

PBGV BREED NOTES 2018

5 / 1/ 2018

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Like me, you may be currently struggling against waterlogged garden and great swathes of wet being brought indoors on muddy paws. The steam cleaner has been used frequently but the new mop I bought just before Christmas which boasted "superior cleaning performance" already sports a limp, worn out head. They obviously never trialled it out under doggy conditions. Nothing stays clean for more than a few minutes. So, timing is of the essence for bathing any dogs before Boston on Saturday where there are 16 PBGVs entered for Tim Jones.

Snow storms allowing, Hound day at America's 142nd Westminster KC show takes place on Monday 12 February. Those PBGVs who have received a direct invitation to take part are: Soletrader Right Said Fred, CJ's Sweet Georgia Brown, Jus Texas Prime, Soletrader Annie Mac and Pink Panther van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes. Ms Linda More of Cary, NC, is the judge. With no class dogs, the total PBGV entry is 0-0 (9-5).

Many will remember Lynn Wood's grand-daughter, Lily Sparks, who came to shows whenever she could as she loved handling the PBGVs. Lily has been in the news. Now a local scout in Somerset, she recently spotted an unconscious lady behind a parked car. She administered first aid while her mother, Kay, stopped the car from moving. Not content with that, Lily phoned the emergency services then helped them on their arrival. Well done Lily, just goes to show how important First Aid training is.

12 / 1/ 2018

THE NEW YEAR kicked off with just one absent from the entry of 16 for judge Tim Jones (Eardley) at Boston championship show, East of England Showground, Peterborough. It was a clean sweep for Soletrader with Magic Mike taking RBD to his son, Buddy Holly, who also went BP. Having been moved up from PGB to OB, Around Zlightly Different with Soletrader (imp Swe) took BB, with RBB going to Soletrader Rita Ora, who is now a champion. BOB Buddy Holly later went G3 under Ben Reynolds-Frost, who had been ringside watching some of the breed judging.

One more championship show to squeeze in before Crufts and, with no CCs, Wendell Moore has a good entry of 17 at Manchester on Thursday, 18 January.

Claire Cooper has asked me to let you know that the deadline for receipt of your adverts in the BGV Club 2013-17 handbook has been extended to the end of this month. If you haven't already let her know you are sending one in, please contact Claire asap on clairecooper81@hotmail.co.uk. This will be the final date.

19 / 1/ 2018

WENDELL MOORE had 14 PBGVs present to go over at Manchester championship show, held at Stafford. From just 5 dogs, he awarded BD and BOB to Robertson & Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike, with RBD going to the BP, McEwan's Marunnel Orinoco (Vilauddens Isaak ex Ch/Ir Ch Maudaxi Coco Chewnel from Marunnel). From PGB, his choice for BB was Reid's Maudaxi Pussy Galore (Ch Maudaxi Jimmy Choo ex Trezeguet Treacle Sponge at Maudaxi). Reserve went to second in PGB, Blake & Reid's Vilauddens Midsummer Madness (Cookie Crunch van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes ex Vilauddens Saga). Tom Johnston judged the Group and awarded G1 to Magic Mike. Reid's PBGVs came second to Ibizans in the Breeders Group judged by Sandra Marshall.

The schedule and entry form for the Club's open show on 7 April at Weedon Bec are now on www.bgvclub.co.uk/club-shows and www.bgvclub.co.uk/diary-dates. Entries, which should be sent to Colin Makey, close on 17 March. This is a special show, marking the 40th anniversary of the inauguration of the BGV Club and, with reduced entry fees for Veterans, let's hope judge Anders Tunold-Hanssen (Taglines) from Norway gets a great entry. Geraldine Dodd will be judging Junior handling. For this show only there will be no Stakes classes as everyone is invited to stay for the afternoon's fun event, when there will be tombola, cake, refreshments and a few games. Each dog can enter any number of classes for the princely sum of £2.

With the 31 January deadline for adverts in the 2013-2017 Handbook creeping up, around 78 pages have now been booked. If you want to see your kennel or your BGV included, contact Claire Cooper without delay on 07855 255287 or clairecooper81@hotmail.co.uk. Information on cost of advertising for multiple pages is now on www.bgvclub.co.uk/club-publications. There is a facility for overseas advertisers only to pay via PayPal.me.

If anyone in the UK wishes to pay by bank transfer, follow the link and let Treasurer Colin Makey know how many pages you are having. Some people are also wanting to pay for a copy of the book at the same time and the good news is that advertisers can obtain one at the reduced price of £6. Price to others has been held at £12.

26 / 1 / 2018

LIKE ME you are probably getting pretty fed up with this weather. As I write these notes, I am watching the trees bending under the strong winds and the rain tipping down. My lawn is once again going under water. Not that the PBGVs mind it. It doesn't prevent them from chasing each other round the garden, splashing through the pools of water and getting thoroughly grubby. And we don't talk about my conservatory and kitchen floors. I seem to spend all day mopping.

With no show news to report, looking ahead we have Crufts on the horizon where our judge is Per Knudsen (Denmark). Per's association with the breed goes back to 1978 when, with Philip Haas, he imported Mignonnette de la Belle Musique from France. She became a Danish champion in three shows. Per subsequently took over Mignonnette and Jomil Hotspur also arrived from England. He won his Danish title the same year. The following year, a mating between Hotspur and Mignonnette resulted in the first Morebess litter being born. One of the two kept by Per, Morebess Raymond le Rebelle, will be remembered forever as you can see his likeness on the PBGV Club of America's logo. One of the last Morebess PBGV's to be shown successfully in Denmark was Dk/Fin Ch Morebess Gazelle de Tour (Lamy des Rives de la Garonne ex Morebess Reine de Longchamps) who, having been shown initially by Per, was campaigned into her veteran years by Karina Stenå. Born in June 1996, Zelle died in 2010 having achieved many BIS and group wins.

Some of you are still in touch or will remember Pat and Trevor Mellor. Trevor showed their GBGV and Pat was our show photographer. I received the news recently that Trevor had suffered a heart attack. He is now back home again and we have had a long chat. Although the NHS has come in for much criticism of late due to understaffing, he cannot praise them highly enough. Both first responder and ambulance were with him within just a few minutes and, rather than take him to the local hospital, they went direct from near Bedford to Papworth, Cambs, where he was treated swiftly and had a stent inserted. Pat is now having to slow him down and stop him from trying to put their fence back up that has blown down in the wind.

Someone else who has praised the NHS is Chris Blake, who had an argument with one of the new kitchen knives that wife Debs had bought. He said he received great treatment at Southmead Hospital, Bristol.

With the 31 January deadline creeping up fast, most adverts are now in for the club handbook, which is now well under way. However if yours is not yet completed, make sure Claire Cooper is aware. You can contact her on clairecooper81@hotmail.co.uk For information on pricing go to www.bgvclub.co.uk/club-publications.

January's lucky LOD winners are Mrs Iain Moody with £15, Mrs K Smith £10 and Tracy Presswell £5.00.

2 / 2 / 2018

SCANNING THROUGH VARIOIUS BREED NOTES it seems most writers are in the same boat this time of year with little news to pass on. I am afraid I am no different. The only show result is from Paul Osbourne whose Braego Gladys Ayward went Best NSC Hound and Hound G3 at City of Cambridge under Ross Gilbert (Affietar).

Monday 12 February sees Westminster KC taking place at Madison Square Garden, New York where at 11am Eastern time there are 14 Petits entered for Ms. Linda C. More of Cary, NC. Jeff Pepper will have the honour of judging the Hound Group that evening. As far as I can see the live streaming will, once again, not be a simple affair. Breed judging from ten rings will be free on the WKC website and FOX Sports GO. No TV provider login is needed but, as last year, I fear enthusiasts outside the US will be frustrated. We will presumably have to wait until the breed videos are posted on <http://www.westminsterkennelclub.org/>.

Despite the lull in shows this is a busy time of year for all breed clubs not least our own and it is an expensive period for members. Annual subscriptions became due by 31 January. If you have not paid yours, this means you will have no vote. Breeders Directory money has been trickling in steadily and the leaflets will be off to the printers shortly to be out at Crufts. Many of you have placed adverts in our 2013-2017 club handbook, which Claire Cooper is preparing.

If you haven't yet paid, please contact Colin Makey who will be pleased to take the money off you - gairside@btinternet.com or 01469 540260. If you wish to pay by bank transfer, he will give you the details. Alternatively send a cheque made out to the Basset Griffon Vendéen Club and post it to him at The Cottage, Lease Lane, East Halton, North Lincs DN40 3PT. Colin will also take orders if you wish to have a copy when it is out.

On a slightly different note, those of you who go onto the club page on facebook will be aware of the concerns over Craniomandibular Osteopathy (CMO). Known cases have been mainly in GBGVs, though over the past few years a couple have also been reported in Petits. Put simply this is where there is excessive, abnormal bone growth of the skull and lower jaw. The mode of inheritance has yet to be determined and due to the low numbers reported we are a long way off the Animal Health Trust being able to research this fully for. However, if you have a PBGV affected by this health problem, contact Health Sub-Committee members Peter Marks pmarks1262@aol.com or Vivien Phillips vphillips@btinternet.com who will help you to send cheek swabs to the AHT. These need to go with pedigree and a report from your vet. There is no charge for this research and you will be helping the breed.

9 / 2 / 2018

CRUFTS ENTRY NUMBERS have now been announced with 75, 79 for PBGVs, a drop on the 86 last year. Could it be the escalation in entry charges that is putting it out of reach of many? Open shows are plentiful in the run-up to the big event and Isle of Ely took place last weekend with our Beaujons Ugly Betty of Monkham's JW ShCM going BOB under Kim Culyer-Dawson. She was later short-listed in a large Hound Group judged by Karen Simkin (Simeldaka). Isle of Ely is one of the many shows held successfully at the Wood Green Animal Shelter, Godmanchester. The Britten Arena there is one of the Eastern region's most popular international size indoor arenas. The large flexible space is licensed to hold up to 3,000 people and is the ideal venue for large scale conferences, parties, auctions, exhibitions and not least dog shows. It has therefore been met with dismay that time is now ticking on the last few shows to be held there. It seems the arena is due for redevelopment so all canine societies who have used this ideal venue for many years are hunting for alternative venues. Luton, who dropped PBGV classes some years back, reintroduced them for one year, then dropped them again, has already announced it will be moving to the KC Building, Stoneleigh. This is a far cry from East Anglia so, so like other shows (eg Isle of Ely who are going to Grantham) it will lose quite a lot of its regular exhibitors from over the years but gain some from a new catchment area.

I can sympathise with the difficulties in finding a suitable venue for an open show as the few that do allow dogs are often outside the financial reach of many. Finding a venue for our BGV Club shows can be equally frustrating when we have to ensure the hall is big enough, there is a kitchen, an annexe, the car park can take enough cars or there is nearby street parking and, most important of all, it is within the Club's budget.

Thoughts are with Philip and Beryl Beugelaar who have had to say goodbye to Mollie. She was 10yrs old and suffered from epilepsy, though Philip and Beryl can be proud that she has played a huge part in contributing towards the AHT's researches into identifying the mutant gene responsible.

The Afghan Hound Association is holding an event entitled Memoirs, Mentors & Mayhem on Saturday 21 April 2018 at Chieveley Village Hall, Berkshire RG20 8TE starting at 11am. This is promising to be an informal, fun packed day! They will have historic archives and information on their sighthounds on display and, for those considering the mentoring programme of the Judges Competency Framework, they will be discussing all aspects with a chance for practice. After lunch the mayhem starts with their popular fun classes, a chance to try your hand at 'judging' and a new venture called 'Fun-Obreedience'. You are invited to go along with your hounds and join in. All details from Melinda Hitch (melinda.hitch@yahoo.co.uk) or Susan Rhodes (susan@shadowfaxafghans.com). Book early as space may be limited.

16 / 2 / 2018

THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW SHOWS ABROAD. At the International show in Fredericia, Denmark, Gitte Winter Arildsen's Fodnote You're My Favorite, handled by Holger Busk, went BOB and G2. BOS went to her Fodnote Ohh What A Kiss. The judge was Dick Rutten (Netherlands). The following day at Kolding the Basset Club's show took place, where the judge was Julija Aidietiene (Lithuania), with the same result for BOB and BOS.

At Westminster KC, there were two absent from the entry of 14 for judge John Reeve-Newson. BOB went to Donna Moore & Janice Hayes' GCH CH M&M's Calamity Jane (Am Ch Auriga's Just Jack ex GCH M&Ms Texas Mae West), with BOS to Cindy & Gary Wood's GCH CH Talus Stonehouse I'm A Travelin' Man (GCH Hicotton Can't Stop Rockin ex CH Celestial CJ Queen Of The Air At Talus). Select Dog was Mary Ann Morey's GCHB CH Jus Texas Prime, Select Bitch Jan Zigich's GCH CH Mirepoix's Kate Spade. Awards of Merit went to GCHB CH Tetu's Mister Homer NA and Jeanne & Charles Hurty & Lynne & Mark Florian's GCHB CH CJ's Sweet Georgia Brown. To see the judging video go to <http://www.westminsterkennelclub.org/breed-results/breed-videos-2018/PBGV-2018-video/> and for the group judging, where Calamity Jane made the cut under Jeff Pepper, <http://www.westminsterkennelclub.org/breed-results/breed-videos-2018/group-judging-2018-video/>.

February's lucky LOD winners are Lynn Wood with £15.00, H T Foskett £10 and Yvonne Moulton £5.

23 / 2 / 2018

NOT LONG TO GO NOW TO CRUFTS and we are on countdown with the tickets having arrived. We are on course for having the BGV Club 2013-2017 Handbook available at the show. If you would like a copy, order beforehand to help Colin Makey and, if possible pay him, so he knows how many to take - gairside@btinternet.com. Also at the show, if you have yet to get DNA checks on any of your PBGVs, the Animal Health Trust is offering a special show discount of 20%. You can find them at Stand 55 in Hall 3.

A reminder that, if you haven't yet put your forms into Geraldine Dodd for claiming a club points trophy for 2017, deadline of 28 February is fast approaching. You can e-mail them to her at g_dodd@hotmail.co.uk, or post to 28 Leaf Road, Houghton Regis, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU5 5JH.

Another deadline on the horizon is for nominations for secretary and committee, prior to our Club AGM on 22 April. These must be with me by 17 March 2018. Any items for the agenda must be proposed and seconded and submitted by post to me by 24 March.

2 / 3 / 2018

SO HERE WE ALL ARE with only a week to go to Crufts and how many of you are snowed in? While I am quietly hopeful the white stuff will have cleared by the great day, it is rather worrying that scenes are reminiscent of our journey to get to the NEC in December for LKA, as you can see from the deserted M45 I turned onto, to get out of the traffic jam on the M1. Having since decided I was mental to attempt the journey that day, I am not convinced I want to experience the same again.



But, let's be optimistic that all will be well. We now have our entry tickets and Lynn Wood has sent out passes to all those who will be helping to man the Discover Dogs breed booths every day. There is a delayed start of 10am for judging in Hall 5, ring 31, where 34 Grands are first, followed by Petits.

Geraldine Dodd is on the ball this month and has issued names of the winners of this month's Limited Odds Draw. £15.00 to Kay Ainslie, £10 to Joan Robertson and £5 to Lynne Scott.

Thinking ahead, if anyone who won a Club trophy last year is unlikely to attend this year's AGM on 22 April, please bring it to Crufts and let me have it, alternatively Colin Makey or Paul Osbourne. We will ensure Geraldine has them on the day. And don't forget we are getting close to entries closing for our Club open show which takes place on 7 April at Weedon Bec in Northants. Anders Tunold-Hanssen (Taglines) from Norway is our judge. There is a reduced entry fee for Veterans, so please bring them all along to enjoy being back in the ring again. Entries, which close on 17 March, to go to Colin Makey, The Cottage, Lease Lane, East Halton, North Lincs DN40 3PT. The schedule and entry form are on <http://www.bgvclub.co.uk/diary-dates>.

More news soon of the fun event to take place that afternoon in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the inauguration of the BGV Club.

9 / 3 / 2018

CRUFTS IS OVER for us for another year. From the entry of 75 for judge Per Knudsen, with very few absentees, from Junior Dog he found his DCC in Soletrader Bully Holly, in the ownership of Erin & Oliver Robertson and Lizzie Greenslade. RDCC went to Irina Antipova's Aldia Billi Bom from the Russian Federation. BCC, her 5th, was Gavin Robertson's, Wendy Doherty & Lizzie Greenslade's Ch Soletrader Rita Ora and RBCC Gavin, Oliver & Erin Robertson's Around Zlightly Different with Soletrader with his choice for BOB going to Buddy Holly. BP was Ceri McEwan's Marunnel Madame Cholet and, the two Veteran winners were Jane Brown's Ch Soletrader Louis Vuitton and Paul Osbourne's Ch Debucher Jezebel at Braego ShCM, with BV going to the bitch. Having said for years it was inexplicable why no BV was awarded as at other championship shows, it seems the KC have finally taken note of exhibitors' views. There were entries from several overseas counties - Russia, Czech Republic, Netherlands, Italy, Croatia, Poland and Slovakia, with many others having travelled just to watch especially from Scandinavia. Buddy Holly was short-listed in the group judged by Albert Wight.

The Discover Dogs booths were as popular as ever, with a steady stream of visitors. Paul Stallard has done a great job of decorating them early Thursday morning, though I did spot that the leaflet rack was upside down! Thanks to all those who are helping the club by representing our breeds. Glenna Clark with our pup Beaujons Vgabond did a stint on the PBGV booth with Pat Gregory early Friday morning. Watching the TV programme late Friday evening, we were amazed to see Bond on the screen.

