

Spring Hunting and Bryn Mawr

The year 2018 has started with record-setting cold. We had a blank day at **Milky Way Farm** on January 7th, despite hounds scouring the hedgerows and drifts. The whole pack worked very hard. When we started out, I noticed a flock of crows cawing and diving in the field beyond the first hedgerow. Sure enough there were fresh fox tracks along with rabbit tracks over there leading to an earth. After over an hour in 16° F cold with no sign of more fresh tracks anywhere, and hounds stopping to chew off ice balls from their feet, we called it a day and headed back to get them in the trailer filled with a thick bed of hay. The tailgate in Melba's warm house was most welcome to end the day. It was an easy



End of Day at Milky Way....



.....and warm tailgate!



BRCA end of day.

clean up at kennels and we tucked them in for the night with a good hot feed. On Monday the 8th I got the electric circuit box checked and repaired. Wednesday and Saturday Gene and I exercised the pack. On Sunday January 14th at **Brandywine Red Clay Alliance**, bitter cold and bright sun didn't kill scenting. Hounds started immediately on a big rabbit that they found in the lower hedgerow for a good run back and forth from cover to cover in the lower fields and finally to ground. They then worked into the Sycamore Sump hillside and bottom, marking several earths, with Artful leading the pack on a doubling run to the south end to ground. The east side was worked blank. Then we returned to the Myrick Center to warm up hounds and people. The BRCA staff had very kindly heated up the room in advance for us. The fine tailgate of hot tea and soup and treats helped thaw us out. We got welcome warm food in hounds at kennels and cleanup was easy. Wednesday and Saturday we got hounds out for a stretch as the temperature warmed up. The morning hunt in balmy weather on Sunday January 21st at **Marsh Creek** started on a rabbit that hounds drove down the right side of the trail cover to the curve, back and forth and to ground in the bank on the south side. They worked the oval around toward the road, marking several earths, and got covered with burrs in the cover in the hay piles. The center hedge line was blank but hounds ran one to ground in the woods along the road, accounting for another one there. We finished the morning with a run to ground down to the lake in the long hedgerow on the north side of the road. Clean up at kennels was extensive. The hunt breakfast at the Brickside Grille was outstanding as usual, including fresh oysters and a grand side of beef. Wednesday



Marsh Creek—coming in from the hedgerow lakeside run.



Hunt Breakfast at the Brickside Grille.

Gene Bolt and I got the pack out for a stretch. Saturday Gene Bolt, David Harshaw, and Kate, Helen and Ned Farnham and I walked two 3 couple packs out for training. Sunday January 28th at **White Acres Farm** was a warm showery afternoon. Hounds worked all the hedgerows thoroughly, but the rabbits stayed in and dry until the last ten minutes. A yip or two and digging at holes in the south stream and hill covers only yielded a heavy crop of burrs! On the way in, we drew the tenant house hedgerow and a big rabbit blew out the east side and raced down the fence line toward the house. Hounds were scrambling inside the cover and came out to get on the line. The sodden ground made working

the line tough, but they cast all round and crossed the drive in cry to dig at several holes on the bank above the lower lawn, but could do no more. They drew all around the area and made sure it had gone no father, then I blew end of day and we tucked them in the barn. Cleanup at kennels was not too bad, however. The “Gentlemen’s Tea” back at the house was grand, with Scotch eggs, pies, pasties, cheeses, sausage wraps and sweets, tea and cider.

Saturday February 3rd at kennels Gene, David, Kate and Ned and I walked the pack in 24°F weather and howling wind. Hounds enjoyed it much more than we! It was mostly in the 20s all week. On Sunday February 4th, due to a snow-sleet-rain-ice day-long deluge the meet at **Stonewall** was cancelled. What a difference from last week! Gene and I fed and played with hounds in the barn and did some cleanup work. The heaters have done yeoman service keeping the kennel warm to date. Wednesday Gene and I cleared the runs from a light snow, cleaned



White Acres—hillside cover.



Gone to ground.



