

Show Report – North Region Show, Plumley, 26th Sept 2010

Judge: - Stephen Helmore

Coming up to the North Region Shows weekend break for me, staying with my law and family in Sheffield. This visit, coincided with him not returning from until the Sunday evening, making me to staying Monday and Tuesday. When I married, my wife Hazel came to several this stopped with the arrival of our This was the first show in 25 years she attended!



turns into a brother-in-however, his holiday agree to was first shows but children. has

Anyway down to business – the first show of the current season – when we came in the hall was full of enthusiastic chatter catching up after events from our dormant summer ‘hibernation’ period. All the regions have been supplied with replacement tubes for the show lights which are giving us a brighter light to judge under with a 15% improvement on intensity.

We started the show with a different procedure to colour phasing the standard chinchillas. At the Judges seminar we agreed to colour phase all the Standard Chinchillas at the start of the show with the intention to give the exhibitors a more uniform appraisal of the colour phase each of their animals belong. The process is quite simple bringing up to the show table firstly all the young chinchillas A and B groups including the Novice entries. The Judge selects a ‘marker’ chin for each colour phase – Medium, Medium-Dark, Dark - to which all the other chins are compared to select their colour phase and class. These ‘Marker’ chins are retained on the table whilst the others are returned to the show benches and then the process is repeated with groups C and D being brought up and compared to the same chins to select their colour phase.

The first class of the day were a group of 6 medium young standard females. No 1st ribbon award but 2nd for Sandy King’s 5 month old chin with clear colour and a strong fur type that was open and lacking density. The 3 Medium Darks were a good class, 1st and 2nd Ribbons both for Eddie and Richard Crutchley, 1st at 5 months had a strong silky dense fur with good neck, clear colour and of reasonable size that became Best Young female and Reserve Best Young Standard. The 2nd was only 4 days over 4 months also had a silky strong fur type, clear colour and good size for its age that will improve became Reserve Best Young Female. We had 1 Dark colour phased chin that came forward in an AOC class from Kerry Bradburn that received a 2nd award, good size, strong fur and clear and bright, she wasn’t in top condition.

A class of 3 Medium Dark Novice Young females had a 1st for Allan Mills, a quality chin with strong silky dense fur that could be a brighter colour, Allan had a 3rd that was a clearer colour than the 1st but the fur was much more open.

The class of 3 Medium Young Standard Males had a 1st for Eddie and Richard’s 6 month old, he was a good size and conformation, a very bright clear blue colour that still had a soft open fur on his flanks that went forward to become Reserve Best Young Standard Male. The class of 5 Medium Dark Males had a 2nd for Sandy’s chin with very good size, with a strong fur type that could have been a brighter colour and down on condition on the day. A very good class of Dark Males had a 1st for Kerry that had excellent condition and finish with a strong fur type, good colour and veiling coverage that became Best Young Standard Male and Best Young Standard, Kerry also had 2nd with excellent coverage but not the finish of the 1st.

The Adult Standard Females had a class of 4 Medium Darks with 1st and 2nd awards to Kerry with 2 very large females with good strong fur, the 2nd had a clearer blue colour but the 1st had better

conformation and condition on the day that became the Best Adult Female. We then had an AOC class of 1 Medium, 2 Darks and 2 Extra-Darks with James Buchan receiving a 2nd for a large Dark female that down in colour and condition on the day. The Extra Darks had a 1st and 2nd for Eddie and Richard's females that were both good chins with good coverage, the 1st had clear bright colour, silky fur that was finishing over the hips that became Reserve Best Adult Standard Female. The 2nd had longer fur was not as bright or in condition.

From the 10 Adult Standard Males we had a class of 6 Darks. 1st to Eddie and Richard with a very good blocky male, good colour and finish having the decision over Kerry's male with better veiling coverage but down on colour and conformation to the 1st. The 1st became Reserve Adult Male and Reserve Best Adult Standard. The AOC class had 2 Medium-Darks with another 2nd for James with my comments being 'a quality animal with nothing excelling' however the 1st from the 2 Extra-Dark Males that was exhibited by Kerry was excellent in all departments, a blocky male, silky strong fur with good colour that had excellent veiling coverage. He became Best Adult Male, Best Standard Adult, Best Standard Animal and Reserve Best In Show.

After a splendid buffet lunch provided by North Region Members, we resumed with a class of 3 Young Mutation Wilson Whites with a 2nd to Kerry's big blocky chin, priming with fur on sides and rump laying back.

The 4 Beiges also had a 2nd for Wendy French that was small for 6 ½ months but had reasonably good conformation, colour and fur type.

Five Deutsch Violets had a 1st for Eddie and Richard's chin with a good bright colour, strong fur and conformation that was Reserve Best Young Mutation.

In the AOC class we had a 1st for Eddie and Richard's Black Velvet that was a very good type, blue colour, reasonably good coverage that will develop down the sides that became Best Young Mutation. 2nd and 3rd ribbons for Wendy's Pink Whites that had a soft fur type. We had 8 Novice Young Mutations with the highest award being a 2nd for Allan's Wilson White that was 6 months a good size with strong fur requiring a brighter 'Persil' white colour.

The 10 Adult Mutations had a class of three Deutsch Violets with 1st ribbon to Eddie and Richard's chin that was a good blocky animal with reasonably strong fur and colour. We then had a class of 4 very good Black Velvets. The 1st from Eddie and Richard was an excellent chin, very bright blue colour, my notes had 'a very velvety fur' meaning it had an intense colour and heavy density. This chin went on to become Best Adult Mutation, Best Mutation, and had a real battle with Kerry's standard to become Best in Show. 2nd in the class was another good chin from James that was a big animal but didn't have the coverage or brightness of the 1st. In the AOC class, Kerry had a 2nd award for a large Wilson White with strong fur.

We then had a novice class of 2 Adult Mutations that brought up a cracker of a self black from Julie Rose with a 1st for a very good chin, a wrap around black with intense colour, but not as blue as the Young Black Velvet of Eddie and Richards, that became Reserve Best Mutation.

I was very privileged to have judged excellent animals throughout the day with the final 2 competing for Best In Show, both worthy individual champions in their own right, absolutely stunning. Congratulations to Eddie and Richard for their Black Velvet Best In Show and to Kerry's Standard receiving Reserve Best in Show. My thanks to the North Region for hosting a well attended show. To all those who worked hard in running the show on the day and who prepared and brought the buffet lunch and all those who came and supported a very good show.

Stephen Helmore