

23/11/2014 North Region Show, Birdwell - Judges Report

Judge Kerry Bradburn, JUI Siân Allcoat.

Georgie Busher was actually appointed for this show but as many of you know, she has been recovering from surgery on her leg. Although things are moving in the right direction for her complete recovery, it transpired that with the show date fast approaching she would need a little more recovery time. She is very much hoping to judge what would have been my appointment in January instead. We all wish you a speedy recovery Georgie and look forward to seeing you at that show.

My journey started around 8am in quite heavy rain, fortunately the closer I got to the venue the weather started to dry up and although cold, was at least more pleasant than what I had left behind. On arrival at the hall, the usual North Region folk were in attendance plus some much appreciated travellers from Scotland. Thanks so much for making the long trek guys, this resulted in a pleasing entry of around 70 chins for the show. After a lovely bacon roll cooked by Chris Galt, Sian and I pressed on with the young standards. This was Sian's 3rd appointment as JUI so I wanted to give her a little more responsibility in helping sort the entries into the correct placings, with me of course having the final decision on the placings and what awards were actually given. I must say Sian handled this very well and her input on the whole was both accurate and constructive.

The first 1st of the day went to Sandy King for a well prepared blocky young female with clear colour, strong upright fur and a white belly, she just lacked a little in sparkle on the day. The 2nd was from Richard and Eddie Crutchley and was of slightly brighter colour with strong fur and good tipping, but was out of condition with a salt and pepper appearance and loose fur. The 3rd from Paul Spooner was also bright in colour but was very choppy and out of condition on the day.

The AOC class of 2 mediums produced 2 HC's for James Buchan and Teresa Moir. Both had plenty of fur but we're lacking badly in show condition. The group winners came from the AOC dark young females and were both from Eddie and Richard. The 1st was a lovely chin with good size and conformation, strong upright fur of good length, clear bright colour with a blueness and was in good condition on the day. She went on to become not only Best Young

Standard but Reserve Best Standard. The 2nd was even a little sharper for colour with a nice tipping to the fur but sadly finish was missing. However, she still followed up the 1st to become Reserve Young Female.

In the young males, the darks were again the best group providing us with the group winners. The 1st and eventual Reserve Young Standard had lovely plushy fine fur that was clear and bright in colour. He did pale a little in the hips and could be blockier, but still a quality chin. The 2nd did have the better conformation with strong fur but couldn't compete on colour. The 3rd from Teresa was brighter in colour with good fur but was a little narrow and again lacked in any kind of show condition. The medium and medium dark AOC class produced a 2nd for Paul Spooner, it was big and blocky but was out of condition, lacking sparkle on the day.

Only 2 adult females were present at the show, but this group did provide us with the day's Best Standard animal and Reserve Show Champion, a quality female from Eddie and Richard that had lovely blue colour with sharp clarity and dense strong silky fur of good length. She was sadly quite out of condition over the hips with some loose fur but still couldn't be denied the Reserve Show Champion award. The second, also from the same herd, followed her up to be Reserve Adult Female. She was big and blocky with a strong fur and guard hair but not the sharp colour of the first.

Adult males were represented with 2 darks and 2 medium darks, with the darks again providing the group winners. The 1st was a very large dense plushy furred male, with even veiling coverage of reasonable colour and lovely blocky shape. He went on to win Reserve Adult Standard. The 2nd and Reserve Male was again blocky and large with a dense strong fur with good tipping, but a very slight tinge to the tips. The medium darks produced a 2nd and 3rd for James Buchan, the 2nd deserves a mention as it had good guard hair and was clear and bright, sadly he lacked in size and was very out of condition being both choppy and salt and peppery in appearance.

After finishing the standards we broke for a lovely hot and cold buffet lunch which was very much appreciated. Mutations were in high numbers at this event so we pressed on after dinner with the youngsters.

Wilson whites were first and I awarded a 2nd for a nice all round example just failing on clarity of colour from Eddie and Richard. The HC from Teresa was well furred with long attractive guard hair but was down in clarity of colour. Pink

whites were next and my notes say both were very nice examples. The first had cracking conformation with a long strong fur type that was a little open, but had good colour. It had been beautifully prepared and had lovely eye appeal. The 2nd had beautiful dense plushy fur of good conformation but not the clarity of colour of the winner. Both were from Eddie and Richard.

Two Deutsch Violets were next, both of good quality. On the day, the paler colour prevailed. Both had good shape and size with plenty of fine fur and were well veiled, but the winner being in the better condition with the clearer colour. A single Brown Velvet caused a stir and an echo of oohs and arr's from the Judge and JUI, these really are the teddies of the chinchilla world and this one had this appeal in abundance. Super veiling on a body of good shape and size with that lovely medium milk chocolate colour and a blue hue under the lights. The fur was strong and upright but as often seen with Brown Velvet's a little course in fur type, this really is only a minor criticism, it really is a lovely example. Next, was a single Black Velvet youngster that really glowed on the day. Beautiful shape with a plushy dense fur that had a lovely sheen that was both fine and silky, blue colour, a sharp white belly and eye appeal. The coverage was very good for the age of this animal and will only improve. It was already fully black through the neck and really couldn't be denied on the day defeating the Brown Velvet for Best Young Mutation on superior fur type and going on to beat a high quality std that wasn't at its best on the day for Grand Show Champion. Many congrats to Eddie and Richard. A single sapphire (not seen one for quite sometime) was awarded a third for Teresa Moir. It had reasonable colour, was fairly blocky with a dense fur type of even veiling, sadly it was out of condition on the day being choppy and missing that allusive blueness. Still a very good attempt Teresa, keep up the good work!