After a nervous week when much of England was gripped in snow, the BGV Club handbook finally went to print early this week. Although the printers had posted me a copy first class on 27 February, with Royal Mail grinding to a halt, it didn't arrive until 5 March. The printers hadn't been able to get into work either, so we were on tenterhooks whether or not the book would be out in time for Crufts. The printers were excellent though and, promising our job was a priority, ran off another copy for our Treasurer, Colin Makey, to go and see early Monday. By this time my copy had also arrived. Having picked up on a couple of points, we gave the go-ahead to print and Colin collected the books two days later. Nothing like cutting it fine but we knew several visitors from overseas were keen to get their copy at Crufts and Colin Makey did a sterling job of handing out those pre-ordered and selling even more. If anyone has yet to order one, go to <http://www.bgvclub.co.uk/club-publications> or contact Colin Makey on 01469 540260 or gairside@btinternet.com. Price to those who advertised is £6, to others £12. Postage extra.



You will have seen that Roger Bannister died this week just before his 89th birthday. He will always be remembered as the man who was the first 4-minute miler, having achieved this feat on 6 May 1954 at Iffley Road track in Oxford. In 1998 Jenna and I met Roger's cousin, Ethne Bannister, while I was researching for the PBGV book which Valerie Link and I produced. Mabel Tottie, one of the many Basset breeders of the late 19th century was attracted to rough-coated Bassets and brought some to her large estate at Coniston Hall, near Skipton, West Yorkshire. She soon became recognised at the main breeder of rough-coats.

Ethne and he family had bought the 1,800-acre estate in 1969 from the Tottie family and she invited us to visit.

We learned that the Bannisters first decision was a heartbreaking one as the old hall, an early Victorian pile with a frontage almost 100 yards long, had to be completely knocked down. It was riddled with dry rot. It took several years to demolish the old building and for the family to build a brand new house using much of the original stone. It was much smaller but far more elegant, overlooking the lake.

Roger Bannister was a frequent visitor.

My dreams were answered as it transpired Mrs Bannister was a keen local historian and her records of the Tottie family were a treasure trove. Remains of the old kennels were near the main house and, as Jenna and I walked our PBGVs in the surrounding woodland, it was a somewhat sobering thought to realise that ours were probably the first "rough-coats" to be on the estate since Mabel Tottie lived there nearly 100 years ago.

Since we visited, Ethne has kept in touch and Coniston Hall has now been home to the Bannister family for nigh on five decades. Changes have taken place and where what originally started life as a farm shop selling produce from the estate, the now 1,400 acres boast one of North Yorkshire's premium landmark destination hotels offering a wide range of outdoor activities. I doubt if any of those that stay appreciate the history of the location but, if you are tempted to visit, go to www.theconistonhall.com.

16 / 3 / 2018

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT WE WERE ALL AT CRUFTS A WEEK AGO TODAY? With some areas under threat of more snow, we must be thankful the weather behaved itself for this show as it can be a completely misery getting dogs and paraphernalia in from distant car parks.

Time marches on and suddenly we are at the "entries closing" date of Saturday, 17 March for our club open show, which takes place at Weedon Bec, Northants, on Saturday 7 April. So, if you haven't yet done your entry form, you need to get it in the post tomorrow, with proof of posting. As a regular visitor, our judge from Norway, Anders Tunold-Hanssen was, as usual, sitting ringside at Crufts so we are looking forward to seeing him again soon. Also, with our 22 April AGM on the horizon, if your nomination for secretary or committee member is not already in the post to arrive with me tomorrow, 17 March, you are too late! However, items for the agenda can be sent up to 24 March.

I received the sad news yesterday that Anne Mackenzie has died. Rather strangely, I wrote about Anne and husband Sandy in our Winter Voice, part of a series of articles planned on the history of our club trophies. Although her health was failing, I learned that Anne, now in Herefordshire for many years, had been thrilled to see the article. Parts of it are reproduced here: "It was in 1979 that Sandy and Anne Mackenzie (Wakelyns), who lived in Suffolk, first saw a Basset Griffon Vendéen, as they were called in those days, at a local agricultural show. They were so attracted to the breed that, in 1982, Sandy joined Anne on the committee of the BGV Club that had only been in existence for four years. Their first PBGV was Twinrivers Duchesse of Wakelyns from Ruth Brucker. In 1986 at the Houndshow Musette, as they called her, became the second bitch champion in the breed. A desire to widen the limited gene pool here in the UK at that time led to the Mackenzies and Ruth going to Belgium in 1982, where they acquired Gourou from R. Noel. As early breeders, Anne and Sandy also welcomed others to BGVs, many of whom are still active and influential club members".

"From the early 1980s. with their attention firmly fixed on PBGVs, in terms of breed history, an earlier mating between another import, Pacha des Barbus d'Entre Lac, and their Twinrivers Duchesse, produced Angelique, who went to Canada. In 1983, a Jomil Pascal - Wakelyns Angelique mating gave Alexander (Belray Alexander Gebeba) who sparked immense interest in the breed in the States and, a year later, the PBGV Club of America was formed. In 1984, a repeat Gourou-Duchesse mating gave the PBGVCA its first breed Champion, Wakelyns Noblesse".

Like other breeders such as Kathryn Moulding, my husband and I had Sandy and Anne to thank for one of our first two PBGVs, who was from a Gourou -Twinrivers Duchesse of Wakelyns mating. Willow was born in May 1983. Despite bearing some Grand characteristics, which was to be expected in those days not long after separation of the Grand and Petit in France, she did well at shows. Also, judges were not as aware of the distinguishing features of the breed as they are now.

Details of Anne's funeral are not yet known.

23 / 3 / 2018

LIKE ME, YOU ARE PROBBLY HEARTILY FED UP WITH THIS WEATHER. Here we are with British Summer Time nearly upon us, a change which means we can enjoy longer and lighter evenings, but as I began writing this it was windy, bitterly cold and snow laying on the ground. Thankfully things have now improved somewhat so hopefully that is end of the cold spell. Fortunately too our 7 April open show is a few weeks later this year so hopefully it will be well and truly spring by then. There are 33 PBGVs entered. Judging starts at 9.30am and PBGVs will be in the ring after 19 GBGVs.

Fresh from his BOB win at Crufts, Soletrader Buddy Holly is now taking them by storm in Ireland where Cathy Neill, now a joint owner, handled him at his first show, the St Patricks Day International. There he topped Group 6 under Laura Cox. The following day at the IKC Celtic Winners International, he took Group 6 again, this time under Branislav Rajic, then went on to BIS under Ger Cox. Lorna Wyllie had a good day at Clackmannanshire Canine Club last Saturday where her Ch Tangaer Rhapsody at Callydena won BVIS. Her Tangaer Calvera avec Callydena also did well going BOB and HG4. And at

Retford CS, Mandy Kenna's Alonzo Grande Cuore Mit Cynetkoy (Black Majesty Hollywood ex Evita Eunice Rudis) imported from Russia went BP and BOB then on to PG1 and HG4.

Lynn Wood has asked me to pass on her thanks to all those who helped on the breed booths at Discover Dogs. She very much appreciates the time you gave to promote and talk about the BGV. Lynn has spent a difficult week or so and sympathies are with her and husband, Steve, who have now said goodbye to their beloved Dottie (Monkhams Dorothy Perkins). Dottie's health had been failing for some time so we all knew the end of her life was in sight and sadly she didn't quite make it to her 15th birthday on 6 April. Dottie was their first PBGV. They welcomed her into their home in 2007 after Jenna and I took her back in following her previous owner's marriage break-up. There she became the matriarch of the family, producing two litters – the first sired by Ch/Dk Ch Monkhams Brimstone and the second by Ch Gemshorn Rocky, which gave them Beaujons Tickled Pink. I am so glad I went to see Dottie two days before she died. The flickering of the end of her tail as she recognised me made it all worthwhile.

30 / 3 / 2018

A FEW OPEN SHOW RESULTS. At West Lothian CS Vy Mochan's Soletrader Tinker Taylor (Am GCH/Multi Ch Dehra Amazona Bvlgari ex Vilauddens Pria with Soletrader) went BOB under Jo Beckett-Hughes and, at his first show, Herts & Essex Border CS, our Beaujons Vagabond of Monkhams (Dk Ch/Multi Ch Petit Heroes Canned Heat ex Beaujons Ticked Pink ShCM) went BP and BOB under Sue Wilkinson (Hunacres) followed by Puppy Group 1 under Liz Millward (Alouann). The following day at Hound Association Open Show BOB went to Chris Blake's Orleans van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes at Trezeguet (Cookie Crunch van TTV ex Iparla des Echos de Buzet), with BP to Ceri McEwan's Marunnel Orinoco (Vilauddens Isaak ex Maudaxi Coco Chanel from Marunnel). The judge was Kevin Young (Sunkap).

Only a week to go to the Club's Open Show at a new venue, Weedon Bec Village Hall in Northants. Our Show Manager and the show sub-committee have been working hard as usual, getting ready for the day which starts with show opening 9am and judging 9.30am. On to the afternoon and there is the first of a series of fun events to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the BGV Club, brief details of which are on the club website www.bgvclub.co.uk. There will be an all-day tombola, musical mats, a quiz, fancy dress, fun classes and, of course, plenty of refreshments and cake! If you own breeds other than your BGVs, you are very welcome to bring them along. I look forward to seeing you all on the day.

6 / 4 / 2018

DESPITE THE ABYSMAL WEATHER, open shows were well supported over the Easter weekend. At Edwinstowe Paul Osbourne's Braego Gladys Aylward went BOB and G4 under Barbara Milton. The following day at North Lincs Dog Club the judge was Pamela McKenzie-Hewitt (Woofhouse) who awarded BOB and BP to Stuart Watson & Many Kenna's Alonzo Grande Cuore Mit Cynetkoy.

At the Swedish KC Int Show in Malmo, Jette Ramvad awarded BOB and G2 to Annicka Lofgren's Around Drama Queen and at Imatra Int Show in Finland Vivien Phillips awarded BOB to Kristina Bergström's Soletrader Just Jazz, who went on to G4 under Miodrag Vretenic.

April's LOD winners are Vivien Phillips with £15, Hilary Cole £10 and Mr & Mrs Hardy £5.

With entries closed, not long now to the PBGVCA's National, which can be hard to resist taking place in Hurrah's Hotel & Casino, Reno, Nevada. On 26 April Mary Ann Brocious is the Regional Conformation judge and, following Obedience and Rally on 27th, 28th see Bill Shelton judging the National.

Also in America, the death has been announced of Barbara Oxholm. With husband Gary she was known for their Polygor PBGVs. In the early '80s Barbara saw a slide show by noted canine writer Louise Shattuck. It included a BGV. From that date, she started looking for one. On seeing the famous Alexander at the 1983 "Supermatch", the PBGV who kickstarted interest in the States, she surprised George Barth by saying she recognised the breed. George told her where he and Betty had bought Alexander and, borrowing all the cash she could from her dog friends, Barbara jumped into her car and drove upstate to buy a Belray dog and bitch. Belray Polygor Foxy, became her foundation bitch. Since then many Polygor PBGVs appeared in the ring and Barbara became a respected judge and mentor of the breed.

Latterly she became the first President of the GBGVCA and worked very hard to get the breed AKC recognition in the early years of the club and, in 2017, was granted Honorary Membership.

The death has also been announced of Michael Bruzzzone. His wife Lisa is a professional dog handler at American shows and, as a PBGV owner, has supported the breed for many years.

Here we are now just before a rather different day for the club show on Saturday when, after judging, to celebrate the 40th year of the BGV Club there is a special afternoon of fun events for all club members. The inaugural meeting of the club took place on 19 February 1978 in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. During that year the first newsletter was published and work began on producing a breed standard. However, as French imports to the UK were initially registered in France as Bassets Griffons Vendéens, these and others born in England were similarly registered at the KC in England. This confused matters slightly and the question arose of whether there should be one BGV Standard incorporating both sizes. An old 1920s French Basset Griffon Vendéen Standard formed the basis of the draft. Following correspondence between the Club and the KC who made it clear there could be no Standard for a breed that at the time didn't exist in the country, by 1983 one was eventually issued solely for the Petit Basset. GBGVs subsequently arrived in 1989 and the process started again, with presenting an interim Standard to the KC.

The show opens at 9am at Weedon Bec Village Hall, Northants NN7 4QU with judge Anders Tunold-Hanssen from Norway commencing judging of 19 Grands at 9.30am. There will be a very short break before he continues with his entry of 33 PBGVs. If you have a trophy, please do not forget to return it on the day and tombola prizes will be gratefully accepted as this will be running all day and will be replenished regularly with more great prizes. Food and refreshments will be available from when you arrive and there is the return of the well-liked baked potatoes for lunch, with a choice of fillings including Peter Marks' popular chilli.

During this time other members will be arriving to join in the afternoon's celebration event which, apart from the tombola, sees fun classes, including fancy dress for the dogs, a quiz, musical mats and goodies for all. Refreshments will continue to be available and lots of delicious cake. What more could you ask for? I look forward to seeing you.

13 / 4 / 2018

THE CLUB'S 40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS kicked off magnificently last Saturday with a full day of activities at Weedon Bec Village Hall. Judge Anders Tunold-Hanssen (Taglines) from Norway judged the morning open show. Surprisingly the entry was down overall on last year though only by five. With eight absent from the Grands, this left only 11 for him to go over so it wasn't too long before he went on to the Petits, as there were unfortunately no junior handlers entered for Geraldine Dodd to judge beforehand. In PBGVs the absentee rate was also rather high with 9 missing from the entry of 33. From LD, Best Dog and BOB went to Stuart & Joan Puckett's Soletrader Bobs Your Uncle (Ch Taglines Double The Fun with Soletrader (imp Nor) ex Soletrader Jessie Jay) with RBD going to the BV Ceri McEwan's Culdaws Diesle from Marunnel (Ch Gemshorn Rocky ex Monkham's Hippy Chick). BB was awarded to the Junior Bitch winner, Phil & Dianne Reid's Fox's Nightmare Jessica Biel at Maudaxi (imp Rus), whose sire and dam are both from England (Ch Maudaxi Jimmy Choo ex Twinan Causin A Stir) and from Post Graduate Bitch, Linda Skerrett & Jenna Betts' Monkham's Luna Luvgood (Suton Crepu Visage Love From Roxy to Gemshorn (imp USA) ex Monkham's Kiwi JW ShCM) won RBB. BP also went to Monkham's with Beaujons Vagabond at Monkham's (Dk/Multi Ch Petit Heroes Canned Heat ex Beaujons Tickled Pink ShCM)

In the final competition judged by Anders, Bobs Your Uncle had to settle for RBIS behind the Grand, Colin & Ann Makey's Gairside Good Lord JW ShCM. BOSIS went to Jessica Biel. Our Bond went RBPIS to Vivien Phillips' Debucher Letitia but the PBGV won over the GBGV, Claire Cooper's Ch Debucher Xfactor, for BVIS. Results and photos are on www.bgvclub.co.uk/2018-open-show-results.

It was good to see Judith Robin-Smith sitting ringside. Jenna and I won the lucky catalogue number prize as everyone had a break for lunch.



Paul Stallard, with snazzy apron, helping Jan Bishop in the kitchen

Many exhibitors had already tucked in to egg or bacon rolls early morning but this didn't prevent them from enjoying baked potatoes with the various fillings on offer. Claire Cooper and a hardworking band of committee members and others coped with the non-stop stream of requests, not only for refreshments but delicious cakes baked by Geraldine Dodd and Jan Bishop.

There was a special commemorative fridge magnet for everyone and the all-day tombola was a great success, with plenty of goody bags being won. Both trade stands (Sue Brundle's and Jim Salmon's) were also kept busy.

Early afternoon the hall swelled with other BGVs and various breeds all set to enjoy the special programme of fun events. It was a treat to see so many well-behaved dogs and there were plenty of games for owners to take part in, including a dog quiz and fun classes judged by Dawn Green (Malocomi Tibetan Terriers). Ably assisted by Chris Hill, Fred Ellingford kept the entire day running smoothly, especially the games ranging from Musical Mats, to Catch the Sausage and Best 6 Legs.

A special mention must go to our photographer, Tim Jennings, who did a fantastic job, working extremely hard all day. Tim stood in for Sue Marshall who has been busy at home for some weeks now rearing her litter of GBGVs. I am planning on putting a good selection of Tim's candid afternoon photos in the summer Voice.

The entry for Hound Association of Scotland this weekend is shown as 18 making 40, which I find hard to believe for 6 classes at a non-CC show so I will be interested to see the results. Ed Casey (Moyglass) is the judge.

The next club event is the AGM at Dry Drayton village hall, Cambs on Sunday 22 April, starting at 10am where I think kitchen duties will be somewhat easier than the hard work put in last Saturday.

20 / 4 / 2018

HOUND ASSOCIATION OF SCOTLAND proved to be a clean sweep for the coated bassets and Griffon Vendéen breeds, with Ch Solettrader Magic Mike being beaten into RBIS by the GBGV Ch/Ir Ch Tarmachan Cartier. G3 went to the Fauve and G4 to the Griffion Fauve de Bretagne. The judge was Pam Marston-Pollock.

Ed Casey was the judge for the breed classes with one absent from the good entry of 17 which was boosted by the Solettrader and Maudaxi PBGVs travelling up from Oxfordshire. Standing second to Magic Mike, BOS went to the Reid's Fox's Nightmare Jessica Biel at Maudaxi (imp Rus), with Reserves going to their Maudaxi Oddjob and the Wyllie's Tangaer Calvera avec Callydena. There were no puppies. In the Stakes classes, the Wyllie's Ch Tangaer Rhapsody at Callydena ShCM topped the Veteran Stakes under Mrs Irene McManus (Metexa) and in the Good Citizen Dog Scheme Stakes Mr Gordon Haran (Magregor) awarded the Gilluley's Haliston Didier ShCM third. I gather the Breeders Stakes was somewhat less than serious, with the Tarmachan Grands romping in first and third place going the Reid's PBGVs, headed by Maudaxi Pussy Galore. The judge was Mrs Irene Macmanus.

