

Judges Report - Southern Region Show Chieveley, December 2016

Judge: Kerry Bradburn Jones

I've done the Xmas show at Chieveley before and it was a large show, fun and very well attended. So as the date approached I was looking forward to more of the same. However, as we got closer news filtered through that one or two of the regular attendees couldn't make the date, I was worried as I know how hard Southern Region have worked to cement this as a regular Southern Region hall.

I need not of worried, as on the day we ended up with a good solid number of chins and Andrew Lee who'd been in hospital that week (he was one of those I was worried about) was in attendance with a good number of chins. Well done Andrew, this shows serious dedication to the chins and the society.

We started pretty much on time with the young standard females. Two medium darks were a little disappointing and could only produce a 2nd for Siân Allcoat, a clear blocky animal with goodish colour but the fur was open and choppy. The 3rd from Stephen Helmore was again blocky, but there was a drop in clarity and it was very choppy.

Five mediums sadly weren't any better. The best, a 3rd again from Siân, for a clear coloured female that had open fur which was slightly course, but it was very young. Andrew and Georgie took the HC's for blocky chins but all 3 were down in clarity and very open furred and uneven over the hips.

Thankfully the best of the young females were still to come from the Novice group. A clear standout winner for the 1st ribbon, a medium dark from Karly and Craig Donkersley. A good all round chin with large size for the age, an excellent blocky shape and fine strong fur of correct length with density and show condition ! Clarity of colour was also pretty good. A very worthy winner. The second and Reserve Young Female also for Karly and Craig, was fair for clarity of colour, blocky and well prepared, but wasn't in the same league as the 1st. Karly and Craig also took the remaining ribbons in the Medium Young Novice Females for reasonably young chins that were suffering from condition and needed to grow on.

Young males bought forward a first ribbon medium dark for Stephen that had excellent conformation, good size, good density and long plushy fur. Sadly he just required a brighter colour to go further. Sian took 3rd with a clear sharp animal that was sadly very choppy, light on the hips and a little narrow. The darks produced the 1st and Best Young Standard Male for Siân, he had very sharp colour with true blueness that stood out, but sadly yet again poor finish. He had a silky fur and acceptable conformation and size. Andrew took 2nd and Reserve Young Male with a bright sharp and silky little baby that was sadly light on the hips and needed a good growth spurt, being quite small and light in weight. Hopefully he'll come on.

Novice males were represented by Hannah Mitchell who produced a 3rd ribbon with good strong fur that was fine and dense but needed better veiling and condition. Hannah was also awarded a HC for her medium young male that was clear in colour with fair shape but the fur was again choppy and out of condition.

We then moved on to the adult females, no awards for the mediums but thankfully medium darks were better. The 1st and Reserve Adult Female from Annie Thickens was blue and bright with silky fur on the tips but it sadly lacked a little in density and condition. However, it had lots of quality. Stephens's 2nd and 3rd were the denser furred, being large and blocky but sadly the clarity was some way behind.

Annie also won the 1st ribbon Dark that became our Best Adult Female. The chin was of fair size with blocky shape, good density with a clear sharp colour that needed to finish off over the hips, but again a quality useful female. Well done! One extremely dark (almost black) female from Siân had lots of eye appeal with excellent silky fur and super density but was small and narrow and very salt and peppery, however, I must acknowledge the wonderful dense fur.

The Novice Adult Females all came from Hannah. The 2nd Medium Dark was a clear colour with good fine fur and density but still looked a little immature. The third Medium Dark was also a useful female with a silky dense fur but had oxidised somewhat. The HC in the Dark colour phase was dense but needed to be clearer, blockier and larger.

Adult Males proved to be an interesting group. The main show Darks could only produce a 2nd and a HC, the 2nd from Stephen having excellent fur but he was small and narrow while the HC from Andrew was dense but off colour. My faith

was restored when seeing the Novice Adult Males of which there were two, both belonging to Karly and Craig. The first and eventual Grand Show Champion, was a very good chinchilla without question. Large in size, a blocky shape, strong stand up fur of good density and length, very even veiling coverage and a bright colour. He was presented in very good order with a clear belly. A massive congrats to you both, the 2nd was not too far behind, again good size and confirmation, another strong furred animal but with a little more guard hair. If anything it had slightly better coverage through the neck but not the density or brightness of the winner, but still the Reserve Best Standard of show, very well done !!!

We had rattled through the animals and we're ready to move on to the mutations ahead of our young chefs who were cooking a Xmas dinner.

We pressed on with the mutations kicking off with the Wilson whites. First went to Andrew Lee for a clear bright young animal that was reasonably blocky with fair density. The three remaining ribbon winners, which were all from Georgie Busher had some quality attributes. The 2nd being clear in colour (not creamy) but needing more flash, being a little steely to the eye. Georgie's 3rd and HC were both blocky and well furred, but down in colour.

