soletrader Louis Vuitton who later won the Hound Veteran Group judged by Vanessa Cox and Best Special Beginner Richard and Emma Moore's Afterglow Dough Ble Impact who went on to 2nd place in the Hound SpB Group judged by Moa Persson (Swe). Reid's PBGVs came 2nd in the Breeders Hound Competition judged by Marion Waddell. Judges for the 2021 PBGVCA National at Wilmington, Ohio, have been announced. Regular Classes: National – Nick Frost; Regional – Barbara Pepper; Sweepstakes Classes: National – Lindley Henson; Regional – Tim Ninnis. Curiously, and this must be a first, Wilmington is to be the venue for the National for the next two years, after which it will move West. Next year's judges are Regular Classes: National - Michael Canalizo; Regional Jon Cole; Sweepstakes Classes: National – Susannah Cooper; Regional -Rodney Jones. The show takes place 13-18 April at the Roberts Center, Wilmington. The death on 4 September has been announced of Audrey Herring, who was 93. A PBGV owner and judge, Audrey was a BGVC committee member for many years, standing down in 2008 when travelling long distances became rather too much for her. Despite losing her services as a committee member, Audrey continued to run the Limited Odds Draw, a task she finally handed over to Geraldine Dodd in 2013. Not long after, Audrey moved to Lytchett Matravers in Dorset to be near her family. The funeral will take place at 3pm on 20 September at Lesley Shand Funeral Services, 184 Wareham Road, Corfe Mullen, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 3LL. Audrey's wishes were that any donations should go to the Dogs Trust. Thanks to Geraldine for September's LOD winners who are Nigel Ansley-Young with £15, £10 to Debbie McConlough and £5 to Elaine Pendreich.

20 / 9 / 2019

DARLINGTON saw an entry of 24 for Stuart Milner, with 10 dogs and 14 bitches. DCC and BOB went to Oliver & Erin Robertson and Lizzie Cadmore's Ch/Ir Ch

Soletrader Buddy Holly. Standing alone in Limit Dog, RDCC went to Tim & Deborah Bartley's Erylan Loki Maitre du Mal. In bitches, and also from Limit, the BCC went to Gavin & Sara Robertson's Soletrader Judigarland with the RBCC Kyle & Lizzie Cadmore's Soletrader Dancing in Deli. BP was Phil & Dianne Reid's Maudaxi Egg Nog Eddie and BV O'Brien's Caldewriver Despicable Me. In the Special Beginners Dog Stakes Erylan Loki Maitre du Mal gained a 4th place under Mrs V Foss. With Hound day being on the Friday, some endured heavy traffic for the drive home which, despite exhibitors being a hardy bunch, does make for a very long day and rather take the shine off any show. Moving on to Driffield, Dianna Spavin has an entry of 29. Although Hound day is Saturday this year, exhibitors may want to know about the 2019 Union Cycliste Internationale Road World Championships. There has been extensive traffic management planning in Yorkshire with road closures, diversion routes and parking in place to help minimise the impact. For more information on which roads will be affected, go to <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/uci-road-world-cycling-championships>. In Denmark the death has been announced of Dk Ch Chouan Iceman. Born on 25 September 2004, he didn't quite make his 15th birthday. Known as Beckham, in his early years Iceman had a highly successful show career with Karina Stenå. We had a particular interest in him as his mother was Dk Ch Chouan Tizzy Lizzie, who lived with us to be shown in the UK. She achieved two CCs before going back to Denmark in whelp to Am/Can Ch Soletrader Bugs Bunny. The result was just two puppies - Iceman and Ice Cube - and, in November 2004 Kim Culyer-Dawson joined me in visiting Gunnar Nymann and Holger Busk where we were lucky enough to see them. In 2006 on a subsequent visit to Denmark, Jenna and I stayed with Karina Stenå. We had four of our PBGVs with us to show there and Dixie Chick was on the tail end of her season. We hoped that we might manage a mating with Iceman but it was not to be. He wasn't the slightest bit interested. Subsequently known as Specks, he went to live with Helle Thorup Schmidt.

27 / 9 / 2019

DRIFFIELD, the remaining CC outdoor show of the year for PBGVs, fortunately managed to capture the last few days of sunshine. Dianna Spavin's entry of 29 had only one absent. DCC went to Jane Brown's Soletrader Valentino Rossi, handled by Lizzie Cadmore, with RDCC going to Marion Hunt's Soletrader Buzz Aldrin at Bondlea, who recently gained his third CC. BCC and BOB was Robertson's Soletrader Judigarland, RBCC G Robertson, Doherty and Cadmore's Ch Soletrader Rita Ora. BP went to Phil & Dianne Reid's Maudaxi Candy's Caning It and Best Special Beginner to Bartley's Erylan Loki Maitre Du Mal. He subsequently took fourth place in the SpB Group under Richard Kinsey. Breeders Stakes saw two PBGV groups being placed. Reid's stepped into first place and third went to Foote & McAulay's PBGVs. Judge was John Walton Haddon. There is only one PBGV entered for Frank Borg (Malta) Belfast this weekend. Then on to South Wales on 13 October where Sue Ergis has 29. Unfortunately, there are several events clashing that same weekend which will have affected the entry. The main one is Discover Dogs, ExCel London, where several PBGV owners are committed to manning the breed booth to tell visitors to the show all about the breed. The Hitchin show also takes place. In America Sandy Bustin's "Zouk" Am Ch Suton Crepu Visage Jolly Mon Sing (Am Ch Jombri's Hot Shot Le Chasse ex Am Ch Bon Crepu Visage Odie) has died. He was 16 last month. I had a special affection for him, having awarded him BOB at the PBGVCA National, Sacramento, 2006. At that time he was co-owned by Sandy Bustin, Nancy Dorsey and Gavin Robertson, handled by Carol Herr. Jenna and I are fortunate that, as the sire of "William" Suton Crepu Love From Roxy to Gemshorn, imported by Diana Sadler, Zouk is now firmly in our lines having used William at stud three years ago. Sue Marshall now has the Club's 2020 calendar hot off the press and they are being snapped up remarkably quickly with already half ordered. If you want one, please contact Sue on 01245 265828 or sue.marshall4@btopenworld.com. Price is held within the UK at £9 + £1.50 p&p. For overseas, ask Sue for price.

