

## **Judges Report – Southern Region Show, Chieveley 7<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

### **Judge: - Kerry Bradburn**

I was delighted to be judging the Christmas show for the Southern Region, this is the first time I've visited the Chieveley venue and I've got to say I was quite impressed. The room was decorated perfectly for a chin show being white with lots of natural light from windows that had efficient well fitted blinds for the late afternoon sun. On this occasion the region only hired the one room which made this hall more affordable. Considering the huge entry we had of 110 chins this demonstrates that in the future, this hall is more than sufficient for coping with large numbers. This show had a fun Christmas theme and for a while myself and my band of helpers wore Santa hats. Sadly every time I bent forward to check colour and belly colour on the chins, my hat would fall off so after 2 classes it had to go!!!! This caused somewhat of a giggle.

We started around 11.15 a.m. with the Young Standard medium females. The first 1st of the day went to Siân Allcoat for her well presented, blocky strong furred female with reasonably good colour and in condition on the day. She went on to become Best Young Female. The second ran the winner very close and followed up to become Reserve Young Female, this time for Denise Oaten. It was of blocky conformation with a strong upright fur, but not quite in the prime of the 1st. The 3rd deserves a mention as it had the densest fur of the class but was a lot more mature and had quite a lot of loose fur, However, it was still a useful female for Heather Boncey. Two H.C's completed a good class. The medium class was sadly not of the same quality and only yielded one 2nd for Andrew Lee. This female had good size and conformation with strong but open fur of fair colour, sadly the finish was poor. The rest of the class were all unfortunately down in colour and lacking condition.

The Novice Females were better and yielded 2 x 1sts, one in the medium and one in the dark group, both from Craig and Karly Donkersley were of good quality and very useful. The dark, although out of condition, had silky strong fur with eye appeal, fair shape and size. The medium was blocky and large with good clear colour but the fur was a little open. Cameron Holmes picked up a 3rd ribbon for young baby with blocky shape and a sparkling white belly and Kayleigh Barber at her 1st show received a H.C. for a blocky young baby with reasonable fur.

Young males were next and we started with the mediums. The 1st went to a clear, blue blocky baby with strong but open fur for Denise. The 2<sup>nd</sup>, this time from Georgie Busher, was also blue and clear with a strong fur and plushy guard hair but was lacking in condition, as was the blocky 3rd that was also from Georgie. The AOC class of medium and darks produced a 1st dark for Siân Allcoat, a high quality young male with a very tight silky dense fur that could have been a little longer, the colour was sharp and the veiling excellent, with a clear white belly, he was fairly blocky and had been prepared very well indeed. He went all the way to a very deserving Reserve Grand Show Champion, well done Siân. The 2nd dark was a blocky young male from Heather, he had wonderful guard hair and a long plushy fur but was out of condition and down in colour to the winner. The medium male from Andrew Lee who received a 3rd was clear in colour but very out of condition.

The Novice Young Male again from Craig and Karly gained not only a first ribbon but a special award that was given at this show and which was sponsored by Andrew Lee for the judge's choice own bred novice animal. I marked animals in my notes throughout the show that were in contention for this award and had to pick before the show was completed. This was an easy choice for me as this young male was of quality and had blue colour, with blocky shape and good size. I found out after the show that all 3 of the Donkersley's firsts in the Young Standards were from one litter, well what a litter!!!

Siân's dark male took Best Young Standard with Denise's medium a deserving Reserve Young Standard, well done ladies.

The Adult Females were next and were few in numbers but did provide us with the Best Adult Standard and Reserve Best Standard in show for Denise Oaten. This medium female headed the group with excellent size and shape, in good show condition of clear bright colour, sharp belly with a strong fur of good length, which unfortunately was a little on the course side. The 2nd medium from Annie Thickens was also a blocky female with a strong fur type but was out of condition on the day and a little light on the hips. Denise also took the Reserve female award with the 1st ribbon dark, this animal was also blocky, of fair size with a strong fur of good clarity, sadly, show condition was again missing.

Adult standard males were an interesting group as the winners showed real quality in parts but all sadly were missing something on the day. The dark

winner from Siân went on to receive the Reserve Adult Standard award. On first glance I thought I had found my overall winner, good size, blocky with silky strong fur of heavy density. Sadly, as I looked closely, the belly colour of this animal was quite badly stained although the animal was clear and bright across the tips with no sign of tinge. It was clear this animal for whatever reason had stained his tummy and it sadly spoilt the overall affect. The 2<sup>nd</sup>, also from Siân, was of good size and shape with clear colour but sadly was open furred and lacking condition. The single extra dark also from Siân was of beautiful colour, sharp and blue with silky dense fur, sadly, he was a little small and quite narrow but couldn't be denied the Reserve Adult Male award again from Siân.

We then broke for a fabulous Christmas dinner cooked and served by the NCS young crowd and what a great job they did too, plus a lovely key lime pie cooked by Cameron for afters.

Mutations were in high numbers at this event with several large classes so we pressed on with the young Wilson whites. Heather Boncey took first with a very large blocky example that had clear colour and plenty of strong fur. The 2<sup>nd</sup> this time from Siân was more immature but also of strong fur and clear colour. The 3<sup>rd</sup> again from Heather was well furred and of a dark silver colouration which sadly lacked sparkle. The two H.C.'s from Annie and Andrew were both well furred and blocky but a little too creamy.