CFS—moving off.

lodges and water buckets and got all out for a romp. Saturday we walked the pack, and Yarrow’s new owners took her to her new Kingston, New York, home. The hunt at **Allerton Farm Gate** on the 11th was cancelled. The predicted rain was a drencher. This has been the oddest weather I can remember. We fed and played with hounds in the barn, then had a fine “TeahoundsTea” at **Lydia Bartholomew’s** so that the day wasn’t a complete washout (pun intended!). Josie Parman won the drawing for a box for the evening at the Devon Horse Show, which Lydia kindly offered. Also, we met several landowners of large farms who welcome our hunting. The balmy hunt on Sunday February 18th at **George Jefferis’s** was a mixed bag in slush after Saturday’s snow. It was sunny and the temperature was near 50°F. We first drew the tree stands, and had views on three rabbits that each immediately ran out the far end of the property. Recovering all but Artful, we drew the north hedgerows and woods blank. Returning to the tree stands, we again worked through, though to no avail, and recovered Artful, who had been running the rabbits below the south end into the development. I apologised to the staff and field for a sloppy hunt—not good for hounds at all. The tea afterwards at the Boisvert’s was grand, with a surprise birthday cake for master and Dolores Green! Sunday 25th February at **Church Farm** we had a fine afternoon. After two weekends of cancelled meets due to snow, sleet, ice and heavy rains, this Sunday was a winner! It poured during the morning and I feared another cancellation was possible, but the rain stopped by noon. We got to CFS and saw a herd of deer to the left in the far side, so drew to the right and the fun began. Hounds got a rabbit going in the center stream hedgerow and ran it to the Valley Creek



CFS—third tricky rabbit crossing back over!



Moore’s...coming in.

Road end bridge, where it got to ground below the bank. Drawing back, they found again and that one crossed the field to the running track hedge line and was run into the left middle. It dodged in and out to the end to ground, as more rabbits burst out, some crossing through the delighted field to the stream and others across the trail into forbidden ground. The next two hours were a marathon, running fresh ones to ground from end to end between the two roads. Hounds stayed on their hunted rabbits as well as could be expected. We finished with a split on two rabbits with half running one to Church Farm Lane to ground and the other to the Valley Stream Road briar tangle end. Iroise didn’t want to leave the earth, as we gathered the pack to go back to kennels. Cleanup of burrs and mud was tough, but better than some days there. Tea in our “club room” in the barn was very pleasant.

The March 4th hunt at the **Moore’s Great Marsh Farm** was wintery again, with several rabbits that gave good runs and plenty of views for the excited field. Hounds ran two to startone from each end—in the big fox hill woods covert. The first was got up by Artful and run to

ground. Rabbit 2 dodged in and out half way back and was accounted for on the upper west side by Iroise and Artful. They then worked the ridge hedgerow, and a rabbit burst out and raced down to the swamp where they forced it to double back and put it to ground. They got up two more, one of which ran east to the top where it got through and ran along the south edge down toward the swamp and was given best at the edge of the property. They then got up and drove the second to ground, with Irmine digging at the earth. We then drew the long south hedgerow toward the turnpike and back with no further action and returned to the meet. Irmine, Iroise and Artful were the standouts of the day's hunting. The tea afterward was given by Suzanne Bender at her fabulously remodeled farmhouse and it was a feast! Sandwiches, hot chili and wonderful gourmet dips galore made it quite a party. Wednesday March 7 Gene got to kennels early before the storm and fed and got



Cheslen—end of day....



...and the Gross's grand tea.

hounds out, bless him. Happily we didn't lose power. Saturday at kennels we exercised two groups. Sunday March 11th at **Cheslen Preserve** the wind and bare covers made it a tough day for the pack. A feral cat was barely avoided in the long hedgerow below the railroad tracks. The big center cover on the hill gave us a good rabbit that hounds drove in doubles inside and to ground in the upper corner, otherwise they could find nothing else to run. A big contingent of the Savoy had a fine time with us, and the Gross's tea afterwards was grand. The hunt on Sunday March 18th at the **Christiansen's Hearthstone Farm** was a long walk and blank day. The Wednesday nor'easter was a super storm. Gene and I got to kennels early to feed and check hounds before it got into full swing. Sunday March 25th, our **Closing Meet at Marsh Creek**, was a good hunt. Hounds quickly put the first two rabbits to ground in the oval, then after drawing the center hedgerow we worked toward the big northern woods covert where they found a good running rabbit. They ran it back and forth through the woods in two long doubling runs. Irmine almost caught it at the west end, but it crossed the road out of the park into a neighbor's yard. We held up the pack there and worked back to the trailer to end the day. We then took hounds back to kennels and headed for the Peeple's tea. With plenty of hot tea and a grand



Marsh Creek woods edge find...



...and doubling run inside!



