

Show Report – West Mids & Wales Show, Bugbrooke, 14th Nov '10

Judge: - Sandy King

What is it about Chinchilla show only me that notices it hardly ever weeks before the Bugbrooke I mentioned to my other half that planned doing anything outside, do it on the 14th November and enough the weather was bright Although there were not as many as one would have wished the



days? Is it rains 2 Show? if he he should sure and dry. exhibitors show had a

cosy intimate atmosphere and as always was smoothly and professionally run. I'd also like to say a big thank you to everyone in the kitchen who provided the usual good food lunchtime. I was a little generous with some of the ribbons but I feel with the cost of going to shows and the efforts involved in producing a chin, we could all do with some encouragement to make it worth getting up early. However, I did not award a ribbon to any Chinchilla that I would not have been happy to have in breeding myself.

We had several hard working stewards on the day and Stephen Helmore acting as Show Manager because Kerry Bradburn had broken her foot (by the time this goes to print I expect Kerry to be leap frogging about!).

This helped me considerably its surprising how much easier your day can be if you have good stewards and Show Manager.

We had 57 exhibits on the day, and I took it easy while the Show Manager and Stewards colour phased the Standards, but double checked them before the cards were officially marked with the colour phase.

First class of the day was seven Medium Dark Young Standards Females. This produced the Best Young Standard Female for Kerry Bradburn - the first of her chins to sweep the board. Excellent confirmation, nice and blue with lovely silky dense strong fur, good size for age with good veiling and well prepared. The second from Barry Thornton was another very nice young female that took Reserve Young Standard Female, unfortunately breaking on the sides but with acceptable colour, lovely strong upright fur although slightly light on hips. I ignored the grooming marks and would have liked it to be slightly larger for its age.

The next class of seven Medium Young Standard Females brought another first for Kerry Bradburn for her very large chin with very good confirmation in top show condition, reasonably strong fur but slightly open. The 2nd owned by Lyn and Ron Gardner was a very useful chin but not in top show condition, markedly priming. I would expect her to do even better when she is in condition.

Dark Young Females had no 1st awarded. 2nd ribbon winner was owned by Barry Thornton, which had good strong fur type but woolly at tips, very blue and clear, of good size and confirmation.

The Young Standard Males, Medium Dark phase brought a 3rd and HC, both exhibited by Stephen Helmore. The 3rd winner was very blue with strong fur and of good size for its age

but was very much out of show condition. The HC was in better condition and well presented and of good confirmation but down in colour.

The Mediums gave a 1st and 3rd. The 1st was another one from Kerry of excellent size and confirmation in top show condition, but with the fur slightly open. The 3rd owned by Georgie Busher was unfortunately out of show condition and down in colour to the first, and I would like to see it larger for its age.

The Darks produced both the Best Young Standard Male which went on to be Res Best Standard and the Res Young Standard, both owned by Kerry. The 1st was an excellent chinchilla, being blue with excellent veiling and real eye appeal in good condition. This looked to be a younger version of the eventual Res Show Champion. The 2nd was of good size with strong upright fur but slightly open at sides, but not as good as the first .

Only 2 Adult standard females both Dark Phase. The 1st was in show condition with good confirmation, very good neck and excellent size, with acceptable veiling and strong fur of good length. The 2nd was potentially the better of the two exhibiting true blueness, excellent veiling, good dense fur although long in the neck it went down to the first as it was badly out of show condition on the day.

Again only 2 Adult Standard Males, both Darks belonging to Kerry. The 1st went on to be Best Standard and Res Show Champion with loads of eye appeal and excellent veiling, strong dense silky fur, very good size and confirmation - a lovely chinchilla. The 2nd was just an adult but of good size with dense fur but fractionally open compared with the first, and breaking in neck and shoulders.

The Young Mutations started with a surprising class of 8 Sullivan Violets of 8 chinchillas of every colour phase, with 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 2 HC's awarded. Some were only just of show age so were immature and small but will no doubt do better with time. The 1st exhibited by Stephen Helmore was of good size for its age, dark phase of acceptable blueness and confirmation, well presented and in good show condition with strong silky fur. Stephen also owned the 3rd which was notable for having the attractive original satin finish. The 2nd winner was exhibited by Georgie Busher and was of good colour, size and neck, had the best confirmation in the class with strong fur but was priming on hips. Obviously we don't judge the head but it had unusually large appealing doe eyes...

