

Judges Report – Gaydon Show, November 5th 2017

Judge – Siân Allcoat

Due to a recent house move my journey to the venue was not as short as last time (which was 2 minutes by car with a tray of hot bacon on my lap). Still it only took 20 minutes. This was just enough time to clear my head of all the recent trials and tribulation of life and to be able to relax and look forward to a day of “Chinning”. Since a number of regular exhibitors were not being able to make the show, some of the reasons being ill health (I wish you all a speedy recovery), the show was small and cosy with 55 animals, but it was lovely to see everyone who could make it. Having said that, although numbers were relatively small, practically without exception, it was a case of quality versus quantity with regards to the animals. It was fantastic to see such a high overall standard of animals from the exhibitors’ present.

After bacon sandwiches cooked by the lovely John Bradburn (thank you John), we started the colour phasing of the standards of which there were 29. We then proceeded with a class of Medium Dark Young Females.

Medium Dark Young Females:

The 1st went to Kerry Bradburn Jones for the best coloured animal in the class. It was blue, with a lovely clear white belly but unfortunately was not in the best show condition. The 2nd animal belonged to Heather Boncey. This was a good size chin and although not as blue as the winner of the class, it was still a lovely blue colour. The fur was breaking on the hips but then at just 4½ months old, it was just a baby. The “generous” third was to a female bred by Denise Oaten, a nice animal but it was slightly wedgy and on the small size for 6½ month old. It would be a case of seeing if this improved as it got older.

Medium Young Females:

The first went to A11 which belonged to Heather. This was the brightest of the three in the class. It had very good veiling and a lovely white belly and was again a good size chin for only 4½ months old. The 2nd award went to Hannah Mitchell, again a nice chinchilla of good colour, but for me it could have done with a tad more veiling in the neck to complete the look. There was a drop-in clarity for the HC for Stephen Helmore, unfortunately, it was not in the best show condition.

Dark Young Females

The winner (A39) belonged to Kerry, it was the bluest and clearest in the class. It had exceptional good dense upright fur for a 4½ month old and although it was breaking slightly on the hips, this was down to condition. Hence, it deserved to win the class and Reserve Best Young Female. The 2nd in the class, again for Kerry, was actually in better show condition than the 1st ribbon animal but was not as bright, however, still a very good chinchilla.

Extra Dark Young Females

Only one extra dark young female, but what a cracker from Kerry. It had tight, dense, plushy fur which was a beautiful blue colour and this was complemented by a lovely contrasting white belly. An exceptional young chinchilla that was awarded Best Young Standard Female and Best Young Standard.

Novice Young Standard Females (Medium)

A class of two good medium females both from Charlotte Compton that deservedly got a 1st and 2nd ribbon. Both were well prepared, of good size for young animals and had a nice clear colour. The 1st just had the edge on the 2nd in terms of colour but two very nice animals. Well done Charlotte.

Medium Young Males

Just one chin in this class which belonged to Lorraine Prince. It was awarded a 3rd. It was a bit on the small size and just needed to be bluer to achieve a higher ribbon, but then it was a very young animal and as we all know, they can change and develop with age.

Medium Dark Young Males

Two chinchillas in this class, the 1st going to Kerry for B35 and the 3rd (B26) for Heather. The first ribbon winner was a lovely big, blocky, blue animal with lovely dense upright fur. It was not in the best show condition, breaking slightly around the hips but despite this, the quality of the animal meant it deservedly got a 1st. The 3rd ribbon animal also had good clarity but it was not helped by being out of condition on the day, the size was acceptable but I would have liked it to be a bit blockier.

Dark Young Males

Two chinchillas from Kerry in this class. The winner B18 was a lovely blue, blocky chinchilla, with beautiful dense upright fur which was complemented by excellent even veiling. A well-deserved Best Young Standard Male and Reserve Best Young Standard. The 2nd in the class, also a very good chin with lovely dense fur, also had good colour but was not as bright as the winner.

