

Judges Report – Chieveley Show, December 3rd 2017

Judge – Kerry Bradburn Jones

The Southern Region Christmas show is always a happy event and this years was no exception. My dad and I arrived at the hall which was a hive of activity, this is quite a distance from me so I was delighted to be offered a yummy bacon sandwich cooked by Andrews wife and daughter Harriet, thanks so much ladies, most appreciated.

I was delighted to learn we had over 100 hundred entries, so we started spot on time. After very quickly colour phasing the standards, since there were quite a few new faces in the hall, I quickly introduced myself and explained to those that didn't know, that we had recently received the very sad news of the passing of our friend and valued member Barry Thornton. I said a few words about Barry and his contribution to the society over the last 10 years and I must apologize as I did get a little emotional whilst talking. This, was then followed by a minute's silence in memory of him, which was respectfully held.

Now down to the business of the animals. We kicked off as usual with the young medium dark females of which there were seven. Heather Boncey took top spot, the first of quite a few good awards for her on the day. This chin was of excellent size and conformation, strong stand up fur of good length with a clear, bright, colour -just a little open furred at present. She went on to receive the Reserve Young Standard award. No 2nd, but a 3rd for Siân Allcoat that had better density and fine fur but was not as blocky or sharp as the top animal. 5 x highly commended awards were given out to a decent bunch of animals that all had some qualities, generally they were of good size and reasonable shape, but generally lacked condition and finish, so looked down in colour on the day.

Medium females were next and 5 awards were given. The 1st this time for Andrew Lee was a nice female with blocky conformation and clear colour, she unfortunately wasn't in top condition and on close inspection the fur was just tending to bend at the tips, however, it was very young with real baby fur so hopefully will improve. Andrew also took 2nd for a clear bright baby that was a little narrow and needed to bulk up. Heather, Andrew and Lorraine Prince took the remainder of the spoils with decent exhibits.

The Darks were next and gave us the section winner plus Reserve Best Standard in show. This female, again from Heather, had very nice bright sharp colour, even veiling, blocky shape, good size and a lovely white belly, she just needed to be a fraction tighter furred. The 2nd Dark also from Heather, was bright and sharp but very loose and choppy on the day and the 3rd from Hannah Mitchell had the best density of the group but was lacking condition and sparkle on the day.

2 very good novice examples were shown. Charlotte Compton's was in the medium class and I awarded it a 1st. It had a good blocky shape with clear colour and was very well presented. Also, a 1st for Kayleigh Pearson in the medium dark class for another very well presented, clear, sharp and blocky baby, that went on to win the best novice award for Kayleigh. Very well done, ladies.

Young males were next and the medium darks could only muster a 3rd ribbon for Lorraine Prince for an animal of decent shape and size and ok for colour, it needed better veiling coverage. Mediums also could only produce a 3rd, this time for Andrew, for a blocky well prepared baby that lacked sparkle.

Darks were better and produced 4 ribbons. The 1st and Best Young Male for Andrew was of good colour, silky guard hair and reasonable size and shape, he just lacked a little in veiling and finish. The 2nd from Hannah was just a baby and looked to have plenty of potential with clear bright colour, nice guard hair and blocky shape but very out of condition on the day. The 3rd and H.C. from Heather were both reasonable entries. We had 2 novice males entered on the day, and another 1st and Reserve Young Male for Charlotte in the medium darks, a beautiful clear blue colour, fine fur and immaculately presented, he just needs to fill out and needed better density to go further. Well done again Charlotte.

We then moved on to the adult females medium darks, another first for the Donkersley's a clear bright female with good size and slightly open furred. No 2nd but a 3rd also for Karly and Craig that was clear in colour but needed improved size and shape.

No 1st in the medium class but a 2nd for a good blocky female that had strong but open fur and was slightly creamy in the belly. A 3rd for Andrew that had the better fur type but was sadly way out of condition.

Darks were next and all the exhibits gained a ribbon, the 1st went to Andrew for a good-sized female that had strong plushy fur, good eye appeal but was quite narrow in shape. The Donkersley's took 2nd and 3rd for 2 bright females that were very out of condition and needed to grow on and fill out, hopefully, if they are young adults there is still time for this to happen.

On balance the best adult female was the Donkersley's medium dark and Andrew Lee's dark in reserve. Well done both.

We had 2 novice adult females shown by Elisa Snaden, the best was awarded a 2nd for good size and shape with loads of dense fur that was very out of condition and as I pointed out that could be caused by too much cuddling! This sparked quite a chuckle from the audience and the owner did verify this to be spot on at the end of the show! Elisa also was awarded a H.C. for a chinchilla that also had lots of fur but wasn't such a good shape.

Adult males were next and were very sparse at this well attended show, this falls in line with everyone indicating they've had a high number of females this season. Only 2 were exhibited but this group did provide the days Grand Show Champion. D27 was a well veiled, dense, clear, bright male with eye appeal, in good condition and he was blocky and just about big enough, a very worthy winner on the day. Well done again Karly and Craig. Heather Boncey's young female followed up to be the Reserve Standard in show, just being pipped on density and veiling.

