

**Show Report, Northern Region Show, 29/01/2012 Judge: -
Kerry Bradburn**

I was very pleased to be judging the first show of 2012 for the North Region at Birdwell. This is a splendid venue, very convenient location off the motorway, ample parking and just the right size to be cosy. The region hadn't used this venue for a few years due to problems with finding a caretaker to open and close up on a Sunday, however I believe things have changed now and I know that the north region are hoping to include the hall in their future plans.

Now down to business.....

The show had a reasonable number of entries split pretty much 50/50 between standards and mutations and even though there weren't that many breeders in attendance those that were there had pulled out all the stops and produced a good number of exhibits each, with some quality chinchillas amongst them. After minimal fuss colour phasing the chinchillas we started with the medium dark young STD females.

The 1st ribbon was of good size, blocky, clear in colour with a strong but open fur type, the 2nd had the tighter finer fur type of better condition but was down in clarity of colour both from the herd of Richard and Eddie Crutchley. There was also an HC for Lowridge chinchillas for a well prepared tight furred baby that was a little dull on the day. The mediums were next and were overall a little disappointing, the best a 2nd from Sandy King had strong fine fur and good conformation but was a little dull on the day. The 3rd from Wendy French was a little brighter but had a course open fur type and lacked density. There were 2 HC awards for Allan Mills and Wenda Christie. The darks were next and were a different prospect altogether, the 1st and eventual Grand Show Champion was a blocky young female with silky fur of good length with a deep defined tip and plenty of plushy long guard hair of clear blue colour, a worthy winner. The 2nd and eventual Reserve Show Champion was also a nice female, blocky with a strong tight fine fur of good density and colour, well covered but just missing the silky defined tip that gives the chinchilla that lustrous sheen. Well-done Eddie and Richard. We had a one single extra dark to which I awarded a 1st ribbon for her excellent veiling, plushy fur type and density however she was a little down in colour and in need of better conformation also from Richard a Eddie.

The Novice medium/dark was awarded a 2nd for Chris Galt and Sam Crowe for a blocky young female with tight fur that was a little light on the hips and a little down in colour on the day. Sam and Chris also had a 3rd in the medium young females for a reasonable type which was very out of prime.

The young standard males were represented in 3 colour phases and again we kicked off with the medium darks, no 1st but a 2nd for a rich and Eddie for a blocky young male with a strong but open fur type that was a little dull on the day, The 3rd from Allan Mills had the tighter finer fur but was very much out of prime and again a little dull on the day.

The mediums produced a 3rd for Sandy King which had good size and conformation and fair colour but priming and very salt and peppery in appearance.

The darks were the best of the young males with all the exhibits gaining awards, the 1st from Eddie and Richard was a promising young male with plushy fur, deep tipping and eye appeal, the 2nd was also a good chin with a tighter finer fur of good density and fair colour,

also of note the h.c exhibited by Eddie and Rich had bright plushy fur with long silky guard hair of good colour, but was narrow in the shoulders, light on the hips and in the neck and not finished, maybe maturity and prime will help this chin. A nice class.

The novice young males also had chins representing each colour phase; the medium darks produced a 1st for Sam and Chris with blocky shape, ok for colour and a strong but open fur type. The mediums fell a little short and I awarded a 3rd and 2 HC s all for Sam and Chris with the 3rd being of fair colour and blocky shape and 2 HCs that were big and blocky but with a considerable lack of tipping in the neck and with a off coloured bar.

The 1st in the extra dark novice young males was a good chinchilla also from Sam and Chris with quality silky fur , good full neck, plenty of tipping and of acceptable colour and followed Eddie and Richards winner to become reserve best young male, well done !

We began the adult females with the m/dark's of which there was one entry belonging to Eddie and Richard. I awarded this female a 1st and best adult female award, she had strong dense fur of reasonable length and clarity with good resilience, she was however light on the hips and needed to be blockier but was the best of the bunch. The mediums were a disappointment with all the exhibits being out of prime, open furred and down in clarity of colour. Wendy French taking the 2nd and h.c's for Eddie and Richard and Wenda Christie respectively.

The novice adult females were a pleasing group with the m/darks producing a 1st and 3rd for Sam and Chris, The 1st was big and blocky with fair colour, strong fur, well prepared that lacked tipping in the neck and over the hips but still useful with the correct mate. The 3rd was again blocky, well groomed with plenty of fur, but had hardly any coverage in the neck area and had a creamy belly and bar. The medium novice 1st was a female I did like with good clarity, big and blocky a strong fur, slightly open but a very useful animal going on the gain reserve adult female for Chris and Sam.

The adult males contained a class of 5 darks to which I awarded a 1,2,3 and 2 x HCs as they all had some good attributes. The 1st was a blocky chin with strong stand up fur in good condition of good density, it was however not the best colour on the table, both the 2nd and 3rd were brighter and of plushier fur type but both very much out of prime which meant they sadly had to give way on the top awards . All the above mentioned were from Eddie and Richard.

