

Judges report Birdwell - 9/2/20

We had a stormy journey up to Birdwell – I was somewhat glad that Kerry was doing the driving! It was good to see the weather had not put off the exhibitors

Young standard females

We started the judging with the young standard females, which were unfortunately few in number with only 2 main bench entries and once novice. The medium dark young female from Sandy King had excellent size and conformation and beautiful strong silky fur and was clear colour, the veiling coverage was a little lacking over the hips which may well improve with age and the animal was expertly presented – this young female took a first, Best Young Standard Female and Best Young Standard. A Medium young female from Sian Allcoat was awarded a 3rd, this female had reasonable colour, size and conformation and strong fur in the centre of the back however was very out of condition despite good preparation. A novice Medium from Andy Marshall was again well prepared and had clear colour and a nice sharp white belly and reasonable fur strength however was a little narrow in conformation and was awarded a 3rd.

Young standard male

We then moved on to the young standard males. The medium dark class gave a 1st for Sian with a well prepared young animals with good size and conformation and strong silky fur on the centre of the back although it had slightly weaker baby fur over the hips which will likely improve with age. 2nd in the class, again from Sian, was sharper than the first ribbon winner however very loose and choppy over the hips and we would have liked the animal a bit blockier.

A class of 3 darks then followed with the first ribbon winner having excellent veiling coverage and strong silky fur along with good size and conformation, this animal from Sian went on to win Best Young Standard Male and Reserve Young Standard. The second in the class from Sandy had a finer tighter fur however the fur was quite short and veiling coverage paled over the hips. Completing the class was a highly commended from Dave Green which was of reasonable size and conformation for an animal of around 4 months, however, was sadly out of condition on the day and down on clarity.

A single Medium Novice young male from Andy Marshall was awarded a first – this chinchilla was very clear in colour with a sharp white belly and reasonable conformation and density.

Adult Standard Females

Moving on to the adult standard females we had 2 medium darks. The 1st ribbon winner from Paul Spooner had exceptional size and conformation, lots of eye appeal and strong, long plushy fur, this beautiful female went on to take Best Adult Standard Female, Best Adult Standard and Best standard and Grand show Champion – Congratulations Paul! The second ribbon winner (also from Paul) was also of good size and conformation (although not quite as big as the 1st) very well presented and clear in colour with reasonable veiling coverage. A Single Dark adult female from Sian had good veiling coverage and plenty of eye appeal, the fur was very dense and strong and the animal was well prepared and was award a 1st going on to win Reserve Adult Standard Female.

Adult Standard Males

Sadly only one adult male was entered, but he was a very well deserving 1st ribbon winner for Sian - this chin had exceptional veiling coverage and density and clear colour giving him bags of eye appeal, he was sadly out of condition on the day however it was still clear to see he was a top animal and well deserving Best Adult Standard Male going on to win Reserve Adult Standard and Reserve Standard in Show.

Young Mutations

Sullivan Violets

We then moved on to the mutations starting with a class of your Sullivan violets. The first ribbon winner from Paul Spooner was very clear in colour with a lovely sheen, dense fur, good conformation and a reasonable size, going on to win Best Young mutation, best mutation and Reserve Grand Show Champion – certainly an achievement for the Sullivan Violets! Second to this, again from Paul Spooner, was also reasonably clear although slightly down on clarity and sheen from the first place animal and was of good size and conformation and similar dense strong fur to the class winner, this violet went on to take Reserve Young Mutation. The 3rd again from Paul had acceptable clarity but was a step down compared the 1st and 2nd, however it had a more silky fur type than the 1st ribbon winner, size and conformation were again reasonable. A Novice Young Sullivan Violet from Heather Arnstein was awarded a 3rd ribbon, this animal was a paler violet colour than those on the main bench and was well prepared with a silky fur type however the fur was a little weak particularly over the hips and slightly narrow in conformation.

Wilson Whites

Next came a class of Wilson whites with only once main bench entry bred by Sian, this beautiful white had very clear colour and strong silky fur and reasonable size and conformation for its age. Two Novice entries from Andy Marshall gave a 1st for his chin with good size and conformation, whilst it was clear in colour it was not quite up to the clarity of the main bench animal, it had strong fur in the centre of the back however was a little weaker over the hips. Andy also received a HC for a creamier white which was slightly narrow in conformation however was very well prepared.

