



THE BASSET GRIFFON VENDEEN CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN

BREED NOTES 2021 - PBGV

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HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE! I imagine, like me, you are well and truly pleased to put 2020 behind you. We must hope that, given a few months and a good number of us having received at least one vaccination, we can look forward to getting back to more normal lives. A show even! The end of 2020 didn't go too smoothly for me as a few days back I just could not find my mobile phone. I hunted everywhere both inside and outside the house, ringing the number as I walked around, hoping I would find it. Panic gradually set in when I realised I had a problem. Fortunately my son-in-law told me to use my iPad and go on icloud.com and, having put in a code number, lo and behold, a Land Registry type map appeared on the screen and a little red dot showing the exact location of my phone in the back garden. Magic! It was wet and freezing cold but still worked. Yet another item Bond had obviously stealthily stolen from me but thankfully he hadn't crunched it up as he did my glasses case a couple of weeks back. Thoughts are with Sue Wilde who has lost her 15yr old Molly.- Limier Citronnade at Chilston, one of a litter of seven bred my Linda Mackenzie, died on Christmas Eve. Her sire was Ch Solettrader Dunc 'n Disordely, her dam Debucher Odalisque du Limier. Like all loved dogs, Sue said Molly was special. Her eyesight was failing and hearing wasn't as good as it was. Also she seemed to be getting rather forgetful but Molly had been a rock through traumatic and sad times, as well as many happy times. As Sue said "A little ray of sunshine. Fifteen years gone in a flash". Thank you to all who have paid their 2021 Breeders Directory subscriptions so promptly. Times change and the majority have paid by bank transfer. If anyone is planning on having a litter this year and would like to be included, the application form can be found at the bottom of www.bgvclub.co.uk/breeders. I understand from Martin Bishop that there are still quite a few people to pay their Limited Odds Draw subs for this year. To give those outstanding a chance to be included in the January draw, this will not be taking place until mid-January. There are only about four numbers free now so, if you want to be in it for a chance to win it, contact Martin on vendeen48@gmail.com. A couple of other announcements – our replacement judge for BIS at our Open Show will be Paul Osbourne (Braego). Fingers crossed we will be able to go ahead in April but this obviously remains to be seen. And for our Open Show Scotland, which is being held in partnership with Border Union, our judge will be Rachel Wray (Perrault).

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GOOD NEWS that our President Professor Peter Bedford is out of hospital after treatment for a ruptured disc. I am sure you all join with me in wishing him well. He has been good enough to remind us that "there is an important point to bear in mind that Eye Testing in BGVs is not just about Glaucoma, but it creates awareness about emerging diseases. The fact that Glaucoma may be present does not render immunity to other, say retinal or lens, problems. A case in point would be the Labrador with 5 inherited ocular diseases. So with PBGVs we should ideally DNA test for POAG and clinically test for other possibilities. 1. DNA test: Unless Hereditary Clear every individual PBGV should be tested once for POAG and ideally only the "Clears" bred from. 2. Clinical examinations: Breeding stock should be examined before mating, with the certificate being valid for 12 months. It would then be necessary to check in mid-life and at 8 years of age to check for other emerging problems. The ideal however is to test annually to close down the net for possible emerging problems. Regular checking after 8 years of age would not be essential for hereditary disease but would pick up individuals with aging changes, neoplastic disease and "other" conditions, the examination being a simple health check. So the timescale could vary with the owner's enthusiasm for regular checks. I think every 2 years after age 8 is adequate, but of course it is likely that aged individuals would be under veterinary care anyway". The Brexit transition period has ended and new rules on pet travel now apply but, at the time of writing, the government website has yet to be updated. I doubt very much if anyone will be going anywhere for quite a while anyway! Even though we have entered a further lockdown, there is much work going on behind the scenes and agreement is being sought on creating a workable system for dogs entering and leaving Ireland to compete at IKC events. IKC President Sean Delmar says "We feel that competing dogs should be seen as athletes and not just pets or stock. We would envisage relatively easy movement on the island and yes, though the sovereignty of the UK and the EU must be respected, we will make every effort to reach a sensible solution to accommodate the competitors travelling between our islands". Meanwhile Belfast Dog Show Society will be liaising with the Kennel Club about the new travel restrictions to be imposed on dogs travelling between the UK mainland and Ireland. They have concerns that the new requirements will severely affect entries at dog shows in Ireland and want the KC to lobby government.

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BY NOW most of you will know that Paul Osbourne has made the difficult decision to stand down as Chairman of the BGV Club, a role he has held for the past 5yrs since Gavin Robertson similarly vacated the post mid-term back in 2015. We must never underestimate the enormous amount of time and effort most devote to a position of responsibility and trust when totally committed to a breed they love and to supporting those who own the breed. Paul has been no exception. He has worked tirelessly for the Club while juggling with a serious workload and his commitments to other dog clubs (some of which he has now relinquished). Without doubt he has put more than 100% into all matters BGV. Much of this goes unknown by club members. As Secretary, for my part he has offered wisdom, sage advice, swift decisions and a wealth of knowledge about all matters canine. A public thankyou Paul for your support and devotion to the role. Stepping into his shoes as Acting Chairman is Sue Marshall. 2021 marks her 25th year of being around BGVs and her involvement with the Club, picking up more experience than most along the way. She sees the Club and its Facebook group as an important means of communication about all aspects of our breeds, especially for those not involved in the show world, and is looking forward to the time ahead. The Club website now reflects these changes and you will see that I have removed Officer and Committee contact details from the page. Some committee have been receiving junk emails purportedly from someone listed on that page and inviting them to click on a link. By attaching them as a pdf, I am hoping this will deter email spam bots. With the continued restrictions on our daily lives due to the pandemic, a reluctant but necessary decision has been made to postpone our Club Open Show which had been planned for 17 April. Hopefully a slot can be found later in the year when a good number of us have received the vital vaccinations and we begin to feel a little safer. As last year, this also means a delay in this year's AGM. I spent a while on the KC website this morning as, following the number of concerns raised, they have now provided two generations of a dog's pedigree. I do wonder why they couldn't have followed the old MyKC model in the first place as restoring this crucial feature for breeders and breed historians must surely have given the website builders a tremendous amount of extra work. Titles are also now included but, importantly, DNA test results are shown on each PBGV's record. Not all, there are still rather too many omissions but, to see a more up to date record go to <https://www.bgvclub.co.uk/eyes-dna-testing>. The first LOD winners of the year are Jackie Jarvis with £15, Denise Fairhurst £10 and Helen Whitter £5. Two have kindly donated their winnings back to the Club, which all helps our Rescue and Rehoming fund.

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NOT LONG NOW before the breed feature on PBGVs and GBGVs appears in Our Dogs on 26 February. If you wish to advertise, a full page is £299, half page £199, quarter page £110, eighth page £60 and sixteenth page £35. All prices are at a discount. Copy deadline is 12 February. For further details, contact Pam Coulbert on 01803 712280. Date changes are starting to take place for championship shows. Hound day at Bath will now be on Monday 2 August and Birmingham National will now be held on Saturday 25 September. It remains to be seen whether this affects the contracted judges. Let's hope that, once more vaccinations take place, things will ease up within the show world. I think I have finally realised we haven't been to a dog show since last March and accepted

we aren't likely to be going for some time yet. I am ashamed to admit that a few days ago I tipped out various bags that I keep in the porch for when we go to shows. Out spilled dog bowls, bedding, bungee ropes, treats, damp towels and a plethora of other show related items. Of course, when we finally do have a show, I am now bound to forget something.

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SOME NEWS OF THE FORMER AHT GENETICS SECTION. As with so many other organisations, the pandemic has affected them and slowed their progress in setting up the newly formed Kennel Club Genetics Centre. Cathryn Mellersh has, however, let me know that discussions are still ongoing with the University of Cambridge and latest estimate is they will be in place by March. She added that it will be absolutely wonderful to be able to get back to their research, albeit socially distanced, via zoom and behind masks! News of a different kind comes from Canada, where Wendy Doherty's husband Martin passed away on 25 January at Freeport Campus GrandRiver Hospital. Owner of Auriga kennel, Martin enjoyed a life-time passion for pure bred dogs with a successful career as an All Breed judge, as well as exhibiting and breeding his beloved Old English Sheepdogs and PBGV. Many of you will know Wendy as she has visited the UK frequently, especially Crufts, being joint owner of several top-winning Soletrader PBGVs, most recently Ch Soletrader Magic Mike who went RBIS at Crufts 2019. Our thoughts are with Wendy. It is that time of year when my car insurance will soon be due. I was somewhat horrified to find that the quote was up over £80 on last year. And that was for the pleasure of my car sitting on my driveway for most of the year. I reckon I did around 2,000 miles at most. Apart from short journeys locally, just a trip to Crufts and four journeys round the M25 to Bucks. Having done a comparison this morning here are a few points that may help. I had set my annual mileage fairly low last year and, with no dog shows on the horizon yet, consider reducing your annual mileage. It seems that all insurance companies have bumped up their Compulsory Accidental Cover. You may find you are forced into also increasing your Voluntary Cover to get a lower annual insurance. Some insurance is cheaper but you have to have a telematic box fitted to your car. This uses GPS technology to monitor your driving. No Claims Discount is wise but, if you go for a cheaper insurance and have an accident the penalty will be a possible cost to you of £650 upwards on the Accidental Cover. Whichever way you look at it, having that essential car for continuing our hobby is expensive nowadays.

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I WAS SORRY TO LEARN that Kay Ainslie died just before Christmas. Over the years Kay owned and showed GBGV Jaclin From Russia With Love to Robkim, who was born in 1997, and then PBGV Afterglow St Nickerless with Robkim. He was one of a litter of seven born on 24 December 2004, sire Ch Tangaer Crème Caramel, dam Afterglow Mimi Le Bonc at Griffdel. This litter included the well-known Ch Afterglow Ebenezer. Kay was a staunch supporter of the breed and used to be a familiar face at Crufts. Her kennel name stemmed from her son and daughter's names, Rob and Kim. My link with her was somewhat strange as her son, Rob, was a Customs Officer at Heathrow, as was Rob's wife, Ann. Ann's desk was near mine. She dealt with imports contravening CITES (Convention on Trade in Endangered Species) and I occasionally had to handle complaints stemming from her team's intervention to prevent illegal imports. It was only accidentally in conversation that I found out her mother-in-law in Blackpool had a Grand. After I retired, every year at Crufts, when Rob and Ann were there to see Kay, Ann would come and find me for a catch-up. Condolences go to her daughter, Kim and the whole family. With Kay's passing, there are now some LOD numbers going begging if anyone would like to buy one. £12 a year gives you the opportunity to win some money, while helping those unfortunate BGVs who need our care. February's winners are Lee Harrison with £15, Sue & Terry Cole £10 and £5 goes to Dianne Reid.

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CRUFTS BIS WINNER, Ch Soletrader Peek a Boo, has died at the age of 11. Bred by Gavin and Sara Robertson, Jilly was born on 29 October 2009 (Ch/Ned Ch Cappuccino van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes ex Ch Soletrader My Aphrodisiac). Still a puppy, she gained her first Challenge Certificate at Darlington 2010 under Martin Sanders. The following year, having gone Best of Breed at Crufts under Jill Peak and Reserve Best in Show under Paolo Dondina, she won her third CC at Scottish Kennel Club under Graham Hill. Her first of many all-breed championship show BIS wins came at Paignton where Stuart Milner judged the breed, Frank Kane the Group and BIS Ken Sinclair. Following this triumph, which made her the first PBGV bitch in this country to go BIS at an all breed championship show, she went BIS at Houndshow under Andrew Brace. He had previously bestowed the same honour on her sire, Cappuccino, at the Bleiswijk International Show, Holland, 2008. At Crufts 2013 she won her 28th CC, equaling her dam's breed CC record. There, handled by Gavin, she achieved the ultimate of going BIS under Geoff Corish, having won BOB under Linda Lewis and the Hound group under Ben Reynolds-Frost. Joint owner Wendy Doherty was there from Canada with Sara to enjoy the moment. Retiring from the show-ring that day, her maternal career was equally distinguished, producing five champions and others on CCs by four different sires. Among them is of course her son, Magic Mike, who was awarded RBIS Crufts 2019 under Dan Ericsson. From 2013 Jilly's name became synonymous with charitable work when Gavin decided to turn her prestigious win into something positive for pedigree dogs. He embarked on a series of sponsored walks and set up Jilly's Jolly Jaunt and Pedigree Paws Unite. Also the Peek a Boo Trust which aimed to raise awareness of Pedigree Dogs and help dogs' and children's charities with events to raise money for them. Since 2014, The Peek A Boo Trust has held the annual Pawscars near the NEC on the eve of Crufts. Awards are made that recognise success, hard work and effort in all areas of the pedigree dog show scene, a celebration of all that is good in the world of dog showing. Raising money for good causes, it has the backing of some of the biggest businesses in the industry and, so far, charities have benefited from over £140,000. As Simon Parsons has summed up "Only a very few elite dogs are known to the entire show world by their pet name, and one of those was Jilly. In her lifetime she had done it all, as a show dog, a producer, an inspiration and through giving ringsiders so much pleasure in watching her enjoy her moments in the ring". Tributes have flooded in and our thoughts are with Gavin and Sara. Sad news also on hearing from Australia last week of the death of Aus Ch Monkham's Harry Potter. He was 15 and spent the last 7yrs of his life in paradise, a home which Jeannie Hicks gave him when he was no longer being shown. Born on 12 October 2005, he was one of a litter of five (Ch/Dk Ch Monkham's Brimstone ex Monkham's Café Au Lait) and went to Robyn Wallis early 2006. He had a successful show career and, in 2008, when we went to Australia for me to judge Bassets near Sydney, Jenna was fortunate enough to be able to handle him at an evening championship show on the outskirts of Melbourne, where he went BOB. His shows days over and with some male dominance issues in the home, Robyn decided to let Harry go. With the prospect of a loving family home, he went to a lady who lived about 1½hrs from Bev Tophill. Some time later, unbeknown to them, he ended up in a dog pound but fortunately Berry Johnson (Dileant) saw the ad for him, made contact with the pound and arranged his rehoming with Jeannie Hicks. Jeannie has kept in touch over the years, sending lovely photos of his wonderful home, and it was great to meet her when she visited us. Higham Press have a new website and exhibitors are being asked to transfer their dogs from the dog.biz website. The cut-off date is 1 March when dog.biz will shut down. Also, if you want to keep a record of your entry history, you will need to copy and save it before then. I know some have had problems with transferring their dogs but, on the whole, it seems a less painful experience than the new KC website, which is still giving grief. Fossedata have announced they too plan to have a new website being launched fairly soon with the latest security and new features for entrants, so it seems we are all to be mentally challenged yet again. As we weather this cold snap, where most of the UK is covered with a blanket of snow and ice, be honest and thank your lucky stars that there is no need to get up at 4am and get on the road to a championship show! Stay warm everyone.

19 / 2 / 21

THE GARDEN IS NO LONGER WHITE but back to green again. Green and wet – and a return to muddy dogs paws indoors. As each week passes, we are that little bit closer to warmer weather, the spring flowers are starting to shoot and soon we will hopefully be able to look forward to better times. For the time being though the virus still plays a large part in our lives and, by now, most of you will be aware Border Union has announced they will not be able to hold their show in June. This became evident from the information and advice given to them by the local council. Needless to say this is a huge disappointment for them but very understandable and they feel immensely sorry for their partnership shows, judges and everyone else for yet another cancellation. So this means the BGV Club's Scottish Open Show which was planned to be held in conjunction with Border Union has fallen by the wayside yet again. Judge Rachel Wray is naturally disappointed and looks forward to the time when we can get back to some sort of normality. Border Union will publish further information when they are able. Soletrader Behavin' Bradley (Cappuccino ex Soletrader Absolut Abba) has died, age 11. He was born on 17 October 2009. His first CC came at Richmond in 2010 awarded by Paul Stanton (Tintavon), from Sweden. His second was at Houndshow the following year under Eleanor Bothwell. At the time he was owned by Sara and a very young Oliver Robertson. Early 2012 he went BIS under Peter Marks at the BGV Club's open show at Steventon, having been awarded PBGV BOB by Patsy Hollings. However that third CC eluded him and a year later he went to Veronika Cirkos in Hungary but not before siring 9 litters. One more

mating took place in Hungary between Bradley and Soletrader Heart to Heart who had also gone to Veronika Cirkos in 2010 in joint ownership with Gavin and Sara Robertson. She produced one puppy, Brelomis Diamond Deal, who arrived back in England but was sadly affected by POAG and, in time, went to live with Pete and Deborah Wilson in Surrey where she has the most wonderful home.

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IN THE LAND OF CAUTION where going to a dog show for the past year has been as unlikely as flying to the Galapagos, news this week brings a slight glimmer of hope on the horizon that things will start to ease up this year. However, this comes too late to save WKC who have been told that it is impossible to hold large events on the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Showground this summer, so their 20-22 August 2021 Championship Show has been cancelled. Secretary Graham Hill has said "The Showground is currently being used as a Covid Testing and Vaccination Centre and this, combined with restrictions on attendance numbers and the associated 2m social distancing rules, are collectively major barriers to the viability of the running of a Covid safe Welsh Kennel Club 3 day Championship Show". Those who enjoy the Munster Circuit will also be disappointed to learn that, in accordance with the Irish Kennel Club Statement, Clonmel, Killarney, Limerick and Tralee had no choice but to cancel their shows, never envisaging that the pandemic would still be with us in 2021. Although there are no classes there for BGVs, WELKS too has fallen by the wayside. However on a more positive note, following Prime Minister, Boris Johnson's, announcement this week, some shows such as Bournemouth are determined once more to go ahead. It does seem though that many are going to leave Windsor off their list due to the unreasonable restrictions they want to place on exhibitors. Such a shame as this has always been a popular show in the wonderful setting of Home Park. A reminder that www.dog.biz will be shut down on 1 March. If you haven't yet transferred your dogs to the new highampress website, now is the time to do it. And you want to keep a record of your entry history, do it now! Also a serious reminder to take care of your BGVs as incidences of dog theft are rocketing in the UK with homes, gardens and kennels being the prime targets for theft. Only a few days ago five Basset Hounds were stolen overnight from the Westerby Basset's Leicestershire kennels. These hounds are of a distinctive type being higher on the leg. They are microchipped and staff are asking the public to alert vets to keep an eye out for them, should they be handed in. The Westerby Basset's' country extends from Melton Mowbray to Daventry, and from Nuneaton to Uppingham. They descend from the Walhampton Basset Hounds, founded in 1889 by Christopher and Godfrey Heseltine at Lymington in the New Forest, who at one time also dabbled in rough-coats. Sixty-eight stolen dogs were found recently not 5 miles from Linda Lewis' home in Carmarthenshire. The police have been busy attempting to reunite them with their owners and have now returned 22 of the 68 which were found in outbuildings. The remaining 46 dogs and puppies are now in kennels while enquiries continue to identify lawful ownership. The good news is that two people were arrested in connection with the discovery of the animals, though they are now on police bail. I am sure all reading this would have views on this and will be pleased if Boris Johnson carries out his promise to increase sentences for pet theft. Certainly we all now need to take care when out walking. I also heard about a lady walking her dog in a Hertfordshire Country Park, who was pushed forwards and her Schnauzer taken from her. I have to admit I now carry a spray with me. It seems this state of affairs is restricted to the UK so dog owners do need to be vigilant. Our BGVs play such a huge part in our lives and it is important for us to offer them the same care and protection that we give to all family members. This week's Our Dogs carries the 17 page BGV Feature. Articles such as this are a long time in the making as Our Dogs first contacted me in September last year inviting us to take part in their weekly A to Z of Breeds. For the PBGV section, thanks to Linda Lewis who also contributed, and Gavin Robertson who wrote about Peek a Boo.

