

Judges Report- West Midlands and Wales 23.02.2020

Standard Judge – Sian Allcoat Mutation Judge- Stephen Helmore

Standard Report – Siân Allcoat

The day started quite normal, with the drive to Coventry being a relatively short one for myself. It was a new hall for the NCS and it was huge, so for the show, we all congregated at one end to make it feel cosier. Personally, I liked the hall and it had the advantage of having a large amount of parking just outside some double doors that led to the hall. That meant for people with chins, it was easy to carry them in and out of the hall and for me, being chef as well as judge, it meant that I could transport the large amount of food and kitchen equipment relatively easy.

In particular, I would like to thank Holly Woolliscroft who was an enormous help in the kitchen. In fact, she cooked most of the breakfast for everyone. I would also like to thank everyone that helped serve up lunch, which I was struggling to manage at the time. Anyway, onto the show itself.

After colour phasing the standards, we started with a group of Medium Dark Young Females. The 1st and 2nd animals in this class were both excellent females, with little to choose between them and both belonging to Kerry Bradburn. The 1st ribbon winner had lovely silky upright fur, was in excellent condition and was rather a large girl! The 2nd was similar in many respects, it too was well prepared, and like the winner of the class, was blue with a lovely white belly. If I was possible to award two 1^{sts} in a class, this animal would have received a 1st as well. The 3rd animal in the class, belonged to Heather Bouncey. It was of decent colour but the fur could have been a tad longer. However, it was one to keep to see how it develops. The two HC's were again from Heather. Both were of reasonable colour, but A22 was somewhat wedgy in conformation.

We then moved onto the Dark females which was a class of 4 very good animals. The first in the group went to Denise Oaten. This was a lovely female that went on to win the award of Best Young Standard female. It had lovely long upright fur, was of good colour, size and conformation and had attractive guard hair. It had been very well prepared, so many congratulations Denise. The 2nd in the class belonged to Kerry. The colour was probably a bit sharper than the 1st ribbon, but did not have the long fur of the winner. However, it was still very much a top-class animal and it was very close between the two, with much toing and froing between them. This animal went on to win the Reserve Best Young female. The third in the group, again belonged to Kerry. Once more a very good animal of very good colour and a lovely white belly. However, it was not in top show condition on the day. The HC for Kerry was a good colour, had been well prepared and was of acceptable size.

The Medium Class consisted of just one animal and that achieved a 2nd for Heather. It could not be awarded a first since, although it did have good upright fur on the back, the fur was soft on the sides and it lacked veiling on the hips. Also, for 6½ months old, it could have been larger.

We had two Novice Young Standard Females, both from Charlotte Compton. These were awarded a 2nd and a 3rd. The best of the two had good colour being blue with a lovely white belly, unfortunately, it was priming, so could not achieve a 1st on the day of the show. The third, was not as good in colour as the 2nd although it was still reasonable, the conformation was just about acceptable but it did lack size.

Next up, came the Young Standard Males and this is where things got really interesting, but unfortunately, not for the right reasons! As the judging was progressing, it was certainly obvious to me and I suspect others, that I was not well. I was increasingly struggling to visually focus, concentrate and speak. This was accompanied by light headiness and the feeling that I was going to

faint. However, carry on I did and although as a result of this, my judges notes are somewhat sketchy, hopefully, they are reasonably accurate!

We started with the class of Darks with three entries, the 1st and 2nd being awarded to Kerry and the 3rd to Andrew Lee. The 1st was a lovely chin having excellent size and conformation with good colour and a lovely fur type. The 2nd male was also a nice animal of good colour, but did not have the size nor conformation of the 1st ribbon winner. Sadly, the 3rd animal was not in show condition, the fur was choppy and it was somewhat down in colour.

The Medium Dark class had just one animal but this achieved a worthy 1st for Denise. It was a well-prepared, blue animal with a lovely fur type. There was also 1 Medium Young Male which belonged to Stephen Helmore. This could only be awarded a HC, mainly because it was out of condition and the fur was breaking on the hips, it was also rather “wedgy” in shape.

The Extra Dark class gave us not only the Best Young Standard male and Reserve Best Young Standard male; but these two animals went all the way to become GSC and RGSC. Both were exceptional males and it was a close call on the day between the two. The 1st and eventual GSC had a beautiful fur type being silky and dense, it was very blue with a lovely white belly. As I said, there was little between the 1st and 2nd, the 2nd being another exceptional animal with an attractive colour and lovely silky fur. Both deserved their positions in the final results and, as myself and Stephen judged for Best in show and Reserve Best in Show, little discussion was needed between us and it was a fairly straight forward decision. As Stephen said, they were two cracking standards. Congratulations Kerry! The HC from Andrew in the Extra Dark class was not in the best condition and its conformation was heading towards being wedgy.

