

Judges Report - National Show 18.03.2018

Stephen Helmore

Little did we know that when I left Teignmouth at 5.30AM with daughter Laura, son Michael and his friend Rachel that it would be almost 36 hours later that we would finally return home! We had been warned on the Saturday with about 2" of laying snow. Our journey started with only a light snow falling and roads were reasonably clear until we approached Taunton when we were soon down to one carriageway on the M5 and starting to think was this really a good idea! The thought that kept me going was that I was aware James and Kelly were already on their way from Aberdeen. If they could make the journey, so could I.! Any way after a few 'controlled' slips on the way, we found ourselves at Calf Heath by 9.45. Problem was that we had left just before Devon received a snow storm that deposited about 8" by 2pm. Closing all roads in the area and making a safe return journey that evening an impossibility. Meanwhile in Calf Heath although cold -2C they didn't have any further significant snow fall. Fortunately, the local Premier Inn, literally half a mile away, had rooms vacant so we made the sensible decision to stay overnight and make the return journey in daylight and 'warming' conditions the following morning.

Incredibly quite a number of members managed to find their way to the show to make the whole effort worthwhile. Understandably we had a late start, with time approaching midday, and having completed the colour phasing of the Standard chins.

We commenced with a class of 3 young Medium Dark females. 1st and 2nd to Kerry Bradburn Jones, 1st was a good sized blocky chin, reasonable colour, with stand-up dense fur. 2nd also had good size and conformation for 5 1/2 months with a similar fur type to 1st but out of condition. Up next a class of 10 Medium females, 1st to Kerry with a large blocky chin, clear blue colour with a longer fur that was soft down the sides. 2nd went to Karly and Craig Donkersley with a chin that was only 4 months with a good bright colour and a strong fur type that can only improve as she gets older. There was a drop in colour to the 3 HC's. A class of 6 Darks had a 1st, 2nd and 3rd for Kerry. 1st had really good size and conformation with strong stand up fur but not finished out over the hips spoiling the veiling coverage. 2nd had reasonable conformation, slightly narrow across the shoulders, with a nice tight plushy fur. 3rd was also a good chin, with good veiling coverage, blocky conformation but not as bright as the top 2. However, the Best of the young female group were the 2 Extra Dark chins, both from Kerry. Both really good chins, the 1st was the better all round chin, good size and conformation, with a really tight strong plushy fur type, 2nd had a slightly brighter colour but behind in everything else but at only 5mths has time to develop into a really good chin. These 2 later became Best and Reserve young standards.

Onto the Young Standard males with a class of 4 Medium Darks, 1st to Kerry's 5 month chin with good conformation, clear colour, and a dense tight plushy fur type that was our reserve young standard male. 2nd went to Denise Oaten with a smaller 4 month old chin. A really strong silky fur type that was slightly open with an attractive guard hair, another chin that can only improve with age. A class of 6 Darks 1st for Kerry with a really good sized chin for 4 months, good bright colour and a strong silky fur type finishing over the hips. He became our Best Young Standard male. 2nd to Karly and Craig that had a brighter colour than 1st but was smaller and the fur not quite so silky. 3rd also to Kerry with a more mature 6mth chin, a good chin with good size and conformation, a dense strong fur but not the brightness of the 2nd. We then had an AOC class of a Medium that received a 3rd for Carly and Craig that had a clear but not bright colour and a courser open fur type. 2 Extra Darks both from Kerry had a 2nd and 3rd both a bit narrow across the shoulders the older, 5 1/2 mths, 2nd had the better veiling and stronger fur, 3rd at 4mths was quite immature with slightly open fur but time to grow and develop. After completing judging for Best Young Standard, we moved onto the Adult Standard females.

A large class of 12 Medium Dark females, Kerry's chin took 1st, a good blocky chin with dense tight fur, a nice bright colour and in condition had the decision over Denise's brighter coloured chin that wasn't as densely furred and with stained chin and belly. Hannah Mitchell had 3rd with a good blocky chin, very slightly down in colour to the top 2 but still a good chin. We then had 10 medium females, Kerry's chin found top spot, she had a slightly open fur but very good size and conformation and plushy fur type. 2nd and 3rd places went to Carly and Craig. 2nd was brighter than the 1st but with an open fur and not finished out over the hips. 3rd was also a good bright colour with a much courser and open fur type. A good class of 7 no Darks followed with 6 receiving awards. Top 3 places went to Kerry. 1st a very nice chin, good and blocky, good colour, a dense tight fur with attractive veiling coming down the sides but not quite finished over the hips was our Best Adult Standard Female. 2nd again a very good chin was very similar to 1st and just slightly more out over the hips but still good enough to be our Reserve Adult Standard Female. The 3rd with really good veiling coverage, didn't have as strong tight fur as the top 2.

The Adult Standard males started with a class of 3 Medium Darkest. Kerry's 1st was one of the best coloured chins I have seen. A really blue colour, a beautiful big blocky chin with plushy fur and immaculately presented. He became our Reserve Adult Standard Male, Reserve Best Adult Standard and ultimately our Reserve Show Champion. I was really taken with him. 2nd went to Eliza Snaden's chin, although much smaller, also had a bright colour, strong fur and good veiling. A class of 5 Dark males only had one award, a 1st to Kerry, a good blocky chin with plushy fur and good colour but not quite finished. We also had a class of 5 Extra Dark males, Kerry achieving a 1, 2, 3. All 3 had exceptional silky dense fur. 1st had the brighter colour, 2nd was a bit more intense with the dark fur tipping that was impossible to see into, 3rd was let down by the veiling coverage not finished out over the hips, 3 beautiful chins. In the end the exceptional fur qualities of the 1st Extra Dark male won over the Medium Dark male and went on to become our Show Champion.

