



THE BASSET GRIFFON VENDEEN CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN

BREED NOTES 2020 - PBGV

3 / 1 / 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope your New Year's Eve was uneventful on the dog v fireworks front. Although I had anticipated an evening of dogs petrified from fireworks, in my wildest dreams I had not bargained for 9hrs of it. The last firework went off at 2.40am, by which time I was so tired from trying to console distraught dogs that all I wanted to do was crash out and sleep. Is it too much to ask for introduction of a law reducing decibels and restricting the times when fireworks can be let off. I am beginning to think there is a lot to be said for living in a rural area away from social miscreants who have money to burn. But, here we are in a new year, a new decade! Not unnaturally, as we enter 2020, thoughts go back twenty years to the turn of the century. At that time, it was early days in allowing the breed to be shown either on the ground or table. Nowadays I can think of maybe only two judges who adhere the "old school" of wanting to go over dogs on the ground which is frowned on by exhibitors whose PBGVs are not used to being loomed over from a height. In 2000, the first PBGV champion of the millennium was Vivien Phillips' home-bred Debucher Mioche and, affiliated with the other Basset breeds, we embarked on the first Joint Basset Breeds Open Show which was held at Ryton-on-Dunsmore. There were a staggering 51 trophies on offer for BGVs and, with Stella Blackmore judging the Grands, Linda Millar Mackenzie, our Crufts 2020 judge, had an entry of 69 PBGVs, less absentees. BD and BOB went to Lewis' Garwedd du Greffier du Roi at Tangaer, RBD Phillips' Debucher N'importe Quoi, BB Phillips' Debucher Mange Tout, RBB Skerritt's Jamars Saffi of Monkham. BP was Robertson & Gadsby's Willowbrae Amazing Grace with Afterglow who also went BPIS. This joint venture lasted for six years with a move of venue during that time to Bretby Conference Centre, near Burton on Trent. Much thought has been given even recently to resurrecting what was certainly an enjoyable feature of the Basset breeds show year, with suggestions for venue and date. However, unless finances allow and the Basset breeds' stars align, at the moment it seems unlikely that this event will take place again. At March's Crufts, Valerie Link and I held a book-signing session on the Our Dogs breed stand for our "Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen – A Definitive Study", which had just been published. All copies sold out some years back though I still hold a couple or it can still be found ranging in price from £1.49 for a used copy to around £70 new. One person whose copy must be worth a mint is Ann Stringer from Ohio. A one-time regular visitor to the UK shows, Ann used to carry her PBGV book around with her and collect signatures of those mentioned. It was fascinating to see the book filling up with signatures against the names that now form part of our history of the breed. Two years' planning went into the ambitious project of holding the first ever World Congress, which took place in October at Newark & Notts Showground in conjunction with the club's championship show. There DCC went to Garwedd du Greffier du Roi, giving him his title. RDCC went to the only overseas exhibit Jolanda Huisman's Propriete Prive des Rocs du Plessis. BCC & BIS went to Willowbrae Amazing Grace with Afterglow, RCC was Pam Aldous' Ch Dehra Jasmine with Sweetdean, BP Gadsby & Robertson's Afterglow Woody Woodpecker. On the health front problems with epilepsy, eyes, some signs of aggression and irresponsible breeding were on new chairman Evan Roberts' agenda. At the AGM, outgoing chairman, Sandy Mackenzie, was elected as Vice President. In those days it was usual to see both President and Vice Presidents attend committee meetings, bringing their wealth of experience to any meeting albeit without a vote. A KC Working Party had decreed that organising judges' seminars and assessments should become a very important part of any canine society's agenda. Twenty years down the line and we await the Judges Competency Framework Review findings to see exactly how our future judges' training will pan out. Let's hope one failing in the new system will be resolve, that of lack of a strong and open link between the Breed Education Co-ordinator and officers of the breed club. Looking back over 2019, with limited showing Crufts RBIS winner Sara Robertson & Wendy Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike comes in as #2 Top Hound and Gemma McCartney's Ch Soletrader Freddie Mercury Top PBGV Puppy. Other results are awaited. During the year several valued former committee members passed away – Audrey Herring, Diana Sadler and Sylvia Probert. With POAG now under control thanks to the introduction in 2015 of the DNA test for detecting the mutant gene, attention is now turning to Epilepsy. It is hard to believe but it is now 23 years ago since the club agreed with the Animal Health Trust to participate in the scheme for DNA testing for Epilepsy. Under the revised and updated World Health Committee structure, whose collaboration will be welcome, it is hoped that finally some progress can be made. Don't forget entries for Crufts close shortly – if you can afford it! Good luck and good health to all and to your PBGVs in 2020.

10 / 1 / 2020

A QUIET TIME OF THE YEAR HERE but, in Gothenburg MyDog Sweden, the largest Nordic dog show, has just taken place. On the first day, 3 January, BOB went to Gwen Huikeshoven's Multi Ch Cookie Crunch v Tum-Tum's Vriendjes, currently living in Sweden in the capable hands of Camilla Tell. He went on to G1 under Bo Wallin. BOS was Therese Corneliussen's Ebouirffe Bright Serendipity. 4 January saw the reverse of the previous day with BOB going to Ebouirffe Bright Serendipity and BOS to Cookie Crunch. The judge was Bengt-Åke Bogren. The passing of Maureen Wade has been announced. Known to those who have been in the breed for 20 years or more, Maureen was one of the earliest owners in Ireland when she acquired Famecliff Magique (Famecliff Fourquett ex Dehra Guinevere of Famecliff). Born on 31 May 1999, he was one of a litter of 6 bred by John & Barbara Clifton. Maureen had some success in the ring with him and also bred a litter, keeping Sumobi Sunrise to show. PBGVs were but one of several breeds Maureen and her husband Jimmy were captivated by as they also had Toy Poodles, Russian Toy Terriers and Italian Greyhounds. Her funeral takes place on 15 January at Lancaster & Morecambe Crematorium. For a chance of winning a club points trophy, don't forget to get your forms in to Geraldine Dodd by the end of this month. You can find them on <http://www.bgvclub.co.uk/membership-voice-lod>. And Colin Makey has been busy for some time now compiling the next Book of Champions. This one will cover 2015-2020 so, with one year to go, which PBGVs are on two CCs with a chance of appearing in this edition?

17 / 1 / 2020

AT BOSTON, the first championship show of the year, Ceri McEwan was the judge. With three absent from her entry of 21, she awarded Best Dog to Tim & Deborah Bartley's Erylan Zeus Roi des Dieux (Ch Soletrader Tom Thumb ex Ir Ch Erylan Aphrodite La Belle) and RBD to my and Jenna Betts' Beaujons Vagabond of Monkham (Multi Ch Petit Heroes Canned Heat ex Beaujons Tickled Pink ShCM). Best Bitch, BOB and subsequently G3 under Pam Mottershaw went to Ch Soletrader Judigarland (Ch Soletrader Magic Mike ex Soletrader Jitterbug). RBB was my and Jenna Bett's Monkham Memphis Belle (Beaujons Vagabond of Monkham ex Monkham Luna Luvgood). Joan Hutchings' Tangaer French Romance (Nykarth Okie Dokie at Tangaer ex Ch Debucher Sybelle avec Callydena) was BP. In a wonderful gesture, Boston had a collection to help those affected by the Australian wildfires. Fees from Spectator Dog entries swelled the money donated in the box on the secretary's table. With plenty of chatter amongst the various breed owners at the grooming area, it was good to see Rose Phillips ringside, visiting from Turkey. She is our BIS judge for our open show on 4 April. Only the day before I had heard that Geraldine Dodd was in hospital so everyone at the show was concerned and wishing her well. In the Breeders competition with only two present judge Richard Kinsey awarded 1st place to Foote & McAulay's PBGVs. The full programme for the PBGVCA

National has now been announced and, as usual, there will something for everyone over the course of a week from 14-21 April at Wilmington, Ohio. Naturally this makes a wonderful vacation for anyone with a camper van who is obsessed with PBGVs or for enthusiasts visiting from overseas. Much of the show is for Agility Trials, scent work, obedience and rally, Canine Good Citizen and Trick Dog testing. Other than Good Citizen, these are all activities we do not get involved in here in the UK. The Welcome Party take place on Wednesday 15 April, followed by a Royal Canin seminar on nutrition and breeding. Interspersed with various buffets and dinners, the main events for the remainder of the week are Regional Sweepstakes on Thursday 16th with Rodney Jones as the judge and Regional Specialty & Junior Showmanship, judge Jon Cole. Saturday is a full day with Jan Zigich is presiding over Judges' Education, and the National Sweeps judged by Susannah Cooper, followed by the National Specialty & Junior Showmanship, judge Michael Canizalo. Afterwards there is the AGM, banquet and auction. Geraldine Dodd, now out of hospital and recovering at home, has sent details of the January LOD winners: first prize of £15 goes to Phil Reid, £10 to Tracey Presswell and £5 to Kay Ainslie. There are 25 PBGVs entered at Manchester today (Friday) for Fran Mitchell, giving CCs for the first time. After the gale force winds at Peterborough last weekend, the weather is still dismal at the moment but let's hope travel conditions remain tolerable.

24 / 1 / 2020

ONLY THE SECOND YEAR of PBGVs having CCs at Manchester and the entry was down by 6 on last year and, with 19 present, was only two more than at Boston the week before with no CCs. It was a welcome third CC for Jane Brown's Soletrader Valentino Rossi (Ch Soletrader Noble Kinsmen ex Soletrader Bumble Bee) with RCC going to Ceri McEwan's Marunnel Orinoco (Vilaudens Isaak [imp SWE] ex Maudaxi Coco Chewnel from Marunnel). BCC, her third, went to Erin & Oliver Robertson and Lizzie Greenslade Cadmore's Soletrader Beatrix Potter (Ch Soletrader Magic Mike ex Soletrader Simply Suzy) and the Reserve went to Kyle & Lizzie Cadmore's Soletrader Dancing in Deli. BP was Brown's Erylan Chaud Comme Hades (Ogham des Terres du Templier with Soletrader [imp Fra] ex Clonallan Just Beginning with Erylan). In Denmark this week, Aksel Hansen celebrates his 90th birthday. It is 10 years ago since his partner, former Bassetklubben Chairman Mogens Hansen passed away. Mogens, who always took the leading role in the dog world, was known predominantly for his striking Axmo Bassets. However, in the 1980s, Per Knudsen had introduced him and Aksel to PBGVs and, in 1982, Neige des Rives de la Garonne (Laron du Val d'Orbieu ex Jenny du Grangeot de Callou) became their first PBGV. The following year Per and Mogens went to France and two more PBGVs, brother and sister Ursin and Urfa des Rives de la Garonne (Radio des Rives de la Garonne ex Perine du Clos Garnachois), arrived in Denmark. Then, at the Specialty in Le Puy-en-Velay, the Hansens bought a dog and a bitch, Tonus and Turaine des Rives de la Garonne (Poly ex Ch Noisette des Rives de la Garonne). The first litter by Tonus was out of Dk Ch Neige des Rives de la Garonne. He was also mated to a daughter of Neige, Axmos Altair de la Garonne, whose sire was the outstanding Salto. Turaine had one litter sired by Ursins and puppies from these three litters were exported to Sweden and America. Without doubt, many breeders in the States were grateful to Kennel Axmo for giving early, sound foundation to their breeding programme and, in 1989 at the San Rafael California Nationals, I awarded Best in Sweeps to Barbara Wickland's Axmos Ghostwriter (Dk Ch Chouan Hens Dream ex Dk/Nor Ch Axmos Altair de la Garonne). The following year, Mogens Hansen judged the Regional Specialty at Kansas City, where at the same show Ghostwriter gained top score in obedience. Of course, many will remember the controversy when Mogens judged our Club championship show in 1999 and withheld many places. At the time exhibitors felt that, being a Club show that members support, he should not have penalised so heavily. At 2004's Very Special Show, Mogens explained to me that under our UK judging system, by withholding this was the only way he could demonstrate the distance between those he found to be excellent and those that did not merit such a high placing. With Aksel not on Facebook, many of his good friends are sending him birthday wishes to his email address axmo@mail.tele.dk. I was extremely sorry to hear from Geraldine Dodd that, due to a combination of circumstances, she feels unable to continue on the BGV Club committee. Although now out of hospital, Geraldine is still recovering from a bombardment of serious health problems and has to go back in some time for a further operation. I know everyone will join with me in wishing her well. For the time being, to ensure the Club gets all annual Points Trophy forms before the end of this month, please send them to Lynn Wood at 55 Middle Crockerford, Vange, Basildon, Essex SS16 4SE. Alternatively email them to her on wood_stephen9@sky.com. The points claim forms can be found on www.bgvclub.co.uk/membership-voice-lod. If you have already emailed any to Geraldine, it would help if you could now forward your email to Lynn. Club Membership Secretary, Martin Bishop, has taken over doing the Limited Odds Draw so any annual LOD payments due should go to him at 1 Longship Way, Maldon, Essex CM9 6UG. Or you can contact him on 07779 300761, vendeen48@gmail.com. Most importantly Martin is rounding up the final few outstanding payments for annual subscriptions as, unless paid by next Friday you will not be entitled to a vote at this year's AGM.

31 / 1 / 2020

LOOK AT THIS! January is over already. The month that strikes terror into many BGV owners and attacks their bank balances is all but over. Other than crying over the cost of entering Crufts, most have paid their annual BGV Club subscriptions, Limited Odds Draw subs, Breeders Directory payments and even come out of it almost smiling. But, if you haven't yet paid your annual subscription, this is a final warning. If not paid by 31 January, you will lose your right to a vote for our AGM. On to February and many will be seeing which open shows they can go to before Crufts to get a bit of practice in, especially with the younger PBGVs. Having had my rant on the Club Facebook page a few days ago, I may as well repeat it here. We don't get to as many open shows as we used to a few years back but did go to 13 last year. No critiques have been published for 6 of them. To make matters worse, two of the judges were breed people. I can see both sides of the coin in questioning the value of critiques, especially when some only appear months after a show. They range from an obvious crib of parts of the breed standard to ones confirming that the judge hadn't got a clue about the breed. And how many are disinclined to enter an open show when they find the judge allocated to do PBGVs is judging, for example, the Working Group and it seems that our breed has been added on as an afterthought "Will you do this breed as well?" It is a lottery. I look forward to the winter months when I don't have to mow the grass - I think. I have spent most of this week mopping muddy floors as equally dirty PBGVs chase around, having brought in swathes of mud and wet from the garden. There has been an amazing amount of interest in the Breed Celebration Lunch at the KC but I can still take a few more if you are interested. Before this, don't forget that on Thursday 23 April you have the opportunity of a tour round the Animal Health Trust's small animal clinic and laboratories. You will be taken into areas of the AHT normally reserved for vets, technicians and other staff so this is not to be missed, especially if one of your dogs has ever received treatment there. It gives you the opportunity to see the full range of equipment, vets at work and how they treat small animals. Before then, in the morning, we have been invited to presentations and updates on the Give a Dog a Genome project and Epilepsy, with time for Q&As. A courtesy lunch follows and I know from experience the AHT lunches are not to be missed! To book a place to enable me to give the AHT an idea of numbers, please contact me.

7 / 2 / 2020

A LOVELY START TO THE YEAR for Gail Foote and Erin McAulay whose PBGV Ir Ch Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune went BIS at Caledonian CS. Breed judge was Frank Whyte, group and BIS judge Mrs Diane Stewart-Ritchie. Many congratulations. Entry numbers and the provisional order of judging in Ring 31 at Crufts on 8 March is 25/26 GBGVs, followed by 67/70 PBGVs. Judging starts at 9am but, as in previous years, we need to watch for a possible later start. Meanwhile the 144th Westminster KC is next on the show calendar for those in the States, with the Hound Group taking place on Sunday 9 February. Judging starts even earlier than at Crufts - 8.30am. However with the long distances to travel it can be assumed that most exhibitors are already in the vicinity of Pier 94 and Madison Square Garden. There are 14 PBGVs entered for Mrs Linda Hurlebaus of Palmetto, GA. I must make an apology that in my frenzy of ensuring everyone was aware of deadlines for paying subscriptions and so on, a couple of weeks back I put in my breed notes that Points Trophies forms had to be in before the end of January. Having now looked at the forms, I see it is the end of this month! So, if you haven't yet submitted yours, you still have time. Please send them to Lynn Wood at 55 Middle Crockerford, Vange, Basildon, Essex SS16 4SE. Alternatively email them to her on wood_stephen9@sky.com. The 2019 points claim forms can be found on www.bgvclub.co.uk/membership-voice-lod. As before, if you have already emailed any to Geraldine Dodd, it would help if you could now forward your email to Lynn.