4 / 10 / 2019

BELFAST saw just one PBGV entered, Ch Soletrader Magic Mike at his first show for around 4mths. He sailed through, being awarded BOB by Frank Borg (Malta), Hound Group 1 by Tom Johnston and finally BIS by John Thirlwell. This was his second such win at Belfast, the first being in 2016 when at only 15mths old and he went BIS under Stuart Plane. Thanks to Sue Marshall and Kim Culyer-Dawson, with Martin Bishop as the email messenger, the Autumn 2019 e-voice hit everyone's inbox at the end of last week. I say everyone though I gather there was one email from someone who didn't seem to have received it. I know I am getting a lot of emails that end up in my Junk folder these days, mostly on the lines of "Hello my dearest, I need your urgent reply" but occasionally something important gets routed there by mistake. So, if you haven't received the e-voice, check your Junk folder first before emailing Martin Bishop on vendeen48@gmail.com or phoning 07779 300761. As a reminder, Club members receive a printed newsletter (Voice) twice a year – Summer (June) and Winter (December) and, if on e-mail, bi-annual Spring and Autumn editions of the club's electronic (e)voice. This decision was implemented following a survey of members in 2016, the results of which were published in the Winter 2016 Voice and are on the club website www.bgvclub.co.uk/membership-voice-lod. The Winter Voice is well under way with only a few pages now left to fill, including those set aside for the results of our Club championship show which takes place on 23 November at the Sports Connexion, Ryton-on-Dunsmore. GBGV judge is Renaud Buche from France and PBGV judge Paula Heikkinen-Lekhonon from Finland. Postal entries close on 28 October at the end of this month and on-line to fessedata on 4 November. During the week I watched part of a presentation made by judges Bill Shelton and Doug Johnson at the September AKC Delegates Meeting. Their message was simple, that words are powerful to the extent that some branding has crept into our language with changes in terminology over recent years. For example, in the States dog pounds are now known as "shelters", occupants formally known as strays or mongrels are now classed as "adoptable rescues". In sharing their passion for breeding healthy dogs with predictable type, they felt that it was time that breeders did the same. Their message was that it was no longer good enough to say we are "purebred dog breeders" (as opposed to those who produce mixed breed dogs) but we should say our dogs are "purposefully bred pure breed". Moreover breeders are "preservationists" who intentionally bring these dogs into the world. In the days of declining PBGV numbers this would seem especially true where most breeders consciously aim to invest in a purposefully bred dog's future and, importantly, in the future of the breed. In our own way PBGV breeders are also helping to preserve our breed's temperament with its strong hunting instincts and mental and physical stamina to carry out its "purpose." If you would like to watch this presentation go to <https://youtu.be/U6CSNXCXNtK>

11 / 10 / 2019

AS WE MOVE INTO THE AUTUMN MONTHS, the championship shows dwindle. I don't doubt for some it will be a relief from driving hundreds of miles far too often, despite the enjoyment of time spent at a show amongst good friends. Next on the show calendar Sue Ergis has an entry of 29 at this weekend's SWKA when Hounds are on the Sunday. Unfortunately this clashes with Discover Dogs at London's ExCel meaning a few of us had to forego the trip to Builth Wells. At Midland Counties on 26 October, where no CCs are on offer, there are 16 PBGVs entered for Barbara Milton. One show that did take place was the Irish KC International Show where on day one Mr S Knight judged. With just one PBGV entered, Bitch Green Star and BOB went to Mrs D Whitehouse's Knotdog Zoe Winter Gift. Day two saw competition from Erylan with BOB going to Foote & McAulay's Ir Ch Erylan Aphrodite la Belle who was awarded GSB and the CACIB. Reserve GSB and RCACIB went to their Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune. The judge was Mr R Oliveira who also judged the Group 6 where the PBGV went on to be placed second. Over the past week or so I have done some investigating into missing critiques. One of these was Rod Price's PBGV critique for Birmingham National. Our Dogs said they hadn't received it, yet Rod had emailed it and received an acknowledgement. Coincidentally, OD had published the GBGV critique twice on their website. At their request he has now resent his critique (copied to me), and they have undertaken to print it as soon as possible. Another is for PBGVs at Border Union in June where Jolanda Huisman didn't realise she had to write a critique. Although this requirement is in the initial contract it does seem that, nowadays, with the absence of Our Dogs envelopes and a note placed in the judge's folder, some overseas judges who are somewhat unfamiliar system need a some guidance and reminder of the need to produce a written critique on the first two places. Jolanda apologises and says she will write up the notes she made on the day. Finally, those of you who have Our Dogs will have noticed that the 4 October edition shows a PBGV critique for SKC August with the judge's name as Tim Jones when it was, of course, Steve Jepson. Also bear in mind that sexes were combined, not as shown.