Closing Meet Tea at the Peeple's'

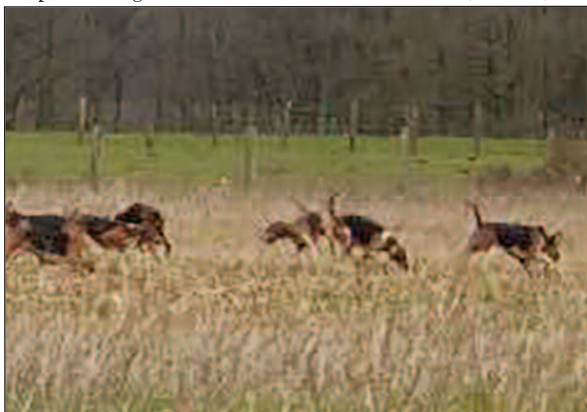
feast, it was a fine ending to our 70th season here in Chester County. What a weird winter it was, from occasional spring-like weekends to arctic freeze outs and repeated nor'easters in March!

My second trip to France, March 26-31, was a wonderful adventure made even better by Gwen accompanying me. Gwen and I got to Philippe Deschamps's home in Mortagne au Perche on Tuesday evening and had a nice dinner with his wife and daughters. The next day was a boar hunt with the local pack, Le Vautrait du Perche. We went first to Philippe's kennels to assemble the crates for our hounds for flight, then to the Levesque's for sighting reports and preparation for the meet at Miserai. Despite intermittent rain, the hounds got quickly on the line of three boars along the Champagne ridge and fairly flew through the grove, taking a sow of about 90 pounds before the Calvary Round of Catelier. Hounds were then put on the line of another boar that crossed the Garenne into the swamps and checked there and became split due to the wet conditions confusing the scent. After regrouping the pack, they drew toward the road to Chartres. The hounds jumped a beautiful animal of a good 150 pounds that ran down across several fields towards le Moulins into Plantis, making a big loop in the plantings, where

unfortunately they ran into riot and were stopped below the mill of Brotz. Hounds were collected there, and we finished by circling the area to recover the last few. We then went to the meet at Miserai for the celebration of the kill and rewarding the hounds. A chorus of french horns played the various melodies of the hunt that described the day, and it was a very moving sight. To my great delight the master, Docteur Levesque gave Gwen the signal honour of presenting her with the Pied d'Honneur (or foot) of the boar. We arranged with the Huntsman, Patrick



At Levesque's before the hunt.



Hounds working a tough line.



At the Curée Gwen was awarded le Pied d'Honneur!

Bourgoin, to mount Gwen's Pied d'Honneur as he had done mine last year. We all gathered afterward at the home of the Levesques for refreshments. It was a grand day indeed. On the way home, we went to kennels to feed Philippe's hounds in preparation for hunting rabbit Thursday morning. We hunted at a farm with fields divided by wide strips of dense briars criss-crossed with trails. We were met there by Jean-Luc Vequaud and Nicolas Marache with our two new hounds, Margot and Neptune, which were tucked in to Philippe's van. The new hounds were very impressive. We started hunting with his pack in a light drizzle of rain. The drizzle became a driving rain as the pack wormed their way through and ran circling rabbits underneath the tangles. After putting several to ground, they put up a fox that they left quickly and ran rabbits again in cry, to a kill in one of the center strips. After a final run back towards the vans, we took hounds back to kennels and fed hounds. We then went to dinner at Philippe's wife Yoricke's restaurant. Friday also was a special day indeed. Gwen and I drove to Bayeaux to see the famous tapestry depicting the rise of William the Conqueror and the invasion of England in 1066. Even the continuing rain didn't detract from



Thursday's hunt with Philippe's pack.



The Bayeaux Tapestry!

