



# BERGAMASCO CLUB UK

Newsletter Spring 2024

## Chairman's Chat... with your BCUK Chairman, Bill Nixon

This Spring 2024 newsletter has a different "look'n'feel" - as you can see, we have "gone digital" with our communications - Chris, as some of you may already know, is taking some time away from her role as Honorary Secretary and for this edition, we are yet to replicate her skills in putting together a newsletter in magazine/book format!

Chris and I spoke via a video call on Wednesday and she was very pleased to hear about the Club's presence at Crufts last weekend. We had two chats prior to Crufts, one at her home in Plymouth, and what follows, in this newsletter, is Chris' thoughts and reflections on our discussions.

*Bill Nixon*



Reyna Knight Kennel Chique  
President  
2013 - Founder Member



Bill Nixon  
Chairman  
2014



Chris Walker Kennel Calshair  
Hon Secretary  
2013 - Founder Member



Claire Boston-Smithson  
Marketing Officer  
2014

## President's Message..from your BCUK President, Reyna Knight

As you may know, Chris has had a difficult time this year which has culminated in a serious health problem, leading to the need for her to conserve her energy for a while.

In order to do this, she has asked, after consultation with Bill and I, that Claire Boston Smithson assumes the role of Assistant to the Honorary Secretary and to act on Chris' behalf with immediate effect, and this is in addition to her role as our Marketing Officer.

In the meantime, please join me in sending all our love and support to Chris, and to wish her a speedy recovery.

*Reyna*



## Club News with Chris



First of all, thank you to all of you out there, Bergamasco Club UK members past and present, and our International associates from every corner of the Bergamasco world, who have sent messages of support and encouragement.

Whilst your messages have without doubt, strengthened my resolve, especially now that I have resumed treatment last Friday (and feel a lot more like myself again!), I have also been exhilarated and much cheered up to hear regular updates of the great progress from our Committee, and special thanks to our Marketing Officer, Claire Boston Smithson, and Racheal Abbott, our Health & Welfare Officer, for liaising with the Kennel Club on my behalf, and not only organising, but attending our Discover Dogs stand at Crufts.

### Crufts - 2024

Our Bergamascos had a bigger than ever presence, thrilling visitors in the Discover Dogs Hall over the whole four days, and showing excellently in the Show Ring on Saturday afternoon.

In the AV Imported Breed Register (Pastoral) Classes, congratulations especially to BCUK Club members, Charlene Neo and Peter, and Racheal Abbott and Liio for their second places, and to Steve Poole and Biaga Bebe for their third place. And well done to all 11 Bergamascos who entered, 7 of whom were placed against stiff White Swiss Shepherd competition (WSS first placed in every class except Open Bitch where a Swedish Lapphund won).



Charlene & Peter



Biaga BeBe



Racheal & Liio



Dave & Lucca  
Paul & Alfie





# Show Time!



Alex Simmons  
Media Officer  
2016

Our intrepid Media Officer, Al Simmons was at the show ring side to record with photos and videos, how our Bergamascos performed at Crufts 2024:



Al has recommended and gained Committee approval to use Microsoft365 as our cloud storage facility for our vast number of Bergamasco photos - 2 terabytes should be enough to start with!





## Discover Dogs at NEC Birmingham

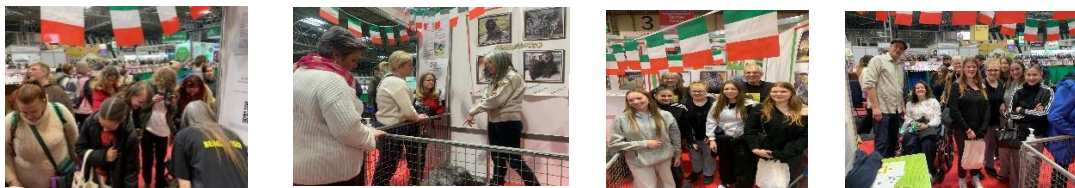
We were incredibly busy during all four days, during which, over 159,000 visitors enjoyed everything Crufts had to offer - it felt like they all wanted to meet a Bergamasco! One such person was Tracy Hofman, an Australian Judge who has qualified to judge Bergamascos...but had never met one...until making a beeline for our breed booth on Thursday!



From left:

Steve & BeBe; Matt, Tilly, Jack & Marion; three Bellezzalana generations! - Grannie Fiore, Mum Ayla-Bella, Daddy Paolo, and litter siblings - Biaga BeBe and Biaggio; Lucca & Liio; Claire, Janie, Matt with Paolo & Biaggio

Thank you to all BCUK Club members and their guests who assisted in our breed booth at Discover Dogs and our 8 Bergamascos who created so much interest in our breed - to Claire & Bill, Matt, daughter Tilly, son Jack and Marion, Steve & Janie, Dave & Racheal, Kamran, Al & Hazel (& son Ezra), and Charlene & Joan.



left:

Our Media Officer (and our official photographer), Al, with Hazel and Ezra had to cope with large crowds on the Saturday morning. Below: the White Swiss Shepherd clan not only won the Best Of Breed, they won Best Breed Booth...and... they make exceptionally good cakes!





