

Show Report, NCS National Show, 1st April 2012 Judge: - Georgie Busher

I was very pleased to be asked to judge the National this year, it is our biggest and hopefully best attended show of the year, and while it is a big responsibility to judge and comment on breeder's best animals, it is also an honour to be trusted with the task. There were over one hundred entries, in spite of some unavoidable absences, so I was very glad to be supported by an efficient and experienced Show Manager and group of Stewards.

We started with seventeen Young Standard Females, which after colour phasing were split into four groups. The Medium class was first. There was no first ribbon, but a second, for a blocky animal with a good neck, rather open fur, and slightly down in colour. It lacked condition, as did many of the animals on the day. There was also a H/C for a small chin which was a bit weak furred on the hips, but with a nice clear blue colour.

There were six chins in the light class, and a first ribbon went to Sandy King's big blocky animal with good conformation, very nice fur and density, with good coverage and a sharp white belly fur. This chin was Best Young Female and went on to take Reserve Young Standard, it was a very good animal. The second ribbon winner was very similar in size and conformation, but was priming and open-furred over the hips so that it lacked coverage in that area. Nonetheless it went on to win reserve Best Young Female for Kerry Bradburn. There were two H/Cs for animals which did not have the size or quality of the winners.

There were three Medium Darks, no first this time, but a second for a lovely big female with good density and colour and fur strength, but choppy down the sides - a pity!

In the Dark colour phase, there was one entry, which also had a second, as again although a good animal it had marks on the flanks. A shame I had to mark down such potentially excellent chins but there were animals on show which were in condition, and I had to take account of that.

The one Extra Dark, again Kerry's, had a first for really nice fur quality and a good blue colour with great eye appeal.

There were 9 Young Standard Males and these split into four classes. There was one Medium, which had a second, being blocky and a reasonable size and fair colour. (My notes say it lacked something, but what we shall never know, as it disappeared off the table before I could write down the details). Four Medium Darks gave Kerry a first and a second. The first was a cracking chin, very good size, lovely tight silky fur in good condition with good coverage coming well down the sides, and a really sharp white belly fur. It certainly had eye appeal and went on to take Best Young Standard Male and Best Young Standard. The second was possibly a slightly clearer blue, it had longer fur with attractive guard (king) hair, again with eye appeal, but it was not in such good condition on the day.

There was another first for Kerry in the Dark class for a big blocky chinchilla with nice quality fur of a good colour and very well prepared, which took reserve Best Young Male, and a

second ribbon for Sandy's animal which had attractive flowing silky fur and was a fair size and good colour, but was loose and breaking on the hips. Stephen Helmore got a H/C for a very young chin which was very small but of good conformation with nice sharp blue colour and plenty of good quality fur - one to watch for the future? These were three different but very nice males.

Kerry also had a first for an Extra Dark which was in good condition, of clear colour, and had good strong fur.

Next up were the Adult Females, thirteen of them in four classes. There were five in the Medium Class, and four of them were very disappointing, being small and off colour with a sad lack of density, coverage and condition. I made a mistake and thought they were still the males, and gave a brisk lecture about the evils of breeding such animals in a polygamous unit, for which I apologise, but even as females they were not good breeding stock. The one exception was a bigger animal with good clear blue colour, long furred, but unfortunately rather loose and open. I gave it an H/C which on reflection was a bit niggardly as she is well worth keeping on to see how she develops.

There were three Medium Darks. Kerry had a first and a third. I liked the first very much, big with excellent conformation and just the right amount of fur in the neck, with well developed fur in good condition, and beautifully prepared, it went right to the top, eventually becoming Best in Show. The second was also a good animal, quite bright in colour, and with very nice quality fur, but it was not sufficiently developed over the hips.

There was a very good class of Darks, four of them, and they all got ribbons with nothing much to choose between them. The first had nice tight plushy fur, with good fur strength and a nice finish, the second was darker having longer fur with more developed guard hair, the third was bigger and caught the eye with its colour and fur quality, and the H/C was the smallest but still a good animal with breeding potential. There was also one good quality Extra Dark, again from Kerry, again with the longer guard fur which gives a chin such an attractive appearance when allied to fur strength and clear colour. This animal did need stronger fur on the flanks but was still in reasonable condition.

There were six Adult Standard Males, and congratulations to Andrew Lee, still a Novice, for getting a Second ribbon in the Medium Dark Class with a big long furred animal, which only missed out on a first because it was rather down in colour and clarity. He also got an H/c with a baby with good potential. Two Darks produced a first and a third for Kerry, the first was a cracker, becoming Best Adult Male, Reserve Adult Standard, and Reserve Best Standard Animal. It had good size and colour, excellent conformation, and very nice dense fur. The third was quite good, but rather narrow in the neck and lacking fur there. There was one Extra Dark, which gained a second ribbon for an animal with good fur and colour but unfortunately breaking down the sides, one list says this was Kerry's but another says James Buchan so my apologies to both but it was a very nice animal.