At Suffolk Agricultural Association judge Bridget Bodie awarded BP, BOB and Puppy Group 3 to Steve & Lynn Wood's and Jette Ramvad's Beaujons Velvet and, with just one class at Selkirk & District CS, Claire Gilluley's Haliston Didier ShCM went BOB and G1 under Johnny Morgan and Ali Morton.

A shock entry for the PBGVCA National in Reno, Nevada with just 28. As with the state of dog shows worldwide, there are probably countless reasons why entries are down but it is disappointing for the committee that has worked hard to mount a comprehensive programme of events over 24 -28 April. With a predominance of PBGVs living on the east coast or in the mid-west, west coast entries (and Nevada is included within the area covering the coastal states of California, Oregon and Washington) have always been traditionally lower, though this is a dramatic drop from the 97 when I judged at Sacramento in 2006. There the show included classes such as Stud Dog, Brood Bitch, Brace and Team and, even a Pack Class. Reasons for not entering this year have ranged from the expense, to unwilling to fly dogs cargo to unable to drive such a long way or to get the time off work. It does seem that the glory days of the breed shows have all but passed, which is unfortunately a deterrent for anyone thinking of travelling a long way even be a spectator.

Also in America, the death has been announced of Ch/Am Ch Solettrader Donald Duck (Ch Solettrader Dunc n Disordely ex Ch Afterglow Penelope Pitstop). He was born on 20 December 2004 and sired eight litters here before a show career in the States. Janice Hayes said "He was a great ambassador of the breed, the best companion, and loved his girls and toys equally".

With the recent fun event having filled up the day following the Club Open Show, the BGVC AGM was moved to this Sunday, 22 April. It takes place at Dry Drayton Village Hall, near Cambridge, starting at 10am. There were no nominations for Secretary, so I remain in post and, with seven vacancies and six candidates for committee, there was no requirement for a membership ballot. Neither was there a ballot for future Club show judges this year as it became apparent that the system operating since 2004 was unsatisfactory on several counts, so a different method of selection was trialled. Judges for 2020 and 2021 will be announced as will the winners of the Club show trophies for 2017. Refreshments will be provided so, even though the weather has finally changed for the better and I am sure you would rather be enjoying the sunshine, you will be welcome to come to Dry Drayton for the morning.

27 / 4 / 2018

THE CLUB'S AGM TOOK PLACE AT DRY DRAYTON NEAR CAMBRIDGE ON 22 APRIL. As expected, fewer members attended this year as there was no captive audience of exhibitors attending the venue for the open show on the same day, as in past years. Last year the committee was increased from nine to 12 by the co-option of Kim Culyer-Dawson, Paul Stallard and Lynn Wood. Two committee members, Hilary Knowles and Jules Metselaar-Williams resigned. Two, Peter Marks and Sue Marshall, came up for re-election. This meant there were seven posts to be filled. With only one nomination – from Michael MacLaren - all retained or secured their positions. This leaves one vacancy. With no other nomination for Secretary, I too retained the post.

Chairman Paul Osbourne opened the proceedings by asking for a minute's silence in memory of two former stalwarts of the Club, Yvonne Dean and Anne Mackenzie. I gave a resume of the main activities of the club last year and what role various committee members had played in mounting successful events. I also mentioned setting up the popular and useful facebook Club page, which is well used and now has around 270 members. Treasurer Colin Makey reported that the combined activities of the Club had resulted in a healthy surplus for the year of over £3,000.

Fiona Buchanan had submitted a report on Welfare & Rescue activities for 2017, which had thankfully been fairly quiet and, when necessary, breeders had helped. The number of trustees for rescue has been increased from three to five and this gave her much better scope to deal with emergency situations and gain a broader consensus of opinion. Health reports from Vivien Phillips and Peter Marks were also positive with over 1500 PBGVs having been DNA tested for POAG by the end of 2017 and overall the number of Clear results outnumbering Carriers slightly; and only one case of idiopathic epilepsy reported in a Grand.

There had been no judges ballot this year as it became obvious over the past few years that the current system was not working well. With 209 letters sent out last year inviting judges to go into the ballot. This entailed a lot of work, including checking on judges' previous and forthcoming appointments. Some didn't reply whereas, for others, it raised their expectations of getting into the ballot but, with the decision made in 2004 to shortlist to six, many were disappointed. For the open show 2020, a short-list of judges had been contacted and, when they had accepted going into the ballot, voting was done by the committee. For the 2021 championship show, working ahead of JCF, it had been decided to select overseas judges, which invariably proves popular when CCs are on offer. The results were: Open Show 2020 - PBGVs Kim Culyer-Dawson, reserve David Bell; GBGVs Ann Makey, reserve tie between Tina Parker and Ken Sinclair. Championship Show 2021: PBGVs Gunnar Nymann (Denmark); GBGVs Jette Vind Ramvad (Denmark).

All were in favour of a committee proposal that Junior Membership must be accompanied by one paying adult and, following consideration of another committee proposal to reduce Overseas Membership subscriptions and send the Club newsletter electronically, a counter-proposal to cater for any who might join not being on e-mail was passed unanimously.

Club PBGV points trophies were awarded as follows:

PBGVs CH SHOWS	DOG	OWNER
FLAXBRIDGE TROPHY – TOP PBGV	CH SOLETRADER MAGIC MIKE	SARA ROBERTSON & WENDY DOHERTY
ILSHAM TROPHY - BOS	CH DEBUCHER JEZEBEL AT BRAEGO ShCM	PAUL OSBOURNE
JACLIN SHIELD – RESERVE MALE	MAUDAXI NICK NACK	PHIL & DIANNE REID
CHANTALLE SHIELD – RESERVE BITCH	AROUND ZLIGHTLY DIFFERENT WITH SOLETRADER	GAVIN, OLIVER & ERIN ROBERTSON
KASANI SHIELD – TOP PUPPY	SOLETRADER BUDDY HOLLY	LIZZIE GREENSLADE, OLIVER & ERIN ROBERTSON
JACLIN SHIELD- RESERVE PUPPY	MAUDAXI DAIQUIRI DOUGHNUT	PHIL & DIANNE REID
JOMIL ZADOK TROPHY – TOP SIRE	BOOM CHICAGO VAN TUM-TUM'S VRIENDJES	GWEN HUIKESHOVEN
LORMORAMI TROPHY-TOP DAM	CH SOLETRADER PEEK A BOO	SARA ROBERTSON & WENDY DOHERTY
RANGALI PLAQUE-NON-CC WINNER	SOLETRADER BUDDY HOLLY	LIZZIE GREENSLADE, OLIVER & ERIN ROBERTSON

PBGVs OPEN SHOWS	DOG	OWNER
DEANOUND TROPHY – TOP PBGV	IR CH CLONALLAN JUST BEGINNING AVEC ERYLAN ShCM	RAY & GAIL FOOTE
ALABETH TROPHY – TOP MALE	NOT AWARDED	N/A
PETERSTOWN TROPHY – RES TOP MALE	NOT AWARDED	N/A
ALABETH TROPHY – TOP FEMALE	IR CH CLONALLAN JUST BEGINNING AVEC ERYLAN ShCM	RAY & GAIL FOOTE
PETERSTOWN TROPHY – RESERVE TOP FEMALE	BEAUJONS UGLY BETTY OF MONKHAMS JW ShCM	LINDA SKERRITT & JENNA BETTS
BGVC TROPHY - TOP PBGV PUPPY	TANGAER CALVERA AVEC CALLYDENA	STEVE & LORNA WYLLIE
RUSHGROVE TROPHY – RES TOP PUPPY	MONKHAMS LUNA LUVGOOD	LINDA SKERRITT & JENNA BETTS

CRUFTS 2017 - PBGVs	DOG	OWNER
WELLS-MEACHAM ROSE BOWL - BOB	SOLETRADER BUDDY HOLLY	LIZZIE GREENSLADE, OLIVER & ERIN ROBERTSON
CYNBA TROPHY - BOS	CH SOLETRADER RITA ORA	GAVIN ROBERTSON, WENDY DOHERTY & LIZZIE GREENSLADE

Several unfortunately had to forego open shows to attend the AGM but, supporting a local show (South West Essex CA), well done to Jan Bishop's Jamar Angeliou who went BOB and HG2 under Janet Kay (Kaytian). The first championship show of the year following Crufts where we have CCs usually gives a good entry but this year there are only 30 for judge Jill Peak, nine down on last year.

4 / 5 / 2018

IT TAKES PERSEVERANCE in America to attend the Nationals, as some exhibitors hit the road and drive for several days to get to the venue which this year was Reno, Nevada. Unfortunately the venue and surrounding area have come in for some negative comments but the spectacular journey there was certainly well worthwhile for Jan Zigich whose Mirepoix's Kate Spade went BOB at the Regionals under Mary Anne Brocius. Other awards were: BOW: Mirepoix's Hollygog Pudding, BOS: GCH Soletrader Right Said Fred, Select Dog: GCH Sonora Hidalgo, Select Bitch: M&M's Calamity Jane, AOM: Westwind's Idol Carrie Underdog. For the National, Bill Shelton choices were: BOB: M&M's Calamity Jane, BOW: Center Stage Strut Those Kinky Boots, BOS: Soletrader Right Said Fred, Select Dog: Mirepoix Weskyuwin Champagne On Ice', Select Bitch: Mirepoix's Kate Spade, AOM: Westwind's Idol Carrie Underdog.

At WELKS PBGVs were represented in AVNSC Hound, judged by Frank Kane. With only six bitches present, from Junior RBB went to Reid's Fox's Nightmare Jessica Biel at Maudaxi and, out of nine dogs, BD and subsequently Best NSC Hound went to Magic Mike. He went on to top the Hound group then on the final day achieved BIS, both judged by Hans van den Berg (Netherlands). And at the Scottish double where there was a good entry of 10, Lorna Wyllie went from BOB to HG3 with Callydena Toffee Bon Bon at Falkirk Open Show and Gail Foote's Erylan Aphrodite la Belle went BOB and HG4 at LKA of Scotland.

Still north of the border, there are 19 entered at SKC for Marita Rodgers, which she will be judging after 18 Grands.

11 / 5 / 2018

AT BIRMINGHAM NATIONAL Jill Peak had 4 absent from the 30 entered under her. DCC and BOB went to Robertson & Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike, with RDCC awarded to Reid's Maudaxi Nick Nack. BCC was Blake's Orleans van Tum-Tum Vriendjes at Trezeguet, RBCC Scott's Overbecks Kathy Tiere. BP went to McEwan's Marunnel Orinoco, BV Wood Beaujons Tickled Pink ShCM. Over the previous bank holiday weekend, from a good entry of twelve for Mary Pascoe (Sarakhan), our Beaujons Ugly Betty of Monkham's JW ShCM went BOB at a very hot Chelmsford show. She followed this up with G3 awarded by Ray Morland (Triken). Unusually, and great to see, there were five puppies entered. Ceri McEwan's Marunnel Madame Cholet was BP, who later went Puppy Group 2.

Also a special mention for PBGV owner and breeder Jackie Hornby, who secured BPIS with her wire-haired Dachshund. BIS judge was Ray Ellingford.

Subject to KC approval we have a change of judge for our club championship show in November. PBGVs will now be judged by Alan Curry (Lodore).

The months fly past and with Crufts just a memory, Lynn Wood is now asking for volunteers to man the breed booths at Discover Dogs in Excel, London on 20 or 21 October. Please contact her on 01268 555072 or wood_stephen9@btinternet.com. And I am currently getting the Summer Voice ready for publication so if anyone has anything to send me or wishes to advertise, now's the time. Half page is £25, full page £40.

May's lucky LOD winners are Martin Bishop with £25, £12 going to Barbara Milton and £6 to Geoffrey Trotter.

18 / 5 / 2018

IT WON'T HAVE ESCAPED YOUR ATTENTION that, from 25 May, there will be a change in data protection with the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) coming into force within the EU. This aims to harmonise data protection laws and allow for free movement of data within the EU. The GDPR immediately replaces data protection legislation in the UK. However, the UK is currently preparing its own draft Data Protection Bill; to allow for permitted variations from the GDPR and so that the provisions of the GDPR will remain as part of UK law after Brexit.

The central principles for data processing will not change. These principles are:

- * Lawful, fair and transparent processing
- * Specific and legitimate purpose
- * Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary (no more than is needed/not 'just in case')
- * Accurate and up to date
- * Retained only for as long as is necessary
- * Data security
- * Accountability –not just important to comply but to be able to demonstrate/to be seen to be

compliant.

This is all pretty dry stuff and I have no doubt there has been a lot of head-scratching amongst dog clubs as to what exactly they need to do as we don't come into the same category as companies or other large organisations. However, they do have a duty to comply with these more stringent regulations and the KC has posted guidance on the subject.

As a non-profit-making body, the Basset Griffon Vendéen Club has limited data processing activities. Our club rules already say "names and contact details shall be stored securely, either electronically or manually, used appropriately by the Membership Secretary in cognisance of data protection requirements and made available for inspection by the Kennel Club and Members of the Society if so requested". It follows that we acknowledge the importance of how we, as a breed club, handle member, judge and exhibitor data within GDPR requirements. We recognise the importance of:

- * the way our data is stored,
- * having good reason for storing it; and
- * bearing in mind breed historical relevance of some records, ensuring we do not hold information for any longer than necessary.

The following explains what data the club holds:

· Who?	Whose data are we holding?	Members, breed judges, entrants to licensed events.
· What?	What data is being held?	Name/address/telephone number/e-mail/CVs.
· Why?	The purpose/reason for holding data	To communicate with you, provide you with a club newsletter, give details of club events, breed health information, for breed education, to allow your name and contact details to be given if people enquire about rehoming/puppies/stud dog.
· Where?	Where is the data being held?	Limited paper records and electronically (password protected) by the Secretary, Membership Secretary and Treasurer; by the nominated Breed Health Officer for research into health issues and by the nominated Breed Education Co-ordinator.
· When?	For how long is the data held?	Save for any historical data of importance to the club, records are held from year to year and, will be removed when membership or judging of the breed ceases or when breed education is complete.

You are obviously not obliged to give this personal data. However, if you don't, it goes without saying that the club won't be able to perform its administrative function in providing you with news of any sort or helping you with other club services. From now on, when new members join or when subscriptions are renewed, consent will automatically be sought.

Post Brexit? Who knows? I'll worry about it when it happens but, for now, if you have any questions, please, feel free to contact me. I can't promise to be able to answer them but I must say I have learned a lot in the past few days!

SKC takes place this weekend and while exhibitors with 19 PBGVs will be wending their way to Edinburgh, others will be going south to the 45th French Nationale d'Elevage which this year takes place in Nedde in the Haute-Vienne department and Limousin region about 47 kilometres from Limoges and 351 kilometres from Paris.

25 / 5 / 2018

LAST WEEKEND WAS WONDERFULLY HOT With plenty of shows to enjoy. At SKC Magic Mike did it yet again, going all the way to BIS, this time under Stuart Mallard. With no absentees, there were three times as many bitches entered than dogs, with 15 against 5 for breed judge Marita Rodgers. After awarding DCC to Ch Soletrader Magic Mike, RDCC went to Joan Puckett's Soletrader Bobs Your Uncle. BCC went to Charlotte Dalgarno's Nykarth Magic Moment, RBCC Lynne Scott's Overbecks Kathy Tierre. BP also went to Charlotte with her home-bred Vencharno Tequila Sunrise at her first championship show. BV was Steve & Lorna Wyllie's Ch Tangaer Rhapsody at Callydena ShCM who went on to a lovely Veteran Group 3 under Mr C Mackay.

Further south, our Beaujons Ugly Betty of Monkams JW ShCM went BOB and Hound Group 1 at Wickford & Basildon with our Beaujons Vagabond at Monkams winning BP and Hound Puppy Group 2. Breed judge was Jenny Dove and Group judge Jannette Al-Kudsi.

Going a few hundred miles further south, at the French Nationale d'Elevage held at Nedde, where there were several exhibitors and spectators from the UK, there were around 100 PBGVs entered. Top place of BOB went to Claude Jehanno's Lucho des Echos de Buzet (Durdur des Echos de Buzet ex Anis des Echos de Buzet). And, at her first ever show, Gwen Huikeshoven's year old Cassis van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes (Felix Dit Finistere du Chemins des Bruleurs ex Kiwi van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes) Won the Bitch CC. Next year's show is at Oléron, between Nantes and Bordeaux and it seems some are already rather wary of driving over the long, high bridge connecting the mainland to this second largest island in France.

Nigel Luxmoore-Ball has an excellent entry of 40 for Monday's Bath show and PBGVs are first in the ring at 9am so it will be a very early start for many.

1 / 6 / 2018

THE DOWNSIDE of having a long spell of hot weather is that, sooner or later, the stormy weather arrives. Although Bath came in for torrential rain and flooding on Sunday, thankfully by Hound day on the Monday the water had all drained away. It was a wearing drive for many though through endless patches of dense fog but at least the weather for the well-run show was dry, if humid. With a 9am start for judging, there were no absentees from Nigel Luxmoore-Ball's good entry of 40. DCC and BOB went to Robertson & Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike, who went on to win the Hound Group under Jill Peak and BIS under Mr E M Paterson. From PD, RDCC went to a stunned Ceri McEwan's with her homebred Marunnel Orinoco (Vilauddens Isaak ex Ch/Ir Ch Maudaxi Coco Chewnel from Marunnel), who also went BP and subsequently PG4 under Mrs S J Garner. BCC went to Chris Blake & Dianne Reid's Vilauddens Midsummer Madness (imp Swe) (Cookie Crunch van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes ex Vilauddens Saga) with RBCC to Chris Blake's Orleans van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes, sired by the same dog, dam Iparla des Echos de Buzet. With Paul Osbourne's PBGVs winning both VD and BB, BV went to the dog Ch Nykarth's Kicking Off With Braego ShCM.