# Bergamasco Puppies



## Puppies – 8 weeks old on Sunday 17 March

New breeders of healthy pups are very much welcome in the UK, and we are delighted to enclose these recent photos of Mum and her three gorgeous pups...



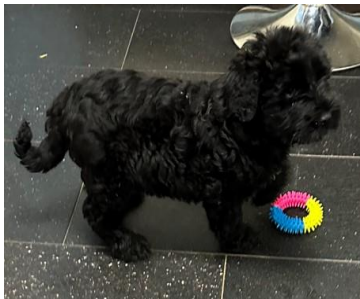
Mum



Mum with litter



Boy and two girls



Black Boy Puppy



Girl Puppy (1 of 2)



Girl Puppy (2 of 2)

While I am convalescing, if you would like to be put in contact with the breeder, then please email Claire Boston Smithson, Assistant Secretary at

[admin@bergamasco-owners.co.uk](mailto:admin@bergamasco-owners.co.uk)

Also, if you would like a general chat about breeders and breeding please email our President, Reyna Knight or Dave Beeton, our Breed Officer at

[info@bergamasco-owners.co.uk](mailto:info@bergamasco-owners.co.uk)

For all matters on health and welfare, please contact our Health & Welfare Officer, Racheal Abbott at

[health@bergamasco-owners.co.uk](mailto:health@bergamasco-owners.co.uk)



## Health & Welfare



Racheal Abbott  
Health & Welfare Officer  
2017

Or, simply go to our website (<https://bergamasco-owners.co.uk>), click on the puppy enquiry form, and send us a message expressing your interest.



## Planned litters

Looking further ahead, if you will be looking to welcome a pup into your home next year, we have one UK breeder planning to have pups ready for their new homes in April/May 2025, whilst another UK breeder is looking at a window between October 2025 and March 2026.

If you would like a puppy outside of these dates, please let us know as we have close relationships with several international breeders who have assisted the Club to bring many Bergamascos to our members over the years.

With those breeders with which we have a close co-operation, our Club has very strict requirements in that aside from an extremely good hip and elbow scores on both parents, health, temperament, lineage and overall size within the Kennel Club Breed Standard, are our essential considerations.

## Rehoming

I was delighted to hear that Elmo has been rehomed, moving from Leicestershire to Scotland, and this is a great photo of him (below right) relaxing at Charlene's house where he is having a ball with brother Peter (below left) and Crufts 2024 winning Puli, Heidi (1<sup>st</sup>. place in PGB, Hungarian Puli).







# Back Office



Jennie Moseley  
Hon Treasurer (Interim)  
2016

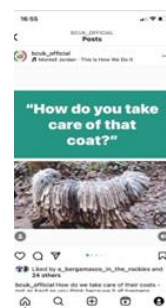
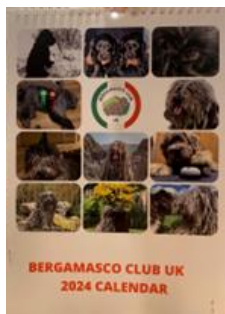
## Finance

Claire Boston Smithson, in her role as Assistant Secretary, will be contacting you with regards to your annual subscriptions once she has consulted with Jennie Moseley, our Honorary Treasurer. Also, thank you to everyone who supplied superb photos of their cherished Bergamascos for our 2024 Calendar (see bottom of page). There are one or two outstanding payments for the Calendar and Jennie will be in touch with you shortly as we need to reconcile our finances before our AGM on 30 June 2024.

## Website & social media

You may have seen that we have been working on our website, which, along with our Facebook open page were unavailable to us last year. Now we are back up and running, we will be adding more up to date content in a timely manner - we would love to have your feedback (good and bad!) ideas, topics to discuss etc.

So...we can now start to work on our vision to enhance our web and social media properties by continually providing quality content, which is informative, educational, and fun. Jennie Moseley has set up our new Instagram account - bcuk\_official - which is just that - fun, informative and often with a catchy soundtrack! .. talking of which, our 100<sup>th</sup>. follower is DJ RavinRach! who was transfixed by our Bergamascos at Crufts!





# Herding & Therapy



Steve Poole Kennel Bellezzalana  
Herding Officer  
2013 Founder Member

## Herding

Steve & Janie Poole have introduced their 14 month old Biaga Bebe to their flock of sheep and donkeys at their new farm in Cornwall. Bebe is already showing all the herding instincts that her Mum, Ayla-Bella (photo below, second left, on one of Cornwall's widest roads - not!), has shown.

Steve has reached out to experts in the USA and Europe and will report on progress in the next newsletter.



## Therapy

We are exploring how we can encourage more volunteering - as we have been inspired by the fantastic ongoing work of Silvio (middle pic above) and Amore (two pics on the right), as featured in our Spring edition last year with owners, Jill Hart-Sanderson and Claire Wilson respectively. If any one is interested in following in their paw prints, please do get in touch.

## ...and finally...

I am very proud of the BCUK Club, our members, many of whom have become great friends, and our Committee, who Reyna and I believe, have never been stronger and it is my wish that they continue the custodianship of this Club.

I sincerely hope you will join me in continuing your support for the Club and the Committee. And I wish you and your families and those of you owning our precious Bergamascos, every luck in the world and the very best of health in the future.

Chris Walker, Honorary Secretary, Bergamasco Club UK, 13 March 2024

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