

## Show Report – Northern Show, Notton, 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2010

Judge: - Kerry Bradburn

November was shaping up to be month for me chinchilla wise, I much looking forward to showing at the first West Mids & Wales show and secondly attending my appointment as a fully fledged NCS Unfortunately four days before the show and 11 days before my appointment, I stumbled down a



whilst carrying some paperwork at work and fractured six metatarsals in my right foot. I was extremely worried I would not be able to attend either show. Thankfully with some help from my dad looking after the chins, strong painkillers and plenty of welcome assistance from my fellow chinchilla fanciers I managed to show my animals and then a week later complete my judging appointment. So once again a big thanks to everyone who helped me.

Now down to business... A swift and traffic free journey on a damp, slightly foggy morning meant my dad and I arrived at the hall in good time. Everyone was busy grooming and the hall had its usual cosy feel. After colour phasing all the standard chinchillas we were able to press on almost on time.

Medium-Dark females were first up and the top spot was awarded to a female from Eddie and Richard Crutchley that was of good size and conformation, nice clear colour, even veiling with a slightly open fur type. The 2nd also from Eddie and Richard had a finer fur type and if anything a little more eye appeal but clarity was down to the 1st. A third and a HC completed the class.

Four Darks were next and the 1st and 2nd again were from Eddie and Richard. The 1st was a lovely chin, eye catching bright strong fur, blocky, with good coverage and a clean blue/white belly. She went on to win the group and eventually making it all the way to Reserve Best Standard. The 2nd was also a nice chin with blocky conformation, plenty of strong fur but clarity was down to the 1st.

An AOC class of 2 Mediums were next with neither of the animals of sufficient quality to warrant a 1st or 2nd on the day. The best a 3rd from Lowridge chinchillas was a blocky chin that had been prepared well but needing a stronger fur and improved clarity to achieve better awards. Novice young females produced a 2nd, 3rd and HC all for Chris Galt and Sam Crowe. The 2nd at just 4 months had the clearest colour and the finest fur of the three and is certainly worth working with. The 3rd and HC both had reasonable size and shape but both needing improved clarity of colour to do better, being more of a steely grey appearance on the day.

Fourteen Young Standard Males gave me four Medium-Darks and a 1st ribbon for Sandy King for a blocky male of good size and fine fur that had been well prepared but was priming quite markedly in the centre of the back. The 2nd from Eddie and Richard was slightly brighter with strong fur type which was open on the hips and he need slightly more fur in the neck and shoulders. A 3rd and HC completed this class.

an exciting was very my animals regional first judging judge. West Mids judging pot hole

Dark young standard males were next with all five of the entries gaining ribbons. The 1st from Fiona Garnett was large, very blocky with a silky strong fine fur that was in good condition and had been beautifully prepared for show; unfortunately the clarity of this animal was below par especially in comparison with his other qualities and meant he could go no further than Reserve Best Young Standard Male which he thoroughly deserved. The 2nd from James Buchan was also a large blocky male with a brighter colour but he was way out of show condition having a very salt and pepper appearance. A 3rd and 2 HC's completed this class.

We had a class of 2 Extra-Dark AOC young males, both from Eddie and Richard. The 1st ribbon although needing a little more width in the neck and shoulders had beautiful bright blue sharp colour and a strong plushy fur type with eye appeal to spare. It deservedly went on to win Best Young Standard Male and Reserve Young Standard. The 2nd was also a lovely chin with a blockier shape, better size and a strong fur but couldn't compete on clarity and eye appeal.

Three Medium young males failed to provide us with a 1st ribbon but a 2nd for Eddie and Richard, which had a fine fur type, had been well prepared but was a flat steely colour on the day. The 3rd from Steven King was very similar with good size and conformation but again a flat no sparkle colour and was further out of condition.

Novice young males were awarded a 2nd and 3rd for Sam Crowe and Chris Galt. The 2nd had good blocky shape, fair colour and had been well prepared. The 3rd was very similar in all aspects but was light on the hips and was further out of prime. Hopefully both may improve with age.

Adult females provided us with a good class of four Darks. The 1st and Best Adult Standard Female from James Buchan was a lovely female that unfortunately was way out of show condition but had plenty of high quality attributes to win the group; good size and conformation, a silky plushy fur of good clear colour. The 2nd from Eddie and Richard was also a quality female of good size and conformation with a strong but slightly open fur type that was slightly down in clarity to the 1st and was again way out of prime. Two HC's completed the class.

Novice Adult Females produced two exhibits from Alan & Carole Mills that were awarded a 2nd and 3rd. The second being small for an adult but with a nice clear colour and a fine fur. The 3rd had the better size and shape but an open fur type and was a little dull on the day.

Ten adult males were split into six darks and an AOC class comprising of 2 Mediums and 2 Extra-Darks.

The Darks were a super class with 5 out of 6 gaining ribbons. The first three chins were all quality exhibits. The 1st and eventual Best Standard and Reserve Show Champion from Eddie and Richard was of good size and conformation with beautiful dense silky strong fur with eye catching sheen and a blue clear colour; he was just a trifle light on the hips. The 2nd also from Eddie and Richard was slightly smaller than the 1st, with a longer fur type that had plenty of attractive guard hair and again good clear colour. He followed the 1st up to become Reserve Best Adult Standard.

The Mediums were poor by comparison and only achieved 2 HC's.

