

National Show 23rd March 2014

Judge: Paul Spooner

A hive of activity, describes the scene on my arrival At Calf Heath Village Hall to judge the National Show. There were three separate grooming areas, all busy, chinchillas everywhere! The final total I believe was 190+ animals!

Bang on time we made a start with the Young Standard Females, medium/dark class, 3 animals total and a 2nd ribbon for Kerry Bradburn with a young female of good size and conformation but not quite in full prime, onto the medium class and another 2nd for Kerry with a similar animal. The dark class produced the first 1st ribbon for Teresa Moir with an animal of good size, conformation and clarity, going on to take Reserve Young Standard Female, and another 2nd for Kerry of good size, conformation and clarity but a bit smaller than the 1st ribbon. The best class of the group turned out to be the extra/darks, just two animals and a 1st ribbon for Kerry with an animal of good size, conformation and clarity, excellent fur strength and nice even veiling, this going on to take Best Young Standard Female, Best Young Standard and eventually Reserve Show Champion.

Onto the Young Standard Males. Three medium/darks produced just a 2nd for Kerry and the medium class another 2nd. The Darks were a better class producing a 1st ribbon for Kerry with an animal of exceptional size, good conformation and clarity and lots of eye appeal and also a 2nd ribbon for Kerry, 4 month old, excellent size and conformation and good show condition, excellent potential. The Extra Dark class proved to be even better, a 1st again for Kerry with good size, conformation, and clarity, loads of eye appeal and going on to take Best Young Standard Male and Reserve Young Standard and the 2nd to this, again for Kerry, very slightly down in clarity compared to the 1st ribbon, going on to take Reserve Best Young Standard Male.

Onto the Adult Standard Females. A poor class of four medium/darks received no awards, a class of eight mediums were not much better receiving just a 3rd and a Highly Commended but the quality of the Dark colour phase made up for this, eight animals in total producing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd for Kerry. The 1st ribbon was excellent, huge size, good conformation and clarity, going on to take Best Adult Standard Female, Best Adult Standard, Best Standard and eventually, Grand Show Champion, 2nd ribbon to this was again good size, conformation and clarity and going on to take Reserve Adult Standard Female.

Onto the Adult Standard Males. Five medium/darks produced just a 2nd for Kerry, having good size and conformation but out of condition, there were no awards in the medium colour phase but in the dark class twelve animals producing a 1st for Kerry having good size conformation and clarity and good fur strength going on to take Reserve Adult Standard Male. The 2nd ribbon to this from Sandy King had good size and conformation but slightly down in clarity from the 1st ribbon. The extra dark class comprised four animals, producing another 1st for Kerry, having good size, conformation and clarity and taking also Best Adult Standard Male and Reserve Adult Standard, 2nd to this, again from Sandy King, slightly smaller and not quite the conformation of the 1st ribbon.

After a great lunch onto the Young Mutations. A class of four Wilson Whites produced a 1st ribbon for Denise Oaten with good size, conformation and clarity and a 2nd for Kerry with good size and conformation but slightly down in clarity. Seven pink whites produced a 1st ribbon for Sian Allcoat with good size and conformation and acceptable clarity and another 2nd for Kerry with good size and conformation and ok clarity. Four beiges produced a 1st ribbon for Sandy King having good size, conformation and clarity and a 2nd ribbon for Barry Thornton, good size but slightly down in clarity. A poor class of six violets produced just a 2nd ribbon for Andrew Lee with good size conformation and clarity and strong fur and a class of seven black velvets produced a 1st for Lisa Proctor having good size conformation and clarity and good coverage for a young black velvet this going on to take Reserve Young Mutation, the 2nd ribbon to this from Kerry was good size and conformation and a nice silky fur. The final class in the young mutations was of six ebonies, the best of these and 1st ribbon winner was from Claire Johnson, an excellent animal having good size and conformation, good clarity and strong silky fur going on to take Best Young Mutation and Reserve Best Mutation, well done Claire!

Onto the Adult Mutations and starting with a class of 10 Wilson Whites, they produced a 1st ribbon for Sian Allcoat with good size, conformation and clarity but slightly open fur, 2nd to this was from Teresa Moir, good size and conformation but slightly down in clarity. The pink white class produced another 1st for Sian having good size, conformation and clarity and 2nd to this was from Wendy French having good size and conformation but slightly down in clarity. Five beiges produced a 1st and 2nd ribbons for Denise Oaten, the 1st having good size conformation and clarity, going on to take Best Adult Mutation and Best Mutation, the 2nd was a darker beige, another excellent animal but the slightest sign of oxidation but good enough to go on to take

Reserve Best Adult Mutation. A poor class of seven violets produced a 2nd ribbon for Cameron Holmes and then a huge class of twelve black velvets produced a 1st ribbon for Sandy King of good size, conformation and clarity and yet another 2nd for Kerry. In the final class of the day, an AOC class, Teresa Moir received a 1st ribbon for a good quality ebony of good size and conformation and reasonable clarity and fur strength.

Congratulations to all who did well at the show, results from Kerry were outstanding. Thanks must go to Kerry, Sian, Barry and all who helped with the organisation and smooth running of the show. It was an absolute pleasure to judge such high quality animals, I hope all the exhibitors and spectators enjoyed the show as much as I did.

Paul Spooner