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YET ANOTHER OF OUR "GOLDEN OLDIES" HAS LEFT US. I was extremely sorry to hear from Paul Osbourne that his Ch Nykarth's Kicking Off with Braego ShCM has died. He was 11½. Bred by Kathryn Moulding, he was born on 17 September 2009, his sire Ch/Am Ch Gebeba Texas True Grit, his dam Nykarth Irresistable. Marcus sired three litters, the first one included Paul's successful Braego Gladys Aylward ShCM and the third mating in 2014 was to Jackie Hornby's Debuher Idylle with Jacmist which contained her own Jacmist Matilda Conflict. A striking dog, I awarded Marcus his first CC at Birmingham National in 2011, his second came at Bournemouth under Jenna Betts and his third at City of Birmingham under Marianne Nixon, all within the same year. Marcus secured a total of 13 CC and 24 RCCs, his top wins including BOB and RBIS a remarkable two years running at the BGV Club championship shows 2011 and 2012, which was of course World Congress year. He also went Hound Group 1 at Boston 2017, judged by Robin Searle. While news that Windsor Dog Show has been knocked for six with Windsor Horse Show announcing their event will be taking place at the same venue and on the same dates, and everyone here watches the game of chess with some championship societies waiting to grab dates vacated by others, in America the PBGVCA is going full steam ahead with arrangements for their National at Wilmington, Ohio on 20-27 April. The judges are Nick Frost - National Specialty & Junior Showmanship; Lindley Henson - Sweepstakes, Puppy & Veteran; Jeffrey Lentsch - 4-6 month puppy National; Robert Opeka - 4-6 month puppy Regional; Barbara Pepper - Regional Specialty & Junior Showmanship; Tim Ninnis - Sweepstakes, Puppy & Veteran. Wearing masks is mandatory within the hotel including show rings or other common areas within the show site. When outside the hotel, masks are also required when within 6 feet of anyone outside a person's own household and particularly when grooming dogs in the outside area. Everyone is asked to pack enough masks for the time they are there and there are reminders of the importance of hand washing and regular cleaning of surfaces. Ringside chairs and tables will be set by the hotel to allow for social distancing. No one may move any chairs or other furniture without the permission of the show committee. Personal chairs will be allowed but must be spaced at least 6ft from any hotel chairs. In the conformation ring, stickers will be placed on the carpet 6ft apart, which exhibitors will need to use. This, of course, is a lot more space than everyone is used to. The ring will have a separate entrance and exit so no handlers need to cross paths with others coming in for the next class. For Best of Breed check in, each dog and handler will enter the ring, show their number to the judge and stewards and then circle to the exit gate. The judge will bring specials into the ring in smaller groups and then make a cut. Judges and volunteers will be wearing masks and judges will be hand sanitizing between dogs. Everyone is being asked to take time to train their dogs before the show as the smell of hand sanitizer may upset some, even more so than a person wearing a mask. With all these very necessary precautions, it is likely that judging will take a bit longer than usual as everyone gets used to the procedures. I don't doubt that whenever we get to the stage of venues being open again, similar procedures will be in place here. March's LOD winners are £15 to Alison Cocks, £10 to Nigel Ansley-Young and £5 to Jenna and me!

12 / 3 / 21

CAN WE KEEP UP with all the championship show changes? Blackpool has moved into WKC's August slot (Friday 21 August for Hound day) and City of Birmingham has been forced to cancel so no show for us on 3 September. It does seem that, unfortunately, as we creep through the year shows are being abandoned as they were last year. Although fewer PBGV litters have been born of late, many breeders are still anxious about the risks associated with use of Lepto-4 to vaccinate their puppies. The background to its introduction is that, until a few years ago vets were only knew of two families of Leptospira bacteria causing the majority of disease in dogs. However, Lepto is a developing disease and they became aware of two more families of Leptospira bacteria which they feel are common in the UK. For this reason, they updated their vaccines. However such has been the outcry over problems associated with Lepto-4 that now some vets are cautious about using it and have reverted to providing Lepto-2. This link, posted by Helen Ingher on the PBGV Preservation Breeders facebook page gives a simple to read explanation of Leptospirosis: Diagnosis, Treatment and Management: <https://todaysveterinarypractice.com/diagnosis-and-treatment-of-leptospirosis-in-dogs/?fbclid=IwAR3aCrnYQrSTCp0hs15aSdQopBXEXhemJeXwWNvGSik5xrKnNFLIEQgrps>. It may give you a better understanding of the associated risks. Continuing advice about dog thieves, there have been warnings about them working in our area. It is hard to believe this is happening and I know we all will do everything we can to protect our beloved dogs. Some are now taking precautions by carrying various types of spray such as dye and a link has been given to this website which provides a range of anti-theft leads. <https://megheathdogleads.co.uk/product-category/dog-leads/anti-theft-range/>.

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AFTER YEARS OF PLANNING, exactly eight years ago today the KC announced their free on-line service, MyKC. It was heralded as giving a lifetime of support to puppy seekers, dog owners and breeders by providing exclusive access to official Kennel Club registration records, as well as unique tools to keep information about an owner's dogs all in one place. Before its official launch, around 500 demonstrations of MyKC took place during Crufts and the feedback received was resoundingly positive. Of importance to breeders, it provided a simple, extensive pedigree database for viewing any registered dog, and owners could look up the registration details throughout their own dog's heritage, such as the parents and siblings. All these details were listed in chronological sequence. MyKC was also linked to the KC's Mate Select service, so that health test results and important information about genetic diversity could be viewed, in order to

improve dog health and awareness. So what happened? We now have a hotch-potch of records, no chronological sequence, no easy way of viewing whether litter siblings are dogs or bitches. And the record of any breed of dog can only be found under My Account Health Tests Results Finder, although for example the BGV has no health tests; and many of us are finding breeds listed under our own kennel name that we never had. Unless the KC is at a half-way stage of resolving the mess they seem to have got themselves into, especially with these important historical records, it is woe betide any breed club that has an interest in the history of their breed. There is yet another change in the championship show calendar with Southern Counties announcing a move from their scheduled date to 25, 26, 27 June. These dates are after the expected easing of restrictions on 21 June. One can only admire the tenacity of these championship show committees who try their utmost to preserve their shows for exhibitors. However it does make you wonder whether it would have been easier for each society to accept its lot for the year and, if their show date fell within a period of restrictions where even the local council or landowner advised that a large event would be impossible, they should accepted the situation and made life easier for all, not least the KC staff. They are doubtless doing their best but must be getting tied up in knots with all the changes. Of course, the BGV is no different, having been obliged to postpone/cancel several shows since last year but still hanging in there with the hope of being able to reschedule this year's Open Show. The fortunes of the Open Show planned to be held with Border Union this year await a decision on whether they will be able to reschedule.

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THREE COUNTIES HAS NOW ANNOUNCED that their June show has been cancelled and we know that Border Union will be holding their championship show on Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 October at Kelso, following on from SKC's double show at Ingliston. BU's Hound day is on 4 October. There is also some suggestion that Hound Association of Scotland may now seek to move their championship show to 29 September, the day before SKC. The welfare of our BGVs is paramount as many may not have been out and about to shows for over 18 months, also the success of an open show coming at the end of 4 championship shows is questionable. Moreover, it has to be borne in mind that this is less than three weeks before the Club championship show at Ryton (hopefully!) Therefore the difficult decision has been made to cancel arrangements for our Club open show partnering Border Union this time round. While we still live in uncertain times, plans in the States are still going ahead for a packed schedule of events at the PBGVCA National at Wilmington, Ohio. For show folk, the event starts on Friday 23 April with a Paint the Town Red cash bar at 5.30pm, followed by dinner at 6pm. Then, as part of the Top 20 Invitational there will be a Puppy Parade. This is akin to the Puppy Walks the BGV Club has held. It is a fun event for puppies 4 to 12 months old who are entered in at least one class at either the Regional or National. It is "free to enter" puppy parade but the owner or handler must have a Top 20 Dinner Ticket to participate. No judging - just a fun time showing off beautiful pups. The popular auction will be held at the 24 April Banquet. However, to adhere to Covid precautions, this will be on-line with just a couple of live items again this year.

2 / 4 / 21

I SEEM TO BE updating the club website list of championship shows and judges on a regular basis of late. The Kennel Club announced last week that their show, which had been moved from March to 15-18 July at the NEC, will not now be taking place. As an indoor event, this was an inevitable but sensible decision and somewhat a sad necessity as this means cancellation for the first time since 1954. Of course the upside of this is that it has relieved us all from having to make the decision whether or not to enter, especially difficult for those who have not yet been vaccinated. There has been much discussion on social media about the lost opportunity for older breed specialists and even those non-specialists with more than a passing interest in a particular breed. So now we must wait to see whether all judges will be moved on a year or whether those who were contracted to judge this year will be put to the end of the queue when, by then, some may unfortunately be too old and will have lost their big chance to step onto the green carpet. And the latest casualty is Windsor who found it necessary to cancel their show. A clash of dates with Royal Windsor Horse Show meant the Home Park was not available to them. With invaluable help from the Horse Show they had continued to make plans for their show to be held on an alternative site in the Windsor area. However, the insurmountable problem they finally faced was in providing all the infrastructure necessary to run a fully functioning show in a safe, secure and viable manner. On a brighter note, exactly a year on from learning that the Animal Health Trust was in financial difficulties, the welcome news has come that the Canine Genetics section will be re-opening soon. Close collaboration with breed clubs and breeders is essential to the success of the Centre, as is the collection of over 40,000 DNA samples that has been developed over the past 20 years. These samples, along with valuable scientific and DNA sequence data, have now been secured and transferred to the University of Cambridge Veterinary School. There they will be developing and adding to their range of DNA tests but, for the moment, the good news for PBGV owners worldwide is that PBGV DNA tests for POAG will shortly be resumed. Cathryn Mellersh has written "We are committed to providing a DNA testing service for breeders and our hope is to have that operational by July". LOD winners for the bumper April draw are £25 for Diane Quadling, £12 for Jez Watt and £6 goes to Jean Hood.

9 / 4 / 21

AT THE END OF MARCH. we had a glimpse of fine weather with a few days to soak up the sun with our dogs. The wonderful photos on facebook with PBGVs enjoying the Spring sunshine are testament to how much we all love our canine friends. On time too at the end of March, evoice invited you to send photos in to BGVPhotocomp@outlook.com for a companion-style virtual dog show. Lots of fun classes to choose from with a rosette for each class winner and I gather there may be rosettes for places too. All will be posted on the club's facebook page with entries close on 26 April. There is a surprise judge lined up ready to select the winners and an overall Best in Show, who will be also be receiving a prize kindly donated by Luna Bobs. The winning photos will appear in the Summer Voice. For member safety and to provide equal opportunities for member participation, once again the BGV Club is holding its Annual Report to Members electronically. It is to be conducted in line with Kennel Club advice to Clubs and Societies but, rather than restrict proceedings to the three main areas of routine AGM business provided for by the KC (accounts, elections and Officers' annual reports), Welfare & Rescue and Health reports will also be included. Questions on these topics will be invited and, where appropriate, responded to for incorporation into the final report which will be sent to members on 23 May. In February I heard of a cross-breed PBGV x Dachshund litter near Halifax. Investigation by a couple of helpful club members only produced a few scant details as more than one family member appeared to be involved with different mobile numbers. The unregistered pups were eventually advertised as a mixed breed litter on Pets4Homes at £1,500 a puppy. By a complete coincidence, around the same time another club member let me know that someone who lives near her had bought a 'Petit' from near Halifax with no papers and the breeder, who wanted a deposit, had no interest in where pup was going. This dog was a little older and there was unfortunately no way it was a full Petit. The disappointed owner was advised to get a diagnostic DNA test to ascertain the dog's parentage; and also alleviate any concerns for POAG. Other than the percentage PBGV and Wirehaired Dachshund, the parentage results even showed 12½% Basset. The owner has since contacted the breeder, who offered to take the dog back but, as we all know, we get attached to these little souls and no way was she parting with her. The story does not end here. The latest litter is advertised for £1,750 and, unless there is more than one PBGV bitch being used for cross-breeding, there are obvious concerns of breeding on consecutive seasons. If you are a breeder who has sold a PBGV in the past few years to someone near Halifax, this should worry you. It certainly serves as a warning for all breeders to be so careful when finding homes for the pups they have carefully and lovingly reared.

16 / 4 / 21

THE BGV CLUB NOTICE OF AGM is being reissued to take account of changes made since issue of the original. This is on Kennel Club advice given on Monday this week to allow a few days longer for nominations for Chairman and Secretary where both incumbents took the decision last weekend to stand down after completing their three years in office, the former (Sue Marshall) as a committee member and the latter (me) as Secretary. Additionally there are now 7 vacancies on the committee. Final full report date to members remains the same at 23 May. In America there are just a few days to go before the annual PBGVCA National which, this year, is being held at Roberts Centre Hotel & Conference Center, Wilmington Ohio. It runs from 20-27 April. Each year the National is held in a different area of the States and it never ceases to amaze me how a large taskforce of enthusiastic club members from whatever region join to take on the many jobs involved in mounting a show to be proud of. With the important addition of Covid19 precautions, this year's responsibilities are, as usual, many: Activities registration, annual awards, catalogue advertising, competition information, DVD set orders, hunt, hotel information, judging programme, meals, premium lists (schedules), RV reservations, event schedule, seminars and eye examinations, National logo items, op 20 Invitational, triathlon, trophy fund and vendors. As I reported earlier, due to Covid restrictions, things are a little different this year for the annual auction, which is now up and running with items

being added each day. You can view these on <https://www.32auctions.com/PBGV2021>. The auction closes on Sunday 18 April. Don't forget that our own Club "companion show" style photographic competition runs until 26 April so still time to submit your favourite photos to BGVPhotoComp@outlook.com. You can view the classes to be entered on the homepage of www.bgvclub.co.uk.

23 / 4 / 21

IT CAME AS A SHOCK early on Sunday to learn that Pat Mellor had just passed away in Bedford Hospital. She had endured multiple operations, much pain and discomfort throughout her life but you could not wish to meet a more cheerful person. Years ago Pat and husband Trevor had Whippets but then GBGMelanter Grandtully at Melwarrior ShCM, entered their lives and Trevor showed him with great success at open shows. Reggie, who was born on 30 October 1999, also had his fair share of wins at championship shows. Pat was always sitting ringside to watch, Photography appealed to her and many will remember her taking the official photos at club shows. When I lived near Heathrow she and Trevor weren't too far away so visits were the norm and outings to restaurants and, along with many other good dog friends, I continued to visit them after they moved to Renhold, near Bedford, around late 2005. Over the years it was distressing to see how Pat was suffering from rheumatoid arthritis and the many complications following knee replacement surgery when her body had rejected the implants. However, she remained stoic and fortunately a brief period of improved health allowed them both to have a few holidays in places that could accommodate a wheelchair. And, despite her health problems, Pat resorted to an electric wheelchair to get round, determined to visit championship shows and catch up with friends. Seen here with Kathryn Moulding at Windsor championship show in 2017, it is plain she made the most of and enjoyed every moment. Reminiscing on happier times, I found this from my 2006 breed notes: "The bad weather resulted in absentees in many breeds at the post-Christmas Luton show at Keysoe, though only one short for PBGV judge Sara Robertson, who awarded our Monkhams Fortune Cookie BOB, later short-listed in the group. With Pat and Trevor Mellor's new home nearby, we took the opportunity to visit them. I have advocated the wonders of satellite navigation but, if it tells you to turn onto an unmade road, ignore it. Not only did we end up driving along a bridleway over fields, where we could see the tracks of other cars in the snow, but we had to go through the grounds of a property to do so! Convinced that sat-nav is never wrong, I carried on until the track forked. With 450yds still to go, the snow worsening and dark descending, discretion took over from valour and I turned round while I could. Back at the property, to our horror, the owner had padlocked the big gate across the path. With thoughts of spending the night locked in a field, I found the perpetrator, praying that his Christmas spirit had not deserted him. While lamenting the problem of cars driving through his grounds, he thankfully opened the gate and even gave me directions to Renhold. Geraldine Dodd, who had been following us in her car, had more sense and had turned back before the bridleway so got to Pat and Trevor's before us. Having told Pat that the last she had seen of us was disappearing over a field, when Pat phoned to see if we were alright, anyone who knows her can imagine the laughter on the other end of the line". Trevor cared for Pat for countless years, cooked, redesigned the garden, built a henhouse – everything to make her life more bearable and enjoyable – and it is to him that I now send heartfelt condolences.

30 / 4 / 21

AS I WRITE THESE NOTES it is the final day at the PBGVCA National in Wilmington, Ohio. Conformation judging has taken place but this last day is set aside for hunt tests and hunting instinct tests. A long day commencing with roll call at 7.30am and field closing at 7pm before 8.15pm sunset. Unofficial results show that in the National breed judging on 24 April, BOB went to GCHS CJ's Oh Happy Day On Five Mile River, owned by Jeanne & Charles Hurty and Lynne & Mark Florian. Best of Winners and BP was Hurty & Florian's CJ's It's Not Easy Being Queen on Five Mile River. In Sweeps classes Best Veteran was Olga Kornienko & David Eisenbacher's GCHB Lacey's Ain't No Sour Grapes. With BOS Veteran going to Megan & David Esherrick's Am Ch Clancy's Poetic Inspiration. The Regional show saw the following taking top spots: BOB went to the Best Veteran GCHG Iceage V Tum-Tums Vriendjes owned by Brianne Major, Debbie King, Brad Duels and Nick Frost. Best of Winners was Grand-Voile's First Time Ever I Saw Your Face owned by Tammy Hensley, Julie Baker, Matt Feldman & Tamara Taskey, BOS Patricia Opperman & Jan Zigich's GCH Mirepoix's Dubble Bubble and BP was Jan Zigich & Ross Litman's Mirepoix's Wanderlust. As the Canine Genetics team continues to prepare for restarting, Bryan McLaughlin has joined them. Many of you will already know him for his part in collecting and obtaining samples for research. There are a few more updates to the list of championship shows and judges for 2021 on <https://www.bgvclub.co.uk/2021-ch-shows-and-judges>.

7 / 5 / 21

ALL CLUB MEMBERS have now been notified of the results of the nominations for BGV Cub Officer and Committee posts. With more vacancies than nominations, there was no requirement for a ballot. Championship show schedules are starting to appear on both highampress and fossedata but it seems that everyone will need to read the information in each one carefully to know what will and will not be provided, what can and cannot be done, whether or not personal insurance cover may be needed and so on. Over the years I have experienced some shows in the most diabolical weather, including the most miserable open show in 2019 when the rain was torrential and non-stop, there was no cover whatsoever and, even though we kept the dogs in the back of our car until just before judging, humans and canines ended up absolutely drenched. At a Very Special Show in Denmark in 2006 the highlight of the two-day show, the arrival of the Very Special Judge and final judging, never took place as the show disbanded when everyone gave up and ran for cover. The rain was so heavy that water had even seeped into my car so we had to do some bailing out before driving back to Hook of Holland! Conversely, while it is delightful to see the array of colourful awnings, I have attended more than my fair share of dog shows in Denmark where I have been roped into putting up and taking down a tent. I am well aware of the equipment needed and extra time and effort involved. It is therefore a personal choice. I am sure all who are keen to experience once more the atmosphere of a big show, get back to the show-ring and see friends will sail through unperturbed whatever the precautions and restrictions. I am equally sure that our dogs will enjoy being out for the day and back in that special environment of canine companionship. Thanks to Martin Bishop for the names of May's lucky LOD winners. Kim Culyer-Dawson gets £15, Catherine Whitehouse £10 and £5 goes to Carole Rickells.

14 / 5 / 21

NEWS IS CERTAINLY THIN ON THE GROUND. Lack of shows over the past year has given many breed note writers a headache trying to conjure up something interesting to write about and I have been no different though hope I have kept predominantly to the subject – PBGVs. This time last year with one cancellation after another those championship shows with their own grounds were attempting to defy the odds and still go ahead but little did we all know that worse was to come. Social distancing just wasn't enough and we were en route for one lockdown after another. And, even now as the weeks of 2021 pass and things become a little easier, there is one more show cancellation. South Wales has just announced it will not be going ahead. Hound day would have been held on 9 October. At present the Royal Welsh Showground remains closed and the Welsh Assembly Government have indicated no decisions on large indoor events will be made until late July at the earliest. It remains to be seen whether any more shows fall by the wayside though schedules are now starting to appear on highampress and fossedata. This time last year, with the Animal Health Trust nearing the end of its time, PBGV owners worldwide started to contact Animal DNA Diagnostics for the POAG DNA test. Now we are hoping that the newly set up Canine Genetics at Cambridge is close to resuming work on DNA testing. Covering results of the recent photo competition mounted by Kathryn Moulding and Stephanie Jefford and judged by Prof Peter Bedford, the Club's Summer newsletter is now at the printers so should be with you all shortly. It also contains the full report of 2020 BGV Club affairs to members.