Some other wins at the show – under Mr P Lawless, Erin Robertson gained third place in Young Kennel Club Members Stakes with hers and Oliver Robertson's Around Zlightly Different with Soletrader (imp Swe), also a third in Junior Handling Association 6-11 under the same judge.

Fred Ellingford was judging Pharaohs on Hound day and he will be our PBGV judge there next year, having tried to get his head round it being on a Sunday, rather than the traditional Bank Holiday Monday that we are all used to.

It will certainly be good though to see some of the Friday shows being rotated to a weekend day from next year onwards as it is often difficult for those at work or with children to attend midweek. So, it is at this Friday's Southern Counties, which has an entry of 19 for Dr Ian Gabriel (no CCs).

With the championship shows coming one after another at the moment, a caravanserai of BGV enthusiasts that seems to be growing in numbers is currently travelling from one showground to another. A lovely life for some!

8 / 6 / 2018

NEWBURY SHOWGROUND HOSTED SOUTHERN COUNTIES as usual. Some newer exhibitors may not know that Southern Counties used to be one of our CC shows but they were last awarded in 1995, when Ben Reynolds-Frost gave top honours to Ruth Bumstead's Dehra Lambeau of Baldslow and Anne Mackenzie's Wakelyns Watchful. After that, the KC removed two sets, the casualties being Southern Counties and WELKS. At that time, the show was held at Ifield, spectacularly under the Gatwick flightpath so the move to Newbury was welcomed by those whose dogs preferred a quieter life.

This year's judge was Dr Ian Gabriel who had two absent from his entry of 19. From Veteran class BD went to Jane Brown's Ch Soletrader Louis Vuitton with RBD going to the Puppy Dog and BP Ceri McEwan's Marunnel Orinoco. BB and BOB went to Oliver & Erin Robertson's Around Zlightly Different with Soletrader and RBB to Chris and Debs Blake's Vilauddens Midsummer Madness. Both bitches are imported from Sweden.

In the YKC Members Stakes Hound, Tim Ball awarded first place to Erin Robertson with Around Zlightly Different with Soletrader and, in the Hound/Toy Veteran Stakes judged by Patsy Hollings, Ceri McEwan gained 4th with her Culdaws Diesle from Marunnel.

Once again there seems to be a spate of PBGVs diagnosed as suffering from pancreatitis. Although only 5 cases were reported in the Club's 2016 health survey, this must be weighed up against the low return rate. If the Club doesn't get to know of every case, it doesn't have the weight of evidence behind it to push for research. Now that we have a Clinical Information form available for any owner to complete, there is no excuse for not helping the breed that you love. This form can be found on www.bgvclub.co.uk/surveys-seminars and a copy is in the newsletter.

15 / 6 / 2018

WHAT A TREAT IT WAS to read the Three Counties critique in the car on the way home from the show. Somewhat akin to FCI procedures but, without a secretary, Mark Coccozza typed his critiques for 1st and 2nd in each class as judging proceeded and, shortly afterwards, uploaded these onto the Kennel Club's new Judges' Critiques website. One could forgive the few typos and the critique lacking the niceties afforded by the luxury of time in return for the speed and efficiency. No waiting for months, when the show becomes a distant memory, or those other occasions that we all waste our time searching week after week when the judge has no intentions at all of submitting a critique.

DCC, his 4th, went to Teresa Eaton's Ch Debucher Unique with Reserve also going to her with Linphil Kili. From Limit, BCC and BOB went to Linda Lewis' Tangaer Chamlee with RBCC to our Beaujons Ugly Betty of Monkham's JW ShCM. In the competition for BP between our Beaujons Vagabond of Monkham's and Ceri McEwan's Marunnel Miss Adelaide, BP went to the bitch. There was no award for BV.

Following the show, the critique gave rise to many comments on social media, even by those who weren't there, and it is disappointing that some were none too polite. We enter a show for a judge's opinion and far too often we see bland, generic critiques that tell us absolutely nothing about the entry or the judge's understanding of breed type, if we get one at all! From that perspective it is refreshing to read something that clearly shows the judge's thinking and breed specific observations, even if it is not as rosy and positive as many would like.

Most of the online comments have fallen on the manner in which the critique was written. The introduction of the KC's Judges Critiques facility allows for the FCI method of instant production. Snappy critique writing calls for quick thinking and use of trigger words, noting not only a dog's virtues but its weaker points as well. In FCI countries forthright negative points can be expected such as "Nails too long" or "Tail carried gaily". Alongside the positive, this helps form a balanced picture of that particular dog, all combining to aid speedy production. Of course, this invariably strips away the niceties of, for example, changing "Light eye" to "Would have preferred a darker eye". These are thoughts and notes made without embellishment, not to be mistaken for a lack of courtesy.

Would exhibitors prefer to see a critique published within hours of judging or a polished one that appears in print weeks afterwards when most have forgotten about the show and moved onto the next ones?

Fran Mitchell has an entry of 16 at Border Union this weekend. Then on to Blackpool, again with no CCs, where Karl-Eric Johanssen (Swe) also has 16. Going further ahead, Serena Parker has 32 entered at East of England.

Lucky recipients of June's Limited Odds Draw money are Linda Jones with £15, Joan Stallard £10 and Phil Reid £5.

22 / 6 / 2018

ANOTHER BIS FOR MAGIC MIKE and incredibly topping last year's RBIS at Border Union. Jeff Luscott was this year's judge, Magic Mike having gone through from the Hound Group judged by Dianna Spavin. With no CCs, breed judge Fran Mitchell had only 4 dogs present with RBD going to Ceri McEwan's Marunnel Orinoco from JD. Ten bitches present completed the entry, with BB and BP going to Ceri McEwan's Marunnel Madame Cholet, standing alone in JB. RBB was Paul Osbourne's Braego Gladys Aylward ShCM.

With precious little warning, there is some good news that the Animal Health Trust is offering a reduced rate for Primary Open Angle Glaucoma DNA testing until the end of this month. Knowing whether your PBGV has this eye condition or is likely to develop it can make all the difference to being able to treat it in good time and stave off development of the disease. If your PBGV's parents aren't hereditary clear and you haven't already sent cheek swabs to the AHT, take advantage of the reduced rate of £38 before the price returns to £48. The link for more information and how to order a kit is www.ahtdnatesting.co.uk.

There are 19 PBGVs entered for Windsor where David Knights is the judge (no CCs).

29 / 6 / 2018

WITH ONE ABSENTEE, there were 14 PBGVs present at Blackpool for Swedish judge Mr Karl-Erik Johansson. A breeder of Boxers, he has owned dogs since 1962 and has been licensed to judge since 1977. Now doing all groups and BIS, FCI records show that he has previously judged 67 PBGVs, though it isn't known whether these numbers are up to date.

At Blackpool, he awarded BB and BOB to Dalgarno's Nykarth Magic Moment. BD was Mochan's Soletrader Tinker Taylor and from JD, RBD Bartley's Erylan Loki Maitre du Mal, who was also awarded Best Junior. RBB went to Reid's Fox's Nightmare Jessica Bile at Maudaxi (imp Rus). BP was Dalgarno's Vencharno Tequila Sunrise.

In hot sunshine Clacton show took place last weekend too where, with only two classes, judge Jackie Hornby awarded Paul Osbourne's Braego Gladys Aylward BOB. From Graduate, BP went to Steve & Lynn Wood's Beaujons Velvet. Well done to both who gained places in their respective groups, judged by Eddie Webster.

Hopefully by now the Summer edition of Voice will have hit your doormat. With the current heatwave making most of us more lethargic than usual, let's hope this gives you time to read it. There are also new Breed Appreciation pages on the club website building around the concept of the KC's Judges Competency Framework, which will see the face of education and assessment procedures for UK judges changing and the expectation of breed clubs developing Breed Appreciation Days that will replace the current Seminars and Assessments as we know them. BGVA aspires to provide home study modules in Basset Griffon Vendéen breed education, not only for judges but for anyone keen to learn more about the breed. It is early days yet with much work still to be done but take a look as there might be something to interest you - <http://www.bgvclub.co.uk/breed-appreciation>. These are designed to help you learn about many aspects of the breed, not just judging BGVs but also the historical side and about owning and caring for your BGV.

And, for those of you with an interest in breed health, the Kennel Club has opened a new Facebook group with the aim of ensuring anyone interested in the latest dog health and breeding news can access relevant updates easily through social media. Information to be provided on the group will include subjects such as new breed health tests/schemes, updates to breeding regulations, health testing sessions, Kennel Club Assured Breeder Scheme updates and how to get involved with the latest health research. The group is called Dog Health and Breeding news from @TheKennelClubUK.

6 / 7 / 2018

IT WAS SIZZLING AT WINDSOR, a show I love and have rarely missed but it wasn't to be this year. Judge David Knights had one absent from his entry of 19. BD and BOB went to Robertson & Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike, with RBD to Reid's Maudaxi Nick Nack. BB also went to Phil and Dianne Reid with Ch/Bel Ch Trezeguet Plum Crumble at Maudaxi, with RBB going to Blake's Orleans van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes. BP was Sara, Oliver & Erin Robertson's Soletrader Beatrix Potter and BV, the only one present in the Veteran Dog/Bitch class, Jane Brown's Ch Soletrader Valentino Rossi. Windsor now being one of the championship shows to introduce a Best Special Beginners, this award went to Moore's Afterglow Dough Ble Impact. Dalgarno's Nykarth Magic Moment was placed 4th in the Open Charity Stakes judged by Stuart Band and, in the Hound Group, judge Jenny Dove placed Magic Mike first.

Breeder Gavin Robertson had to miss watching Magic Mike go RBIS on the last day of Windsor as he was judging at the Very Special Show at a very hot Brovst in Northern Jutland, Denmark. As this was the Bassetklubben 50th anniversary show, there were three shows spanning the weekend with the first one taking place on Friday 29 June. Just back from South Africa, Gunnar Nymann judged the Petits, awarding both BOB and BOS to Annicka Löfgren's PBGVs with Around Drama Queen (Ch Soletrader Magic Mike ex Around Snack Attack) from Junior Bitch and Around Another Bad Hair Day (Around Surprise Surprise ex Around Jar of Jam) who came from the Hunting Dog class. On day two, Gavin Robertson made the same awards.

The final day, the VSS proper, saw Renaud Buche judging the PBGVs, where he awarded BOB to the Open Dog winner, Maggie Zujewska's L'Ange Barbu d'Anglais La Vie Sauvage (Emir des Ptits Bouts do Chouan ex L'Ange Barbu d'Anglais Force du Vivre), handled by breeder Anja Mellema. From Junior Bitch, BOS also went to Anja Mellema's breeding with her own L'Ange Barbu d'Anglais Nouvelle Jupe (Le Mouv Sid The Kid ex L'Ange Barbu d'Anglais Haute Couture).

Exhibitors from many countries attended this special weekend, including other Scandinavian countries, Poland and Holland. At the gala Saturday evening dinner, Gavin Robertson gave a speech in which he gave credit to Per Knudsen and Gunnar Nymann & Holger Busk, having been inspired many years ago by the Morebess and Chouan breeding.

After East of England this week, the next championship event is Houndshow where there is an entry of 31 for Alan Mease.

This week I became aware that there appears to be a delay in supplying Latanoprost, which those with PBGVs affected by POAG need regularly. I gather this does happen with drug companies from time to time. They simply run out of stock. The situation normally corrects but it might take some time. For those of you who order your PBGV's Latanoprost by prescription from a chemist, it may be wise to ensure you don't run that low before reordering as understandably supplying the eye drops for human use will take precedence over dogs. An alternative is, of course, Xalatan, though this is more expensive and I don't know whether this is also in short supply at the moment.

13 / 7 / 2018

IT IS ONLY PROPER that I start these notes with the sad news of the death of Hubert Desamy who deserves the soubriquet the Father of the Breed. He was 98 and the last of a family who devoted their lives to the Basset Griffon Vendéen and the Grand Basset in particular. Hubert followed in the footsteps of his grandfather Paul Dezamy who created a type, hunting under the name "Rallye Bocage" and breeding under the name "de la Levraudière". With Hubert's passing, an era of almost 140 years has come to an end.

It was during his presidency of the French Club du Griffon Vendéen that interbreeding between the Grand and Petit was finally stopped and he placed great store on judges judging to type and not just the difference in height. At that time (early 1970s) the Grand and Petit BGV were named BGV de grande taille and BGV de petite taille and the centimetres made all the difference - Basset Griffon Vendéen de 34-38cm and Basset Griffon Vendéen de 38-42cm, so at 38cm it could have gone either way depending on type. For the French it was no problem as type was the most important aspect. However in other countries, especially in Holland under the direction of Mrs Gondrexon, a judge Dutch judge with much influence in the Dutch Brakkenclub and the Raad van Beheer, emphasis remained on height, considered to be the most important difference. In Biars sur Cère (France) in June 1975 a Dutch friend of Hubert's, Thelma Vlas, asked the committee at the Assemblée Générale to change the names to Grand Basset

Griffon Vendéen and Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen, without the "taille" (height). The Président and the whole committee understood the problems and M. Désamy asked the SCC in Paris to change the Standards. In 1976 they were changed by the FCI (Fédération Canine Internationale). This was to be followed by every member country, although Thelma had a fight on her hands as, under the influence of Mrs Gondrexon, most judges in Holland continued placing emphasis on height. M. Désamy did all he could to make clear that it was the type. He even wrote a letter to the Brakkenclub and the Raad van Beheer but they would not listen. They refused registration for Thelma Vlas' puppies from Ibis des Genêts Roux x Idée des Genêts Roux, both Grands and confirmed as such in France, saying they were a cross between a Petit and Grand (due to height). It was thanks to Hubert Desamy's further intervention that the director of the Société Centrale Canine informed the FCI. They made enquiries and the situation was corrected. A rather embarrassing outcome from this seems to have been that Mrs Gondrexon was deprived of the right to judge in France for life.

At East of England, Serena Parker made it a clean sweep for Soletrader with DCC and BOB going to Magic Mike, who went on to G2 under breed specialist John Walton Haddon, BCC (her third) to Around Zlightly Different with Soletrader (imp Swe) and BP to Soletrader Beatrix Potter. Reserves went to Reid's Maudaxi Tommy Holedigger and Blake & Reid's Vilauddens Midsummer Madness, another Swedish import. BV was Brown's Ch Soletrader Louis Vuitton.

Critiques four our club open show are now on <http://www.bgvclub.co.uk/2018-open-show-results>. On to Houndshow which takes place this Saturday and the Association has announced moves to tackle hot weather concerns. All judging will be inside so there may be minor ring number changes. There will be increased and frequent patrols of the car park and a strict zero tolerance policy of any dogs left in any vehicle at any time, however short that might be. Exhibitors have been advised to arrive at the show with a method of getting dogs in straight away and not leaving them in vehicles while they set-up. If any are found in cars judging will be immediately suspended in the rings concerned and those responsible made the subject of a complaint by the Hound Association to The Kennel Club while in addition those concerned could be banned from exhibiting at Houndshow for up to five years.

Thanks as usual to Geraldine Dodd for the Limited Odds Draw winners for July who are Jean Hood with £15, £10 to Deborah Dunseith and £5 to Christine Stevenson. Don't forget, if you would like a chance every month to win some money, contact Geraldine on 01582 865828 / g_dodd@hotmail.co.uk for details and to get your own number.

20 / 7 / 2018

FIRST OF ALL, a reminder that the BGV Club's Scottish Fun Day takes place from midday until 5pm this Saturday, 21 July, at Carnock & Gowkhall Community Centre in Dunfermline KY12 9JP. This is the second year running the hard-working Scottish fans of the breed have mounted an event for everyone. Last year's was highly successful and this year there will once more be fun classes and scent games to take part in, as well as lovely rosettes, goodie bags and prizes for the lucky winners. £5 entry covers all dogs. All breeds are welcome, pets and show dogs. There will be some great raffle prizes and excellent stalls at the event too, whose owners have kindly donated to the raffle. It should be a special day for everyone with their four-legged friends and all the organisers looking forward to seeing you. For more details go to www.bgvclub.co.uk/diary-dates.

At the time of writing, the very hot weather is continuing and Houndshow's precautions of having all judging inside were indeed wise, as unlike other championship shows, they have no in-and-out tenting but rings are set up outside. This creates a wonderful atmosphere for this prestigious show but if it rains (as last year), you get wet unless moved to an indoor ring; if it is hot, you melt. With this year's extraordinarily long hot spell I am sure exhibitors were grateful for the consideration given to the wellbeing of their dogs, though I gather it was pretty stifling in the halls. PBGV judging took place in the Prestwood Building following 19 GBGVs (with one entered in more than one class). Both breeds were judged by Alan Mease. In PBGVs there were four absent from the 31 entered. He awarded DCC and BOB to Sara Robertson & Wendy Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike with RDCC going to the only entry in JD, Ceri McEwan's Marunnel Orinoco. BCC went to Sara, Erin & Oliver Robertson's Soletrader Beatrix Potter who was also BP. RBCC was Chris Blake & Dianne Reid's Vilauddens Midsummer Madness (imp Swe). With Paul Osbourne sweeping up both Veteran awards, the choice for BV went to Ch Debucher Jezebel at Braego ShCM. Best Special Beginner, the only one entered, went to Bartley's Erylan Loki Maitre Du Mal.