One novice adult male was awarded a H.C. to Collette Harris for a large male that sadly was very out of prime on the day.

After a lovely dinner cooked by Andrews wife and Harriet, we pressed on with the young mutations.

Wilson whites were up first and Sian came out on top with a clear bright strong furred white that was in good condition and attractive to the eye. 2nd went to Heather Boncey for a chin that was almost as good as the 1st, but more open furred. The 3rd for Andrew and H.C. for Dave Green were both reasonable exhibits.

Next were the Beige and top of the shop this time for Cameron Holmes with a blocky fined furred, well veiled clear bright Beige that was presented beautifully and went all the way to Reserve Mutation in show, well done. 2nd for Sian with another lovely beige that was almost as good but not

in the same condition. Again a 3rd and H.C. for Andrew with 2 nice young beiges that were very out of condition and didn't have quite the clarity of the top 2.

Sullivan Violets were a little disappointing so I couldn't award a 1st ribbon. The 2nd and 3rd from Andrew Lee both had good colour and clear white bellies, the shape and size were reasonable too. However, I could not award a 1st due to the lack of density, the fur was tending to lie down even in the centre of the back thereby showing a distinct lack of fur strength, such a shame as other qualities were present.

Eight Black Velvet's made up a very good class and did provide us with Best Mutation and the eventual Reserve Show Champion for Karly and Craig. The winner was of just acceptable size and conformation but had outstanding coverage over the hips and through the neck for a young Black. The clarity was sharp and it had silky dense fur and although I would have liked it to be slightly bigger and fuller through the shoulders, it couldn't be denied it's awards. Karly and Craig also took the 2nd for a bigger blocker animal but the coverage, intensity and clarity were no match for the winner, Lorraine Prince's 3rd wasn't far off the pace and was better than average in all departments and much the same for the H.C's from Andrew and Sian, a very nice class.

The AOC class gave us a nice spread of animals with some strong ribbons won. A 1st for a good Homo-brown Velvet from Dave Green, it was presented in very clean condition with excellent shape and size, good fine fur and even coverage. Another 1st for a Pink White from Andrew that had correct conformation, a pleasant peachy colour and was well presented. A Homo-beige received a 2nd for Andrew that was a nice overall example but had oxidized. Another 2nd, this time for Heather for a Black White Cross that was blocky and attractive with fair colour but quite open furred. Dave Green received a 3rd for a very attractive Royal Blue, a clear bright colour, lovely density but sadly way out of condition for this mutation which is rarely seen on the show table. Another exhibit that deserves a mention is Hannah Mitchell's medium dark ebony, I awarded a 2nd ribbon for its very nice shape and size, lovely dense fur and clear colour. It was just a little light over the hips and obviously not the finished product we want in an ebony but nevertheless a very useful breeding tool and this has to be acknowledged.

2 very good Novice Young Mutations both received 1^{sts}. Charlotte Compton's Wilson White was clear in colour, blocky, well furred and immaculately presented, then we had Elisa Snaden's very nice young Black Velvet which again was blocky, clear in colour, dense and very nicely presented. Well done ladies, very pleasing for the future.

We then moved on to the final group, the Adult Mutations and first up the Wilson Whites and another 1st and Reserve Adult Mutation for the Donkersley's that just edged out Andrew's 2nd with the fur type being denser and less open, both were nice examples of Wilson whites. H.C.'s for Rosemary Paxman and Georgie's for two blocky Wilson Whites which were sadly just too creamy.

Beige were next and sadly they couldn't produce a 1st. The best, a 2nd from Karly and Craig was a pretty nice example, but had sadly oxidized. Georgie took 3rd with a beige that was blocky, well furred but just a little small for an adult and again oxidized.

Three Ebonies produced a 1st for Hannah that was silky, well covered and dense with sharp clarity but a trifle necky, the 3rd from Georgie was quite the opposite, very blocky with broad shoulders but more of a powdery black and showing slight tinge.

Finally, the AOC group gave a 1st for Georgie's Sullivan Violet that had good fur and clear colour and was just about an acceptable size for a young adult,

A nicely furred Black Velvet with reasonable coverage and good length of fur took 1st for Andrew and Best Adult Mutation. Andrew also took 2nd with a Brown Velvet that had good size and conformation but was a little course in fur type and had sadly oxidized. Finally, the last 1st ribbon went to Dave Green for a Homo-beige that had excellent size, shape and a fine strong silky fur, but with just the hint of oxidization creeping in.

Another enjoyable show hosted by Southern Region at this excellent venue with some very nice animals exhibited. The novices were impressive and this bodes well for the future, I was so impressed with the presentation of the novice exhibits which were all immaculately presented. My warmest congratulations to Karly and Craig for taking the two top spots with two very nice chinchillas, well done and congrats to all the breeder award winners and everyone who took part and won a ribbon. Thanks to all the Southern region team for a welcoming and well run fun show, thank you so much for inviting me.

Kerry Bradburn Jones
Senior Judge .