

## **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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> places to chins from Kerry Bradburn. 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> taking 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> award. Annie Thickens entered the only Novice medium dark young female that received a 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> awards going to Kerry's chins. Both 4 months of age and well grown with a long fur type. The 1<sup>st</sup> had a slightly better fur type and the 2<sup>nd</sup> slightly brighter colour. with the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> award for her medium dark male with a good plushy fur type but down from 1<sup>st</sup> position in all other aspects. The 2 Darks from Rosemary Paxman received 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ribbons, both lacking brightness and clarity of colour with the 2<sup>nd</sup> having a dense and silky fur type with the 3<sup>rd</sup> having a more open fur but the better colour of the 2. A 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> for Kerry's Extra Darks, The 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ribbons. 1<sup>st</sup> was an extra large blocky female with tight dense fur, the smaller 2<sup>nd</sup> placed chin had slightly better colour and a plushy strong fur type with the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the mediums both blocky males with the 2<sup>nd</sup> having dense fur and clear colour with the 3<sup>rd</sup> having a brighter colour and finer but not so dense fur type. We then had 2 excellent males that both received 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5 months didn't have as much coverage but still a good chin became our Reserve Best Young Mutation. Georgie Blusher's 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> for Annie's chin of 5 months with a good colour and reasonable size but weak fur strength and 3<sup>rd</sup> for a near 7 month chin from Denise that had better fur strength but down in colour. Denise had a 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> ribbons and a 3<sup>rd</sup> ribbon awarded. Kerry's 1<sup>st</sup> for a big blocky Wilson White chin had loads of

plushy dense fur with a slight creaminess. Sian had 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> ribbon for another self Black but not so good in all departments from the 1<sup>st</sup>.

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> that didn't have the coverage or brightness of the 1<sup>st</sup> 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