

Southern & WM & Wales Joint Show Bugbrooke 11/01/201

Judge Stephen Helmore

With several members missing due to illness and coming shortly after the Christmas break , I had a disappointing number of entries to judge. However this didn't affect the way the show was conducted.

Once all the chins were benched the standards were colour phased. An entry of 3 young standard females came to the table as an AOC class of 2 medium darks and 1 medium female. The 2 medium darks from Sian Allcoat were superior to the medium from Georgie Busher and were awarded 1st and 2nd ribbons for their quality. The 1st was bright and clear with a strong dense fur type although not overlarge, with the 2nd chin having better size and conformation with similar clarity of colour to the 1st , her fur strength and density was much less. The 3rd from Georgie dropped in clarity to the top two. A Novice class of 4 mediums had 3rd and HC ribbons that showed good qualities and well presented by Cameron Holmes. The 1st ribbon winner went on to become our Best Young Standard.

The 10 young males split into 4 mediums, 4 darks and 2 medium darks resulting in 3 classes. The 4 mediums all received ribbons with Sian having 1st and 2nd ribbons and Georgie having 3rd and HC. Ist was again bright and clear with a strong dense fur, slightly narrow in the shoulders and of average size. The 2nd was similar with a silkier fur type but quite open in density. Georgie's had better conformation but down on clarity of colour. 1st was the best young male and reserve best young standard. I was unable to award a 1st ribbon to the dark class. Sian's 2nd was much better than the rest of the class with good conformation and a reasonably dense plushy fur type with good veiling coverage. His creamy belly and drop in colour prevented him from a 1st. Sian also had 3rd and HC for the 2 medium darks. In the Novice class, Cameron had a 2nd ribbon for his medium dark male that had good conformation , a plushy fur type with a clear but not blue colour.

The 2 medium Adult females were way out of condition and Georgie's HC recognised the chins general overall qualities.

With only one adult male entry , a dark chin entered by Sian, a very good chin, good size and blocky, A dense silky fur with good veiling just lacked a brightness of colour but I had no hesitation in awarding him a 1st ribbon and he progressed to become our Grand Show Champion.

The young mutations commenced with a class of 5 Wilson Whites of wide ranging qualities. The 1st from Heather Boncey was a very good chin , big and blocky with loads of plushy fur that was reasonably dense and clear colour. This chin became our Best Mutation and Reserve Grand Show Champion. Heather also had 3rd ribbon a silver/grey type with good guard hair but the fur type was soft and open. The 5 remaining young mutations came in an AOC class. We had two 1st ribbons winners, a good Self Black from Andrew Lee that had reasonable conformation and size, good fur type with clear colour and wrap around coverage that was our Reserve Best Mutation. Another 1st to Heather for her Black Velvet chin, a good example of type that could have been brighter and have more coverage. Heather also had a 2nd for a Brown Velvet, everything very good with excellent fur type except for the colour that had oxidised and gone 'ginger'. Karly and Craig Donkersley's Novice Sullivan Violet had an HC with reasonable colour and sheen, but with a soft fur type that meant the fur laid back and showed up a lack in conformation with narrow shoulders.

In the Adult Mutations we had a class of 3 Sullivan Violets. Andrew showing 1st and 2nd but very different in their colour. The paler 1st had a good clear colour with a sheen, fur type was a little soft, reasonable conformation but the chin was on the small side. 2nd was a better size, very dark with a pleasing sheen but equally the fur was very soft and appeared to be laying in all directions. Georgie had two 3rds for a Self Black and a Wilson white.

Congratulations to Sian for winning Grand Show Champion with her standard male and to Heather for receiving Reserve with her young Wilson White. It might have been a small show but we had a good number of quality Chinchillas.

My thanks go to all who came and took part and helped with making it an enjoyable day.

Stephen