

North Region Show, Birdwell 28th Sept 2014

Paul Spooner

Traffic was very light allowing me to arrive bright and early to judge the first show of the season at Birdwell, plenty of time for tea and chocolate hobnobs prior to judging.

We started as usual with the Young Standard Females, 3 animals in the dark colour phase and the 1st ribbon went to a nice animal from the Crutchley's of good size, conformation and clarity, good show condition and nice even veiling with strong fur going on to take Reserve Young Standard Female. 2nd to this was from Denise Oaten, a younger animal, not in quite as good show condition but having strong upright fur. The medium colour phase were poor quality compared to the Darks and won no awards. The Medium/Dark colour phase were better, the 1st ribbon had good size and conformation, slightly down in clarity, in reasonable show condition, going on to take Best Young Standard Female and Best Young Standard. 2nd to this from James Buchan had long plushy fur, plenty of eye appeal but out of condition.

The Young Standard Males medium/dark colour phase produced a 1st ribbon for Andrew Lee with good size and conformation, good clarity but out of condition, the medium colour phase could only produce a 2nd ribbon for Sian Allcoat, rather dull with open weak fur. The Dark colour phase were better and a 1st ribbon from the Crutchleys had good size, conformation and clarity, good density and in good show condition, going on to take Best Young Standard Male and Reserve Young Standard. 2nd to this was a 4 month old baby with good size and conformation and good fur quality taking Reserve Young Standard Male.

Onto the Adult Standard Females, Just one colour phase, dark, and a 1st ribbon for the Crutchleys with a very high quality animal having good size, conformation and clarity even veiling, loads of eye appeal, superb, going on to take Best Adult Standard, Best Standard and Reserve Show Champion. The 2nd ribbon to this was also very high quality just slightly down on show condition, taking also Reserve Adult Standard Female.

Onto the Adult Standard Males, just one colour phase of 5 animals 1st ribbon going to the Crutchleys having good size, conformation, superb even veiling and good clarity, taking also Best Adult Standard Male, Reserve Best Adult Standard and Reserve Best Standard. 2nd to this again superb quality but slightly off show condition, also taking Reserve Adult Standard Male.

Onto the Young Mutations and the violet class, 5 animals all from Andrew Lee and a reasonably good quality class with no major faults or signs of fur weakness, which can be a problem with the violets. The 1st ribbon had good size conformation and clarity, good strong upright fur, 2nd to this similar with good size and conformation, reasonable fur strength and clarity.

7 animals made up the beige class and a 1st ribbon for Sian Allcoat having good size, conformation and clarity, strong fur in good show condition, going on to take Reserve Young Mutation. 2nd to this was from Sandy King having a finer silkier fur, good size and conformation but slightly down in clarity.

5 animals in the young black velvet class produced a 1st for Denise Oaten having good size and conformation, good clarity and strong upright fur and plenty of eye appeal, 2nd to this from Sian had good size conformation and clarity but not quite the sparkle of the 1st winner.

In the self black class another 1st for Denise having good size and conformation, long silky fur but out of condition and a 2nd ribbon for Andrew Lee, good size and conformation, lighter with a slight drop in clarity.

The AOC class produced a 1st for the Crutchleys with a young Brown Velvet having good size and conformation, good clarity, strong upright fur going on to take Best Young Mutation and Reserve Mutation.

Onto the Adult Mutations and a black velvet class, very little between the 1st and 2nd ribbons, both from James Buchan, both good size, conformation and clarity, the 1st having dark veiling through the neck area.

The AOC class produced a 1st ribbon Wilson White for the Crutchleys with good size, conformation, clarity and strong fur, a 1st ribbon violet for Andrew Lee, good size, conformation and clarity with plenty of fur and a 1st ribbon Brown Velvet for the Crutchleys, huge, excellent conformation and coverage, slight signs of oxidation but good enough to go on to take Grand Show Champion.

Just one novice adult Mutation from Hannah Mitchell , a self black, good size and conformation but down in clarity, taking a 2nd ribbon, good clarity and fur strength are the most difficult qualities to achieve with the ebony mutation.

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