

Scottish Show at Biggar 24th February

The journey to Biggar on Saturday was lovely and we arrived at our overnight accommodation, eleven miles from the show hall, in the evening. After a leisurely breakfast we hastened to Biggar and a busy show hall.

Young Standard Females

Only two Medium Dark animals were shown and it was the Novice animal which prevailed. This animal had strong upright fur of correct type and length on body of good conformation and size. It did pale slightly on the flanks, as did many animals on the day.

Only one entry in the Dark class had good type strong stand up fur with good size and conformation but it also was pale on the hips.

Four Medium animals were headed by a nice clear blue animal with good fur type which was closely followed by a very similar animal which was not quite so clear as the first winner.

The Novice animal went on to become Best with the Dark animal in Reserve.

Young Standard Males

One Novice Medium Dark animal was presented which was good all round and most importantly was clear and blue, however, the grooming let it down to a second ribbon. Well done.

Four Dark animals were shown all of which were of good quality. First and Best in Section had silky strong stand up fur which was clear and blue on a body of good size and conformation. Second was similar in all respects but the finish was rather more choppy, this was Reserve in Section.

Best Young Standard Animal was the Dark male and Reserve was the Novice female.

Adult Standard Females

Three Medium animals were all awarded HC's as they all had something to offer but appeared to be passed their best. A Novice Medium gained a second as it had conformation and correct fur type which was blue but not as clear as could be.

Four Medium Dark animals were headed by a blocky well furred animal with good coverage. Although clear this animal was not quite so blue as I would like but as it was slightly choppy, this could show up better with more grooming. Second in the class was bluer and had good conformation but was smaller and the fur more open. Strong fur of correct length and a brilliantly white belly. These two animals went on to be Best and Reserve in Section. A Novice Medium Dark of good size and conformation with strong fur of correct length and a brilliantly white belly appeared strangely dull in the upper body fur. Possibly rolling on the cage wire? This was also awarded a second.

There was only one Dark. which was awarded a third, quite good all round but was dull with no sparkle.

Adult Standard Males

Total entry in this section was seven all Medium Dark. A class of very high quality and they all had lovely size and conformation with good coverage of silky strong stand up fur and were clear and blue. They were all let down to some degree by lack of grooming skills. All of them had not been combed in the neck and

shoulder area, while some had not had all the dead fur removed. Their placings depended on these factors in the main. I have to say that I have not judged a better class of animals in Scotland before and I was delighted to have the opportunity. The first and second in this class went on to become Best and Reserve Standard Animals. A Novice Medium Dark of nice type and conformation gained a second award.

A Novice Dark was awarded a first. This animal had good conformation but was rather small. It did have lovely coverage of clear strong upright fur which was not as blue as I would like.

Young Mutations

Pink-whites were led by an animal of nice size and shape with good strong fur of good underlying blue colour. It had a strong influence of the beige mutation showing through over all its body which was quite attractive. The second was very similar in most respects to the winner except it had nice colour with less beige mutation fur but was more open on the flanks.

A Brown Velvet gained a 2nd having a nice colour of woolly fur with good size and conformation.

A similar award was given to a nicely shaped Beige which had quite short fur of good colour.

A well covered blue/black Black Velvet of good size and conformation with silky strong stand up fur was given a first, a quality animal but open on flanks. This animal went on to become Reserve in Section

Two really good Self-blacks gained 1st and 2nd respectively. The winner had a lovely fur type, which could be longer, and almost every hair shiny black. It had good size and conformation for its age and was in sparkling condition with wonderful sheen. The 2nd animal was not so well covered with intense black fur but it had good type and strong fur. Both of these animals had plenty of strong guard hair which of course supports the other fur. The winner became Best Young Mutation

Novice Wilson-whites were given 2nd and 3rd awards. Both had correct size and conformation but were not quite clear enough in colour and were open furred. They may well show better on another day.

Sullivan Violets in the Novice Sections gained 2nd and 3rd places both being of good shape and colour with a nice sheen. The lower placed animal was more open furred.

The Black Velvet shown in Novice was of good conformation but lacked a little in size. It had a good covering of blue/black mutation fur of good length and strength.

Adult Mutations

Two Novice Wilson-whites show promise, a 2nd going to a big blocky dense furred animal which showed open breaks along the flanks. More dust baths needed? The colour was not the clearest. The 3rd had tight strong fur but was definitely creamy in colour but shape and size were Ok.

A Novice Self-black gained a 2nd. Of good shape and size it needs more of the intense black down its flanks.

There were three worthy winners in the main classes. A Black Velvet of great quality had very fine silky strong fur with an intense black colour, but the mutation fur didn't spread far enough down the flanks and he lacked some condition. The 2nd to the above had better coverage of blue/black fur but the fur was not so fine, this too lacked condition.

A big blocky Wilson-white with masses of dense strong stand up fur and a nice white colour gained a first and went on to become Best Adult Mutation even though she was not quite in top condition.

A quality Pink-white also gained a first. Again this animal had lots of strong stand up fur on a body of good shape and size. It was clear and had eye appeal but I was concerned at a lack of blueness. A nice animal, which was Reserve Adult Mutation.

Best Mutation went to the young Self-black which finally beat all the mutations on condition. On another day maybe others would prevail as there were high quality animals here. Reserve Mutation went to the very worthy Wilson-white. Best in Show went to the Adult Standard Male which headed the best class of the day and the Self-black could not be denied the Reserve Best in Show.

Thank you for inviting me I enjoyed it immensely, which is more than I can say about the horrible journey home against gale force winds, rain and hail.

Eddie Crutchley