14 / 2 / 2020

ANOTHER EXCITING OPEN SHOW WIN for the breed and congratulations to Tim and Deborah Bartley, whose Erylan Zeus Roi des Dieux (Ch Soletrader Tom Thumb ex Ir Ch Erylan Aphrodite La Belle) went BIS at Huddersfield & District CA last weekend. Breed and Group judge was Colette Perkins and BIS judge Bridgette Bodle. At Westminster there were 14 entered – 8 dogs and 6 bitches. Judge Mrs Linda Hurlebaus awarded Best of Breed to Donna Bruce, Jill Neuschaefer and Juli-Lacey-Black's GCHS AM CH Lacey's Not My Circus (Am Ch Fanta's Brand N Lacey's Nuff Said ex Am Ch Lacey's Sweet Annie) and Best of Opposite Sex to Jan Zigich, Patty Opperman, Billye Tezel & Ross Litman's GCHS AM CH Mirepoix's Kate Spade (GCH Mirepoix's Son Of A Duck ex Am Ch Clementine A Touch Of Prada of M&M). Select Dog was Tonya Struble & Catherine Meddaugh's GCH AM CH Soletrader Right Said Fred (Ch Taglines Double The Fun With Soletrader ex Soletrader Jessie Jay) and Select Bitch Donna Moore & Janice Hayes' GCHS CH M & M's Calamity Jane (Am Ch Auriga's Just Jack ex GCH M&M's Texas Mae West). Awards of Merit went to Janice Hayes, Donna Moore, Eric Ciceron & Wendy Doherty's GCH AM CH M & M Stellar Spotify (GCH Soletrader Right Said Fred ex GCHB Soletrader Annie Mac) and Beverly & Tony Childs and Sandy Bustin's GCH AM CH Crepu Visage Aged To Perfection at Stonehouse (Am Ch Mcrudge Centerstage Fun Time In Rio at Morganmills ex GCH Crepu Visage & Sutton's Get The Party Started). As much as I enjoy watching the PBGV judging at Westminster every year, I am beginning to wonder whether it is a blessing that there is no similar breed live-streaming for Crufts. The usual post-show detrimental comments have been made ranging from perceived harsh handling to poor examples of the breed to the degree of grooming (or not) and remarks about the unsuitable clothing worn by some lady handlers. Late starts at Crufts have now been announced and there is a correction to the start time for judging in ring 31 which is now 10am, with the 25 GBGVs first, followed by PBGVs. It might therefore be around midday when PBGVs get in the ring. The Kennel Club is holding a multi-breed health screening day on Friday 21 February from 9.30am - 4pm at the Kennel Club Building in Stoneleigh. BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme examinations will be available on a first come, first served basis and can be booked now via email health@thekennelclub.org.uk. The draw for February's LOD has taken place and the lucky winners are 1st Ceri McEwan with £15, 2nd Joan Hutchings £10 and 3rd Dianne Quadling £5. The Winter Breed Record Supplement dropped onto my doormat this week and it can now be seen that PBGV registrations for 2019 totalled 114. Of this there were 6 PBGV imports (three of which were re-import) and 8 exports. 114 is a rise on the 85 registered in 2018.

21 / 2 / 2020

WELL DONE to Katie O'Brien who came Runner Up at the Scottish Junior Handler of the Year competition. With three previous wins tucked under her belt, what more fitting way to end her years of competing in the finals as a Scottish Junior. This time she didn't handle a PBGV and neither did Paul Osbourne, another worthy competitor who was at last weekend's East Anglian Supermatch with his Wire-Haired Dachshund. Humphrey won through to the final three, with a Siberian Husky and Tibetan Terrier. I expect many of you have concerns about going to Crufts with the current outbreak of coronavirus. The KC has issued a statement. They are obviously watching the situation closely and have assured that the NEC is taking extra measures to have hand sanitizers available at strategic points. Maybe we will now see as a blessing our position in Hall 5 at the extremity of the halls occupied by Crufts which inevitably attract fewer visitors. And, if you are like me, with ensuring the safety and comfort of several dogs, I rarely get time to wander round the trade stands in other halls anyway. Let's hope they don't suffer too much from a possible lower gate. Good thoughts are with Geraldine Dodd who is back in hospital again, this time for a kidney stone op. Due to the immense interest in Epilepsy, places are now beginning to fill up for the day at the Animal Health Trust on 21 April. For those of you who are travelling a long way, I now know that start time will be 10.30 for 11am and the day will finish around 3pm. To ensure your place, contact me. Finally, you have one week remaining to submit points claims forms for either Top Sire or Top Dam from Championship Show wins, or for points gained at Open Shows in 2019. Send your forms to Lynn Wood on wood_stephen9@sky.com. And, to avoid the pressures of extra jobs around Crufts time, maybe get your open show entry done now and post it to me at Sharnden, Fourth Avenue, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex SS17 8HN.

28 / 2 / 2020

A QUIET WEEK in the lead up to Crufts. That said, I expect you are all busy grooming or have it on your "to do" list at the weekend. Other than announcing that they will be taking enhanced measures to help protect visitors, exhibitors, clients and staff at Crufts this year, there have been no further statements issued by the KC over coronavirus since the number of Italian cases. They continue to monitor the situation closely and follow advice from the World Health Organisation and Public Health England, as well as that of local government. However the Irish Rugby Football Union has just announced that Ireland's Six Nations rugby matches against Italy in Dublin on the same weekend as Crufts have been postponed – and possibly cancelled – because of the coronavirus outbreak in northern Italy. In total, 42 countries will be taking part at Crufts this year, from Australia to Ukraine. Thought to be partly due to uncertainty over the outcome of Brexit, there has been a fall in entries in all but one of the top ten countries. Italy has kept its lead with the largest international number of entries, however at 366 dogs this is an 11 per cent drop from 2019. Of course with the Italian authorities now confirming 322 cases of the virus, this is the highest number of coronavirus infections outside Asia. The cases are heavily concentrated in the region of Lombardy where 212 infections have been confirmed. It remains to be seen whether caution over travelling will mean a lower entry present for this year's show. I hope those of you who are travelling to Crufts have a safe journey and that you all enjoy your day.

6 / 3 / 2020

ON 28 FEBRUARY the Kennel Club announced that Crufts was due to go ahead as planned and this is still the case, although obviously the situation is being monitored. Their priority is the health of all dogs and visitors at Crufts so make sure you maintain good hand, respiratory and personal hygiene and make use of the extra hand sanitiser that will be at strategic points. It might be like walking into a hospital but it is there for a reason! The sheer scale of the operation cannot be underestimated as it takes days to set up all the trade stand areas, rings and Discover Dogs booths ready for when we walk in and expect the show to be up and running and ready to go. Colin Makey has asked me to remind you that the next Book of Champions will be issued next year so don't ask him for a copy at Crufts! With fewer BGVs being made up nowadays, the committee decided to extend year coverage of the next edition by one year to 2015-2020. This neater timescale of every 5 years will be continued in the future. Meanwhile, Colin will be pleased to receive high resolution photos of your recently made up champions, plus information and pedigree. With Crufts on our minds, the Club Open Show may have gone on the back burner for some but please remember entries close the day after Hound day, on Monday 8 March. You may give me your entries at Crufts, if you wish or get them in the post to me NOW. Schedule and entry form can be found on www.bgvclub.co.uk/diary-dates. March's LOD winners are Vivien Phillips with £15, £10 to Gill Goulden and £5 to Louise Parker.

13 / 3 / 2020

A WEEK ON FROM WRITING THE LAST BREED NOTES and we now know who triumphed at Crufts 2020. DCC and BOB went to the winner of Junior Dog Gemma McCartney's Soletrader Freddie Mercury (Around Another Bad Hair Day ex Ch Soletrader Rita Ora), who is already a champion. BCC went to the Limit Bitch winner Kyle & Lizzie Cadmore's Soletrader Dancing In Deli (Ch Soletrader Tom Thumb ex Ch Soletrader Peek A Boo). RDCC also went to them with litter brother Ch Soletrader Only In Oslo, with the RBCC going to Russian Federation visitor Irina Antipova with Switzerland Aldia Crystal (Ch Soletrader Magic Mike ex Rus/Rom/Lux Ch Irma Podkoldernik Jadowity). BP was Joan Hutchings' Tangaer French Romance (Nykarth Okie Dokie at Tangaer ex Ch Debucher Sybelle avec Callydena ShCM) and BV Jane Brown's 10yr old Ch Soletrader Louis Vuitton (Ch/Am Ch Gebeba Texas True Grit ex Ch Soletrader Mini The Minx). Although there were only 6 absent from the entry of 67, certainly the overseas entries for our breed were down this year with 4 from Russia, 1 from Finland, 1 from Germany, 2 from Croatia. It was good to see other overseas breed enthusiasts ringside, including Gitte Winter Arildsen and Vibeke Krogsgaard from Denmark, Debbie Perrott and Jeff Pepper from the States. A big thank you to Steve and Lynn Wood who coped with setting up the Discover Dogs breed booths on Thursday having arrived to find our two breeds only had pens. Having got over the shock, Lynn remonstrated with the KC representative, telling him that was our chances of winning Best Breed Booth down the swannee. However, not to be

defeated, she and Steve put their thinking caps on to see how they could best decorate booths with no walls! Fortunately the large banners I had made earlier in the year saved the day as they were able to tie these up to the ceiling struts to form a backdrop for each booth. Thank you also to all those who helped man the booths over the four days of the show, it is much appreciated. Entries for our club open show on 4 April closed on Monday and there are 19 GBGVs to be judged by Ann Makey, followed by 31 PBGVs for Kim Culyer-Dawson. There is one Junior Handler and two in the Baby Puppy Walk

20 / 3 / 2020

THERE CAN BE FEW who are unaware of the gravity of the rising COVID-19 pandemic. The news covers little else as we receive daily updates on what is happening in other countries and our own Government takes steps to contain the situation here in the UK. Decisions needed to be made about our own Club events and, with the health and safety of our members foremost, we have cancelled both our AGM and Open Show, also the day that was to have been held at the Animal Health Trust. I am reproducing here what has been sent out to all members and put on the Club website: Dear Club Members As you will all be aware, advice on the situation regarding COVID-19 has been changing daily and the risk level to the UK has now been raised to high. With the health and safety of our Club members paramount, the Committee has been guided by the Government's stance on minimising unnecessary travel, maintaining social distancing and the need for vulnerable people to self-isolate. In so doing, along with other Clubs and Canine Societies, this week we took the decision to postpone or cancel events that had been lined up for you over the coming weeks: The Annual General Meeting, which should have taken place at Roade on 4 April – postponed. To be rescheduled when possible. The agenda remains in place as it is, with no new business or nominations added. It will be available from me when I give a minimum of 14 days' notice of the new date, time and venue to all members. The Open Show, also to have taken place on 4 April at Roade – cancelled but consideration will be given to rescheduling later in the year. Other than for those of you who have kindly said to keep their entry fee for Club funds, refunds for the 4 April show will be made. The Day at the Animal Health Trust on 23 April – postponed and will be reorganised when the situation allows. Yesterday the Kennel Club issued a letter to Club Secretaries endorsing Government advice. They recommended that Clubs and Societies should cancel forthcoming events over the next three months, ie until the end of June. With this in mind, it is likely I will also be deferring the 11 June Celebration Lunch at the Kennel Club. If so, I will notify those of you who had booked to attend. I will also notify everyone in due course when the situation regarding our Scottish Open Show at Border Union on 21 June becomes clear. Updates will be on the Club website www.bgvclub.co.uk. We are now facing the most profound changes to our daily lives that the majority of us have ever experienced. Curtailment for the time being of our BGV Club events play only a small part, so thank you all for your patience and understanding – and stay safe. Linda Skerritt Secretary We have to go back to as far as 2001 when the foot and mouth outbreak caused the cessation of all canine outdoor activities for a considerable time. I judged PBGVs at WKC that year – my first CC appointment - and, from an entry of 48, I awarded DCC to a young Afterglow Woody Woodpecker and BOB to Ch Willowbrae Amazing Grace with Afterglow. I remember having to drive through a great trough of disinfectant to get into the showground. Now we must all take precautions to avoid contracting this virus. One of our Club members, Michael Walshe, who had intended to be at our open show with his GBGV has written to me. He and Mr Baggins are currently stuck in Slovakia because all the borders between Slovakia and the UK are shut. Slovakia has declared a State of Emergency. He wrote "Mr Baggins and I are often the only folk to be seen in the street during our evening walks, if through the City. It's weird! We must be masked to do any shopping, take a bus, etc, and have to be masked for social reasons whenever out at all. Folk here are taking the Government's measures and recommendations very seriously. I went to a dear old friend's funeral (not C-19) yesterday, out in the country. Everyone was masked, including the priest; the service was held in the open air, which allows fifty attendees. We crowded that limit, I think. Had the service been in Church, there could have been only nine attendees plus the priest. Bratislava City is poised to close its perimeter to non-residents. Upon my return yesterday I was asked to prove my residency there and to justify having gone out of the City at a Police check-point. There was hardly a queue for cars, which illustrates how well-behaved are the citizens! Lorries were backed up for over seven kilometres. To actually close the perimeter would be harsh as well as difficult. With schools, all entertainments and playgrounds shut, city parents are struggling with bored children, cannot go to work, feel it to be unsafe even to go out with the children and so do need to escape to the country (either the traditional family "chata" or at least a day in the woods). But the Government is desperate to contain the spread, so we all understand the temptation to cordon off the city, which is the epicentre of the small foothold the virus has here". We must all place our hobby in perspective at the moment. The crisis will pass and things will gradually get back to normal, including our own BGV Club events. Meantime, look after yourselves and stay healthy.

27 / 3 / 2020

THE SIMPLE THINGS IN LIFE can thrill you at the moment. Yesterday I found four small potatoes and some sad looking carrots at the bottom of the fridge. As my on-line delivery last week had been practically devoid of vegetables, this was probably the highlight of my day. But, no, in the evening I discovered a bottle of handwash, two bars of Wrights coal tar soap and two tubes of toothpaste at the back of the bathroom cupboard. Treasure! Although there are no delivery slots within the next three weeks, I for one have no intentions of queuing outside a supermarket where self-distancing is problematical. I have had two dog food deliveries this week, so at least the PBGVs won't go hungry. It has been a sobering time with having to cancel or postpone all our club events, including the latest – the day planned at the Kennel Club which should have taken place on 11 June. Having postponed the day at the Animal Health Trust previously, it was a shock to learn that they are in financial difficulties and tragically, without an urgent input of funds, they are likely to close permanently. The AHT houses the UK's largest canine genome bank which holds the entire genomes of 89 dogs from 77 different breeds, including ours. This resource is hugely important to dog health. Without it, the process to develop DNA tests to tackle cruel inherited diseases slows causing a massive impact on the health of generations of dogs. Ways are being looked into of preserving the various breed clubs' DNA samples, testing services and research work carried out. At the moment the AHT needs considerable sums if the charity is to continue. However, they are not asking for a donation. They feel it would be disingenuous if they took donations from smaller clubs and societies etc now as the funds raised would probably still be insufficient to save the charity. Needless to say, with PBGVs worldwide having benefited since 2015 from the DNA test for Primary Open Angle Glaucoma and we are seeing a decline in cases of POAG, this is of incalculable importance to our breed so we must hope there is a solution. Cancelling or postponing all our club events has, in itself, been a rather time consuming job. Notifying the KC, the judges, venue, sponsors, vet, refunding entry fees – also halting production of rosettes. At the moment none of us knows how long we face this disruption to our lives so any thoughts of rescheduling various events like our AGM or possibly our open show must stay on the back burner. At the moment fingers are crossed that our October championship show doesn't fall foul of prolonged restrictions to our normal way of living. However, if we come out the other side by the autumn, pencil Saturday 28 November into your rather empty diaries as, by then, hopefully we will be able to hold a club event at Weedon Bec Village Hall in Northants. A reminder that the ballot for judges closes next week on 28 March so, if you haven't yet cast your votes yet, do so soon. With the largest back garden down my road, while I worry about where I am going to put my grass cuttings as the local council is stopping garden refuse bin collections (suggestions to me please), I am sure your PBGVs are all enjoying having more company in the house and loving the extra attention. You may need to cut back on food if exercise has been reduced - but a daily walk is still allowed and time to practise your grooming skills! Take care all of you.

