

North Region Birdwell Show Judges Report

25th September 2016

Judge : Kerry Jones (nee Bradburn)

The 25th of September saw the first show of the 16/17 season for the NCS and what a show it turned out to be. Exhibitors came from every region to support the show and the 115 entry level was a delight for me. My dad and I had trouble free journey up to Birdwell and arrived in plenty of time. Our National Secretary Paul Spooner had set up two sets of lights for me, one was the new set which has four bulbs per fitting and we're used at the National and one of the original 2 bulb units we've used for years. As expected the four gang are much brighter and although they show more condition failing in the animals, it does help to see their colour. We left both sets up and I used the four gang as my top of the table.

Very quick, hassle free colour phasing meant we kicked off on time with the Medium Dark Young Females. No 1st, but a 2nd for Paul Spooner with a blocky strong furred baby in need of a bit more flash, but with plenty of time to improve. The 3rd also from Paul was again blocky with plenty of fur but the tips slightly bent in the centre of the back, hopefully this will improve with age. Andrew Lees' HC was comparable in quality but was very out of condition.

Mediums were next with all the awards going to Jean Beardshaw, the best a 2nd had bright colour, blocky and lots of potential, it was just a little too open furred at present. The 3rd was very similar in all departments, but just not quite the clarity.

The Darks proved to be the best with Denise Oaten taking 1, 2 and 3. The first who became Best Young Female, Best Young Std and Reserve Best Std, was of excellent size and confirmation with good bright colour across the tips of the fur, long guard hair and a good sharp belly, it was just slightly open furred at present. The 2nd was larger and denser but not having the bright clarity of the 1st, but still a worthy Reserve Young Std winner.

We had 2 novice 3rd ribbons for Hannah Mitchell, the medium dark had reasonable conformation and fair clarity of colour with a good white

belly and the dark who had strong fur was blocky but slightly light on the hips.

Young males were overall a little disappointing with the exhibits being either very very young babies or very out of condition. Paul had a 2nd for a real baby in the Medium Darks that showed promise, good fur of desirable length with a blocky shape and good veiling.

Andrew Lee took 1st and 2nd in the Darks so these 2 animals automatically became Best and Reserve Best in the section. Both were very dense with some eye appeal but both needing more bulk and width in the shoulders and better show condition, with veiling failing over the hips.

Another Novice 3rd for Hannah for her blocky fine furred chin of fair colour.

Adult females:

The Medium Darks produced a 1st for Paul for a big, blocky female with good density, just needing more flash and eye appeal. A 2nd for Jean's smaller and probably younger female, as it was in better condition, it had clear colour but the fur was open. The Medium class only yielded one ribbon a HC for Rosemary Paxman for a big blocky but very out of condition female. Darks produced a 1st for Denise, it was of good size and shape, had good density and colour, but her belly let her down. Extra Darks proved best and gave us the section winners. 1st and Best Adult Female went to Jean for her blocky, strong furred, dense, good veiled and clear coloured female, that had been well groomed. The 2nd not far behind for Sian Allcoat for her dense, well veiled, perfectly groomed female of fair colour, she achieved Reserve Best in the section.

Hannah gained yet another 3rd for her Adult Female that was needing more size but had strong fine fur and had been well prepared.

Adult Males were an interesting group, sadly the Mediums and Medium Darks couldn't produce a single ribbon between them, thankfully, the remaining colour phases were much better and made up for it with high quality animals in each group. In the Darks the 1st was a high quality male from Jean, superb large size, extremely blocky shape, good density

and its clear colour completed the picture. Sadly on close inspection this boy was out of condition and although superbly prepared, those priming lines are just so hard to hide. I found out after the show had finished that this boy had been taken from his poly run to help with numbers in the show and considering this, he did very well. Extra darks provided us with the section winner and eventual Best Std and Grand Show Champion from Denise Oaten. This boy had grade 1 extra heavy density with deep tipping to the fur, lots of eye appeal good clarity and very even veiling over the hips, he was of fair size and shape and had been prepared beautifully and was a worthy winner.

The novice adult males were a delight, both being from Karly and Craig Donkersley, they were awarded a 1st for their Dark male, who had excellent conformation, good size, very even veiling coverage with a smattering of silky guard hair, but not quite the eye appeal of the section winner/GSC but a very worthy Reserve Best Adult Standard. Vry well done guys! Karly and Craig also had a1st for their Extra Dark which was bigger and denser and had slightly more eye appeal, but was a little narrow in the neck and shoulders and the condition wasn't as good. Two very nice high quality males that are real triumphs for you, and would be for any novice exhibitor.

We then broke for a superb 1 hour lunch provided by Sandy King and a lovely apple pastry made by Heather and her mum Jane. Everyone loved the food and enjoyed relaxing and tucking in, I must also thank Kayleigh and Jay for the lovely cakes that they brought along, which again everyone enjoyed.

We reconvened with the Young Wilson White class of 4 and all were awarded ribbons. The 1st this time for Andrew Lee was big and blocky, well furred and a reasonably good colour. The 2nd from Jean had the clearest colour but the fur was short and the conformation suffered. The 3rd and 4th from Sian and Paul were both decent animals.