this day. What a grand sight it was! Saturday was the closing meet of the season for the Vautrait du Peche and it was a super hunt. The meet was at the forest of Bellême. The pack drew the Carrouge first, and hounds got a boar going in great cry. Pressed by the pack, it raced out of the woods and ran up the ridge right past Gwen and me. It crossed the service road with hounds in hot pursuit through the park, past la Reine Blanche, and jumped the high side of the Chemin Galon and followed the way to Saint Leonard. Getting away from the pack, it crossed the rail line and ran into a farm, racing down the field into the Collier Rouge estate. It stood off some barking farm dogs and ran along a small feeder creek of the Chêne Galon. It jumped across the farm road past some delighted trout fishermen camping there and was run to bay by the pack and accounted for, finishing a grand but all too short chase of a half hour. By then it was two o'clock, and we decided to go to the Bois de Chambrai to hunt the boar that had been habored by Denis before the start of the hunt. Hounds were cast into this dense woods and worked it from front to back, but it wasn't until about three o'clock that two hounds opened on a line. The boar, aroused from under an oak, took off pursued by the pack with great cry towards the north side of Dambrai. The boar couldn't elude them and ran into a rolling farm field below the manor house of Corbonasière. It at first took refuge in a briar-bordered pond, then tried to escape with a run around the farm but could not, so again ran to the pond. It was accounted for there. It was found to have a short right foreleg from an old injury, that had caused it to run with a strange gait. We went back to La Reine Blanche for the celebration curée of the two boars joyeously sounded by almost thirty horns,



The first boar.



La Curée.



Patrick Bourgoin and the Levesques.

including several young men. The Pied d'Honneur was awarded to Mlle. Bertille Morin, fiancée of Baptiste Levesque. The day ended with a lovely reception at Brocardière where Bénédicte and Hubert Palvin welcomed us. Gwen and I had dinner with the Deschamps, then it was time to get packed up, check the papers for my hounds one more time, and get ready for the early Sunday morning departure. It was a bitter-sweet leave taking for Charles de Gaulle airport after this wonderful, all too short stay with the Deschamps family. The flight home was easy, and soon I was driving to Malvern to tuck us all in for the night. The crates were clean and hounds had traveled very well.



Margot and Neptune, the new hounds.

During the weeks before the annual meeting, we worked on blending in Margot and Neptune, and began training in earnest for the Bryn Mawr Hound Show. The new hounds have fit in quickly and are a delight to work with.

Our 70th season went well despite the weird March blizzards and wild weather swings through the end of the month. We can all be very proud of our hounds and staff that gave such fine sport through this tough, strange season. **We owe a special 'thank you' to Jim Moore, George Jefferis, to Church Farm School, Bob Berry, Harold Hallman and Marsh Creek, who let us use their grounds as well as the farm at kennels time and again for training and hunting.** We will be exploring new and old meets on bye day hunts before Opening Meet this fall. Please let us know if you have any friends' properties in mind. Everyone is welcome to join us on bye days. Call Jim Scharnberg or Gillian Wiedorn for weekly Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday hunt/training/exercise times and locations through the summer.

We owe our sport to our wonderful Landowners.



In Remembrance—Lisa Booth

Our dear Lisa died Wednesday, May 16th. For years, the Booth family was devoted to Sunday afternoons afield with our hounds. Lisa's help at kennels and getting out the pack Wednesdays and Saturdays when I was often short of staff were very much needed and appreciated. She truly loved the hounds. She was a great help with encouraging and training the young staff, and bringing children out to the meets as well. She is survived by her loving husband Henry and children, Laura and Nicolas. Lisa's fiery intelligence, spirit, and sense of justice made her many dear friends. She became a great friend to me and Marsha, whom she looked on as a 'second mother' and she will be sorely missed.

MEETS AND TEAS

January 7 – Mr. & Mrs. Sam Matthews' Milky Way Farm - Very cold and snowy – The Matthews very kindly opened the house to us and after hunting we enjoyed the warmth and all the goodies everyone had brought along to share.

January 14 – Brandywine Red Clay Alliance – Bitter cold and bright sun didn't kill scenting and the hounds started immediately on a big rabbit for a good run back and forth in the lower fields and finally to ground. After the hunt we had tea in the Myrick Center which was lovely and warm with lots of lovely hot things – Gene's delicious vegetable stew, Valerie's lovely soup, hot pasta casserole that Dolores brought, Gene's delicious quiche, Gillian's coffee cake, Walt's brie cheese and crackers, chocolate truffles that the Bizjaks brought, plus chocolate chip cookies, Greek pastries, and cider. We all enjoyed the warmth and all the delicious goodies that everyone brought to share!

January 21 – Marsh Creek State Park & Hunt Breakfast – A morning hunt in balmy weather started with a rabbit that drove down the right side of the trail cover, back and forth and to ground on the bank of the south side. We finished the morning with a run to ground down to the lake on the north side of the road. We took the hounds back to kennels for a good clean-up as they had lots of burrs on them then headed over to the Brickside Grille for a delicious breakfast of oysters, smoked salmon, roast beef, sausages, bacon, scrambled eggs, and lots of other goodies. We had a good turnout of about 25 at two long tables and it was a very enjoyable morning!

