

Judges Report
North Region – 4th November 2018
Judge - Kerry Bradburn Jones

I had just returned from my holiday in the hot and sunny Caribbean and had somewhat of the holiday blues, the prospect of judging the North region show was just the tonic I needed to perk me up a bit.

It's always a happy event and for a while now has been well attended. Sadly, this time we did miss a couple of attendees that can usually make it from other regions, this was mainly due to work and for some folk it was simply "a lack of any babies to show". Therefore, 11 exhibitors could only muster 60 exhibits between them but, in saying that, what we had were good quality overall with no poor exhibits.

We quickly colour phased the standards and as per usual we started with the young medium dark females. The first class was a nice class, and provided us with the group winner and reserve. The 1st and Best Young Female for Sian Allcoat, was just a baby with good length of fur of reasonable density, even coverage, clear bright colour and immaculately presented with a blocky shape and white belly. The reserve from Paul Spooner was also good and certainly more mature with good size and blocky shape, clear colour, good density and coverage, but sadly was covered in loose hair. You have got to get those lint rollers out Paul!!! A very useful 3rd and HC for Denise and Paul completed the group.

One novice animal was exhibited by Heather Arnstein and that received a 3rd ribbon. Like all of Heather's animals, it was well prepared and presented. It needed to fill out and be in better condition, the fur was fine and fairly strong and is certainly worth using.

Next, we had an AOC class of 2 Darks and 2 Mediums. The mediums were won by Sandy King with a blocky and blue young female that was very useful, but was just a tad light on the hips and open furred to go further, but the clarity was particularly good. The 2nd from Denise was also a good colour, but just not quite as blue as the winner. This was only a baby so was a touch fluffy over the hips but had good strong fur in the centre of the back. Again, a chin with plenty of future potential.

In the darks the 1st was taken this time by Denise Oaten. Her female had long fur with lots of guard hair and a silky tip, good density, white belly but sadly very salt and peppery and out of condition on the day. The other dark, this time from Andrew Lee was a 4-month baby and had a much shorter fur type, very dense but completely out of condition, it was a struggle to find an inch of even fur to judge, but the fur was good quality.

We then moved on to the young males. The medium/darks gave us our group winner and eventual Reserve Best Standard and Reserve Show Champion, all for Sandy King. Her male had excellent size for 6 months, really blocky conformation, perfect veiling coverage, clear colour, a white sharp belly and a strong fur type. It was presented in immaculate order, not a hair out of place. She could not of made any more of that animal, congratulations !!! The 2nd and 3rd, both from Paul, were good types that need more time. Both had good colour and plenty of fur, but not the conformation or anywhere near the finish of the winner, but plenty of future potential. The darks were awarded a 1st to Denise for a large youngster with reasonable conformation that had excellent long silky fur with deep defined tipping and masses of guard hair. It had good density but was way off condition, showing that frustrating salt and pepper appearance.

When judging for Best Young Standard, Sandy's male had the top condition on the day to outshine the rest and Sian's pretty young female was a solid Reserve Young Standard, well done ladies.

We then moved on to the Adult Females. Ten of them were split into a class of darks, medium darks and an AOC class of 2 x mediums. The medium darks were first and presented me with something of great frustration. The class presented me with a top class 1st ribbon winner that was an extra heavy, large, blocky female with very dense long fur with perfect coverage. The clarity looked reasonably good, but she was difficult to judge accurately purely because of the amount of loose fur still on the top and in the animals fur. This animal belonged to Paul who assured me at the end of the show he had groomed her 3 times and it just kept coming out. This was one of those frustrating moments as a judge, as the animal was a grade one female with heavy density. If after 3 grooms she looked like this, she obviously needed 6 grooms! LOL. Paul took all my good natured banter and critique in his stride and how it was intended, he was well aware after I'd finished that this prevented her from going to the top and challenging for the GSC/RGSC awards.

Denise took 2nd in this class with a good solid chin, tight dense fur and well prepared, but just down in all departments to the 1st. Sandy and Sian took the 3rd and HC for 2 reasonable all round exhibits.

The next class were the Darks and again in the 1st place we had another absolute cracker, this time from Denise. Another heavy female with huge size, extremely blocky shape, masses of long dense silky fur with lovely attractive guard hair, bright colour with the deep defined tip shining under the lights. Perhaps her only fault was she was a fraction light on the hips but she could not be denied and had no loose hair and was prepared well !!! She went all the way to become our worthy GSC. Again, a very high quality standard. Well done Denise. The 2nd to this was a good female from Sian who was clear in colour with tight fur and good veiling coverage plus she had been very well prepared. Denise and Hannah took the 3rd and HC for two well prepared adult females, that were decent chins overall but not the size and shape of the winner with a shorter fur type. The 2 mediums were disappointing and could only produce a HC.