Extra Dark Young Males

Again a 1st and 2nd for Kerry. The winner B41 was breaking slightly on the hip but had an excellent clear blue colour and a beautiful white belly and despite its condition, it went on to be awarded the Reserve Best Young Male. The 2nd to this animal was also a very good chinchilla, again having lovely dense fur and although still very blue, the colour did not quite match that of the 1st ribbon winner.

Medium Adult Standard Females

Just one in this class, an entry from Kerry. C11 got a 1st, it was a lovely even veiled chin with a good fur type. A big blocky female with a strong neck. She was the type that looked like she would make an excellent strong breeding female!

Medium Dark Adult Standard Females

Four in this class, the top two for Kerry and a 3rd and HC for Denise. This was one of those difficult classes to judge because there was so little to choose between the top 2 animals. Both were excellent, being big, blocky and blue with good strong upright silky fur. After much deliberation, C27 just pipped it, marginally having the better colour. This female went on to win Best Adult Standard Female. However, C17 the 2nd in the class still got her day, being brought back onto the bench for the special awards and getting a well-earned Reserve Best Adult Standard Female. Two excellent females. These girls made it a difficult job for Denise to win the class, however, her 3rd ribbon female was still a very good animal, it had really nice colour but was just breaking slightly on the hips. The HC could have been better prepared (or more likely had been rolling/messing itself up in its cage!) since the fur was breaking quite badly and had lines in it. Again, it had good colour but for me just needed to be a bit bigger and blockier.

Dark Adult Standard Females

Just one entry, again from Kerry. It was a nice blue colour but the fur was breaking around the hips. This was just down to condition and therefore it still very much deserved its 1st ribbon.

Medium Dark Adult Males

The single entry was from Denise. D23 was a nice blue animal with good conformation. The fur density was good although the fur was slightly soft, but it certainly merited a 1st.

Dark Adult Standard Males

The three in this class achieved a 1st and 2nd for Kerry and an HC for Denise. The first D12, was like a sparkling diamond! He had a beautiful blue colour with a lovely contrasting white belly. This look was completed and enhanced by its excellent even veiling and lovely dense plushy fur. This animal went right to the top, winning Grand Show Champion. As I found out after the show, this was his 3rd GSC award. Very obviously an exceptional male, even when up against a lot of other very high-quality competition. D13 the 2nd, was also a lovely animal with good size and conformation, although the veiling could have been better in the neck area. However, it just didn't have the sparkle of the winner but was obviously up against the best. The HC for Denise was slightly down on colour and could have been blockier.

Extra Dark Adult Standard Males

Two chins, both from Kerry. The 1st ribbon winner in this class was good enough to rightly go all the way to Reserve Grand Show Champion. D4 was a very clear blue animal with lovely dense upright fur. This was complemented by its good size and conformation. Another excellent male from Kerry. The 2nd was also a very good chin but its fur was not as dense and the colour not quite as good, so was unable to be put ahead of its class mate.

We then broke off for an early lunch, with me swapping my role as judge for my chef duties! We then reconvened to judge the mutations

Young Mutations

Beige

We started with 3 beiges. A 1st for Hannah, this was by far the clearest of the beiges on the table. Its' fur was a really nice clear blue colour with good density, it also had a good blocky conformation. A lovely Beige. Unfortunately, the two HC's from Stephen could not achieve a higher award because of not being in show condition on the day.

Black Velvet

Next, we went onto a class of 4 Black Velvets, a 1st for Kerry, a 2nd and HC for Lorraine and an HC for Stephen. The 1st was an excellent chin, in fact so good it went on to win Best Mutation in show. This animal although young, was of really good size, blocky with the beautiful dense blue-black fur that we are looking for in this mutation. Its show condition was also excellent. It had a very slight sign of grey in one section of its neck but I feel with a young Black this is acceptable and this will almost certainly be corrected in the next few months, if not weeks. The 2nd from Lorraine also had a band of grey in its neck but at 4½ months this is to be expected. The fur quality/density was good and the veiling nice and dark, although I would have liked it to be just a bit bluer. Still it was deserving of a 2nd against an exceptional 1st. The two HC's in the class were unfortunately somewhat down in colour hence could not get a higher award.

