

North Region Show – Birdwell 29.01.2017

Judge: Stephen Helmore

Only a short journey up the M1 from my In-laws in Sheffield to Birdwell meant a very relaxed start to the day. The show started promptly and once we had coloured phased all the standards we commenced with a class of 3 Medium Dark young females. The 1st, 3rd and HC winners were all brought by Paul Spooner. The 1st was a very good chin with a dense tight silky fur, clear and bright colour. As the Show progressed her qualities outshone all the other chins she competed against to become our Show Champion on the day. The 3rd was not as bright with an open baby fur which should strengthen as she matures. HC had better fur strength than the 3rd but was down on colour.

We had 1 no Novice Medium Dark which received a 2nd ribbon for Kayleigh Pearson, a well furred chin that was slightly open she had good conformation, clear but not top colour with a clean white belly.

We then had 2 no medium females, a 1s for Sandy King's chin with very good conformation and size, clear colour with a 'woolly' rather than silky fur type. HC for Hannah Mitchell's chin that was small with narrow shoulders, colour was clear with a reasonably dense silky fur.

1 no Novice medium from Kayleigh had a 3rd ribbon award, she had reasonable conformation and clear colour, only a baby at 41/2 months she had a very open fur that was a silky type but lacking density.

2 no Dark young females gave us a 1st ribbon for Dave Green that wasn't as bright as Paul's very good coloured 2nd but was better in all other departments. Dave's chin was reserve young female and Reserve young standard

A medium Dark class of young males was a full house of 1st, 2nd, 3rd and HC ribbons. Paul's chin received the top 3 awards with Wendy French backing up with the HC. 1st had a strong tight fur, reasonable colour and conformation and he became our Best young male. 2nd had a brighter colour but a weaker fur and density to the 1st. 3rd had the better conformation of the 3 but had more open softer 'woolly' fur type. Wendy's chin wasn't as bright as the top 2, had a silky fur type but was small.

The 2 Novice entries had a 1st for Kayleigh with a very nice chin at just 4 months, bright colour with a plushy fur type, lacking veiling coming up into the shoulder and neck area, he became our Reserve Young Male Standard. A HC for Zoe Daniel for an animal of medium colour which clearly had ebony genes, was not clear and had an open woolly fur.

We had 1 Dark male with 3rd ribbon for Paul, this chin was very much out of condition with fur slip in the neck area and a discoloured belly, he had a good silky fur type and reasonable clear colour.

We moved onto the 2 Adult standard female entrants, 1 medium dark and 1 dark colour phase. A 2nd ribbon for Hannah's medium dark she had narrow shoulders and a bit small for over 7 months, she had clear colour and a silky fur type. Wendy's dark had a 1st ribbon with good size and conformation with a strong fur type that could be brighter in colour. Automatically was Best adult female and also became our Reserve Adult standard.

We had 2 Adult Standard males for the main bench and 1 Novice, all three received 1st ribbons. Paul's dark blocky chin was the best of the 3 with strong silky fur and good veiling and colour, at 8 months it was out of condition and priming over the hips. He became our Best adult standard and Reserve best standard. Paul's medium dark had a finer silky fur to the dark but lacked conformation being slightly narrow

in the shoulders. Kayleigh's Novice dark chin was on the cusp of being an extra dark with very fine silky fur, not as bright as I would have liked to have seen, but a good chin that became our Reserve Adult Male.

The young mutations started with a good class of 8 beiges. Sandy's 1st led the group with good size and blocky conformation, strong silky fur with a reasonable clear colour and immaculate presentation. This became our Best young mutation and Reserve best mutation. 2nd to Paul's chin, similar in size and conformation but with a woolly courser fur type. Dave's 3rd was smaller but with good conformation and fine fur that had softer baby fur along the flanks. The 4 HC's all had good and bad points.

Next a class of 6 Black velvets, with Wendy French getting 1st, 2nd and 3rd ribbons. The 1st had a good bright colour with tight silky dense fur and reasonable veiling coverage. 2nd had better coverage and a more intense black appearance but didn't have the strength of fur or the colour of the 1st. 3rd was a smaller/younger chin that will be a lot better when it matures.

We then had a class of 9 AOC mutations and 1 Novice Wilson White. A 1st for Paul's main show Wilson White which was a good type with an even coverage of standard grey guard hairs, what I call the old fashioned 'silver'. It had a clear colour with a slightly open fur type, this chin became our Reserve young mutation. The other Wilson White was our Novice from Heather, which received an HC for a chin that was much smaller with narrow conformation and a weak open fur type. A 3rd for Dave's Black/white cross, a large blocky chin with a woolly open fur that had a tinged colour. A 2nd for Paul's Sullivan Violet with good colour and reasonable fur type that was narrow at the shoulders and had a tinged belly. Dave's Pink White also had a 2nd ribbon with a reasonably clear attractive colour and fur strength. Dave's Homo beige had a 1st with a very good strong fur in the back that got softer down the sides and a good clear colour. Hannah's Self Black had a 2nd with good coverage and clarity of colour, a silky fur type that could be denser and with slightly narrow conformation in the shoulders. Dave entered 2 Charcoals with the best having a 3rd ribbon that was an 'OK' chin for its type with reasonable conformation and fur strength, however, the colour was quite down.

Our Adult Mutations started with a class of 3 Sullivan Violets, none of them very big. 1st and 2nd ribbons went to Sandy to two similar chins having good conformation and tight plushy fur with the 1st having the brighter colour. This went on to become our Best Adult Mutation and Best Mutation. 3rd in the class went to Paul's chin that had a longer courser type of fur with good colour but narrow conformation in the shoulders. A class of 6 AOC's that had an HC for Dave's charcoal that had a 'touch of good colour in the back' but was small and weak furred. Dave also had a 3rd for a Black Velvet that was large but down on colour with the veiling coverage failing down over the flanks. A group of 'generous' 1sts followed with Hannah's Self Black with good wrap around colour and silky fur but its narrow conformation in the shoulders let it down, it went on to become our Reserve Adult mutation. Wendy's Wilson White was not a pristine colour but it had a very good plushy fur type and good size and Dave's huge Brown Velvet that had oxidised, had loads of long fur of a courser woolly type.

In the group of 3 Novice AOC, we had a 3rd for Kayleigh's Sullivan Violet that had a reasonable colour but everything else to improve. Zoe's Self Black HC had a wrap around coverage but was small with fur laying back and down in colour.

Congratulations to Paul for bringing both Grand Show Champion and Reserve with his Standards and to Sandy for bringing the Best and Reserve Mutations.

My thanks to North Region Members for hosting a very enjoyable Show.

Stephen Helmore