3 / 4 / 2020

THE LATEST EDITION OF EVOICE will be with you shortly, keeping you up to date with BGV Club affairs. Sue Marshall and Kim Culyer-Dawson have been hard at work collating and setting up articles and information which I hope you will enjoy reading. Those not on email will be receiving a copy in the post. This Saturday should have been our AGM and Club open show at Roade Village Hall. Goodness knows at the moment when our AGM will be held. We are in the same situation as countless other dog clubs with having to wait until we are through the pandemic, restrictions on social gatherings are relaxed and meeting up once again becomes safe. And little did we know long ago when judges were selected and arrangements made that our 4 April open show would never take place. Spare a thought for our judges' disappointment as, unless we are able to reschedule later in the

year, they have been denied the honour of judging at a breed club show. Over the past ten days or so, five out of our six PBGVs have succumbed to some tummy bug, resulting in bouts of sickness and going off their food. They have all recovered within about 48hrs aided by Pro-Kolin. Thank goodness I stocked up when at Crufts. I have heard that other owners' dogs in various areas have had the same complaint so it is obviously something going the rounds – but we can't blame this one on contact at dog shows, can we? Despite the French PBGV owners' apparent reluctance to eye test, I see that the Club de Griffon Vendéen website now has a page devoted to listing French Eye Panellists in each region. That said, they do seem to be rather thin on the ground. Here we must still await news of what is to happen at the Animal Health Trust. Their website now says "On Sunday 22 March 2020, the Animal Health Trust (AHT) announced that following a period of dire financial constraints, and with the economic implications of the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK, the charity was facing imminent closure. The Trustees and Executive Committee are continuing to seek out emergency funding and a final decision regarding the long-term future of the Trust will now be made towards the end of April 2020. Following recent guidance from the UK Government on tackling the Covid-19 pandemic and in order to make use of the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, the AHT has closed its offices until further notice". We must all hope that a solution is found to save this vital facility. If nothing else, it brings home to us how we should never again take such wonderful help for granted when health concerns are raised within BGVs. April's Limited Odds Draw winners are 1st Mrs Annie Collins with £15, 2nd Lynn Wood £10 and 3rd £5 goes to Barbara & Ray Milton.

10 / 4 / 2020

UNTIL WE KNOW what is to become of the Animal Health Trust, PBGV breeders both here and overseas are asking how to go about getting puppies DNA tested. On 24 March the AHT issued a statement saying "Due to the ongoing situation with the Covid-19 pandemic and the UK Government's latest position requiring people to remain at home, the Animal Health Trust has decided the responsible position is to no longer receive and process submissions for anatomic pathology, microbiology, histopathology, clinical pathology and canine DNA testing. At this point we are unable to advise when this situation will change. We appreciate this will be disappointing news, but we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and understanding during this difficult time" The KC lists laboratories other than the AHT, such as Optigen both here and in the States or Laboklin in the UK, as carrying out DNA testing for POAG in PBGVs <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/1160324/breed-dna-specific-b.pdf>. However this does not appear to be the case. For what will hopefully be an interim measure, having discussed with our Chairman Paul Osbourne and Breed Health Co-ordinator Vivien Phillips, I am in the process of setting up an arrangement with another laboratory who, in a few weeks' time will be able to offer a similar service. They also send their results through to the KC. I will let everyone know once the test is available. As the Club was unable to hold its AGM last Saturday, I released various results. Election of Treasurer - With no further nominations for Treasurer, Mr Colin Makey is elected unopposed. Election of Committee Members - With no further nominations for Committee, Ms Kathryn Moulding and Mrs Joan Robertson retain their positions on the Committee. Also, judges for our forthcoming shows: 2022 Open Show - GBGVs 1st Michael Maclaren, Reserve Dianne Reid; PBGVs 1st Sue Brundle, Reserve Barbara Milton. 2023 Championship Show - GBGVs 1st Ann Makey, Reserve Jan Pain; PBGVs 1st Rose Phillips, Reserve Fred Ellingford. I will list the Club Points Trophies winners next week. London's new Nightingale Hospital opened on 3 April, having been put together in under two weeks, record-breaking time. With 80 wards, this temporary facility at ExCel in London's Docklands is now the world's largest critical care unit which is just starting to receive critically ill COVID-19 patients. No cause for celebration and a sobering thought that many will recognise it as the exhibition centre where they have helped man the Discover Dogs BGV booths every autumn since 2015. Not only that but the panels used to form the breed booths seem to have come in useful for constructing the individual patient units. In these uncertain times, little did we think last time we walked out of ExCel on 12 October last year that this would happen. And so it is with the NEC which is now being transformed into the Birmingham Nightingale, where care will be provided for thousands more patients with coronavirus across the Midlands. When we were all at Crufts, we realised the risks associated with coronavirus were increasing but little did we think that the NEC would be one of the critical care centres starting with up to 500 beds and equipped with the capacity to increase beds up to 2,000 if required. Stay safe all of you.

17 / 4 / 2020

WHEELS ARE NOW IN MOTION to set up another POAG DNA testing service here in the UK. Meanwhile, the PBGV Club of America Health Committee are also working as quickly as they can towards a PBGV-specific POAG test being offered by a non-profit genetics laboratory in the States, which I believe is UC Davis. Some PBGV owners didn't understand why a new test needed to be set up, even asking why the AHT was holding onto their research information, which is far from the case. Any research laboratory gets the information from the AHT's published paper on the subject and this allows them to set up the test in their own laboratory.

Some in the States also asked about a Glaucoma DNA test offered by Embark. The explanation why the Embark test could not be used was that, although they offer four tests for Glaucoma-causing mutations, for each they say the mutation was first described in the Basset Hound. Here is a list of the Glaucoma causing mutations they test for and the relevant breeds:

ADAMTS10 exon 9. Mutation leads to Glaucoma in Norwegian Elkhounds. ADAMTS10 exon 17. Mutation leads to Glaucoma in Beagles.

ADAMTS17 exon 11. Mutation leads to Glaucoma in the Basset Fauve de Bretagne. ADAMTS17 exon 2. Mutation leads to Glaucoma in Basset Hounds.

PBGVs have an inversion mutation in ADAMTS17 intron 12. This is not listed as an Embark test. At \$150 (£120) a test, apart from not giving information on POAG in the PBGV, this is prohibitively expensive.

In Italy the death has been announced of Maria Monastero. Maria had bred PBGVs since 1999 and the surrounding of her small town of Ivrea, near Turin, were perfectly suited to this rustic breed. Her passing is mourned by the many who first became acquainted with the PBGV through acquiring one from her and her PBGV friends were many far and wide.

And in Australia the well-known Sup Ch Rokeena Art Nouveau (Arthur) has died at almost 13yrs old. Robyn Wallis writes "He lived his latter life with Maureen Thomas in Western Australia. She rang me distraught to say that he had passed on quietly in his sleep. Arthur was one of the great PBGVs here in Australia, out of the only litter that CeeJay (Aust & Am Ch Rokeena Carte Blanc) produced here before he left to go to the USA. He had a fantastic life and was a wonderful show dog and character and lost his heart to a lot of people along the way. Cam Cavallo showed him to a number of wins including Best Puppy in Group at Sydney Royal in 2008. He then lived with and was loved by Bev and Dave Tophill with Bev exhibiting him to many great wins which gained him his Supreme Championship Title. At the age of five, Maureen, who was a great friend of both Bev and I, fell in love with him whilst on a trip over here, so Arthur went to live with her and continued on with his winning career in the West and of course was spoilt rotten for the rest of his life".

As promised, here are the results of the 2019 PBGV club points trophy winners, which hopefully you have already seen when these were published on 4 April by email,

PBGVs CHAMPIONSHIP SHOWS	DOG	OWNER
TOP PBGV	AFTERGLOW AGNES GRU AVEC JAYANEL	CLAIRE COOPER & LYNNE ELLINGFORD
BEST OPPOSITE SEX PBGV	CH SOLETRADER BUZZ ALDRIN OF BONDLEA	MARION HUNT
RESERVE TOP MALE PBGV	CH SOLETRADER ONLY IN OSLO	KYLE & LIZZIE CADMORE

RESERVE TOP FEMALE PBGV	MARUNNEL MISS ADELAIDE	CERI MCEWAN
<i>JOINT WINNER</i>	OVERBECKS KATHY TIERE	LYNN SCOTT
TOP PUPPY PBGV	MAUDAXI CANDY'S CANING IT	PHIL & DIANNE REID
<i>JOINT WINNER</i>	MAUDAXI EGG NOG EDDIE	PHIL & DIANNE REID
RESERVE TOP PUPPY PBGV	CALDEWRIVER WIZARD OF OZ AT TORCARHIAN	KIRSTY & RHIAN FEASBY
<i>JOINT WINNER</i>	CH SOLETRADER FREDDIE MERCURY	GEMMA MCCARTNEY
TOP VETERAN PBGV	CH SOLETRADER LOUIS VUITTON	JANE BROWN
RESERVE TOP VETERAN PBGV	CH NYKARTHS KICKING OFF WITH BRAEGO	PAUL OSBOURNE
TOP PBGV SIRE	CH SOLETRADER TOM THUMB	GAVIN & SARA ROBERTSON
TOP PBGV DAM	CH SOLETRADER PEEK A BOO	GAVIN & SARA ROBERTSON
TOP NON-CC WINNER PBGV	ERYLAN LOKI MAITRE DU MAL	TIM & DEBORAH BARTLEY

PBGVs OPEN SHOWS	DOG	OWNER
TOP PBGV	ERYLAN HEBE LA FILLE JEUNE	RAY & GAIL FOOTE AND ERIN MCAULAY
TOP MALE PBGV	ERYLAN ZEUS ROI DES DIEUX	TIM & DEBORAH BARTLEY
RESERVE TOP MALE PBGV	ERYLAN LOKI MAITRE DU MAL	TIM & DEBORAH BARTLEY
TOP FEMALE PBGV	ERYLAN HEBE LA FILLE JEUNE	RAY & GAIL FOOTE AND ERIN MCAULAY
RESERVE TOP FEMALE PBGV	MONKHAMS LUNA LUVGOOD	LINDA SKERRITT & JENNA BETTS
TOP PUPPY PBGV	MONKHAMS MEMPHIS BELLE	LINDA SKERRITT & JENNA BETTS
RESERVE TOP PUPPY PBGV	JAMAR INA THE COUNTESSA	JAN BISHOP
CRUFTS 2020 GBGVs	DOG	OWNER
BEST OF BREED	DEBUCHER BIZET	ELLIE HARRIS & AMELIA THEODOROU
BEST OPPOSITE SEX	TARMACHAN BLACK ICE	FIONA BUCHANAN, MICHAEL MACLAREN & AMANDA O'DAY
CRUFTS 2020 - PBGVs	DOG	OWNER
BEST OF BREED	SOLETRADER FREDDIE MERCURY	GEMMA MCCARTNEY

Congratulations to all the winners. You may not have the trophies but you have the pleasure of knowing your PBGV came out top of the bunch!

24 / 4 / 2020

A CURRENT SURFEIT OF TIME AT HOME, so there should be plenty of opportunity to get some good photos of your BGVs to send to Sue Marshall for next year's BGV Club calendar – sue.marshall4@btopenworld.com. Thanks to Mike MacLaren who has been busy putting photos of the 2019 championship and open show points winners on the BGV Club facebook page. This certainly goes some way to making up for the winners not having the pleasure of holding a trophy, which would normally have been handed out at the AGM. Instead, they are all wrapped up and stored safely in my house. That said, there are rather a lot unaccounted for so I might be contacting some of you once more in a few weeks' time. They must be somewhere. If you do hold a club points trophy, please let me know! As the weeks pass, championship shows are falling by the wayside. The latest to cancel is Houndshow. One of the reasons given is that, like Windsor, they are unable to guarantee the necessary support services, including medical cover. With no further update, it seems that both Blackpool and East of England are still hanging in there, having suspended taking entries in the hopes of gathering them in at the last minute should they be able to go ahead. I can't help wondering though whether any thoughts of mounting a championship dog show this year are rather "pie in the sky". Those of you who normally take your PBGV to a groomer may have been tempted to tackle the job yourselves during this period of lockdown. For some tips on grooming ears, feet, legs, tail and care of teeth to go <http://www.bgvclub.co.uk/grooming>. For a more in-depth step-by-step guide, go to Module #301 on <http://www.bgvclub.co.uk/pbgv-appreciation>.

1 / 5 / 2020

HERE WE ARE - May. If you are like me, the days seem to be blurring into one. I frequently wake up having to really think what day it is and am surprised when I realise we are one day further on than I thought. Such is the case this week, so better get writing some breed notes! As you can imagine, news is certainly thin on the ground as we move into yet another month and the next tranche of all breed championship shows is cancelled. I can't help feeling those that are hanging on, having suspending taking entries, may just as well go with the flow. Being able to run a show isn't just dependent on any relaxations on social distancing, there is also the supply of emergency services to consider and whether exhibitors are in the vulnerable category or able to travel away from their homes. This must surely have a knock-on effect on entry levels. Bear in mind the unenviable task laid to show secretaries though, who have to let all judges know of any cancellation and then try and move them forward to another year, in some cases 3yrs hence, or find alternative judges where some will doubtless already be contracted to judge the breed elsewhere. Following on from the cancellation of our own club open show, entry fee refunds have now been made either by bank transfer or by cheque to those who preferred paying that way. Facebook has certainly come into its own during these days of lockdown with many photos of days gone by being posted. There is a wealth of breed history held by many of our club members, especially Geraldine Dodd, who are now posting photos of our club open and championship shows going back into the 1980s. The twist in the tale is that there has been no information about the year or venue of each photo. As I am not one to be beaten, this means I have spent far too much time ploughing through old club show catalogues to find out which show, class, dogs entered and the name of the judge. I have also been looking through my own old photos, some of which never made it into albums or weren't labelled at the time. It looks like I will have an equally difficult task identifying where they were taken or the dogs in them. I was sorry to see that Linda Lewis has had to say goodbye to Tangaer Pantouffles (Cilla), who was born on 4 May 2006. Linda says she was "the sweetest bravest girl whom we all adored. Even though her eyes had been removed 3 years ago through POAG you would never believe she had no sight. Being a scenthound she did not rely on her eyes and she could sniff out rabbit poo from a mile away!!" Cilla won BP at Crufts 2007 under Vivien Phillips and, in 2008, won the BCC under Pam Aldous.

8 / 5 / 2020

GOOD NEWS! A DNA test for POAG in PBGVs is now available from Animal (DNA) Diagnostics, who are based in Cambridge. <https://www.animaldnadiagnostics.co.uk/page/products>. The cost is £48. One thing to bear in mind is that they will perform the test once a fortnight and the testing takes about three days. So turnaround time can be 1-2 weeks. As part of a series featuring different professionals, last weekend's webinar mounted by The Grooming Land in the States took place with Gavin Robertson showing how to groom a PBGV. These live productions last approx. 90mins but, as you know how Gavin loves to talk about his favourite breed, his PBGV grooming demonstration lasted 2hrs with 75 having paid to watch his presentation. In preparation, he had already groomed one side of his PBGV allowing him to concentrate on the other side in the time available. With the webinar running live this provided those watching the opportunity to text questions for Gavin to answer as he groomed. The advantage of this method of sharing experience is that anyone can go back and watch the webinar again or view it afterwards if unable to watch it live. It comes as no surprise that, over the past month during lockdown, other than those seeking information about the breed, top hits on the club website have been on the Grooming page. However, this webinar with Gavin showing the art of how to make your PBGV look its best provides a great alternative to the club website's powerpoint presentation and will give owners the confidence to groom themselves. To see the webinar, to go <https://thegroomingland.com/past-events/>, where you can pay by PayPal. The lucky winners for May's Limited Odds Draw are 1st Nigel Ainsley-Young, 2nd Diane Quadling and 3rd Barbara Milton with £12. Very kindly, both Nigel and Barbara have donated their winnings back to the Club.

