

Judges Report – Southern Region Show

Chieveley, February 17th 2019

I travelled down to Chieveley, looking forward to the day and to seeing everyone. Although there was a relatively small number of exhibitors, the number of entries was good at 66 animals and the hall was busy. It was fantastic to see so many new faces in the audience that had come along for the day to watch. Heather as Show Manager, opened the show on time, albeit it was a very solemn official start to the day. A minute's silence was held for Debbie Holmes so that we could all remember this very lovely lady and to let Cameron and his family know that they are very much in the minds of everyone in the society that knows them. I for one, will certainly miss my chats with Debbie.

Onto the show itself.

Young Standard Females

After colour phasing the standards, we moved onto the first class of the day, the Medium Dark Young Standard Females. The 1st ribbon winner (A50) which was bred by Heather Boncey, was the worthy winner of the Best Young Standard Female award. The chinchilla was the best all round animal in the class and had been nicely prepared. It had good colour, good size and conformation combined with decent fur strength. Congratulations to Heather for not only getting the BYSF but also the Reserve Best Young Standard female; who was the 2nd ribbon winner in the same class. The 1st and 2nd share the same date of birth so I assume they are litter mates. It was another good chin, again with good colour, but it did not quite have the size and conformation of the winner and the fur was somewhat breaking up on the hips. However, still a very good animal. In 3rd place was a well-prepared female bred by Karly and Craig Donkersley. It was another nice animal with good fur strength and good colour. The three HC's which were bred by Heather, Georgie Busher and Stephen Helmore, all had something to commend them, but all suffered from not being in top show condition.

There was a 3rd and HC in the dark colour phase, both chinchillas being bred by Dave Green. The 3rd ribbon winner was a decent female, but could not get higher than a 3rd purely because she was priming and had some staining of her fur. The HC was priming less, but again was not in the best show condition and did not have the quality of the other animal. The Mediums produced a 3rd for Andrew Lee. This female had good size and conformation, it had been nicely prepared and had good fur strength and density on its back. However, the veiling was incomplete and the colour needed to be bluer and brighter.

Young Standard Males

The 1st ribbon winner in the Medium Darks went on to become the Reserve Best Young Standard Male and was bred by Karly and Craig. This was the best overall chinchilla in the class, it was again well prepared, had good size and conformation and good strong dense fur that was blue in colour. Karly and Craig also went on to get the 2nd in the class, with what I suspect was the litter mate. There was not much in it between the top two animals in the class, with the 2nd animals being slightly smaller but still a chinchilla with good colour and nice fur. Stephen got a 3rd ribbon for a chinchilla with decent colour but out of condition. Karly and Craig also got a HC for a young male that unfortunately was let down by the fact that it was priming badly on the day.

We then went onto the Dark Young Standard Males, and this class produced the Best Standard of the day which also went on to become our Reserve Grand Show Champion. The male was bred by Karly and Craig, it had lovely silky fur of good strength and density and a lovely blue colour with a sharp white belly. A very good young chin, congratulation to both of them for producing this lovely animal. The 2nd in the class which was bred by Heather was also an excellent chin, it had a lovely blue colour and a white belly. The size and conformation were also good, it was just let down by having soft fur around the hip area. The 3rd in the class was again from Stephen, it deserved a 3rd because of its fur strength and colour, however, it was not in the best of show condition and was rather on the small side.

Adult Standard Females

The Medium Dark class produced a 1st for Andrew which went onto win the award of Reserve Best Adult Standard Female. This female, at 8 months old, was well presented but was just starting to go over. Nonetheless, it had good size and conformation, lovely fur strength and decent colour. Well done Andrew. The 2nd was a female bred by Karly and Craig. It was a good chinchilla with a nice blue colour but she showed some signs of staining on the belly; it had good fur strength but the veiling needed to be more complete over the hips. It was a close call between the 2nd and 3rd in this class, with the 3rd (bred by Andrew), also having a good blue colour, good conformation but it came 3rd because it had slightly soft fur. The three HC's all bred by Andrew, were all unfortunately not in the best of condition on the day.