21 / 5 / 21

IT WAS 10YRS AGO IN CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA when Jenna Betts judged and awarded Jan Zigich's Mirepoix's Naughty Girl Best in Sweeps. And, continuing a long line of winners, less than a month ago I reported that Jan had won BP at the Regional with Mirepoix's Wanderlust. It therefore came as a shock to learn that she passed away from a stroke earlier this week. Well known for her quality Mirepoix PBGVs Jan, who lived in Minnesota, was a longtime member of the PBGVCA and served as Vice President for the Club. Passionate about and dedicated to the breed, she was always ready to share her vast knowledge, so this is a devastating loss not only for Ross Litman, her family and friends but also the PBGV community. News comes that the Kennel Club Genetics Centre (KCGC) is slowly but surely settling into the Department of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Cambridge. The team now has a full complement of nine members, all of whom have come from the Animal Health Trust (an indication of how much they all love and believe in the work that they do). They have spent the first few weeks sorting out their new space, unpacking samples, downloading data and finding their way around. As a result of the pandemic, they are still largely working from home which has meant the moving in process has taken longer than it would have done under normal circumstances - but they are more or

less back to business now. The best way to contact them is via email (kcgc@vet.cam.ac.uk) or by using the enquiry page on their website www.canine-genetics.org.uk. However you may want to contact a member of the BGV Club Health Sub-Committee first of all. To complement the research undertaken in the KCGC they are also working towards launching a DNA testing facility that will be operated independently from the KCGC. As with everything else, due to the pandemic it has taken much longer for them to establish the service than they had hoped. However, they are making progress and expect to be open for business shortly. Until a few days back lack of current breed information had persuaded me to turn back the pages and look at what was happening in the breed in previous years. Ten years ago, in 2011, monumental arrangements were in hand for mounting the third World Congress here in the UK in 2012. Since then no other country has taken up the challenge to host a fourth. Plans were also put in place to run a health survey based on one that I had brought back from the PBGV Club in America. The aim was to collaborate to produce meaningful data with the results being given at the World Congress. Club President, Mrs Nickie Hunt, celebrated her 90th birthday. The committee started talking about having a Club facebook page but this didn't materialise until 2018 when I set one up. The Club newsletter, Voice, went up to 20 pages (it is now 36). There was a suggestion that membership rates should vary to take on board anyone who was happy to receive their newsletters electronically. The lower rate did not come into force until 2018 but only for Overseas members who were happy to receive their Voice by email. In 1999 at Three Counties under judge Marion Spavin, the first few bold people put their PBGVs on the table - and nothing happened, no objections, no outcry. After that, a more pragmatic view was adopted that showing on the ground or table should be optional and it appeared to work well. In 2000, AGM members present voted on whether exhibitors should be given the option of showing their PBGVs on a table, unless the judge decided to the contrary. The motion was carried and by 2001 it soon became the norm to see PBGVs shown this way. After two years of planning, the first World Congress took place at Newark. Going back another ten years to around 1991 - in 1988 the Club had held its first championship show at Three Counties Showground, Malvern and made a profit of £147. By 1989 the show had moved to Towcester, with a venue hire of £200. Today venue hire costs £425 - and this is a lower rate obtained by booking several years in advance. It may surprise everyone to know that years ago, the Club had benching for its shows and, from this photo of my husband taken at Towcester (who didn't look too impressed) you can see that the benching was as empty then as it is nowadays. And in 1991, a match was held, against the South East Branch of the Basset Hound Club. At that time there were many prominent Basset breeders in the area which led to an enjoyable event. Certainly food for thought for similar events in the future. The Club championship show made a magnificent profit of £1. In those days the Club incurred expense with rulebooks having to be printed, also the Happy Breed booklet introducing new owners to the breed. This is now incorporated into the Breed Appreciation package on the Club website so only those few not on internet need to be sent a printed off copy. In 1981 a popular match was held at Northchurch Village Hall against the London & Northern Home Counties Branch of the Basset Hound Club, of which I am still Secretary. The PBGV Breed Standard was under discussion with the KC saying they knew there were differences between the Petit and Grand but these could not be incorporated in the same Standard. As, at the time, all PBGVs were registered as BGVs, so there was a move to ensure that with the arrival one day of GBGVs, the KC should in future register BGVs as PBGVs. There was recognition that the Club should cater for junior members also not only mount events for show people but also for those who had pets; and a garden party was suggested. As I shortly hand over being Club Secretary, I am unsure what the future is for these breed notes but hope you have enjoyed my regular updates on what is happening in the PBGV world.

28 / 5 / 21

THE PBGV WORLD, especially in the States, is still coming to terms with the death in Duluth, Minnesota on 17 May of Jan Priley Zigich following a stroke. Born in 1952, Jan received her masters from the College of St. Scholastica and subsequently worked for many years in advertising and marketing with the Duluth News Tribune, followed by business consulting with the University of Minnesota Center for Economic Development. However her passion in life was her PBGVs. She founded Mirepoix Kennel in 1995 and the following year married Ross Litman whom she first met in 1987. Throughout the years she bred and showed some of the finest PBGVs both in America, and in Europe and Asia as well. At the time of her death, she was Vice President of the national breed club, the PBGV Club of America, and was known and appreciated for her willingness to mentor others in the breed, for her outstanding ethics, and for her unending resolve to breed healthy, happy hounds. Enjoying her home on the lake and the family cabin in Canada, Jan loved to travel and appreciated fine cooking. Amongst other roles, she served on the board of Lake Superior Zoo. Her only love greater than for her dogs was that for her family and many friends in the dog world. Her funeral takes place on 3 June. Where Passion Meets Education - in Italy Sofia Dunckley has set up a website www.thepbgvacademy.com, intended to help owners learn how to groom and care for their PBGVs. She writes "I do not present myself as a specialist or an authority on the subject, I'm convinced there are many out there with vaster knowledge and skills but until they decide to share their knowledge, you will have to do with me. The hope is that this will be an interactive platform where we can all learn from each other hence the success of the site will depend on you as much as on me. Please feel free to comment, ask questions or give good tips". To help those wanting to learn how to groom, she will be creating little video snippets. Working with both the FCI and American Standards. She hopes to divide the dog into sections and present a three-fold explanation of the body part in question - function, pet grooming and show grooming. Sofia stresses that it is her interpretation of the Standards, the way she grooms and strips. She provides a way for everyone to learn as, if anyone doesn't like the way she grooms, her site has the facility for opening a discussion, so this should prove to be an interesting learning experience for everyone.

4 / 6 / 21

AT LAST SOME HOPEFUL NEWS with Southern Counties announcing the entries for their show taking place at the end of this month. Hound day is on Friday 25 June where 28 PBGVs for Richard Bott are second in ring 19 after 29 Deerhound. This is a respectable entry for no CCs though hardly surprising considering exhibitors have been largely unable to follow their hobby for 15mths now. The show layout will be substantially changed to ensure that any guidelines in place at that time can be observed. It will not be benched and although sturdy gazebos will be available for judges and stewards there will be no wet weather accommodation. Gazebo areas will be near the ring for exhibitors to set up their own tents if they wish. Southern Counties will be updating their website and social media pages as new information becomes available. Next on the show calendar is East of England, where the PBGV judge is Marion Hunt and entries close soon on 14 June. Fees have been reduced as the Society recognises lack of provision of benching and wet weather accommodation. Apart from needing to take your own chairs, there will be designated areas for tents, gazebos or umbrellas. Maximum space per unit is 3m x 3m. I can see before long we will all be employing "helpers" to carry our show equipment and pitch our tents! Or maybe we will be able to hire a person on the day? With a return to showing imminent, albeit on the hottest day of the year, there was a timely gathering of 10 Essex basset breed owners in my garden with around 12 or more dogs. Both dogs and owners enjoyed a familiarisation session of showing under a "surprise" judge, who was equally getting back into the swing of things. This was followed by a wonderful picnic. However, as the temperature soared, we all ended up huddled socially distant in one corner of the garden under a big chestnut tree. While shows are gradually getting under way here, they are going ahead elsewhere, including Denmark. At the recent Danish Basset Club show held outside at Årslev, south of Odense, Fodnote Chocolate Chips (Dk Ch Alfa Kalibro Ace of Spades ex Dk Ch Fodnote Oh What a Kiss) bred by Gitte Winter Arildsen and handled by co-owner Jette Ramvad went BOB and BIS1 under Mette Aunsberg, DK. Still abroad, breeders may be interested to know that, in France, Christine Cuvellier has patented the Nourrinou-bibi - a multi-nipple milk bottle made of 100% medical silicone. Designed to wean more than one kitten or puppy at a time it is such a simple and obvious idea, although I first of all laughed at the pictures of it, it is surprising no-one has thought of it before. Among other things, it relieves the mother of a large litter, caters for milk being late coming in, or insufficient or insufficiently nutritious milk. It is a boon if the very worst happens and the breeder loses the mother but can be invaluable following a caesarean section, or if the mother has mastitis. Compared with the use of a conventional bottle, the ability to feed more than one at a time is a godsend. There are eight models with different milk flow rates adapted to whatever size breed and even caters for brachycephalic breeds. Amongst other things, it can relieve the mother in the event of a large litter, or cover when milk is late coming in, is insufficient or not nutritious enough. It is a considerable time saver compared with using a conventional bottle. You can find information on <http://nourrinou-bibi.fr> or if you need help, send information on breed and birth weight to christine.cuvellier@nourrinou-bibi.fr who can advise you on the best models and flows of milk to use. LOD winners for June are Helen Wheeler - £15, Robert Bailey £10 and Carolyn Dexter £5.

11 / 6 / 21

IN AMERICA the death has occurred of Juliet Carter Franzen. She had been a PBGVCA member for 16 years and passed away on 5 June after a battle with cancer. I became friends with Juliet many years ago and she and husband, Robert, stayed with me a couple of times when visiting the UK. Hard to believe it is now thirteen years ago since they first visited and we took them to the Guildford show. During the day Juliet was distracted by a group of Swedish Vallhunds, a

breed unfamiliar to her in the States and unfortunately good weather deserted us so they were treated to a day sheltering under umbrellas from the English rain. Thankfully it eased off by the time we got into the Hound Puppy Group ring and achieved G1 with a young Jack Sparrow. Juliet was a devoted dog trainer and her Marcel entered the PBGVCA Hall of Fame as a Major Titled PBGV for both agility & rally. In 2013 she and Robert visited Crufts where, as well as the breed judging, Juliet was keen to watch the agility and I got the chance to talk to her about her enthusiasm for this hobby. At the time she was thinking ahead about getting another PBGV and she gave me her thoughts on what she was looking for in terms of not only temperament but physical height to length ratio and general construction. She also did agility with an Australian Shepherd, certainly more biddable than a hound so far easier to train for the agility arena. However, she liked a challenge and said it was rewarding to train a PBGV to follow a course at speed and cope with the various jumps. She was leaning towards a Petit on the lower end of the height range thinking it would be more adept. Another of Juliet's enjoyable pastimes with Marcel was freestyle dancing where she enjoyed training him for several routines. With her passing, the American PBGV world has lost a great ambassador for our breed. Here we learned this week of the death of Jean Lanning at the age of 91. As a senior dog judge, she awarded CCs in PBGVs though had not judged the breed for some years. In 2002 she judged PBGVs at our club championship show, giving a first CC and BOB to Linda Lewis' Tangaer Idris (Ch Garwedd du Greffier du Roi at Tangaer ex Tangaer Emmanuelle), who went on to be a prolific winner both here and in the States with Valerie Link. So are you all set for a return to dog shows? Have you got your little tent just in case? I couldn't help laughing when I heard that Britain is facing a tent shortage. Whilst this is primarily caused by the uncertainty of holidaying abroad and being able to return without incurring unexpected costly travel fees and lengthy quarantine, I am sure no-one has considered that dog show exhibitors are probably partially responsible for the demand on tents never being higher.

18 / 6 / 21

CLUB PRESIDENT, Professor Peter Bedford, is undergoing another spell in hospital for further back surgery. Wishing him well, the good news is that he is already up and walking, though obviously it will take time to get over the operation. With him being unavailable now until early October, Peter has let me know that the Royal College has allowed some prescribing for regular patients to be done remotely during this Covid time, but regular physical re-examinations will be required again in the future for long term therapy like glaucoma and epilepsy. The problem is owners asking for prescriptions unsighted and specialist opinions must be requested through the dog's own veterinary practice. As the days slip by towards a resumption of championship shows here, in America it hasn't all been plain sailing for the PBGVCA. The Crown Plaza in Asheville, North Carolina, let them know that they are losing their expo centre where the 2023 National was to have been held. This has meant having to go elsewhere and, with Tiffany Cannon taking on chairing the event, they are now looking for a location in Texas. It has also just been announced that Shelley Barclay is to take over as PBGVCA Vice President, filling the post held by Jan Zigich who passed away suddenly on 17 May. Shelley is a member of the Mid New Jersey PBGV Association and has also been a member of the PBGVCA since 1997, serving on the Health Committee, Saber Tails staff, and several National Committees. Still in America Westminster KC Dog Show 2021 seems to have passed relatively unnoticed this year. To comply with Covid requirements, the show was moved to an outside venue and held on 12-13 June at Lyndhurst Mansion, Tarrytown, New York. And, as here, the problem of overseas judges completing their appointments was insurmountable which, unfortunately meant that Robyn Wallis was unable to travel from Australia to judge. Due to NY State Covid regulations affecting the number of attendees at events, no spectators or vendors were allowed either so it was a very different show this year. There were 3 absent from the 14 PBGVs entered and the judge was Ms Bonnie Threlfall of Cary, NC. BOB went to Janice Hayes, Donna Moore, Eric Ciceron, Wendy Doherty and Tricia Lauer's Ch/Am Gr Ch M & M Stellar Spotify, who is out of two Soletaders – Am Gr Ch Soletader Right Said Fred and Am Ch/Am Gr Ch Soletader Annie Mac. BOS went to Lynne & Mark Florian and Jeanne & Charles Hurty's Am Gr Ch CJ's Oh Happy Day On Five Mile (Am Gr Ch Celestial CJ's Ringmaster At Talus ex Am Gr Ch CJ's Never Fully Dressed Without A Smile). The long spell of hot, dry weather has broken with thunderstorms and heavy rain over much of the UK. I hope your PBGVs are coping better with the storms than mine are. I was up for several hours last night trying to calm them down.

25 / 6 / 21

TIME TO GET OUT YOUR SHOW BAG! Remove mouldy bait from show jacket pocket. Check grooming equipment, crates, folding chairs, wheels on trolley. Got your entry tickets and ring numbers? Remember how everything fits in your car? Cooler bag for food and drink for the journey? And now the added complication of an umbrella to keep you dry or not too hot, or possibly some pop-up tent or gazebo with mallet or suchlike for hammering everything into the ground. It was an exciting day at Southern Counties, the first championship show to get under way since Crufts last year. Exhibitors had been asked to take a free lateral flow test the day before, to observe social distancing and to wear a mask when in the ring. I gather that space for gazebos etc was adequate and fortunately the rain clouds passing over the area didn't mar the event. Judge Richard Bott awarded BOB and Best Puppy to Cadmore & Major's Soletader Flora Good Time, making her debut in Puppy Bitch. She is by Ogham des Terres du Templier with Soletader (imp Fra), out of Ch Soletader Rita Ora. Also from Rita Ora, BD was McCartney's Ch Soletader Freddie Mercury JW. His sire is Multi Ch Around Another Bad Hair Day. From Open Dog, RBD went to Brown's Ch Soletader Valentino Rossi (Ch Soletader Noble Kinsmen ex Soletader Bumble Bee) and, from Limit Bitch, RBB was Cadmore's Soletader Cotton Candy (Ch/Ir/Aust Ch Soletader Buddy Holly ex Soletader Candy Floss). Winner of the Veteran Class was Maudaxi Tommy Holedigger (Multi Ch Soletader Bjorn Borg ex Ir Ch Trezeguet Treacle Sponge at Maudaxi). Any further wins will be in next week's notes. The entry for East of England has been announced and there is a magnificent 46 / 50 PBGVs for Marion Hunt. Time passes so quickly and it is hard to believe that it is four years since Marion judged the breed at Crufts. PBGVs are second in ring 2 after 13 Norwegian Elkhounds and, from the layout, we are just to the left of the Gate 14 entrance from the car park. News also of the Club's Open Show. Following the inevitable postponement from 17 April at Roade, Northants it is now to be held in conjunction with South Yorkshire Hound on Sunday 12 September at The Mill, Sheffield just off Junction 31 of the M1. As Club Chairman, Michael MacLaren, recently wrote "The calendar is a little congested over the remainder of the year so inevitably some of these events will be very close to other dog shows or events" and the new club show date is just two days after Richmond, held at Loseley Park in Surrey. PBGV and BIS judges remain the same with Michael MacLaren and Paul Osbourne, however this revised date has necessitated a change of GBGV judge from Kim Culyer-Dawson to Tina Parker. Tina was second in the ballot for 2021 but was, in fact, scheduled to do the breed at the Club Open Show 2023. As with many shows at the moment, Covid has forced changes to judging contracts and exhibitors are having to take all this in their stride. Original owner of the Jamar affix, American Valerie Link, will soon be on her travels again. Having returned to the States just after Crufts 2016 to be with her family in Oregon, she has visited Mexico several times since then and fallen in love with the country. So much so that she has been learning Spanish to help her on her next adventure, going to live there! She recently went to the Mexican Consulate in Portland and, after two years of planning, is now the proud owner of a Mexican temporary residence visa. She has already sold her house (far easier it seems in the States than the tortuous procedure we endure here) and, after a few weeks staying with her parents, will be off in August with her two PBGVs Ina and Andy to Riberas, on lake Chapala, where she is renting. Valerie will never change and I have to say I admire her for her nomadic life-style.

2 / 7 / 21

LAST WEEK'S SOUTHERN COUNTIES mounted a plethora of group competitions where, in addition to the usual Puppy, Veteran and Adult Group, there were others for Best Junior and Best Special Beginner. The only successful PBGV in all these groups was Cadmore & Major's Soletader Flora Good Time who went Puppy Group 2 under judge Jacqui Ward. One overseas judge who was disappointed to lose his Southern Counties appointment due to the current travel restrictions was Anders Tunold-Hanssen from Norway. He had been scheduled to judge Affenpinscher, Schnauzer, Shih Tzu and Rottweiler. Hopefully by the time Birmingham National comes round next year travel restrictions will be a thing of the past leaving him able to judge the Petits and Grands. Anders is a familiar face to these shores, having shown a keen interest in BGVs for many years since he flew over to attend a seminar and assessment back in 2008. He is a regular visitor to Crufts and has judged here a couple of times, including at the 2018 Club open show when, in PBGVs, he awarded BOB to Joan Puckett's Soletader Bob's Your Uncle, BOS to Phil & Dianne Reid's Fox's Nightmare Jessica Biel at Maudaxi (imp Rus) and BP to our Beaujons Vagabond of Monkham. He was the proud owner of Ch Soletader Trick or Treat, who soon became a champion in Norway and several other countries; and his home-bred Taglines Double The Fun with Soletader gained his third CC here at the Club championship show in 2016 under Diana Sadler. Trevor, of course, is behind several of today's well-known PBGVs having sired no less than eight litters during his time here. Meanwhile things seem rather less restricted in the States, where Nick Frost has just driven home from judging in Missouri, saying that nowadays he prefers to drive rather than fly where possible. Although flying is far quicker and (under normal circumstances) more relaxing, I tend to agree that there is nothing so appealing as being able to get straight into your car after a show, cocooned in your own,

safe world, radio on and get on your way. And, in Valerie Link's home state of Oregon, there has been no break to the record temperatures which have now topped 46C. Roads are buckling, hydration stations are popping up everywhere and even the night-time temperature is uncomfortably warm for both humans and PBGVs. Being an avid tennis fan, Valerie is spending time sitting in the air conditioning and watching Wimbledon with Andy and Ina sprawled out keeping her company.