Black velvets produced a 1st for Paul for an animal that had very good coverage and density for a youngster and excellent colouration through the neck. Fair size, shape and clarity completed the picture. The 2nd and 3rd both from Sian were a little brighter in color but both someway

behind in coverage and depth of colour with the big blocky 3rd having quite a band of grey in the neck. Hopefully this will improve.

The Beige class was a disappointment and only produced a 3rd and HC. Violets were better with 4 out the 5 gaining ribbons, 1st and 2nd were from Sandy King, the 1st who went on to win Best Young Mutation was clear and blue with deep lustrous colour and strong fur. The 2nd was slightly bigger and blockier, well furred but did not have the clarity of the 1st. The 3rd and HC from Andrew were both decent violets with silky fur and some sheen but not the sharpness of the winners.

Ebonies were next and provided Jean with a 1st and 3rd. The 1st was almost every hair black, of fair density and clear colour. The 3rd was denser and blockier but more of a medium colour phase, so sadly not the desired result but still a useful breeding tool. Jean also gained a 2nd for a very young Sapphire of good clear pale blue colour, with sharp white belly but a little open furred. Sian received a 3rd for her Lowe Recessive White that was clear in colour, fairly blocky, well prepared but the fur was quite soft.

We had 15 young novice mutations with some good chinchillas among them. A 3rd for Karly and Craig's Wilson White that had fair colour and blocky conformation. Two HC's for Beige's from Hannah, and Kayleigh and Jay, they were blocky with fine fur but both had oxidised. A very nice Violet from Kayleigh and Jay had good clear colour, blocky with some sheen, clean, well prepared and a worthy 1st.

The star group in the Novice Young Mutations definitely had to go to the Ebonies, we had enough to warrant splitting them into light and dark. The darks were a very good group, all with good fur of reasonable density, nearly everyone with every hair shiny black and all with fair to good confirmation. The winner of this class and eventual Reserve Young Mutation was picked from the bottom of the table, put to the top and did not move, very nice shape, size and fur density, all black with a good sheen of fair clarity of colour. Very well done Hannah! The Medium Class of Ebs all had good dense fur but all needed improved conformation and clarity.

Adult mutations started with a very nice class of Pink Whites which were all worthy ribbon winners. The 1st from Sian was a delight, fairly good size, correct confirmation, strong upright fur, immaculately presented with excellent bright clarity. The chin was easy pickings for Best Mutation and went all the way to be pipped by the std into Reserve Grand Show Champion. The remainder of the class from Andrew were a well furred blocky bunch but couldn't compete with the sharpness of the winner. Another 1st and 2nd for Jean's Ebonies, the 1st was good sharp colour with strong plushy fur but it needed to be bigger, the 2nd was not far behind in overall quality but did not have the clarity.

A large class of AOC'S gave another 1st for Sian for her Hetero beige which had excellent size, blocky of good colour but out of condition. The 3rd from Paul was also large and blocky with good density but had sadly oxidised. Denise Oaten was again in the winning seat with 2 very good Homo Beiges. The 1st and Reserve Best Mutation in show was of huge size on a massive conformation, bags of strong fur with clear white belly and attractive pale clear colour, just edged out by the outstanding clarity of the Pink White. The 2nd Homo Beige was almost as good but the condition wasn't quite as good and it had just the hint of a tint about it. Other animals of note were a 2nd for Jean's Wilson White that had clear colour but was a little narrow and pinched in the neck, also a Violet from Andrew which had plenty of sheen but needed better condition and confirmation to go further.

Novice Mutations gave us a 3rd for a Medium Eb from Kayleigh and Jay, that was blocky and well furred but a little dull. They also received a 2nd for a Beige that had good strong fur of good length but had sadly oxidised.

Of note I must mention the excellent ebony exhibited in the novice non owner bred class from Heather Ainstien . The animal was big, blocky had bags of fur was clear in colour and was presented in immaculate order, a quality 1st ribbon winner . Heather also received a 3rd for her dense Black Velvet that needed to be bigger and blockier.

When judging for Best at the end of the show the lovely std male had deteriorated a little during the day, his once hardly noticeable priming lines had started to open up a little in the neck, the Pink White on the

other hand showed very well but just couldn't edge out the Std with his far superior plushy fur type and overall volume of fur. Two excellent animals and my warmest congratulations to both Denise and Sian. Two ladies who work very hard on their chinchillas. Congratulations to all those who won awards, they were very well spread, Jean, Sandy, Paul and Andrew all picking up good ribbons. A particular delight for me were the novice awards. All were encouraging in quality but the two special winners from Karly/ Craig and Hannah were excellent, so much so that I decided to split the Judge's Choice award on receiving information that we had a ribbon and a trophy, giving the Std the trophy and the ribbon to the ebony. I hoped this proved a joy to both exhibitors as both chinchillas had achieved specials in the main show. Congratulations to you all, you should all be very proud.

Finally, my thanks to all the organisers of the show and to the North Region Committee for inviting me to judge this very important show for them. It was a large friendly show that gets the new season for both the NCS and the North region off to a flying start.

Kerry Jones (Nee Bradburn).
Senior Judge

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)