

North Region Show –Bilsborrow 24th November 2013

Judge: Stephen Helmore

A very pleasant journey took me across the Snake Pass from Sheffield to Buxton enjoying the late autumn weather and then joining the motorway system to arrive at Bilsborrow for 10.15 am. The start of the Show had already been deferred for an 11.30 commencement, when we colour phased all the Standard entries.

The first class of 4 medium dark young standard females brought a 1st ribbon for a good sized chin at just over 4 months of age, clear in colour she still had a very soft fur down the flanks. A 2nd ribbon went to Sandy King's young female at nearly 7 months, just big enough she had a better finish than the 1st but not as bright in clarity of colour. These two automatically became Best and Reserve Young Standard Females as the other 2 classes didn't have a 1st place awarded. The Medium class of 3 all had a lack of density to their fur and the highest award was a 3rd to Sandy's chin that had the clearest colour. The single Dark colour phased chin from Chris had a 2nd ribbon, she had a very good fur type- strong and silky ,the colour was clear but not bright with a clean white belly but her conformation let her down with a narrow neck and shoulders.

The Young Males had a Medium Dark class of 3 with 1st award for Barry and Sue Thornton, a large blocky male with a long fur type that was quite soft down the flanks and good clarity of colour. There was a big drop to the 3rd and HC ribbon winners. We then had 2 mediums that had no awards and 2 Darks both from Sandy that received 1st and 2nd ribbons .The younger of the two had better conformation than the older larger chin that was narrower in the shoulders. The 1st had a denser tighter fur with the 2nd being slightly brighter in colour. Overall there wasn't much to choose between them. These 2 went on to be Best and Reserve Young Standard Males and Best and Reserve Young Standards. We also had one Novice medium dark Young male from Teresa Moir with a 3rd ribbon, he had nice silky fur type with good veiling coverage but was quite small and lacking a blocky conformation.

We had 4 Adult Standard Females which came up as an AOC class with all 4 receiving awards. Chris had a 1st for a medium dark with a good strong silky fur type, good colour but very much out of condition. There were 2nd and 3rd ribbons for 2 Dark chins both from Chris. 2nd having clear colour, slightly narrow shoulders and the veiling coverage did not come down over the sides that were quite light. The 3rd had much better veiling coverage but was down in colour, smaller and had shorter fur in the neck that gave the appearance of a big dip. 3rd for James Buchan's medium was good size, weight and conformation but was dull and open furred. A single medium colour phased Novice female from Teresa had reasonably tight fur but was smaller and narrow and had a similar dull look also had a 3rd award.

Only 2 Dark Adult standard Males entered, both from James receiving 1st and 2nd ribbons and both progressing to be the Best and Reserve Standard animals. The 1st had the brighter colour and was also the larger of the 2. Both had reasonable conformation and strong plushy dense fur type although the 1st award chin was very much out of condition on the day. He finally received Reserve Best in Show.

We then broke for lunch before starting with the Young Mutations. First up was a class of 4 Novice Wilson Whites with a 1st award for Jean Beardshaw that was very much better than the other 3 that didn't receive awards. This chin had a good clear white colour and only just 4 months, it had good conformation and a reasonably good fur type that was not dense. We then judged the rest of the Novice young mutations as an A.O.C class. Clare Lloyd had 1st and 2nd for 2 Self Browns quite

different in appearance of colour. The 1st had a dark brown wrap around colour with strong fur but slightly small for 6 months. 2nd had a much paler wrap around colour typical of being Homozygous Tan, it had a very plushy fur type and good conformation. Clare also had a 3rd for a Black Velvet. It had a good fur type and conformation but lacked coverage. Jean had a 3rd for a Self Black with good wrap around coverage but was down in colour and small. Teresa had a 3rd for a Pink White that had a pleasing clear Almond colour and a silky but weak fur type. Main Show Young Mutations had a class of 4 Beiges. 1st and 2nd went to Sandy with two good chins. The 1st at just 5 months had a really strong dense plushy fur type, beautiful eye catching colour and good conformation. In top condition with not a hair out of place this chin went right to the top to become our Show Champion. The 2nd didn't have the fur qualities of the 1st and was a little open but was still good enough to follow up to Reserve Best Mutation. 2 Black velvets both only just over 4 months had a 3rd ribbon for James and both will need time to grow and improve coverage.

The AOC class of 5 Novice Adult Mutations saw Teresa have a 2nd awards for a Pink White with good size and plushy fur, but slightly creamy and very much out of condition: a Self Black also of good size and having a strong fur type with intense Black in the middle of the back but fading over the flanks and belly. Teresa also had a 3rd with a Wilson White of reasonable size but not as good a conformation or fur type as her Pink white. Clare also had a 3rd award for a Self Brown with strong fur in the middle of the back but soft fur on the flanks, with good wrap around coverage but slightly oxidised. The 3 main show Adult Mutations had 1st and 2nd Awards for 2 Black Velvets with not much to choose between them, James's 1st had better coverage with Sandy's chin having the better finish but both lacking conformation with narrow shoulders and neck. The best of the group was a 1st for James with a Wilson White with good conformation and colour and a plushy strong fur that was slightly open.

Congratulations to Sandy for Best in Show with her super Beige and to James for Reserve with his Dark Standard Male. My thanks to Eddie for managing the show, Barry for being registrar, Sandy and Chris for stewarding and also providing lunch for the small group of us that attended.

STEPHEN HELMORE