A class of beiges produced a 1,2 3 and a 1st again for Sandy King of excellent size and shape that was groomed to perfection with good strong fur and even veiling, I would have liked the colour to be brighter. The 2nd had more eye appeal and good quality fur but again lacked sparkle.

A class of 3 violets were awarded a 1,2,3 all from Paul Spooner. The first was of good size and shape and had very nice blue colour, the fur was a little soft and open on the hips but was overall a good chin. The 2nd a 4 month baby, shows potential with clear colour and already a tighter fur type than the winner. It just needing to fill out a little in the neck and shoulders, another day maybe?

We finished off the young mutations with a cracking class of Ebonies (Self Blacks)... a full house of ribbons with not a bad example amongst them! The 1st at just over 5 months, was just a little small but that was honestly the only criticism I could find. It had lovely silky shiny black fur that was dense and strong, the colour was sharp and blue and the conformation a delight, as this mutation tends to be of a Costina shape. The 2nd was almost as good and had the improved size but not quite the clarity and flash of the winner. The rest of the class were owned by Eddie and Richard and also one in the group for Teresa, I really was impressed with the group overall guys, so well done.

The adult mutations other than the Brown Velvet and Wilson White winner weren't of the same quality as their younger counterparts, probably in the main due to lack of finish and prime. We kicked off with an AOC group of 3. A Self Black from Eddie and Richard gained a second for silky plushy fur which was of good quality but was out of condition and narrow in conformation. A violet from Paul also gained a 2nd for good size and dense fine fur, but was out of condition and had oxidised somewhat. Finally, the single Brown Velvet gained a 1st ribbon for Eddie and Richard. This was a lovely quality example being of huge size, blocky shape and volumes of strong well veiled fur. Sadly, as we often see with Brown Velvets, once they are well into adulthood they start to oxidise and this one was no exception. I'm sure he or she will become a valuable asset in breeding quality velvets.

A class of 3 Pink Whites were next and presented me with somewhat of a dilemma, all had quality about them but all needed certain qualities to be improved on. We finally settled on what was without doubt the clearest colour of the bunch being only of a slight beige peach colour that was quite attractive under the lights. I would however, preferred it to be a little bigger and slightly blockier, this one being from Wendy French. The second also from Wendy had the better size and shape but the clarity was a little creamy rather than a peachy colour. It did however have plenty of strong fur and finally the 3rd from Teresa which was by far the best prepared and had the tightest finest fur but was definitely lemony in colour and showing some signs of tinge on the patch of beige that was present. Again PW's especially with large patches of beige, are just as likely to oxidise as the animal ages as Beiges and Browns. It really was a close contest between this group ladies.

Beiges were next and Wendy was again in 1st place with a large blocky beige of clear colour with fair density and clear belly. The 3rd this time from Sandy was

well furred but was out of condition and with a slight tinge, it did however have a good plushy fur type.

Wilson Whites were an interesting group having examples of the extreme type and the White with silver guard hair we more commonly see. The winner was picked out instantly and put to the top of the table and did not move. A really lovely example, with dense strong fur type, shown to perfection and with loads of eye appeal, blocky, of fair size with a clear bright colour. It showed itself off perfectly and went on to defeat the very good young Brown for Reserve Mutation in show, well done Eddie and Richard. The 3rd was also a good chin which had dense fine fur but was a little dull, a mention also to the first of the HC's from James , although it needed to be brighter and bigger, this chin would have taken an award for the longest guard hair of the entire show, standing almost half an inch proud of the rest of the fur!

Final class of the day was a large class of Black Velvets which were all struggling for show condition, but after having a close look I found a solid first ribbon who other than show condition, had a good level of quality in all of the points we judge for. It was well covered, clear in colour, blocky, large and had strong silky fur. It just couldn't compete for the group prizes as the condition spoilt the overall affect. James took the 1st and 3rd and both he and Teresa picked up HC's for the remainder of the class, which all had something to commend but were all really struggling for show condition.

The Wilson White became Best Adult Mutation and Reserve Best Mutation in show behind the young Black Velvet who went on to become a very worthy GSC with the Standard adult female a worthy Reserve Show Champion.

I very much enjoyed my day and found the young mutations a particular delight, thanks so much for having me and many congratulations to all the ribbon winners and in particular the Breeders awards winners of the day. Also a mention for Teresa, as this was her first show in the main group and who against strong competition managed to pick up several awards so well done!

SNR Judge Kerry Bradburn