15 / 5 / 2020

JUDGING BY THE NUMBER of messages on social media, Animal (DNA) Diagnostics has been receiving requests from owners worldwide for the POAG DNA test. It is good that at least owners now have somewhere to get their PBGV's DNA testing done as a decision on the long-term future of the Animal Health Trust is still expected, possibly towards the end of this month. Since the heady days of early 2000s, over the years we have experienced the gradual fall in registrations of the PBGV. The American Club is also aware of the sharp decline in numbers of PBGV breeders and the resultant plummet in litters. President Laura Liscum writes "The supply of PBGVs has gone from 86 AKC registered litters (producing 263 puppies) in 2008 to a low of 18 litters (58 puppies) in 2017. At the same time, the demand for PBGVs has not strengthened. Together these trends foretell the possibility that the PBGV could become extinct along with the other low registration breeds". Far from being a hysterical message she adds "Our breed is headed for a population bottleneck that could have serious health consequences even if the population rebounds. Hence, a Club and Foundation supported Breed Preservation Initiative has been launched. To address this crisis, the Club has established a mentoring program to attract new breeders and is discussing how to support new and established breeders. Given how adorable and healthy our PBGVs are, one would think that the demand crisis should not even exist. But it does. The breed is largely unrecognized by the general public. Our brochures, Meet the Breed booth, and social media presence needs to be upgraded. Many non-Club webpages have misinformation that needs correcting. We need a more effective network to link potential PBGV families with breeders". The American Club is now taking first steps to "market" the breed as many people concerned about its future have stepped up, even offering donations of money earmarked for the Breed Preservation Initiative. The Club has therefore set up a donations page <https://www.pbgv.org/support/pbgv.shtml>, where they explain "We need to inform the general public about why we love this breed. As we know, the PBGV is a happy breed, good with children, and always a source of amusement around the house. The PBGV is a healthy breed, ready to run the fields after rabbits but also content to lounge on the sofa with family. To draw people into our world, the PBGVCA plans to design brochures and videos that illustrate the PBGV's endearing qualities. Part of the plan is to hire a professional photographer to produce content for our marketing materials. Having professional photographs and videos is essential for our goal. Recognizing that expanding the PBGV population is essential for breed health, the Foundation has partnered with the Club in this effort and has set up a Breed Preservation Fund". At the moment I am receiving in the region of 6-10 requests a week for puppies. I cannot see therefore that marketing the breed here would be beneficial when the need seems to be for an increase in number of breeders. I would be interested to hear if you have any comments that can be shared in these breed notes.

22 / 5 / 2020

THIS WEEK' GOOD NEWS is that the Canine Genetics Services of the Animal Health Trust announced resumption of processing canine DNA testing samples. For the time being they are clearing the backlog of existing and outstanding orders. Restricted working is in place due to coronavirus and the Canine Genetic Services will be operating with reduced staffing however it is hoped they will be able to start selling tests again soon. For the time being, they may not meet their usual turnaround time targets. Check www.ahtdnatesting.org.uk for any future updates. This, in effect, means that we now have two sources for getting our PBGVs' DNA tested – the AHT and Animal (DNA) Diagnostics. However, with the AHT still providing us with statistical data of numbers tested by them, although this will never be an exact science, I am sure most will want to go to them for any swabs and testing needed. Those on facebook will have seen that Lizzie Cadmore and Brienne Major in the States have created what Lizzie says is a worldwide easy-to-use PBGV pedigree database for anyone and everyone to use <https://pbgv.breedarchive.com/home/index>. This is an independent venture and they are encouraging as many PBGV owners and breeders as possible to create and update their breeding on the database in the hope that this can benefit the breed as a whole in years to come. Anyone is able to register and edit/create pedigrees; and a history on the site enables you to see who did what and when so let's hope that those who wish to input their PBGVs' pedigrees are conscientious about accuracy as the project is certainly a labour of love and has been met enthusiastically. More championship shows have fallen by the wayside this week, including Midland Counties where Hound day would have taken place on 25 October, the day after our own Club championship show. As a breed club we are at the moment in a slightly different position regarding the timing of likely cancellation or postponement though it does, unfortunately, look as though the writing is on the wall.

29 / 5 / 2020

IS EVERYONE ELSE being inundated with emails from people wanting a puppy? I am almost pleased the very few around are spoken for as I am not convinced of the genuine nature of a lot of enquirers, many of whom come both direct and via the KC. Strangely a lot say they are now retired so have the time to welcome a dog. One couple live in an upstairs flat, parkland nearby, no garden – but they have a balcony. Lucky PBGV. There has also been a rush of people wanting to join the Club's facebook page which now boasts 718 members. Some requests are declined as their interest in dogs is dubious, some seem to have a rather unlikely lifestyle, some seem to have joined every group there is going. So, there again, the commitment seems lacking. The last month's stats for the Club website show that the Breeders page is receiving almost twice as many hits as the second closest – grooming. Welfare and Rescue is up the top too. Presumably if those searching for a PBGV are unable to get a puppy, rehoming is next on their list. I was sorry to read that Lisa Rual's Ch Soletrader Cool Hand Luke has died, age 14. One of a litter of eight, he was born on 10 May 2006. His sire was Ch Soletrader Donald Duck, his dam Willowbrae Darlin Buds o' May with Soletrader. I expect you have all been making the most of the beautiful weather and hopefully your PBGVs have been getting extra attention and walks. I have been taking mine out around 5am – lovely and deserted at that time of the day, though some of my PBGVs are rather partial to attempting to get at the feline community as they prowl the early morning streets.

12 / 6 / 2020

IN MARCH 2020 the AHT announced that following a period of dire financial constraints, and with the economic implications of Covid-19 having an additional effect on their work, they were facing closure. Since then the Trustees and Executive Committee have been working to save the unique work undertaken. Last weekend came the announcement that if they were to continue, with it still remaining uncertain that the funding can be found to make that possible, the only viable option was for it to revert to its core purpose of providing world-renowned veterinary and scientific research for the benefit of companion animals. As a result, and subject to consultation, the Trustees are proposing to close the AHT's two referral practices - for small animals and horses. This was a difficult decision but it will allow the Genetics Research Section to continue. The AHT was founded nearly 80 years ago by Dr W Reg Wooldridge who wanted the charity to promote veterinary research and prevent suffering in companion animals. This decision means that his vision will continue and it will give the Trust the best chance of survival into the coming years. The Canine Genetics Centre is of particular importance to the entire dog world and, from the BGV Club's viewpoint, this is indeed good news. However it has brought sharply into focus that we should never take the immensely important work they perform for us for granted. In future we must bear in mind that the Trust relies solely on donations, legacies and financial support by the way of grants. Although things are starting to ease up slightly here with the various lockdown restrictions, we are still hanging by a thread as to whether our Club championship show planned for October will be cancelled/postponed. Let's say we are none too optimistic. I see that someone on social media suggested that the easiest solution was to move every judge forward a year. That is, those scheduled for 2020 should judge at the 2021 show, those for 2021 should be moved to 2022 and so on. A good idea in theory but it doesn't take into account other appointments judges may have accepted for the future. In the States where they are ahead of us in relaxations following lockdown, news is that the PBGVCA's plans for the National Specialty are going ahead. It is now scheduled to take place 26-29 August at Roberts Centre, Wilmington, Ohio. The club is actively working on a social distancing plan to keep everyone safe and to comply with AKC recommendations and local law. I don't underestimate the task. Now into June and the lucky LOD winners are Linda Jones with £15, Fiona Morris £10 and Tracy Presswell £5.

12 / 6 / 2020

WITH THE MAJORITY of all breed championship shows having cancelled for this year, both Blackpool and Bournemouth are still hanging on. Bournemouth has now announced a possible change of date to the first week in October. Notwithstanding the availability of the scheduled judges, I can see plenty of hurdles to overcome if they are to achieve their aim of ensuring that they put on a show where all are safe and happy and back enjoying the hobby that everyone loves. One interesting venture on facebook over the past few weeks has been the start of a discussion on the AKC PBGV Breed Standard, primarily because the view is that so many people really don't know it well. Donna Bruce is guiding everyone through the Standard and she says that, like a blueprint, it is a basic outline but does not explain, for example, why the Form is needed for the Function. Many people read a Standard and can see what is called for, but do not understand the

reason it is written that way. Without full understanding of the Standard, aspects disappear as they are not seen as important. Starting with General Appearance, the aim is to gradually garner comments to allow for a full discussion. She writes "This section is not to be overlooked or taken lightly. It sets the basis for what the PBGV should be. It gives the overall look and purpose of the Breed. It is the outline that should be constantly kept in mind as one goes through each facet of the Standard and plugs those items into the outline to complete the whole". She adds that, with the addition of the Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen to the AKC Hound Group, it was even more important to Think Petit. You should never look into a ring, Breed or Hound Group or look at an individual dog and wonder, "Is that a Petit or is it a Grand?" If you do, they are both incorrect, especially the PBGV. Juli Lacey-Black adds "For me the preamble is a good way to understand why the PBGV is made the way he is. It is an active hound that should be quick on its feet and have a very outgoing nature. This hound should be able to hunt in rough terrain all day and stay sound. He is an athletic hound built for hours of work". At the moment Donna is busy collecting photos to include with the narrative so this is an interesting topic not to be missed. You can find it under PBGVCA Breeders. The summer Voice is currently being printed so should be with all members shortly.

19 / 6 / 2020

LAST FRIDAY a fun dog show started on facebook. Brainchild of Charlotte Dalgarno, this is for all BGV exhibitors and owners, with classes for Grands and Petits. With separate classes for dogs and bitches, they are: Baby Puppy - puppies not exceeding 6 months of age; Puppy - puppies of 6 months of age but not exceeding 12 months; Junior - 12 to 18 months of age; Intermediate - 18 to 36 months of age; Open - for all dogs; Champion - for dogs who hold a Champion title; Veteran - for dogs aged 7 years and over and a Rainbow Bridge class - for dogs who have sadly passed away. The dogs will be placed 1st - 5th and all 1st places will compete for Best of Sex and each Best of Sex winner will compete for Best of Breed. There will be a judge for GBGVs, one for PBGVs, then a third judge for Best in Show. Judges' names will not be announced until entries close this Friday at 7pm. So you still have time to send photos of your dogs via Messenger to Charlotte. Results will be posted on Sunday 21 June. To look at photos submitted so far go to The BGV Club Online Show, which can also be found via the Club's facebook page. Charlotte has let everyone know that natural pet food specialists Lake Straw Raw have kindly donated a treat box for the lucky Best in Show winner. With it coming up to crunch time whether we will be able to go ahead with our Club championship show this year, I have just read an article which highlights many of the safety concerns that any Club would need to take on board when considering whether a show is viable. With the daunting thought that the judge would need to wear a mask and gloves and even have to change gloves between each dog being just one of the precautions, I shudder to think how the countless safety measures would be built into a Risk Assessment. The mail is still somewhat unpredictable but the Summer Voice, which the printers posted on Monday, has now hit most doormats.

26 / 6 / 2020

THE BREED ONLINE FUN DOG SHOW finished on Friday 19 June with a great entry of 77 PBGVs and 39 GBGVs and there was a tense time before results were announced two days later. In PBGVs, Best Puppy Dog, Best Puppy and Reserve Best Puppy in Show went to Jane Brown's Dougal (Callydena Dougal McLennan); Junior Dog Joan Hutchings' Banjo (Tangaer French Romance), Intermediate Dog and Best Dog Tim & Deborah Bartley's Dennis (Erylan Zeus Roi Des Dieux); Open Dog Tim & Deborah Bartley's Bruce (Erylan Loki Maitre Du Mal); Veteran Dog, Reserve Best Dog, Best Veteran and BVIS Linda Skerritt & Jenna Betts' Jack (Ch Monkams Jack Sparrow JW ShCM; Champion Dog Jane Brown's Rossi (Ch Soletrader Valentino Rossi). Baby Puppy Bitch went to Kim Culyer-Dawson's Lacey (Beaujons Yasmin); Puppy Bitch Lorna Wyllie's Mowdie (Callydena Mowdie Miss Chief); Junior Bitch Linda Lewis' Beryl (Tangaer French Wine); Intermediate Bitch Gail Foote & Erin MacAulay's Tilly (Ir Ch Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune); Open Bitch, Best Bitch, BOB and RBIS Lorna Wyllie's Star (Callydena Diamond Star), 2nd Open and Reserve Best Bitch Mandy Kenna's Chilli (Cynetkoy Chilli Romance); Veteran Bitch Gail Foote & Erin MacAulay's Tilly (Ir Ch Clonallan Just Beginning avec Erylan); Champion Bitch Marina Markio's Raksu (Lekki Celtic Tower, Finland); and finally Best Rainbow Bridge and Best Rainbow Bridge in Show Linda Skerritt & Jenna Bett's Dixie (Ch Monkams Dixie Chick ShCM) who was 14 when she died in 2017. Final decision for BIS went to the GBGV Fiona Buchanan, Michael MacLaren and Amanda O'Day's Izzy (Tarmachan Black Ice), who lives a more than fulfilled and comfortable life with Amanda and BPIS was the GBGV Dave Hughes, Rachel Pearce and Barbara Milton's Kevin (Wilmit Kevin with Demorner). Michael MacLaren, who was the behind-the-scenes committee member helper for Charlotte Dalgarno getting the show on the road, wrote: "On behalf of the BGV Club committee I would like to thank Charlotte for firstly suggesting, then organising and running, the online show. She has put a lot of time and effort into posting the entries and the results. I hope all the exhibitors have enjoyed taking part and the spectators have appreciated seeing all the dogs. Thank you also to the judges who accepted Charlotte's invitation to judge - Leila Tarabad PBGV, Nikki Skinner GBGV, Geraldine Dodd Best in Show. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who participated". In line with the easing of lockdown restrictions across the UK, the British Veterinary Association have updated their website to advise veterinary practices that they can begin transitioning towards as full a range of veterinary services as possible in a safe manner. This will be dependent on individual practice factors such as staffing levels, as well as the vets' professional and clinical judgement, and they urge all owners to respect their vet's decision. The good news for PBGV owners who are waiting for eye tests is that some Eye Panellists may be able to start offering Canine Health Scheme eye screenings within clinic settings as long as government guidance on working safely, practice policies and any local restrictions are adhered to. A list of CHS Eye Panellists offering eye screenings from 7 June 2020 is given here <https://www.bva.co.uk/media/3576/chs-eye-panellists-offering-eye-screenings.pdf>. Currently group eye screenings cannot take place due to social distancing requirements. The BVA is developing guidance to support this taking place in future. They are asking all animal owners and breeders to respect their vets' clinical and professional judgement and be patient during this time. Although I have never used MyKC to record personal breeding date, I use it regularly when looking up information on Petits or Grands. In case you don't know, the Kennel Club will soon be launching a new website, which will ensure all your Kennel Club information is in one place and is easy for you to find, as well as improve upon their services such as Find a Puppy. Following feedback on their current website, they have made the new one much easier to use on mobile and tablets. To achieve this, they have removed some of the less popular features. You have until 17 July to ensure you have a copy of everything you entered onto their database, as from then the following information will not show in your account in the future: contacts in your address book, reminders and diary entries, photos, downloads and PDFs, notes (such as milestones, diet, weight, medical history etc), past litter applications (all registration information is retained in their database). Once the website is launched, you'll still be able to see all your registered dogs in your account, however for security purposes you will be asked to verify your details and create a new password when you log in. You will need to use the same email address that you currently use for MyKC to ensure you still see all your registered dogs.

3 / 7 / 2020

FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS of our club on-line show, these "just for fun" events seem to be popping up everywhere now, allowing those missing dog shows to try their luck with favourite photos of their beloved dogs, whether they are show ones or pet. And we must not lose sight of the fact that a good number of those PBGVs who go as pets may be stunning examples of the breed, lost to the world of showing. However not everyone wants to go down this path, all they want is to enjoy their PBGV purely as a much loved member of the family. Unfortunately there continues to be a real shortage of litters being born. In the first quarter of this year only 18 PBGVs were registered with the Kennel Club compared with 28 for the same quarter last year. Set this against the continuous stream of requests being received for puppies where demand by far outstrips supply and we can see that there is a problem. The latest Kennel Journal lists a few more PBGV judges for future years and over many breeds there seems to be a drift towards FCI judges where we will all be taking pot luck on their knowledge of the breed. Allowing for any changes that suspension of dog show this year might bring about, PBGV judges for 2021 so far are: Manchester Jill Peak; Crufts Jose Homem de Mello; Birmingham National Mike Caple, SKC (May) Rony Doedijns (Nld); Bath Serena Parker; Three Counties (no CCs) Ceri McEwan; Windsor Frank Kane; East of England Marion Hunt; Hound Association Debbie Ellrich; Leeds Stuart Mallard; Bournemouth Lynne Scott; WKC Patsy Hollings, Driffild Fred Ellingford, City of Birmingham Ken Sinclair; Darlington Bert Easdon; SWKA Keith Young; BGV Club Gunnar Nymann (Dk). Congratulations to July's Limited Odds Draw winners who are Martin & Ally Garside with £15, Deborah Simpson £10 and Diane Quadling with £5.