There was a 1st for a Wilson White from the Kerry Bradburn stable which took Reserve Best Young Mutation, with excellent confirmation, good neck and size and with strong guard hairs and true blue colour. A 2nd for Stephen Helmore with a nice all round chinchilla with strong upright fur which was slightly open; unfortunately not as blue as 1st place winner.

In the Pink Whites - No award as to small and soft laying back fur.

1st for a Beige from Barry Thornton which went on to be Best Young Mutation and Reserve Best Mutation - Well done Barry! This chin was blue with silky fine but strong fur, good confirmation and neck of reasonable size for age. 2nd ribbon was withheld with a 3rd for Barry Thornton as the fur was tinged and oxidised, but with good strength of fur, acceptable confirmation and very well presented.

The AOC class gave a 1st for a Deutsch Violet for Ron & Lyn Gardner which had good size, confirmation and neck, with nice silky tight fur but out of condition on the sides. This chin had super veiling coverage! Also a 2nd for a Black Velvet from Ritchie Huxley, which was a very young chinchilla which had not yet developed its full mutation fur so it was slightly grey

in neck and veiling did not come down the sides. Nice sharp blue colour with fair confirmation and size acceptable for age.

Novice Young Mutations gave a 2nd for a Wilson White from Lisa Proctor which was very slightly down in colour and priming on back and sides, strong fur but could be denser. Also a 1st for a Beige from Annie Thickers for her nice all round Chinchilla which was very young but of very good size and confirmation, acceptable colour with promising strong tight fur and good veiling. A 3rd for a Self Black from Kate Renfrew which had fair confirmation but narrow in the neck, but had good wrap around mutation coverage of acceptable colour but very much out of prime.

The Adult Mutations brought a 1st for Kerry Bradburn which went onto be Res Best Adult Mutation – A true blue Wilson White which was large and blocky with a good neck and long strong fur which was a little open. A 2nd for Barry Thornton's Wilson White with standard markings making the fur look stronger and appearing of acceptable colour, however, patches of white fur towards the shoulders showed it was down in colour. It did have excellent size and confirmation, and was well presented.

In the AOC class there was a 2nd for Georgie Busher's Beige. This was slightly down in colour, of good confirmation and size but mutation fur lacked veiling and fur was long over the hips.

There was a 1st for Kerry's Black velvet - a lovely Chinchilla that went on to take Best Mutation and Show Champion. Well deserved Kerry In excellent condition just adult but superb mutation coverage with good size, strong dense silky fur and top quality blue black colour.

Another 1st for a Deutsch Violet from Lyn & Ron Gardner of acceptable colour, good neck and confirmation but breaking on sides, although had good strong dense silky fur.

The Novice Adult Mutations brought a 2nd for a Brown Velvet from Sian Allcoat which had good mutation coverage but was slightly down in colour, of reasonable size and good confirmation fur slightly long on sides. A 2nd for Annie Thickins' Black Velvet had good mutation coverage, blue black colour on top to belly line but oddly the belly was notably tinted as if it may carry another gene other than Black Velvet, with good strong silky fur but breaking on sides.

When it came to deciding Best In Show I took my time. The initial thought was the Standard Male would take top honours as it had so much eye appeal, however the longer one looked at it and the more it stretched out you could see it was breaking in the shoulders and neck, where as the more one studied the Black Velvet the better it looked - the slight edge in condition showed in the end. I was informed this was the 2nd Res Show Champion for this Standard and he lost out for the same reason at a previous show. An outstanding achievement producing two such chinchillas that I would give both my right and left arms to own. I believe they are male and female and are destined to be bred together so we look with interest to the kits of the future.

I was aware of taking time to do my notes but they are so important when writing a report that it needed to be done. And thank you Lyn for your usual efficiency as Registrar and making sure I had all the exhibitors' details so I could complete the report. I enjoyed my day immensely and thank you all for the courtesy of listening to what I had to say.

Sandy King

