

## Show Report – Southern Show, Bugbrooke, 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2014

### Judge: - Richard Crutchley

I was delighted to attend the Southern Region show at Bugbrooke, and after a speedy and uneventful drive, I arrived to see many longstanding friends and also several new faces and a really decent turnout of over 80 chins – very pleasing indeed given the Scottish region had an event on the same day of similar scale. Of further encouragement were the number of new/novice members present, which is of course very encouraging for the future of the NCS. My absence from exhibiting due to family commitments has meant this was only the second NCS event I have attended his season, and it is true to say I really enjoyed my chinchilla/NCS day out.

There were 15 Novice entries in the show, all in the mutation classes. I guess first and foremost I should comment to our new members that in order to breed **quality mutations**, you need **quality standards**, so please be mindful that when building and improving your herd, that you make space for the standard chinchilla of high show quality!!!

After colour phasing of the young standards we started the show with the young standard females, AOC Class, which yielded six chins, two of each from three colour phases. In the Medium colour phase I awarded a 2<sup>nd</sup> ribbon to Andrew Lee's youngster which was very big and blocky, but with soft fur tending to lie backwards. In the Medium-Darks a 1<sup>st</sup> for the chin from Stephen Helmore, being of brighter clarity and colour, of even veiling and with a strong fur type in fairly good prime. This female became Best Young Standard Female.

The Darks gave a 2<sup>nd</sup> ribbon to Stephen Helmore for his sharp and bright female with even veiling, but which had shorter fur in the centre of the back and a slightly muddy belly colour. A third also for Georgie Busher for her longer furred chin which had good density and a strong fur type but was down in colour to the 2<sup>nd</sup> ribbon winner.

A few more Young Standard males allowed for some dedicated colour phases, although I started with four chins in two phases from the AOC Class. In the Medium phase a 2<sup>nd</sup> for a very young male from Andrew Lee which had a silky fur type but which was soft over the hips and rump (baby fur) with a break in veiling over the hips. Time will help this chin improve! The Medium Darks

brought a 1<sup>st</sup> for Andrew for his bright and blue male, with silky strong fur type and good density, again not finished over the hips and rump (as again very young at just over 4 months) but in better condition than the Medium, all told.

The Dark class brought three chins giving 1-2-3 ribbons! The first for Denise Oaten was blue and clear, had silky strong fur type of good density and had eye appeal. This male, although slightly pale over the hips was of quality and went on to become Best Standard – very well done! Second in this class was from Heather Boncey (on her welcome return to the show world!) for her strong furred chin of lovely shape and size, of fair density and again quite bright in clarity of colour. This chin followed the 1<sup>st</sup> to become Reserve Best Standard – a great result! The Extra-Dark class yielded a 2<sup>nd</sup> and two HC's for Andrew Lee, with the most successful of these animals being silky furred, but not in top show condition on the day...

Onto the Adults, and again after colour phasing we started with three colour phases of Adult Standard Females. In the Medium phase was a clear and bright chin with a nice clear belly, but unfortunately a softer and open fur type pushed it to a third ribbon for Sandy King. The Medium Darks brought the group champion for Sian Allcoat for her well prepared female of good size and conformation, strong but not silky fur and perhaps a little open. Second in the class went to Denise Oaten for her big and blocky chin which again had a strong but not silky fur type, good density but was down in colour to the first. The Reserve Best Adult Female went to Sandy King for her dark female of fair size and good conformation, again with a strong fur type, clear white belly but not in top condition and showing some dullness on the day.

Onto the Adult Standard males. Firstly I took the AOC class which had one Medium Dark chin and two Darks. No award for the MD but a 1<sup>st</sup> in the Darks for Denise Oaten for her clear and bright chin which had good size but was open furred, requiring more density. This chin went on to become Res BASM and Reserve Best Adult Standard – well done again. The BASM and Best Adult Standard award came from the 1<sup>st</sup> awarded to Sian Allcoat for her Extra-Dark male. This chin was overall very nice, being of fair size, excellent conformation, even veiling coverage and well prepared strong but not silky fur. Overall a good chin but down in colour which meant it could not compete with the young standard males for the top awards.

Some nice chins gained good awards today and I was pleased that the specials were spread around all the keen exhibitors!

After a lovely baked potato (with trimmings) lunch we pressed on with a large contingent of mutations. The first class brought 1-2-3-HC for four Pink Whites. The first was for Sian Allcoat for her clear chin of good size and conformation, with strong fur type and reasonable density. Second was again to Sian for a clear and bright chin which was blocky but had woolly open fur compared to the first. Third in class went to Denise Oaten for the best furred chin but which was too lemony in colour.