Young beiges were a disappointing bunch, with a 3<sup>rd</sup> ribbon from Georgie being top of the shop, good shape and fine fur were its best attributes but sadly clarity of colour needed improvement. Three H.C.'s from Rosemary Paxman and Andrew Lee completed the group, all with some quality but all lacking in clarity of colour.

A class of 4 Brown Velvets gained a full house of ribbons. Heather again took first with a large quite mature example that had plenty of strong fur, good coverage and plenty of guard hair, it had just started to oxidise over the tips. Annie took 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> for two very young babies, both had good coverage and look to be developing nicely with very impressive blue colour, just a little too open furred at this stage to go forward. Dave Green took H.C. with a similar young baby that was well covered but not the blue colour of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Next up was a very large class of violets and I commented to all just how impressed I was in general. All were clear in colour and had good shape and more than adequate size, this was very pleasing to see and bodes well for the

future of quality violets in the UK. The first from Andrew was a delight, big and blocky with plenty of dense fine fur with blue colour. Andrew also took 2nd and 3rd with two good examples that had plenty of sheen but not quite the density and fur strength of the winner. As previously mentioned, the rest of the class all had some quality about them and none were bad for colour.

Black Velvets were a little disappointing as a group and couldn't produce a 1st but the best got a 2nd from Heather. This chin had good size and shape but lacked in intensity of colour, although the colour was clear, it was also very out of prime. The 2nd from Siân was better prepared and in better condition but was dull compared to the 2nd and the 3rd also from Siân was of better colour but lacked in size, shape and coverage.

Next was a very interesting group of AOCs. A Pink White from Dave Green was awarded a 2nd for strong fur, good conformation and well presented, sadly the clarity of colour being below par for a 1st ribbon. Dave also received a H.C. for a very blue baby sapphire that sadly lacked in size, conformation and fur strength, but the colour was superb. Another H.C for a Charcoal that sadly had the reverse, good dense fur and blocky but the colour was poor. A Black and White Cross again from Dave received a 3rd for lovely fur and guard hair with fair conformation. Andrew was again in the winner's enclosure with 2 very good Self Blacks. The 1st had excellent fur, good size and shape with clear colour, the 2nd was also very good with strong fur but not quite the coverage of the 1<sup>st</sup>. Finally, 2 very good Ultra Violets again from Andrew. The first was a real eye catcher, beautiful deep blue lustrous colour, on a body of good shape and size with a sparkling white belly in very good show condition. This quality example went all the way through the show to defeat a very good but just off its best standard for Show Champion. This is a delight for Andrew and a befitting reward for all the effort and hard work he has put into his chinchillas. The strides forward he has made with the Violets/Ultras is brilliant so very well done! Andrew's 2nd Ultra was also a quality example but just not quite the eye appeal of the winner.

Novice's Young Mutations also held a few pleasing surprises in particular Hannah Mitchell's 1st ribbon Self Black which was a quality chin, well covered, clear colour with good fur. No 2nd but a 3rd for Kayleigh Barber's Self Black that again had good fur and shape but had oxidised somewhat. Kayleigh also received a 2nd for her Violet which was fine furred and well prepared but down in clarity of colour. Cameron's Violet was awarded a 3rd for again fine fur and well covered but down in colour. Cameron also picked up a 3rd for his

Black Velvet that was clear in colour with a sharp belly but needed improved coverage and intensity.

The final group of Adult Mutations started with another good group of violets which again had animals of quality. Andrew once more took 1st and 2nd with 2 good examples. The 1st had fine fur with a beautiful sheen and good colour, the 2nd was of blockier shape with strong fur but not the colour or sheen of the 1<sup>st</sup>. The AOC group gave us a very good Self Black for Denise Oaten, good size, fair conformation and eye catching colour with strong fur that was sadly down in condition. A cracking beige from Siân caused me a dilemma as this was a very good chin, excellent size, shape, dense fine fur of super coverage that unfortunately had just started to oxidise. Without this tinge this animal would have been a serious contender for top honours. Ribbons also won in this section for Georgie Busher and Stephen Helmore, nice to see the ribbons spread amongst our regular exhibitors.

We finished off with the Novice Mutations. Kayleigh's Violet received a 3rd for good dense fur and fair size and shape but sadly a little down in colour, similar comments for Kayleigh's Black Velvet which again had plenty of strong fur and good size but the colour and coverage needed to be improved upon. A worthy first for Cameron's Pink White which had good colour and had been well prepared, it was of fair size and shape with fine silky fur.

When judging for Best at the end it was close between the Young Standard and the Ultra violet. The Young Standard had deteriorated during the show with his well hidden faint priming lines starting to show in his shoulders. The ultra showed like a trouper and glowed under the lights and couldn't be denied. My warmest congrats to both Andrew Lee and Siân Allcoat. Also well done to all the ribbon winners, the Breeders Awards were closely contested which is nice to see. Finally thanks to everyone who helped in organising such a wonderful atmospheric show, thanks so much for inviting me.

Senior Judge, Kerry Bradburn