The Young Mutations started with a class of 6 chins that I wanted to be closer to a clear 'Persil' white colour that prevented me giving a 1st. The best of the class was a 2nd to Andy Marshall's chin that at 5 months was reasonably blocky with a plushy but open fur type. Kerry's 3rd was not as plushy furred or as clear. The 5 Beiges were a better class with Denise's good clear bright coloured chin with reasonable conformation and a plushy open fur having the better of Kerry's not as bright but good size and conformation for 5 months with similar fur type. Denise also had 3rd with a darker colour phase chin that was smaller with a courser fur type. Denise's 1st Beige became our Reserve Best Young Mutation. A disappointing class of 6 Sullivan Violets with the highest award, 3rd, going to Cameron Holmes chin with clear colour but not a typical violet with poor veiling coverage. 4 Black Velvets followed, all received awards but again no 1st. Andrew Lee's 2nd having the better of Lorraine Prince's 3rd. Both were a bit small with a reasonably dense plushy fur type with Andrew's having the better veiling coverage. An AOC class of 11 contained a 2nd for Dave Green's Black/White cross with good size and conformation, reasonably clear colour, just needing denser and stronger fur type that was too open. A 2nd for Heather Arnstein with their Ebony Violet Wrap that had an attractive rich clear colour, a good wrap around coverage with an open courser fur type. 2 Brown Velvets had a 1st and 3rd. Kerry's youngster at only 4mths took 1st, a nice chin with clear bright colour with a plushy but course fur type. Kelly Buchan's larger 6 ½ month chin had oxidised with a strong fur type and reasonable coverage down the sides. Cameron had a 2nd for an Ultra Violet with good coverage, reasonably clear colour but not blue and strong shorter fur type, size was just about OK for 5 ½ month age. The last to be looked at in the class was a Black Pearl. The first time this Mutation colour has been exhibited in the UK, an intense black colour extending down the sides with a striking white belly and a strong silky fur type. This chin brought by Kerry was a little narrow across the shoulders but I didn't hesitate in awarding a 1st for such an attractive chin. That by comparison became our Best Young mutation. I jokingly said it would be interesting to compare it with a Self Black Ebony. Lo

and behold when competing for Reserve Best Mutation it came up against Denise's Adult Ebony. It did not disappoint with the intensity of the black colour every bit as good as the Ebony and the colour was sharper to make it our Reserve Best Mutation.

The Adult Mutations started with a class of 3 Wilson Whites 1st to Kerry for a good sized blocky chin with a strong plushy fur and reasonably clear white colour. Andrew's 3rd was equally clear in colour but fur type and strength was considerably down to the 1st. 3 Homo Beige were next, the top 2 were very large chins, with a 1st to Denise for a clear coloured chin with loads of plushy dense fur, Dave's 2nd had oxidised which had a courser but still dense fur. 6 Beiges had a 1, 2, 3 and HC. 1st to James Buchan's chin that had good conformation but a bit on small side for an adult was the clearest and brightest coloured of the class with a reasonably strong plushy fur type. 2nd to Dave with a good sized blocky chin with similar fur type to 1st but had started to oxidise. 3rd to Denise that was smaller than 2nd, had clearer colour with reasonable fur that wasn't as strong as the top 2. 3 Sullivan Violets the top 2 much better than the youngsters. 1st to Cameron with a good bright coloured chin with a plushy strong fur and at 7 ½ months the size and conformation just about OK. 2nd to the good sized chin from Andrew that wasn't as bright as the 1st with fur laying down along the sides. A large class of 8 Black Velvets with varying qualities, 1st went to James's chin that had really intense black mutant fur with excellent coverage, size was only just OK and colour also Ok but could have been brighter. 2nd to Kerry's misbehaving chin, big and blocky had a much brighter colour than the 1st but the coverage was only half way down the sides. 3rd to Heather Arnstein's that was also on the small side that had good plushy fur with good intense coverage. 3 Self Black Ebonies, top 2 both good chins with an intense black wrap around colour, the 1st from Denise with the better size and conformation got the decision over Hannah's 2nd that was slightly brighter but there was not too much to choose between the two of them. Denise's 1st became Reserve Best Adult Mutation. 5 chins in the AOC class completed the group. I awarded a 1st to Kerry's Pink White, a very good large blocky chin with loads of strong dense plushy fur with a clear colour and not a hair out of place, a lovely looking chin. This chin not only became our Best Adult Mutation but Best Mutation. Dave had a 1st for a Homo Brown Velvet, a large blocky chin with good colour, a plushy fur type that was open down the sides. 3rd for Andrew's Brown Velvet that had oxidised, a bit on the small side with a good plushy but course fur type.

Congratulations to Kerry for bringing both the Reserve and Show Champion and receiving the majority of the group awards. It was my privilege to Judge these top quality chins. My thanks to all who managed to attend in the bleakest of weather conditions to make the show once again an enjoyable event.

Stephen Helmore