9 / 7 / 21

THE KENNEL CLUB announced this week that it is delaying the introduction of the limitation on Hereditary Clear status for a year from January 2022 to January 2023. From that date, the Hereditary Clear status will be limited to two generations, unless lineage is verified by DNA parentage profiling recorded by The Kennel Club. This is a separate procedure from DNA screening for disease causing mutations but can often be carried out at the same time so that Hereditary Clear status can be as effective and reliable as possible. In advance of this change, the BGV Club's Code of Ethics was updated earlier this year to incorporate recognition of the limitation on Hereditary Clear status. Denmark's Very Special Show took place this year on the island of Orø near Holbæk. After the traditional welcome BBQ on the Friday evening, judging on Saturday 3 July started at midday with Mariano Galán from Spain taking centre stage. He had been due to judge there last year but, as with all judges, his appointment was carried forward. Even so, after the show Mariano let me know that it wasn't easy to travel. You may recall that in last winter's Voice I wrote about Mariano, who is breeder of the Morning Dew Sweepers Bassets in Spain. He also has a Basset Bleu de Gascogne and an Artésien-Normand. As well as showing and judging some hound breeds, he has a passion for passing on to others his knowledge of the basset breeds. He has written articles for various magazines worldwide, seminar material and produced books including the Basset Hound Illustrated Standard. More recently, he contacted me and asked permission to incorporate some material from my Extended Breed Standards into online BGV and PBGV seminars for the Spanish Kennel Club (Spanish Royal Canine Society). He also plans to write a book about the basset breeds and maybe one specific to BGVs. He awarded BOB to Jette Ramvad's Dk Ch After Me A Piece of Heaven, who was bred in Finland by Kristina Bergström. She is by Fin Ch Nightdream Cristiano Ronaldo ex Multi Ch Soletreder Just Jazz. BOS, handled by Holger Busk, was Gittie Winter Arildsen's Fodnote Be My Guest (Int Ch Fanta's Brand Nobody Does It Better ex Int Ch Fodnote Hot Shot). I was pleased to have judged both Lumi and Benny and placed them first in their respective classes at Crufts 2019. And Mariano said how kind the Danish people were and true lovers of the basset breeds; he was very happy with the quality of their dogs. In PBGVs, day two saw a repeat of the first day results, with the dogs judged by Birte Scheel who also awarded After Me A Piece of Heaven BIS. I understand though that they no longer have a secret judge at the end, so no Very Special Cup awarded. Here we moved on to East of England championship show. The weather was absolutely perfect and rings larger than usual, although the somewhat spikey grass in places seemed to affect some PBGVs' movement. Both exhibitors and the judge wore their masks when the judge went over the dog and there was a 2m "corridor" outside allowing spectators to watch ringside. There were Gabsentees from Marion Hunt's entry of 45. Her choice for the DCC went to Jane Brown's Ch Soletreder Valentino Rossi, who also went BOB. RDCC was 2nd in OD, Oliver & Erin Robertson's Soletreder Pat On The Back, handled by father Gavin. BCC, her third, went to Cooper, O'Brien & Ellingford's Afterglow Agnes Gru Avec Jayanel and, from JB, RBCC to Linda Lewis' Tangaer Gladys Pugh. BP was Sara and Erin Robertson's Soletreder Super Mario and BV Vi Mochan's Soletreder Tinker Taylor. In Breeders Stakes Foote & MacAulay's Erylan Fantastic Freya took first place, judged by Hazel Fitzgibbon. I last saw Ivor Keelan at East of England in 2015 when he happened to be in a grooming area near us, over from Ireland showing his Afghan to BOB. As an owner-handler Ivor has had more than his fair share of successes in the Irish showring, including with PBGVs. Having returned to the States, where he lived previously, he has now embarked on a new venture of offering his services as a handler on the American show circuit. We all know that breeds with pendulous ear flaps are prone to ear infections and the BGV maybe more so as some suffer from an accumulation of hair in the ear canal which, in turn, leads to a build up of wax. Signs are bad-smelling ears, ear scratching and/or head shaking, tilting the head, discharge, swelling or redness, reluctance to have the head touched. Osrurnia gel is an antibiotic to treat any bacterial infection, antifungal or yeast overgrowth and anti-inflammatory to relieve any pain and inflammation in your dog's ear. The only downside is that your vet must apply the gel, getting it right into your dog's ear using a soft flexible applicator. Two doses are given seven days apart and they keep working for 45 days, treating the infection and making your dog more comfortable. You mustn't add any drops or cleaners to your dog's ear after application as they may remove the Osrurnia gel and stop it from working. Like his sister, our Kiwi, Lynn and Steve Wood's Monkham's Kalico Jack has always suffered from build-up of hair and associated wax in his ears and our vet recently treated Jack with Osrurnia. The results have been astonishing – so much so that I thought it worth passing on the information. Congratulations to this month's Limited Odds Draw winners – £15 goes to Sue Wilde, £10 to Jez Watt and £5 to Paul Osbourne.

16 / 7 / 21

HOUNDSHOW takes place this weekend with an entry very similar to that of East of England, 47/50 for PBGV judge Debbie Ellrich. The show officially opens at 8am but the showground has agreed to open the gates at 7.30am to give extra time for exhibitors to put up tents and gazebos. Car park areas are zoned and exhibitors are being advised to park in the areas allocated to their breed therefore nearest to their ring. With judging starting at 9am, PBGVs are in Ring 13 after 7 Bloodhounds and 15 Ibizans. To counteract the loss of breed club shows last year, now that all-breed championship shows are up and running again there is a plethora of club shows being held in conjunction with the larger shows and there have been interesting discussions on social media about the pros and cons of this arrangement with some having already experienced the "two shows in one day" scenario at Southern Counties and East of England. Set against the bonus of a saving on venue outlay, less setting up and breaking down for committee, no food to prepare, fewer committee members needed and one trip and one fuel expense for everyone, there is the loss of identity, the extremely long days (especially for dogs), an invariably late start for the club show and the risk of overlapping with the all-breed show group judging. To attempt an earlier start, some clubs have run their bitch classes first while the main show judge does the dogs but this poses difficulties for exhibitors with both sexes to show and heaven help anyone who wants to watch the judging. One person succinctly pointed out "If you don't try, you don't know" and, although the majority of exhibitors seem to prefer the "village hall" setting and the shorter day, we have all seen some club shows held with championship shows where a real effort has been made to ensure they are special and not just more classes in another ring. But these are extraordinary times and most view the current arrangements as temporary. They expect or want a return to how things were with their club show held on its own, making it something special. All the comments made mirror those identified by the BGV Club committee when trying to ensure no loss of our 2020 championship show. In an effort to save the BGV Club's 2020 championship show, as you know last year arrangements were made to mount it in conjunction with Birmingham National's 2021 championship show. Everything was set up with adjacent rings for Grands and Petits and assurances given there would be no clashing of judging, the club schedule was prepared and the obliging Birmingham National secretary was ready to advertise our show in their own schedule. However, as soon as the news was given to club members, some negative comments were made about the wisdom of holding our show with The National and inability to attend on a weekday. To acknowledge that the committee had listened to its members, the decision was made to withdraw. Of course, with the continuing need to postpone shows this year, it will not have gone unnoticed that Birmingham National has moved to September and their Hound day now moves from Thursday to Saturday. So, unfortunately, those who complained about being denied the opportunity to attend resulted in the unnecessary loss of the club championship show and two sets of CCs. Moreover the club could indeed have tested the waters of running alongside an all-breed show. It has been difficult to plan in advance in these uncertain times but this is surely a salutary lesson when, in hindsight, we now know how unpredictable things have been in such extraordinary times. One thing however is certain – that it is good to be back at shows and doing what we all enjoy. Throughout the pandemic there have been concerns amongst dog owners about whether canines can act as a reservoir for the virus and reintroduce it to humans. Scientists in the Netherlands now say that, although coronavirus is common in dogs whose owners have the disease, to date no pet to human transmission has been reported. However, if anyone contracts it, they should avoid contact with their dog, just as they would with other people.

23 / 7 / 21

IF YOU ARE A LOVER OF HOUNDS, there is something about a show devoted solely for them. This is one of the reasons that Hound Association's show held last Saturday was as successful as usual. Blessed with good weather, though if anything it was somewhat too hot for both dogs and exhibitors, the PBGV ring was flanked by onlookers, with tents and gazebos set up nearby. Judge Debbie Ellrich last presided over the breed at City of Birmingham in 2016, where she awarded BOB to a young Soletreder Magic Mike and BCC to Debucher Sybelle Avec Callydena. Both went on to become champions. At Houndshow, from Open Dog, DCC and BOB went to Linda Lewis' Tangaer Bryntelych (Ch Taglines Double The Fun with Soletreder [imp Nor] ex Tangaer Roulette). This was his third CC, the first two having been secured closer to home at SWKA 2018 under Helen Bamforth and the second at WKC 2018 under Sara Robertson. Reserve DCC passed

to the nearly one year old BP Soletrader Super Mario (Ch Soletrader Buzz Aldrin At Bondlea ex Soletrader Vocal in Venice), owned by Sara & Oliver Robertson. He later went G4 in the Puppy Group judged by Stuart Mallard. Keeping it in the family, the BCC went to Super Mario's mother, Vocal in Venice, owned by Sara, Oliver & Erin Robertson. Her sire is Ch Soletrader Tom Thumb, her dam Peek a Boo. RBCC went to the winner of Limit Bitch, Kirsty O'Brien's Caldewriver Lotsa Trouble (Ir Ch Haliston Didier ex Jayanel Daisy Doo). BV was Phil & Dianne Reid's Ch Maudaxi Tommy Holedigger (Ch Soletrader Bjorn Borg ex Trezequet Treacle Sponge at Maudaxi). The show also awarded a Special Beginner and this went to a delighted Sally Cowley's Probert Shirley Valentine, who also won Yearling Bitch. She is by Tangaer Erique out of Jadestone Bonnie. In the KC Breeders' Competition judged by Pam Marston Pollock, from an entry of three Foote & McAulay's PBGVs went into first place. Of course, in this unusually hot weather, one can't but help ponder over what the strain would have been on both exhibitors and dogs had Crufts taken place as planned with Hound day on 15 July just two days before Houndshow. At least there is a week between Hound Association and Leeds this Saturday. There the probable order of judging is PBGVs second in ring 13, tent 2, after Fauves, both being judged by Stuart Mallard. A problem with Highampress' computer system delayed announcement of the entry numbers, now known to be just 20. Stuart Mallard last awarded CCs in the breed at East of England 2017 when he gave BOB to Ch Soletrader Magic Mike who went on to BIS and the BCC to the winner of Puppy Bitch, Stuart Watson & Mandy Kenna's Cynetkoy Chilli Romance. Highampress' new IT systems are also posing problems for Richmond Dog Show Society, who have announced that there continues to be a delay with activation of the online entry portal for their show and their schedule has not yet been published. To counteract this Richmond has published the classification details on their own website www.richmond.org.uk, also a copy of the postal entry form. This will force those who no longer use a cheque book to buy a postal order. Postal entries close shortly on 28 July, after which the exhibitor incurs an increase of entry fee of £2 per exhibit when entered on-line. Hopefully under the circumstances this requirement will be dropped. Richmond has also now announced that there will be no benching or tenting provided. As with other championship shows, the layout of the showground has been modified to provide designated areas for exhibitors to put up their own protection. Certainly as we move into September, we invariably cope with wet grass and even rain at Richmond but I am sure this will not detract from an enjoyable day for PBGVs and owners.

30 / 7 / 21

AFTER THE DEARTH OF DOG SHOWS, all of a sudden the weeks are flying past, from one championship show to the next. Last weekend saw Leeds championship show taking place at Harewood Estate near Leeds with an entry of less than half that of previous shows. Judge Stuart Mallard awarded DCC and BOB to the BP Sara & Oliver Robertson's Soletrader Super Mario (Ch Soletrader Buzz Aldrin At Bondlea ex Soletrader Vocal in Venice). The BCC, her third, went to Ray & Gail Foote and Erin McAulay's nearly 6yr old Ir Ch Erylan Aphrodite La Belle, who was from their first litter sired by Ch Taglines Double The Fun with Soletrader [imp Nor], out of Ir Ch Clonallan Just Beginning avec Erylan ShCM. She gained her first CC under Rebecca Peek at Darlington in 2017 and her second the following year at Driffild, awarded by Eddie Webster. Reserves went to Tim & Deborah Bartley's Erylan Loki Maitre Du Mal who has the same sire and dam as the BCC winner, from a repeat mating, and Gavin & Sara Robertson's Soletrader Party in Paris (Ch Soletrader Tom Thumb ex Ch Soletrader Peek a Boo). BV was Vy Mochan's Soletrader Tinker Taylor ShCM (Am Ch Dehra Amazona Bvlgari ex Vilaudens Pria with Soletrader [imp Swe]). In Stakes classes, Foote & McAulay's PBGVs came second in the KC Breeders Competition, judged by Ian Gabriel. Following the drop in entries for Leeds, Bath has 34/38 for Serena Parker, with judging taking place after 20 Grands in Ring 30. This starts at 9am. Whilst good practice to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is recommended, mask wearing is a personal decision. And things are looking up for Richmond as their schedule is finally available. Although it is tight, with postal entries closing on Saturday 31 July, on-line entries 12 noon, 7 August. The KC has released details of its CC allocation for the years 2024-2028 and, although PBGVs fare better than Grands, the news is not good. A new set has been awarded to Hound Association of Scotland but we will be losing CCs at East of England, which has proved to be a popular venue since PBGVs were granted CCs there in 2007. That year BOB went to Gavin & Sara Robertson's Ned Ch Monkham's Dusty Singfield with Soletrader. Some clubs, including the BGVC, have been offered two sets of CCs in a year. This is because, as a single breed club covering two breeds, the BGVs cannot be likened to, for instance, Bassets where the entire breed club allocation can be spread over a number of breed clubs. The sting in the tail is that at least one of the Club's two championship shows must be held either as a partnership show or a back-to-back event and past evidence was that the majority of BGV exhibitors were against amalgamating. Although there is no obligation to accept a second set of CCs, the future allows the Club to retain its own identity by continuing with stand-alone championship shows yet provide an opportunity for a second set of CCs in both PBGVs and GBGVs at a venue of their own choice. And the overall net result for PBGVs is one extra set of CCs. We've all been waiting a long time for shows to resume and both fessedata and highampress must be highly delighted to be back in business again, albeit the latter with their new website giving rather too many teething problems. However are you also noticing that, like buses, open shows are now coming along all at once? In the area where I live we now have a choice of three shows with breed classes on the same weekend in August. The choice of judge and classification plays a large part in the decision on which show to enter. It seems that, in an effort to provide a training ground for Covid pups, some open shows are putting on Puppy and Yearling classes, though in PBGVs we have precious few youngsters around. And, where no Post Graduate class is scheduled, other than enlist the help of willing onlookers, how do exhibitors with several older dogs enter them all in Open?

6 / 8 / 21

HOUND DAY AT BATH has traditionally been on a Bank Holiday Monday but, with the necessary move from May to August, PBGV exhibitors were treated to showing on a Monday minus the Bank Holiday traffic for the drive home. Serena Parker's entry of 38 was reduced to 26 on the day, due in part it seems to some dogs having contracted kennel cough at a previous show. It only takes one to pick up the virus and carry it back home leaving any young pups and older dogs highly susceptible. Linda Lewis, who ruefully missed Bath for this very reason, advocates using Drosera 30c. This homeopathic remedy is made from the plant *Drosera rotundifolia*. Sue Marshall also reminded everyone about the beneficial and soothing properties of manuka honey. BCC and BOB went to Sara, Oliver & Erin Robertson's Soletrader Vocal in Venice. This was her third CC, the previous ones gained at LKA 2019 and Houndshow this year. She was later short-listed in the Group judged by Jeff Horswell. DCC went to her son, Sara & Oliver Robertson's Soletrader Super Mario who, although still a puppy, stood alone in Junior Dog. The Reserve CCs were Jane Brown's Ch Soletrader Valentino Rossi and Claire Cooper, Debbie O'Brien & Lynne Ellingford's Ch Afterglow Agnes Gru Avec Jayanel. Best Veteran was Phil & Dianne Reid's Ch Maudaxi Tommy Holedigger and Best Special Beginner Jayne Fordham's Elsie Monsieur Oakley (Tangaer Charles Bronsen ex Caldewriver Madame Hattie at Elsie). Some Stakes results: Foote & McAulay's Erylan Hera La Reine came 1st in Junior Stakes under Ron James, with absentees they were also awarded 1st in the Hound class of the KC Breeders Competition judged by Richard Allen, who additionally awarded Bartley's PBGVs 1st in Brace. With no CCs, Paignton this Sunday, 8 August has an entry of 18 for Shaun Watson. Unfortunately, other than Open Dog and Open Bitch, the combined sex classes are a distinct disincentive to enter which is a shame as, in the past, this show held on the outskirts of Exeter was always a favourite for many. Bournemouth is the following Sunday, 15 August, where Lynne Scott (Overbecks) will be awarding CCs for the first time. Her entry is 23/26. At championship shows, she last judged the breed at Windsor in 2017 where she awarded BOB to Sara Robertson & Wendy Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike, who went on to G1 under Ann Ingram (Ireland), with Best Bitch going to our Beaujous Ugly Betty of Monkham's JW ShCM and BP to our Monkham's Luna Luvgood. Coincidentally Ann Ingram is the PBGV judge at Blackpool on Saturday, 21 August. With no CCs, there will be a good entry of 22 / 32. The converse of some championship shows now allowing erection of personal protection from the weather is those who do not want them. They must make it clear in their schedule. Blackpool is one such show with no gazebos or pop-up tents permitted. The World Dog Show is being held this year in Brno, Czech Republic and this CACIB show takes place on 29 September. Not the first time the Czech Republic has hosted this prestigious event, it was held there in 1966 and 1990. To cater for continuing precautions against Covid, there have been quite a few changes to the judging panel. From the home country, PBGVs are being judged by Věra Dvořáková, CZ. Club show specialties take place from 30 September to 3 October. Thank you to Martin Bishop for the August LOD results. £15 to Tracy Presswell. £10 to Robert Bailey and £5 to Hilary Cole. He reminds everyone that there are still a few numbers available so, if interested, contact him on 07779 300761 or vendeen48@gmail.com.

13 / 8 / 21

AT PAIGNTON there were 14 PBGVs present on the day. Shaun Watson awarded BD and BOB to Erin & Oliver Robertson's Soletrader Pat On The Back (Ch Soletrader Magic Mike ex Ch Around Slightly Different with Soletrader [imp Swe]). He was handled in the group by Gavin Robertson, achieving a yellow rosette under Dianna Spavin. Ray & Gail Foote and Erin McAulay's Ir Ch Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune (Ch Soletrader Tom Thumb ex Ch Erylan Aphrodite La Belle) won Best Bitch with Reserves going to Phil & Dianne Reid's Maudaxi Nick Nack (Ch/Multi Ch Maudaxi Jimmy Choo ex Ir Ch Trezequet Treacle Sponge at Maudaxi) and

Foote & McAulay's Erylan Hera La Reine (Ch Soletrader Tom Thumb ex Ch Erylan Aphrodite La Belle). Best Puppy was their Erylan Fantastique Freya (Ch Soletrader Magic Mike ex Ir Ch Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune) and, re-imported from Spain, Best Veteran Tracey Mayou's 11yr old Nykarth Look at Moi (Ch Soletrader Rant Or Rave ex Nykarth Just Because) who was also placed 2nd in the Danco Veteran Stakes judged by Ernie Patterson. The schedule and entry form for the BGV Club's 12 September Open Show are now available. They can be found on www.bgvclub.co.uk/diary-dates and www.arenaprint.co.uk. Postal entries should go to Show Secretary Colin Makey, The Cottage, Lease Lane, East Halton, North Lincs DN40 3PT, deadline (proof of posting) 27 August. On-line entry deadline is midnight 30 August. Remember this show is being held in conjunction with South Yorkshire Hound Society, where Grand and Petit classes are being judged by Lesley Cooper (Jayanel). Timing is tight as postal entries for this show close this Saturday 14 August (proof of posting) with on-line entries to be made to www.fossedata.co.uk before midnight Sunday 22 August. The event is being held at The Mill, Rotherham Road, Killamarsh, Sheffield S21 2DR. All judging takes place outdoors with no wet weather accommodation so pray for good weather and bring your own tents, gazebos and chairs. BGV Club show judging will start after Lesley Cooper has judged the BGVs for South Yorkshire Hound Society. There will be refreshments available. Now that Covid restrictions are being relaxed somewhat and indoor events are on the horizon, another club event lined up is a Breed Appreciation Day for both Grands and Petits, arranged for Sunday 17 October at Roade Village Hall, Bailey Brooks Lane, Roade, Northants NN7 2LS. If you are interested, contact Claire Cooper tel 07855 255287, email coopsy1981@icloud.com. It is depressing when hunting packs that have been in existence for many years are eventually disbanded, mainly due to the advancing years of stalwart masters who have been faithful to their hounds and their passion for many years. However, as we all know, short-legged hounds were bred to allow their followers to run after them in the field and none of us can run for ever! And hunting packs in the UK have existed over time to foster the hunting instinct inherent in every scenthound, something that we exhibitors are, to a large extent, unable to do. Nevertheless unfortunately packs are being disbanded and names that were a part of our breed vocabulary and knowledge no longer exist. The Ryeford Chase closed its kennel doors in 2019 and this year a Basset pack, formed originally as a working branch of the Basset Hound Club in 1952, sadly came to an end. Although Master James Scharnberg died over two years ago, the Basset and PBGV pack he took over from Elizabeth Streeter is thankfully still prominent in Pennsylvania, USA. Elizabeth Streeter first started with English hunting Bassets in 1948, then became attracted to PBGVs and imported from England in 1975 before going to France and importing more from there. This private pack was renamed the Skycastle French Hounds and, over the years, Jim continued the tradition of importing PBGVs from France. There is a fitting tribute to Jim on the Skycastle website <https://skycastlefrenchhounds.com/>. This includes reference to his hard work to eliminate genetic issues from the breed for which he received honours from the Club du Griffon Vendéen in recognition of his efforts to eradicate genetic eye disease. The current Hunt Chair tells me that Jim advocated universal genetic testing and shared a lot of information about his experiences of POAG with the French breeders, for which they were very grateful. He first became involved because some of the Skycastle hounds were found to be Carriers but unfortunately it wasn't discovered until after they had been bred to other breeders' hounds who turned out to be Carriers as well, producing offspring who developed POAG. We now have the means of combating this disease but, without due diligence, this is a stark reminder that POAG can strike anywhere - amongst show Petits, pets and packs - so we must all continue to be cautious. Some years ago one of our PBGVs collapsed while out walking and I had to carry her home for urgent veterinary advice. No mean feat. Since then I always thought how useful it would be to have some fold-up sling or similar with me when out walking for carrying a dog in the event of injury or collapse, especially valuable if out in the countryside, on moors, anywhere away from civilization or the car. Nowadays there are hiking dog backpack carriers which would doubtless do the trick. A Nicrew one is available on Amazon for £15.99. Meanwhile, I have found one company that sells a Dog First Aid Kit which includes gloves, tweezers, scissors (5.5cm), 6 x safety pins, micropore tape (1.25cm x 5m), tick tweezers, emergency blanket (210cm x 160cm), 2 x sterile eyewash pods (20ml), 2 x plastic foot pouches (12cm x 30cm), 4 x dog poop bags, sterile medium wound dressing, open woven bandage (5m), elastic cohesive bandage (5cm x 4.5cm), 2 x sterile low adherent dressings (5cm x 5cm and 10cm x 10cm), 4 x hygienic cleansing wipes, 5 x 4-ply gauze swabs (5cm x 5cm). These items, invaluable for treating an injured dog when away from home, are all contained in a water resistant case (140mm x 90mm x 50mm) and the cost is £17.99 - <https://shop.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mountain-paws-dog-first-aid-kit/>.