10 / 7 / 2020

FOLLOWING THE FUTILE ATTEMPTS to resurrect the Animal Health Trust and the announcement of its closure, last week the Kennel Club's Health Research Manager assured that they are working with Cathryn Mellersh's Genetics team to try and secure both the samples and the valuable work that has been undertaken over the years. The KC say they are committed to continuing work to improve canine health via genetic research and are also discussing with the

AHT Trustees the preservation of the work, research and tests so we must now wait patiently to see what happens to all the DNA samples etc that BGV owners have provided over the years. Bournemouth Canine Association has announced that their rescheduled championship show is going ahead with Hound day on Saturday 3 October. Exhibitors are being warned that they enter the show at their own risk and that they should observe social distancing as per Government guidelines. Breed judge is Jeff Luscott, with the group being judged by Gavin Robertson. The Our Dogs survey seems to indicate that a good percentage of exhibitors are extremely cautious about going to any shows in the foreseeable future so it remains to be seen what sort of entry there will be. However, as they commented, anyone on two CCs is bound to take the risk with the possibility of a lower entry. The number of championship shows that have been cancelled this year prompted me to calculate roughly how much money PBGV exhibitors have saved on entry fees and it is something over £11,000. A sobering thought.

17 / 7 / 2020

CATHRYN MELLERSH, CANINE GENETICS, has now contacted breed clubs with this touching, though hopeful, message: "The future of canine genetics research and DNA testing service following closure of Animal Health Trust on July 31st, 2020 I would like to extend my sincere and heartfelt thanks to everybody who has contacted me and my colleagues to express their sadness at the imminent closure of the Animal Health Trust on July 31st. I have worked at the AHT for 19 years, as have many of my team, and we are truly devastated by its closure. During that time we have worked with so many of you that have an interest in the health and well-being of dogs and I believe it is fair to say that together we have done our bit to improve the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of dogs who might otherwise have been born with an inherited disease. Many of you have been in touch to ask about what will happen to the samples and data that the AHT has collected over the several decades, as well as whether the research and/or the DNA testing service will continue. I would like to assure you all that I am working very hard to secure the long-term future of the DNA samples and their associated data as well as both the research and the DNA testing service that my fabulous team carry out and it is my hope is that before very long I will be able to update you with some good news and that we can resume all the projects we currently have underway, as well as starting exciting new ones. My AHT email address will cease to function after the end of July so I have set up an alternative email account until I am established elsewhere; caninegenetics2020@gmail.com. Please feel free to use this email address for all your enquiries. Once again, it has been a pleasure working with you and for your dogs over the years. We could not have achieved what we have achieved without you. With best wishes Cathryn" Whilst, pro tem, we have the excellent services of Animal (DNA) Diagnostics to turn to for DNA testing, we must now wait and hope that all the AHT data and samples relating to our breed are preserved and that, in the future we can continue the efforts to find a cure for those health problems that crop up in BGVs. And another announcement, this one from the KC, disappointing but inevitable: "Kennel Club statement: Cancellation of Discover Dogs 2020 With regret, the Kennel Club must announce the cancellation of this year's Discover Dogs event, planned to take place in London in October. This is due to the continued restrictions arising from the Covid-19 pandemic and current Government advice against staging large public gatherings such as indoor exhibitions. At present, there is no prospect of these restrictions being lifted in the timescale required to organise the event. The Kennel Club takes the health, safety and security of everyone who takes part in its events very seriously and this must remain the prime consideration at all times. We shall look forward to welcoming you all to Discover Dogs next year". One KC initiative that has been able to go ahead in spite of the pandemic is learning to draw your favourite dog breeds with the Young Kennel Club's virtual drawing classes. Lizzie Cadmore, a former YKC member, is sharing her expertise with dog-loving youngsters across the UK in a series of drawing tutorials featuring a different breed each day. You can see these on the Young Kennel Club website www.ykc.org.uk/content/digital-resources-and-printables/step-by-step-how-to-draw/, the YKC Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/ykc.news.thekennelclubuk and Instagram www.instagram.com/youngkennelclubuk, providing a perfect social distancing activity for children during the summer holidays which will soon be with us.

24 / 7 / 2020

YET ANOTHER INTERESTING DISCUSSION THREAD on facebook. Starting with the FCI PBGV Breed Standard that asks for a slightly elongated dog, Gwen Huikeshoven has been questioning the overall balance and body ratios of the PBGV where there are slight differences in interpretation worldwide. In the UK when the Breed Standard was updated, the revision moved as closely as possible to the Standard of the country of origin. Only the format differed as it had to be in line with all other KC Standards. During this process, in November 2009 the Kennel Club proposed an additional alteration to the Body section by including the text "Length of body measured from point of shoulder to point of buttock exceeds height at withers at a ratio of approximately 7:5". The BGV Club was pleased that this guidance on height : length ratio was included, although the KC reversed the traditionally accepted 1 : 1.4. This had formed part of general knowledge of the breed since introduction into the UK having stemmed from John Miller's mid-20th century researches in France to quantify proportions of many hundreds of the basset breeds. He studied known measurements for basset breeds over the past 120 years and took a representative sample of quality ones at various shows. His findings of 1 : 1.4 were then widely recognised as the accepted height : length ratio (references: Les Bassets Courants 1987 – Maurice LeBlanc & John Miller; The PBGV: A Definitive Study – ValerieLink & Linda Skerritt 1990; Fauve Newsletter May 1982 - EvanRoberts). When updating our PBGV Breed Standard, although keeping it as close as possible to the FCI Standard, the BGV Club was in the unique position of being the guardian of two breeds. As the KC does not allow comparisons between two breeds, as in the FCI Standards, as well as adhering as far as possible to the Standard of the country of origin, we also aligned the PBGV Standard with that of the GBGV. The aim was to help judges appreciate and understand easily the differences between the Grand and the Petit. We all know and accept that the shape of many breeds changes over time. In PBGVs we have seen long backed ones, square ones, a period of them getting smaller and smaller and nowadays, although there is some variation, we see many that are of the more balanced type. Proportion is but one of the attributes to be considered. Any help we can give judges to understand the meaning of the word "compact" (not square but slightly elongated, as in the FCI Standard) and get their eye in on correct proportions be they 1:1.2, 1:1.3 or 1:1.4 can only be good. The death has been announced of Peggy Grayson, who was 100. For many years she was a firm supporter of the BGV Club and it was a delight to listen to the witty talks she gave for the club on how to judge the breed as an all-rounder. Always one to voice an opinion, in 2004 when watching the judging at the Joint Basset Breeds Show, she commented it was a shame that we couldn't have one catalogue for all breeds and not separate ones produced by each club. During the month of June hits on the Welfare/Rescue page of the club website surpassed those on Breeders. Maybe this is because, now that would-be owners are discovering there are no puppies around, they are turning their attentions to the hopes of rehoming? Fiona Buchanan, our Welfare/Rescue Co-ordinator, also reports a rise in requests though always asks enquirers to complete the useful rehoming application form. This tends to sort out the wheat from the chaff as around 50% can't be bothered. I am finding that the vast majority want a PBGV. At the moment I am still receiving at least four enquiries a day, if not more, either by email or phone. If you are planning a litter, please let me know so that I can pass on your contact details.

31 / 7 / 2020

AS THE AHT PREPARES TO CLOSE ITS DOORS at the end of this week, first of all encouraging newscame from the Genetics Section that it was looking increasingly likely that the dog DNA testing and genetics research teams currently at the AHT would be moving to a different institution to continue their work. They have now set up a new website www.canine-genetics.org.uk, still being built, but there you can sign up to their mailing list to receive email updates. This was followed closely by a Kennel Club and Animal Health Trust's joint statement saying that the scientific data and biological material including more than 40,000 DNA samples stored in Newmarket have been secured and moved to Cambridge University. Bill King, Chairman of the Kennel Club Charitable Trust, said: "The Kennel Club and the Kennel Club Charitable Trust have long supported and worked together with the AHT to improve dog health, so it is a very positive development that the Kennel Club's considerable investment in this area has been saved in spite of a few weeks of uncertainty. Our thanks go to Professor James Wood, Head of the Department of Veterinary Medicine at Cambridge Vet School, for all his help and assistance in securing the safekeeping of the samples. Future developments will be announced in due course". And another announcement this week is that the BGV Club has reluctantly had to abandon arrangements for its championship show due to have been at Sports Connexion, Ryton-on-Dunsmore on 24 October. One of countless breed clubs forced to make this decision, the committee had left it for as long as possible in the hopes that things might get back to some sort of normality for indoor events. However, the continuing uncertainties led to the only possible decision bearing in mind the health and safety of everyone involved. Taking advantage of the KC exceptionally allowing breed clubs to carry over any postponed CC show to 2021, arrangements have been made to hold it in partnership with Birmingham National on 6 May next year. Fiona Buchanan has shared information about yet another veterinary institution which is doing research into Epilepsy. Researchers at the University of Glasgow are looking for owners of epileptic dogs to take part in an online survey. This will look at the unpredictable nature of seizures, how they impact their owners and investigate the need for devices that can help detect and predict seizures in dogs. The survey, which is anonymous

and consists of open, closed, multiple-choice and scale questions, will be open until April next year. For more information to go <https://bit.ly/2ZJG2iZ>.

7 / 8 / 2020

CONGRATULATIONS to this month's Limited Odds Draw winners who have scooped up £30 between them with £15 going to Martin Bishop, £10 to Yvonne Moulton and £5 to Catherine Whitehouse. Martin Bishop has said that there are still 14 numbers available so contact him if you wish to participate and help our breed Welfare & Rescue. The numbers are drawn each month by our Club Treasurer Colin Makey by means of a random number generator. Three prizes each month of £15, £10, £5 with a larger one of £25, £12 and £6 coinciding with our Club open show and the big one in October (Club championship show month – usually!) of £50, £25 and £12. The cost is just £1 a month. The form to complete is on <http://www.bgvclub.co.uk/membership-voice-lod> or ask Martin Bishop on 07779 300761. On Wednesday our Club Chairman, Paul Osbourne, made the following announcement: "Many of you would have heard that the Officers and Committee have taken the sad step to cancel the 2020 Championship Show. There was a full discussion but foremost in our minds was the safety of our members, with it being highly unlikely that current Government guidance relating to both indoor events and social distancing being relaxed by that date. The KC announced that they would allow Breed Clubs to carry their 2020 show forward to 2021, allowing two shows in one year as long as it was held as a partnership with another show. We received approach from Hound Show with the alternative to keep the show central being Birmingham National in May. The pros and cons of both were fully discussed, neither was ideal but the Committee believed that the National was marginally more suitable. Following publication, the Club received many negative comments with the main bone of contention being that the show was on a Thursday, denying many members the opportunity to attend. The Club is its members, it was therefore incumbent on the Committee to listen and look at further options. Consideration was given to running two Club shows in October 2021, either over two days, one on Saturday and one on the Sunday or both on the Saturday with an earlier start. Following a full and frank discussion, the Committee for various reasons felt that neither option was viable. It is therefore with regret that I have to announce that the Committee have decided that the best course of action is to cancel the 2020 Championship show completely. The contracted judges will be offered the next available year which will be in 2024. Pleased be reassured that your Committee always have the members' interests at the forefront of their minds, hence the reversal of the Birmingham National decision. We do listen. Please all stay safe, and we hope to see you at BGV events in 2021". There followed a stream of messages on the Club facebook page, predominantly provoked by the resurrection of a suggestion that the Club should be holding its championship show with Houndshow and pressing for a membership ballot. Remarkably not one person considered the key elements of availability of contracted judges and committee show management. LKA has now announced it will not be taking place and shows worldwide continue to be cancelled, although one that did take place was in Split where Supreme Best in Show went to Iva Raic with Black Majesty Superstitious, which she owns jointly with Dea Kurjak. Many will have seen the wonderful professional photos Iva gets of her PBGVs and, with this in mind, just a reminder that Sue Marshall is still able to accept your best, high quality photos for the 2021 Club calendar. Email them to her at sue.marshall4@bopenworld.com

14 / 8 / 2020

ENQUIRIES FOR PUPPIES CONTINUE and it does seem that some breeders are willing to spend more time than others talking about the breed to would-be owners, as we all know a hound isn't for everyone. Whereas in the UK, the KC advocates being an Assured Breeder, in the States the American KC has introduced the "Bred with H.E.A.R.T." program. For anyone keen to get a puppy, the first step to finding the perfect one is to locate a trustworthy breeder, and the AKC say they are making this easy by just looking for breeders who are members of this program. HEART is an acronym for: HEALTH: The breeder certifies that all breeding stock is health tested in accordance with the recommendations of the Breed Parent Club. A link to the AKC Health Testing Requirements page gives the requirements for every breed. For PBGVs the requirements are Ophthalmologist Evaluation and POAG DNA Testing. EDUCATION: The breeder promises to pursue AKC-provided or AKC-approved continuing breeder education to stay educated on the best breeding practices, including advances in canine health. ACCOUNTABILITY: Agreeing to comply with the AKC Care and Conditions Policy, including inspections by the AKC, and promising to share health testing and continuing education documentation with AKC. RESPONSIBILITY: Accepting responsibility for the health and well-being of the puppies produced and for complying with all laws regarding the ownership and maintenance of dogs. TRADITION: Upholding the AKC's tradition of breeding purebred dogs that are happy and healthy. Any published standards introduced by kennel clubs are certainly helpful guides for buyers when seeking a reputable breeder, although I can hear many a conscientious breeder saying "It's what I have been doing for years anyway". And, despite all these requirements and published Codes of Ethics, we all know that, unless we have the science of DNA testing to support our breeding plans, things can – and do – occasionally go wrong. The weather continues to result in lazy dogs sprawling all over the place all day. Some find the shady spots in the garden, while others prefer to lay indoors. I have been walking ours around 5.30-6.30 every morning since lockdown and certainly recently before the sun breaks through and temperatures soar, though since the days of high humidity the walk has turned more into an amble.

21 / 8 / 2020

I THINK IT'S FAIR TO SAY that the demand for puppies has never been higher and the KC has now launched a campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of buying puppies online, or even thinking about taking on a rescue, especially during the pandemic when the problems of lack of socialisation are evident. Gavin Robertson appeared on Good Morning Britain highlighting the need for potential owners to do some research, visit the breeder when the pups are around 6 weeks old, see the mother, ask about health checks for the breed and go away and think about whether this is the right breed for them after thinking hard about their lifestyle and whether they are ready to own a puppy, or even have a dog at all. Above all, they should never buy over the internet. By the same token, responsible breeders will want assurances from the potential owner that they are suitable for the type of dog, their lifestyle, surroundings, type of garden and so on. A programme of screening days to help protect dogs, including BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme examinations, was publicised by the KC this week but has today been retracted. Presumably an update on this will be given in due course. Meantime, if you have a PBGV that needs eye testing, you can find your nearest ophthalmologist at <http://bgvclub.co.uk/eyes-dna-testing>.

