

## Judges Report, Southern Region, Chieveley 02/12/2018

### Judge: Kerry Bradburn

The Christmas show is always a happy event and this one was no exception. I've judged this show 5 years running, the difference this year was I had a brand-new shinny JUI in Hannah Mitchell. She arrived at my house and my Dad, Hannah and I travelled down together and arrived in plenty of time.

We were welcomed with a lovely bacon bap cooked by Andrew's wife and daughter Harriet.

Before the show started, I did a little presentation to Georgie Busher who retired from judging at the beginning of the season. It should have happened at last year's National Show but sadly had to be delayed because of the heavy snowfall we had on that day. We presented her with a beautiful brandy glass engraved with her name and the words " For outstanding services to judging" plus a bottle of best brandy so she can test that the glass does not leak, lol !!!

Now down to business, and as usual, after colour phasing all the standards, we started with the Young Std Females.

Medium Darks were a group of 6 and this nice bunch providing us with the Best Young Female Group and Reserve Winners, both bred by Karly and Craig Donkersley. The winner had good conformation and size with strong stand up fur and good clarity of colour, which made it stand out. The Reserve was also well furred with good size, was well prepared but did not quite have the clarity of the winner. Lorraine Prince 's 3rd ribbon was clear and bright, but presently hippy and Stephen Helmores' and Andrew Lees ' H.C's were both clear in colour with good shape but were all a bit loose furred over the hips.

Three mediums could not produce a 1<sup>st</sup>, but the best in the class got a 2nd for Andrew. It had a good shape and size, a full neck but was very out of condition with a salt and pepper appearance.

Darks produced a slightly generous 1st for Stephen. It had good size and conformation with a good fur length that was in reasonable condition; it was ok for colour and well veiled. The 2nd for Dave Green was a very good chin, with extra sharp colour, even veiling, good density and fair shape and size, however, it was sadly very very out of condition.

Next up were the Young Medium Dark Males. There was a generous 1st for Heather Boncey, who's male was good quality with clear blue colour, strong fur and nice conformation, but was lacking finish in the shoulders. The 2nd was for Andrew with nice long guard hair and clear colour, but was very young so the fur was very soft over the hips.

The mediums were disappointing and couldn't produce a 1st or 2<sup>nd</sup>, only 2 HC's. Luckily, the darks were much better and delivered what would become our eventual Grand Show Champion for Karly and Craig. This young male was just big enough for 6 months with correct conformation, but more impressively had absolutely beautiful silky fur type, superb veiling coverage. a striking white belly and loads of eye appeal. It had also been prepared very well. Congratulations both. A 3rd for Stephen was with an animal with good shape and size and plenty of fur, but just a bit down in colour. Dave Green's HC had excellent colour, but sadly lacked any kind of condition.

Heather's 1st m/dark took the Reserve Young Male award but was too out of condition to challenge the Donkersley's Best Young Female for the Reserve Young Std award.

No adult females were presented at this show, so we pressed on with the Adult Males of which there were only 5.

Heather received a HC for her m/dark male which was a good quality male but well past its best for showing, although it had clearly been a good chin.

The four Darks were a good group of males. All were of quality and well worth using, albeit in all honesty, they were passed their very best in show terms. 1st and Best Adult Std plus Reserve Best Std, was for Karly and Craig's male. It was big, blocky and had excellent veiling coverage and good density, he had been well prepared but just lacked a little sparkle because the finish was missing, 2nd and Reserve Adult Std for Lorraine Prince was a huge boy, with massive conformation. He was well veiled and prepared, but down in colour to the winner.

The 3rd and HC, both bred by Karly and Craig, were good quality but just further down in condition. Despite this, they were good solid breeding males.

After a lovely dinner cooked by Andrews wife and Harriet and a few dessert goodies, we kicked off with the Young Mutations.

First up, was the young violets, sadly, 8 of them couldn't produce a 1<sup>st</sup>. The best, a 2nd for Andrew, had excellent colour, a blocky shape, a nice white belly but sadly lacked the volume of fur and the fur strength to achieve a 1<sup>st</sup>. The 3<sup>rd</sup>, also from Andrew, was very similar to the 2nd but not quite so good in colour. Andrew and Stephen took the remainder of the class with HC's.

Next up were the black velvets and what a nice class. The 1<sup>st</sup>, again for Andrew, had good colour, blocky conformation, silky strong fur, and reasonable clarity and intensity of colour. This chin went on to become a worthy Best Young Mutation, well done! 2nd was a young Black Velvet for Lorraine Prince that had loads of potential. It was very much a baby but had sharp clarity, good coverage for a baby and a blocky shape. The 3<sup>rd</sup>, also for Lorraine, was again a nice black but sadly showed tinge at the tips. The remainder of the class were awarded HC's for Andrew, Georgie and Dave. All had some points to commend.