Magic Mike conquered all again, going on to BIS under Marie Bryce-Smith. In other classes, VHC in the Bill Home Memorial Stakes judged by Graham Hill went to Foote's Erylan Aphrodite La Belle. A special mention must also be made of Min Witheyman who borrowed Swede (Vilauddens Midsummer Madness) for the Hound JHA 12-16yrs Semi-finals judged by Charley Donaldson. Min was thrilled to win, made even better by Katie and Lilly O'Brien being placed 2nd and 3rd with their PBGVs. This was Min's last ever JHA semi-final which made this win even more special. It was certainly a PBGV day as, before this, the 6-11yrs winner was Erin Robertson handing Around Zlightly Different with Soletrader.

Meanwhile, at the ILKA in Ireland, Ir Ch Soletrader Buddy Holly went BIS2 under Janet Duke having won the Group under Carla Bollard-O'Callaghan and the breed under Evelyn Hurley. Buddy, who is shown by Cathy Neill, now tops the ICP/ GAIN leaderboard., standing at #1 All Breeds. And at open shows, Gilluley's Haliston Didier ShCM went BOB and G3 at Annandale CS and Lynn & Steve Wood and Jette Ramvad's Beaujons Velvet won the Puppy Group at Peterborough & DCS, having gone through from NSC Hound, both judged by Elizabeth Watson. Unfortunately it seems there were a few unhappy puppy exhibitors for BPIS as apparently the judge failed to go over the pups.

The death has been announced of Alec Mackenzie, who gave CCs in PBGVs. The last time he judged the breed was at East of England 2011 where he awarded DCC to Sara Robertson's Soletrader Rant or Rave and BCC/BOB to her Ch Soletrader Peek a Boo, who went on to RBIS under Ron James. A regular visitor to the club open shows when held at Steventon not too far from his home, I think the last time he came was in March 2014. Early 2017 he was moved to the PBGV Honorary judging list after the KC confirmed he had withdrawn from judging.

As we move towards 2019 and introduction of a new way of training our breed judges, the BGVC's Breed Education Co-ordinator, Claire Cooper, went to last weekend's BEC Information Day mounted by the KC. Claire said it was incredibly useful and now has a clearer picture of the new judging process. All Co-ordinators were given a copy of the KC's Judges Competency Framework Overview, which can now be seen on www.bgvclub.co.uk/judges-competency-framework.

27 / 7 / 2018

THE BGV CLUB'S SCOTTISH FUN DAY took place outside at Carnock & Gowkhall Committee Centre last Saturday, making the most of the continuing glorious weather. With a groaning raffle table and many taking part in the fun classes, a wonderful £350 was raised for the Club's health account. BIS went to Pam McGregor's GBGV Caela Reamur, aka Hugo, with RBIS going to James Neatham's Cocker, Oti. BPIS was PBGV Bonny handled by Stephanie Brown. From the photos I have seen, the fancy dress was a sight to behold, ranging from the Dynamic Duo and Wonder Dog, to Winnie the Pooh and Christopher Robin, a packet of Crayolas with a rather splendid Crayola Fauve and two hounds clad in religious regalia.

I see at least one open show has been cancelled this weekend due to the continuing excessive heat and will be rescheduled. However, it was the venue owners who took the decision, with the interests of animal welfare in mind. Certainly being under cover doesn't always solve the problem when the temperature soars as some venues can be oppressively hot inside, as well as out. There are 22 PBGVs entered at Leeds for judge Bert Easden and at Paignton there will be only 18 for John Thirlwell, giving CCs for the first time. This is nigh on half last year's entry of 33. Certainly there are rumblings amongst exhibitors that entries are gradually becoming too expensive for many, invariably with the cost of parking on top and travel to and from the venue, it is turning into a rich man's sport.

While on one of his regular trips overseas for judging, American Jeff Pepper developed pneumonia and an air bubble in one lung. He spent time in the Dali People's Hospital, China, being well taken care of but, with having to stay in hospital for a few days, there was no judging or touring around. I don't doubt Jeff will be pleased to get home now that he has been told he is fit and it is safe for him to fly.

3 / 8 / 2018

THERE WERE A LOT OF ABSENTEES at Leeds. Nine missing from the entry of 21 for judge Bert Easdon. With only 5 dogs, BD and BOB went to Robertson & Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike and RBD to BP Dalgarno's Vencharno Mojito. From the 7 bitches, BB was Foote's Erylan Aphrodite La Belle, RBB Robertson's Soletrader Beatrix Potter. Magic Mike went on to win the Group judged by Mike Caple and BIS under Patsy Hollings. This was his sixth all breed BIS this year and tenth overall, which put him one ahead of his mother Peek a Boo.

Border Counties Hound Club ran their open show in tandem with Leeds and BOB in PBGVs under Ilex Whiting went to Claire Gilluley's Haliston Didier ShCM.

Judges at the triple show in Amsterdam 10-12 August are Benelux Winner Show, Sylvie Desserne (FR) – 18 entered; World Dog Show, Nicole Horsten-Ceustermans (NL) who has 35 and CAC Specialty, Jose Luis Payro Duenas (MX) – also 18.

I was somewhat puzzled to read a critique from an open show we went to recently where for one bitch it said “perfect eraser and curls”. I first of all thought this might be some quality lifted from another breed standard, then when I went back to it I realised I probably meant “perfect earset and inward fold of ear (curl)”. Judges - beware of predictive text when writing critiques!

The ongoing saga of the supply difficulties with Latanoprost continues. Although supplies now seem to be getting through, I gather that the pharmaceutical company raised the price to match Xalatan. When you consider how much we have to pay for medication from vets, you can understand that this would be a double whammy for anyone getting the eye drops from their vet. If you buy a prescription and go to a local chemist, hopefully you will find that in a few weeks' time, the price of Latanoprost will have slowly dropped. I'd be interested to know your experiences of this.

10 / 8 / 2018

AT PAIGNTON judge John Thirlwell could hardly afford to lose two from his entry of 18. From the six dogs entered, DCC and BOB went to Robertson & Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike with RCC going to second in OD, Reid's Maudaxi Nick Nack. From the 10 bitches present, BCC was awarded to Oliver & Erin Robertson's Around Zlightly Different with Soletrader, who recently became a champion. From Post Graduate, Reserve was Reid's Maudaxi Pussy Galore. BP went to Oliver & Erin Robertson's Soletrader Beatrix Potter. Best Special Beginner, the only one present, went to Crowe's Caldewriver Madame Hattie. And it was another Group win for Magic Mike, this time under Mrs Sandra Marshall.

I read the results while in Denmark at the well-organised Billund show which attracted an entry of over 2,200. There the PBGV judge was Malgorzata Wieremiejczyk-Wierzchowska (Pol), who worked hard all day judging countless breeds. But here too there was a low PBGV entry, not uncommon as there are nowadays far fewer PBGVs exhibited in Denmark than there were 14 years ago when I first started enjoying their shows. Only the more prestigious events, such as the Bassetklubben's Very Special Show, attract a higher entry, when exhibitors enter from other Scandinavian countries and Germany or further afield. BOB at this show went to Annette Faaborg's Ruffled Beards Cool like Conte (Ebouriffe Spikes and Sparrow ex L'ange Barbu d'Anglais Haut de Gamme), bred and handled by Lisa Nielsen. BP was Jette Ramvad's After Me a Piece of Heaven (Nightdream Cristiano Ronaldo ex Soletrader Just Jazz), bred by Kristina Bergström in Finland.



The differences between how championship shows are run in the UK and in other countries is always food for thought. No benching for starters but a multitude of colourful exhibitor tents set up around each ring. I counted 18 around the one where PBGVs were exhibited. There are very, very few catalogues printed nowadays. Anyone, including exhibitors, can view the catalogue free on-line on www.hundeweb.dk and as usual the judge's critiques were posted

immediately after judging. No, these Basset exhibitors aren't checking their e-mails, they are looking at their dogs' critiques!

On his way from Norway to Amsterdam to judge at the World Show Anders Tunold-Hanssen was there as a student judge for several breeds and, as we are now moving in this direction in the UK, I took the opportunity of talking to him about the system.



The judge has no choice in the matter but is told beforehand he/she will be having a student judge. The judge discusses his/her impressions of the dog in front of the exhibitor and the student can make his/her own observations but this, of course, will not influence the judge's views, neither will there be any differences of opinion leading to a heated debate! Afterwards the judge completes an important form to hand to the student judge on the day as evidence they have observed the breed and their considered ability.

As FCI judges give a critique at the time on each dog they judge, this in itself makes for a slower pace of judging than in the UK so I wonder which system PBGV exhibitors feel is better – taking longer to judge the breed but with instant critiques, or swifter judging then waiting some weeks, even months, to see the critique. Certainly whatever system we use it will never please everyone but it is a shame there is no way of combining the procedures to get the best of both worlds.

Here Bournemouth takes place this weekend where Zena Thorn-Andrews has an entry of 19, on a par with Paignton's poor entry. Then on to Welsh KC for Jeff Luscott's excellent entry of 47. Gavin Robertson is judging the Hound Group.

A small update on the Latanoprost situation. One owner has let me know that cost of Latanoprost for his PBGV has soared to £24 a bottle whereas by hunting on line he has found it at £1.45 per bottle with a vet's prescription. It pays to shop around.

August's LOD winners are Anita Roberts with £15.00, Pamela Lilley with £10 and £5 to Jim Salmon.

17 / 8 / 2018

THE LURE OF THE GALA EVENT IN AMSTERDAM attracted many basset breed exhibitors from these shores, including several PBGV owners. Main awards for the World Dog Show classes judged by Nicole Horsten-Ceustermans (NL) went to Dutch bred dogs with BOB going to Gwen Huikeshoven's Cookie Crunch vTTV (Cappuccino ex Unlimited Ping Crunchy Roll for TTV) and BOS to his daughter BonBon de Noel vTTV (dam Vivace vTTV). Reserve CACIBs went to Gwen Huikeshoven's Vilauddens Magnificent Mile (Boom Chicago vTTV ex Vilauddens Zara) and Anouk Huikeshoven's Hatta Mari van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes (Vilauddens Ronin ex Pumpkin Cake vTTV). Reserve CACs both went to Anouk with Best Junior Jour Après Jour Saint Honoré (Felix Dit Finisetre du Chemin des Bruleurs ex Brown Sugar V Tum-Tum's Vriendjes) and Hatta Mari. BP was Iva Raic's Black Majesty Bubble In Trouble and Best Veteran Spontaniczna Whiski Przyjazne Geny owned by Tatiana Zadarenko (Russia). Maudaxi stood alone in the Progeny Group but went on to take BIS Progeny on the Group 6 day. This was with Int Ch Maudaxi Jimmy Choo and offspring Fox's Nightmare Impressive Show, Maudaxi Nick Nack, Fox's Nightmare Jessica Biel at Maudaxi and Maudaxi Odd Job.

At the associated Benelux Winner Show where PBGVs were judged by Sylvie Desserne (FR) it was almost a clean sweep for van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes with Cookie Crunch winning BOB, BonBon de Noel vTTV Best Opposite Sex. Reserve CACIBs went to Reid's Maudaxi Jimmy Choo and Huikeshoven's Biscuit Crunch van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes. Reserve CACs went to the Best Junior, Jour Après Jour Saint Honoré (Felix Dit Finisetre du Chemin des Bruleurs ex Brown Sugar V Tum-Tum's Vriendjes) and Biscuit Crunch van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes. BP was Gwen Huikeshoven's Banana Crunch van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes and BV Tatiana Zadarenko's Spontaniczna Whiski Przyjazne Geny. Cookie Crunch made it to the last six in the group judged by Jan Coppens.

The CAC Specialty judged by Jose Luis Payro Duenas (MX) saw top honours going to Russia with BOB claimed by Tatiana Zadarenko's Fanta's Brand Naturally Special and BOS going to Anouk Huikeshoven's Hatta Mari van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes. Reserves went to Gwen Huikeshoven's Picasso van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes and, from Best Veteran, Tatiana Zadarenko's Spontaniczna Whiski Przyjazne Geny. BP went to Black Majesty Better Safe Than Sorry owned by Olga Musatova (Russia). Best Junior was Darya Danilova's Fox's Nightmare Impressive Show, also from Russia.

Doubtless the exodus of exhibitors to the World Show had some impact on the Bournemouth entry overall, though with only the O'Briens from Scotland and Phil & Dianne Reid from Oxfordshire travelling to Amsterdam, it seems Zena Thorn-Andrews' PBGV entry was unaffected to any extent. With 2 absent, there were just sixteen present, a sorry state of affairs when CCs are on offer. BOB and subsequently the Hound Group under Jeff Horswell and BIS under Liz Cartledge went to Robertson & Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike. RDCC went to 2nd in OD, Jane Brown's Soletrader Valentino Rossi.

BCC was Blake & Reid's Vilauddens Midsummer Madness (imp Swe), RBCC Paul Osbourne's Braego Gladys Aylward ShCM. BP went to the only one present Dalgarno's Vencharno Mojito and BV Osbourne's Ch Nykarth's Kicking Off With Braego ShCM.

In Scotland Lorna Wyllie had a great day out with Ailsa (Ch Tangaer Rhapsody at Callydena) who, after two months out of the ring, showed her socks off. At Kirkcaldy & District Canine Club she went BVIS under Darwin Morton (Gaelgory) from Ireland. Breed judge was Kate Keely (Alhambra).

24 / 8 / 2018

WELSH KENNEL CLUB was the last stopping off point for those who had travelled hundreds of miles over the past few weeks, doing a circuit of shows here in the UK. The amount of organisation isn't to be underestimated as some went as far afield as Amsterdam, back in time for Bournemouth and then westwards to Builth Wells. More seem to be joining the ranks of on-site campers either by arriving with caravan in tow or having bought substantial tents designed for comfort – or otherwise, as I heard from one new camper whose puppy took delight in puncturing the mattress and watching the air gradually ooze out of it.

At WKC there was a good entry of 47 waiting for Jeff Luscott, less 7 absent. DCC and BOB went to a delighted Jane Brown with her Soletrader Valentino Rossi (Ch Soletrader Noble Kinsmen ex Soletrader Bumble Bee). Unfortunately Jane could only do a lap of honour in the main ring as Rossi's breeder Gavin Robertson was judging the Hound Group. RDCC was awarded to Teresa Eaton's Debucher Unique (Ch Soletrader Tom Thumb ex Fae-Lemon de Chez Chanou Debucher). For the second year running at this show, BCC went to Katherine Bamford's Tangaer Amour (Debucher Quel Chance avec Tangaer ex Putjade Utterly Butterly), again handled by breeder Linda Lewis. RBCC went to Chris Blake & Dianne Reid's Vilauddens Midsummer Madness (Cookie Crunch van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes ex Vilauddens Saga).

BP was Lynn Ellingford & Claire Cooper's Afterglow Agnes Gru avec Jayanel (Caldewriver Despicable Me ex Kan Trace Back to Afterglow) and BV Jane Brown's Ch Soletrader Louis Vuitton (Gebeba Texas True Grit ex Soletrader Mini the Minx). Katie O'Brien came third in the Junior Handling Association Qualifying Heats (12-16yrs) judged by Katie Bradley. Keith Pursglove judged the Higham Press/dig.biz Junior Stakes and awarded fourth place in the bitch classes to Helen Bamforth's Scarscot In Full Bloom at Helensfield (Stinton Burdock ex Jaclin Too Cool For School at Scarscot). Keith Pursglove also judged the Bannerdown Special Beginners Stakes where he placed Katie O'Brien's Caldewriver Lotsa Trouble (Haliston Didier ex Jayanel Daisy Doo) fourth. To round off the day, as has often happened in the past at WKC, there was just a small celebration for Chris Blake's birthday.

The news at the show that Liz Cartledge had been taken to Hereford Hospital was greeted with concern and everyone wishing her well. She is due to judge PBGVs at Darlington next month. I have heard that she is out of hospital and making progress but, at the time of writing, there is no information about whether she will be able to fulfil this appointment.

There was sad news from America where Mary Walsh has died. She had been involved with showing dogs for over 50 years, first with her Beardies, followed by PBGVs. Mary topped the PBGVCA National three times with Am Ch Chouan Xcept When I Laugh "Laughie", bred in Denmark by Gunner Nyman and Holger Busk. The first time was in 1993 at Scottsdale, Arizona when Kitty Steidel awarded him Best Opposite Sex, and the following year at Windsor Locks, Connecticut, under Pat Gellerman he went all the way to Best of Breed. Astoundingly, in 1995 he did it again and went BOB at Eureka, Missouri, under Dorothy Macdonald. I well remember this 1995 show as Valerie Link's Can/Am Ch Monkham's Hannah TD was awarded Best Veteran, so it was great to be there to see her win.

At the Basset Hound Breed Championship show the same weekend, the first of the Irish Circuit, Ray and Gail Foote's home bred Erylan Hebe La Fille Jeune (Ch Soletrader Tom Thumb ex Erylan Aphrodite La Belle) went BPIS, followed up by BPIS3 at Irish Hound Association Breeds Ch Show. She was handled by Erin McAulay.

Further afield in Sweden Vivien Phillips was judging at the Basset Club Show, Tånga Hed, where she awarded BOB and BIS to Therese Corneliussen's Ebouriffe Billie Blush (Rainstone Habile ex Rainstone Astre) and BOS and BIS Junior to her Ebouriffe Custommade, who went Best 4-6mth Puppy and BPIS 2 under Phil Freer at the same show last year. BIS Veteran went to Rainstone Astre and Kennel Ebouriffe won BIS Breeder.