21 / 8 / 2020

I THINK IT'S FAIR TO SAY that the demand for puppies has never been higher and the KC has now launched a campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of buying puppies online, or even thinking about taking on a rescue, especially during the pandemic when the problems of lack of socialisation are evident. Gavin Robertson appeared on Good Morning Britain highlighting the need for potential owners to do some research, visit the breeder when the pups are around 6 weeks old, see the mother, ask about health checks for the breed and go away and think about whether this is the right breed for them after thinking hard about their lifestyle and whether they are ready to own a puppy, or even have a dog at all. Above all, they should never buy over the internet. By the same token, responsible breeders will want assurances from the potential owner that they are suitable for the type of dog, their lifestyle, surroundings, type of garden and so on. If you have been waiting to get your PBGV's eyes tested, as part of a programme of screening days to help protect dogs, the KC is holding BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme examinations, carried out by ophthalmologist Robert Pontefract BVM.S, Cert V Ophthal, MRCVS (£45 per session). These will take place at the KC Building, Stoneleigh on 2 October, 11 November and 8 January 2021. Appointments will be made on a first come, first served basis and can now be booked online via the KC website www.thekennelclub.org.uk/health-screening-clinics or by emailing health@thekennelclub.org.uk. More information about the schemes is available on the Kennel Club website. The KC assures that all necessary Covid-secure measures will be put in place to ensure the health and safety of participants and assessors during the current pandemic.

28 / 8 / 2020

FIRST OF ALL, a notice from me on behalf of the BGV Club committee about how we are going to fulfil our obligations of conducting our Annual General Meeting this year. NOTIFICATION OF BGV CLUB ELECTRONIC AGM AND AGENDA Due to ongoing national health concerns, we were unable to hold our AGM as usual, notice of which was given on 24 January. Government advice is that village halls remain especially vulnerable to the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). In view of this and following Kennel Club guidance we will therefore be conducting our AGM electronically this year and by post for those not on email. It should be borne in mind that these are unprecedented times and such exceptional action is necessary to carry out our obligations to both you, our members, and to the Kennel Club. Following KC advice, no new business or nominations have been added to the Agenda prepared earlier in the year. The results of some items,

such as winners of judges' ballots and of Club points trophies, have already been published. The 2020 Agenda is as follows: 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks 2. Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting 3. Matters arising from the Minutes 4. Secretary's Report 5. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of 2019 Accounts 6. Report by Welfare and Rescue Co-ordinator 7. Report by Health Officers 8. Election of Treasurer 9. Election of Committee members 10. Judges for 2022 Open Show and 2023 Championship Show 11. 2019 Honoraria for Secretary and Treasurer 12. Proposal by the Officers and Committee that Simon Oakland of Certax Accountancy, Burcot, Abingdon, audits the BGV club accounts for 2020 13. Club Trophy winners for 2019 Fourteen days' notice is hereby given from the date of this email, and by post to any not on email. On 9 September we will then email (or post) to you a full report and a copy of the 2019 Statement of Accounts. Any comments on the report, on Items 5 (Statement of Accounts,) or 13 (Auditor), also your approval or otherwise, should be sent to the Chairman within 21 days, that is by 30 September. Comments will be acknowledged, answered where possible by the appropriate person and included under Matters Arising at our next AGM where we will also ask for a vote to ratify the actions taken over this 2020 AGM. Linda Skerritt Secretary BGV Club 26 August 2020 Hits on the Club website for July continue in the same vein with the Breeders page by far the highest and Welfare & Rescue coming second. I can't help thinking that only a small percentage of enquirers are genuinely interested in a BGV but would be happy to find a puppy in any breed. However it does reinforce proof of the public's insatiable appetite for having a dog as a companion whilst staying at home during these difficult times. Let's hope that this doesn't create a big Rescue problem in the future. By far the highest hits on the website stem from the UK and, rather strangely, from Spain second and the USA third. I may be able to explain this Spanish interest as a Basset breeder in Spain contacted me some weeks back. He produces training material on the basset breeds for the Spanish KC and, having Bassets himself, has now turned his attentions to the BGV.

4 / 9 / 2020

THE PBGVCA went ahead with their National last week 26-29 August This had been postponed from its original 14-21 April date at Wilmington, Ohio. It seems that the pandemic may have affected the overall entry as only around 38 PBGVs were entered, with about double the number of bitches to dogs. The need for Covid-19 precautions meant the Club had to comply with local law as well as the AKC's Best Practice. Wearing masks was mandatory within the hotel including show rings and other common areas within the show site. When outside the hotel, masks had to be worn when within 6 feet of anyone outside of the person's own household and particularly when grooming dogs in the outside area. Hand washing and regular cleaning of surfaces was also extremely important but, to minimise risk, the use of blow dryers indoors was not allowed. The show committee taped off assigned locations with 6 foot aisles between exhibitors in the crating area, which was fortunately large. Ringside chairs and tables were set up by the hotel to allow for social distancing. No one was allowed to move any chairs or other furniture without permission from the show committee. Personal chairs were allowed but had to be spaced at least 6 feet from any hotel chairs. Judges and volunteers were expected to wear masks and judges to hand sanitize between dogs. On to the main results. Regional, Judge Janice Schrieber, Friday, 28 August, 2020. BOB CH CJ's Oh Happy Day On Five Mile River Owner/Breeder: Jeanne/Charles Hurty & Lynne/Mark Florian. BOW Solettrader Mustang Sally Owner: Brianne Major & Lizzie Cadmore. Breeder: Gavin/Sara Robertson. BOS GCH M&M Stellar Spotify Owner: Janice Hayes & Donna Moore/Eric Ciceron/Wendy Doherty. Breeder: Donna Moore/Sara Robertson/Wendy Doherty. SD CH M&M Stellar Shazam at Bare Tree. Owner: Minta Williquette & Janice Hayes. Breeder: Sara Robertson/Donna Moore/Wendy Doherty. SB CH Gebaba's Talk Of The Town Owner/Breeder: Betty/George Barth & Jessica Rotondo. AOMs CH Dehra Orpheus Owner: Nicholas Frost. Breeder: Nicholas Frost/Michael Claycomb Jr. GCHB Jaren's Put A Girl In It Owner/Breeder: Karen S Prott-Clugston. Best Puppy Solettrader Betty Spaghetti Owner: Janice Hayes & Wendy Doherty/Eric Ciceron. Breeder: Gavin/Sara Robertson. Best Veteran CH Dehra Orpheus Owner: Nicholas Frost. Breeder: Nicholas Frost/Michael Claycomb Jr. National Judge Jon Cole, Saturday, 29 August, 2020. BOB GCHB Tetu's Mister Homer. Owner: Shelley Barclay & Mona Stiles. Breeder: David/Rebecca Claude. BOW Tetu's Mon Petit Chou de Barrique Moore. Owner: Brianne Major & Deborah King/ Madison Schlagel. Breeder: Rebecca/David Claude. BOS GCHB M&M's Calamity Jane Owner: Janice Hayes & Donna Moore. Breeder: Donna Moore. SD GCH M&M Stellar Spotify Owner: Janice Hayes & Donna Moore/Eric Ciceron/Wendy Doherty. Breeder: Donna Moore/Sara Robertson/Wendy Doherty. SB CH CJ's Oh Happy Day On Five Mile River Owners/Breeder: Jeanne/Charles Hurty & Lynne/Mark Florian. AOMs GCHG Talus Stonehouse I'm A Travelin' Man Owner: Cindy/Gary Wood. Breeder: Cindy/Philip Wilt. GCH Crepu Visage Aged To Perfection At StoneHouse Owner: Beverly/Tony Childs & Sandra Bustin. Breeder: Sandra Bustin/Susannah Cooper. Best Puppy Solettrader Betty Spaghetti Owner: Janice Hayes & Wendy Doherty/ Eric Ciceron. Breeder: Gavin/Sara Robertson. Best Veteran GCHB Tetu's Mister Homer. Owner: Shelley Barclay & Mona Stiles. Breeder: David/Rebecca Claude. The BGV Club's LOD results for September are: £15 to Mr & Mrs Whitter, £10 to Linda Jones and £5 to Geoff Trotter. I gather two of the winners have donated their money to the Club, which is very kind of them.

11 / 9 / 2020

AS THIS STRANGEST OF YEARS moves into the autumn months, the BGVC has taken steps to give all members reports on Club affairs without the advantage of being able to hold the 2020 Annual General Meeting in its usual village hall setting and a social atmosphere. Even as I write this, the Government has strengthened the rules on social contact by announcing a new legal limit banning groups of more than 6 meeting anywhere socially indoors or outdoors. This step, aimed at curbing the rise in coronavirus cases, comes into force on 14 September. Consideration was given to various options, such as Zoom, Teams, Skype, but not all members have internet or, even if they do, don't have sufficient bandwidth to support this approach, therefore this would have failed to meet KC advice of not excluding any member. With just a few small amendments, the agenda and reports were therefore tailored for ease of receipt by email, with copies posted to all those not on internet. This was aimed at meeting KC requirements and the Club's obligations. Three weeks are now given until the end of the month, 30 September, allowing time for any comments to be sent to Chairman Paul Osbourne. These will be acknowledged and where possible answered by the appropriate person and included under Matters Arising at the Club's 2021 AGM, when there will also be a vote to ratify the actions taken over this year's AGM. The weeks pass rapidly, moving towards 2021 and, given a hopeful return to some sort of normality, at next year's AGM there will be the opportunity for full discussion of any matters arising from this year's rather different AGM. Despite the continuing number of requests for puppies, August hits on the BGV Club website show that attention has now turned quite heavily towards Rescue, equalling the number of hits on the Breeders page. This has given our Club Welfare and Rescue Co-ordinator, Fiona Buchanan, far more to handle than usual. I have certainly had some strange requests over the past week including one for a ready trained puppy and one for a rescue puppy.

18 / 9 / 2020

A LOT OF DETERMINATION AND ENTHUSIASM has been shown by all those who did a magnificent minimum 5km run in aid of Cancer Research in support of Fred Ellingford who has had a more than difficult year. Fred has said "I wish I had better words than this, as they don't convey just how I feel. I am touched and honoured to call all the runners My Friends and Show Family. I am overwhelmed by everyone else's response by donating the huge amount of over £3,500 pounds for Cancer Research UK". I know everyone joins me in sending Fred our best wishes and support. Thoughts are also with Valerie Linkas the fires continue to rage through Oregon. She says it has certainly been a bad year. Having been coping with Covid, lockdown, masks etc, the fire situation on top has really got to her. Even if out for only a short time wearing a mask, the atmosphere is so bad that she gets a sore throat. Hardly surprising that she is anxious too as flames are only about 25 miles from where she lives and the whole community just never knows where another fire will start up. Climate change or not, apparently they arrested someone for arson, a fire that took 600 homes and wiped out two towns. A championship show that defied all the odds and tried to take place on a revised October date, Bournemouth has now joined others who were forced to cancel. The rise in cases, many places once more in lockdown and the new government laws prohibiting social gatherings of more than six people contributed to the decision.

25 / 9 / 2020

AS THE NEWS COMES THAT SCOTTISH KENNEL CLUB HAVE CANCELLED THEIR CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW PLANNED FOR 28 NOVEMBER, entry numbers for the cancelled Bournemouth Championship Show have been released, showing 21 PBGVs. I initially thought this seemed lower than usual but, on looking back at previous years, I was surprised to find that Bournemouth figures are not that rosy considering we have CCs. It seems that the venue has some bearing on PBGV entry numbers as they were higher when the show was held in the always popular New Forest. Presumably being at the southern extremity of the country may also deter some living further north. But for Organford, 28 last year was the best entry for ages, 16 in 2018 (when it clashed with the World Show), 26 in 2017, 19 in 2016, and a somewhat better 27 in 2015 for John Walton Haddon when our Ch Monkams Jack Sparrow JW ShCM, who celebrated his 13th birthday this

week, won the DCC from Veteran. BCC/BOB went to Phil & Dianne Reid's Maudaxi Ja Macia Me Crazy. However these entry numbers all seem a far cry from the days when the show was held set in heart of the enchanting and popular New Forest. Twenty years ago, there was a magnificent 63 entered. Of course, this show is remembered for when Renaud. Buche excused Nykarth Ontario from the ring without even judging him. Onlookers were puzzled at this unusual "non-UK judging procedure" turn of events, which caused more than a little embarrassment for his owner Brenda Marston. Fifteen years ago, in 2005, Richard Gilbert had an entry of 40 when Joan Hutchings' Tangaer Jamais le Dimanche won his third CC and BOB went to Phil Freer & Marita Rodgers' Switherland Ysatis who went on to G2.. The entry was still in the 40s when, in 2010, Marion Spavin had 44. In 2011, the last year the show was held at Brockenhurst, Jenna Betts had 32. Another door has closed for the Ryeford Chase pack as, having dispersed his hounds last year, it has been another sad episode for Nick Valentine who has been busy dismantling the kennels. This week, he wrote "This morning the scrap man came and took the kennel railings, he is going to make them into security grids for windows. Meanwhile I fetched out the hound beds and burnt the puppy kennel I made 40 years ago. It was in surprisingly good condition, the random application of diesel and sump oil had preserved it well, it also helped it burn. I sat and watched, it was like a funeral pyre. There will be no more puppies at Ryeford. Every spring when the pups are on the ground it is an acknowledgment to the future, but now there are no puppies and no future pack. At least the kennel railings will have an afterlife". There is a time and place in history for all kennels and their names eventually find a place in the history of our breed, never to be forgotten. Nick Valentine's Bradley Vale and Ryeford Chase packs, first started in 1974, was unique to these shores and is one such kennels which will long be remembered. One other kennel name that deserves a mention in these notes is Anne Mackenzie's Wakelyns as we learn of the death on 13 September of Lou and Tina Parker's GBGV Wakelyns Firefly at Kantilou. Born in January 2005, Tina says she was from the last BGV litter bred by Anne.

2 / 10 / 2020

AS MYRIADS OF CRANE FLIES INVADE EVERYWHERE, we must accept that autumn is now upon us. Shorter, wetter, windy and occasionally colder days, early morning and late afternoon walks in the dark and dogs now treading wet footprints into the house. Somewhat frustrating when our breed friends in the antipodes are posting photos of lovely spring flowers as they rejoice in moving into the warmer time of year for them. But to cheer us up here, the autumn evocative has just hit everyone's mail box, thanks to Sue Marshall and Kim Culyer-Dawson, with Martin Bishop doing the "posting". Sue has announced the winner of the front cover 2021 calendar competition who is Rachael Matthews with her GBGV. Sue tells me that, since the evocative went out, she has been busy with orders for the calendar and already half are spoken for. So, if you want one, now's the time. Winners of the big October's Limited Odds Draw are Alison Cocks winning £50, Martin & Ally Garside with £25 and £12 goes to Deborah Dunseith. Due to coronavirus decimating the show world in 2020, the Committee has made the decision that there will be no Club Points Trophies awarded for 2020 and, as we have fizzled out with 2020 championship shows, I have now posted on the Club website the 2021 judges for Petits and Grands, as far as I know at present. If you know of any of the missing names, do please let me know.

9 / 10 / 2020

TOPIC OF THE WEEK must surely be the chaos resulting from the launch of the Kennel Club's new website, which has gone far from smoothly. With faults too many to mention, there can be no doubt that it has left dog breeders and those who rely on archive records for the breeds in which they have an interest, more than depressed and angry. Social media has borne the brunt of the frustration, with the Kennel Club page especially coming in for a roasting as thousands of messages have been posted. I have thought long and hard about the mess in which the KC have found themselves and have come to the conclusion that, where they have gone wrong is that they have placed the cart before the horse. Their new website is patently geared up for the pet owner and the KC's business interests, what they can sell. The infrastructure of, and for, the breeders isn't there – yet. The website has patently been built by non-dog people. Who lists the dam before the sire? Like many others, as our MyKC username was no longer acceptable, I had to create a new account and, despite filling in a comments form, none of our dogs are yet visible other than under the Health Tests Finder, along with breeds that have no Health Tests! GBGVs are all there. It is as rather a shock to find quite a few Monkshams for different breeds, which seems to indicate that the KC registered these dogs incorrectly allowing our kennel name. But, to be honest, I am not concerned about seeing our dogs listed, I know which ones we have bred and owned! While many breeders have been unable to register their puppies, the main bone of contention is the removal of MyKC and the useful Tools and Resources, which so many relied on. The three generation pedigrees have disappeared as has the easy system of seeing how many litters a dog sired, or how many times a bitch produced pups. The lists of Affected, Carrier and Clear PBGVs have also disappeared, so I have now added a database to the club website showing all litters born since DNA testing became available in 2015 and, where known, the health status of PBGVs. Like me, Veronica Scheer, the PBGV Club of America archivist, is tearing her hair out. She has been in regular contact with me since the KC website went into meltdown. She has also contacted the KC pleading for return of MyKC as she says "What we need is to be able to search by breed and PARTIAL name (very important) with results showing that dogs pedigree including generations, offspring, siblings and any pertinent health information". For my own part, this has made my work on writing about our breed infinitely more difficult, in fact nigh on impossible. I am now relying on the pile of Breed Record Supplements I have going back to the late 1990s and have to search for everything the hard way. Unless by some miracle all is going to become clear with records being reinstated on the KC website, this has been more than a retrograde step. Talking of the Breed Record Supplements, the Autumn 2020 one arrived today with a KC letter explaining that this edition only covers July and August and the next one won't be until February next year, which will cover September to December. This is yet another side effect of the upgrade of the KC computer systems. So, with only two months of registrations, it only shows two PBGV litters making a total of 8 puppies registered for the third quarter of the year and a total of 74 so far this year. Surprisingly, this is exactly the same as at the end of the third quarter last year. It remains to be seen whether by year end's registrations we will match the total of 114 for 2019.

