

Judges Report – Chieveley 19th February 2017

Judge – Georgie Busher

Arriving at The village hall in Chieveley on 19th February, I was struck once again by what a nice place it is, light and attractively decorated, with comfortable seating and an excellent car park – no wonder it is always so heavily booked, and our Southern Region shows are so well attended. It was great to meet up with old friends too, and to see the “usual suspects” putting up tables and lights and getting everything ready in the kitchen, which included a welcome cup of coffee and a bacon buttie for starters.

It was a bit unnerving judging my own Region’s show. I knew virtually everyone in the room, all looking at me with expectant and smiling faces, I found it difficult to be tough on anyone’s animals, so if I was over generous with the ribbons, that’s why!

We started as usual with the Young Standard Females and a Medium/Dark class. This produced a first for Heather Boncey’s big, blocky animal, which could have been clearer but had nice sharp white belly fur, a second for the Donkersley’s small animal with nice tight fur and good colour, and a third for a rather loose-furred chin which was dull and lacked clarity, which also belonged to Heather.

The Mediums was won by a large animal of reasonable colour, good coverage, and lots of fur which tended to be rather open, which came from the Donkersleys. There was a second for a chinchilla from Sian Allcoat, which didn’t have the eye appeal of the first, and two Highly Commendeds, one belonging to Andrew Lee and the other to Stephen Helmore. One Lacked clarity so was off colour, but had good quality fur and density, the other also had nice fur quality, but was too small, even for a youngster.

There were two Dark animals, one from Dave Green and the other from Heather, very alike and a nice pair. The first, belonging to Dave was a good size, had good coverage and density, and a clear underbelly. The second was a little narrow in the shoulders and had shorter fur.

There were Two Novices in this class, the that M/D received a third ribbon, was just four months and thus very small, but had good fur and a fair colour. The Medium novice received an H/C, having nice strong fur and good coverage but was priming and needed sharper colour. The M/D belonged to Collette Harris and the Medium to Cameron Holmes.

Heathers M/D Young Female won Best YF with the Donkersleys’ Medium in Reserve.

There were fewer Young Standard Males, with the Donkersleys winning both the Medium and the M/D classes. The Medium had good silky fur, was a good size and was in really good condition. The first M/D was big, well-furred with a good finish and nice tight fur, and the second was also owned by the Donkersleys. Heather showed two Darks, one of which won a second ribbon, being a nice animal with good coverage but priming over the hips.

There were two Novices in this class, both shown by Collette. The second was a good size and in condition, the H/C had a lot of loose fur and was very fluffy, but was a good blue colour.

The Best Young Standard Male was the medium Dark which also went on to take Best Young Standard. The 2nd M/D was Reserve Young Stand Male, so congratulations Craig and Karly.

Adult Standard Females.

Andrew Lee had two ribbons in this class of Mediums. A third for a small, very young chin with reasonable fur and a fair clear colour but not in overall good condition, and an H/C for a better sized blocky animals which lacked clarity and was priming.

In the Medium/Darks there was also a third for Andrew, for a big chin, again down on colour and not in condition. In the Dark colour phase there were a first and a third for Craig and Karly, so they automatically won Best Adult Female with a nice big animal, with clear colour and eye appeal and good coverage, in good condition. The third was a good animal with potential, having good density and clear colour. There were no Novice adult standard females or males.

The Medium/Dark Adult Standard Males produced a very nice 1st ribbon winner for Lorraine Prince. It was a good size, well-furred, a good colour and in fair condition though breaking slightly on the hips. There was also a H/C for Andrew which was priming but had good potential having good clarity. In the Dark Class Siân produced two good animals, both of satisfactory size and conformation, but the second was let down by off colour underbelly fur. There was also a third ribbon for Stephen Helmore, his chin was tinged and therefore unfortunately down in colour, but had good strong fur and was in good condition. There was a second ribbon for a Novice chinchilla shown by ? Harris which was a good size, but priming with uneven fur length, and rather down in colour.

Lorraine's Medium Dark was best Adult standard Male and Sian's Dark Male Reserve. Lorraine then went on to win Best adult standard, with Carly and Craig's Dark Adult female as Reserve. The Best Standard Animal was Lorraine's very nice male, and Reserve was the Donkersleys' Medium Dark Young Male. A real success for breeders who have only fairly recently been promoted to the main bench.

We then adjourned for a very good hot lunch, with grateful thanks to our two young cooks.

I started the Young Mutations with four Wilson Whites. Sian had a first and a second for her two, the first had good strong fur and was a nice size with acceptable colour. The second was bluer, and more of a silver with the standard fur integrated with the white, and not as big as the first, and there was a H/C for a third chinc which was down on colour but had good size and fur.