18 / 10 / 2019

WITH A SPECTACULAR CLASH of events, SWKA took place at the same time as Discover Dogs in London. This prevented those who were committed to decorating breed booths and promoting their breeds from travelling to Builth Wells. There the PBGV judge was Sue Ergis, who had 5 absent from her entry of 34. BOB went to the BCC Soletrader Beatrix Potter, owned by Oliver & Erin Robertson and Lizzie Cadmore. From the Puppy Dog class, DCC went to Gemma McCartney's Soletrader Freddie Mercury, who also gained BP having just squeezed in at his last show in puppy before his first birthday on Monday. RDCC was Hunt's Ch Soletrader Buzz Aldrin at Bondlea and RBCC Phil & Dianne Reid's Maudaxi Candy's Caning It. In AV Hound Breeders with one absent from the entry of

three, judge Mark James had two PBGV groups to judge from. First place went to Foote & McAulay with Ir Ch Erylan Aphrodite La Belle, second to Reid's Maudaxi Egg Nog Eddie. It was the same judge for Yearling Stakes, awarding third place to Bartley's Erylan Zeus Roi Des Dieux. And, judged by Kyle Adams, first place in both Junior Handling Association 6-11 and Young KC 6-11 went to Erin Robertson handling Soletrader Vocal in Venice. At London's ExCel Glenna Clark and I arrived well before doors opened to those who were decorating the breed booths. There was a slight hiccup though as, in the flurry of activity to leave home, I left the car park ticket behind! I usually pack everything the day before but, on this one occasion, I had left all the tickets out ready to go in the car before leaving. Glenna took the entry tickets, I messed up. After several minutes of heart sinking and "Can't believe what I've done", I phoned Jenna who was dog-sitting the rest of the pack and she photographed the ticket and sent it to me. I rather sheepishly told the car park attendant what I had done and he asked me to park just inside the car park, where another attendant photographed my registration number. Note to self – must remember to do that again, as I got to park closer to the building! As those on facebook will have seen, the breed booth had a makeover this year. The previous decorations, made by Sue Drew (then Polley), of L'Artiste PBGVs had lasted well, having been first used in November 2000 at Discover Dogs, Earls Court. In an attempt to also speed up booth decoration, this year I had large vinyl banners made which, plus revamping some of the old decorations and some artificial garlands, everyone seemed to like. I have to say they looked more impressive at the show than in the photo here. Kennel Club figures were 30,000 visitors over the two day show and, from the moment the doors opened at 10am, there was a steady flow of people keen to see both Petits and Grands. The usual questions? Of course. Lynn Wood, who organised the rota for the weekend, thanks everyone who took part. More than enough people asked to be involved which is great and she is already well into compiling the rota for the four days at Crufts next year. So, if you would like to offer your help, now's the time to ask. You can contact Lynn on 01268 555072 or wood_stephen9@sky.com. Having been at Discover Dogs on the Saturday, the following day we opted to go to the nearby Hitchin show which was held at Stapleford Abbotts. Seemed preferable to a 3.30am start and a minimum of 8hrs' drive to and from Builth Wells. Prof Elise Cartmell judged PBGVs and awarded our Monkams Luna Luvgood BOB. She was short-listed in the Group, also judged by Elise Cartmell. RBOB went to Paul Osbourne's Braego Gladys Aylward. Thanks for Geraldine Dodd for October's LOD winners who are Louise Parker with £15, £10 to Marion Gerrie and £5 to Claire Cooper. The Breed Appreciation Day is only two weeks away now. To be held at Corley, near Coventry, this is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about both PBGVs and GBGVs. For information contact Claire Cooper on 07855 255287 or clairecooper81@hotmail.co.uk

25 / 10 / 2019

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, Close bosom of night sky alight. As louts conspire to mischief cause, and animals flee in utter fright. ADAPTED WITH APOLOGIES to John Keats who, one hundred years ago, in September 1919 wrote Ode To Autumn, later heralded as one of the most perfect short poems in the English language. Nowadays most of us live in fear of the next week or so, the dreaded season of fireworks. Last night they started, 14 days before 5 November, and two of my PBGVs were soon worked up into a frenzy. Of course some sail through this period with no problems but for those who are inconsolable, crating and covering the crate over seems the only answer. Not long now before the Breed Appreciation Day being organised by Claire Cooper, assisted by Mike MacLaren. This takes place at Corley Village Hall, near Coventry, on Sunday, 3 November. The speakers are Gavin Robertson, PBGVs, and Phil Freer, GBGVs. For information on the event, please contact Claire on 07855 255287, clairecooper81@hotmail.co.uk. And, as we fast approach the end of October, don't forget to enter our Club championship show, which takes place on 23 November. Postal entries close next Monday 28 October, on-line Monday 4 November, the day after the BAD. This year we welcome judges from overseas with Renaud Buche from France for Grands and Paula Heikkinen-Lehkonen from Finland for Petits. BIS is Sue Virgo. And don't forget to enter the Stakes Classes where big money is on offer. GBGV judge is Mandy Dance, PBGV Jackie Hornby. We were pleased that one of the many open shows held at Maidstone in Kent put on classes for us and, having circumnavigated the closed roads to get there (including the closure of the approach road to the Dartford Crossing), at Gravesend & Medway Towns CS Open Show last Sunday our Beaujous Vagabond of Monkams went BOB with RBOB going to his daughter, our Monkams Memphis Belle. There was a good entry of 9 with 1 absent for our judge Peter Pask (Baronglen), so hopefully this will encourage other Kent canine societies to give us classes. Bond later went Hound G3 under Pat Pask, with Jan Bishop's Jamar Ina The Countessa winning the Hound Puppy Group. The draft Animal Welfare (Licensing of Animal Exhibits) (Wales) Regulations 2020 is still under review and subject to consultation. It has to be ensured that any new legislation is proportionate and reasonable and does not create an additional burden on dog owners where the animals are being kept primarily as pets that are shown as a hobby. Despite this the Welsh Government is determined to enforce their commitment to ensuring the highest welfare standards and want to demonstrate that they take the exhibition of animals seriously. Of course we all know that, for the vast majority, our loved dogs who are exhibited receive even better treatment than most. They are groomed, bathed, looked after carefully and kept in A1 condition. It is patently obvious they enjoy their time at a show and in the ring; and they are contented afterwards. My only personal observation would be that it concerns me when dogs are left unattended while owners go for a drink or something to eat. It is something I try to avoid at all costs and, under the spotlight of impending legislation, this could lead to criticism. The consultation period ends on 21 November and the KC strongly urges all with an interest in exhibiting dogs in Wales to answer the survey on <https://gov.wales/animal-exhibits>. Please make time to complete it!