16 / 10 / 2020

SOME OF US are thinking that this weekend we should have been at Excel, London, manning the breed booths for Discover Dogs. There will be no early start to decorate the booths before the doors are opened to visitors, no chatting to would-be owners and explaining the downsides of a scenthound as well as the delights of owning one. It is all beginning to seem a very long time ago now since we had the opportunity to enjoy talking about our favourite breed. Certainly so many people are beginning to feel the effects of coronavirus as we realise that this isn't going to go away in a hurry. In most cases it continues to inhibit our daily lives in one way or another. The concerns over what is happening throughout the world and the UK, personal and family safety are paramount and put trivial things into perspective. We only have to look back at the Spanish flu, also known as the 1918 flu pandemic, which was an unusually deadly influenza pandemic caused by a virus. It lasted from February 1918 to April 1920, infecting 500 million people – about a third of the world's population at the time – in four successive waves. So it appears we may have some way to go yet before we see the end of this virus. We have to learn to live with our changed way of life. However, remember that we dog folk are fortunate. We have our canine partners to look after, they give us companionship and comfort during this unpleasant period of our lives. They have no idea there is a problem and will help us see this pandemic through. For the time being though, for many there will be no shows to take them to. No early starts in the cold and drives in the dark. Is that such a bad thing! The effects of coronavirus are now starting to eat into the 2021 general championship shows with the cancellations announced of Boston and Manchester. Of course, now Crufts is on everyone's minds and what the final decision on that will be. At the moment the chances of it going ahead at the NEC in March do seem very slim indeed. Thanks to Sue Marshall's hard work, unbelievably within a couple of weeks all 2021 BGV Club calendars have been sold. She still has one more large posting session to do which, in itself, is not easy especially at the moment, so asks people to bear with her.

23 / 10 / 2020

AS WE APPROACH firework season, Government is all set to debate the petition "Ban fireworks for sale to the general public" on 2 November. Not exactly good timing for stemming the suffering of animals this year; and as part of the petition declares "There are enough organised firework groups around for us to still enjoy fireworks safely" I'm not convinced it will stand any chance at all while coronavirus has put a halt to public gatherings of this nature. And, as I write this on 20 October, the first fireworks of the season have gone off nearby. Fortunately, I didn't lose one frightened PBGV as I had him on a flexilead in the dark in the garden. His ears went down and he bolted for the cover of the bushes, towing me behind him. For a sneak preview of our 2021 Club Championship Show PBGV judge's preferences for ring etiquette, you can watch an entertaining interview with Gunnar Nymann on facebook's Meet the Judge page, where he responds frankly and with his usual dry humour to Colm Beattie's questions about his dog show career. It can also be seen on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFnNr5sgYew&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR3qCLF9R3tUioGC85G0j31zgrO8-ISGOWCGh5Ukhj39Z3PhtWjnuAFB0wQ>. A few shows have taken place recently in Gunnar's native Denmark, where they have gone from wearing facemasks outside to them being optional at an indoor venue. The Bassetklubben show on 17 October was at Haverslev where there were 32 entered, including 7 PBGVs. BOB went to Gitte Winter Arildsen's Fodnote Be My Guest (Benny) with BOS to Jette Vind Ramvad and Christian Ramvad's Dk Ch After Me a Piece of Heaven (Lumi). The judge was Michael Allerup Nielsen (Dk). The previous show on 26 September was at Hårlev, where the judge was John Finnich Pedersen (Dk). There, with BOS going to Lisa Nielsen's Dk Ch Ruffled Beards Cool Like Conte, BOB went to After Me a Piece of Heaven, who then went on to BIS2.

30 / 10 / 2020

WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB has announced that their show next year will be held on 12-13 June in the landscaped parks of the National Trust property Lyndhurst Estate in Tarrytown, New York. As there seems no end in sight of the coronavirus pandemic, the wide-open outdoor space will hopefully allow the show to be held safely while following current social distancing guidelines and public health regulations. Lyndhurst is no stranger to dog shows having hosted them for more than three decades. Travelling over from Australia, Robyn Wallis (Rokeena) is due to judge Basenjis, Basset Hounds, Beagles, GBGVs and PBGVs. Also in America Donna Moore has had to say goodbye to Ch/Am Ch Gebeba Texas True Grit. John Wayne was born on 4 October 2004 and he sired eight litters during his time in the UK with Gavin & Sara Robertson. These included four champions – Maudaxi Tycoon Ginger from Marunnel, Nykarth's Kicking Off With Braego, Soletrader Estee Lauder and Soletrader Louis Vuitton. Donna wrote "I was blessed to have him for 16 years. He was such a special boy, both in the ring and out. He had many big wins, including breed wins at Eukanuba and Westminster. His kids and grandkids won even more!! I was always so proud of him".

6 / 11 / 2020

LAST WEEK I HEARD THE NEWS of the death of New Zealander Maree Mackenzie. This photo, taken at Crufts in 2018, illustrates perfectly what a happy soul she was with a wonderful sense of humour. I first met Maree at the well-attended Basset Hound Club's 50th Anniversary Show in 2004 where her good friend Janet Beckman, also from Australia, was judging. It was somewhat of a surprise to learn that afterwards they were both travelling on to Denmark where they were judging at the Bassetklubben's Very Special Show as Kim Culyer-Dawson and I were going there too. Reminiscing about the weekend at the VSS, it was held in the grounds of an agricultural college at Riber Kjaergaard, Bramming. As this was close to the port of Esbjerg, Kim and I had decided to experience a sea-crossing instead of flying. We were not disappointed as this was certainly a relaxing way to travel, even though Kim managed to get herself locked out of our cabin soon after we set sail and I only got to know when a windswept Kim appeared at the porthole outside, gesticulating frantically to be let in. At the show on day one we watched Maree judge PBGVs, Fauves, 2 GBGVs and 3 Artesien-Normands. In Petits, from Champion Class, BD & BOB went to Nymann & Busk's Monkams Bart Simpson with Soletrader (Dk Ch Chouan Officer & Gentleman ex Monkams Astra). BB and her 3rd CAC went to Nymann & Busk's Open Bitch winner, Chouan Dressy Bessy (Dk Ch VDH Nil des Vignes du Puits ex Chouan Sørøver Sally), making her a champion. Other main winners were: Best Youth, Nymann & Busk's Chouan Firecracker (Ch Afterglow Woody Woodpecker ex Dk Ch Chouan Tizzy Lizzy); Best Intermediate, Connie Johansen's Vickys I Want It Like That (Chouan Kid Galahad ex Vicky's Especially For You); Best Senior, Nymann, Busk & Skerritt's Dk Ch Chouan Officer & Gentleman. At the end of an exciting finale where, from all the breeds, Maree and Janet Beckman took it in turns to decide on Best Junior, Best Youth etc, Maree awarded BIS to Bart. The following day, Janet Beckman judged the PBGVs, awarding Bart Simpson BOB and to round off a show to remember it was exciting to see her award Bart Simpson BIS over the other 4 breed winners. From that year, Maree and I became good friends. In 2008 Jenna, Richard and I stayed with Maree and her husband, Ross, near Brisbane before I went on to judge Bassets at BHC New South Wales, near Sydney. While there, I spotted an entry on her calendar saying "Basset and PBGV lectures". Only a few days later, I couldn't believe we had the opportunity to attend one of the regular trainee judges sessions. I wrote "It took place at the Canine Control Council Dog Showground at Durack. The area is open to the public whenever there is a show in progress and breed clubs hold evening sessions there for ringcraft and other training. The evening we were there, many GSDs were being gaited around the next ring – and ours, until they were politely asked to stick to their own patch! The total area, 24 hectares, houses a main function room, canteen and bar areas, although our evening session took place in a small purpose built building, where a roll shutter could be raised up along one entire side wall to allow access to the floodlit grassed ring areas". Having PBGVs as well, including her successful Aust Ch Bonhaven Jean Valjean (Ch Bonhaven Credence ex Bonhaven Isabella) Maree was well qualified to give the talk on Bassets. She had been judging them since 1971 and obtained her all breeds licence in 1990. She had judged worldwide, nearby NZ and further afield in the States, Scandinavia and other countries in Europe, including England. I also wrote "Although also an experienced and successful PBGV owner/exhibitor, she is perhaps best known for her Longfellow Bassets and two of them, Aust Gr Ch Longfellow Rock My World and the "grande dame" of the household, Aust Ch Longfellow M'lie Evelyn, acted as "models" for the evening. Next followed Lorraine Gray's talk on the PBGV, though this was mainly limited to her reading through the Breed Standard and pointing out the related aspects on one of the two PBGVs present. Outside Jenna helped to move both breeds round the ring, allowing judges to assess movement before going over each dog in turn. The PBGV which she handled, turned out to be a Beauvoir from the Hewitts in NZ, with two Debucher parents, Xport Quality and Sarriette. Other than suffering numerous mosquito bites, the evening proved to be most enjoyable and gave a great insight into how judges are trained down-under". Not long after our visit, Maree and her English husband, Ross, returned to her native New Zealand to live in Waiuku. Maree had been due to judge PBGVs at Manchester in 2012 but withdrew when her husband became seriously ill and eventually died. She remained a regular visitor to the UK and stayed with me several times. Her last stay was in April 2016 after I had moved back to Essex. I took her to Tilbury Fort and Old Leigh, a prosperous fishing village until the 18th century but by the mid-19th much of it was demolished to make way for the railway. However, the waterside boatsheds, quaint shops, restaurants and nearby cockle sheds still provide a perfect place to take visitors from overseas. I have tried to ignore the dreaded firework season this year but the dogs have suffered far too many dark nights with loud bangs outside. I won't elaborate on the results of their terror, suffice to say the mop and disinfectant have been well used of late. Back in 2004 I had read an interesting thread on the American PBGV-List. It seems that many of us inadvertently treat our dogs as human children, soothing them in stressful situations. In doing so, we are actually reinforcing the stress reaction. Dogs don't think like humans and when we do what works with children, calming them down, soothing anxiety, we make the situation much worse. For example, thunderstorm phobias in dogs are often made much worse because of the way we try to settle them down when they think the whole world is growling at them. They believe that there must be a real threat, since we are acting so supportively. To them, this signifies we are stressed ourselves and they wonder who is really in charge, so the threat must be really dangerous. Of course, one solution might be to pin down the ear flaps and shut out the noise! November LOD winners are 1st Jean Hood with £15, 2nd Vivien Phillips £10 and 3rd Claire Cooper £5.

13 / 11 / 2020

ANOTHER WEEK for recording the passing of yet another staunch Hound person – the untimely death of Robert Greaves which came as a great shock to the dog world. Robert judged both PBGVs and GBGVs and was, in fact, due to give CCs to Grands at Driffild next year. This is a sad loss and there is little I can add to the tributes already paid to him. If you are an Assured Breeder, you may want to contact the KC about the listings on their new website. For some unknown reason, the KC always lists Jenna and me as Betts and Skerritt, so we now have the dubious honour of being top of the list resulting in me receiving frequent phone calls for Basset pups. I had originally thought this was because I am the Secretary of a small branch of the Basset Hound Club. However, on looking I now see that all Assured Breeders of any basset breed have been put together, so there is a mixture of Fauve, Grand and Petit breeders all listed under Basset Hounds. Similarly, look under any of the other basset breeds and you are probably there. On the other hand, they have not listed some who are Assured Breeders! I have emailed the KC about this, also about my concerns that they are now showing the town in which we live. Their previous website listed quite adequately by area/county so I am wondering whose decision this was to divulge the town. In the current climate of dog thefts from properties, I do think this was rather foolhardy and not considering the implications of information giving that would appear to be a step too far.

20 / 11 / 2020

IN AMERICA the PBGVCA has reminded owners of the best options available for POAG DNA testing, which may help any of you who have exported. In the UK, there is Animal DNA Diagnostics. Testing: www.animaldnadiagnostics.co.uk/breed/dog/255 POAG test is £48 (US \$62). In Canada, there is Labgenvet. Submission form: <http://labgenvet.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/LabGenVet-Petit-Basset-Griffon-Vendeen-en.pdf> POAG test is \$75 Canadian (£43, US \$47) for one test, with reduced price for multiples. A third option is the Wisdom Panel Premium. Order Form: www.wisdompanel.com/en-us/products/wisdom-panel-premium.

This tests for POAG in the PBGV along with many other genetic conditions that are not relevant to PBGVs. The Premium test is \$160 (£120.45). The PBGVCA are currently working with two veterinary genetics labs in the US to get the POAG test up and running and are going to let everyone know when they are available. As an incentive, the PBGV Health and Rescue Foundation will reimburse club members \$40 per dog if they submit POAG results to the Orthopaedic Foundation for Animals. I sense that this current lockdown is not being taken as seriously as the first one. That said, I am aware that many are now feeling more acutely the effects of isolation that lockdown brings, especially those who live alone and are not on internet. Their loss of a means of keeping in touch with family and friends is even greater. So, to lift spirits, I am straying from the more serious side of breed notes to show you a glossary of terms compiled many moons ago by members of the American PBGV-List. This paints a picture of a lovable breed that is usually entertaining, sometimes exasperating and always interesting.

Abominable Snow Peeb -- Often spotted in northern climates favoured by wet, clumpy snow. Ah-ing -- To rub one's furry body on the floor until just the right spot is scratched. Ahrrrooo -- The PBGV version of "Aloha". This is your PBGV's way of saying "Hello", "I love you", "welcome home" plus a general expression of joy. Bapping -- Wagging a tail against something to get attention. Beard soup -- What's left in the water dish after a PBGV dunks his or her dirty beard. Deflating -- Heaving a big sigh. Destinkerized -- What you get when you're scrubbed in the tub. Destufferize -- To remove and scatter the fluffy white bits from the inside of a toy. Elvis grin -- The expression created when a PBGV's upper lip gets stuck, revealing a row of little teeth. Foo Foo (v.) -- To prepare a Petit for the show ring by dusting with Foo Foo powder. Flounce (v.) -- To trot happily along so that the coat rises and falls. Giving the dewclaw -- The next best thing to a middle finger. Guilty toenails -- Sound familiar to those with wood floors, unmistakable quickstep of a thiefing PBGV making off with contraband. Hound hump -- No, not that. We mean the PBGV chest. Some are in ecstasy when you rub their hump. Imperial bark -- One loud, demanding bark that means "Serve me." It's up to you to figure out exactly what is required. Jump-kiss -- A typical greeting from your loving PB, but (thwack!) watch out for that concrete head! Love ears -- Flattened, close-to-the-head ears by a PBGV when you're talking soft, loving nonsense. It lets you know you're saying the things they want to hear. Noofling -- To sniff around, trying to find something. ("Holly was noofling around in the laundry basket.") Oogly (adj.) -- The tactile quality of a wet, well-gnawed piece of rawhide. Neither solid nor liquid, it's disgusting to the touch. Orangeman -- Nickname for a particular orange-coloured squeaky toy that is the favourite of many Petits. Prized for its long-lasting squeak, it was manufactured by Aspen Pet Products until, alas, it was discontinued. Distant relative of Dinoman and Sharkman. Peeble -- People who need Peebs. Peeling off -- A half swan dive with a twist, reminiscent of the swimmers in an Esther Williams movie, or a jet fighter leaving a formation, performed by a reluctant PBGV who is ordered to get his paws off the table. Phfoofing -- The extreme grooming of any breed of dog so as to make it unrecognizable as a member of the canine species. Pronk (v.) -- To spring up suddenly on all fours, usually in a sideways motion, to leap onto a sofa, bed or other forbidden territory. Roo (v.) -- To make the loud "Arrroooo" sound when warning of intruders or announcing a wonderful hunting scent. Rug-rubbing -- Wiping one's beard on the rug after a meal. Extra style points for butt in the air. Snorfle (v.) -- To make the sound of a reverse sneeze. Tail bapping -- Thumping one's tail vigorously to get attention. Traumatic Tracheo-Squeakitis -- A dreaded respiratory affliction suffered by Orangeman. Primary symptom is an inability to squeak. The condition is irreversible yet is unlikely to be fatal. There is no known treatment except squeaker transplant surgery. Velcro (v.), Velcro dog -- To stick tight to the side of a favourite person as he or she goes from room to room. Whap (v.) -- To wag one's tale forcefully against a surface. Whomping -- Water chomping, when a Petit jumps into the wading pool and bites at the water. Zoon (v.), Zoon dog -- To scoot around at top speed with butt tucked, ears and legs flying. Occurs after a bath and on many other occasions, just for the sheer fun of being a Peeb. Also known as the Dance of Joy. Zoonami (n.) -- Rhymes with tsunami. A tidal wave of zooning PBGVs.