Unfortunately, there now had to be short breaks during the judging for me to sit and try to “recover”. Despite this, it was agreed that I should take my time and plough on and at least finish judging the remaining standard animals; of which there was 7 Adult Females and 7 Adult Males. The Medium Dark class of 4, produced the Best and Reserve Best Adult Standard Females. The 1st, once more for Kerry, was an exceptionally big and blocky female that had lovely blue silky fur. A worthy winner of the group, who was not only awarded the Best Adult Female, but also the Best Adult Standard. The 2nd animal in this class belonged to Heather, it was a very good female but was somewhat out of condition. However, it was still good enough to get Reserve in the Adult Female group so well-done Heather. The 3rd from Denise, was also a good animal but suffered from not being in top condition and the fur was somewhat open on the hips. The HC from Stephen was not in the best condition while being somewhat on the small size and rather wedgy in shape.

The two animals in the Dark colour phase, produced a 1st and 2nd for Denise and Kerry (in that order); while Hannah received a HC in the Medium colour phase. Both Kerry’s and Denise’s females were very good chins, both were large and blocky and of good colour, both being blue with lovely white bellies. On the day, Denise’s chin just pipped 1st place in this class ahead of Kerry’s. Unfortunately, the HC in the Medium class was somewhat down in colour and therefore, could not achieve a higher award.

Next up was the Adult Standard Males, with 5 in the Dark class and 2 in the Extra Dark. Of the 5 Dark Adult males, 3 awards were given with a 1st, 2nd and 3rd going to Kerry. The winner in the group had the best colour in the class, being very blue. It had good size and conformation and a lovely fur type. This chin deservedly walked away with the titles of Best Adult Standard Male and Reserve Best Adult Standard in the show. The 2nd animal was equal to the 1st in many of the qualities we judge for, but was not quite as blue as the winner. The 3rd ribbon winner was of decent size, conformation and colour, but the fur was quite soft and did not always bounce back.

In the Extra Dark class, the 1st from Kerry was for another lovely male with strong upright fur, in fact, this chin was good enough to go on to become the Reserve Best Adult Male. Denise's male was given a 3rd, it was a reasonably good animal but was not of the calibre of the winner of the group.

After the judging of the Standards, it was agreed that I should step down as judge with Stephen kindly taking over in the afternoon for the judging of the mutations. Together, we then judged the top awards of GSC and RGSC. I would like to extend my appreciation not only to Stephen who saved the day, but also to all the exhibitors and audience. I feel really bad about the fact that I was not on top form and as was obvious to see, I was struggling to speak (very unusual for me!). The care and concern shown by everyone was very touching and I hope I did not ruin the day for anyone. I am pleased to report that I am now fully recovered. I am unsure what was wrong, but that evening after resting for a while I tested my blood pressure, suspecting that it may be too low (a problem I suffer from very occasionally). To my surprise, even though it was some hours later and I was feeling somewhat better, it was extremely high (170/95), which is totally off the scale for me. I did feel woozy and light headed for a few days afterwards, but I am now very much back to normal. Thanks again to everyone for being so understanding and supportive.

Mutation Report – Stephen Helmore

It was clear to all present that Sian was not at all well whilst judging the Standard chins. But Sian being Sian she was determined to complete the morning session. So, my stepping in to judge the mutations was not unexpected to those present. It was also agreed that the few mutations I had brought could be assessed in their relevant classes.

First up were 4 Wilson Whites. Kerry Bradburn's chin headed the class with clear white colour, reasonably good size and conformation that still had a soft baby fur. Heather Boncey's 2nd had a much stronger fur type with a clear 'grey' white colour, conformation was down by being a bit narrow across the shoulders. Denise Oaten had 3rd with good size and conformation reasonably strong fur but the colour was quite 'creamy'. Hannah Mitchell' HC was a silver white with very soft baby fur.

The 3 Beige had a 1st for Denise with a good blocky chin, clear colour and a plushy fur that was very soft down the sides. Andrew Lee brought 2nd with a clear and much darker beige colour, it was a bit small for its age and out of prime over back and hips. SH had an HC for a strong silky furred chin but colour was way down in comparison to the top two chins.

I judged Andy Marshall's Novice Wilson White next and awarded a 1st ribbon. The chin had a good strong fur type, slightly creamy in colour with good size for its age, conformation was slightly narrow across the shoulders, well-groomed and presented and in condition.

