

Judges Report - Scottish Show Report October 25th 2015

Judge – Kerry Bradburn

My journey to judge the Scottish show started on the Saturday lunchtime. Siân Allcoat was my JUI for the show so she joined me at my home for the trip North. Siân, like Mark and I, had just returned home from holiday and we felt (well Siân and I did, not so sure about Mark lol) that the show was just the tonic needed to beat the holiday blues. It doesn't matter where you go in the world there is nothing quite as beautiful as our countryside bathed in autumnal sunshine.

The show was being held at an alternative venue to Biggar and what a venue it turned out to be, with its white colour scheme and electric blinds for the late afternoon sun. All but one regular Scottish exhibitor was in attendance and although numbers were lower than we would like, all exhibitors indicated they had brought along all they'd got available for this show and all were hoping to have more for the February show.

This was Siân's 4th appointment as JUI and I encouraged her to take an active role in colour phasing the standards with me.

We kicked off as usual with the medium dark young females and it was quite apparent that the recent damp Scottish weather had taken its toll on the animals show condition. Sadly this was a poor first class and I could only award a 3rd and 2 HC's. The best of this class from David and Aileen Blakey, was blocky with good size and strong fur but was out of condition and quite dull on the day. The two HC's also from David and Aileen were both suffering from poor show condition and had lots of loose fur, although both were good for confirmation.

Mediums sadly weren't any better and again a 3rd was the top award for another chin from David and Aileen. This girl was again blocky of good size with strong fur but was out of condition and had rather a creamy belly. The HC from Teresa Moir was again blocky and of good size but was open furred and rather choppy although well prepared.

Finally, I was able to award my first 1st of the day to another female from David and Aileen which was a blocky female of good size for her age with a

dense plushy fur that just paled over the hips slightly, was clear in colour and a deserving best young female.

A single novice female from Jean Beardshaw received a 3rd for being blocky and of fair size with a beautiful white belly and skilfully prepared.

Thankfully the males were a better prospect altogether an AOC class providing 2 x darks, 1 x medium and 1 x extra dark. We looked at the darks first and I was pleased to award a 1st and 2nd for David and Aileen. The 1st was a good size, blocky with a dense fur type, very even veiling of fair colour. The 2nd was just a baby and was brighter, showing blueness and lovely guard hair and a white belly but was sadly not the desired shape being quite narrow in the shoulder and pinched in the neck. The medium and extra dark were both from James and Natalie Buchan. The medium was blocky and of good size but was choppy and open furred showing a flat steely colour, however, the extra dark was quite the opposite being blocky, of fair size for the age with a lovely silky fur type with guard hair and excellent veiling, bright colour showing eye appeal with a fair belly colour. This young male became a comfortable Best Standard winner with David and Aileen's dark young male the Reserve Best Standard.

Only 4 adult females were present, 2 main show and 2 novice. The first and best adult female award went to David and Aileen for a large blocky female with lots of strong fur that was unfortunately loose and showing poor condition on the day. More preparation would have helped this chin go further, you could see she was of quality. The 2nd ribbon medium from Teresa Moir was prepared very well and was large and blocky, but the fur was a little coarse and open. Two novice exhibits from Kelly Buchan received a 2nd and 3rd, the 2nd showed eye appeal with a deep tip to the fur, of fair shape and size but the finish wasn't there with the animal showing severe salt and pepper appearance. The 3rd was in much better condition and blocky but not of the same quality as the 2nd ribbon winner.

Adult males provided us with 4 main show exhibits and 1 novice to complete the standards. The medium darks gave a 1st for Teresa Moir, a male of good clear colour showing blueness with fair shape and size, but sadly broken veiling due to poor show condition spoiled the picture. Another day maybe? The 2nd was again good for colour but was narrow in the shoulders and needed to be bigger but had been well prepared. Our best adult male of the day came from David and Aileen for a male with dense fur, silky and fair shape with good veiling, sadly this male had picked up a fair amount of staining to his tummy

and the lower flanks of the fur. This is something very difficult to avoid with adult dark standards and this damp weather and it sadly cost him. James 2nd ribbon medium was a reasonable male with fair shape and size with even coverage but not the quality of the winner. Another novice 2nd ribbon for Kelly Buchan for her male that was adequate in size and shape well presented but lacking true fur qualities.

After a lunch of hot dogs, soup and crusty bread we pressed on with the young mutations. A class of Black Velvets were first up and I awarded a full spread of ribbons. James came out on top with a clear young black well covered in the neck with adequate width in the shoulders and of fair size, showing good fine fur. The second ribbon was more the stamp of animal that we aspire to, big and blocky with a good volume of fur, sadly the coverage and condition was some way behind the winner. The 3rd from David and Aileen was best covered but the clarity was down, with a greyish belly. Wendy French's HC deserves a mention, very much the baby of the group with soft fur over the flanks and not yet having the coverage, but the clarity was good. A single novice Black Velvet from Kelly won a 3rd, yet again a well presented baby with strong fur but the coverage needs to develop and the colour was ok.

