

Judges Report – Scottish Region 01/03/2020

Judge-- Stephen Helmore

I had an eventful journey up on the Saturday that took 9 hours. It was very windy in the south and midlands but when I reached Cumbria the M6 was down to one lane that was only safe to travel on at 30 -40 mph due to a snow storm. However, by the time I had reached the Scottish border the temperature had increased to between 2- 4 C and snow changed to sleet and rain. It was with some relief that I arrived at the Travel Lodge outside Denny around 8pm.

Not having to rush in the morning meant I arrived at the hall in plenty of time. With only 22 Standard chins and 21 mutations entered I knew the numbers were not going to be great but the overall quality entered was good. Even with the small group numbers I still colour phased the Standards.

Out of the 5 young standard females entered I still managed to award 4 1st ribbons with 1 second as back up !!. David and Aileen Blakey had 2 no 1st ribbons with an extra Dark and medium dark chins. The Extra dark at 5 1/2 months was really well grown with excellent size and conformation, good veiling coverage with a plushy but not silky fur type her colour although reasonably clear could have been brighter. She became our reserve best young standard female. Their medium dark at only just 4 months was also a good size with a strong silky fur her colour was down but still a good chin. James Buchan had a 1st with his Dark female, at 6 ½ months had good conformation but smaller than the extra dark but with a much clearer and brighter colour and a fine silky fur. She became our Best young female and reserve best young standard. James also had a 1st with his Medium female and Kelly Buchan winning a 2nd. The 1st was also a good size with her colour being clear but not bright and fur being plushy. Kelly's female had the clearer colour but the silky fur was quite open, she also had good size and conformation.

Quite surprisingly the 3 young males had three 1st ribbons. David and Aileen had the best of the 3 with a very nice young medium dark chin at just 4 months he had a very strong silky fur and reasonably bright colour, good size and conformation for his age. He became our Best young male, Best young standard and Reserve Best standard. David and Aileen's extra dark 1st at 6 months was similar to their young female being a good size and conformation with a plushy fur type but again the colour wasn't as bright as I would have liked. He was our reserve young male. James Dark 1st concluded the group at 6 ½ months he had the clearer colour with a silky fur type but was much smaller with his fur open in the neck. The 4 Adult females split into 2 pairs. James's 1st medium dark got the better of David and Aileen's 2nd both fairly generous ribbons. 1st was good size and conformation with a strong fur type that was clear but not bright colour. 2nd also a good size was way out of condition and not bright.

With 10 Adult Males we achieved 2 classes! With 5 medium darks there was a 1,2 3 for James. The 1st ribbon had the clearest colour in the class with good size and conformation with a silky but open fur compared to the 2nd who had a denser fur but not as clear with a 'velvety' sheen and at 9 months size was just OK. 3rd was larger but down on colour with a plushy fur type. David and Aileen HC were a large chin but very down on colour, Wendy French also with an HC for a much smaller chin with narrow shoulders.

The Best 2 chins were in the Dark class both from David and Aileen, 1st a very good chin with good size and blocky conformation, clear in colour, good veiling coverage and a strong silky fur complimented by a lovely guard hair and in top condition. He went on to become our Show Champion. The 2nd was larger with reasonable colour and a slightly courser fur type but still a very good chin. He became our reserve adult male and reserve adult standard. HC in the class went to James with a very small and narrow chin with a plushy fur and clear colour. The 2 extra darks had a 1st and 2nd with James's male having the better over Aileen and David's. 1st had good size and conformation, clear colour, good

veiling coverage and a plushy dense fur type. 2nd was a big blocky chin with good body weight but was slightly down on all other aspects to the 1st.

We adjourned for lunch with a good filling soup prepared by Wendy and a Scottish Region AGM before judging the mutations.

With 6 young mutations all as an AOC class we started with a 2nd ribbon for Wendy's Wilson white. An 'OK' chin but not up to a 1st due to being slightly creamy in colour and narrow across the shoulders, with reasonable fur strength. 2 No Beiges had a 1st and 2nd with Wendy's being the clearer colour over Kelly's chin, both were narrow across the shoulders, both had a good plushy fur type with Kelly's being the stronger of the 2. The 2 Black Velvets were the Best two of the group. James's was a good size chin at just over 6 months it had a more intense black colour with good veiling coverage coming down the sides became our Best young mutation and Reserve Best Mutation. Aileen and David's chin at just under 5 months was really well grown being the same size as James's with a good strong fur and it was only the intensity of the black mutant fur, that will hopefully come with age, that made the difference. To conclude the group Wendy brought along a Dark Ebony that had a 1st ribbon with a good strong silky fur type, the colour was not as intense down the sides, it was a bit on the small side with narrow conformation across the shoulders.

With 15 Adult Mutations entered it meant we had 2 classes! We started with 4 Beige. The 1st from Wendy and our reserve best adult mutation was a good blocky chin with clear colour and a strong plushy fur type in top condition. James had 2nd and 3rd ribbons. The 2nd at 7 months and 1 day had the best colour of the 4 but a weaker more open fur than Wendy's. The 3rd had a stronger denser fur but not as clear and a bit narrow in conformation. HC from Wendy was a good size but much out of condition with an open weaker fur and oxidizing colour.

The 5 Black Velvets was headed by a very good chin from Kelly. A big blocky chin with a bright intense black colour, with coverage that came right down the sides and a strong dense fur with a few paler guard hairs that was in top condition. This became our Best adult and Best Mutation and our Reserve Show Champion. Wendy had the 2nd with good coverage but not as bright or strong furred as the 1st and just ok on size. James had the 3rd and 2HC placed in order of clarity of colour. All 3 were too small but had reasonable fur strength and coverage.

An AOC class had 2 Wilson Whites with Wendy's 2nd having the better of James's 3rd. Wendy's chin was a very grey 'white' not as clear or strong furred to merit a 1st. James's was a creamy white only just over 7 months was smaller and the fur was quite open. James also had a Homo beige that was awarded a 1st with good clear bright colour with fur that was quite strong but could have been denser. Kelly brought 2 Black Pearls that received a 1st and 2nd both quite similar were reasonable size but narrow across the shoulders, good strong fur and clear white belly, with the 1st having the brighter colour. Aileen and David brought the extra dark ebony that had a 1st. Not as bright colour as the 1st Black Pearl, very intense along the back that faded down the sides and under the belly, a good size and conformation, the fur was soft down the flanks.

Congratulations to David and Aileen for winning Show Champion with their Dark Standard Male and to Kelly getting Reserve with her Black Velvet.

We soon got packed up and I was on the road by 4pm and back home in Devon just after 11pm having much better weather on the return journey- a round trip of just under 900 miles.

Stephen Helmore