There were eight beiges, producing four ribbons. The first went to Lorraine for a chinc with good conformation, size, and colour and with a very nice fur tyoe. The other three all belonged to Dave. The second down on colour on the first animal. But the size and conformation were satisfactory. The third was in better condition but the colour was not good, and the H/C was a bit lucky as my notes say that while it was a good size its fur was rough and needed improvement!

The Sullivan Violets were a disappointment. As I said at the time, it is perfectly possible to breed good ones but these were all small and weak furred. Stephen got a second for an animal which was too small and slightly tinged, the Donkersleys got a third for one which was a bit blockier but whose fur lay flat with no strength in it, and there was an H/C for Andrew's animal which was a better colour.

There were four black velvets, all good. The first, for Heather was a good size and a nice blue balck colour with nice silky fur and good coverage coming right down over the flanks. The second, also Heather's, was possibly younger but still had good blocky conformation and was well covered. Sian also had a good third ribbon for a nice animal which was just a little lacking in coverage on the flanks.

There was a large AOC class, and my notes are of the one word variety! 2 sapphires, one 3rd ribbon, G. Colour, poor finish. Wilson White H/C. Swirl in gritzen area if back. Eb/white, Great big chin, lots of fur, first. Pink white, (2), nice fur and good colour 1st Also an H/C, but a bit apricot in colour. Beige/violet 1st, very nice, good colour, fur and size. Homo/beige, big, good fur, needs better condition, 2nd. Ultra violet 2nd good size, not much violet evident, reasonable fur. Brown velvet 1st, V.nice animal, big, blocky, good coverage, good blue colour. Self black, not enough black mutated fur H/ C. Charcoal (2) 1st good big chin, well covered, nice quality fur, needs blueness. H/C/., small, bright, not in show condition, good potential if grows on.

Two Novice animals, both Cameron Holmes', both firsts. Sullivan violet, Very good big animal with good strong fur and nice colour and an attractive sheen. Beige, lovely big chin, very good blue colour in excellent condition., and very well prepared.

This beige was Best Young Mutation and the Reserve was Andrew's Brown Velvet. Well done, both.

Adult mutations

Wilson whites. A first for Andrew's very good mature animal, with great conformation and quality fur, and a good clear blue colour. Hannah Mitchell's second was a good animal, but slightly down on colour on the first. Andrew's third chin had fur which tended to lie down flat, especially over the hips, and the Donkersleys' H/C was all white with no standard ticking, but unfortunately rather yellow, as it had good strong fur, well finished.

Next up was a class of three pink whites, where Andrew had all the ribbons. The first was lovely, big and clear, with lots of fur, strong over the hips and very well prepared. The second was difficult to judge as it was very jumpy. It was smaller than the first, and not such a good colour, and narrower in the shoulders. The H/C was well down on colour on the other two.

There were four Sullivan Violets, and again the three ribbon winners belonged to Andrew. They were all relatively small for adults, the first ribbon winner being the biggest, it also had good clear colour. The second also had good colour, but very weak fur. The third was narrow and weak. I think the only thing to do with the violets is to mate them with good big strong furred standards and then breed the half blood progeny together to get a better type.

There were some lovely Black Velvets, and looking along the row I was impressed with their overall coverage and the strength of the blue-black colour of the mutated fur. It was quite a job sorting them out but close inspection revealed small differences in quality between them, and Sian's lovely big animal came out top. A well covered animal of excellent colour, and good size. The second, belonging to Lorraine, was also very sharp for colour and in very good show condition. The third, again from Sian, was another well-furred bright chin, and there were three H/Cs, all of good quality and size with nice silky fur and varying degrees of finish. A very good class and a pleasure to judge.

There were not so many AOCs this time, and no first ribbons, but a second for Sian's Brown Velvet, good fur and colour, but a little on the small side for an adult. There was a third for Dave's Brown Velvet, which was a lot bigger than the first, but badly down on colour and tinged. The three H/Cs were a Beige, off colour, a self black small and woolly but a good colour, and a homo-beige, also small with open fur but a good colour.

Sian's Black Velvet was a worthy Best Adult Mutation with Andrew's Pink White as Reserve. The Black Velvet then became Best Mutation and much to his delight Cameron's young Beige was Reserve. The Black Velvet finally took Grand Show Champion for Sian, and Lorraine's Adult standard

male was Reserve. So many congratulations to them all, they were good animals and worthy winners.

Georgie Busher
Senior Judge