



# Shining bright

The sun shone, the collectors came out in force and the bears sparkled like jewels at Teddies 2008

**T**he summer has been terrible in England this year and so it was with a little planning and trepidation that many people set out for Kensington Town Hall on September 14th for the Teddies 2008 show hosted by Hugglets.

We all wondered if it would rain, if we would be able to get our precious mohairs, or even more precious bears back home without an unexpected shower. Many worried that the dreaded 'credit crunch' would scare people away, or even the awful price of petrol.

Yet on the day nothing was further from everyone's mind as the sun shone and shone, the sky was as blue and clear as it has been all year and the queue paid testament that there were eager and happy collectors waiting in the lovely weather for their favourite show to open.

## Shining inside too

If you thought it was bright outside, then you were in for a big surprise inside because the halls were filled with the most stunning creations, with the biggest brightest smiles and the most welcoming.

The first welcoming face to greet me was Ann Goldfarb, our American correspondent who was over for the show with her husband. Ann was looking forward to everything especially meeting Andy West! (He is getting to be too big a star!)

She was also covering the show for some of the American magazines too.

## American welcome

Not only did I get a chance to meet Ann, but straight away I had to find Sharon Barron from Barron Bears as I had her fantastic Tommie to return. Tommie

was on the cover of the last edition of TBCI and so hadn't had time to return to America on his own yet.

The bears looked fantastic on her stand and my favourite from her article Little Uncle Teddy was even cuter in the 'fur'. I am sure Sharon enjoyed a good day and I think perhaps the American contingent might have brought that change in the weather we were all so happy to see.

## Hot spots

Now you all know the Hugglets shows very well by now and I had my usual hour to dash about and check out the bears before all the collectors got in to re-home them. This is so important because no matter how much I try I just can't see all the bears before anyone else does. I can't be in four halls at the same time and so once those doors open I am never going to be able to get photographs to share with all of you of every bears. This year I know I missed out on a gorgeous big size Bebbin Bear, and there were several others that were a bit like the fisherman's 'one that got away'.

## Not completely daft

I do know however, that some artists are bound to sell out pretty quickly so it is to them that I usually direct myself first. The top of my list was a certain Mr Gregory Gyllenship and how I wish I hadn't gone there! I spotted Gregory arriving and even took a photo of his big bag of bears. The second bear out of it was grey, called Louis and I knew I was in love with him. I just wouldn't put him down and I even went back later in the day, astonished to find that he was still there! I knew he was for me, but I didn't buy him. I should have!

Gregory had some of his latest designs on show too and they were snapped up in the blink of an eye!

The next stop for me was Julie Shepherd who I know has been burning the candle at both ends to get ready for



Top left: Louis by Gregory Gyllenship. Love, love, love

Top: Julie Shepherd with two bunnies just before she made them disappear  
Above: Dawn James with one of her newest big beefy boys



**Top:** Pinselbaer show that there is always time for a hug  
**Above:** The Pipkins gang in olympic spirit  
**Below:** Sue Quinn and her charming hedgehogs

**Above left:** JCW Bears' puppy to go  
**Above:** Dufeu Bears make some of the best dogs in the world  
**Left:** The last star from Schulz Bears

went for the frog in the end because he really was giving it such a great hug. We could all do with one of them sometimes!

**Full of delights**

Hall one was full of delights, from the fabulous hedgehogs of Sue Quinn, who always seems to find the most suitable ways to display them. I think she must spend a lot of time watching hedgehogs because they always look to me like they have clambered onto her stand and found the most comfortable place to curl up.

Pipkins Bears seemed to have taken the Olympic spirit to heart and several were wearing lovely Chinese inspired hats and jackets. With bright jewel coloured noses they were surely sparkling and happy to join their new homes

Shultz Bears were gone. By that I mean by the time I got there just one solitary bear remained. The stall looked great, but with such a high demand for bears, they had simply all been snapped up already. It is a credit to the artist to be able to produce work that has this effect on collectors, and I am sure they were all delighted to go to new homes

**Roo to rude**

I always delight in the Roosbears stand. The girls always look checked out for a date, they wear such fabulous and flamboyant hats and dresses and all sit waiting nicely for their prince to come. I love the pin cushion feet and bonnets too! Perhaps those sweet Roosbears girls better beware because just around

**Wild and Wacky**

You don't get much more imaginative when it comes to bears than the work of Annette Rauch. Annette has been producing amazing innovative designs for some years now and this year her stand was filled with stunning and strange designs. I say strange because sometimes they are not really any kind of animal, they are conkers, or woodland things come to life, it may sound unusual, possibly even too strange, but take a look for yourself, they really are charming and original.

The Pinselbar bears were also stylish and charming. They were such fun and I couldn't decide if I liked the little dragon hugging his foot or the bear hugging a frog the best. I