We had one novice adult male which gained a 1st for a good sized blocky example with plushy silky fur of good length, he was unfortunately down in clarity of colour, another exhibit from Sam and Chris. The 1st and 2nd in the darks went on to be best and reserve best adult standard.

We then had a lovely lunch in the form of a buffet provided by the north members and very much enjoyed it was.

We restarted with a class of young beiges with the best a 2nd for Sandy King with fair colour , blocky conformation but choppy over the hips where it was priming badly. The 3rd from Allan Mills was well prepared and in better condition but was down in colour as was the HC from Wendy French.

The pink whites were an interesting class, a 1st was awarded to an animal of fair colour and fur type , very well prepared and in good show condition for Allan mills. The 2nd from Paul Spooner was a cracker in every respect, other than clarity of colour, which was more of a custard cream colour than a subtle peachy white.....what a shame!

The 3 Deutsch violets gained a 1, 2 and 3 all for Rich and Eddie, the 1st had the best density and was an intense well veiled example, the 2nd was of slightly better clarity but the fur was more open, uneven and choppy.

The AOC class were next and contained 2 black velvets that were more like it, both of good clarity with the winner being the better covered, with good intense mutant fur well down over the hips and through the neck and lovely silky attractive guard hair, the second was slightly sharper for clarity but just paled over the hips and shoulders and through the neck just needing a little more time. Two smart examples from Rich and Eddie comfortably taking the group awards and the 1st ribbon going on to take reserve best mutation overall.

A 1st was awarded to a nice Sullivan violet from Paul Spooner who was of good size and shape with a fine dense fur of good clear colour just missing the elusive satin sheen.

A 2nd was awarded to Lisa Proctor for her baby brown velvet which was well presented and of clear colour but had the course fur type often seen with this mutation, Lisa also received a 2nd for her Wilson white which had plushy dense fur rarely seen in a young Wilson white but unfortunately creamy in colour.

Novice young mutations presented me with a class of young black velvets with the best gaining a 3rd for Chris and Sam which had a long way to go in terms of coverage but had a strong fur type and was well prepared. The HC from Jenny McManus was better covered but was very out of prime and unfortunately off colour. Jenny also had a 3rd for a self black who was big and blocky with a strong dense fur type that was also down in colour. Chris and Sam gained a 3rd for their baby ww which had strong fur with long guard hair and was blocky but was down in colour and lacked eye appeal. We completed the novice youngsters with a 3rd for Jenny for a very large, blocky Pink white who needs improved fur qualities and clarity of colour.

The adult mutations included a class of black velvets to which I awarded a 1st and 3 HC's .The 1st from Rich and Eddie was a big blocky chinchilla with good coverage, strong fur and just a hint of grey in the neck. Allan Mills had 2 HC's for reasonable chins with plenty of fur but badly lacking in show condition. The HC from Wendy French was the brightest and sharpest of the group but lacked in size, conformation and show condition.

The 2 Deutsch violets produced a 1st and 2nd both from Eddie and Richard, The 1st was a very nice big, blocky, dense animal of good clear colour showing blueness and a nice white belly colour, a very worthy winner of the best mutation award on the day –well-done. The 2nd also a good chin but down in all departments to the 1st.

A class of beiges produce a 1st for Sandy King of fair colour, good size and plenty of fur in the neck, the 3rd and HC from Wendy French were also big and blocky with plenty of fur but were some way down in clarity of colour.

A class of Wilson whites were awarded a 1st to a chin from Alan Mills that was of fair size and conformation and had a lovely dense fur of correct length, the white patches of fur on the animal were clear and sharp but the patches of standard fur looked a little dull which is undoubted due to the animal being out of prime and a little past its best, the 3rd from Wendy French was big and blocky with long fur but was down in clarity of colour as was the HC from Wenda Christie that had lovely fine dense fur and had been prepared well.

We rounded off the show with the novice adult mutations that produced a 1st for beige from Chris and Sam which had a good volume of fur, large size, a lovely full neck but was down in colour. Chris and Sam also received a 3rd for their black who had reasonable size, shape and clarity but was out of condition and needed better coverage and intensity. The

final ribbon of the day, a HC for Jenny McManus for her pink white that was large and of reasonable conformation but needs much improved fur qualities and clarity.

In conclusion a most enjoyable friendly show with some very good animals and some needing work, but chinchillas are always a working progress!

My congratulations, to Eddie and Richard for taking the top awards, and to all the ribbon winners, thanks for entering your chinchillas and taking part in the show. A special mention and congratulations to Chris and Sam on graduating into the Main Class for future shows. Thanks for your hospitality North Region, I enjoyed myself immensely and managed to miss the incoming bad weather on the way home.

Kerry Bradburn - NCS judge