1 / 11 / 2019

WITH NO CCs AT MIDLAND COUNTIES it was, of course, a late appearance in the ring for PBGVs. Barbara Milton was the judge with 3 absent from her entry of 16. From the 5 dogs entered, BD came from the Puppy Dog class with the award going to Reid's Maudaxi Egg Nog Eddie and RBD to Bartley's Erylan Zeus Roi Des Dieux. From Open Bitch, BB and BOB went to Foote & McAulay's Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune, RBB was Cooper & Ellingford's Afterglow Agnes Gru Avec Jayanel. BP Reid's Maudaxi Candy's Caning It. Paul Wilkinson was the Hound Breeders Stakes judge and, with just 3 entries, second place went to Foote & McAulay's Ir Ch Erylan Aphrodite La Belle. She went one better in Good Citizens gaining first place under Michael Forte. The weather caused some problems with flooded roads near Stafford Country Showground but dog folk are a hardy bunch and, as Martin Bishop, sagely said "I got Mrs B to walk in front of the car to see how deep the water was". I was extremely sorry to learn from Lorna Wyllie that her good friend, Anne McLennan, had lost her fight against cancer. In a tribute to her, Lorna writes: "Anne McLennan showed dogs for over 40 years, initially Afghans and then Dachshunds. When I first met over ten years ago she was showing her standard long-haired Dachshund Ziggy. One day Anne offered to handle our PBGV Bailey while I handled Belle. She was then always handling our PBGVs in open shows and some championship shows. Anne was a very well-known and respected exhibitor. Ziggy Anne as I called her and I buddied up to go to dog shows and we became very good friends. She gave me lots of help and advice when I started showing my first PBGV Ailsa. Sadly Anne passed away on Sunday after only 6 weeks from diagnosis of an aggressive form of cancer. She was a trustee of the Scottish Dachshund Club rescue. A true friend and will be sadly missed by many". The Club's Breed Appreciation Day takes place on Sunday at Corley Village Hall, near Coventry. Postal entries for our Club championship show on Saturday 23 November have now closed so, if not already entered, you need to get your skates on and go on-line to www.fossedata.co.uk. Entries close midnight 4 November. Following on from my comments a few weeks back about the emphasis in the States now being on breeding "purposefully bred pure breeds" and that breeders are "preservationists", I see the FCI is also placing the emphasis on "Preservation not commercialism" <http://www.fci.be/en>. And Dr Tamas Jakkel recently spoke to a group at Vilnius which was organised by the Lithuanian canine organisation. The topic was Preserving Breeds, Debunking Myths. This covered all aspects of Pedigree Dogs: Breeding, Reputation, Welfare and Challenges. The question was "Healthy or not? Do Genetic failures belong to dog BREEDS or to the canine SPECIES? A comparative international study of 100,000 pure-bred and cross-bred dogs related to their genetic status. Which Group is more affected with Genetic Failures?" If you would like to listen to this interesting talk go to - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i71YzCmeMIs&fbclid=IwAR1TWGIOWgIJsX93cvFauPXsXJYI2GoB2Wsjvkn_vy-yZIGN2YgBmFG0RM. Firework season and plenty of advice around to help you and your dogs get through the nights to come. With many having suffered fireworks locally for well over a week already and having to cope with petrified dogs, let's hope we all survive the next few nights.

8 / 11 / 2019

SIXTH OF NOVEMBER as I write these notes. Can I believe we are through, and have survived, yet another long spell of interminable fireworks? Of course, there may be more this weekend but it is a great relief to think that perhaps this year's distressing time for the dogs (and me in coping with their anxiety) is over. Those of you who live in rural areas don't know how lucky you are! A friendly, well-attended Breed Appreciation Day took place at Corley Village Hall, near Coventry, last weekend. With the Club being responsible for two breeds, it is always a tight squeeze to fit both in on the same day. Breed Education Co-ordinator, Claire Cooper, thanks all those she had asked to help out on the day. Of course some may say the kitchen team of Joan Robertson and Geraldine Dodd

