

## Crufts 2013

Crufts 2013 was, without doubt, a major milestone for our breed in that for the first time GSMD's were allowed to be shown in the Any Variety Import Register Working classes. For the non showers amongst you, this means that we can compete in our relevant class, the winners of these compete for the Best of Sex and the winners of each sex then compete against each other for Best or Breed, AV Import Register Working. At present, because we are only on the import Register, that is as far as they can go. We cannot compete in the Working group or go forward for Best in Show. Our judge also has to compare the winners of the two puppy classes [dog/bitch] and declare a Best Puppy.

Having qualified by showing at one of the many Championship shows held around the country and being placed in the requisite classes [those specified by the Kennel Club as being Crufts qualifying classes] there was a good contingent qualified and certainly a nice gang of supporters and folk generally interested in our breed.



The day started early for most people who had dogs entered, as travelling to the NEC Birmingham, getting in and parked, waiting for the bus to take dogs, folk and accompanying paraphernalia up to the halls, fighting ones way through the various stands and crowds, up to the hall we were showing in, certainly takes time. Then the dogs needed time to say hello to family and friends then settle in for the long wait until our judging began.



Being our first year, there was an excited, cheerful and expectant atmosphere helped along by the beautiful cake that our Club had supplied together with the drinks brought along by the Committee to help it down, most I hasten to add, was non alcoholic, had it been otherwise the exhibitors wouldn't have known which way to run with their dogs! So, with welcomes done, even the dogs were certainly not forgotten with a 'goodies', treat for them courteously prepared by Shelia Tickle & Cynthia Bailey for all, including our welcome visitors and their dogs, who had come in from Europe to show.



Our judge, Steve Hall, arrived and our classes began, my goodness the ring with its green carpet looked huge but set the dogs off beautifully and most enjoyed having a run round on it and gave off their best, some of the owners were less keen on all the running especially if more than one dog was being shown!

Prizes were awarded and I must say the Great Swiss Mountain dogs did us proud against the Beaucerons [the other breed that competes in the same classes as us under AV Working Import] and came out top in both the dogs and bitches so well done and I must say that most went home clutching a precious prize card from the first ever showing of our breed at Crufts. An historic memento never to be repeated.

Top spot went to Steve & Sue Brailey's Crown's Circle of Life at Springhaze & Best Puppy to Steve & Julie Watson's Bynton Porthos. I expect they don't even remember driving home, well done.

So let's see how many more of you can get qualified for next year and even if you don't, just come along and show your support for the breed. The date for next year's Crufts is Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014 so plenty of time to organise things.

***Julia Swinburn.***