January 28 – White Acres Farm & Gentlemen's Tea – Jim hunted a 4 couple on a drizzly but warm day working up the stream cover and then across the top but had nothing to speak of until the end when a lovely big rabbit led them on a nice long run. The Gentlemen's Tea afterwards in the farmhouse with a lovely big fire going in the big fireplace was fabulous with Gene's delicious smoked pheasant and bacon canapés, quail eggs, Scotch Eggs, asparagus and ham rolls, delicious soup, cranberry pie, cake, Jonathan's sausage rolls, cheese biscuits and snickerdoodles. There were also delicious cheeses from David Harshaw, David Harrison and Walt Fisher, plus other lovely cookies and pies. The gentlemen certainly did us proud and it was a fabulous feast!

February 4 – Stonewall Golf Club – Meet cancelled because of weather.

February 11 – Allerton Farm Gate w/ Tea at Lydia Willits Bartholomew's Lucky Hill Farm – The Meet was cancelled because of heavy rain but we had a fabulous "tea hound tea" at Lucky Hill Farm with Lydia's delicious hot chili, yummy hoagies and cookies, and Gene's delicious tart, deviled eggs and madeleines. A number of neighbors and members came out for the tea and it was a very happy afternoon in spite of the miserable weather.

February 18 – Mr. & Mrs. George Jefferis's w/Tea at Mr. and Mrs. Peter Boisvert's Little Broad Run Farm – We met at Jefferis after a snowstorm the night before which left everything very soggy! The hounds had not been hunting for three weeks because of weather problems so were wildly enthusiastic and there were quite a number of tallyhos but they all seemed to lead to places we didn't want to go! After the hunt we went over to the Boisvert's Little Broad Run Farm and their enchanting family of sealyhams for an absolutely fabulous tea with salmon canapés, shrimp, a wonderful crab dip, a delicious chicken and dumpling soup, two different brie cheeses with different toppings, rolls with smoked chicken and other meats, scones and a birthday cake for Jim and Dolores. It was the most fabulous spread and we had the most lovely time relaxing in front of a wood fire with lots of lovely things to nibble on! A very special thanks to them for such a lovely time!

February 25 – Church Farm School - A lovely afternoon after morning rain. Hounds got a rabbit going in the center stream hedgerow and ran it to the Valley Creek Road end bridge, where it went to ground below the bank. Drawing back they found again and again as more rabbits burst out, some crossing through the delighted field to the stream and others across the trail into forbidden ground. Iroise didn't want to leave the earth, as we gathered the pack to go back to kennels and a big clean up! After which we were glad of hot tea and cookies in our newly set up Club Room at kennels!

March 4 – The Moore's Great Marsh Farm w/Tea at Suzanne Bender's – A nice sunny day for our hunt at Moore's Great Marsh Farm but still a wicked cold wind from the latest nor'easter. We had a good hunt – the hounds worked hard and put up several rabbits up on the hill and along the



Tea at
Suzanne
Bender's

"Gentleman's
Tea" at
White Acres
Farm



Tea at
the Boisverts'
Little Broad
Run Farm

MEETS AND TEAS – continued

hedgerows. Irmine, Iroise and Artful were the standouts of the day! Afterwards Suzanne Bender and James hosted a fabulous tea at their newly remodeled farmhouse with lots of delicious sandwiches, cookies, cakes, dips, and chili. The house looked lovely and everyone was very taken with the beautiful mural in the dining room. Our thanks to them for a really wonderful time!

March 11 – Cheslen Preserve Meet 1 w/Tea at Dick & Holly Gross' Green Ledge Farm – A lovely, sunny brisk day. The hounds worked hard but there wasn't much game and the wind and bare covers made it a tough day for the pack. The big center cover on the hill gave us a good rabbit that hounds drove to ground in the upper corner, but otherwise they could find nothing else to run. Afterwards, Dick and Holly Gross treated us to a really fabulous tea at their lovely home, with pulled pork, lentil soup, lots of lovely sandwiches and lots of other delicious goodies. A number of Savoy Company members came out for the hunt and tea and everyone had a lovely and very enjoyable time.