had one of the most important jobs – keeping up the energy levels of those present with magnificent cakes supplied by Geraldine and Robert Bailey. These fortified both attendees and helpers and I gather several took some home with them. Next on the Club agenda is the championship show, also near Coventry, on 23 November. Early information on entry numbers is 38 GBGVs in breed classes, 14 in Stakes. And for PBGVs there are 65 in the breed classes, 24 in Stakes. I hope to give you a more detailed breakdown next week. Our Beaujous Vagabond of Monkham has his first session of an unofficial PAT dog this week. At the care home, Bond dutifully sat on a little blanket I put on a bedside armchair, so he was within reach of stroking. The remains of breakfast clearly within his sight on the overbed table worked well as they tempted him to learn over a little, stretch a little and try and get just a bit further over, which was all good for more patting and stroking. Certainly the smile on the face of someone who has spent a lifetime with dogs and the obvious delight in seeing a four-legged friend – and a PBGV to boot - made it all very much worthwhile. Thanks to Geraldine Dodd for November's LOD winners who are Mrs Diane Quadling with £50, me £25 and £12 to Pamela Lilley.

15 / 11 / 2019

LAST WEEK when I wrote about our Bond acting impeccably and being a good ambassador for the breed when visiting someone in a care home, little did I think that just a few days on I would be giving you the sad news that the lovely lady we visited had passed away. Diana Sadler was a hard-working BGVC committee member from 2005 to 2013. To say that she launched herself into everything would be an understatement. This included running the club shop and, latterly, taking on the daunting task of Welfare & Rescue Co-ordinator, a job she tackled most conscientiously for 6yrs, despite handling some difficult situations. And, seeing a need to get BGV folk together in the west of the UK, she even set up a Wales & West group with a small website to encourage and welcome local people. From Minsterworth to Weobley village halls, each event she mounted was well attended where the programmes for the day were always full, ranging from grooming demonstrations and tips, to games and fun classes, have a go agility, talks on hydrotherapy, homeopathy and acupuncture and silent auctions. Her ideas were boundless and these popular get-togethers attracted members not only from Wales and the West but from the far reaches of England. When Diana's final report was read out at the 2013 AGM, she was applauded as an unsung hero, one of the many committee members who do so much "behind the scenes" work for the love of their breed. Unfortunately in the last few years, Diana's health problems had prevented her from travelling far. Her last judging appointment, of which she was immensely proud, was to award CCs to PBGVs at the BGVC's 2016 championship show, But tragically it was an unexpected, aggressive cancer that was to claim her life. In recent weeks, she was moved from Herefordshire to be near one of her sons in Cambridgeshire. Instead of the letters I had been writing, this allowed me to visit her every week. On the first visit, I was accompanied by Diana's good friends Lynn Wood and Kim Culyer-Dawson; and Diana had very much on her mind the enjoyable times she had spent running events, competitions and raffles, all giving pleasure to those who owned dogs. It has been a stressful and sad time for Diana's two sons who are now in our thoughts. To remember this special lady, rather than flowers, her sons are asking that donation be made via this link <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SomeoneSpecial/DianaSadlerwithproceedsgoingtoDogsTrust>. Her funeral takes place at 9:30am on Tuesday 19 November 2019 at Fenland Crematorium, Knights End Road, March, Cambridgeshire, PE15 0YJ. I can't help thinking Diana would be saying "Well, if you can get up early to go to a dog show"! At the end of next week, our 32nd club championship show takes place at Sports Connexion, Ryton-on-Dunsmore. This year we welcome judges from overseas. I now have a better breakdown of the entries. GBGVs under Renaud Buche - 38 / 40. PBGVs under Paula Heikkinen-Lehkonen 65 / 70. GBGV Stakes (Mandy Dance) 14; PBGV Stakes (Jackie Hornby) 24. BIS and 4 for Junior Handling (Sue Virgo). Judging of PBGVs starts at 10am with GBGVs in the adjacent ring at 10.30am. Junior Handling will be during the lunch break and Stakes classes after BIS. As ever, contributions to the raffle will be gratefully received. I hope you all have an enjoyable time.

22 / 11 / 2019

WE HAVE A CHANGE OF JUDGE for PBGVs at our Club Championship Show on Saturday. On Monday I received an email from Harri Lehkonen letting me know that his wife, Paula, had been in an accident in Tallinn, Estonia. She had hit her head quite badly and was in intensive care at a hospital there. Thankfully her condition is now stable but obviously there is no way she could be at our show, which she had been looking forward to. Since Harri's email, Paula has contacted me from the hospital saying she is so sorry she will not be able to judge for us. Phil Freer, who came second in the 2020 Championship Show judges' ballot, has kindly accepted being the emergency replacement judge and will be taking over Paula's excellent entry of 65 / 70. Our Chairman, Paul Osbourne, is unable to get to the show this year but has asked me to say he hopes you all have an enjoyable day. The show opens at 9am and, with the usual two rings in operation, judging of PBGVs starts at 10am. If any of you want to pay for either next year's LOD subscription or your 2020 club membership, I am sure Geraldine Dodd and Martin Bishop will be pleased to see you during the day. Similarly, 2020 Breeders Directory payments fall due shortly. You can find the application form at the bottom of this page on the club website www.bgvclub.co.uk/breeders. Money to me please. And of course, raffle prizes will be most welcome. There is a lot of interest in the breed so it is likely plenty of visitors will be at the show, those who are thinking about welcoming a PBGV puppy into their homes. Of course, the situation remains the same with litters few and far between so some would-be owners will have to patient. KC statistics show that 23 PBGVs were registered in the autumn quarter bringing registrations to a total of 74 year to date. With only 85 registered last year, we may just about top this by the end of the year but it is a far cry from the numbers of some years back. Diana Sadler's funeral took place on 19 November at March in Cambridgeshire, where I and three BGVC committee members joined with her two sons and their families in celebrating her life. The eulogy referred several times to her lifetime passion for dogs and her tireless work for BGVs. And, with the family's similar passion for music, time to reflect on her life was to the strains of Sicilienne played on the cello by Diana's daughter-in-law. Joining with them afterwards at a nearby country club gave an opportunity to talk and, as we all prepared to leave the car park, rather poignantly we realised Paul Anka's Diana was playing on our car radios.