20 / 8 / 21

IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE that this was Bournemouth's 10th year at Organford. Despite the build-up of traffic getting through Lyndhurst, there was always something magical about arriving at their old showground at Brockenhurst in the New Forest, not least the opportunity to see the ponies wandering freely, let alone cattle to contend with, as here when Jenna Betts and I made our way to the show in 2011, where she gave CCs in the breed for the first time. She awarded DCC to Paul & Maureen Osbourne's Nykarth Kicking Off with Braego and BCC/BOB to Sara Robertson's Ch Soletrader Peek a Boo, who subsequently went G2. Ten years on and, as with the general trend over the years, the entry at Organford was down by a quarter. I may be wrong but somehow sense this venue has never quite caught on. Fortunately the early morning rain eased off by the time PBGVs got in the ring. Also giving CCs for the first time, with 11 dogs and 13 bitches present, Lynne Scott found her BOB in Foote & McAulay's Erylan Hera La Reine, who headed Junior Bitch. DCC went to McCartney's Ch Soletrader Freddie Mercury JW. From 2nd in OD, RDCC was Brown's Ch Soletrader Valentino Rossi and the RBCC went to the BP Soletrader TangoMango, granddaughter of the BOB winner ten years ago. She is owned by Erin & Oliver Robertson but is currently with Lizzie Cadmore. Handled by Erin McAulay, Erylan Hera La Reine was shortlisted in the Hound Group judged by Stuart Milner and, in the Puppy Group, he then awarded PG2 to TangoMango. Her sire is Soletrader Marvellous Mo and dam Soletrader Genie In A Bottle. And supporting the Stakes classes once again, in the KC Breeders' Competition Foote & McAulay's PBGVs came first in the Hound class. While breed owners here were enjoying Bournemouth, this past weekend the PBGVCA has been taking part in the American KC Meet the Breeds at the San Diego Convention Center, California. It was a debut for their attractive new booth back-drop. There is now no artistic licence as we see with the wide variety of decorations at our own KC Discover Dogs events as the AKC had been keen to standardise these for each breed. The club provided photos of their choice for production. Susannah Cooper and Gloria Swaine plus Jean Marshall, a PBGV owner who lives nearby, were there to show visitors how great PBGVs are. The KC has now reinstated its Find A Judge service. To see which judges are already scheduled for PBGV CC appointments in the future, go to the Kennel Club website homepage and page down to Find A Judge. Tick Dog Showing, then enter the breed name. You can find out more about each judge by clicking on their name. There appear to be the usual teething problems with some judges concerned about missing information but the KC is rectifying errors and omissions quickly on receipt of a completed online request for any judge's details to be updated. On to the next CC show, Driffild, and the entry for Rod Price on Saturday, 28 August is 24. Judging starts at 9am and PBGVs are second in the ring after 18 Grands. Here again the entry is down by a similar percentage on the 35 of 10 years ago. As seems to be the norm these days with championship shows striving to attract more exhibitors, closing date for entries for Darlington has been extended to 12 noon 31 August.

27 / 8 / 21

BLACKPOOL CH SHOW holds several memories for me. There was an incentive to drive 4hrs there and 4hrs back years ago when CCs were on offer. But, alongside Border Union, PBGVs last had Challenge Certificates at Blackpool ten years ago. That year Ken Sinclair awarded CCs for the first time and his winner was Soletrader Peek a Boo, who went on to G4 under Denys Simpson. DCC, his third, went to Chris and Nicki Blance's Soletrader Duck n Dive at Penliath. Looking back at my breed notes for this show in 2011, interestingly I had written about a critique on PBGVs at another championship show which had generated a huge amount of comment. As my phone had continued to ring and more e-mails arrived, I wrote "I considered whether anyone who is unhappy should make their concerns known independently and not use these notes as a voice piece. However the groundswell of opinion has been so great and I concluded this is what these notes are all about - not just to report the news but also to raise awareness of genuine disquiet within the breed". Nowadays exhibitors rarely use breed notes or even the letters column in the dog press when feeling disheartened. Their automatic method of choice is, of course, social media. I went on to say ".....this whole topic does, of course, beg the question whether we should adopt the FCI method of the critique being personal to the exhibitor and not blazoned in print for all to see. Not only would this avoid inflammatory statements appearing in print but it would afford privacy. Moreover it would remove the likelihood of a dog being damned for life because one judge has mistakenly labelled it as having a fault which is then carried forward into subsequent critiques. Conversely it would remove excessive glorification which can be self-perpetuating". Times change and, as I reported recently, overseas the system of critiques being published instantaneously while judging continues allows all to be privy to the judge's views but how many of you value a critique, how many wait to see what the judge has written about your dog? Do you see this as part of the experience for any show? Or maybe you consider the win to be enough? Blackpool has seen several venues over the years and, in 2000, the society purchased its own ground at Westby. This change of venue brought the show closer to the elements of the north-west coast and, three years before PBGVs lost CCs there, in 2008, gales battered the coast and freak weather brought devastation

to the show during a weekend of torrential rain and storms. We moved our dogs to different benching to avoid the river of rain pouring down the old tent pole from the roofing. Two PBGV exhibitors, Kathryn Moulding and Stephanie Jefford, who had stayed on for the night after Hound day, were lucky to escape injury although their awning collapsed on Steph's head but, as the weather worsened, they helped others who were anxious to salvage belongings and join the exodus. Back in 2004, despite having stayed at a nearby hotel the night before, Kim Culyer-Dawson only just arrived in the nick of time to get her puppy dog into the ring as the judge, Ferelith Somerfield, went over the last dog in the class. With a quick homemade ring number and a borrowed show lead, both Kim and her dog were pushed unceremoniously in the ring. The weather progressively worsened during judging and Lesley Cooper kindly loaned Jenna a new wax jacket that she had bought for her husband, which was obviously several sizes too big. As Jenna knelt down to show, the stiff jacket stayed put like a tent and Jenna disappeared into it like a tortoise into its shell. This year the weather just about held out and, with no CCs, judge Ann Ingram had 18 to go over. She found her BOB in Oliver & Erin Robertson's Soletrader Pat On The Back, handled by father Gavin, with BB going to Ir Ch Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune owned by Foote & McAulay, who also won Reserve Best Bitch with Ir Ch Erylan Aphrodite La Belle. Reserve Best Dog went to Dalgarno's Vencharno I Almost Had You. Keeping it in the family, Best Puppy was Foote & McAulay's Erylan Fantastique Freya, daughter of the Best Bitch and grand-daughter of the RBB; and Best Veteran went to Reid's Maudaxi Tommy Holedigger. Pat On The Back was later short-listed in the group judged by Wendell Moore. A call to do jury service has prevented Jackie Hornby from judging at Border Union and Karen Powney is the replacement. Hound day is on Monday 4 October and entries close soon on Monday 30 August. For anyone who fancies a few days away and can work out the logistics, Border Union comes at the end of a circuit of shows starting on Wednesday 29 September – Hound Association of Scotland, followed by the two SKC shows at Ingliston, then over to Kelso for Border Union. Other entries closing shortly are for the BGV Club open show being held on Sunday 12 September at Killamarsh near Sheffield. Final postal entries are Friday 27 August 2021 (proof of posting), with on-line entries being accepted until midnight Monday 30 August 2021 at www.arenaprint.co.uk. Top Awards are back again in Our Dogs, each one sponsored by a different dog food company. At the moment there is no clear leader for Top PBGV Dog. Current Top PBGV Breeders are Gavin & Sara Robertson, Top Stud Dog is Ch Taglines Double The Fun with Soletrader (imp Nor) and vying for the lead in the Top Brood Bitch competition are Ch Soletrader Peek a Boo and her daughter Soletrader Vocal in Venice.

3 / 9 / 21

DRIFFIELD took place at Wetherby Racecourse with Hounds on Saturday 28 August. With no absentees, judge Rodney Price had 11 dogs and 13 bitches to go over. It was another successful day for Erylan PBGVs with Best of Breed going to the winner of the Bitch CC, Foote & McAulay's Ir Ch Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune (Ch Soletrader Tom Thumb ex Ch/Ir Ch Erylan Aphrodite La Belle), Dog CC went to Tim & Deborah Bartley's Erylan Loki Maitre Du Mal (Ch Taglines Double The Fun with Soletrader [imp Nor] ex Ir Ch Clonallan Just Beginning avec Erylan ShCM). Handled by Dianne Reid, RDCC came from 2nd in Open Dog, Huikeshoven & Mard's Vilaudens Magnificent Mile (Ch Boom Chicago v Tum-Tum's Vriendjes ex Swe Ch Vilaudens Zara) and RBCC went to 2nd in Open Bitch Kyle & Lizzie Cadmore's Soletrader Cotton Candy (Ch Soletrader Buddy Holly ex Soletrader Candy Floss). As the only puppy entered, Best Puppy went to daughter of the BCC winner, Foote & McAulay's Erylan Fantastique Freya (sire Ch Soletrader Magic Mike). As Driffield had taken the decision not to hold a competition for Best Puppy in Show this year due to the current Covid situation she was unable to compete further. A similar decision had been taken for Best Veteran in Show but there were no Veterans entered in the breed classes. Freya did however come fifth in a large class for day three's Eukanuba Pup of the Year Terrier/Hound Stakes, judged by Sue Virgo. And, judged by Gavin Robertson, first in the KC Breeders Competition went to Erylan. Going back around 20 years many will remember when Driffield used to be at Doncaster Racecourse where we often arrived at the crack of dawn and had to queue to wait for the gates to open but, to revive us, who could resist the welcoming aroma of pie, chips and mushy peas. There we were also treated to being able to show outside on concrete so PBGVs had dry feet and legs. However in 2004, the seasonally unpredictable weather left a somewhat wet surface and, although the skies cleared in time for Jim Nixon to judge, Gavin Robertson fell injuring his shoulder. Fortunately the merciless ribbing of a few and Gavin's good humour aided his recovery after judging. The move to Wetherby Racecourse in 2006 may have pleased northern exhibitors but it meant a longer drive for those living in the south. This first year at Wetherby, Dennis (Mac) McMillan judged and awarded BOB to Sara Robertson's Ch Soletrader My Aphrodisiac with the DCC going to the rarely seen Trueman's Switherland the Aristocrat. It was at Driffield in 2013 that Rebecca Peek, the judge for our next championship show – Richmond - gave CCs for the first time. Her entry was 42, less 9. DCC and BOB went to Sara Robertson's Soletrader Noble Kinsmen and BCC our Ch Monkham's Dixie Chick. Computer problems hampered exhibitors being able to enter Richmond this year and, with entries being extended by a few days, at the time of writing we are still waiting to hear how many PBGVs are entered. We do know that final count for this three-day show as a whole is 5,370 (including 204 NFC). Although her leaning is towards a somewhat larger breed, Irish Wolfhounds, Rebecca Peek was associated with PBGVs more years ago than I care to remember, having actively campaigned Jomil Pierrette of Milkwood (Varon Zorro ex Jomil Gitane) who was born in 1981. Her grandparents on her dam's side were first imports, Rigolo de la Vrignaie and T'Annetta. At one open show where Rebecca judged the breed, an era before everyone had cameras in their phones, I caused great amusement as Jenna gave me an old waterproof camera to use up the film, which was on expiry date. As I aimed the cumbersome blue plastic thing and snapped away during the show, it was like going back 40 years, wait for the click and having to move the film on with the big blue winder. With just one frame remaining, I sheepishly joined the official photographer in the main ring to take a photo of BIS. The quality left a lot to be desired, probably because the camera had been submerged in water at Orlando's Blizzard Beach! Following Marion Hunt's brief general impressions of the PBGVs she judged at East of England which were in the 30 July edition of Our Dogs, her critique has now been published. Hard to believe but we have just been to our first open show in 21 months! Same people, all older, some greyer, some slower, some walking with a stick. But South West Essex Canine Association on Bank Holiday Monday was a breath of fresh air after such a long absence from the open show scene and it was good to spend time and chat with friends. The icing on the cake was that our Monkham's Luna Luvgood went BOB and Group 3, both under Pam Blay. Do let me know if you have any good open show wins.

10 / 9 / 21

PERTSHIRE CANINE CLUB lived up to all expectations last Saturday. Founded in 1884, from its strong beginnings when twenty gentlemen (note, no ladies) met in a coffee house to form the canine society, it went from strength to strength. In 1936 it held its first and only Championship Show with Challenge Certificates on offer for eighteen breeds. The Open Shows however are still proving very popular and last Saturday saw 206 classes with over 1000 entries. Thanks to Claire Gilluley who let me know they had a lovely day at the show and gave me the results. Dick Morrison (Bowerswell) who judged the Hound Group had two PBGV classes. Winner of Graduate was Lorna Wyllie's Callydena Mowdie Miss Chief (Ch Soletrader Valentino Rossi ex Callydena Toffee Bon Bon) who was also awarded Best Special Yearling in Breed and then in the Group. Winner of Open was Caldewriver Lotsa Trouble (Ir Ch Haliston Didier ShCM ShCEX) who went on to win BOB and was later shortlisted in the Group. Ballencrieff Jingle Belle (Caldewriver Despicable Me ex Aferglow Cinnamon Buns with Ballencrieff) was Best Hound Special Minor Puppy, and Ir Ch Haliston Didier ShCM ShCEX (Ch Haliston Velu ex Jayanel Daisy Doo) went Best Hound Special Veteran. Particular mention must be made of a surprise meeting at the show when Sylvia Probert's family turned up to watch the PBGV judging. Stemming from her mother's long association with the breed, daughter Sarah has always shown a deep interest, including owning a PBGV. She thoroughly enjoyed the show and seeing the breed her mother had had a passionate interest in brought back lots of memories for her. And now, with his partner Heather, Sylvia's grandson Callum is hoping to become a PBGV owner too. After an early September unseasonably hot spell, we start to move into the distinctly autumnal days with a PBGV entry of 34/32 at Richmond. Then on to the BGV Club Open Show at Killamarsh near Sheffield two days later, this Sunday 12 September, where the PBGV entry is 35/39. The Club show will start after completion of South Yorkshire Hound breed judging, and not before 11.00am. Judging starts at 10am for South Yorkshire Hound with 21 PBGVs in ring 1 after 9 BGVs. And there are the same number of PBGVs (21/23) at Darlington on Sunday 19 September where Bert Easdon will be giving CCs for the first time. He last judged the breed in 2018 at Leeds before PBGVs were granted challenge certificates for this show. His entry then was 21 with 9 absent and BOB went to Robertson & Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike who went on to win the Group judged by Mike Caple and BIS under Patsy Hollings. LOD winners for September are £15 for Nick & Sue Marshall who will probably welcome the extra cash now they have ten little BGV mouths to feed. Other prizes were £10 to Iain Moody and £5 to Fiona Morris.

17 / 9 / 21

THE SURREY HILLS surrounding Loseley Park tend to trap the misty atmosphere and so it was last Friday for Richmond championship show as most exhibitors made their way from the car park in murky rain. Without the usual clear span pavilions, the weather decreed use of small pop-ups of all description and tent

village slowly appeared leaving exhibitors about five rows back from the rings unable to see a thing except a sea of colourful tents in front of them. The show takes place in part of the 1,400 acres of Loseley Park, which is 3 miles south-west of Guildford. The Tudor manor house in the grounds is steeped in history. It was built between 1562 and 1568 when the new house replaced a smaller one which Elizabeth I declared was not 'adequate' for her to visit and requested that something larger be built. Fortunately the drizzle didn't last long and judging took place in perfect weather for dog showing, dry underfoot and not too hot. Rebecca Peek had no absentees from her entry of 32 and she found her BOB in Gavin & Sara Robertson's Soletrader Party in Paris (Ch Soletrader Tom Thumb ex Ch Soletrader Peek a Boo). This was her third CC, having gained the first two at Leeds 2019 under Espen Engh and Bournemouth 2019 under Tom Johnston. DCC went to Erin & Oliver Robertson's Soletrader Pat On The Back (Ch Soletrader Magic Mike ex Ch Around Slightly Different with Soletrader [imp Swe]). RDCC was Jane Brown's Ch Soletrader Valentino Rossi (Ch Soletrader Noble Kinsmen ex Soletrader Bumble Bee) and RBCC Ray & Gail Foote and Erin McAulay's Ir Ch Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune (Ch Soletrader Tom Thumb ex Ch/Ir Ch Erylan Aphrodite La Belle). Both came from second in Open. Best Puppy was Lizzie Cadmore & Brianna Major's Soletrader Flora Good Time (Ogham Des Terres Du Templier with Soletrader [imp Fra] ex Ch Soletrader Rita Ora). She went on to Hound Puppy Group 4 under Gordon Haran. Two days later and around 180 miles from Loseley Park in Surrey, the postponed BGV Club's open show, took place at Killamarsh, near Sheffield. It was held in conjunction with South Yorkshire Hound and fortunately their new outdoor venue was blessed with good weather. At SYH judge Lesley Cooper (Jayanel) awarded BOB to Gilluley's Caldewriver Legally Blonde of Ballencriff (Ir Ch Haliston Didier ShCM ShCEx ex Jayanel Daisy Doo) and BP to Susan Allen & Claire Gilluley's Ballencriff Figgy Pudding (Caldewriver Despicable Me ex Afterglow Cinnamon Buns with Ballencriff). At the club show, with 1 withdrawn and 16 absent, judge Michael McLaren (Tarmachan) unfortunately lost half of his entry of 35. BOB went to the Best Dog, Charlotte & mother Clare Dalgarno's Vencharno Mojito (Ch Soletrader Valentino Rossi ex Nykarth Magic Moment) with Best Bitch from the Junior class going to Phil & Dianne Reid's Russian import Fox's Nightmare Lara Fabian at Maudaxi. She is from two English bred PBGVs - Maudaxi Chrimbo Limbo Jimbo ex Rus Ch Twinan Causin A Stir. Reserve Best Dog was Joan Hutchings' Tangaer French Romance (Nykarth Okie Dokie at Tangaer ex Ch Debucher Sybelle a Callydena and Reserve Best Bitch went to the Best Puppy Claire Gilluley and Susan Allen's Ballencriff Jingle Belle (Caldewriver Despicable Me ex Afterglow Cinnamon Buns with Ballencriff). With no Veteran Bitches present, Best Veteran went to Matt & Claire Gilluley's Ir Ch Haliston Didier ShCM ShCEx (Ch Haliston Velu ex Haliston Yelena). There was only one Junior Handler for judge Paul Osbourne (Braego) where 1st in the 12-16yr class went to Maisie Allenby. And his choice for Best in Show went to Colin & Ann Makey's BGV Ch/Bel/Int Ch Gairside Good Lord JW ShCM with the PBGV Reserve BIS. Best Puppy and BVIS also went to the PBGVs. On to Darlington this weekend where the PBGV entry is 21/23 for Bert Easdon, then Birmingham National on Saturday 25 September where the PBGV entry is 31/35 for Mike Caple. Both will be giving CCs for the first time.