March 18 – Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Christiansen's Hearthstone Farm – A sunny crisp day for our hunt. The hounds worked hard but in spite of their

best efforts there didn't seem to be any game to speak of. Maybe not surprising when two coyotes had been spotted that morning! Nina very kindly invited us in for our BYO tea which was a very delicious one with lots of sandwiches, cakes, cookies, cheeses and dips that everyone had brought to share plus Valerie's lovely hot tomato soup – perfect for the weather! And we all enjoyed the lovely welcoming fire in the big fireplace! A lovely afternoon!

March 25 – Marsh Creek State Park w/ Tea at Chris Peebles' Vixen Hill Farm – Some flurries in the morning but it cleared up for our hunt in the afternoon, though still a cold wind. Hounds quickly put the first two rabbits to ground in the oval then found a good running rabbit which they ran back and forth through the woods before it crossed the road out of the park and into a neighbor's yard. Afterwards we celebrated the final hunt of the season with a lovely tea at Chris Peebles' Vixen Hill Farm with delicious cakes, cookies, and sandwiches. Our thanks to Chris, Charles and Alyssa for giving us such a delicious tea to end the season and for the many, many years they have given Skycastle such wonderful support!

Alysa Peebles
pouring tea at
Vixen Hill



Annual Meeting at Vixen Hill Farm, May 20th



The Eliot Kalmbach Cup was well earned by joint master Gene Bolt.



David and Andrea Herr were awarded their Whipper-In colours.



Puppy Class—Neptune 1st, Ziva 2nd, Artful 3rd, Zelda 4th



Retired hounds—Quarry 1st, Roguish 2nd, Robin 3rd



Veterans—Souza 1st, Teasel 2nd, Tuppence 3rd, Trompette 4th



Entered Hounds—Irmine 1st, Yvette 2nd, Uwchlan 3rd, Iroise 4th



Neptune, Best Puppy and Reserve to Souza, Best in Show and Winner of the Killen Cup

The Bryn Mawr Hound Show

This year's Bryn Mawr Hound Show on Saturday, June 2nd was a good day and we lucked out with the threatening weather. Neptune was second Unentered Doghound. Artful was 4th Entered Doghound. Tuppence was 3rd in the Brood with Produce Class and we placed 4th in the Couple of Bitches Class. Several made the first cut in some classes, but lost to the bigger smooth coats. Uwchlan was second Veteran Dog Hound. Our pack put on a stellar performance in the Pack Class, to loud cheers from the crowd, but placed 4th as the judge was more concerned with pack conformation, and right now ours are not a very even looking lot. Our breeding program should give it a challenge next year. I took a third in the horn blowing contest Friday night.

Our staff, Gene Bolt, , Kate, Ned and Helen Farnham, Phyllis Allen and Jonathan Wiedorn and Gwen Keimpema, did a great job getting ready for each class and showing hounds, and Phyllis was super in the pack class. The new French hounds did well, and Irmine was solid in the pack class. All in all, it was a satisfying day, and happily the predicted thunderstorms held off. The after show party at the clubhouse was outstanding.



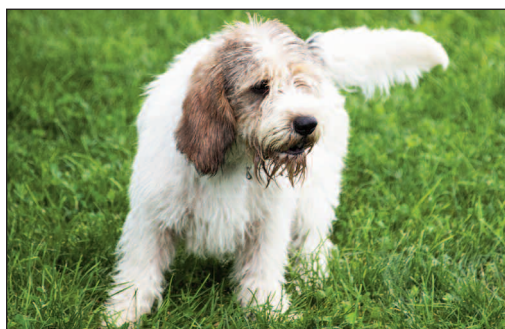
Neptune was 2nd Unentered Doghound



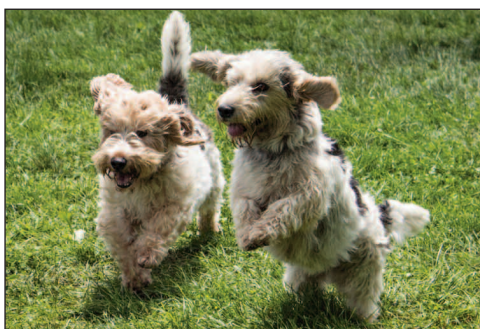
*Tuppence placed 3rd Brood with Produce
Zelda and Ziva*



Uwchlan was 2nd Veteran Hound



Artful was 4th Entered Doghound



Irmine and Salsa were 4th Couple of Bitches



I was 3rd in the Horn Blowing contest



We placed 4th in the Pack Class and put on a great show for a cheering crowd.

Outstanding photography by Jon Mullen and Kate Farnham!