29 / 11 / 2019

IT IS GRATIFYING that the BGVC committee has received so many congratulations after the 32nd championship show, which was held at Ryton on Dunsmore last Saturday. Just one said "I popped in briefly on Saturday and watched some of the judging and thoroughly enjoyed your championship show. It all seemed so calm and running smoothly. Having run both all breed open shows and breed club champ shows I know the work involved prior to make that happen". Lots of planning and work over the year before ensures getting the show on the road, as does working together on the day. With no prior warning that we would be in the rear half of the Cricket Hall, getting matting, mats, ring fencing and posts, raffle prizes and shop items into the hall was made rather more difficult. However, thanks to all the hard work, of both committee and stewards, the show went seamlessly. One special mention goes to Sue Marshall, our photographer, who as usual sacrificed seeing much of the show as she was kept busy in her photographic area taking photos of all the 1st and main winners. These are in the club's Winter Voice, which is going to print this week. They will also be on the club website shortly. The show was opened by Vice Chairman Peter Marks, who held a minute's silence for former committee members, Audrey Herring and Diana Sadler, who had died during the year. And, as our show took place, the nominated PBGV judge Paula Heikkinen-Lehkonen from Finland was still in hospital in Tallinn, Estonia. Good wishes had been sent for her speedy recovery from an accident which resulted in her hitting her head. Phil Freer, who had kindly stepped in as replacement judge at very short notice, said he really enjoyed his day. There were 5 absent from his entry of 65 and his CC winners were both Soletrader breeding, with the DCC and BOB going to Gemma McCartney's Soletrader Freddie Mercury and BCC to Gavin & Sara Robertson's Soletrader Judigarland. This was her third CC so a special thrill for handler Erin Robertson. Reserves went to Kyle & Lizzie Cadmore's Ch Soletrader Only In Oslo and Soletrader Dancing In Deli. From MPD, BP was Joan Hutchings' Tangaer French Romance and BV was our Ch Beaujous Ugly Betty of Monkham JW ShCM. It was good to see many visitors to the show – those keen to get a BGV puppy, those who already have one and came to look round, those who wandered in from the Nordic Show in the adjacent hall. One person who also deserves a mention is Tracey Mayou, back from living in Spain, where I last saw her at the Granada show in 2012. Her Nykarth bitch, now 9yrs old, was looking good! Geraldine Dodd has said that, thanks to everyone's generosity the raffle, which some said looked amazing and was the best ever, raised a fantastic £205. Our guest judge, Renaud Buche, from France having judged the Grands, BIS was judged by Sue Virgo. She too commented that the show had a lovely atmosphere all day and she was sure the wealth of prizes and specials on offer were well received. Her choice for BIS and, consequently, BVIS went to 7yr old GBGV Ch/Ir Ch Tarmachan Florentine, owned by Fiona Buchanan & Michael MacLaren. RBIS and BOSIS went to the PBGV Freddie Mercury. BPIS was Joan Hutchings' PBGV Tangaer French Romance, with RBPIS going to McGregor's GBGV Claella You And I Are A Team; and RBVIS to our PBGV Betty. Best Junior Handler went to Erin Robertson. There was a bumper entry for the stakes classes which followed and, in the PBGV classes judged by Jackie Hornby, 1sts went to Linda Lewis' Tangaer French Wine, Gilluley's Caldewriver Legally Blonde of Ballencriff and Foote & McAulay's Ir Ch Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune Ir Jun Ch. The following day Hound Club of East Anglia took place at St

Ives, where Nikki Skinner was the judge. She awarded BOB to our Monkham's Memphis Belle and RBOB to our Beaujons Vagabond of Monkham's. Two very long but enjoyable days!

6 / 12 / 2019

HARD TO BELIEVE we are now into the final month of the year. LKA is approaching fast with a good entry of 40 for PBGV judge Linda Lewis. However, I have been hearing of quite a few dogs with kennel cough so fear some entries will be decimated. Bear in mind that we all declare we will not bring to a show any dog which has contracted or been knowingly exposed to any infectious or contagious disease during the 21 days prior to the show. Kennel cough, or Bordetella, can usually go away on its own – most cases will clear up within three weeks and shouldn't need any treatment at all. For treating at home garlic is a great addition to your dog's diet, as is organic unrefined / virgin coconut oil which possesses amazing immune-enhancing properties. And raw honey is a great natural treatment that helps soothe the throat. If you have a young pup, older dog or one that is unwell with a weakened resistance, you may need a visit to the vet for antibiotics to target the bacteria. However remember to stay outside the waiting room until called. This is very contagious; it spreads in the air, by contact with infected dogs and in the environment. Two weeks on from our recent club championship show and our PBGV judge-elect, Paula Heikkinen-Lehkonen, who withdrew after suffering concussion and skull fractures in an accident in Estonia, is now back in Finland and in hospital in Lahti. It seems that teddy bears arriving there are helping her recovery. Yesterday I received a phone call from a lady who had just lost her old PBGV. He died two days short of his 17th birthday, a wonderfully long life and surely some sort of record. His name was Tanafei Kaviar, bred by Carol & John Symonds. The litter will be remembered of course for Kaviar's brother, Kipling, who went to Lesley Cooper. There he sired two litters, the first when mated to her Monkham's Elise. Into the new year and on-line entries for Boston, where Ceri McEwan is judging PBGVs, have been extended to closing on 8 December. Although a championship show, it is a pity that only two of the 19 scheduled Hound breeds receive CCs. Those for Manchester close on 11 December. Fran Mitchell is the PBGV judge, giving CCs for the first time. And, with the flurry of activity surround Christmas, don't forget that postal entries for Crufts close on 6 January, on-line 20 January. Entry fee per dog is now £31. We have an expensive hobby!