We then moved onto the Dark Adult Females, and the 1st for Karly and Craig produced the Best Adult Standard Female. She was a lovely blue animal with good fur strength, she was not big, being of just acceptable size but her other qualities meant she came out on top against the other adult females. The 2nd in the class was from Stephen, this was a lovely animal and in fact had slightly better colour than the winner, but the fur was breaking up in parts and it needed to be in better show condition. The HC from Andrew was unfortunately just too small and "wedgy" to get a better award.

Adult Standard Males

With less than 3 animals in each colour phase, all 5 adult standard males went into an AOC (Any other colour) class. The Extra dark (D32), bred by Karly and Craig, went onto win the Best Adult Standard Male. He was a lovely animal with bags of eye appeal, a beautiful blue colour and a lovely clear white belly. He had been very well prepared, and had good density with silky fur. My only criticism was he could have done with better size, but of course he may continue to grow. However, a very good male who went on to become the Reserve Best Standard, only just being beaten by their own young male. Well done to you both!

The Extra Dark from Andrew had a nice colour but was just too small and wedge shaped to get any higher than a HC. The 2 Medium Darks produced a 2nd and 3rd for Andrew. The 2nd ribbon winner looked as though it was of ok colour and reasonable density, but looked somewhat tinged. As Andrew explained to me later in the day, this was no surprise since it was a case of mistaken identity when gathering the chinchillas for the show.... the chinchilla was approaching two and had been in breeding! The 3rd ribbon Medium Dark (D24) also went to Andrew for a chin that was well presented and had better colour than the other M/D, but lacked fur strength on the hips. The 2nd ribbon winning Dark Adult Standard Male from Georgie could have been better prepared and was only just of acceptable size, however, it deserved a 2nd ribbon due to its density and fur strength.

We then moved onto the Young Mutations and started with a class of Sullivan Violets.

Young Mutations

Sullivan Violets: A class of 4 resulted in a 1st, 2nd and 3rd for Andrew and a HC for Stephen. The first in the class was just under 7 months, had good colour, conformation and density of fur and had been very well prepared. Unfortunately, the remaining animals in the class, although all had some good qualities, had fur that was lying down on the side, with the 2nd and 3rd ribbon winner it gave the impression that the fur was over long.

Black Velvets: Next up was a class of 3 young Black Velvets and this class provided us with the eventual worthy Grand Show Champion for Karly and Craig. It was another of their very well-prepared chinchillas with lovely silky dense fur and a lovely blue-black colour. It had excellent veiling for a youngster, being fully covered in the neck area and also had good size and conformation. A chin with bags of eye appeal. Congratulations to you both. Karly and Craig also got the 2nd ribbon with another very good Black Velvet, again an animal with good veiling and it was in fact marginally sharper than the 1st ribbon winner, however, it did not have the same quality of fur. The third for Georgie, had satisfactory fur density and colour, there was a very slight band of grey in the neck, but that will almost certainly improve with age; the main issue was that the animal was priming quite badly on the day.

Any other Colour (AOC class): There were two very nice Wilson Whites in the class, both belonging to Heather. There was not much to choose between them and they had been equally beautifully prepared. Both had good size and conformation and were sufficiently clear, with the 1st animal having better fur strength than the 2nd ribbon winner. The 1st ribbon winner went on to become our Reserve Best Young Mutation, another good result for Heather! There was also a 1st for Dave for a nice Brown Velvet. It was well prepared, had decent clarity of colour and good veiling. The fur strength in the back was reasonable, but being a youngster, it still had some baby fur around the hips. Dave also got a 3rd for another Brown Velvet and although the fur on the back showed some strength, it was soft around the sides. It was also not in the best show condition and I would have liked it to be blockier and a bit bigger. Dave, also got a third for a Pink White with decent size and conformation and satisfactory density, however, it could not get higher than a 3rd since it was down in colour. Dave's Sapphire also achieved a 3rd. It was only just 4 months old, rather on the small side and priming. Nonetheless, it deserved a 3rd because of its lovely blue colour. His Charcoal was given a HC mainly because it was very out of condition on the day. Finally, there was a 2nd for a Beige bred by Georgie. This chin had good size, conformation and density, however, it could not be awarded a 1st since the colour was "patchy".