After a welcome buffet lunch kindly prepared by the organisers (and their partners!) which was much appreciated by everyone, we started on the mutations, all sixty one of them. There were thirty four youngsters, starting with the Wilson Whites, which was a very nice

class indeed. In fact almost all the Whites, of both varieties in the show were really good quality animals. The first of the babies was a lovely chin, very good strong fur, good big conformation and neck area, and a really clear blue white colour. Lisa Proctor was delighted to see it first take Best Young Mutation, then Best Mutation, and finally Reserve Best in Show. Well done! The second animal had a fair amount of standard fur mixed in with the white, which gave it good strength, but it wasn't such a good clear colour as the first. There was also a third and a fourth ribbon, it was notable that all these chins had pretty good strong well developed fur over their hips. The Young Pink/White class also went one, two, three, four with the first having excellent size and conformation, with rather nice fine fur and a good clear slightly pink colour. The second was rather more yellow tinged but still big and well-furred, the third had rather finer fur, and the H/C carried rather too much beige but was still a good size and a nice animal, though not in prime. There were four beiges, the first a lovely plushy animal with lots of dense fine fur and a good overall blue haze. It became Reserve Young Mutation. The second was much lighter in colour, with long fur, and the two H/Cs, while good big well furred chins, were very oxidised and orange tinted.

There were six violets, all of which were a bit small, there were a first and second for two similar chins of reasonable size and colour but not remarkable, and two H/Cs.

Nine Black Velvets produced a very good class of quality animals, the first of which was a very nice blue black colour, with good intensity of mutation fur, and nice size and conformation. The second was a longer more rangy animal, very well mutated, but slightly narrow in the shoulders, the third was blocky again with longer fur and needed better coverage over the hips, and the H/C was small but of good conformation and colour.

There were two Ultra Violets, the first was a good animal with good fur and nice dark blue ultra-colour. There was a third ribbon for a lighter coloured chin whose fur lay a little flat. Two Brown Velvets got a first and a second ribbon. The first was the darker and better colour of the two, a more typical brown velvet with nice tight fur, well mutated, and coming down over the sides of the flanks, the second was bigger but had more open fur which lacked definition. So Lisa won Best Young Mutation with her Wilson White with Kerry getting Reserve with the beige.

There were twenty seven Adult Mutations and again I started with another good class of Wilson Whites. James Buchan justified his long trip from Caithness by getting first and second ribbons with his entries. The first was a lovely animal, big and blue-white with strong upright fur and good guard hair, the third was a really big animal with excellent coverage. The first had real eye appeal and went on to take Reserve Adult Mutation. The second didn't have quite the same clear colour but it still had very good size and fur and conformation. The third was big and blocky but the colour was not so good and the fur was weaker and lay a little flat. There were four Beiges, but this was not a good class, giving only a third and an H/C for animals which were below par on colour, condition and fur strength. There were four violets, the first was a good colour with nice silky fur and good conformation, it also won the Special Award for Best Violet., for Paul Spooner. The second was a lighter colour, quite big, with reasonable fur, the two H/Cs were too narrow, with weaker fur.

There was another good class of Blacks. The first was big with really good mutated fur and really black density right through. The fur was strong and well-developed and the coverage was excellent. This animal was Best Adult Mutation and Reserve Mutation, so more congratulations to Kerry. The second ribbon had really good quality fur, well mutated and distributed, the two H/Cs both had potential.

There was a whole raft of AOC animals and I awarded several ribbons but no firsts. Two Ultras got a second and an H/C, the second lacked a good neck and had a yellow underbelly. There was also a second for a pink/white, a good size, fair colour, but rather weak flat fur. Two Brown Velvets got a second and a third, the second was a nice colour with good coverage but had rather coarse open fur, the third ribbon winner was a good animal but had oxidised. There was a self-brown which was much too small for an adult and had weak fur, but it had good wrap around coverage and was a good colour. A self-black had a second, again because it was too small, it was a nice blue black colour and had excellent coverage, with long but quite strong fur.

Thus we reached the end of the show and the awarding of all the hard won prizes. Many congratulations to all the winners, and to the successful Breeders Award winners, a great achievement at the National.

I would like to thank everyone who worked hard to make the show a success, and particularly Stephen Helmore and his happy band of Stewards, and finally thank you very much indeed for the very kind gift of engraved glasses and the malt whisky to go in them. I think after writing this report i just might try a wee dram! Have a good summer everyone, and may you get lots of happy and healthy kits.

Georgie Busher. NCS Judge.