13 / 12 / 2019

AS WE NEAR THE END OF THE YEAR in between sending Christmas cards and buying presents, try and find time to submit your 2019 show points forms to Geraldine Dodd. The forms can be found on <http://www.bgvclub.co.uk/membership-voice-lod>. Email them to Geraldine at g_dodd@hotmail.co.uk or they can be posted to her at 28 Leaf Road, Houghton Regis, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU5 5JH. Bear in mind that, if in joint ownership, each owner must be a club member to be able to claim a trophy. You may remember the article I wrote in the Summer Voice about PBGV Fleur, who was bred in a hunt kennels and, as such, was never KC registered at the time. The best owner Barbara Kettleborough was able to do was register her on the KC's Activity Register. However, due to Barbara's perseverance, the long process of getting Fleur accepted onto the KC's breed register has been worthwhile. She has now received the good news that, with the remaining elements accepted to support her Unverified Dog Scheme application, all is now in order to progress to registration. Thanks to Geraldine Dodd for letting me know that December's winners of the Limited Odds Draw are Sue Brundle with £15, Kim Smith £10 and Alison Cocks £5. Good luck to everyone travelling to the NEC for LKA. The gods have not been kind to us in this household as three of our PBGVs have kennel cough, so I have kissed goodbye to over £113.

20 / 12 / 2019

CONGRATULATIONS TO GEMMA MCCARTNEY whose young Soletrader Freddie Mercury gained his third CC at LKA at just 14mths old. He also went BOB, with the BCC going to Sara, Oliver & Erin Robertson's Soletrader Vocal in Venice, handled by Gavin Robertson. Reserves went to Jane Brown's Soletrader Valentino Rossi and Ceri McEwan's Marunel Miss Adelaide. BP was Phil & Dianne Reid's Maudaxi Candy's Caning It and BV, the only one present, Jane Brown's Ch Soletrader Louis Vuitton. There were 10 absent from the entry of 40 for judge Linda Lewis. Bemoaning our fate, we reluctantly stayed away from Saturday's LKA having had three dogs suffer from kennel cough. Despite them all being well over it, we adhered by the declaration that we undertake not to bring to the show any dog which has contracted or been knowingly exposed to any infectious or contagious disease during the 21 days prior to the day of the Show. Just as well as PBGV number four started coughing on Sunday. This does rather highlight that, even though exhibitors may think their dog is over the kennel cough, it is highly contagious and bringing a dog into an area where it can infect others is not the wisest move! selfish. Meanwhile the biggest dog show in America, the only one organised by the American Kennel Club, has just taken place. The National Championship in Orlando, Florida, ran over two days and was the finale of a week-long circuit of all breed and specialty shows. Donna Bruce, Juli Lacey-Black & Jill Neuschaefer's Monkey, GHCS/ Am Ch Lacey's Not My Circus (Am Ch Fanta's Brand N Lacey's Nuff Said ex Am Ch Lacey's Sweet Annie) had a successful time going BOB, Best Bred By and Bred By Group 4. BOS was Patty Opperman, Jan Zigich, B Tezel & Ross Litman's Mirepoix's Kate Spade (GCH/Am Ch Mirepoix's Son Of A Duck ex Am Ch Clementine's A Touch Of Prada of M&M). The judge was Dr Donald Sturz Jr. This followed on from Monkey's BOB at the PBGVCA specialty judged by Barbara Pepper. Unusually, this year's Amsterdam Winner Show is being held the weekend before Christmas on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 December, in a joint venture with Nijmegen KC. And there is a change of location with it being held at the Eventhall Gorinchem. This Christmas Show will be a pilot for evaluation afterwards, to see if this new organisation structure has lived up to expectations. I have received the news that Sylvia Probert (Kasani) died peacefully on Tuesday following an illness. I am sure my co-author, who was a good friend of Sylvia's, will forgive me for lifting an extract from our PBGV book: "The friendly breed enchanted Sylvia Probert at the 1980 East of England Championship Show, Peterborough and her three foundation bitches (Wakelyns Annette, Vendric Vanessa and Jomil Revelry) soon attracted others, notably Mrs Cynthia Mair and John and Adele Walton-Haddon, who had litter-mates Kasani Clochard and Charité, born March 21 1983 (Jomil Larbi of Varon - Vendric Vanessa of Kasani). A mating between Jomil Rigolo and Wakelyns Annette of Kasani produced on August 20 1983 the "D" litter, including Sylvia's Dramatique; then the following year Vanessa produced a litter by Varon Zorro, having gone BIS at Luton Show that March. In 1985 Sylvia became Acting Club Secretary when Richard Gilbert's professional commitments prevented him from continuing. She became Secretary in 1986. Being keen to improve her own stock and increase the small gene pool in the country, Sylvia imported Salto's half-sister, Ristourne de Crislaure (Noiro de l'Égalité - Nanouche de Crislaure), in whelp to Dan Ch Ursins des Rives de la Garonne. From the resulting litter, born in quarantine on November 20 1984, Gaffeur went to Audrey Benbow's Sirhan kennels in Canada and Gamin to Colin and Dianne Poole (Peterstown). Sylvia kept two - Galaxie who, by December 1988, was a champion and Gambit, who earned two CCs and became an influential stud in his short life, siring Champions Kasani Karelia and Korister, born October 10 1987 (- Twinrivers Hortense of Kasani). In 1988 litter brother Kraftsman joined Valerie Link in the States. In 1987 Sylvia's other import, Chouan Katzenjammer Kid of Kasani, born May 2 1986 (Dan Ch Chouan Hen's Dream - Dan Ch Morebess Nadia de Cahors), arrived from Danish breeders Gunnar Nymann and Holger Busk. Shown sparingly, in July 1989 she passed to Nicky Hunt and subsequently had two litters. Whilst living in Gloucestershire, Sylvia supported the hunt and her own Rabbit Trapper of Kasani (Chantalle's Officer - Future Amnesty) joined Nick Valentine's pack for a while. Subsequent ill health forced her to temporarily withdraw from breeding and showing but, thanks to Helen Bamforth who took on her Kasani stock, the line has continued. Improved health came with a move to Surrey in 1996, with Sylvia renewing her lively interest in the breed and, in 1998, being voted back on the Committee". Sylvia returned to the BGV Club committee in 1998 and, in 2002, became Acting Chair on the death of Evan Roberts. She assumed the post of Chair for 2003-04. During this time, rather unusually she also covered the post of Secretary when Yvonne Dean became ill. Sylvia subsequently became a Vice-President, a position she relinquished in 2009. The schedule for our next Club show, the Open Show on 4 April 2020, is now on the club website. If you would like a paper copy, please contact Colin Makey 01469 540260 or gairside777@gmail.com. Entries should come to me. Have a good Christmas!