Black Velvets

Next came a class of 2 Black velvets, both from Sian Allcoat. The 1st ribbon winner had good veiling coverage, particularly for a youngster, clear colour and lovely dense silky strong fur along with good size and conformation. Second to this was slightly sharper in colour however the veiling coverage was a little lacking for its age of 6 months. We also had 2 novice black velvets – the first ribbon winner from Andy had excellent veiling coverage and dense fur along with good clarity of colour, the animal was slightly narrow in the neck but acceptable given its age of 5 months.

AOC

Moving on to the rest of the AOCs we had a pink white from Sian which was awarded a 2nd for its excellent size and conformation however was held back from a first ribbon as it was slightly creamy in colour and the fur a little weak over the hips. A Blue diamond from Dave Green was awarded a second – this chin has clear in colour with acceptable size and conformation however was sadly out of condition on the day and fur was a little weaker than desired. Finishing off the young mutations was a black pearl awarded a second because of its lovely dense velvety fur, this chin was slightly small in size and unfortunately had oxidised giving the black fur a red tint rather than the intense black we expect on this mutation.

Adult Mutations

AOC - Whites

There were no full classes in the adult mutations giving us a very large AOC group. We started off with 2 Wilson whites, the first ribbon went to Sian for her well prepared white with silky strong fur, good size and conformation. 2nd to this came Paul Spooner's Wilson white which was clearer in colour however had nowhere near the furs strength of the 1st ribbon winner.

We were next presented with a very uniquely marked black white cross from Sandy King – very much a chin of two halves this animals had a large band of black velvet mutation fur accompanied by a block of white fur towards the back – such uniquely marked animals are somewhat of a rarity let

alone one of this quality. This chin had lovely strong silky and dense fur, clear colour on both black and white fur, good size and good conformation – this chin received a 1st, Best Adult Mutation and Reserve Mutation in Show.

A pair of brown-white crosses gave a 3rd for Dave green for his reasonably clear brown white cross which had good size but was slightly narrow and out of condition with weak fur particularly over the hips. Dave also received a HC for another brown white cross which had denser fur than the 3rd place animal however was further out of condition.

AOC – Sullivan Violets

We then moved on to Sullivan violets with 3 animals in 3 different classes. The main bench entry from Sandy King was awarded a 1st for its clear colour and strong silky fur with reasonable size and good conformation. The Novice entry from Heather Arnstein also received a first and went on to win Reserve Young Mutation and Best Novice – This chin was very clear in colour with beautiful sheen, good size and conformation and silky strong fur and was also very well prepared. We also had a Purchased adult Sullivan violet (PM class) from Joanne Rycroft which was awarded a 3rd, this chin had reasonable clarity, a nice white belly and was well prepared however it was a little small for an adult and very out of condition.

AOC – Darker animals

A charcoal from Dave was awarded a HC for its dense strong fur however it was small in size and off colour which held it back from getting a higher award. A brown velvet from Dave was awarded a 2nd, this animal had strong fur which was silky in the centre of the back but more woolly over the hips, this chin had good veiling coverage however was very oxidised and would have benefited from more preparation as it had a lot of loose fur. A black velvet from Sian completed the main bench entries and was awarded a 1st – this chin was a good “all rounder” with strong long silky fur, and good veiling coverage in the neck, reasonable clarity, size and conformation.

In the novice class we had a Novice black velvet from Andy which was clear in colour with strong and dense fur and good veiling coverage although the size was only just acceptable for an adult. Finally, a novice self-black from Heather received a 2nd with a strong silky fur type, the size and confirmation were just acceptable for an adult, however this chin was a little off colour holding it back from a 1st ribbon.

Congratulations to all of the show winners and thank you to the North region and Kerry for having me along as JUI for the day.

Report by Hannah Mitchell, JUI

Kerry Bradburn Senior Judge:

I had a lovely day at the Birdwell show and it was a pleasure to share the day with Hannah as my JUI. I have read through the report and agree with her comments whole heartedly and yet again she has demonstrated that not only is she on the right track with her judging under instruction, and will soon be a very competent judge, but she can also write a good informative report. Congratulations to Paul on his Grand Show Champion and all of the other very worthy winners