Next came a good class of Beiges, yielding a full suite of ribbons. After a very short time I picked out the eventual 1<sup>st</sup>, Best Young Mutation, Best Mutation and eventual Grand Show Champion. Barry Thornton's Beige was "The best chin I had seen up to that point", being silky furred, good density, very well prepared, bright and blue, of excellent veiling coverage, and a clear winner on the day. Congratulations to Barry who brought home his first Show Champion award – very well deserved for a man who gives a huge amount of time to the Society! Second in the class went to Sian Allcoat for her clear but not so blue chin which was of good size and fair density. Third for Sandy King for her bright and blue Beige with a silky fur type but smaller and not in such good overall condition as the winners.

The Sullivan Violets came next, with no first, but a second to Andrew Lee for his clear and bright chin with a nice sheen about its fur, but with a softer fur type which cost it the higher award. Third and HC ribbons also to Andrew for larger and blockier chins which again had softer fur but a drop in clarity of colour to the second ribbon winner.

Dark phase chins came next in the form of the Self Blacks. A first for Denise Oaten for her extra-dark, intense and well veiled chin which was clear but not so blue, and of good size and conformation.

The main show AOC class gave a 1<sup>st</sup> for Denise for her Wilson White which was clear with strong fur type, of good size and shape but open furred.

The final class of young mutations were seven novice chins in one large AOC class. I gave full comments on the day so will not repeat these again, but of particular note was a young Black Velvet from Lorraine Prince. This was a lovely young chin, just five months, showing silky strong stand up fur of real density, excellent blue-black coverage, sharp white belly colour and prepared very well indeed. It turned out this chin was Lorraine's first foray into the show scene

after breeding chins for 22 years! What a start!!! Excellent to have bred such a good quality youngster and all bodes well for the future! Needless to say Lorraine was absolutely made up with her eventual Reserve Show Champion award.

Also of note was a Wilson White from Craig and Karly Donkersley which had silky strong fur type, of good size and shape but with a softer baby fur not yet primed through. They also had second with another Wilson White which was again large but not so clear and bright as the first. Two Sullivan Violets gave 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> awards for Craig and Karly, and Cameron Holmes. These chins were blocky in conformation but both were missing clarity and blueness.

The Adult Mutations finished off the last of the groups, and the first phase judged was a class of Beiges. First for Denise Oaten for her very large and blocky animal with a silky fur type but a little open and not in top show condition. Second for Sandy King's strongly furred and dense animal with good veiling, but out of condition on the day and a little dull compared to the winner.

The Black Velvets brought a very large, blocky, intensely black chin from Sandy King. This animal had heavy density and was well veiled, with good clarity but not so blue, but well deserving of its Best Adult Mutation award! Second went to Denise Oaten for a dense chin with some brightness, but a little of condition with loose fur spoiling the overall effect, but still allowing for Reserve Best Adult Mutation.

The main show AOC class gave a 1<sup>st</sup> for Sian Allcoat for her Pink White. This chin had a silky fur type of good density, but was perhaps a little too peachy. A second ribbon for Georgie Busher for a very large and exceptionally blocky Sullivan Violet which unfortunately wasn't as clear and blue as I would have liked. Also a second for a Brown Velvet which was otherwise a lovely chin but which had oxidised, again from Georgie.

The final class of the day were the Adult Novice Mutations, and a first award for Lorraine Prince for her very nice Brown Velvet. This chin was bright, well veiled, intense colour and well prepared, but overall too small to go on to higher awards... Also a 1<sup>st</sup> for Cameron Holmes for his Sullivan Violet which again had a lovely blue clear colour, but again was too small to progress to special awards... Jane Jones exhibited four chins in this Novice AOC class, taking home a second, two thirds and a HC for her Whites, Sullivan Violet and Self Black – well done! The best of these chins was her Wilson White which had good size and shape,

was clear in colour and had fine dense fur in the centre of the back where it was in the best of prime.

Congratulations to all the Breeders Awards winners. This is a somewhat unheralded award of massive significance! Congratulations to all those who won for taking home these awards – it takes a great deal of commitment, skill and enthusiasm to field strong show teams which can bring about these awards. It demonstrates good overall levels of quality across several animals and this should be celebrated more!!! Well done all of you!

Finally, congratulations to the Southern members and committee for staging such a good show, ably supported by several West Midlands committee members and exhibitors. Great to see such good and happy collaboration and a great chance for Southern Region to re-establish itself to serve our members in the South! Many thanks for inviting me to judge!

**Rich Crutchley – NCS Senior Judge**