The next two championship shows have judges who are not on our Club's judging List. This weekend at SKC there is an entry of 15/22 for Mrs Lorna Binks. She does, of course, have a rather captive audience as there is naturally delight that PBGVs classes have been put on (no CCs) at this late August show. After that, Ron James will be giving CCs at City of Birmingham, where he has a similar entry of 22/23.

The Club Championship Show Schedule and entry form are now on www.bgvclub.co.uk, also on fossedata. The show takes place on Saturday 24 November 2018 at The Sports Connexion, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, near Coventry. If you would prefer a paper version please contact our Show Secretary, Colin Makey on gairside@btinternet.com or 01469 540260. Postal entries close on Monday 29 October, online on Monday 5 November. 2018. Make sure you do your entry in good time as there will be no extension of the deadline. Even if you have never shown your BGV before, you will be very welcome and do hope you will join us for this last celebration of the Club's 40th year.

31 / 8 / 2018

CLASSIFICATION OF FOUR CLASSES including a combined sex puppy class allowed Mrs Lorna Binks, who awards CCs in Beagles, to judge PBGVs at SKC. With classes having been put on for the first time at this late August show, there were two absent from the entry of 15. BD & BOB went to Sara Robertson & Wendy Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike, BB & BV to Steve & Lorna Wyllie's Ch Tangaer Rhapsody at Callydena ShCM. Reserves went to Gilluley's Haliston Didier ShCM and Wyllie's Callydena Toffee Bon Bon. From the three puppies present BP went to Cooper & Ellingford's Afterglow Agnes Gru avec Jayanel. What a successful day it was for PBGVs in the groups that followed with Magic Mike going G1 under Phil Freer, Agnes Gru PG3 under Ken Sinclair and Ailsa awarded Hound Veteran Group 1 by Mrs N V Evans. And, on the final day, David Guy found his BIS in Magic Mike.

We are now into the time of year when Hound days at championship shows are on a Friday, which proves rather difficult for some exhibitors. Hopefully the rotation of days from next year will ease matters for many and at least give us all a fairer opportunity of attending. City of Birmingham this Friday and figures for Richmond next Friday have now been announced with a good entry of 34/35 for this traditionally low entry show attributed to location and fortitude needed for Friday travelling on the M25. The previous entry to match this was in 2013 when Robin Sadler had eight absent from his entry of 36.

7 / 9 / 2018

THE WEEKS ROLL BY and now we are into September. No seasonal fresher weather though. At the time of writing there has been a welcome return to blue skies and higher temperatures. With five absent, City of Birmingham saw 18 present for Ron James to go over so this proved to be yet another show this year with a dismal entry of less than 20. DCC and BOB went to Robertson & Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike, RDCC to Reid's Maudaxi Tommy Holedigger. BCC was O & E Robertson's Ch Around Zlightly Different With Soletrader (imp Swe), RBCC Blake & Reid's Vilauddens Midsummer Madness (imp Swe). BP was Bartley's Erylan Zeus Roi Des Dieux and Best Junior McEwan's Marunnel Orinoco. There were no veterans. Magic Mike gained another Hound G1, this time under Geoff Corish, but it was a lap of honour for him instead of competing for BIS under good friend Mark Cocozza.

Following Liz Cartledge's unfortunate ill health, replacement judge Graham Hill has picked up her entry of 38 for Darlington.

Some have been wondering what was happening following the Animal Health Trust's work last year to measure the height of PBGVs that had been DNA tested. This was to pursue the theory that there might be a link between the Primary Open Angle Glaucoma (POAG) mutation and height in the PBGV. The POAG mutation is in a gene called ADAMTS17. Humans that have mutations in this gene are invariably of short stature, as the gene also affects bone development.

The information collected enabled the AHT to pull data together showing whether PBGV height is correlated with genotype. In other words, were the affected and/or carriers slightly shorter than the clear/normal dogs.

Prior to submission to a scientific journal for publication, an early abstract of the findings was presented at the May 2018 European College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ECVO) Conference in Florence. Further details on this will be in the Winter 2018 Voice.

I have just learned of the death of Am Gr Ch/Can Ch Monkham's Famous Grouse (Ch Willowbrae As You Like It JW ex Ch Jamars Saffi of Monkham's), known to everyone as Fabio. Born on my birthday in 2004, he was 14 and lived with Juli Lacey, co-owned with Donna Bruce and Jill Neuschaefer. Juli also invited Jenna and me to have our names on him so it was something like a firm of solicitors. And a rare opportunity presented itself at the PBGVCA National Specialty, Orlando 2008, for Jenna to handle him, a moment to be treasured. He was a special dog who won himself into the hearts of many. He earned his place in American PBGV history, being owner handled and having countless top awards to his name.

Joan Robertson is working hard preparing for the BGV Club's third fun day of this anniversary year, which takes place at Steventon Village Hall OX13 6RR on Sunday 30 September. Entries for the fun classes will be taken from 12 noon onwards, with judging starting at 1pm. Joan says sponsors for the event have been more than generous and her house is now being taken over by prizes, though her fortunately well behaved BGV has been barred from her bedroom which she says resembles a pet shop at the moment. For a chance to claim one of the superb prizes, make this a date in your diary.

14 / 9 / 2018

RICHMOND saw Paul Osbourne giving CCs for the first time. Our closest championship show and one I get to most years, unfortunately I had to give it a miss this time, the penalty for having a litter as I am sure many know all about. The good entry of 35 for this particular venue was depleted by four absent. DCC and BOB went to Sara Robertson & Wendy Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike (Boom Chicago van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes ex Ch Soletrader Peek a Boo), with RDCC to 2nd in OD Jane Brown's Soletrader Valentino Rossi (Ch Soletrader Noble Kinsmen ex Soletrader Bumble Bee). BCC, her third, went to our Beaujons Ugly Betty of Monkham's JW ShCM (Ch Monkham's Jack Sparrow JW ShCM ex Beaujons Tickled Pink ShCM), RBCC to Jackie Hornby's Jacmist Matilda Conflict (Ch Nykarth's Kicking Off with Braego ex Debucher Idylle with Jacmist), 1st in Limit Bitch. Best Veteran was Jane Brown's Ch Soletrader Louis Vuitton (Ch/ Am Ch Gebeba Texas True Grit ex Soletrader Mini the Minx) and Best Special Beginner went to Moore's Afterglow Dough Ble Impact (Afterglow Chunkey Monkey ex Kan Trace Back to Afterglow), who gained 4th in the Hound Special Beginner Group under Sandra Marshall. The Best Puppy, Sara, Oliver & Erin Robertson's Soletrader Beatrix Potter (dam Soletrader Simply Suzy) went on to win the Puppy Hound Group under Marion Waddell (Magregor), with her sire Magic Mike once again topping the Hound Group, this time judged by Graham Hill (Dimland). With all but Phil and Dianne Reid's Petits absent from Hound Breeder, judge Tony Allcock awarded first place to Maudaxi.

On the final day of the show Magic Mike went BIS under Geoff Corish who only recently awarded him the group at City of Birmingham; and Marion Waddell's choice for RBPIS was Beatrix Potter.

The entries for Drifffield have been announced and Eddie Webster has 28 PBGVs. Then, with Belfast intervening, on to South Wales where Jan Pain has unfortunately had to withdraw from her appointment. Replacement judge is Helen Bamforth.

September's lucky LOD winners are Chrissie Kobuta with £15, Jez Watt £10 and £5 to Catherine Whitehouse.

There was a time when we could all go to our regular vets and get our dogs' jabs done with no worries, no hassle and no thought for which type of vaccine was to be used. Not so any more. First of all we have to find a vet that stocks the vaccine of our choice, then we have to ensure we aren't being completely ripped off with the price, then there is the problem of actually getting an appointment as someone who has a PBGV litter has recently found. When it is for the pups' first vaccination, being told over two weeks hence is pretty useless when new owners will shortly be arriving on your doorstep. More and more of us now seem to have our dogs registered with more than one vet and we have to ring round for information and prices before taking the plunge. I'd be interested to hear of your experiences or any tips you could pass on to other frustrated PBGV owners.

21 / 9 / 2018

AT DARLINGTON CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW, where replacement judge was Graham Hill, it was a third Bitch CC for Linda Lewis' Tangaer Chamlee (Callydena Bailey's On Ice ex Ch Debucher Sybelle avec Callydena). BP and RBCC went to Sara, Oliver & Erin Robertson's Soletrader Beatrix Potter (Ch Soletrader Magic Mike ex Soletrader Simply Suzy). Now a veteran, O'Brien's Caldewriver Despicable Me (Jayanel Edwardo ex Jayanel Daisy Doo) went BV.

RDCC was awarded to the Puckett's Soletrader Bobs Your Uncle (Ch Taglines Double Your Fun with Soletrader ex Soletrader Jessie Jay) and DCC/BOB to Robertson & Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike (Multi Ch Boom Chicago v Tum-Tum's Vriendjes ex Ch Soletrader Peek a Boo) who went on to win the Hound Group judged by Stuart Milner.

After a very successful show career in Europe Magic Mike's sire, Chicago (Ned/Lux/Fin/Dan/World Ch Caramel Apple van TTV ex Vivace van TTV), is now with Robyn Wallis in Australia. In his first two weekends of showing there has already won an All Breeds BIS and went BOB and Group 2 at Adelaide Royal under Frank Kane. Chicago is no newcomer to Frank as in 2015 he awarded him BIS at Paignton.

News from Christine Marett - now 9yrs old, her Limier Didier at Gayteckels (Ch Soletrader Peter Pan ex Limier Chamois) was Reserve Veteran in Show at the Guernsey Kennel Club Autumn Open Show.

To celebrate the Club's 40th anniversary, the third and final BGV Club fun day of the year takes place next weekend on Sunday 30 September at Steventon Village Hall, The Green, Steventon, Abingdon OX13 6RR. Joan Robertson has been working hard contacting sponsors, who have been generous in donating all manner of prizes. After deduction of outgoings, proceeds of the day will be shared between the BGV Club's Welfare & Rescue fund and the Peek a Boo Trust. Entries for the fun classes will be taken from midday, with judging at 1pm. £5 gives a dog entry to any number of classes, which are 1. Puppy - up to 12 months old, 2. Prettiest bitch, 3. Most handsome dog, 4. Best sausage catcher, 5. Best rescue, 6. Best six legs, 7. Golden oldies - over 7 years old, 8. Child handling - up to 15 years of age, 9. Waggiest tail, 10. Best in Show - selected from the winner of each class. The flyer for the event can be seen on <http://www.bgvclub.co.uk/diary-dates>. You are invited to bring friends and dogs galore with you, the more the merrier. Contact Joan on 01235 851914 or joaniws71@gmail.com.

28 / 9 / 2018

DRIFFIELD and the weather changed ominously with many fearing a repeat of last year's appalling show conditions at Wetherby Racecourse. Although windy, with exhibitors being a stalwart bunch, judging took place as planned with 23 PBGVs present for Eddie Webster to go over. DCC and BOB went to Oliver & Erin Robertson, Lizzie Greenslade & Cathy Neill's Ir Ch Soletrader Buddy Holly (Ch Soletrader Magic Mike ex Debucher Ristourne with Soletrader) with Reserve to Phil & Dianne Reid's Maudaxi Nick Nack (Ch Maudaxi Jimmy Choo ex Trezeguet Treacle Sponge at Maudaxi). Bitch CC, her second, went to Ray and Gail Foote & Erin McAulay's Erylan Aphrodite La Belle (Ch Taglines Double The Fun with Soletrader ex Clonallan Just Beginning avec Erylan), RBCC Kath Bamford's Tangaer Amour (Debucher Quel Chance avec Tangaer ex Putjade Utterly Butterly). BP also went to the Foote / McAulay partnership with Erylan Hebe La Jeune Fille (Ch Soletrader Tom Thumb ex Erylan Aphrodite La Belle).

In the Eukanuba Pup of the Year Stakes third place in Puppy Dog went to Bartley's Erylan Zeus Roi Des Dieux, from the same litter as Hebe La Jeune Fille.

It was lovely to receive some photos from David & Daphne Beck of Monkham's Calista celebrating her 17th birthday. Sally's litter sister was Mindy (Café Au Lait), a seasoned show campaigner who herself reached the grand age of nearly 16. Born in 2001, their sire was Ch/Am Ch Afterglow Woody Woodpecker, their dam Monkham's Dana Scully. When Sally's photo appeared on facebook, it was great to hear from the owner of another elderly Monkham's lady. Litter sister of Dixie Chick and Dorothy Perkins, who both died within the past year or so, Didi Pickles is now 15½yrs and still going strong.

This Sunday the BGVC 40th anniversary fun day takes place at Steventon Village Hall, Oxon OX13 6RR. Make sure you are there for a chance to win one of the mountain of prizes available for the many games lined up. For details contact Joan Robertson on 01235 851914 or joaniws71@gmail.com.

And, finally, news of another Club event. Mounted in line with the forthcoming Judges Competency Framework, a Breed Appreciation Day (BAD) with Multi Choice Exam (MCE) is taking place on Saturday 10 November at Corley Village Hall, Corley, Coventry CV7 8AZ. Breed speaker will be Gavin Robertson. The day will commence at 9.30am with PBGVs and GBGVs in the afternoon starting at 1pm. For more details contact the Club's Breed Education Co-ordinator Claire Cooper on 07855 255287 or clairecooper81@hotmail.co.uk. The day is advertised on www.bgvclub.co.uk/diary-dates and on the Club's facebook page, with further information to follow.

5 / 10/ 2018

ONLY ONE PBGV at Belfast where judge Mrs H Kanoo (Bahrain) awarded BD and BOB to Ir Ch Soletrader Buddy Holly owned by Robertson, Greenslade & Neill. He went on to Hound Group 4 under Mr C K Thornton. Now well into the autumnal weather, at South Wales this weekend replacement judge Helen Bamforth has an entry of 26/30.

With a more overcast sky than we have been used to of late, the third BGVC fun day of the year took place last weekend at Steventon Village Hall in Oxfordshire where around 75 people enjoyed a relaxed afternoon of fun and games. Joan Robertson had worked incredibly hard before the event, not least raising sponsorship and, on the day, she was supported by local BGV folk Phil & Dianne Reid, Tina Parker, and Amanda O'Day, with Peter Marks who stewarded for the fun classes. For various reasons, not least distance, prior engagements or puppies, committee members were thin on the ground, though Kathryn Moulding managed to get there from Sussex as did Sue Brundle who had her stall; and the ubiquitous Kim Culyer-Dawson was, as ever, multi-tasking. Tim Jennings was the photographer and has since received many bouquets for his photos on facebook. Some are also on the club website with a few kept back for the winter newsletter. Fun classes were judged by Professor Peter Bedford, more usually seen testing PBGV's eyes. BIS went to an amiable Korthals Griffon owned by Sue Hanson, with BPIS going to 3mth old PBGV Rosie, handled by a rather pleased looking Jacob Scott, grandson of Lynne Scott. Best Veteran "Golden Oldie" was Ollie, a rescue Petit with only one eye, belonging to David Townsend & Nicole Neville.

The next appearance of BGVs is at Discover Dogs, ExCel, London on 20/21 October. There you can meet hundreds of dogs, chat to owners, discover a vast range of shops and watch world-class displays and competitions. A great day out for the whole family! Over 200 breeds will be there, including Petits and Grands, an opportunity for you to catch up with friends and talk about your favourite breed. Following that the Club's club Breed Appreciation Day takes place on 10 November at Corley Village Hall, near Coventry. A reminder that a booking form is on www.bgvclub.co.uk/diary-dates and bookings should go to Claire Cooper on clairecooper81@hotmail.co.uk. Finally entries are starting to arrive at fossedata for the BGVC Championship Show on 24 November at Ryton-on-Dunsmore. Breed judges are BGV (Grand) Linda Mackenzie (Limier); BGV (Petit) Alan Curry (Lodore) with BIS and Junior Handling being judged by Val Jackson (Duntech). Make sure you enter the stakes classes as, to commemorate this special 40th anniversary of the club, the prize money has been increased to £25 for the winner of each class. BGV (Grand) Stakes judge is Imogen Clark and BGV (Petit) Stakes Richard Bott (Quensha/Allenie).

12 / 10/ 2018

EARLY MORNING RAIN didn't dampen spirits at Builth Wells where South Wales KA show took place under cover. Rings were spread out in six separate buildings and, while exhibitors in the main hall where group judging later took place were cosseted with warmth, BGVs drew the short straw of being in a building that became increasingly colder as the morning wore on. Replacement judge Helen Bamforth had just one absent from her entry of 26. From LD, DCC went to Linda Lewis' Tangaer Bryntelych (Ch Taglines Double The Fun with Soletrader ex Tangaer Roulette). Her choice for BCC and BOB was Lynne Scott's Overbecks Kathy Tiere, also sired by Double The Fun, dam Soletrader Ain't Actin Up at Overbecks ShCM. Both Reserve CCs went to Phil & Dianne Reid with Maudaxi Nick Nack and Fox's Nightmare Jessica Biel at Maudaxi.

Again both had the same sire, Ch Maudaxi Jimmy Choo with Nick Nack's dam Ir Ch Trezeguet Treacle Sponge at Maudaxi and Jessica Biel's Rus Ch Twinan Causing a Stir. BP was Claire Cooper and Lynne Ellingford's Afterglow Agnes Gru avec Jayanel (Caldewriver Despicable Me ex Ir Ch Kan Trace Back to Afterglow). Having judged a slightly smaller entry of Grands in an adjacent ring, I was able to see the last few classes of PBGVs before Helen Bamforth and I returned to the welcome Judges Room, which must surely have been the warmest place on the entire Royal Welsh Showground. Although the day remained chilly, by the time exhibitors were leaving the showground the sun was shining over distant hills, certainly making this venue rather special. I took the opportunity to visit Diana Sadler before driving home the next day. I had not seen her for a couple of years so it was good to chat and catch up on all the news.