An AOC group containing a Self Black, Deutsch Violet, Beige and Wilson white, this group presented a set of useful chinchillas. The Self Black from David and Aileen won a 1st and the Reserve Young Mutation award, good coverage and silky fur of pretty good clarity but sadly a little costina in shape.

David and Aileen received another 1st for a good quality Deutsch Violet that had amazing size and good confirmation with plenty of fur, clear over the tips but with a creamy belly. Teresa Moir's Wilson white received a 2nd ribbon for good confirmation and size with a reasonable fur type and the colour, although not creamy, wasn't bright, maybe an improvement in condition will help this chin. A quality Beige from Wendy French was of good size with perfect confirmation, beautifully veiled with a tight fine fur and a lovely white belly. This beige was of a darker colour phase and showed clear and blue when looking into the fur but when looking across the animal maybe the very very slightest sign of a tinge to the tips. However, it's overall quality could not be denied and it went on to become a deserving Reserve Show Champion on the day.

The novice young mutations contained two very good first ribbons. Kelly Buchan's Wilson White was clear and bright with a soft slightly open fur type

but was just a baby and will improve. Jean Beardshaw's Sullivan Violet was blue and sharp with a silky fur type, excellent veiling and a sharp belly and again will improve with age. Before the end of the show these owner bred exhibits competed for the Judges Choice Novice Award and Jeans Violet just piped the Wilson White on overall quality. Preparation on all the novice exhibits was superb and in general put the main show exhibitors to shame.

The final group of the day was of course the Adult Mutations and contained one class of Pink Whites and an AOC class. The 1st ribbon PW and Reserve Best Adult Mutation came from Teresa Moir, this is a quality chin with good size and shape, tight fine fur of reasonably good clarity presented in immaculate order. The 2nd from Wendy French had very plushy long fur on a blocky body with a full neck in good condition, but the colour was too creamy for a 1st. The 3rd, again from Teresa, was clear in colour but down in all other departments to the 2nd.

Two Black Velvets produced the Best Adult Mutation for James Buchan, this black was big and blocky with volumes of silky dense fur of clear bright colour and good intensity. I was very generous with the condition and preparation of this chin, it was clearly one of the best chinchillas at the event and still with its loose fur was of good enough overall quality to beat the other contenders. The 3rd Black Velvet from Teresa had good coverage and was well prepared but not the quality of the winner. Two Wilson whites from Teresa gained a 2nd and HC, the 2nd was a quality chin, of good size and shape with a fine fur of good density, sadly it just lacked that elusive clarity of colour that makes a top WW really stand out. The presence of cream was just too strong for a 1st but a good attempt as everything else was very good.

Finally the novice mutations produced 2 x 2nd from Jean Beardshaw, a Violet of clear colour with reasonable fur strength, white belly and well prepared but needs to be bigger and blockier and an Ebony that was clear and sharp with good coverage but was again small to very small for an adult and needing to be blockier in the neck and shoulders. Good effort. Kelly Buchan Wilson White was last up and received a 3rd ribbon for excellent size and shape with a good full neck, sadly the clarity of colour was creamy and a little dull on the day, but again very well presented.

When choosing the Best Mutation it was Wendy French's beige that prevailed with the adult Black Velvet being just too far out of prime to defeat the Beige and represent the overall mutation section.

When judging for Grand Show Champion the young standard became a comfortable winner with its eye appeal, the Beige became a deserving Reserve Show Champion defeating the Reserve Best Standard on finish and being whiter in the belly. All 3 of these chins are very useful animals.

My warmest congratulations to James and Natalie Buchan for the GSC and congratulations to Wendy French for her Reserve Show Champion. Wendy I know you were delighted as this is your first Reserve Champion, very well done. Congratulations to David and Aileen for winning nearly all the standard groups bar one and taking the 1st standards breeders award, again very well done. The ribbons were very well spread with Teresa wining yet another special and both Jean and Kelly doing very well in the novice section. I must also thank young Ethan and Connor French who were such a help on the day. Ethan did the majority of the stewarding under the watchful eye of mum and Connor helped in between doing his school studies, lovely young lads who are a credit to you Wendy.

Finally a thank you to my JUI Siân Allcoat who did her first commenting at this show on a few classes and I think did a very good job. Your input was both constructive and accurate and even more impressive was that our Scottish friends managed to understand such a strong Welsh accent LOL.

Kerry Bradburn
Senior Judge