We moved onto a large AOC class of 14 with 9 different mutation colours. We started with a 1st for Kerry's Black Pearl chin, a very intense clear black colour coming down the sides to meet a clear white belly strip, being only a youngster, it was a very good type and went on to become our Reserve Best Young Mutation. 2 Brown Velvets, Kerry's 5 month chin with good size and loads of fur that was open got the 1st over Andrew's 2nd chin that had the brighter colour and strong plushy fur, the veiling coverage didn't come down the sides but a good chin. SH Pastel Charcoal 3rd reasonable for type but a lot of work to do to get improve its status for showing. 2 Charcoals with a 2nd and 3rd for SH. The 2nd was the better colour with a reasonably strong but course fur type, size ok but a bit narrow across the shoulders 3rd was down on most departments having a weaker fur and quite narrow across the shoulders. 2 Sullivan Violets from Andrew also had a 2nd and 3rd ribbons. 2nd had a reasonably clear colour, fur was a bit open and conformation narrow across the shoulders. 3rd was

very narrow with a weaker short fur in the neck. Denise brought along a Lowe recessive white, awarded a 1st ribbon, it was a good size with a clear 'Champagne' colour that had a brightness about it, fur type was reasonably strong but open in the middle of the back. 2 Black Velvets ,1st to Kerry with a large blocky chin with a beautiful dense plushy fur and a bright clear colour that had a blueness to it, my only criticism being veiling coverage not extending down the sides. This chin still became our Best Young Mutation and Reserve Best Mutation. Heather's 2nd had slightly the better coverage but was down on all other points.

The 2 Ebony chins colour phased into a Dark 1st for Denise at only 4 months had good wrap around coverage with a strong silky fur type, conformation was a bit narrow across the shoulders. Andrew's Medium Dark had a 2nd was an 'ok' ,chin it was narrow across the shoulders with, on the day, uneven fur down the sides, colour was a little 'muddy' .

2 Novice chins concluded the Young Mutations. Andy's Black /white cross at only 4 months had an attractive bright colour and showing a good strong fur type, a good little chin that received a 1st ribbon. A 1st also for Charlotte Compton with an Angora. A good size chin with reasonable fur length and strength, colour was steely and flat.

We moved onto the 17 Adult Mutations by colour phasing the 5 Ebonies with 2 medium/medium dark and 3 dark/extra dark. Denise 1st medium was a good all round chin, good size and conformation, clear colour and a reasonably dense and strong fur type. Hannah's 2nd medium dark had similar fur strength, colour was a bit muddy with good size and body weight with a 'wedgy' shape. Denise headed the extra dark self black class with a chin that had a very attractive intense black wrap around bright colour, with a shorter dense fur, conformation was ok but on the small side for an adult. Hannah's 2nd had a longer fur but not as bright as the 1st. Denise 3rd ribbon was similar to the 2nd with both being a bit narrow across the shoulders. 3 Sullivan Violets had 2nd 3rd and HC ribbons all from Andrew. 2nd and 3rd were very similar and shared the same birthday of 2/5/2019 although not knowing owner I conjectured they were siblings. Their colour not being as bright as it should put them down a place as otherwise reasonable. His HC had a stronger denser fur type but was too small. A class of 3 Black velvets had our 2 Best and Reserve Best Adult Mutations both from Kerry. The 1st was a really good chin, large and blocky, bright colour and strong intense black mutant fur with excellent coverage coming down the sides in top condition. 2nd wasn't far behind and with very similar qualities just that the coverage didn't come down the sides quite as much as the 1st who went on to become our Best Mutation. An AOC class of 6 had 4no 1sts. Kerry's Wilson White although slightly creamy, good size and conformation with reasonably strong fur type allowed it to receive a 1st ribbon. Andrew's good size Pink White's colour was clear but fur was very weak that dropped it to a 2nd ribbon. 2 Brown Velvets put Kerry's chin in 1st, just over 7 months, had good bright colour and a strong plushy fur type put it above Denise's chin that had better size and longer fur with good mutant fur coverage that was down on colour and eye appeal to Kerry's. Denise had a 1st for her Homo Beige with an excellent strong fur type for this mutation, good conformation but not overly large, slightly down on colour. Andrew's Beige also had a 1st, I really liked this chin with a good strong plushy dense fur, large and blocky, just a slight tinge in colour prevented it going further. Charlotte brought 2 more Angora in the Novice class. Her Black Velvet got a 2nd ribbon with a lot of things to improve but the basis was there with reasonable fur strength and colour ok but not bright. Her HC was not so good with a steely grey colour and a very open fur type that had no sparkle.

I went on to select Best Mutation before Sian joined me to judge for Grand Show Champion that we both agreed went to the 2 superb Extra Dark Young Standard males brought by Kerry.

Stephen Helmore