The European Dog Show is taking place now in Warsaw, together with the 80th Anniversary Jubilee Show. For the EDS there were 30 PBGVs entered for Barbara Larska (PL). From Champion Class Males BOB went to Rus Ch Aldia Billi Bom (Empereur du Parc des Chaumes ex Irma Podkoldernik Jadowity), bred by Irina Antipova, owned by Olga Agapova. BOS was the winner of Junior Class Males, Black Majesty Secret of Legoland (Black Majesty Hollywood ex Black Majesty Get Off Of My Cloud) bred by Iva Raic, owned by Tatiana Zaderenko. BP and BPIS3 went to Switherland Aldia Crusader (Ch Soletrader Magic Mike ex Irina Podkoldernik Jadowity) bred by Phil Freer, owned by Irina Antipova. BV was Nightdream Ricky Martin (Mirepoix's Sid Vicious ex Nightdream Isadore Ducasse), bred by Sirkka Sundstrom, owned by Kristina Bergstrom. More news of the Anniversary Show results next week.

October's Limited Odds Draw winners are Sue Birney with £15, Teresa Eaton £5 and Carol Jacob with £5, which Geraldine Dodd says she has very kindly given back to the Club.

The more perceptive of you will have noticed that I have changed my email address to outlook. I have in fact been on outlook for a year or so with my AOL emails being redirected. However a few weeks back AOL went berserk on me and 78,000 emails later I was sinking under messages, most of them American junk. Like a horror movie, they were replicating themselves around 30 times each and arriving in droves in my outlook inbox. My son-in-law finally rescued me from the nightmare, disconnected the forwarding link and spent some time cleaning it all up. I still receive emails sent to monkhams@aol.com and endeavour to check once or twice a day.

19 / 10 / 2018

AT THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY JUBILEE SHOW in Warsaw the entry was 15 and, from Champion classes, BOB went to the bitch Soletrader Just Jazz with BOS to Aldia Billi Bom. The judge was Siret Lepasaar (EE). Closer to home, at Hound Association of Scotland open show Claire Gilluley's Haliston Didier ShCM went BOB in one of the biggest breed classes of the day. He was also short-listed for BIS.

The weeks are passing quickly and it is that time of year coming up which so many of us dread with evening after evening of fireworks. Make sure your BGVs go out in the garden before the time comes. Batten down the hatches, close curtains, put lights on, turn up TVs and radios as loud as possible and sit it out with your frightened friends, many of whom will be quaking, shaking, trying to climb on your head and generally inconsolable. It is always a relief when daylight comes the following day and you know you have got through another evening of your dogs experiencing sheer terror. It goes on year after year and people continue to call for organised displays only; but nothing ever happens about it.

Most of you who breed BGVs will be aware of the new DEFRA Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 which came into force on 1 October. Back in August I read through the new regulations and, like many other infrequent breeders, I have found them confusing and open to interpretation not least by the local authorities who implement them as they see fit with requirements varying from one council to another. The change in emphasis has certainly caused immense concern and controversy amongst countless hobby breeders in part due to the "business test" because there is an assumption that anyone who breeds is in business.

This is where Revenue comes in as well. So it isn't just a simple case of do I or don't I need a licence, it also involves whether you are making a profit which needs to be declared. And, as we all know, it costs a lot to raise a litter of PBGVs. Expenses would typically include stud fee, veterinary fees, heat lamp, infra-red bulbs, milk, food and all the outgoings associated with cleaning, washing, not forgetting health checks and especially DNA testing for POAG where necessary. If things don't go quite right, veterinary fees can be colossal and we invariably end up being out of pocket. We do this for the love of the breed, not a business. Most of us breed extremely rarely, primarily to continue our own line and only after much research and study into pedigrees to produce healthy puppies. We are not, and never will be, a business. Other than supporting the Club by being on the Breeders' Directory year after year, when we do have a litter, save for the Puppy Register facility on the website, we do not advertise as puppies of this numerically small breed are in short supply.

The "Procedural Guidance Notes for Local Authorities" do however give some leeway in asking that criteria for assessing small businesses should be based on the principle of proportionality commensurate with the nature and size of the business. This allows a degree of flexibility for those who are classed as hobby breeders.

As everyone's situation is different, back in August I opted to restrict giving information on our Club website and placing the onus on you, if you wish to go on our Breeders' Directory, by asking you to declare "I/We are aware of "The Animal Welfare Regulations (England) July 2018: The breeding and selling of litters" and how it will affect me / us – as detailed on www.bgvclub.co.uk/breeders". In reality, I sense that for those of us who only breed once in a blue moon we have nothing to worry about. As the Secretary of State has said these new regulations "are, and always have been, aimed at businesses and those carrying out one of the licensable activities as a business, for example where the person has a view to making a profit. They are not intended to capture or regulate hobby breeders of any animal or those who carry out activities such as exhibiting their animals for enjoyment, sport or engage in any activity that does not constitute a business. Therefore not all dog breeders will need to be licensed, only those that are considered to be operating as a business".

If you are intending to breed, or have a litter, don't sit there fretting but phone your local council and speak to a Licensing Officer before some interfering neighbour reports you for breeding dogs, as has recently happened to me (two litters in nine years!) I am sure you will find you have nothing to worry about.

26 / 10/ 2018

I HOPE YOU ARE ALL ENJOYING the unusually warm weather and lovely blue skies. Bathed in the warmth of the sun, the view of the Thames at the side of ExCel last weekend was a treat. Discover Dogs at this venue seems to go from strength of strength with the number of visitors on the increase, those from overseas, those who bring their children for a special treat and some genuinely interested in welcoming a BGV into their home. Many so eloquently described it as "heaving" and official KC figures just published show that 38,450 visited over the two days of the show. This broke all previous records in the 23yr history of this event. Lynn Wood asked me to pass on her thanks to all those who helped man and BGV the booths over the two days and, now she is "in the mood", is taking names for covering Crufts. Some have already asked so, if you would like to join in, please contact her on 01268 555072 or wood_stephen9@sky.com.

Also at Discover Dogs, the Junior Handling finals took place where, handling PBGV Ch Maudaxi Jimmy Choo, Min Witheyman was the choice for the UK's Junior Handler of the Year 2018. She will now go forward to the International Junior Handler finals at Crufts. Erin Robertson also deserves a mention winning a trophy for the youngest finalist. Proud father Gavin said did a lovely job showing her own dog.

2 / 11/ 2018

AT MIDLAND COUNTIES Rachel Barney was the judge and she had 12 to go over from her original entry of 15. BD, BOB and subsequently group winner under Espen Engh was Robertson & Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike, RBD went to Bartley's Erylan Loki Maitre du Mal (Ch Taglines Double the Fun with Soletrader (Imp Nor) ex Clonallan Just Beginning avec Erylan). BB was O & E Robertson's Ch Around Zlightly Different with Soletrader (Imp Swe) (Rainstone Dustin ex Around Nothing Else Matters), with RBB going to the BP, G & S Robertson's Soletrader Judigarland (Magic Mike ex Soletrader Jitterbug).

At the Guernsey KC Winter Show Christine Maret's Limier Didier at Gayteckels (Ch Soletrader Peter Pan ex Limier Chamois) went G2, Best Veteran Hound and BVIS, gaining the last of the 60 points needed for a 2nd Prix D'Honneur (subject to confirmation). He is having a stunning show career, having now gained two BVIS and one RVBIS in Guernsey this year from their four shows. Not content with success at shows, he also starred on local BBC TV recently and Christine was interviewed in her capacity as President of the Jersey Dog Handlers. This was to get a dog's point of view on dog bites and children, as Jersey has had 20 children at A & E this year through these injuries.

A reminder that on-line entries for our Club championship show close on Monday, 5 November. Due to time needed for fussedata to produce the catalogue, which includes adding in any postal entries, this deadline will not be extended so, if you haven't done so already, get on-line! There are reduced second entry and not for competition fees and remember to enter the Stakes Classes for the chance of a big win. There will be quite a few treats in store for this last celebration of the year of the Club's 40th anniversary. There will be several tables selling various things, including one with mugs depicting the BGV club logo - £6, a PBGV(or GBGV) - £8.



Plus various colour leads at £6.50 and purses £10 each.



To pre-order any item, contact Kim Culyer-Dawson on 01255 317415 or kimgreen2003@yahoo.co.uk.

Alongside the raffle there will also be a number of BGV related items which were kindly donated by Rose Phillips - and much more - so bring your money! As always prizes for the raffle will be gratefully received.

Another thing to note is that there will be forms to complete to include your affix on a new BGV Club tablecloth. All the current ones used are now full so time to get your kennel name on the new one. This is at a cost of £15 and will be down in Club history for a lifetime.

9 / 11/ 2018

THERE ARE 55 PBGVs entered for judge Alan Curry at the Club championship show on 24 November. This includes 5 NFC. Richard Bott has an excellent entry of 20 in PBGV Stakes, doubtless with many exhibitors being attracted by the high money on offer. Thanks are due to Gavin Robertson and Phil Freer for contributing towards the prize money. Judging takes place in two rings and will start at 10am, with GBGVs having 32 for Linda Mackenzie (including 3 NFC) and, later, 14 in Stakes. There are 3 Junior Handlers for BIS judge Val Jackson to judge during the lunch break.

The Breed Appreciation Day planned for this Saturday, 10 November is not now taking place and, at time of writing, a new date has yet to be announced.

I do believe the PBGVs and I have survived the annual onslaught of night after night of fireworks but not without extremely distressed dogs and blood all over the kitchen walls and floor. One of them scratched so much with anxiety that her nails bled. Meanwhile others quaked and panted for hours and, one evening, when rockets like bombs went off immediately overhead that was almost the end. Fortunately I had resorted to putting the dogs in covered crates all evening though this wasn't entirely successful and didn't stop one of them from shrieking so loud, I shot up thinking he had probably got a claw caught. Not so, he was just letting me know he was far from happy. Next the de-stressing spray that I bought at Crufts came out, sprayed on bandanas and tied round their necks and I do believe it helped.

After over four hours of this performance every evening since the middle of October until 5 November, I was completely stressed out myself by the time bed came, every night thankful that this was another 24hrs towards the end of the annual misery. Mercifully the religious celebrations that followed on 7 November were rather more circumspect with a few fireworks in the distance fairly late in the evening.

I think many of us would live with it if fireworks were restricted to two evenings a year, 5 November and New Year's Eve, plus circumspect religious celebrations, though favourite option for many is fireworks without the noise element, as is already commonplace in one Italian town. Believe it or not there is a Fireworks Act that states any fireworks that detonate at a higher level than 120 decibels are prohibited. However, over the years, in their efforts to make money, companies have felt the need to produce something bigger and better than their rivals and goodness knows what the noise level is when one explodes immediately above you.

There is a UK Government and Parliament petition "Ban the sale of fireworks to the public. Displays for licenced venues only". Government responds to all petitions that get more than 10,000 signatures. At the time of writing, well over 251,000 people have signed. For countless years, every November people complain about the distress caused to their dogs but nothing ever happens. Help to swell the numbers of petitioners, by signing at https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/231147?fbclid=IwAR0b61fOJI06RNzZ1Vlh7tKZCX_XoWaDqe1flslzeAuA2_DaRaz9aLyKxBc.

16 / 11/ 2018

THERE ARE ONLY A FEW DAYS TO GO now before our club championship show at Ryton-on-Dunsmore next Saturday, 24 November. After being moved to the other part of the sports hall last year to make way for an impressive Indian wedding reception. I understand we are back in our old surroundings this time round, nearer the car park. The show opens at 9am with judging starting in both rings at 10am. Bring your money with you as there will be plenty of breed related items to tempt you along with the great raffle, next year's calendar and some club publications. Don't forget to bring your grooming scissors too if they need sharpening. Joan Robertson has made up an album of photos from the 40th anniversary celebrations of the club at Steventon which I am sure everyone will enjoy looking at. With half the proceeds of the day going to the Peek a Boo Trust, the cheque will be formally handed over during the lunch break. There might even be a 40th anniversary cake too!

Last week I recounted the misery in my house caused by night after night of explosive fireworks nearby, also told you about the Government petition to restrict their use to organised displays, which has raised nearly 285,000 signatures to date. With loud fireworks still going off overhead last Sunday nearly a week after 5 November and yet another evening of petrified dogs, I am now pleased to see that Parliament is going to debate this petition on 26 November. You can watch this live on <https://parliamentlive.tv/Commons>.

I had a surprise and welcome visit over the weekend – an Australian lady from Victoria. Many years ago she took in a PBGV we bred after he ended up in a dog pound. The chain of circumstances was almost unbelievable. It led from us sending him to a good show home and being shown successfully to become an Aus Ch, to being rehomed and that new owner subsequently turning him into the local pound despite a clear understanding that he be returned to the original owners if she was unable to keep him. With the pound policy of putting dogs to sleep if unclaimed it is a miracle that he was recognised in a local ad and survived the ordeal. He is now 13 and living a very comfortable life of luxury so I can only thank this kind lady who gave him a new lease of life. It did of course at the time bring home to me how little control we have over the welfare of those we send to another country, despite any Contract of Sale obligations.

The lucky LOD winners of the autumn big draw are Lynne Scott with £50, Dianne Reid £25 and £12 to Sue & Nick Marshall

23 / 11/ 2018

THE GODS MUST KNOW our championship show is this weekend as there has been a distinct change in the weather. Colder, windy, rain and even some frost and snow in parts. A few of you are travelling to near Ryton the day before the show, some are falling out of bed in the hours of darkness, so I hope you all have a safe journey.

Although the main reason for the day out is of course to show our dogs, this is also a golden opportunity to settle up where annual payments are due to the club: membership subscriptions - see Martin Bishop; Limited Odds Draw – see Geraldine Dodd; 2019 calendars – see Sue Marshall; Breeders Directory 2019 – see me. And, if you would like your kennel name embroidered on the new club table cloth for £15, see Joan Robertson.

I am sure both Geraldine Dodd and Kim Culyer-Dawson will have plenty to tempt you to buy, either via the raffle or from items donated to the club by Rose Phillips, who will be at the show. Pre-orders of the club logo and breed design mugs that Kim will have available have far outstripped the original run so the cottage industry has been busy making more to ensure you will all be able to collect on the day.

Don't forget there will be specially designed, colourful leads on sale too, also purses.

And, with trade stands there, remember to bring any scissors etc that need sharpening or take the opportunity to stock up on dog bedding. Our stalwart, Jim Salmon, will also be there with his wonderful array of breed related items which are always so popular, a great opportunity to buy or order Christmas gifts.

During the day Joan Robertson will have her album of photos from the Steventon fun day for all to see and she will be handing over a cheque to the Peek a Boo Trust, part of the proceeds of that day. There will also be a piece of cake for everyone, our last celebration of the 40th anniversary of the BGV Club 1978-2018.

Oh, of course, there is the judging to look forward to as well! Spare a thought for the hard-working committee who will be there at the crack of dawn to set up the rings, tables and everything else needed and to the stewards who will be on the go all day once judging gets under way. Last, but not least, Sue Marshall will be in her photographic area, waiting for you to bring your winning dogs over to be recorded for posterity. If you win a class, take them to her as soon as you can straight afterwards as this will ease her job. If you are in the following class as well, remember to go as soon as convenient. Do not leave it until after the end of judging as she will then be busy taking photos of the main winners.

All in all, a busy day is lined up, not forgetting the Stakes classes to follow with a bumper entry thanks to generous donations made by Phil Freer and Gavin Robertson which helped to swell the prize money available.

At Eurodogshow and Benelux Winner in Kortrijk, Belgium, with only her two PBGVs entered, Charlotte Dalgarno picked up two BOBs for Vencharno Mojito and a BOS for Nykarth Magic Moment. Both she and Fiona Buchanan, who had won Group 6 at the Benelux Winner show with GBGV Cartier, had most unpleasant journeys home. Charlotte suffered from the choppy seas and Fiona the hordes of protestors that gathered at the channel tunnel, with around 30 men in balaclavas and masks shining torches into her van. Dog showing is not for the faint-hearted so thankfully both eventually got home safely.

I look forward to seeing many of you on Saturday.

30 / 11/ 2018

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A WEEK MAKES. This time last week we were all getting our BGVs ready for the Club championship show on Saturday, packing our vehicles and some travelling to near Ryton-on-Dunsmore to spend the night there before the show. With quite a lot of absentees in both breeds, including 10 in PBGVs, judging which started at 10am was over by late morning, Alan Curry having gone over 12 dogs and 27 bitches. One PBGV was only entered in Stakes, making the total entry of 50. DCC and BOB went to Robertson & Doherty's Ch Solettrader Magic Mike. This win gave Magic Mike his 29th CC, making him the new breed record holder, an achievement to add to his Top Dog All Breeds 2018.

It was also a good day for Chris Blake as BCC, her third, went to Vilauddens Midsummer Madness (imp Swe), who he owns jointly with Dianne Reid. RDCC went to Eaton's Linphil Kili and, from Breeders Bitch, RBCC and BP went to Robertson's Solettrader Judigarland. With no Veteran Dogs entered, BV was Osbourne's Ch Debucher Jezebel at Braego ShCM.



Lunch break followed the awarding of BOB in both rings and during that interval two presentations took place. The Club invited founder member Elaine Fayerman to cut the 40th anniversary cake. Elaine has been a strong supporter for many years attending AGMs, fun days and invariably sitting ringside at Club shows, so although she was somewhat reluctant to take centre stage, it was indeed fitting to see her helping with this celebration. Thanks go to Kim Culyer-Dawson for making the cake, in fact for making two cakes, the second one being cut by Vice-President Gavin Robertson. Gavin also received a cheque from his mother, Joan. This was for the Peek a Boo Trust, representing half of the proceeds from the Club's Steventon fun day.



