

Show Report – Southern Region Show, Bugbrooke, 13th Feb 2011

Judge: - Kerry Bradburn

It was a pleasure to judge the Region show on the 13th what a show it turned out to be, entries which is the highest entries at a regional show for the of years.

Fortunately Bugbrooke isn't too home (about 80 miles each way) such an early start for me and

usually. The weather was rainy, cold and fairly windy but we still managed a swift traffic free journey to the hall. Everything was set up and ready and I enjoyed a welcome bacon butty whilst I waited for the animals to be benched. The colour phasing turned out to be quite a hassle at this show with many of the young chinchillas proving very difficult to separate in terms of phase, however we got there in the end and I know that senior committee members and judges are going to talk further on how we can improve and speed up this system.



Southern February, and attracting 108 number of past couple

far from my so it wasn't my father as

We started with eight Young Medium-Dark females and the 1st and Reserve Best Young Female was in good condition, ok for colour and had a nice fine, tight fur type. The second was a chin which I did prefer and I believe has more potential was very much out of prime and open furred on the day, both from Rich and Eddie Crutchley. The 3rd from Lowridge chinchillas was big and blocky but down in colour to the 1st and 2nd. Three reasonable HC's completed this class.

The four Mediums could only muster a 2nd award for Adele Robson for her big and blocky chin which was open furred and little down in colour on the day. The remainder of the class were badly suffering from lack of condition.

The four Darks were better and produced the 1st and Best Young Female award for Rich Huxley for an animal which was of fair size, blocky conformation, good clear colour and very even attractive veiling coverage. The 3rd this time for Lyn and Ron Gardner was a good female which was big and blocky with a silky fur type but very much out of prime. Condition also badly affected the remainder of the class, with 2 HC's for Heather Boncey which were good females overall with plenty of fur that looked like they had forgotten how to use their sand bath.

In the Novice Young Females a 2nd was awarded to Lisa Proctor for a female of acceptable shape and clarity with a good fur type and coverage. The 3rd from Sam Crowe and Chris Galt was bigger and blockier but more open furred and light on the hips. The Medium-Darks produced another 2nd to Lisa Proctor for a big, blocky chin needing better clarity of colour to achieve higher awards. The Mediums were awarded a 3rd and HC both for Sam and Chris for two well prepared exhibits that had fine fur but need more time to develop.

The Young Standard Male group were overall a better bunch than the females and we kicked off with another 1st for a Medium-Dark young male from Rich and Eddie that was lovely and sharp for colour, blue with a strong but open fur type that had wonderful guard

hair and was in good prime. The 3rd from Rich Huxley had the closer finer fur type but conformation and clarity was down to the 1st. The 2 HC's from Steven Helmore and Heather Boncey were both decent young males affected badly by prime on the day.

The Dark males produced a cracking male in 1st place for Rich and Eddie that progressed to take all the top honours on the day. A beautiful chin in near perfect show condition with blue, sharp, strong dense fur, lovely conformation and very even veiling coverage, lots of eye appeal and showing itself off perfectly. The 2nd on the other hand from Sandy King didn't know he was at a show and was doing roly-polies in his cage, making judging difficult - more chinny training required Sandy! He did however have good strong fur, lovely size and shape and should develop into a nice male. We then had an AOC class of to Extra-Darks and two Mediums.

The Extra-Darks 1st was another lovely male in reasonable show condition but was again sharp for colour, with a lovely full neck, good fur length, and a very attractive scattering of silky strong guard hairs. This male followed the 1st ribbon Dark to become Reserve Best Standard in show for Eddie and Richard. I also really liked the 2nd from the same herd which had very even veiling coverage, a silky plushy fur type, a sharp blue colour and plenty of eye appeal but finish was unfortunately lacking.

The Mediums lacked the extra sparkle to be awarded a 1st but a 2nd for a blocky young male with a strong but open fur type, and a HC that had been well prepared but needed more width in the neck and shoulders but was ok for colour.

We had 4 novice young males and I awarded a 3rd to a chin with blocky shape and clear colour; also a HC for a chin which was well prepared but long, necky and not the desired shape, all for Sian Allcoat. We also had a 2nd for Julie Rose which was of decent overall quality with fine fur and fair colour.

After judging for Best Young Standard we enjoyed the usual superb lunch provided by Pat and her team and after 45 minutes we resumed with the Adult Standard Females.

The Medium-Darks produced a 1st for Rich and Eddie who was a big, blocky female with strong fur, clear in colour but lacked eye appeal. The 3rd from Georgie Busher was also big and blocky with plenty of fur but condition was lacking.

The Darks 1st was a lovely female for Rich and Eddie with gorgeous blocky conformation, fair size, strong fur with good clarity, nice white belly in perfect show condition on the day, she went on to take Best Adult Standard. A 2nd and 3rd was also awarded for two females of good general quality with nice fur types and the 3rd ribbon potentially the better of the two but the most out of prime.

The Adult Males were the most disappointing group for me as it did contain animals of quality but none were really in show condition.

The Medium-Darks produced the 1st and Reserve Adult Male which was big and blocky, ok for colour but choppy uneven fur over the hips for Rich and Eddie, with the second from Steven Helmore of good quality and the better animal overall but very poor show condition made it impossible to compete. Looking beyond condition the animal had masses of strong dense fur of good length and lovely size and shape. An AOC class of 2 Extra-Darks produced the Best Adult Male of the day for Rich and Eddie for a big blocky well furred, good all-rounder but very much out of prime. Novice adult males were awarded a 3rd for Sian Allcoat for a well furred chin with fair colour which needed to be bigger and blockier. The HC for Chris and Sam was the blockier example but was open furred and a flat steely colour. We

also a 3rd award in the Mediums for Sam and Chris that was blocky and chunky but with a coarse open fur type.

