

West Midlands & Wales Judges Show Report, Gaydon, 15.09.2013

Judge :- Stephen Helmore.

There is always an extra exuberance about the first show of the season with everyone catching up on each other's news after the summer break. After colour phasing both the young and adult standard chinchillas, we started our first class of 5 medium dark young females at 11.40 a.m.. A good class with all 5 chins receiving ribbons with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places to chins from Kerry Bradburn. 1st went to a 4 month youngster really blue in colour with good confirmation and fur type, with a good size 6 month chin but not as bright as the 1st taking 2nd. We had an impromptu deviation to the show at this point, as these 5 chins showed most of the comparisons that we consider and we broke for everyone to look at the chins under the lights, before returning to the next class of 5 medium young females. Another 4 month old chin from Kerry with plushy fur type but still immature won the class with no 2nd award. Annie Thickens entered the only Novice medium dark young female that received a 3rd place ribbon. The 2 Medium darks received Best and Reserve young standard females with the Best becoming Reserve Best Young Standard.

We had a class of 3 medium young standard males with 1st and 2nd awards going to Kerry's chins. Both 4 months of age and well grown with a long fur type. The 1st had a slightly better fur type and the 2nd slightly brighter colour. with the 1st being Reserve Best Young Male. We then had an AOC class with 2 medium darks, 2 darks and 2 extra dark colour phases. Sian Allcoat had 2nd award for her medium dark male with a good plushy fur type but down from 1st position in all other aspects. The 2 Darks from Rosemary Paxman received 2nd and 3rd ribbons, both lacking brightness and clarity of colour with the 2nd having a dense and silky fur type with the 3rd having a more open fur but the better colour of the 2. A 1st and 3rd for Kerry's Extra Darks, The 1st a really good chin at 5 months had veiling coverage right down over his sides just lacking a bit of lustre on the day that would have made him really special. However he was good enough to become Best Young Male and Best Young Standard.

A class of 3 medium Dark adult standard females all entered by Kerry received 1st, 2nd and 3rd ribbons. 1st was an extra large blocky female with tight dense fur, the smaller 2nd placed chin had slightly better colour and a plushy strong fur type with the 3rd not being quite so dense with more open fur. The Best Adult standard female came from the single Medium Dark Novice entry from Denise Oaten. The best groomed and prepared chin on the day, in top condition, with a beautiful dense plushy strong fur type and bright colour. An all round very good chinchilla,

she just lacked veiling coverage going up above the shoulders into the neck area that held her back from receiving a higher award .

4 Adult Standard Males all from Kerry came as an AOC class with 2 colour phased mediums, 1 dark and 1 extra dark. 2nd and 3rd in the mediums both blocky males with the 2nd having dense fur and clear colour with the 3rd having a brighter colour and finer but not so dense fur type. We then had 2 excellent males that both received 1st ribbons in their respective colour phases. Both similar types, with excellent veiling, strong silky dense fur and good colour, the Extra Dark chin just had the edge on the Dark .They went on to take Best and Reserve Best Adult Standard Males. Best and Reserve Best Standard Animal and ultimately Best and Reserve Best In Show Awards. The 2 Novice Adult Standard Males came away with awards .A 2nd for Diane Bingham with a medium colour phased chin with clear bright colour and a good fur type that was small for an adult. A much larger chin from Annie that was a Dark received a 3rd ribbon also had a good fur type but was down on colour.

After a very good buffet lunch we resumed with a class of 3 Young Wilson Whites. A 2nd ribbon for Kerry's chin that was a good clear white that was lacking fur density. A class of 5 Black velvets followed with a 1st for Lisa Proctor's chin. An intense black colour with good coverage and dense tight fur I would have liked it to have been blockier in its conformation but still worthy to be our Best Young Mutation and Reserve Best Mutation. Kerry's 2nd at 5 months didn't have as much coverage but still a good chin became our Reserve Best Young Mutation. Georgie Blusher's 3rd had a good fur type but lacked the coverage of the top 2. The AOC class of 7 had no notable awards with highest being a 3rd ribbon for Georgia's Sullivan Violet with good conformation and size that had a steely colour and no appealing sheen.

In the Novice classes there were 4 Wilson Whites with 2nd for Annie's chin of 5 months with a good colour and reasonable size but weak fur strength and 3rd for a near 7 month chin from Denise that had better fur strength but down in colour. Denise had a 2nd with her Self black chin that was the best in a class of 3 that had a good all round black coverage and good colour but lacking in size and conformation. The AOC class of 4 had a 2nd ribbon for a reasonable beige from Annie that put to a good standard should show an improvement in the offspring.

Only 5 Adult mutations came to the table in one AOC class but we had 4 1st ribbons and a 3rd ribbon awarded. Kerry's 1st for a big blocky Wilson White chin had loads of

plushy dense fur with a slight creaminess. Sian had 1st awards for her Brown velvet with good coverage and really tight dense plushy fur type that was on the small side, possibly just over 7 months, which will hopefully grow and fill out. Her other 1st was for a Black Velvet with good bright colour, good size and strong silky fur type but lacked the coverage we desire. The Best in this class that became Reserve Best Adult Mutation came from Barry and Sue Thornton with a really good coloured Self Black that wrapped around reasonably well, a bit on the small side but in every other aspect very good for its type. Barry and Sue also had the 3rd ribbon for another self Black but not so good in all departments from the 1st.

There were also 7 Novice Adult Mutations entered and they also came to the table in one AOC class. The major awards came from 2 Black Velvets. The 1st from Denise was a good all round chin with good strong fur type, bright colour and good coverage with the larger chin from Annie having 2nd that didn't have the coverage or brightness of the 1st and very much out of condition. Denise's Black Velvet then went on to be the Best Adult Mutation and Best Mutation but didn't match up to the qualities of the 2 standards of Kerry's at the end for Best in Show.

Congratulations to Kerry for winning both Best in Show and the Reserve but also to Denise for winning 2 group awards from the Novice ranks with 2 very good owner bred chins. My thanks to all concerned with the Show and to all members present that made it a very good day out.

Stephen Helmore