

Judges Report West Midlands & Wales Region, Gaydon

08.11.2015

Judge Stephen Helmore

Without casting a jinx on forthcoming shows, we tend to be lucky with show day weather and after a week of persistent rain Sunday travelling was mainly dry.

West Midland's first show of the season was a busy affair with a good turn out of main show and novice breeders alike. After making our respects for silence on Remembrance Sunday at 11am the show soon got started with colour phasing all the standard chins.

Our first class of 4 medium dark young standard females brought a 1st ribbon for Heather Boncey's clear coloured chin with dense silky fur and 2nd and 3rd ribbons for Kerry Bradburn. 2nd was a dense but coarse textured furred chin and 3rd just over 4months had much better colour and a silky fur that was still quite immature and open in the back. Next up were 5 mediums with none meriting a 1st ribbon. 2nd and 3rd ribbons went to Andrew Lee's chins. Both lacked conformation with 2nd better prepared with a reasonably dense fur that curled at the tips. 3rd had a better colour with silky fur that was laying back and lacking density. Our Best young female came in the dark colour phase of one shown by Kerry. At 51/2 months she had good size and conformation, clear blue colour, strong upright fur in the middle of the back but priming out on the hips with soft fur down the flanks. We had 2 Novice chins, both received 3rd ribbons. A medium from Hannah Mitchell of 41/2 months was clear but not blue in colour showing promise but still had a lot of soft baby fur. Karly Donkersley's medium dark also had a 3rd for a reasonably good all round chin – no exceptional qualities but no bad faults either.

The young standard males started with a class of 3 darks. 1st ribbon to Kerry for a very good chin. Clear blue colour, good size, strong dense silky fur but being hyper critical could have been blockier in the shoulders. He attained Reserve Best Young Male and Reserve Best Young Standard. We then had 2 medium darks and 1 extra dark all exhibited by Kerry. 1st and 2nd ribbons to the medium darks at 41/2 month and 5months of age both were well grown with not much to choose between them. The 1st had a strong silky fur that was slightly open, the 2nd had better conformation but the fur type was not as good with the tips slightly curling. The extra dark male had all the eye appeal, exceptional veiling right down over the sides and flanks, bright clear blue colour, dense strong silky fur, good size and conformation. He went on to become our Grand Show Champion. A seriously good chin Kerry. A class of 3 medium novice males had 2nd and 3rd ribbons for Karly with again my notes stating 'both reasonable chins' The 2nd at 41/2 months had the better colour but the little more mature 3rd at 51/2 months had the better fur type and strength. We also had a 3rd ribbon awarded to Charlotte Compton's medium, a youngster at 41/2 months had clear colour, reasonable conformation but not large in size. The fur was curling at the tips, he needs to develop for another appraisal.

The 5 Adult standard females came up as one AOC class. 1st for Siân Allcoat medium. She was slightly small but had a clear colour with strong upright fur in the middle of the back. 1st and 2nd for Kerry's medium darks, both out of condition but chins of quality. 1st had better conformation and edged it in most aspects over the 2nd. The best adult female was the extra dark from Kerry. A really good chin,

large and blocky, good veiling and a strong plushy fur, she became our Best Adult Standard and Reserve Best Standard and ultimately Reserve Grand Show Champion.

7 adult standard males split into 3md and 4 darks. 1st for Kerry's medium, a bright clear blue colour and strong fur type with veiling just failing to cover neck and shoulders became our Reserve Adult Male. Siân's 1st ribbon dark was our Best Adult Male. Bright clear blue colour, strong plushy fur and good conformation. 2nd ribbon to Kerry's darker male that was not as blue or with such a full neck as the 1st. Karly's medium novice male was awarded a 2nd ribbon. Another good 'reasonable' chin not quite up to 1st ribbon qualities but well worth keeping.

After selecting our Best and Reserve Standard chins we broke for a very filling buffet lunch.

We recommenced with a class of 4 Wilson white young mutations. 2nd ribbon for Siân's clear silver chin with a silky but open fur lacking density with reasonable conformation. 3rd and HC to Heather's chins. 3rd being similar to the 2nd with a creamy white patch behind the neck. HC had a good plushy fur type but was very cream in colour.

A class of 3 beiges had a 3rd for Georgie Busher's chin that was clear but not blue with an open fur type. An HC for a good type that had oxidised to 'ginger' from Kerry. We then had an AOC class of 5 chins, 2 Brown Velvets, a 2nd for Kerry's chin, a very dark chocolate colour with good veiling coverage, reasonable conformation and a plushy but course fur type. HC was a much lighter clear colour, lacking coverage and conformation with a strong course fur from Siân.

2 Pink Whites with a 1st for Kerry's large blocky chin with a clear 'almond' colour and reasonably strong fur that became our Best Young Mutation. 3rd for Georgie's that didn't have the clearness of colour, finish or eye appeal of the 1st. 1 Black velvet had an HC ribbon from Georgie, lacked coverage, was clear and of average quality. A class of 4 Novice Black Velvets. 1st to Lorraine Prince's that had good size and veiling coverage, reasonably strong fur that was laying back down the sides, a clear colour that was not as blue as the 2nd. Still a good chin that became our Reserve Best Young Mutation. 2nd to Cameron Holmes chin with good colour with dark velvety look but smaller and a shorter fur length. 2 HC to Charlotte both 4month babies that show promise but need to grow and develop for another appraisal. 3 Novice Self Blacks were all on the small side with Hannah's 1st ribbon chin that had a bright colour and wrap around coverage. 3rd to Lorraine's smaller and not so bright chin. HC to Heather Arnstein that was a lighter mid coverage chin with clear colour and a silky fur type. 5 Novice chins in the AOC class had 2 Wilson Whites. 2nd to Lorraine's chin that was slightly cream, reasonable size with a course fur type and an HC for Charlotte which was very cream that hopefully will grow on. 2 HCs for Karly's Sullivan Violets both on 4months were small with narrow shoulders lacking the rich violet colour. Heather brought an ebony violet wrap at nearly 7 months was a bit small with reasonable colour that had eye appeal with a silky fur type that was awarded a 2nd ribbon.

The Adult mutations started with a group of 3 Sullivan Violets- 2 main show and 1 novice. 1st ribbon went to Andrew's chin that had a good bright colour, strong fur type but slightly narrow across the shoulders. 3rd to Georgie's chin that was down in colour and fur strength but was OK. Our Novice entry from Cameron received a 2nd ribbon with good size and conformation, reasonable fur type but down on colour. 4 Wilson Whites had a 1st ribbon for Kerry with a large and exceptionally heavy chin with loads of reasonably dense strong fur with clear colour that became our Reserve Adult Mutation.

2nd to Andrews large chin that had an attractive guard hair tipping but dropped in colour. 2 Beiges gave a 1st and 2nd to Kerry. 1st was a good size with plushy strong fur type that colour was clear but not bright. 2nd was similar but not as good a fur strength or condition to the 1st. A class of 3 Black velvets also had a 1st for Kerry. A very good chin that had good size for just under 8 months with good coverage veiling, a clear bright colour with a strong silky fur type that became our Best Adult and Best Mutation.

Congratulations to Kerry to winning our Grand Show Champion with her outstanding young standard male and to Lorraine winning our new Best Novice Award with her Black Velvet.

As usual my thanks to all concerned with the preparation of the buffet lunch and to running the show and to all those that came and made this show a success.

Stephen Helmore