

Judges Report - North Region Show. 19th January 2014 at Birdwell.

Judge: Kerry Bradburn ; JUI : Siân Allcoat

Things were looking promising for a good turnout at the Northern Show especially at the start of the week. The National Committee have recently started to send a standard email out to the membership a week to 10 days before each show, just so that when people respond it will help the organisers with catering etc. From members indications we were looking at 40 to 50 entries coming from Scottish exhibitors alone and that was before considering what North /Midlands and Southern members were intending to bring along. Sadly as the week progressed we were contacted with the disappointing news from several members ranging from last minute job commitments to unexpected illness and even emergency surgery. Although obviously I won't talk about specifics I would just like to take this opportunity to wish Aileen Blakey and James Buchan a speedy recovery and best wishes from everyone in the NCS.

We started on time with the young std females of which 3 mediums failed to produce a 1st and 2nd but a 3rd for Sandy King that was of reasonable clarity and fur type with a clear white belly. The HC from Andrew Lee had the better fur type but was out of condition and down in colour on the day .The darks produced a 2nd, this time for Andrew Lee that had a plushy fur type with good clear colour and just needed to be blockier in the neck with improved prime to be awarded a 1st.

The young standard males faired a little better and were awarded a 1st and 2nd in the medium darks. The 1st and Best Young Std from Sandy King was a nice young male with good clear colour, blocky shape, silky fine fur and prepared well. The 2nd from Paul Spooner had a longer plusher fur type with a deep defined tip, good veiling but was very out of condition and in need of more preparation. Nevertheless, he followed up the 1st to become Reserve Young Std.

Adult females produced 2 medium darks from Andrew Lee that were both useful breeding girls, achieving a 2nd and 3rd. Both had good size and were blocky weighty females with plenty of fur, but were out of prime and lacked sparkle on the day. A single dark was awarded a 2nd for Sandy King that had better fur than the med. darks with good even veiling coverage but was a little small, out of condition and again lacked condition and sparkle on the day.

Adult males produced a medium dark for Paul Spooner that had lovely plushy dense fur of clear colour with good veiling but was sadly very out of condition and a little small and narrow. Two good darks were awarded a 1st and 2nd both from Sandy. The 1st and eventual Grand Show Champion was in pretty good show condition, of fair size and had a lovely even coverage of strong fur with clear bright colour plus good density. The 2nd and Reserve Best Standard was also a nice male, blocky with a plushier fur type that I actually preferred, it had a scattering of attractive guard hair but sadly didn't have the clarity or finish of the winner.

We then pressed on with the AOC young mutations that produced the Best Young Mutation and Reserve Mutation winner, again from Sandy. The 1st a beige that was of excellent conformation and size with a tight fine fur, even veiling, clear belly and of fair clarity. The 2nd also had tight fur but was just down in all departments to the winner. A 2nd for a pink white from Paul Spooner that had beautiful dense plushy fur of good length with guard hair

and blocky shape, sadly the clarity of colour fell short of what is expected for a 1st ribbon. Similar comments then followed for Lisa Proctor's Wilson white that had blocky shape, attractive guard hair but again not the desired clarity of colour to obtain a 1st. Another 2nd this time for Andrew Lee's baby ultra that had plushy fur of reasonable colour and with a sheen, sadly it was a little small and narrow in conformation.

We then broke for lunch which was a superb hot buffet that was enjoyed by all with plenty to go round. After we finished the buffet the National Committee members present had a brief meeting to round up some unfinished business from a recent conference call and after about one hour we reconvened with a class of Sullivan violets. The 1st from Paul was densely furred with a blocky shape and lustrous colour but sadly off best condition, the 2nd also from Paul was a young baby showing plenty of promise with bright colour, fine fur and a clear belly. I was then presented with 4 black velvets and the awards went 1, 2, 3 and HC. The 1st although not the best covered of the exhibits was the clearest and sharpest with good plushy fur and showing promise for Lisa Proctor. The 2nd again from Lisa was better covered and blocky but did not have the clarity of the winner. The winning beige became the Best Young Mutation and the Reserve Best Mutation overall, with the 1st ribbon young black gaining the Reserve Young Mutation award.

Novice entries were represented on the day by Clare Johnson, her young black velvet gained a 3rd ribbon for good shape and fur type with reasonable clarity, but the star of the novice exhibits went to her baby ebony that gained a 1st for excellent sharp clarity and coverage, a true every hair shiny black. Sadly this baby does have the typical characteristics that we often see with this mutation, being small and narrow in conformation. However, with the right corrective pairings sizable steps could be made in producing quality ebony examples.

The adult mutations gave us another AOC class starting with a Wilson white from Andrew, achieving a 3rd for correct conformation, fair density and strong guard hair, sadly not the desired clarity of colour to move up the ribbons. The beiges were next and gave us our Reserve Show Champion of the day from Sandy King. This quality chin was of fair size, blocky conformation with strong upright plushy fur of clear sharp bright colour, sadly just off top condition, but a lovely example without question. Andrew's 2nd beige was a larger example that was again blocky and well furred but without the coverage and clarity of the winner. Two blacks were awarded a 2nd and HC for Lisa that looked to have been taken from breeding to help with numbers for the show (Lisa confirmed this afterwards). Both these chins were solid breeding chins but were both well past their best for showing, they were well covered with plenty of fur but only small amounts of primed fur to judge. Three Sullivan violets completed the champion classes and were awarded a 1, 2, 3 all for Paul Spooner, the 1st and reserve Best Adult Mutation was blocky, dense with excellent coverage and fair clarity, I would have liked this chin to be bigger but was overall a nice example. The 2nd was also good but just down in all departments to the winner. I must just mention the 3rd who was of good size and had beautiful plushy dense fur with an eye catching sheen, it was however badly oxidised so couldn't be promoted further. A single novice mutation self brown again from Clare received a 3rd for good shape, tight dense fur of even coverage but again failed to progress because of oxidisation which is very difficult to stop in this mutation. Again though, a useful breeding tool for producing ebony/tans etc.

When judging for best at the end of the show the lovely beige just didn't quite have the density and volume of fur to defeat the standard male, but two beautifully prepared chins from Sandy King. Well done Sandy. My congrats to all who won awards on the day and

especially on the success found in the breeders awards for not only Sandy but also Paul, Andrew and Lisa .

Well done to Clare for her 1st ribbon ebony and thanks to all who helped with the show whether you had animals present or not, everyone worked hard to make the show a success. Finally I must add that this show was the start of Sian Allcoat's training to hopefully one day become an NCS judge. Sian on her first appointment took notes and demonstrated to me that she is both keen and able and I look forward to watching her JUI progression. I hope Sian that you found the show enjoyable like I did and also educational .

Thanks North Region for a fun well organised day.

Kerry Bradburn
Senior NCS Judge.