27 / 11 / 2020

FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT of the summer dates when Crufts is to take place next year, there has been plenty of speculation about how this will gel with other championship shows already fixed for the same weekend. I gather hotels in the area are already getting booked and it is a wonderful experience for those who have a "home on wheels" but not everyone is able to stay in the area for a few nights. Crufts Hound day is on Thursday 15 July at the NEC, meaning there may be a lot of driving to do for those who also want to enter Houndshow at Stafford on Saturday 17 July. Then there is the question of whether or not Discover Dogs will take place over the four days of Crufts, which would pose quite a headache. Qualifications have been announced, with third place winners at Crufts 2019 being omitted. Similarly only first and second places in named classes at any championship show where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed between 21 January 2019 and 25 January 2021 are included. Entries will be capped and that, in itself, is a hornets' nest of speculation about how this will work in practice. Presumably this is due to needing to consider the total number of dogs and exhibitors which can be safely accommodated in each hall. It would seem sensible for this to be broken down into a maximum number for each breed as those that are numerically smaller, such as Petits and Grands, can hardly be put on a par with Whippets. I am sure that the Crufts organisers will be balancing their desire for safety against the bank balance and will be striving not to lose income but wouldn't it be wonderful if members of the public were kept away from the benching area so that, just for once, we can move easily – and following the current social distancing requirements – to get into the ring? Of course, someone has already made the dry comment that they may not need to cap entries when we see what the cost of entry per dog is! And it will remain to be seen whether the moment entries open Fossedata's website will cope with the undoubted rush. And just hope you aren't the last one to enter with four dogs when only three spaces are left! A few days ago I had a fascinating conversation with Nancy Dorsey, who lives in California. Nancy phoned over Thanksgiving and it was good to catch up. Not now breeding as she did years ago, Nancy's Le Chasse PBGVs made quite a name for themselves back in the 1990s and 2000s. She regularly visited the French Elevage and became good friends with Rene Tixier, importing several PBGVs from him. One was Goldorak (Fr Ch Ulisse de Fin Renard ex Ebene de Fin Renard). He was an Int Ch who sired many PBGVs before arriving in America from France. However, he was a black and tan and although a handsome dog received much the same reception as the black and tan imported into the UK by Betty Judge who failed to conform to Standard colouring. At that time Nancy was also deeply involved in the health of the breed and raised a fantastic amount of money for use in researching health issues. In the days when we had little idea of how to prevent POAG, Nancy would also go to great lengths – what she would call "due diligence" – striving to ensure any breeding she did would be as safe as possible so pups hopefully had no health problems. One interesting idea I picked up on was that, for every litter she bred, she cheek swabbed every puppy and kept the swabs in labelled envelopes in a filing cabinet. In this way, she had DNA available should it be needed for research into any specific health problem. Indications are that buccal swab DNA samples can be stored for years without loss of integrity so maybe this is something worth investigating for the future.

4 / 12 / 2020

NONE OF US KNOWS what life has in store from one week to the next and this week has brought an abundance of sad news as Fred Ellingford has lost his battle against cancer. He had been looking forward to judging BIS for us at the Club Open Show in April next year and here I reproduce what he wrote for the show schedule. "In 1986 my wife Lynne and I bought a Dobermann with whom we had relative success at obedience. My first show dog was a Weimaraner in 1991. Since 2001 I have owned several PBGVs in partnership with Mike Gadsby under the Afterglow affix and I have bred 11 different PBGVs who have gained Champion titles in other countries for their owners. I have exhibited 1 UK Champion and 3 Irish Champion PBGVs. I have won CCs or RCCs with 11 different dogs and award CCs in PBGVs, Weimaraners and Chinese Cresteds and am on the A3 list for Pharaohs Hounds. I am on the B list for GBGVs and Tibetan Spaniels, striving for A3 for both breeds by the end of 2021. I currently live with and occasionally handle two Tibetan Spaniels and a PBGV owned by my wife in partnership. I am honoured to be afforded the opportunity to judge BIS at the Club Show". Tragically, it wasn't to be. Fred was a fireman when living in Irlam near Manchester before his much awaited retirement when he moved to Lincs. At that time he gave me valuable information to pass on to BGV owners about safety in the home where dogs are involved. "On the subject of ensuring our dogs' safety in the event of fire, make sure you have smoke detectors and change the batteries annually. Have a plan of action that everyone in the house knows, work out your alternative escape routes. A message in your window warning that pets are inside, as used in the States, is useful. Don't store combustible materials in your escape route, eg under the stairs (unless closed in) or in the hallway and keep dogs' leads in an accessible place. Also have your car keys to hand, so that you have somewhere to put the dogs that you rescue". Fred achieved his goal of awarding CCs in PBGVs for the first time at Bath last year where he had an entry of 40 and, as a lifelong show person, he travelled far and wide to exhibit including the Irish Circuit and the Winnershow in Amsterdam. In 2008 he also drove to the World Show in Sweden and back, not realising how far it was. Even when over the magnificent 10 mile long Oresund bridge that connects Denmark and Sweden, he found he still had rather a long way to go! I seem to remember him telling me that, when filling up, Mike Gadsby put the wrong fuel in as well, which didn't help. Since his retirement, apart from judging, Fred had been a familiar face at many all-breed championship shows where he was a steward par excellence, knowledgeable and always happy to help. He became a regular steward supporting our BGV club shows, last stewarding for Renaud Buche judging Grands at our 2019 championship show. He will be sorely

missed and I know all club members are thinking of his wife, Lynne, at this upsetting time. My own personal sadness this week comes from the sudden death of our Ch Monkham's Jack Sparrow JW ShCM. He was perfectly fine all day, having his usual walk and eating well. But in the evening he became restless, went down the garden and collapsed. I carried him in and Jenna and I rushed him to the emergency vets but he died on my lap in the car on the way there. Jack was 13. Born in 2007, Jenna and I knew right from the beginning that this little singleton puppy was special. From his Best Puppy in Show win at City of Birmingham 2008, he gave us some of the most incredible moments in the show ring that we will never forget, gaining 5 CCs and 6 RCCs. However most of all he was the best dog you could hope to have at home, never any trouble and so obliging. He understood everything I said and was a wonderful companion to me 24/7. He will be missed more than Jenna and I can say. December Limited Odds winners are Hilary Cole with £15, Jacki Johnston £10 and Lee Harrison with £5. Martin Bishop reminds everyone that, as we approach the end of the year, £12 payment is due for 2021 and, if you would like a number, get in quick as there are now only seven available.

11 / 12 / 20

A PBGV OWNER on facebook has started a Memory Tree to which she is adding name tags honouring all those dogs, mainly PBGVs, that owners have lost in 2020. She will be posting a video of it on 15 December. The deadline for giving your pet's name to Cheryl Noble-Conklin is 10 December. Whilst this is a lovely idea, I have to say it was more than upsetting to see how many PBGVs that I knew or whose names I recognise have passed away this year. All greatly loved by their owners. The Kennel Club has announced that Discover Dogs is set to return to ExCel London on 20 - 21 November 2021 to celebrate its 25th anniversary. Hard to believe that it was first held in 1996. I think the first time I became involved was in 2000 when, at that time, it was staged at Earl's Court, and I have been representing the breed practically every year since. When living to the west of London, Earl's Court was only 15 miles away, though somewhat of a nightmare of a journey with invariably solid A4 traffic on the way home. However, a small miracle occurred and the move to ExCel in October 2015 fortuitously coincided with my move back to Essex and an infinitely easier drive in from the east side of London. Let's hope that by next November the risks of this year will be a good way behind us and we can look forward to getting back to "normal". It's not too early to let Lynn Wood know if you would like to help out on wood_stephen9@sky.com.

18 / 12 / 20

AS WE COME TO THE END of the championship show year which died a death after Crufts back in March, we can only reflect on there having been no LKA this year. Traditionally a show oozing with Christmas spirit, friends meeting each other, exchanging cards and generally enjoying the rather special atmosphere that is unlike any other show. I have to say one of the most memorable for me, for all the wrong reasons, was LKA 2017 when we set forth on a journey like no other through the most awful snow. We questioned our sanity. As I wrote in my breed notes that year "I have never had so many phone calls and text messages as I had while driving to the NEC early Sunday morning. Jenna acted as my secretary to let people know where we were, what the roads were like, how bad the snow was, commiserating with those who were forced to turn round and go back home and give updates when we got stuck in jams. It doesn't matter how careful you are, I have to say there are some lunatic drivers on the roads. But, despite those that slid round in circles on the outside lane of the M1, that drove past far too fast, had to get out and push and others that slid gracefully over into our lane nearer the NEC, we somehow made it with time to spare. My harassed look remarked on by several on arrival said it all but, once I had calmed down, it was an enjoyable day". I had been due to judge two breeds at LKA this year and, like so many others, have been moved to 2023. In this most extraordinary of years, some have almost given up any thoughts of getting Christmas cards in the post and buying presents by and large has been an on-line experience. Annual payments to the BGV Club are doubtless far from most minds but here is a reminder of subscriptions that are now due. Membership for 2021 - Unless you pay by standing order, time to pay your 2021 annual subscription. Rates are: £10 single, £12 joint, overseas £18 (electronic communication) or £25 (postal communication), £2 Junior (under 17 and accompanied by one paying adult). The renewal form, which includes details for bank transfer is on www.bgvclub.co.uk/membership-voice-lod. Limited Odds Draw Payment is now due for your 2021 LOD number/s. Both Membership and LOD payments should go to Martin Bishop if not paid by bank transfer. Contact him on 07779 300761 or vendeen48@gmail.com. Breeders' Directory Payments are already coming in for inclusion on the 2021 Breeders Directory. If you would like to be on it, complete the form that is on the Club website www.bgvclub.co.uk/breeders and send it to me with your payment or letting me know you have paid by bank transfer. If you pay direct into the club account, to save Colin Makey scratching his head trying to work out what the payment relates to, please ensure you put your last name and eg LOD or Breeders. For those of you who are regular Our Dogs readers, you may have seen that there is to be a BGV Feature in their 26 February edition. If you are not a regular subscriber, knowing now will hopefully give you time to order a copy and I am sure that, before long, they will be inviting adverts. Finally, Claire Cooper has just let me know that our Club President, Peter Bedford, is not too well at the moment. He has a ruptured disc which may need surgery. I am sure you join me in sending him our very best wishes to help him through the coming weeks.

25 / 12 / 20

WELL, IT CAN'T BE VERY OFTEN that breed note day falls on Christmas Day, so I can't see many of you making reading these notes a priority when there is a Christmas dinner to think about. Having been informed of the tragic death of Morgan Clark, son of former Club Treasurer Gill Goulden and Paul Clark and Imogen's brother, I am mindful of the many good friends both in and out of the dog world that we have sadly lost this year. We hold their memories in our thoughts, as this must surely be a time to reflect on happier times - also hope that 2021 will be a year when, eventually, we all get back to living more normal lives. At this time of year I would usually be looking back over the past twelve months and reminiscing on the highlights of the year, giving winners of Top Dog, Top Bitch and those PBGVs who have succeeded in the showing and whose names have become familiar to us. However, after a sobering year, with only three championship shows taking place before we were all plunged into lockdown, there isn't much to recall. At Boston, where Ceri McEwan judged, Best Dog went to Tim & Deborah Bartley's Erylan Zeus Roi des Dieux (Ch Soletrader Tom Thumb ex Ir Ch Erylan Aphrodite La Belle) and RBD to my and Jenna Betts' Beaujous Vagabond of Monkham's (Multi Ch Petit Heroes Canned Heat ex Beaujous Tickled Pink ShCM). Best Bitch, BOB and subsequently G3 under Pam Mottershaw went to Ch Soletrader Judigarlund (Ch Soletrader Magic Mike ex Soletrader Jitterbug). RBB was my and Jenna Bett's Monkham's Memphis Belle (Beaujous Vagabond of Monkham's ex Monkham's Luna Luvgood). Joan Hutchings' Tangaer French Romance (Nykarth Okie Dokie at Tangaer ex Ch Debucher Sybelle avec Callydena) was BP. And, so far back in our memories, Boston were making a collection to help those affected by the fires in Australia. At Manchester the entry was down by 6 on last year and, with 19 present, Fran Mitchell only had two more than at Boston the week before with no CCs. It was a welcome third CC for Jane Brown's Soletrader Valentino Rossi (Ch Soletrader Noble Kinsmen ex Soletrader Bumble Bee) with RCC going to Ceri McEwan's Marunnel Orinoco (Vilaudens Isaak [imp SWE] ex Maudaxi Coco Chewelnel from Marunnel). BCC, her third, went to Erin & Oliver Robertson and Lizzie Greenslade Cadmore's Soletrader Beatrix Potter (Ch Soletrader Magic Mike ex Soletrader Simply Suzy) and the Reserve went to Kyle & Lizzie Cadmore's Soletrader Dancing In Deli. BP was Brown's Erylan Chaud Comme Hades (Ogham des Terres du Templier with Soletrdr [imp Fra] ex Clonallan Just Beginning with Erylan). Linda Mackenzie was our Crufts judge and this saw DCC and BOB going to the winner of Junior Dog Gemma McCartney's Soletrader Freddie Mercury (Around Another Bad Hair Day ex Ch Soletrader Rita Ora), who had already been made up.. BCC went to the Limit Bitch winner Kyle & Lizzie Cadmore's Soletrader Dancing In Deli (Ch Soletrader Tom Thumb ex Ch Soletrader Peek A Boo). RDCC also went to them with litter brother Ch Soletrader Only In Oslo, with the RBCC going to Russian Federation visitor Irina Antipova with Switherland Aldia Crystal (Ch Soletrader Magic Mike ex Rus/Rom/Lux Ch Irma Podkoldernik Jadowity). BP was Joan Hutchings' Tangaer French Romance (Nykarth Okie Dokie at Tangaer ex Ch Debucher Sybelle avec Callydena ShCM) and BV Jane Brown's 10yr old Ch Soletrader Louis Vuitton (Ch/Am Ch Gebeba Texas True Grit ex Ch Soletrader Mini The Minx). Tragically Louis died only a few weeks later. Without the benefit of a KC Quarter 4 Breed Record Supplement to round off 2020, as far as I know there have only been about 20 PBGV litters born this year - just under 100 puppies. Five of the litters were Hereditary Clear. The constant stream of requests for puppies continues so the 5 litters born in the last quarter of this year won't have gone very far to satisfying demand. If anyone has pups at the moment, do keep them safe and locked in unless you are watching them outside as the constant news of puppy thefts is shocking. Guard your cherished adults too. Following on from my reminder last week that it's time to pay all your various subscriptions, Martin Bishop has let me know that 31 Limited Odds Draw numbers still need to be paid for for 2021, 11 of which were winners during this year. So, once you've had your turkey, roast dinner, Christmas pudding and mince pies, please roll over to your computer or cheque book to pay your dues. Remember, you have to be in it to win it. Thank you also to all those who have already paid promptly for inclusion in the 2021 Breeders Directory. This is where Petit owners always beat the Grands! I will be sending out second reminders shortly so, again, please find time to make your payment for 2021

and save me some work! It is more likely to be rain this year than snow but do enjoy Christmas with your hounds.