24 / 9 / 21

NEVER BELIEVE WEATHER FORECASTS. I was judging at Darlington and included everything in my car to allow for all eventualities but, other than a few spots, thankfully the predicted rain never arrived. So this was yet another show with perfect autumnal conditions for dog showing and Darlington should be certainly be applauded for the amount of information they put out beforehand to help the exhibitor with several videos on facebook, showing approaching the entrance to Ripon Racecourse and the layout of the entire showground. Both the veteran dog and veteran bitch were absent from Bert Easdon's PBGV entry of 21, leaving 19 for him to go over. His CC winners were the same as for Richmond but this time with BOB going to the dog DCC winner. This was Erin & Oliver Robertson's Soletrader Pat On The Back (Ch Soletrader Magic Mike ex Ch Around Slightly Different with Soletrader [imp Swe]) and BCC to Gavin & Sara Robertson's Soletrader Party in Paris (Ch Soletrader Tom Thumb ex Ch Soletrader Peek a Boo). From Limit Dog, RDCC was Dalgarno's 16mth old Vencharno I Almost Had You (Vencharno Mojito ex Legoland Amazing Grace [imp Rus]) and RBCC Foote & McAulay's BP, Erylan Fantastique Freya (Ch Soletrader Magic Mike ex Ir Ch Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune). There are currently two PBGVs on the same number of points in the Our Dogs Top Dogs Awards for 2021, Soletrader Vocal in Venice and her son Soletrader Super Mario. The schedule for the BGV Club championship show which takes place at Ryton-on-Dunsmore in four weeks' time on Saturday, 23 October is now on fessedata and the club website. Postal and online entries close on the same day in two weeks' time, Saturday 9 October. This year we have overseas judges with both coming from Denmark. While Jette Ramvad (Petit Heroes) is presiding over the Grands, PBGV judge is Gunnar Nymann (Chouan, Denmark). As an owner and breeder of PBGVs for over 40 years now, he and Holger Busk have produced countless champions in many countries. Whilst nowadays Holger is still to be seen in the PBGV ring, Gunnar devotes his time to judging many breeds in countless countries. Surprisingly though this will be the first time he has awarded CCs to PBGVs in England. Michael Lewis (Trixhund) will be judging the PBGV Stakes, which are first in the ring at 9am.

1 / 10 / 21

AFTER THE LEAN PERIOD WITH NO SHOWS, the championship show committees are pulling out all the stops to provide exhibitors with even better experiences this year - and Birmingham National was certainly up amongst the best. Since shows resumed absence of benching seems to be getting a resounding thumbs up. It may have served its purpose for well over a hundred years going back to the days when many sent their dogs by train to exhibition however it no longer meets modern day demands for most who arrive with dogs safely in show trolleys and crates. These constrict the benching aisles making it difficult to move and it is certainly far easier to leave dogs in their crates than take them out and have their movement restricted held by a bench chain with a risk of strangling if they jump down. We have been so fortunate with the weather since June and Birmingham National, one of the last outdoor shows of the year, was no exception. Although it was dry underfoot, everyone appreciated the walkways making it easy to wheel trolleys. The large marquees were set up perfectly and, without benching, there was plenty of room to be near our ring. The usual in/out rings also gave exhibitors plenty of room to move their dogs. I am sure that Elisabeth Strömberg and Annicka Löfgren visiting from Sweden must have enjoyed the show. In countless years of showing I faced a new experience, as highampress hadn't emailed me our ring numbers. A phone call soon sorted it out with added apologies that our dogs wouldn't be in the catalogue. On arrival, the Show Secretary had an envelope waiting for me containing out ring numbers and slips to hand to the ring steward so our trio could be added into the Judging Book. This increased Mike Caple's entry to 34. Four absentees left him with 30 to go over. From Open Dog, he awarded DCC to Phil & Dianne Reid's Vilaudens Magnificent Mile (Multi Ch Boom Chicago v Tum-Tum's Vriendjes ex Swe Ch Vilaudens Zara) with Reserve going to the Limit Dog winner, our Beaujous Vagabond of Monkams (Multi Ch Petit Heroes Canned Heat ex Beaujous Ticked Pink ShCM). From Open Bitch Bitch CC, her second, and Best of Breed went to Ray & Gail Foote and Erin McAulay's Ir Ch Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune (Ch Soletrader Tom Thumb ex Ch/Ir Ch Erylan Aphrodite La Belle). Reserve BCC was the winner of Puppy Bitch and Best Puppy Cadmore's Soletrader Tangomango (Soletrader Marvellous Mo ex Soletrader Genie In A Bottle). Best Veteran was the only veteran present Kathryn Moulding's Wizzkarth Meant To Be (Ch Soletrader Noble Kinsmen ex Gailmarque Bon Fleur avec Wizzkarth). There was also an award for Special Beginner which went to Rita Townsend's Afterglow Curtain Call (Caldewriver Despicable Me ex Kan Trace Back to Afterglow). The Hound Group was judged by Albert Wight, who awarded G3 to the PBGV. With the current fuel situation, I hope exhibitors had an uneventful journey home. Avoiding the M6 closure, we ventured onto A roads and passed long queues everywhere outside petrol stations, many with dangerous tailbacks. The irony is that there is actually no shortage of fuel but a dearth of tanker drivers and somewhat unwise media coverage has resulted in panic buying. The ongoing situation did not however seem to affect PBGV numbers for the Scottish circuit. There were 24 PBGVs entered for Lesley McNaughton (Cedavoch) at Hound Association of Scotland on 29 September at Ingliston. Judging started at 9am with PBGVs being fifth in the ring, the penalty for having no CCs. BD and BOB went to Oliver & Erin Robertson's Soletrader Pat On The Back handled by Gavin Robertson and Best Bitch to Ir Ch Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune owned by Foote & McAulay's, who also won BP with Erylan Fantastique Freya. Reserves were Reid's Maudaxi Egg Nog Eddie and Cooper & O'Brien's Ch Afterglow Agnes Gru avec Jayanel. Although there was no Veteran class, BV went to Gilluley's Ir Ch Haliston Didier ShCM ShCEx, who gained VHC in Open Dog and Special Junior went to Reid's Fox's Nightmare Lara Fabian at Maudaxi (imp Rus). The same day at Brno, Czech Republic, the pre-World Show CACIB event took place with 6 PBGVs judged by Iva Černohubová who awarded BOB to Gitte Winter Arildsen's Fodnote Be My Guest from Denmark. Benny was handled by Holger Busk and this win made him an Int Ch. From Italy, BOS went to Sofia Dunkley's Howling Hounds Norah. The following day PBGVs were judged by Věra Dvořáková at the World Show. From the Champion Classes, BOB went to Dea Kurjak's Black Majesty Superstitious, who later went G2, and BOS to Fran Rupčić's Nightdream Annie Lennox. For full results, go to <https://dogoffice.cz/results/24883>. While the extravaganza took place in the Czech Republic, Scottish KC took over to hold their postponed May event with 22 of the 27 PBGVs present for Sue Virgo. This was the only show of the Scottish cluster where CCs were on offer for PBGVs and what a lucky one it was for the two main winners who gained their third CCs. DCC went to Oliver & Erin Robertson's Soletrader Pat On The Back and BCC/BOB to Foote & McAulay's Ir Ch Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune. RDCC was Bartley's Erylan Zeus Roi Des Dieux (Ch Soletrader Tom Thumb ex Ch/Ir Ch Erylan Aphrodite La Belle) and, from a

repeat mating, RBCC Foote & McAulay's Erylan Hera La Reine Ch Soletrader Tom Thumb ex Ch/Ir Ch Erylan Aphrodite La Belle). Daughter of the BCC winner, BP went to Erylan Fantastique Freya (sire Ch Soletrader Magic Mike) and Best Veteran to Ceri McEwan's Culdaws Diesle from Marunnel (Ch Gemshorn Rocky ex Monkham's Hippy Chick). Later in the day Ian Gabriel had the same number of PBGVs for SKC's September/October show but with one absent. Combined sex classes led to Soletrader Pat On The Back heading a class of 12 in Open and going on to BOB. Best Bitch went to 2nd in Open, Ir Ch Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune. RBD was Vilaudens Magnificent Mile who was placed 3rd in Open, with RBB going to the winner of Puppy D/B, Erylan Fantastique Freya. Pat On The Back later went G3 under Pam Mottershaw. On to Border Union for Monday 4 October where Karen Powney has an entry of 21/25 PBGVs. Judging starts at 9am and PBGVs are fourth in ring 9. After this, Belfast with no CCs falls on 23 October, the same day as the club championship show, and is being judged by Mark Walshaw. And finally little snippets of information. Current leaders in the Our Dogs Top Breeder competition are Gavin & Sara Robertson. It was good to hear from Christine Marett in Jersey whose 12yr old Limier Didier at Gayteckels is back into the swing of things encouraging schoolchildren to read after an absence of 18 long months due to Covid. And the winners of October's special LOD draw are Gill Goulden with £50, £25 goes to Dianne Reid and £12 for Melissa Davies.

8 / 10 / 21

AN END TO FINE CONDITIONS led to a rainy day in The Borders with Border Union being the only outdoor show this year where PBGV exhibitors were forced to make use of the wet weather tenting which is a pity as this Kelso show is hard to beat in glorious weather. As with the previous Scottish shows, exhibitors were reminded of the current Scottish law which requires wearing a mask, although in practice few were seen. Karen Powney's entry of 21 was reduced by 6 absent, leaving just 15. BD and BOB went to Tim & Deborah Bartley's Erylan Zeus Roi Des Dieux with BB going to Cooper, O'Brien and Ellingford's Ch Afterglow Agnes Gru avec Jayanel. Ceri McEwan took both Reserves with 4yr old Marunnel Orinoco and litter sister Miss Adelaide. She also won BV with 13yr old Culdaws Diesle from Marunnel; and BP went to Foote & McAulay's Erylan Fantastique Freya. Colin Gillanders judged the Hound Group and awarded Zeus Roi Des Dieux (known to his friends as Dennis) Group 3. Unless anyone is going to Belfast, the next championship show is the BGV Club's on 23 October and a reminder that entries close shortly on 9 October (www.fossedata.co.uk). The latest edition of e-voice, now produced by Debbie O'Brien, came out this week with information that the 2022 club calendar will be out by the end of the month. Price £9, plus p&p. A club member who has now increased his household from one to two PBGVs has been reading up all he can on the best way to acclimatise his puppy to the joys of grooming as he knows full well that Percy won't stay looking tidy for long. His coat will grow! Of course, how to groom a PBGV has always been a thorny issue over the years. Everyone knows this is a hunting breed and that the coat is stripped naturally when going through undergrowth. However, no hunting – no coat removed, so the owner needs to groom regularly to ensure his PBGV keeps looking his best; and those that are destined for the show ring require just that little bit extra attention to display their good points. Nowadays it is hard to believe that from 1983 to 2011 the Breed Standard said "Shown untrimmed". Thus it was in 2003 an article Dog World asked me to write on preparing a Petit for the showing provoked a heated outcry headed by Sylvia Probert, despite the title being "Natural – but Tidy". Those signing the published letter said they were in favour of showing a clean and tidy, well-groomed hound for the judge, but had no intention of taking presentation to extremes. In my response, I included an explanation that unfortunately the shortened article omitted the hitherto unpublished beginnings of the Breed Standard in this country giving the thinking behind the wording "Hounds should be shown untrimmed". At the time the FCI Standard in translation read "Harsh, not too long, never silky or woolly. Fewer fringes than in the Grand Basset". This latter sentence evolved into "Not as rough textured as the Grand Basset" but, in the final KC-approved 1983 version, comparison with the GBGV had disappeared. Reference to another breed was not allowed, especially as at that time there were no GBGVs in the country! Instead, to avoid the pitfalls of the PBGV being turned into a Hound that resembled a Terrier, the authors inserted "Hounds should be shown untrimmed". I added "Any judge worth his salt will decide whether he wants to put forward a PBGV for the Group with good conformation but looks untidy, one constructed well but over-groomed, or one constructed well and groomed to display to advantage the natural qualities called for by the Breed Standard". In 2011 the Standard was changed. The update brought it into more in line with the GBGV Standard and, for the PBGVs, there was acceptance that those appearing in the showing need to be tidied up to allow them to display their qualities and where they meet the Standard for the breed. And so, it became "For show purposes the coat may be tidied, but a natural appearance must be retained. Trimming or styling should be penalised". As KC Regulations already cover preparation for the showing, no further details were necessary. However this happy medium seems to have been forgotten. Just recently on social media a longstanding and respected PBGV breeder wrote "At the moment in the UK too many in the show ring looking like Terriers! It really saddens me! They are rustic little Hounds, clean (sometimes!) and well-groomed to prevent knotting. Not stripped out to within an inch of their lives!" Given the wording in the Standard, partial responsibility would seem to fall on judges who need to understand the breed when called on to distinguish between a naturally harsh jacket and one that has had rather too much human intervention. But back to puppy grooming and searching the internet to soak up advice on the subject. There is, of course, module #301 on <https://www.bgvclub.co.uk/pbgv-appreciation> and the webinar made by Gavin Robertson last year for The Grooming Land <https://thegroomingland.com/past-english/>. Our enthusiastic new puppy owner also found a video which might interest you. It is made by a Swedish dog groomer whose model is Tigger (Around Dream Team). The website is <http://www.fruhast.se/> and her PBGV grooming video, which contains some useful points, is on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3APzCpddQ>.

15 / 10 / 21

NEXT WEEK sees the return of the BGV Club championship show to an October date. It had been held successfully at Bretby Conference Centre, near Burton-on-Trent, in October for four years from 2005 until 2008 after which closure of this venue, which conveniently incorporated hotel rooms, forced a change. In 2009, we therefore found ourselves in the KC building at Stoneleigh for the club's 22nd championship show. We were fortunate, having been invited to join the Great Joint Dachshund Association at this newly-opened venue but it meant a change of date to November, which has stayed with us until this year. The club had definitely been spoiled for space at Bretby as, with just one quarter of the building available to us at Stoneleigh, although adequate, it turned out to be rather tight on space. With judging starting at 10am, anyone arriving after 9.30am was pushed to find somewhere to put their dog crate. The show ran smoothly but there were the inevitable teething problems and club members were echoing sentiments expressed by other breed clubs who had already used the venue, especially about the poor acoustics and dismal conditions outside in the car parking area, made worse by the dreadful weather. A shock was also in store as the Great Joint Dachshund subsequently let the BGV Club know that they needed the entire venue for 2010 so it was once again a case of searching for a venue. Show venues get to be like comfortable old shoes where everyone knows where they are going and what to expect and so it was that we returned to the tried and tested Sports Connexion at Ryton-on-Dunsmore which was fortunately available for the pre-arranged November 2010 date. From 1988, the club's first few championship shows were held at various venues, however Ryton was the relatively central venue of choice from 1992 with just a departure to Newark & Notts Showground in 2000 for the Millennium Show, where PBGVs were judged by Per Knudsen (Morebess, Denmark) and the club mounted the first World Congress. After Bretby and Stoneleigh, in 2011 and 2012 the club moved to an hotel in Honiley, Warwickshire, for a practice run in 2011 then the real MacCoy championship show and third World Congress in 2012 before returning to Ryton-on-Dunsmore in 2013. One of the reasons the club didn't move back to an October date years ago was to avoid a possible clash with Midland Counties. Although BGVs have no CCs there, a minority of owners also show other breeds. However, the October shows hold a certain attraction, coming before the clocks go back on the last Sunday of the month thus allowing exhibitors to get on their way home while still some daylight. So, from next Saturday we are back to October dates until at least 2025. Forthcoming dates can be found at <https://www.bgvclub.co.uk/diary-dates>. To stay around the same weekend in October, unless there is a cancellation for the Arena (formerly Cricket Hall), in 2025 the show will be taking place in the Main Hall in the adjoining building. Our show this year sees an entry of 68 for Gunnar Nymann. This compares most favourably with the last championship show in 2019 when Phil Freer took over Paula Heikkinen-Lehkonen's entry of 65 when she was unable to judge due to hospitalisation. There are 19 Stakes for Michael Lewis. The show opens at 8am with Stakes at 9am – PBGVs in one ring and 13 Grands in the other. Gunnar Nymann will start PBGV judging at 10am or as soon as possible after, with the judging of 30 GBGVs by Jette Vind Ramvad starting on or not before 11am. As usual this will take place with the Grands and Petits alongside each other in two rings. Junior Handling will be during the lunch break.

22 / 10 / 21

IT HAS BEEN A BUSY TIME FOR THE BGV CLUB. Following on from the rescheduled Open Show at Killamarsh on 12 September, last weekend the Breed Appreciation Day took place at Roade. Now it is the Club's 33rd championship show this weekend. As our last championship show in 2019 was the 32nd, the more perceptive amongst you may be wondering whether this should, in fact, have been the 34th championship show because, due to Covid, in theory the 33rd

one never took place. The thinking behind making our 2021 championship the 33rd was that, had we made it the 34th, in years to come any historian of the breed may mistakenly think that we had held one more championship show than we, in fact, had. It is somewhat akin to the Club's first open show having taken place in 1979 in conjunction with Hertfordshire Canine Society Open Show. However the first independent club show was held four years later in 1983. Gunnar Nymann, our PBGV judge for this weekend's show, judged the breed for the first time here at Windsor in 2005. From an excellent entry of 43, less absentees, he awarded BOB to Phil Freer and Marita Rodgers' Ch Willowbrae As You Like It JW (Ch Garwedd du Greffier du Roi at Tangaer ex Clunebrae Kikimora of Famecliff) who went all the way to HG1 under Danish judge Ole Staunskjær. Sired by "Amos", from Junior, Best Bitch was our Monkams Fortune Cookie. Gunnar is also no stranger to BGV Club championship shows. In 2006, with an entry of 58 GBGVs, he had the honour of awarding the first set of CCs to the breed at a Club show. His choice for DCC came from Yearling Dog with Karen Bayliss & Jessica Holm's Holmchappell Grand Miracle and, from Limit Bitch, his BCC & BOB was Jolanda Huisman's Interessante du Greffier du Roi from The Netherlands. She went on to Reserve BIS under John Hiddes (Nld) standing behind the prolific PBGV winner Ch Willowbrae As You Like It JW who had won his 22nd CC on the day. The PBGV judge was Jeffrey Pepper from the USA who had 88 PBGVs. Another American who has judged the PBGV classes at our championship show is Valerie Link who, in 2013, had an entry of 64. At the time she was living in England. There can't be many people like Valerie who has suffered from wanderlust all her life, having moved regularly from one state to another in the US or, indeed, from one country to another, having passports for both the States and UK. Now into her current adventure, at the end of August she travelled from her home in Oregon to Mexico, a dream that had been two years in the planning. She is now in Riberas, on Lake Chapala, having survived the journey with her two PBGVs Jamar Troubadour (Ch Monkams Jack Sparrow JW ShCM ex Jamar Barefoot Contessa aka Andy and his mother Ina (Ch/Dk Ch Monkams Brimstone ex Am Ch Jamar Isobel). She said the flight was very good but all the "before and after" was a nightmare. On arrival, the poor dogs came out on the luggage conveyor belt, with Ina's crate on its side. However they handled it all like champions and soon settled in well in the rented house. The largest inland body of water in Mexico, Lake Chapala is nestled in a mountain valley just 50 minutes south of Guadalajara. The area has become a retirement paradise for Americans, Canadians, and Europeans, with people from all over the world going there to enjoy the warm days and cool nights along the shores of this beautiful lake. Valerie has already been to Immigration to pick up her residency card though said the photo requirement was rather odd - hair pulled back, showing full forehead and ears, no makeup. In other words, her visa photo looks nothing like her! And she wasted no time in volunteering at Lucky Dog Shelter east of Chapala. There she fed puppies, gave them plenty of cuddles and learned the daily routine. She is also enjoying her days with Andy and Ina, finding the whole area so colourful and vibrant. Going to the local markets is an experience - the best fruit and veg and she says the smell of the fresh produce is amazing. Putting her Spanish lessons to good use, what's not to like about experiencing life in Mexico! Back to this weekend's show and we have been reminded that there may be limited chairs available (remember there is a Lhasa Apso show on as well), also that the centre is no longer serving food. This will be available from a catering van in the car park. As for the entries, despite them falling over the years at general all-breed championship shows, it is gratifying that owners still feel the breed club show is something special and this year is no different as there is an excellent PBGV entry of 68. Enjoy your day!