Adult males gave us a class of darks and 2 x extra darks. The Darks gave us a 1st for Paul Spooner for a big blocky chin with long fur and good colour, the density was good but he was quite out of condition and loose over the hips, however, he just had enough to edge out Sian's smaller but still blocky tight furred clear chin that was very well presented, but just down in all departments quality wise to the winner. 2 nice chins. Andrew took HC for a well veiled chin that was very out of condition and choppy on the day but showed quality, with good density and veiling,

Extra darks gave us the group winner for Denise. A large male that was fairly blocky and possessed excellent coverage, really even and intense tipping, good colour and density, in fair condition. He followed up the female to be Reserve Adult Standard, just missing out on Reserve Standard overall due to lack of show condition. Again, well done Denise. Hannah took the 3rd in the darks for her male that had good bright tipping and a silky fur type, but lacked in size and show condition but was of quality.

After a lovely lunch of jacket potatoes, chilli, pizza, a cooked salmon and various other goodies provided by Sandy, Jayne and Heather, we pressed on with the Young Mutations. First up, were the violets.

A first ribbon again for Paul Spooner with a top blue colour violet, the best clarity I've seen for a while. It had a good shape but the fur was rather soft and it was markedly priming in the centre of the back. Paul, also took 2nd with another good coloured violet with a slightly stronger fur type, but it lacked in

conformation. The best density went to the 3rd ribbon from Andrew, but it didn't have the very good colour of the 1st and 2nd.

Next, a good class of Self Blacks and Denise had all 4. The first was a nice chin, excellent shape, good density and well covered, every hair black, it just lacked a little in condition being slightly loose over the hips and it could have been sharper. In contrast, the 2nd was very sharp and every hair black but was narrow compared to the winner and needed more size, it also needed condition. 3rd and 4th were both decent examples, but lacked in complete coverage.

An AOC class gave us a Beige, Wilson White and a Pink White. The Beige came from Sian and had good clear colour, tight fur and was in fair condition. It lacked a little in veiling over the hips, but was useful, and deserved a 1st. The Wilson White from Denise achieved a 2nd and had good plushy dense fur, was well prepared, had guard hair but needed to fill out more through the shoulders and was too creamy for a 1st. Hannah received a 1st for her Pink White that had very good clarity of colour, was nice and clear but was a little small and narrow, the fur also lacked finish being long and choppy over the hips, time should help this chin.

We then had an AOC class of Novice Young Mutations and I was very impressed. First up was the Wilson Whites from Andy Marshall. I had no hesitation on awarding a 1st ribbon for an excellent young Wilson White, beautiful clear bright colour, lovely long guard hair, strong fur, excellent conformation and beautifully presented. This baby went on to win the Best Young Mutation award and Reserve Best Mutation in show. It has a bright future, defeating Denise's solid young Ebony into Reserve Young Mutation. The 2nd (as I later found out a sibling), was also a good white and was slightly bigger, but did not have the clarity of the winner. Andy also had a lovely black velvet, that was ok for size, fairly blocky with good strong silky fur with fairly good coverage, it was bright and clear in colour. We also had an Ebony for Heather Arnstein that received a 2nd for good strong fur, almost every hair black, good shape and fair colour. Sadly he/she was quite small for its age, being almost 7 months and more like the size of a 5 month baby. This held him back.

Zoe Daniels received a HC for her Ebony that was more like a standard in phenotype. I awarded the HC for good density and size, and tried to explain what we look for in a ebony for exhibition. Zoe has just started and to gain any ribbon at a NCS event, is quite an achievement.

Adult mutations were an AOC class of 2 Black Velvets, 1 Hetero Beige, 1 Homo Beige 1 Brown Velvet and one Sullivan Violet and all bar the Hetero Beige belonged to Andrew Lee. I awarded a 1st to his violet, which was large, dense and fairly blocky but a bit down in colour. The Homo Beige warranted a 3rd for good size and fur type, but had somewhat oxidised. The Brown Velvet was a no award as it was just too far gone in terms of oxidisation, but was a good size. The best by far and certainly one of the best animals in the show, was his Black Velvet which was awarded a 1st and also went on to take Best Adult and Best Mutation in show. It was of only fair size and was unfortunately, lacking condition, but other than that, was a truly excellent chinchilla, with very good coverage, a lovely white belly, silky dense fur, it was sharp with eye appeal. Well done Andrew. The HC Black Velvet also from Andrew, was not in the same quality bracket of the 1st ribbon Black and lacked depth of colour and density.

The final chins to be judged was the Wilson Whites from Andy Marshall. Two good whites achieving a 2nd and 3rd for good size, fair conformation, good density and plushy fur type. Sadly, they have now oxidised somewhat and appeared to be past their best. Zoe Daniels received another HC for another light Ebony which was a good size and quite dense, but was very choppy and out of condition.

In conclusion, it was a very good show with a good overall standard of animals. Quite a few standards in the main show was lacking preparation and this is frustrating to the judge. Some could have gone

further, something for the exhibitors to think about. The Black Velvet winning mutation just didn't have the finish to defeat either of the winning Standards on the day, he just didn't have the show condition and it shows when you get to the end.

Hopefully everyone in attendance won something and I thank you for bringing what you have along for me to judge. I appreciate that everyone, including myself, has had a slow start kit wise. Hopefully, for the next Northern show all the current attendees may have a few more animals each to show. We had a good dinner, raffle and quite a few giggles, it was lovely being involved in such a happy show.

Thanks for the invite and your hospitality.

Kerry Bradburn Jones
Senior Judge