The Extra-Darks were the most frustrating class of the day with both exhibits being too small for adult males. The best a 2nd from Eddie and Richard was a quality chin with strong dense fur, good colour but its lack of any kind of show condition and size costing it a 1st ribbon. If

he is just over 7 months and he grows on he will do better on other days. The 3rd from Fiona Garnett was again a nice male, well furred but again small with a lack of clarity and a slight creamy belly.

A superb buffet lunch was enjoyed by all and after a 45 minute break we pressed on with the judging of the Young Mutations.

Thirteen young mutations comprised of 3 Deutsch-Violets, 4 Beiges, 3 Wilson Whites, 1 Sullivan Violet and 2 Pink-Whites.

Wilson Whites were awarded 2nd, 3rd and HC with the 2nd from Fiona Garnett having plenty of quality in all area's but unfortunately missing what really makes a top Wilson White, which is the clear blue white colour. Nevertheless a useful breeding chin with a clear blue mate.

Beiges provided a quality 1st ribbon for Barry Thornton. This chin was a large, blocky example with fine strong fur of good density and reasonable colour. It went on to win Reserve Young Mutation. 2nd and 3rd were both from Wendy French, reasonable young babies with the 2nd being of good clear colour but both choppy on the hips and both needing more fur in the neck and shoulders.

Deutsch Violets were next and 1, 2, 3, all for Eddie and Richard. The 1st had good strong, tight fur in fairly good prime, with good veiling and intensity of colour and was quite eye catching. The 2nd was a larger, blockier, example with a more open fur type and was unfortunately out of condition. The 3rd was the bluest and brightest of the group but unusual priming lines prevented it from achieving higher awards. Three nice examples with the 1st going on to pip the young Beige for Best Young Mutation.

AOC's provided us with 2 Pink Whites both from Wendy French which were very similar in size and conformation but the 2nd ribbon having the best colour and 3rd being of a slightly better fur type.

We had 1 Sullivan Violet which was awarded a 3rd for fair size and conformation, intense colour but was very choppy over the hips and had a slightly creamy belly.

Novice mutations gave us a group of AOC 's with nine exhibits.

A Wilson White achieved a 2nd for Chris and Sam which had fair colour and nice fine fur but needing better density and conformation.

A Pink White gained a 3rd again for Chris and Sam which was blocky and well groomed but with an open course fur type.

A 2nd and 3rd for Beiges from Allan Mills for two young chins, the second having the better colour and shape but both having strong fur.

Brown Velvets were awarded a 1st and 2nd for two nice chins from Chris and Sam. The 1st was the star of the novice entries. At just 4 months this baby had good strong baby fur, impressive veiling and a clear, blue colour. The 2nd although bigger did have the characteristic course fur type often seen with this mutation and was showing slight signs of tinge.

A 3rd awarded to a Sullivan Violet for a clear, silky furred chinchilla which needs much improved density.

A 3rd for a Self Black which was blocky and strong furred but which was very light on the hips and neck.

A generous 1st for a Black Velvet again from Chris and Sam which was well prepared, clear in colour, good fur strength and a reasonable amount of mutation coverage.

Ten Adult Mutations comprised of 4 Deutsch Violets, 5 Black Velvets and 1 Beige.

Deutsch Violets produced a 1, 2, 3 and HC. The 1st had a strong dense fur type of fair size and conformation and an intense colour. The 2nd had the large size and blocky conformation but a more open fur type which was out of condition on the day.

The Black Velvets along with the Dark adult male class were the two best classes of the day, with all 5 Black Velvets gaining awards and all being quality exhibits. The 1st and eventual Best Mutation and Grand Show Champion was a lovely chin. Although not in top finish it had volumes of silky, strong mutation fur with a glowing bright colour, very good size and conformation, super density and plenty of eye appeal with its contrasting white belly. Many Congratulations Eddie and Richard. The 2nd from Lisa Proctor was also a good chin with superb intense mutation coverage with hardly any standard fur to be seen, unfortunately the clarity of colour being below par compared with the other attributes this animal has. However its overall qualities still taking it forward to achieve Reserve Best Mutation which it certainly deserved. A mention also for the 3rd which was clear, bright and large but just failed in coverage in the neck and two HC's which were just about as opposite as possible with James Buchan's chin being a huge blocky reasonably covered animal which was out of condition, and a much smaller, well covered intense black which needs more width in the neck and shoulders from Eddie and Richard, all five exhibits being quality chins (afterwards we learned that three of these exhibits were previous Show Champions and a fourth a Reserve Show Champion!).

A single Beige received a 3rd for good size, plenty of fur but slightly off colour and the last award of the day going to a novice Wilson White who had a nice fine fur and had been well prepared but was too small for an adult and was down in clarity of colour.

In the end it was extremely close between the Adult Standard Male and the Black Velvet for Best In Show. Neither of these wonderful animals at their absolute best but both oozing quality and both worthy winners. The Adult Standard being a trifle light on the hips meant the Black Velvet just pipped him on the day.

Many Congratulations to everyone who won awards on the day; they were well deserved, especially to Eddie and Richard for winning both GSC and Reserve plus gaining both 1st Standard and 1st Mutation Breeders Awards. Finally as it was my first judging appointment I was so pleased to see so many novice exhibits and smiling faces around the hall. Everyone seemed to enjoy the show and the North Region should be congratulated for putting on such a super event - well-done all the workers!!! Thank you for inviting me to judge your animals, I had a wonderful day even with my bad foot!!!

**Kerry Bradburn – NCS Judge**