29 / 10 / 21

THE BGV CLUB held a successful championship show at the Sports Connexion, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, last Saturday. What a difference it made to once again be in a hall that was much lighter being fully open with only a low divider separating our show from the Lhasa Apso one taking place at the far end. Rings were large, though slipping remained a problem for some dogs and even people, so the old chestnut cropped up of whether matting would have helped and no PA system unfortunately meant announcements were lost to most. Covid restrictions were light as we are now just about at a stage where the onus is on ourselves. However, still not out of the pandemic and with KC advice that award boards need not be provided, this led to difficulties in marking up a catalogue for both breeds. I have to thank Karen Powney, show photographer, for putting up with my pestering her for those results that I was missing - and Martin Long for a few of his chips while he sat and watched! Food from the trailer outside certainly looked delicious and, as ever, Geraldine Dodd's cake was yummy. So, all in all, the day was good and, throughout there was a visibly hard-working committee, a smoothly run show and our overseas judges well looked after. It was great to see so many clearly enjoying being back at an intimate club championship show. Following a change in KC rules which now includes Sub-Groups, for the first time the Club was able to schedule Stakes Classes other than after BIS and so it was an early 9am start for Michael Lewis judging PBGVs while David Bell did the Grands. In PBGVs there were 4 absent from the good entry of 19. Just out of Puppy, 1st Special Junior went to Cadmore & Neill's Soletrader Tangomango (Soletrader Marvellous Mo ex Soletrader Genie In A Bottle). Special Post Graduate was Kathryn Moulding's Nykarth Quite The Surprise (Beaujons Vagabond of Monkams ex Wizzkarth Meant To Be); and the winner of Special Open was Bartley's Erylan Maitre Du Mal (Ch Taglines Double The Fun with Soletrader [imp Nor] ex Ir Ch Clonallan Just Beginning with Erylan). Each of these lucky winners won £25. The PBGV entry for Gunnar Nymann was 68 (71, less 3 NFC). Unfortunately with the catalogue showing the Stakes class exhibits as a first entry and the Breed class as a second entry, this made it difficult to see easily who had entered in more than one class under Gunnar Nymann. However, having sorted out the PBGV Stakes entries from the breed class numbers, his entry was in fact 26 dogs, less 2 absent, making 24; and 42 bitches, less 8 absent, making 34. This gave him a total of 58 PBGVs to go over (I think!) As predicted the lower classes were sparse on entries, though surprisingly there were none in Breeders Dog. Class winners were: MPD 0, PD Allen & Gilluley's Ballencriff Figgy Pudding, JD 0, YD Robertson's Soletrader Super Mario, PGD Brown's Callydena Dougal McLennan, LD Skerritt & Betts' Beaujons Vagabond of Monkams, OD Brown's Ch Soletrader Valentino Rossi, VD Gilluley's Ir Ch Haliston Didier ShCM ShCEX, Breeders Dog 0. MPB Lewis' Tangaer Heather, PB Robertson's Soletrader Ivy League, JB Cadmore & Neill's Soletrader Tangomango, YB Foote & McAulay's Erylan Hera La Reine, PGB Skerritt & Betts' Monkams Memphis Belle, LB Cadmore's Soletrader Cotton Candy, OB Robertson's Ch Soletrader Rita Ora, VB Osbourne's Braego Gladys Aylward ShCM, Breeders Bitch Foote & McAulay's Ch/Ir Ch Erylan Aphrodite La Belle. From Open Dog, DCC and BOB went to Jane Brown's Ch Soletrader Valentino Rossi (Ch Soletrader Noble Kinsmen ex Soletrader Bumble Bee), who is now 6yrs old. BCC, her first, went to the Limit Bitch winner, 2yr old Soletrader Cotton Candy (Ch/Aust/Ir Ch Soletrader Buddy Holly ex Soletrader Candy Floss) owned by Kyle & Lizzie Cadmore. Reserves were Oliver & Erin Robertson's Ch Soletrader Pat On The Back (Ch Soletrader Magic Mike ex Ch Around Slightly Different with Soletrader [imp Swe]) and Gavin & Sara Robertson's Ch Soletrader Rita Ora (Multi Ch Boom Chicago v Tum-Tum's Vriendjes ex Ch Soletrader Peek a Boo). From the same dam, Best Puppy was Erin Robertson's Soletrader Ivy League (sire Soletrader Marvellous Mo); and Best Veteran Matt & Claire Gilluley's Ir Ch Haliston Didier ShCM ShCEX (Ch Haliston Velu ex Haliston Yelena). In the final competition for BIS, judged by Colin Gillanders, top spot went to the PBGV, Valentino Rossi, with RBIS and BOSIS to the GBGV Colin & Ann Makey's 6yr old Ch/Int/BeI Ch Gairside Good Gracious. BPIS was Soletrader Ivy League, RPBIS the GBGV Cooper's Jayanel Peppermint Patty and BVIS Buchanan & MacLaren's GBGV Ch/Ir Ch Tarmachan Florentine, who is now 9yrs old, with RBVIS going to the 8yr old PBGV Gilluley's Ir Ch Haliston Didier ShCM ShCEX. Having had the Stakes classes early, it was good to end on a high and, with a prompt finishing time mid-afternoon, I am sure many welcomed a few daylight hours in which to make the journey home; and certainly part of the enjoyment of such an event is reliving it afterwards by looking at photos of the day. The PBGV Club of America has now announced arrangements for its Specialty to be held at the Orange City Convention Centre, International Drive in Orlando, Florida on 17 December this year in conjunction with the Royal Canin National Championships. With "pre-shows" on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday along with the National Championships on Saturday, they are hoping for a big turnout. A brief order of events is as follows - Tuesday: Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay; Wednesday: Brevard Kennel Club; Thursday: Central Florida Kennel Club; Friday: PBGVCA Specialty, where the judge will be Mrs Pamela Bruce from Canada. There are AKC Owner-Handled Series Finals and AKC Royal Canin Puppy & Junior Stakes as well that day; then Saturday: AKC Royal Canin National Championships. Other events are also taking place at the Convention Center around the same time including Agility, Obedience and Rally and, to tempt you to go, it is also Disney World's 50th Anniversary with numerous events and attractions taking place in November and December. So anyone thinking about going is advised to make hotel reservations now before all the rooms have gone.

5 / 11 / 21

A WEB OF INTRIGUE! You may have seen that the Club website has undergone a change. Unfortunately, due to restrictions imposed by the hosting company I used when I built the site back in 2015, in May as part of the handing over process when I stood down as Secretary, I found I was unable to separate the websites for which I am responsible and transfer just the BGV Club one to the new committee. As they were all listed under the one account name, the only option was for the committee to build a new site, ostensibly a copy and paste exercise onto a new platform. Meantime I continued to update the existing website but, having reached expiry date of the hosting period, the company pulled the plug rather abruptly at the end of last month. Only a skeleton new website is currently available. If you are still reliving the Club Championship show, here are a few extra snippets which space didn't allow me to include last

week. This year there was just one Junior Handler entered – Erin Robertson. Looking back over the years, Junior Handlers have always been few and far between, the highest entry in the past 10 years being at the World Congress show in 2012 where there were 6, with 1 absent. That year we also welcomed a good number of overseas exhibits – from the Netherlands Jolanda Huisman with 1 PBGV and, in partnership with Marlou Könings, 3 GBGVs. Also from the Netherlands, Anja Mellema with 3 PBGVs, and from Denmark Gitte Winter Arildsen with 2 PBGVs. The judges were PBGVs Nick Frost (USA) and GBGVs Lydia Erhart (Nld). However we can go back further than that to see some travelling from Europe. In 2006 overseas judges tempted exhibitors from the Netherlands to enter. We welcomed Jolanda Huisman who brought 4 Grands to show under Gunnar Nymann (Dk), and Elvira Wempe entered two PBGVs under Jeff Pepper (USA). Before that, there was one PBGV entered at the 2000 World Congress championship show where, from Special Yearling, Jolanda Huisman won the RDCC with Propriété Privé des Rocs du Plessis. And remember that, before 2001, bringing dogs into the UK was remarkably onerous. Until the Pet Travel Scheme came in on 1 October 2001, save for the tight provisions of the intervening Balai Directive, since 1897 dogs entering the UK had been subject to six months' quarantine. But, in 2001, a number of European Union countries introduced PETS, under which animals from any member country could freely travel (with the correct procedure) to any other member country on approved carriers. This huge step forward served as a lighter touch control measure to prevent rabies, ticks and other diseases from entering the UK. It is therefore thanks to these relaxations that, over the years, our Club championship show entry figures have been boosted. However, with the UK's departure from the EU followed by uncertainties surrounding Covid-19, it would have been a bold exhibitor to travel to these shores with dogs for our recent show. This year we returned to Sports Connexion's part of the Arena (formerly Cricket Hall) nearest the car park. Despite this always being our preference, we must go back to 2016 when our request was last honoured. Since then, not unnaturally, the venue has attempted to maximise bookings, which has included preparations for impressive Indian or African weddings which were always accommodated nearest the car park resulting in our show being moved to the rear end, shut off by ceiling high drapes. Being "back to normal" this year allowed exhibitors to set up around three sides of each ring and tables were in their usual position for purchase of 2022 Club calendars and some Club publications. With Claire Cooper selling tickets, the raffle table, guarded by Kathryn Moulding, was also laden with prizes, though it was a pity that the show trophies were somewhat tucked away in the corner. Listed in the catalogue but not provided for on the results page, there was a new trophy this year, the Diana Sadler Memorial Trophy for RBVIS, which Lynn Wood and I donated in memory of Diana who died two years ago this month. Inspired by her first husband John Porter's position of organist at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, her kennel prefix was Gemshorn, the name of an organ stop. Try as I might I was unable to find a suitable gemshorn one which would have formed the basis of a unique trophy. So, the next best thing was a hunting horn! It was fitting that the Club's new Trophy Steward, Claire Gilluley, was the recipient with her PBGV Ir Ch Haliston Didier ShCM ShCEx. November's LOD winners are Geraldine Dodd with £15, £10 to Carolyn Dexter and £5 to Helen Whitter. I was sorry to see that Michael Quinney, who used to award CCs in PBGVs, has died. I think he last judged the breed at WKC in 2008 where he had an entry of 40, less 7 absentees. BOB went to Ch Soletrader My Aphrodisiac (Ch S Dunc 'n Disordely ex Ch Willowbrae Amazing Grace for Afterglow) and DCC to Cooper's Ch Jayanel Aristocrat (Ch Debucher Mioche ex Tangaer Janvier of Tanafei). Onto health matters - Hippocrates, born around 460BC was credited with being the first person to believe that diseases were caused naturally, not because of superstition and gods. He wrote "All the most acute, most powerful, and most deadly diseases, and those most difficult to be understood, fall upon the brain". Even to this day, despite countless studies and research done by various institutions, no-one has seemingly ever successfully conquered the affliction of Epilepsy that is a problem in many breeds of dog, including the PBGV. In the Summer 2020 Voice I wrote about the efforts the BGV Club has made over the years to provide laboratories, including the Animal Health Trust, with whatever they needed to help in their researches. And back in 2008 the PBGVCA liaised with the University of Missouri to participate in an Epilepsy study. Now a new PBGVCA inspired study is on the cards following publication of a paper by T. Deschain, J. Fabricius, M. Berendt, M. Fredholm and P. Karlsson-Mortensen entitled "The first genome-wide association study concerning idiopathic epilepsy in Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen". More about this next week. Meanwhile please survive the interminable fireworks season.

12 / 11 / 21

LAST WEEK I wrote about the efforts initiated by the PBGV Club of America to encourage and progress previous researches into the causes of idiopathic epilepsy in the PBGV. In the past the feeling was these hadn't revealed genetic changes that could be responsible for seizures but all the previous material hopefully forms the basis for a good start. The PBGVCA is hoping to do a breed specific study with a possible DNA blood draw at next year's National, or to reimburse members who have blood drawn by their own vet. Based on previous experiences in the UK this is, of course, something that may not be allowed elsewhere. However the American club is eager for other countries to contribute towards the research. With my explanation of terms in italics, the summary of the latest Deschain et al paper on the subject says "The Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen has a relatively high prevalence of idiopathic epilepsy compared with other dog breeds and previous studies have suggested a genetic cause of the disease in this breed. Based on these observations, a genome-wide association study was performed to identify possible epilepsy-causing loci. The study included 30 unaffected and 23 affected dogs, genotyping of 170K SNPs (Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms), and data analysis using PLINK (a free, open-source whole genome association analysis toolset, designed to perform a range of basic, large-scale analyses in a computationally efficient manner) and EMMAX (Efficient Mixed-Model Association eXpedited which is a tool for testing association mapping considering the sample structure in genome-wide association studies). Suggestive associations at CFA13, CFA24 and CFA35 (chromosome aberrations) were identified with markers close to three strong candidate genes. However, subsequent sequencing of exons (coding sections of a ribonucleic acid transcript, or the DNA encoding it, that are translated into protein) of the three genes did not reveal sequence variations, which could explain development of the disease. This is, to our knowledge, the first report on loci and genes with a possible connection to idiopathic epilepsy in Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen. However, further studies are needed to conclusively identify the genetic cause of idiopathic epilepsy in this dog breed". You can read the whole report on <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34383319/>. Something I completely missed and was sad to learn this week was that Veronica Ross died a month or so back. She was 92 and served as President of The Basset Hound Club from 2013 to 2018. Veronica gave CCs in PBGVs. It seems like only yesterday but it was in 2008 that she last judged PBGVs at East of England. There she had an entry of 30, less 4 absent that were all from the bitch classes. DCC and BOB went to Cindy Hitch's Brundledean Accord from Switherland (Ch Tangeat Crème Caramel ex Switherland the Beguiled at Brundledean JW ShCM) co-owned with Phil Freer. BCC went to Cordy's mother (Ch Garwedd du Greffier du Roi at Tangaer ex Ch Switherland Ysatis), owned by Yvonne Dean and Sue Brundle. Back in 2015 Veronica had phoned me having read my article on the history of our breed in Voice. As one of the pioneers in the heyday of Basset breeders in southern England, under the Verwood affix Veronica has carved a niche for herself in the history of the breed for producing consistently sound Bassets. However I was unaware of the part she had played in the early days of PBGVs in this country and it was interesting to learn that in 1975 she had helped Joan Wells-Meacham, Mildred Seiffert and Joan Walker by transporting Jomil and Akerwood Petits on their journey to their new home with Phillip Haas in Denmark. The journey was not without its traumas, as she only got as far as the Dartford Tunnel before a traffic jam resulted in an unpleasant hold-up under the Thames in stifling conditions. Although a lady in a nearby car completely lost it in the confined area, Veronica recalls that to their credit the Petits remained extraordinarily calm and well behaved throughout the ordeal. Early in 2016, she confirmed that she no longer wished to judge and so was moved to the Club's Honorary list. The Summer 2021 KC Breed Record Supplement makes for lean reading under PBGVs, detailing only one litter (Hereditary Clear) that was born in February this year.

19 / 11 / 21

ONE OF THE MORE PRESTIGIOUS FCI SHOWS OF THE YEAR, the International Show at Herning, Denmark took place 12-14 November and it was a treat to watch the culmination of each day's judging live on youtube. Gunnar Nymann, our PBGV judge at the recent Club championship show, judged several breeds there on each of the three days and could be seen sitting at the side of the main ring. The scene was a winter wonderland with large, decorative festive balls accompanying the Danish KC Scottie logos which were hanging from the ceiling and, rather spectacularly, Christmas trees that magically descended from above when awards were handed out. With so many dogs entering the main ring, pre-judging took place in rings elsewhere. On 12 November the Best Veteran in Show judge was Barbara Müller, Switzerland, and the Veteran PBGV winner who stepped into the main ring was Volk and Sundström's Nightdream Tico Torres from Finland. Best Puppy in Show was judged by Rui Oliveira, Portugal and the PBGV representative was Gitte Winter Arildsen's Fodnote Happy Honey. Lajos Holovitz, Hungary, judged Group 6 where the BOB PBGV, Land's Black Majesty Ingenious from Norway went Group 2. Breed judge had been Laurent Pichard, Switzerland, who had an entry of 10. Saturday's breed judge was Börje Johansson, Sweden, who from his entry of 11 awarded BOB to Gitte Winter Arildsen's Fodnote Be My Guest. As on the previous day, BOS went to Bettina Storsveen's Ebouiffe Cotton And Button from Norway. Both were in Champion Class. BV was once again Nightdream Tico Torres and Svante Frisk, Sweden, judged BVIS. The BP, Fodnote Happy Honey, did not appear in the ring for BPIS judged by

Saija Juutilainen, Finland and neither did the BOB PBGV show in Group 6 which was judged by Guido Schafer, Germany. He awarded G1 to Land's GBGV Forget Me Not V Tum-Tum's Vriendjes, handled by Anouk Huikeshoven who went on to an exciting BIS under Svanta Frisk. On to the final day and the PBGV judge was Friday's Group judge, Lajos Holovitz, who also had 11 to go over. From Sweden. There were no puppies entered and once more BV went to Tico Torres. From Middle Class Dogs, BOB went to Ulla Janssen's Around Keeping In Touch, handled by breeder Annicka Lofgren. BOS was Lars Kristian af Waale's Kjerrjillens To The End Of Love from Norway. In the Group judged by Claudio de Giuliani, Italy, once more top spot went to the GBGV Forget Me Not V Tum-Tum's Vriendjes who then had to settle for BIS2 under Carsten Birk, Dk. What struck me throughout the three days was how male handlers were in the minority. Is this turning into a predominantly ladies only sport? Of course, some will have fond memories of attending the World Show in Herning in 2010, when Gunnar Nymann judged the PBGVs. He had an entry of 42 PBGVs from 12 countries. BOB went to Marie Mård's Vilauddens Ronin (Ch/Am Ch Afterglow Woody Woodpecker ex Swe/Nor/Int Ch Vilauddens Loka) and the Bitch CACIB went to Robertson's Ch Soletrader Lemon Sherbert (Ch Soletrader Rooster Booster ex Limier Couronne with Soletrader). Entering the Messecentre in 2010 was distinctly easier than for this show, where long queues of exhibitors formed outside for them to show their Covid passes before being allowed in. Some very sad news comes from Gail Foote and Erin McAulay who have lost Ch/Ir Ch Erylan Aphrodite La Belle. She was only 6yrs old and at our recent Club championship show won Breeders Bitch. You may have noticed that staunch supporter of Club shows, Helen Bamforth, has been missing from recent ones. I heard that she had fallen while walking her dogs some weeks back but, having spoken to her, am pleased to say that she has now fully recovered.