A large group of Sullivan Violets was headed by another 1st from Andrew Lee. It had good size and confirmation, clear colour, a lovely white belly and a fine slightly soft fur type. The 2nd, again from Andrew, was also clear in colour and with somewhat of a silky sheen but down in all other departments to the winner.

Black velvets were next and Siân came out on top with a very nice young Black Velvet, good size and conformation, good density and silky fur. I would have liked a little more flash, still nevertheless, this youngster became our Best Young Mutation. The 2nd went to Andrew Lee for a well covered animal that was a little too small for the age.

The AOC, produced some nice examples in their respective colours. A 1st for a quality Beige from Georgie, big, blocky ,clear in colour, a lovely white belly and plenty of fur, albeit an open fur type. Another 1st for Siân for a clear Brown Velvet, having strong but open fur and reasonable coverage. Also another 1st for Andrew Lee's Pink White , this was excellent in all aspects except the colour was a little too creamy, thus preventing the youngster from moving higher up

the ribbons. Andrew received a 2nd for an Ultra with clear colour and some attractive sheen but the fur was soft and very loose over the hips.

Novice Young Mutations were also a good group, giving us 3 x 1sts and a 3rd. Hannah received a 1st for her lovely young beige with blocky shape, fine strong fur, even coverage and fair colour. Hannah also took a 3rd for another nice Beige that had sadly oxidised.

Karly and Craig also got a 1st for their blocky well covered Brown Velvet that had attractive colour, but the fur type was a little course. The star of the Young Novice Mutations came from Hannah Mitchell and her lovely self black (ebony). It had silky fur, good density, was a clear bright colour and had fair size and confirmation. This took this baby to Reserve Young Mutation. Well done Hannah!

Adult Mutations started off with 3 Wilson whites. Andrew came out on top again with a clear bright animal that was fine furred but needed a little more size and neck. The 2nd from Georgie had the improved size and shape but the clarity of colour was some way behind and the fur more open.

Five Pink Whites were next and were a very good class. All five gained ribbons and all had quality attributes. The winner from Siân was picked from the group and put to the top as a stand out. Rarely do we see Pink Whites with such outstanding clarity, a really sharp blue white colour, good density and strong fur, with a good blocky shape. An all round lovely chin that was just going over its best. The 2nd and 3rd from Andrew and Annie respectively were also lovely chins, well furred, large and blocky with good density but just not comparable to the winner for clarity. The 1st ribbon winning Pink white went all the way through the show to defeat a very good Adult Black Velvet and Standard to be awarded our Reserve Show Champion award. Well done Sian!

Another 1st was awarded to Andrew for an adult Beige with good size and conformation, loads of fur that had unfortunately oxidised so I was a little lenient. Very similar comments for Annie's 3rd ribbon Beige that was all of the above but showing more oxidised colour.

The Black Velvet 1st ribbon was certainly one of the best animals I saw that day. Superb large size and shape, excellent clarity of colour, a true blue black, silky dense fur but really in quite poor show condition, being choppy and loose over the lower hips. Another day, another dollar for this chin, certainly one the

judge would like to take home, another one from Siân. Georgie took 3rd with a large blocky black that was powdery in colour compared to the winner and was showing slight tinge over the tips. The 1st ribbon Black Velvet became our Reserve Best Mutation for the day, coming up against the Reserve Grand Show Champion Pink White.

Novice Mutations again contained quality animals from Hannah Mitchell. A clear bright Wilson White with good blocky shape and attractive guard hair gained a 1st. Yet another 1st for another good ebony, fairly blocky in shape with good density of fur with fair clarity of colour. Hannah's 2nd ribbon winning Self Black was slightly sharper in colour but had more of the typical characteristics we see with the ebony mutation, being slightly small and narrow.

The show ended just as the Christmas dinner had finished cooking, this made a lovely change as we all sat down to eat and chat together and left the award presentation until everyone had finished eating.

It really was a lovely friendly show organised in true Xmas spirit with loads of raffle prizes and good banter. Obviously I was delighted to award Karly and Craig who I believe have been novices for 4 previous seasons their first GSC award. What style to blow your novice status! I must also add that Hannah Mitchell, our wonderful registrar also graduated from Novice to Main Show after winning a list of own bred specials. Well done to all you guys!

In the end the GSC did win with something to spare being slightly ahead in all but one of the qualities we judge for, thus making my job easy.

I was certainly a little generous with some of the Young Mutations many of which were stand alone examples. If they weren't displaying any significant fault, I awarded them a 1st but with cautionary advice from me that in larger attended shows, when competition is different/stiffer, the finer points will split awards when comparisons can be made. However I saw NO pet quality or very poor exhibits, so this bodes well for the future.

My warmest congratulations to all the special award/group winners and especially to those who won the Breeders Awards.

Hope you all enjoyed your day as much as I did and thanks so much for the invite and hospitality, especially the Xmas dinner.

Kerry Bradburn - Jones (Senior Judge).