27 / 12 / 2019

AT ONE OF THE FINAL EVENTS OF THE YEAR, a great Christmas present for team Erylan was a BIS at Carlake & DCS open show. Top honours went to Foote & McAulay's Ir Ch Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune IR Jun Ch, handled as usual by Erin. Breed and group judge was Paul Galholm (Gazenorth) and BIS Judge Michelle Fort (Shulune). I hope you can find time over the Christmas/New Year break for totting up the number of points your show dogs have gained over the past year. Claim forms for the Club's annual club Points trophies can be found on www.bgvclub.co.uk/membership-voice-lod. And, of course, remember that annual subscriptions now fall due for 2020. These can be sent to our Membership Secretary, Martin Bishop, 1 Longship Way, Maldon, Essex CM9 6UG. Alternatively for bank transfer details contact Martin on 07779 300761 or vendeen48@gmail.com. I'm afraid this is the time of year for all paying out as your annual payment for

the Limited Odds Draw is due, also payment if you wish to remain on the Breeders Directory for 2020. The former payment goes to Geraldine Dodd, 28 Leaf Road, Houghton Regis, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU5 5JH, the latter to me at Sharnden, Fourth Avenue, Stanford-le-Hope SS17 8HN. If you pay everything by bank transfer, don't forget to give a reference on the payment so that our Treasurer, Colin Makey, won't be left scratching his head trying to work out what the payment is for, and let the respective people know – Martin, Geraldine and me. Sylvia Probert's funeral takes place on 27 December and will be for immediate family only, due to the size of the chapel. If anyone wishes to mark her passing, please send donations to Rowcroft Hospice in Torquay, who supported her whilst she was in her residential home. They will be gratefully received. Details are: Freepost RTKK-UJRJ-XBKS, In Memory, Rowcroft Hospice, Avenue Road Torquay, TQ2 5LS. Cheques sent to them directly will need to include your name and address and Sylvia's name, as the person you are donating in memory of, so they can thank you personally. On yet another sad note, this week I learned of the passing on 5 November of Nickie Hunt's husband Bruce. He was 99. Bruce had remained in touch regularly to let me know how Nickie was and now their son, John, has let me know that his mother, who was our President until 2013, is still living at home where she has 24hr care. Another person I want to mention is someone not generally known in BGV circles. She is Anne Thornewell (Wellthornes Borzois), a good friend of Jan and Martin Bishop and other Essex BGV owners. Every winter Anne goes to Australia and this year has been no exception. She may have escaped the gloomy English winter but walked right into an area of New South Wales stricken by the bush fires. Last week she had re-packed her bags ready to evacuate because, as you can see from this photo, fires were getting dangerously close with them choking the area. The family continued to water everything down but, even with water bomb helicopters and fire engines all around, it got to the stage where there was only one road out. The temperature rose to 38 degrees and, by last Friday, a decision was made that if the fire reached a certain point they would leave to a nearby evacuation point near Bathurst. However Christmas Day dawned and thankfully things had eased slightly thanks to the unstinting work of the fire crews. Thoughts are with all dog owners in these stricken areas where they so desperately need rain to remove the fear of losing their properties and animals. But here, in a rather rainy and gloomy UK, we are nearly at the end of 2019. At least we can now look forward to the days soon getting slightly longer and it only remains for me to wish you good health, happiness and good luck for 2020.