26 / 11 / 21

THE KENNEL CLUB has announced the opening of the new Canine Genetic Testing service (CAGT) from this Monday, 22 November. It is therefore now set to continue the excellent service given to the BGV Club for many years in furtherance of testing PBGVs for Primary Open Angle Glaucoma. Operating from the Department of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Cambridge, DNA tests will be available for painful, blinding or otherwise debilitating inherited canine disorders and seeks to reduce the incidence of disease in breeds at risk. For the time being they will only be able to sell tests to customers based in the UK but are planning to extend their services as soon as possible. You can order test kits or get more information from <https://www.cagt.co.uk> or e-mail cagt@vet.cam.ac.uk. After a break last autumn due to Covid, Discover Dogs was back again last weekend at ExCel, London. The show moved from Earls Court to this exhibition and international convention centre in the Royal Docks area of Newham in 2015 and, at the time, many were concerned that people would be unwilling to travel to east of the capital but they need not have worried. By 2018, visitors topped 38,000. Ceri McEwan was there this time to single-handedly decorate the PBGV and GBGV breed booths on Friday, ready for a weekend of breed enthusiasts telling potential buyers about the delights and downsides of owning a scenthound. Although plenty were interested in the breed, from all accounts it was quieter than usual and this year's event didn't seem to attract as many as in 2019 when over 30,000 went to the exhibition. This is hardly surprising as some are still rightly wary of being in an enclosed hall with crowds of people and fewer international flights would have reduced visitors from abroad. Having done his stint on the PBGV booth, aided by wife Jan, Martin Bishop took all the decorations down at the end of the weekend, ready for next time round which will hopefully be at Crufts next March, Covid allowing. The same weekend it was a bittersweet time for Gail Foote and Erin McAulay, who went to Whitehaven & District Canine Society open show at Penrith, Cumbria. There was just one class of PBGVs with an entry of 6 judged by Judith Carruthers (Knoxhill) who also judged the Group. She awarded BOB to Erylan Hera La Reine and subsequently Group 2. Rosie is the daughter of Ch / Ir Ch Erylan Aphrodite La Belle so this was a poignant win for Gail and Erin, having recently lost Phoebe. They do, however, have something to celebrate as Erylan PBGVs are currently placed top of the KC Breeders Competition Leaderboard at 15 points ahead of the Pomeranians standing in second place. This competition, which is staged at all general championship shows, is for anyone who has bred more than three dogs in the same breed. Top Puppy at the moment is Gavin & Sara Robertson's Soletrader Super Mario. The last championship show of the year takes place on Saturday 11 December where there are 32 PBGVs entered for Tom Johnston.

3 / 12 / 21

ENTERING DOG SHOWS this time of year is always a chancy business when we are subject to the vagaries of the weather. If the elements suddenly turn bad, we all have to make a decision whether to venture on the road or stay put. Difficult for exhibitors when we have groomed and bathed dogs and the car is all loaded up. For judges and those who are running a show, unless the event is cancelled, there is no choice. For exhibitors, it comes down to a calculated risk. Over the years, I can recall several shows when we were probably unwise to go, not least the 2011 Club championship show in Warwickshire when the journey there was beset with dense fog. Those wiser than I decided to stay at home. Probably the worst journey ever was to LKA in 2017. We finally managed to get to the NEC but some never even got onto a motorway due to the heavy snow and countless accidents with cars and lorries spayed everywhere. Last weekend saw another unwelcome weather surge when Storm Arwen lashed parts of the UK with rain, snow and gusts of 98mph winds. Hardest hit was north-east England and the east coast of Scotland. Any thoughts Debbie and Lilly O'Brien had of getting to Perthshire Canine Club show were halted when their car was badly damaged by a falling tree. Thankfully they were unharmed. As Debbie is Treasurer of the club, also Secretary of a breed club show being held in partnership, her unavoidable absence left others with unexpected extra work to do. There were six entered (one absent) for the two PBGV classes and Ballencriff Jingle Belle (Caldewrifer Despicable Me ex Afterglow Cinnamon Buns with Ballencriff) won BP and went on to Puppy Group 2 under Elsie Moyes. BOB went to Lorna Wyllie's Callydena Mowdie Miss Chief (Ch Soletrader Valentino Rossi ex Callydena Toffee Bon Bon). The same weekend, the last Danish Bassetklubb show of the year took place at Årsløv where the judges were Grzegorz Weron, Poland (Bassets, PBGV and Fauves) and Per Knudsen, Denmark (Basset Bleu de Gascogne). There were no GBGVs or Artesiens entered. BOB PBGV went to Jette and Christian Ramvad's Dk Ch After Me a Piece of Heaven with BOS going to Gitte Winter Arildsen's Dk Ch Fodnote Be My Guest, both of whom have dominated the rankings during the year. An enjoyable traditional Christmas lunch followed. Although nowhere near as serious as the damage that befell Debbie's car, nine years ago Kim Culyer-Dawson and I experienced something similar when on our way to the BGV Club AGM at Corley Village Hall. A large branch hit my car windscreen on the passenger side, giving both of us a fright. The high winds and driving rain continued all day, bringing part of a tree down in the village hall car park though fortunately there were no cars parked nearby. Not as high up on the list of unpleasant winter experiences but bitterly cold weather gives us all doubts whether we should be leaving our warm houses. Last weekend we went to an open show where a good number of people wore multiple layers of clothes, boots, hats, gloves, in an attempt to stave off the cold. And dogs' little legs were shivering in the ring - but this is all part of dog showing, isn't it? We are a hardy bunch and it takes a lot to deter us from going to a show. That said, the relaxations and boldness most of us were enjoying having had three vaccinations now against Covid has been somewhat knocked for six by the threat posed by the new Omicron variant which seems to be spreading. We are all prone to catching coughs, colds and flu when attending winter shows but do we now need to take extra precautions against this new risk? The government has stepped in and made that decision for us. We aren't quite back to where we were last winter but, even if not mandatory as in shops it does seem wise to wear a mask when in any crowded indoor place. Alarmingly, in Denmark, since the show last weekend some have been alerted that they were in contact with a Covid positive person and tests are being taken. There seems to be no end in sight. The pandemic will probably continue in one form or another until every country has access to vaccines and, meanwhile, we have to learn to live with it. Congratulations go to Gavin & Sara Robertson whose Soletrader Pat On The Back is current Top PBGV Dog. As a young 2yr old, he gained his third CC at SKC in September. The Kennel Club Judges' Critiques section has now been added to their website. They have included past critiques, which is good. Heralded as available to enter from 1 December too, the 2022 Crufts schedule was uploaded onto Fossedata's website at 9am as promised. Their impressive website is still under construction, though at the moment past show results have yet to be added which is an irritant for those who need this information. To help you they have published a useful 2022 show calendar. Canine societies certainly seem to be working ahead at the moment as Fosse are already publishing plenty of show schedules up to May next year. Highampress aren't quite as advanced and lack of filters makes it more difficult to check for shows. Several people have contacted me asking about breed judges for next year and, although some are still unknown, I will publish a list this month.

10/12/21

WITH ALL THE UNCERTAINTIES surrounding Covid and the new variant, we must count ourselves lucky that there was a little window of opportunity when the Club was able to go ahead as planned and welcome overseas judges to our championship show in October. Although both Danish judges took a pre-departure test as an added precaution, they also took an expensive PCR test while in the UK; and it is now mandatory for travellers heading to the UK to have taken a test before their departure in an effort to limit spread of the virus. At the moment people need to self-isolate until they test negative

within two days of arriving. Unfortunately, the invariably short trips that judges make don't fit neatly into complying with these regulations. Following on from Lorna Wyllie's G3 at Perth last weekend with Callydena Mowdie Miss Chief, Tim & Deborah Bartley's Bruce (Erylan Loki Maitre Du Mal) had a similar win at Burton on Trent show at Newark, having first gone BOB under Marion Sergeant. Canine Genetic Testing are gradually adding more tests to their website. The POAG DNA test for PBGVs is £48. Their website explains that you order your tests, pay for the order, collect samples from each dog, activate your swab kit(s), then send the samples to CAGT. In practice, it seems that, after you've ordered, you receive an email redirecting you to the University of Cambridge's online shop to order the swab kits and pay £48. You need to create an account, manually input the value of the kit and the order number which is in the email. The PBGVCA is in the process of creating a wonderful archive for enthusiasts of the breed. A labour of love where a club member is gradually scanning every copy available of old Saber Tails magazines, which can now be viewed as flippable copies on <https://pbgv.org/PBGVCA/st-archive.shtml>. At the moment the earliest are from 1987. And if you have ever felt you are paying over the top at your vets, Valerie Link has let me know about another "only in Mexico moment". Her PBGV Andy was unwell. As her regular vet was unavailable, Valerie called the dog rescue place where she volunteers, which is about a 10min walk from where she lives. They have a vet there most mornings. The vet walked to her house, examined Andy who was still in pain in the stomach and abdomen area. One injection and a few pills for a 4 day course –and no charge! Current Our Dogs Top Breeders for 2021 are Gavin and Sara Robertson and the lucky LOD winners for this month who will probably welcome the extra cash are Robert Bailey with £15, Ray and Barbara Milton £10 and Deborah Dunseith £5.

17 / 12 / 21

LKA WAS THE LAST CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW OF THE YEAR and, with a return of Covid restrictions, exhibitors were asked to wear masks. Some who had entered decided to take no chances and stayed home though security checks were carried out to allow entry. There were six absent from Tom Johnston's entry of 32. DCC and BOB went to Erin & Oliver Robertson's Ch Soletreader Pat On The Back.

Handled by Gavin Robertson, he subsequently went G3 under Phil Freer. BCC was Ray & Gail Foote & Erin McAulay's Ch/Ir Ch ErylanHebe La Fille Jeune. RDCC went to second in OD, Phil & Dianne Reid's Vilaudens Magnificent Mile and RBCC to the Best Puppy winner, Erin Robertson's Soletreader Ivy League. Best Veteran was Reid's Maudaxi Tommy Holedigger.

Ceri McEwan's day didn't start off too well when a van without handbrake on trundled into the back of her own van in the car park. Thankfully she and her dogs were unharmed but it entailed having to trace the owner and taking photos. And now she has the inconvenience of going through her insurance and getting the damage assessed. Not the best time of year for repairs either.

Canine Genetic Testing are currently giving 20% off all tests until the end of the year. The cost of a PBGV DNA test is £38.40. However they will be closed 24 December-4 January. They will continue taking orders but nothing will be processed until 4 January.

Only two more weeks left to go in 2021. I am sure you are all pre-occupied with Christmas at the moment but I said I would let you know the judges lined up for PBGV classes at next year's championship shows so, with a few not yet known, here they are. CCs are asterisked. I have included the GBGV judges as well as several of you have contacted me asking.

PBGVs GBGVs

8 January	Boston	No ccs Janet Kay	No ccs Janet Kay
23 January	Manchester	* Wendell Moore	* Eddie Webster
11 March	Crufts	* Mark Cocozza	* Marion Hunt
9 April	HA of Scotland	No ccs TBC	No ccs TBC
6 May	Birmingham National	* Anders Tunold-Hanssen	* Anders Tunold-Hanssen
20 May	SKC	* Leila Tarabad	* Graham Hill
30 May	Bath	* Jeff Horswell	* Sue Marshall
3 June	Southern Counties	No ccs TBC	* Kari Jarvinen (Fin)
10 June	Three Counties	No ccs Jackie Hornby	No ccs Jackie Hornby
19 June	Border Union	No ccs Ceri McEwan	No ccs Ceri McEwan
25 June	Blackpool	No ccs Colin Ashmore	No ccs Colin Ashmore
30 June	Windsor	* Paul Singleton	* Sue Cole
9 July	East of England	* TBC	No ccs TBC
16 July	Hound Association	* John Thirlwell	* John Thirlwell
24 July	Leeds	* Howard Ogden	* Val Jackson
7 August	Paignton	No ccs Adrian Marett	* Gavin Robertson
15 August	Bournemouth	* Espen Engh	* Mary Pascoe
21 August	WKC	* Pam Aldous-Town	* Vivien Phillips
29 August	Driffield	* Ann Macdonald	* Wendell Moore
2 September	City of Birmingham	* Ken Sinclair	No ccs Susan Rhodes
10 September	Richmond	* TBC	-----
16 September	Darlington	* Jill Peak	* Mark Cocozza
24 September	Belfast	No ccs – not yet allocated	No ccs – not yet allocated
1 October	SKC	-----	No ccs TBC

9 October	SWKA	* Heidi Allenby	No ccs TBC
22 October	BGV Club	* Brian Foster	* Jenna Betts
28 October	Midland Cos	No ccs Karen Powney	No ccs Brian Foster
11 December	LKA	* Fran Hanney-Mitchell	* Ann MacDonald

24/12/21

CHRISTMAS TIME and my good wishes to everyone at the end of a year that I suspect many would rather forget. One person, however, whose family will definitely be having a small celebration over the Christmas period is former PBGV Club President, Nickie Hunt, who attains a fantastic 100 years of age on the 28th. In the post-First World War period covering the year Nickie was born, October 1921 saw the Irish Treaty Conference opening in London but troops were then sent to restore order after rioting broke out in East Belfast; and The British Legion held its first official Poppy Day. The Dog Star, the brightest star in the night sky, may possibly have been shining brightly when she was born, as we cannot attribute her life with dogs to greater events such as Crufts for the show didn't take place during the war until it resumed in 1928. Nickie's chosen breeds were Bassets, Otterhounds and PBGVs and she gave CCs in all three. She last awarded CCs in our breed at Birmingham National in 2008 and five years later stood down as Club President in 2013. She is now one of the very few remaining forerunners of the breed in this country and, as such, I am sure you will all join with me in passing on kind thoughts to her on this important day. Thoughts are also with Sister Catherine Wybourne, one time owner of Ch Soletreder Dunc 'n Disordely, who has let everyone know that, following a stay in Hereford Hospital where they told her there was nothing more they could do for her, she has returned to her Benedictine home. She fondly remembers her time in the East Hendred, East Ilsley, Wantage, Abingdon and Didcot area where the priests and other people were so welcoming and became good friends. She writes "Our garden continues to be a source of joy and I remain quite soppy about dogs, PBGVs and Bassets Fauve de Bretagne. No surprises there!" And so, we reach the end of 2021, the somewhat peculiar show season is over. For PBGV exhibitors, from Southern Counties in June to LKA this month, 19 championship shows were squeezed in and, with many shows moving date, it was hard to keep up with it all. Seven PBGVs entered the Champions' hall of fame – Afterglow Agnes Gru avec Jayanel at East of England, two at Hound Association -Tangaer Bryntelych and Soletreder Vocal in Venice, Soletreder Pat On The Back at SKC (May in Oct), Party In Paris at Richmond, Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune at Driffield and, at Leeds, Erylan Aphrodite La Belle, who tragically died only three months later. Next year sees a few changes to the KC Stud Book bands. PBGVs move from Band A to Band B. The KC has said that this will have the bonus of providing extra opportunities for dogs to gain Stud Book numbers. That may be so but the continuing state of the KC's new computer system and factors such as staff working from home have led to no Stud Book numbers being issued since June last year, along with other titles earned. Of course, the longer this situation continues, the bigger the backlog for them to work through. To extricate themselves from the situation where they had introduced a minus Level for judging requirements connected with hands-on criteria for potential CC judges under the judge's approval process, from next year the KC has altered the system to Tiers. PBGVs are in Tier 2, with numbers to be judged remaining the same -40 dogs under the Traditional route and 20 under the Judges Education Programme route. Let's hope that all those keen to judge PBGVs ensure they get plenty of hands-on experience as this is a far cry from the minimum of 80 dogs called for just ten short years ago. Although the judges' critiques were written within two weeks of our Club championship show, in tandem with appearing in Our Dogs, they were included in the enjoyable BGV Club Newsletter which arrived this week. Unfortunately though, with two club shows having been held so close together in the autumn, lack of space prevented inclusion of images of all 1st winners. I understand these will hopefully appear on the Club website at some stage. Despite the seeming reluctance to have litters or the difficulties in doing a mating which the 2020 lockdowns posed, surprisingly there was a record number of 28 litters registered with the KC. This was up on the 2019 figure of 17. It will be some months though before the 2021 figures are known but, going on figures already known, I suspect it will show a sharp decrease. The POAG DNA test results for PBGVs is therefore now a little behind the times but search on google and you will easily find the latest results. Also a wealth of historical information, puppy care and judges' educational needs for BGVs and list of championship show judges for 2022, which I included in my breed notes last week. Whilst some championship shows, such as Blackpool, already have a full list of judges on their website, every year it is always the same ones that are either secretive or tardy. Some are reluctant to announce names until approved by the KC, others (such as Belfast) have yet to contract judges where no CCs are given in the breed. Finally, do also refer to the PBGV Club of America Tool Chest <https://pbgv.org/tools/7steps.shtml> which is a valuable source of breed information with educational videos and presentation on grooming etc on <https://pbgv.org/tools/video.shtml>. Enjoy your Christmas whatever you will be doing and remember, you are never alone with a PBGV. Hug your dogs.

31/12/21

BOXING DAY is the age-old time for a hunt and without doubt these annual meets are a highlight for countless countryside communities. However this year, as Boxing Day fell on a Sunday, many held their traditional Boxing Day meet on Bank Holiday Monday. Even so, it was touch and go whether they would be going ahead as they waited to hear of any changes concerning Covid restrictions. Supporters were advised to take lateral flow tests on the morning of 27 December and not to attend if they had a positive reading or if they felt unwell. They were also encouraged to wear masks if finding themselves in an enclosed space. Having a scenthound, I am sure most of you take an interest in the hunting tradition, even though the majority of PBGVs in this country don't hunt. As for other breeds, surprisingly there are still some 250 packs of Foxhounds, Harriers and Beagles going strong 17 years on from when the Hunting Act was passed. These all proved they could adapt to legislation which tried, but failed, to curtail their activities. Conducting this year's festive meets in accordance with Covid rules was not therefore likely to prevent the melodious sound of hounds ringing out before the New Year. Despite having dispersed his Ryeford Chase PBGVs in 2019, one person who is still retains his life-long connections with Hounds, is Nick Valentine. Having worked on dismantling his kennels, he has now opened the remaining kennel doors to local Foxhounds and Harriers who were looking for a place to live. The years of hunting across hard terrain in all weathers may have taken its toll but Nick must be delighted to once more have a good number of dogs as part of his life. And as I reported earlier in the year, another pack that slipped away quietly was the Albany Bassets. In the early 1950s members of the Basset Hound Club formed a working branch to "foster the hunting instinct inherent in every Basset Hound" and to promote the policy of the Club of maintaining the working side which they saw as just as important as conformation. The pack passed through various careful hands over the years, ending up most recently near Hitchin. In 2006 the Albany merged with the West Lodge Bassets. This enabled the Albany to register additional country close to its main body of support in Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire. For the West Lodge it allowed them to continue enjoying hunting in an area which they had been doing so successfully since 1950. For fund-raising, the Albany always held annual, highly successful summer open days where pack hounds moved freely in an enclosed area to be considered critically by visiting judges, one from the world of conformation, one with hunting experience. Each looked for that all important quality of a great hound. Over the years, many judges have been PBGV or Basset breeders, exhibitors and judges. To name but a few – Phil Freer in 2006, 2008 myself, 2009 Brian Ballan, 2010 Colin Wells, 2014 Sue Ergis, 2015 Kim Culyer-Dawson, 2017 Lynn Wood. Sadly, as we get older, we find we are no longer able to devote the amount of energy needed into what have been our lifelong passions. And so it was with the Albany. After countless years of devotion and nurturing, it was time for Jeremy Ward and Alison Jeffers to relinquish the role and, with no-one willing to take the pack on, it was disbanded. Thankfully there was no lack of volunteers to rehoming. Alongside the loss of packs, many of you will also be aware of local canine societies that have reluctantly had to shut down, the most recent being Chertsey & District, an enjoyable show we used to go to regularly. The years slip by and, like Masters of packs and committees of breed clubs, stalwart members of championship and open show committees get older. The plea for many years has been to be able to pass the baton onto younger people for them to gain experience and take responsibility. Certainly without their enthusiasm and a passion for their chosen breed added to a willingness to help, whether it be in running shows or doing the 1,001 other jobs entailed in keeping a breed club on the road, survival will not be ensured. Over the past year, the dearth of show results in some months left a gap to be filled in these weekly notes, leaving me scratching my head for anything useful to tell you about. However my philosophy has been to always provide something, albeit occasionally with only a tenuous link. There have been website links and reminders about availability of DNA POAG testing facilities at Cambridge, and news of websites giving information on health, provision of

educational material or the availability of PBGV related items. This ranged from PBGV Preservation Breeders -Leptospirosis: Diagnosis, Treatment and Management; to anti-theft leads; the PBGVCA auction; grooming videos in Sofia Dunckley's The PBGV Training Academy website; the Nourrinou-bibi multi-nipple milk bottle for litter feeding; items for treating and carrying injured dogs; The Grooming Land webinar made by Gavin Robertson; a PBGV grooming video made by Swedish groomer Fru Hast; the Deschain et al paper on Epilepsy in the breed; PBGVCA Saber Tails newsletter archives; BGV historical information, puppy care and judges' educational needs all brought together in one website and the PBGVCA Tool Chest of similar information. And so into 2022 and the first championship show of the year -Boston on Saturday, 8 January where judging starts at 9am. PBGVs are third in ring 9 after 42 Bassets and 14 GBGVs. Wishing you all a Happy New Year.