AOC

We then went onto a class of "Any Other Colour" young mutations. A good 1st for Hannah for a Self Black which was a lovely blue black, it had good fur strength, was in good condition and had been well prepared. A lovely chin. The other 1st was awarded to Kerry Bradburn for a Homo Brown Velvet. Although not large, it was of acceptable size and had a lovely blocky conformation. It was clear in colour with a lovely white belly and the fur density was so good it was able to achieve Reserve Best Young Mutation. There were two Wilson Whites in this AOC class, a 2nd for Kerry for a 4-month-old which was a good size for its age, the fur was reasonably strong but it was not quite as clear or bright as I would have liked, hence it didn't get awarded a 1st. The 3rd for Heather was of similar size and fur strength (i.e. both being good) but I felt it was down in colour, too creamy. Heather also received a 2nd for a well-prepared Black and White Cross, the fur was quite dense but somewhat soft and just

like Kerry's Wilson White the colour was just not as clear and as white as I would have liked, so it could not get a 1st.

Novice Young Mutation

Just one chin in this class which belonged to Heather Arnstein. This was a Self Black that was given a 3rd ribbon. Unfortunately, it was not in the best show condition on the day which meant it could not get a higher ribbon. It was a nice dark animal but needed more blueness and for its age, 5½ months old, was a bit on the small size (one of the challenges when breeding this mutation).

Adult Mutations

Black Velvets

This class produced an excellent Black Velvet from Kerry. It was of good size, lovely and blocky with really plushy dense fur. A top class Chin. Not only did it get a 1st ribbon but was awarded Best Adult Mutation and then Reserve Best Mutation, being beaten by the young Black which just edged it since it was ever so sharper. The 3rd from Lorraine was a good Black but I would have liked to see more veiling (this may continue to develop as it gets older). The Black fur was lovely and dark but needed a bit more blueness.

AOC

The AOC class of 6 chins produced an impressive 4 first ribbons, an impressive 3 of which went to Denise. One was a Self Black and it was nice to see yet another example of this mutation with that lovely blue-black colour. Its size and conformation were also acceptable, which can often be hard to achieve with this mutation. A first was also given to her Heterozygous Beige. A lovely Beige with nice dense stand up fur, it was of good colour and had good size and conformation. It was such a good Beige it achieved Reserve Best Adult Mutation behind Kerry's Black. Denise's other 1st was a Homozygous Beige of good size and conformation which had good dense fur and a nice colour. Even though it was just starting to go over and was not in top show condition, it still very much merited a 1st ribbon. The other first in the class was Kerry's Pink White which had lovely dense fur and was clear in colour. It was a big blocky animal but could not go any further because it was not in top show condition. Kerry also achieved a 2nd with an adult Wilson White, it did not achieve a 1st since it was slightly down in colour and the fur could have been stronger. The HC in the class went to Stephen's Ultra Violet. Unfortunately, it could have been clearer in colour and the fur on the sides was somewhat soft and had a tendency to lie down. It would have also have benefited from better size and conformation.

AOC Novice Adult Mutation

Just one in this class, a great Sullivan Violet from Charlotte. It had very good fur strength and density. It was big and blocky, the colour was good although I would have liked it to been a bit bluer, but still a very good chin. This chinchilla deservedly went on to win the Judges Novice Award. Congratulations Charlotte on breeding such a nice Violet.

Just one "Purchased" chinchilla in the show, a Wilson White from Angie Tucker to which I gave a third. The fur quality was good, being dense, but it could not get higher than a 3rd because it was out of condition on the day.

We completed the judging by 3.00 pm, so it was early departure home for everyone. Thank you to those who attended and to all the helpers working both in an official capacity and an unofficial capacity helping with the general running of the show, including in the kitchen and clearing up. This was only my 2nd show as a judge and the friendly faces and nice atmosphere meant I felt sufficiently relaxed that I was able to really enjoy the day. Thank you.

Sian