With two absentees from the Junior Handling, it was a clean sweep for Erin Robertson who was awarded Best Junior Handler by BIS judge Val Jackson. After lunch it was on to BIS where the award went to Sara Robertson & Wendy Doherty's Ch Soletrader Magic Mike. Unfortunately Chris Blake had left so his newly-crowned Vilauddens bitch was not there to compete for RBIS, which therefore automatically went to the GBGV Danielle Machent & Barbara Milton's Tioga Lautrec with Grandoreille. No look-in for PBGVs in the competition for BPIS which went to Fiona Buchanan & Michael MacLaren's GBGV Macaroni v Tum-Tum's Vriendjes, with RBPIS also going to the GBGV Sue Marshall's Soufriere One Vision. It was left to Paul Osbourne's PBGV Ch Debucher Jezebel at Braego ShCM to take the last main award of the day, BVIS.

Richard Bott judged the three well-filled PBGV Stakes classes, awarding firsts to Kyle Cadmore & Lizzie Greenslade's Soletrader Only in Oslo, Marion Hunt's Soletrader Buzz Aldrin of Bondlea and Paul Osbourne's Ch Nykarth's Kicking Off with Braego. ShCM. Each received £25.

Marion Gerrie marked up catalogues alongside Show Secretary Colin Makey who was kept busy. Kim Culyer-Dawson and Geraldine Dodd were also occupied all day as there was plenty to tempt exhibitors and visitors with tables packed with breed-related items to buy and yet again a groaning raffle table. Sue Marshall was equally busy taking photos, ably assisted by Tim Jennings who stepped in to take photos when Sue was in the ring. Another of great assistance was Martin Bishop who hardly sat down all day. He ensured each winner went as soon as possible to be photographed. Of course, this is always a difficult operation with exhibitors sometimes in subsequent classes and, despite arranging a buffet lunch for judges and stewards this year so they could eat at any time after midday, it seems most went off at the same time, which delayed photographing some of the main winners until they returned.

Welcome visitors to the show included Judith Robin-Smith, Rose Phillips, over from Turkey where she now lives, and the couple winning the prize for having travelled furthest, Daryll and Debbie Matthews from Australia. There were also a few who ventured in from the Nordic Show being held in the hall next door. At one stage Lynn Wood and I went into the show, concerned that our promised trade stand holders had failed to materialise and it crossed our minds they might have set up shop elsewhere. Only dog bedding and disinfectant ended up on sale for us, though I gather the man did a good trade and is keen to come again. Tony of Keen Kutz was taken quite ill just before the show and apologises profusely to everyone for being unable to attend. He hopes to be at one of our shows next year. And with the combination of a bitch in season and a poorly puppy, Jim Salmon was also absent but I am sure there will be no stopping him next time round.

One small concern before the show was whether or not the brand new flooring at the Sports Connexion was non-slip. Great discussion took place on whether matting should be used. Those who had been to the venue fairly recently said their dogs did not slip. To gain a broader view the question was even put on facebook, as where better to get opinions, and the consensus was "no problem". I phoned the venue and they too were confident it was non-slip as obviously it needed to be for sports. Had we used matting, only wide Sellotape would have been allowed to stick down the ends as any other type would leave a residue. With mixed feelings, the decision was therefore taken to go without. By and large I understand there were few difficulties, though some attributed loss of footing to chalk that gathered on the floor. Obviously this is something for further discussion as I am sure the committee will take note of any valid unease.

There are very 2019 calendars left now, so contact Sue Marshall on 01245 265828 or sue.marshall4@btopenworld.com if you want one. Similarly, Kim Culyer-Dawson is busy posting well bubble-wrapped mugs to those not at the show. Only a few remain, also leads and purses. To buy, her phone number is 01255 317415, email kimgreen2003@yahoo.co.uk.

Over the weekend Soletrader was also winning in Ireland where Robertson, Greenslade & Neill's Ir Ch Soletrader Buddy Holly gained his sixth BIS. This time it was at Cloghran Championship Show under Olive Taylor, having won Group 6 under Sally Burns and breed judge Ian Finney who had only two entries.

Coming up to the final championship show of the year, at LKA there is an entry of 38 for Nick Bryce Smith.

7 / 12/ 2018

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW PHOTOS are now on www.bgvclub.co.uk/2015-18-ch-shows. Photos are also in the winter newsletter, which should be with you soon. The tight deadline to ensure Voice was printed and with you before Christmas meant no time to wait for inclusion of critiques. These will go on the website when available. Thanks must go to Sue Marshall who survived the pressure I put on her to get main winners photos to me in double quick time, also to Tim Jennings who helped her. After next year's 23 November show date, we will be reverting to our more familiar October dates, which will not only give the slightly longer days but more breathing space between the show and issue of the winter newsletter.

Christine Marrett is on a high as her Limier Didier of Gayteckels Pd'H is Guernsey Kennel Club Veteran of the Year. This prestigious win was announced at the recent GKC AGM. Well done Didi, who achieved this from 2 BVIS and 1 RBVIS in Guernsey this year. At West Lothian CS Society Open, Lorna Wyllie's Ch Tangaer Rhapsody at Callydena ShCM went Best Hound Veteran under Tom Roberts, then Reserve BVIS under Hilary Male. And at Burton on Trent KA there was a fantastic entry of 11 from two classes for Tracy Boyles (Bleyos) who awarded Tim & Deborah Bartley's Erylan Zeus Roi des Dieux BP. He went on to PG4 under Rachel Wray (Perrault).

Otherwise a quiet week for show news so I thought I'd tell you a bit about the recent parliamentary debate on "Ban the sale of fireworks to the public. Displays for licenced venues only". This is a subject very close to my heart and I suspect many other dog owners, who dread the weeks surrounding 5 November. Many found the Minister's response to this petition hugely disappointing so I was therefore most impressed with the succinct and forthright introductory speech given by Helen Jones (Warrington North) who covered just about every aspect of the problem that is growing year on year. She made it clear that firework displays were no longer the idyllic occasions from our childhood when, on 5 November, our fathers would let off a few fireworks, plus a packet of sparklers and a Catherine wheel that wouldn't go round properly. Nowadays bonfire night extends beyond a couple of dates a year and, as fireworks have come to be used more frequently, they have grown more powerful and noisier. It was concern about this issue that led to the Fireworks Act 2003. Then the Fireworks Regulations 2004 introduced a lot of rules about the sale, possession and use of fireworks. They introduced a licensing system for those who sell fireworks all year round, limited the sale by other suppliers to dates around 5 November, New Year, Chinese New Year and Diwali, imposed a maximum decibel level of 120 and forbade the possession of adult fireworks – those in the F2 and F3 categories – in a public place by anyone under 18. F4 fireworks, which are the most explosive, can be possessed only by fireworks professionals. However the problem of course is one of enforcement. Trading Standards are unable to enforce licencing and the thinly stretched police and community officers have enough to do without being on the spot when someone is distressed or complains about misuse.

And so public concern continues to rise, including complaints from those who witness the effect on animals. As well as injuring people, fireworks are an immense problem for animals. Helen Jones had been contacted by people who said their pets have to be sedated when fireworks were going off. They were supported by the KC and a number of charities, including Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, the Blue Cross, Dogs Trust and RSPCA. The RSPCA wants to see the maximum decibel level reduced. However no-one seemed to latch onto the point that the proximity of the exploding fireworks obviously has a bearing on the level of distress caused.

Although Helen Jones referred to silent fireworks John Howell (Henley) put forward the argument that they are not entirely silent and this would not remove the whole problem as flashes often cause the most distress to animals.

With many MPs recounting the number of complaints they had received from constituents concerned about the effect loud fireworks had on their animals, the emphasis was clearly on whether the Government had plans to amend the regulations on the sale or use of fireworks to reduce the maximum decibel level of fireworks purchasable by the general public, and to encourage the use of low-noise fireworks. It was also good to see it suggested that use should be restricted to certain times during the year.

The session ended with Helen Jones saying that the Home Office had to start taking this matter seriously or they would be debating the subject time and time again until it did. She concluded "These are serious issues about people being injured, emergency workers being attacked and people's lives being made a misery. It is time that the Government started to take it seriously".

If you don't have time to watch the debate in full but would like to read the transcript, it is on <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-11-26/debates/C95047CD-F24E-44DA-BE73-FC571B014CEF/FireworksPublicSales>. It is well worth reading.

14 / 12/ 2018

HAVING RECOUNTED THE POSITIVE POINTS that stemmed from the Parliamentary debate on fireworks last week, I must tell you about the letter I received today from my local MP. Information from the Petitions Team, UK Government and Parliament encouraged me to contact him on the subject of the distress caused to animals by fireworks. I should have saved my time. The response was patently a generic letter as it contained advice and details which I had given in my email and totally ignored other issues I raised about my own experiences and simple suggestions to resolve the annual problem. I don't doubt MPs receive hundreds of emails but I was left with the impression that a secretary moved mine to a Fireworks folder for the standard response to be printed off for the MP's signature. MPs are charged with helping their constituents by advising on problems and representing their concerns in Parliament. When they take no heed, pay lip service and fail to recognise that outdated laws need amending in tune with the times, don't bother to contact your own MP as I expect you will get the same meaningless treatment.

But at least this was free. Sadly I received a similar outcome from a visit to the Royal Veterinary College earlier in the year. Having seen a local vet with a slight problem with one of our PBGVs, she was most enthusiastic about a positive result and referred me to the RVC. Around £100 later after a visit where all that happened was that a student made notes of what our PBGV had to eat and other inconsequential details and a vet saying there would be no benefit in doing a scan, I received a standard letter. Disappointing is an understatement. We all know that a visit to the veterinary profession is an expensive affair but a "one for all" letter insults your intelligence. Talking of extortionate consultations, especially when lifelong medication is needed, if your PBGV needs eye drops to stave off the effects of POAG, don't just pay whatever your vet asks. Get a prescription and hunt around for the best prices which are infinitely lower. The price of Latanoprost does fluctuate but, over the past year, having hunted on-line to help owners of PBGVs who need the drops, I have found that Weldricks Pharmacy sells them at a very competitive price, currently £3.49 a bottle - www.weldricks.co.uk/products/latanoprost-eye-drops-25ml.

The 2019 club calendars have all gone now. However, if Sue Marshall gets enough requests, a further small print may be possible. Contact her on 01245 265828 or sue.marshall4@btopenworld.com if you want one. BGV mugs have also gone like hot cakes. The good news though is that Kim Culyer-Dawson is in touch with the elves in Santa's workshop and might be able to get more made if asked for any. Contact her on 01255 317415, email kimgreen2003@yahoo.co.uk

LKA this Sunday and I hope you all have a better journey than last year. I won't be forgetting the snow for a very long time.

21 / 12/ 2018

NEARLY A REPEAT of last year's bad weather for LKA weekend but fortunately the storms eased off for Hound day. Even so, there were 11 absent from judge Nick Bryce-Smith's entry of 37. Ch Soletrader Magic Mike rounded off a successful year with DCC, BOB, G1 and BIS. The group and BIS were awarded by Ann Ingram. BCC, her second, went to Chris Blake's Orleans van Tum-Tums Vriendjes at

Trezequet (Imp Nld). Reserves went to Teresa Eaton's Linphil Kili and Claire Cooper & Lyn Ellingford's Afterglow Agnes Gru avec Jayanel. BV was O'Brien's Afterglow Despicable Me, BP Gavin & Sara Robertson's Afterglow Party in Paris, who also placed third in the bitch classes for the Memorial Puppy Stakes judged by Espen Engh. And in Junior Handling judged by Sarah Corbett there was a second in both age groups for PBGVs handled by Erin Robertson and Kathryn O'Brien.

Soletrader also won in Finland where Soletrader Just Jazz went BIS4 at the Finnish Winner Show where there were close to 7,000 dogs entered. The judges were Leni Finne (BIS), Paula Heikkinen-Lehkonen (group) and Siret Lepasaar (breed).

In Amsterdam the Holland Cup took place on Friday 14 December. BIS went to Gwen Huikeshoven's PBGV Cookie Crunch Van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes. Remarkably, Gwen also won G2 with her GBGV Mingrands Frozen Flakes. PBGV breed judge was Mark Coccozza who had just three to go over, all owned by Gwen.

The entry for the subsequent Amsterdam Winner Show was little better with five for judge Svante Frisk (Swe). Again all belonged to Gwen Huikeshoven. Her Banana Crunch van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes won RBPIS and Meringue Lemon van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes went Best Junior in Show 3. Ch Cookie Crunch van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes had to settle for G2, beaten by Gwen's GBGV Frosty Snowman who went on to stand RBIS behind an Afterglow Standard Poodle handled by Jason Lynn.

For the final Limited Odd Draw of the year, the money goes to Jan Bishop who receives £15.00, Gill Goulden with £10 and Paul Osbourne £5.

News of our former President, Nickie Hunt, is that she is motoring on towards her 100th birthday. She remains very happy despite being diagnosed with dementia five years ago. Husband Bruce, an equally venerable age, says it is hardly surprising that most of her interests are in anything to do with dogs, especially PBGVs.

Christmas seems to have crept up on us. Here we are with only a few days to go and I am sure quite, if you don't have kennels and the constant demands of dogs, you are looking forward to a few days off. Time with our PBGVs is time well spent and hopefully you will find an hour or so to dip into the Winter Voice which has just been delivered. Wishing everyone a happy Christmas, good health and good fortune in the coming year.

28 / 12/ 2018

THAT'S IT - IT'S OVER FOR ANOTHER YEAR FOLKS. Not just Christmas but also the end of 2018, a year of excitement for some and more of the same for others. 2018 saw four PBGVs attain champion status - Around Zlightly Different with Soletrader (imp Swe), Tangaer Chamlee, Beaujons Ugly Betty of Monkhams JW ShCM and Vilauddens Midsummer Madness (imp Swe).

Exhibitors know that some judges are more than tardy in submitting their critiques, indeed some never do. As Club Secretary I follow up any missing critiques but this is always a long process of allowing the KC time to investigate and take action. Judges have 3 months from the date of show to submit their critique. It also has to be borne in mind that the dog press sometimes takes weeks before it publishes a critique sent to them. Around four months after a show, I contact the KC and they follow it up with a search/chase process. Search initiated for critique (which of course I have already done before contacting the KC), first chase letter to judge (14 days deadline), second chase letter to judge (10 days deadline), third chase letter to judge (10 days deadline). If the critique is produced the matter is closed. If not produced, the matter goes to the KC Committee for a penalty decision. Overseas judges are often the worst culprits. They are warned that, unless no good reason is given or the critique not submitted, the KC will not endorse them judging in this country again. As you know, no Crufts critique appeared for this year. Several of you have asked about this and I can only report that, at the moment, the matter is going to the KC Committee for a decision. Of course, when a critique is received so long after the event, it loses impact and importance, the show is usually far to the back of our memories as we move onto the next one. Some are only interested in the win and not what the judge has to say, others find the critique an important part of the judging process and want to see why the judge placed their dog where he/she did. All I can say is that, when you know there are persistent offenders who time and again fail to produce critiques, consider whether you want to enter under them.

With some results still awaited, in the published national final standings for the year, many congratulations to go Gavin & Sara Robertson for being Top PBGV Breeder, also for heading the league table with Top Dog of the Year Ch Soletrader Magic Mike, owned by Sara Robertson & Wendy Doherty.

This beat his number three position last year. In the final standings for Top Puppy, the PBGV winner was Sara, Oliver & Erin Robertson's Soletrader Beatrix Potter.

If you have not yet paid your Limited Odds Draw subscription for 2019, Geraldine Dodd is waiting. Contact her on 01582 865828 / g_dodd@hotmail.co.uk. And, also if not already done so, I need your payment and confirmation of wishing to remain on the Breeders Directory. Time is of the essence as leaflets need to be printed for Crufts. Lynn Wood is receiving offers of help on the breed stands at Discover Dogs and now has only a few times vacant. If you would like to participate, contact her on 01268 555072 or wood_stephen9@sky.com.

PBGV judges known so far for 2019 championship shows are: Boston (no CCs) - Peter Marks, Manchester - Gavin Robertson, Crufts - Linda Skerritt, HA of Scotland (no CCs) - Suzanne Metcalfe-Bilgin, Birmingham National - Rod Price, SKC May - Pam Marston-Pollock, Bath - Fred Ellingford, Southern Counties (no CCs) - not known, Three Counties (no CCs) - Mike MacLaren, Border Union (no CCs) - Jolanda Huisman, Blackpool (no CCs) - Luis Pinto Teixeira, Windsor - Jeff Horswell, East of England - Val Jackson, Hound Association - Patsy Hollings, Leeds - Espen Engh, Paignton (no CCs) - Suzanne Emrys-Jones, Bournemouth - Tom Johnston, WKC - Sara Robertson, SKC August (no CCs) - not known, City of Birmingham = Brian Foster, Richmond - Heidi Allenby, Darlington - Stuart Milner, Belfast (no CCs) - not known, Driffield - Dianna Spavin, South Wakes - Sue Ergis, Midland Counties (no CCs) - not known, BGV Club - Paula Heikkinen-Lehkonen, LKA - Linda Lewis.

Boston Championship show takes place shortly with Hounds on 5 January and an entry of 20 for Peter Marks, who is also judging 13 Grands beforehand. No CCs in either breed. Judging starts at 9am. Then on to Manchester at Stafford on 17 January where we have been given CCs. Gavin Robertson is the judge. Numbers are not yet available. And, a reminder that postal entries for Crufts close on 7 January, with on-line entries closing 21 January.

. Finally, as we approach the last day of 2018, I wish all of you and your PBGVs a happy and healthy 2019.

LINDA SKERRITT, 01375 673922, monkhams@outlook.com