The Young Mutations started off on a high with a lovely class of Beiges with all 5 exhibits gaining awards. The 1st had lots of high quality attributes that makes for a lovely chinchilla, my only criticism was I would prefer more blueness in this animal. Excellent size and conformation, a very good volume of strong fine dense resilient fur and in good prime. This chinchilla eventually going on to win Reserve Show Champion for Sandy King. The 2nd from Rich and Eddie was also a good Beige in prime with plenty of strong upright fur, even veiling coverage but down in colour to the 1st. The 3rd from Lyn and Ron also deserves a mention for a young baby which wasn't too far behind the 1st and 2nd with lovely conformation, nice fine fur but lacking finish.

We had a class of 4 young Sullivan Violets with Steven Helmore taking 1st and 3rd. The 1st being by far the best furred with good intense colour and attractive satin finish.

Three Black Velvets produced the Reserve Best Mutation winner for Rich and Eddie for a 5 month old promising black with good coverage, fair size and conformation, strong plushy fur and sharp colour. The 2nd from Georgie was a bigger blockier example but the colour, intensity and finish were down to the 1st.

Five AOC's produced a 1st for a single Deutsch Violet for Rich and Eddie, again another promising youngster with eye appeal, good intensity of colour and blocky shape. Also a 1st for Paul Spooner's Wilson White which was a real teddy bear style chin, blocky, lovely strong fur and guard hair but unfortunately no blueness. Heather Boncey gained a 2nd for a dense furred white which was creamy in colour. Pink Whites only produced a 2nd for a young baby from Lowridge chinchillas which had very soft baby fur lying flat over the hips and acceptable size, conformation and colour. The 3rd from Heather Boncey was blocky but still has soft fur over the hips and was a little too creamy in colour.

An AOC class of Novice Young Mutations gave us a 2nd for a Sullivan Violet for Lisa Proctor which was large and blocky but woolly and a little down in colour. A HC for a Wilson White for Julie Rose which was well prepared but needed much improved clarity, conformation and fur strength to do better. Another ribbon for Lisa Proctor, this time a 3rd for her Black Velvet which had fair intensity of colour, ok size and was reasonably black in the neck. The Brown Velvets were awarded a 2nd for Sam and Chris for a well furred, fairly well covered youngster who unfortunately was down in colour. Another ribbon this time a 3rd for Chris and Sam for a young blocky Beige which was well furred but looked to have oxidised a little.

The Adult Mutations gave me a class of five Deutsch Violets with four gaining ribbons. The 1st and 2nd both for Rich and Eddie were good sized, blocky examples with good clear colour and nice plushy fur, both lacking finish on the day. The 3rd and HC both from Lyn and Ron were of good size and had a dense fur type but lacked in conformation and were down in clarity of colour. Two Black Velvets gained a 1st for Rich and Eddie for a chin which had clearly gone past its best, but cannot be denied as being a quality animal and won the group prize - big and blocky, masses of fur, still fairly sharp for colour with just a slight greyness in the neck. The 3rd from Rich Huxley was also fairly sharp for colour and black through the neck but was some way behind the 1st in size and veiling coverage over the hips and flanks. A 3rd for a single Beige from Georgie who was a big teddy bear style chin but had oxidised and was past its best.

We rounded off the show with five AOC Novice Adult Mutations all gaining a ribbon. A 3rd for a Pink White from Julie Rose which was blocky and well prepared but open furred and down in colour. A 2nd for a Wilson White from Sam and Chris which was beautifully prepared and had a good length of dense fur but needed better clarity and conformation to achieve higher awards. A 1st for the same herd for a Black Velvet which had fair size and conformation, dense fur and good clarity. Then to finish off, two Brown Velvets from Sam and Chris, the 1st having the tighter, finer fur and the 2nd having a more open coarse fur type with better veiling but both looking to have oxidised somewhat which is something that browns/ beiges do suffer from.

When judging for best at the end of the show the Young Standard Male stood out and won the GSC award with something to spare, the Beige deserved the Reserve Show Champ award just pipping the Reserve Standard. My warmest congratulations to Rich and Eddie for the Show Champion and Sandy for the Reserve, also to anyone else who has success on the day I hope you feel rewarded for your hard work.

I would also like to add something while considering the phrase "hard work". At the end of the show we learned that this was the 50th consecutive 1st Std Breeders Award for Rich and Eddie over the last 9 years - A wonderful achievement that could only be earned through hard work and dedication to the chinchilla and you should both be very proud.

My conclusion was that I enjoyed the show and it was a pleasure to judge at Bugbrooke for the Southern region. It was apparent throughout the day that we had some high quality animals, but unfortunately many of the exhibits seemed to miss that elusive blueness that we all strive so hard to achieve (and I generally find it easy to see). Everyone who judges at Bugbrooke is aware (and commented to me that day) that the colour scheme of pink walls, red curtains and a wood panelled ceiling is not conducive for judging levels of blueness in our animals.

However, Bugbrooke is a splendid venue and all you can say is that it is the same and fair for everyone taking part. It is hard enough to find good halls let alone pick the decorating scheme inside them, however those chins who had that elusive sparkle on the day really stood out and that is what we should all strive to produce.

Kerry Bradburn – NCS Judge