Onto the Adult Mutations we went, of which there were 17.

Adult Mutations

Pink Whites: There was a class of three Pink Whites, the 1st and 2nd ribbon winners being bred by Georgie and the 3rd by Dave. The 1st ribbon winner was the clearest in the class and had lovely strong upright fur. It had been very well prepared to show it off at its best and was a very good example of this mutation. The 2nd ribbon was awarded to a chin that again had been well prepared and had good density but did not have the clarity of colour of the winner. The remaining animal in the class was big and blocky, the fur on the back had reasonable density but the fur on the sides was lying down.

Sullivan Violets: This was the biggest class in the Adult Mutations and each generously received an award. There was a 1st, 2nd and two HC's for Andrew, a 3rd for Stephen and a HC for Georgie. The animal that came out on top was the best "all round" animal, it had good fur density but just needed to be bluer. The 2nd in the class was by far the bluest, a very nice colour, however, the fur was weak, which meant it could not beat the 1st ribbon winner. Stephens 3rd had good size and conformation and reasonable fur strength, but was unfortunately down in colour. The three HC's were not in top show condition and sadly all badly lacked fur strength.

Black Velvets: Next came a class of 3 adult Black Velvets. The winner of the group was a very nice animal presented by Andrew. It was a lovely Blue- Black colour with a good white belly. The veiling was reasonable and it had silky fur of good density. Even though it was not in top show condition and the fur was breaking up on the hips, it was still good enough to go on to win the Best Adult Mutation Award. Well done Andrew! The 2nd was from Georgie, and although a nice animal with a decent fur type, it was somewhat tinged and casty probably because of its age. The 3rd, again from Andrew, was a decent Black, with reasonable size and conformation and a lovely white belly, however, it had somewhat soft fur.

AOC Class: The last class of animals on the day to be judged were 5 AOC's. This class provided us with the Reserve Best Adult Mutation in the form of a Homo Beige exhibited by Dave. This chin was what you would call a whopper, saying it was big and blocky does not adequately describe it! It was weighty in the cage but also contributing to its size was its masses of strong upright dense fur. Every effort had been made to prepare it, the front half had been done lovely, the back end less so, since it had some loose fur on the top, although as I speculated on the day, that could have been caused by the chins' curly tail. It could have been clearer in colour and was starting to go over, none the less, on balance, the bags of fur on this animal meant it just pipped Georgie's Pink White to the Reserve Best Adult Mutation award. Congratulations Dave. Georgie presented a Beige in the class that achieved a 1st. The size and conformation were only acceptable but it had nice dense fur and a reasonable colour so was awarded a top ribbon. Georgie also got a 2nd for her nice White Violet. This chinchilla had decent fur strength, density and colour but could not quite achieve a 1st on the day since it needed to be in better condition. Andrew got a 2nd with a Wilson White of reasonable colour. The fur density was also reasonable, but it was of a soft fur type that could have been more upright. Finally, Dave

presented a Charcoal that achieved a HC. The fur density was reasonable but it was on the small size, not in top condition and somewhat down in colour.

At the end of the show, Karly and Craig's young Black Velvet came up against their own Young Standard Male for the accolade of Grand Show Champion. The Black Velvet just came out on top, with the Young Male becoming Reserve. Can I congratulate everyone on their awards and to thank everyone for the welcome extended to me. Once again, it was a really friendly show and it was also lovely to see that, without exception and irrespective of region, all the NCS members there, at the end of the show rolled up their sleeves to help clear up the hall. This meant that everyone could make a relatively early departure for the journey home. I must also thank Andrew's family, namely his wife and daughter Harriet, for making everyone such a lovely lunch. I really enjoyed my spaghetti Bolognese!

Thank you.

Siân Allcoat
NCS Judge