The remainder of the Young Mutations were all classed as AOC with some rare mutations amongst them.

A Beige Violet, which are often referred to as Pearls, was awarded a 1st for Karly and Craig. It was very well prepared, had good colour and tight dense fur, although perhaps it was a little short of fur length. However, with its attractive colour and even veiling, it couldn't be denied and came behind the Black Velvet to become Reserve Young Mutation.

The other 1st ribbon in the Young Mutations and which only just missed out on a special award, was Lorraine's Blue Diamond. This baby was a little small and I would have liked it to be slightly blockier, but the colour and fur type was beautiful. It was a real true-blue colour and very attractive to the eye.

The Pink White and Wilson White could only produce 3<sup>rd</sup>'s for Andrew, both were well furred and well prepared, but both were a little too creamy.

Another 3<sup>rd</sup> was awarded, this time for Andrew's Hetero Beige. This chin had good tight fine fur but had oxidized quite badly. Andrew also exhibited 2 Self Brown's which gained a 2nd and a HC. The 2<sup>nd</sup>, although oxidised, was a good type with a strong dense fur, good even coverage and a deep chocolate

colour. Last to be judged, was a 3rd ribbon winning Charcoal for Dave with tight dense fur, fair conformation and size, but lacking show condition and it had oxidised.

The final group, as always, was the Adult Mutations. The first up were the Beiges and sadly, they were somewhat of a disappointment. This was purely because although the animals had good shape and conformation and a fair fur type, all had oxidised considerably. All these were from Georgie and I'm sure if they hadn't all had oxidised, would have done better.

The rest of the Adult Mutations were in the AOC class and like the youngsters, there was some good and rarely seen mutations amongst them.

The Beige Violet (Pearl) from Karly and Craig was another well-prepared lovely example, with good size, shape, colour, veiling and density. The Wilson White in the class again received a 1st again for the Donkersley's. It was big, blocky, had strong fur of good length and reasonable clarity of colour.

Georgie was awarded a first for her lovely Pink White which had a good influence of clear Beige and although not large, it was blocky, well furred and well prepared.

The Sullivan Violets again fell short and the best received a 2nd for Andrew. It had good colour and a white belly, but again was choppy over the hips and lacked fur strength in the centre of the back.

An Ebony from Georgie received a HC for its blocky shape and tight fur, but it was tinged over the tips and faded on the hips. Dave also received a HC for a Black and White cross that needed to be clearer in colour and to grow on.

We then had a single Angora from Lorraine which was a lovely example. I've been lucky enough to see many of these up close, although not yet on the UK show bench; but from recently visiting the USA and also on the bench in Europe when their popularity was just taking hold. This one had good size and excellent shape, loads of long fur which was strong in the centre of the back, very good clear bright colour and had been well kept and well prepared. It had the mane of fur around the neck which is really quite interesting, since not all have this (although many of what I saw in the states did have this feature). I was very happy to award it the Reserve Mutation in Show award, well done.

Finally, the Adult Mutations delivered a very good chin in the form of a Black Velvet from Andrew Lee. This chin, although not large, was blocky in shape, had dense and silky fur, very good coverage, was black in the neck and had a good white belly. It was in fairly good show condition.

This Black Velvet went head to head with the Angora for Best Adult Mutation. When going through all the quality we judge for, the Angora just didn't have the density of fur and the very silky fur of the Black; but other than that, they were very difficult to split. Andrew's Black Velvet came out on top and went on to defeat a good Adult Std that was just missing a bit of condition and sparkle, so it also became our Reserve Show Champion of the day.

The Donkersley's Young Std just could not be denied the GSC award, glowing with all that sparkle that 6-month animals often have in their first real prime. Congratulations to you both, also to Andrew and Lorraine and to all the award winners on the day. Well done and thanks so much for coming along and supporting the show.

I would now like to congratulate Hannah Mitchell on her first JUI. All I can say is I was honestly over the moon with just how well Hannah did. Not only did she always choose the animals I was selecting (before I told her my choice of course!) but her understanding of the qualities we judge for and her

ability to see them clearly, was truly fantastic. She used all the correct terminology and had quite obviously done her homework. Well done and keep up the good work!!!

I had a really good day, it was sad that due to a few circumstances we missed a couple of regular attendees, but it didn't stop the show being a roaring success and enjoyed by everyone present.

Thanks to Southern Region for the invite, for the hospitality shown and for successfully hosting another viable show in the south of England.

Well done everyone involved.

Kerry Jones  
Senior Judge