

## Southern Region Show

Chieveley Village Hall 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2013

### Judge – Eddie Crutchley

Having spent the night in a small hotel in Newbury where we were suitably fed and watered we arrived at the hall to find a hive of activity. The hall had oceans of space and unlike many others which we use has a very neutral colour scheme which I am sure helps in the judging process.

Judging began with Young Standard Females. Three medium colour phase animals were presented only one of which was awarded a 2<sup>nd</sup> ribbon. Not a class of distinction. The medium darks were similarly not of top show quality; all were of good conformation but had glaring faults and lack of condition. The tightest furred animal gained a third. The Darks again did not produce a winner but the 2<sup>nd</sup> placed animal had strong stand up fur with a slight silky look. It could be better in size and conformation at its age. Novice Young Standard Females were much better in quality, the two medium dark animals were awarded 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively. The 1<sup>st</sup> had nice conformation and size for such a young animal which presented itself as a real showgirl. Nice strong upright fur clear in colour but not quite as blue as I would like. The 2<sup>nd</sup> animal was big and blocky with strong upright fur with good tipping coverage. Being the elder of the two it suffered a little in condition. Only one Novice medium animal was shown which had reasonable size and conformation with clear upright fur but open which gained a 2<sup>nd</sup> ribbon. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Novice medium dark went on to become Best and Reserve Young Standard females and ultimately Best and Reserve Young Standard animals. Congratulations to Annie Thickens.

Young Standard Males were headed by the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> placed animals in medium dark colour phase. The first was of good conformation well covered with tight bluish fur which was on the short side along the back. Second to the above was a very similar animal which was a little smaller. The 3<sup>rd</sup> in the class deserves mention as it showed **silky** strong stand up fur although rather on the short side. The higher placed animals became Best and Reserve Young Standard males. The Dark class produced a 1<sup>st</sup> of quality marred by a lack of condition, on another day it may do better. With good size and conformation it had nice bright, fine, upright fur and good coverage spoiled by the lack of condition. Second in the class was similar in type but the fur was not so fine and was slightly dull.

The medium colour phase Adult Standard Females had a nice clear blue animal with plenty of fur marred by lack of condition which was awarded a 2<sup>nd</sup> ribbon. These remarks could also be attributed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> placed animal in the dark colour phase. The best and Reserve in this section came from the medium dark class. The 1<sup>st</sup> was a smart animal of good type with clear blue strong stand up fur. The 2<sup>nd</sup> was not quite as clear and blue as the winner but showed top quality in most departments.

Two outstanding dark males took a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Adult Standard Males which became Best and Reserve Standard Animals. A big blocky animal with clear strong stand up fur and beautiful coverage headed the group. A slight criticism, I would prefer him to be bluer which eventually cost him when contesting for BIS. Second to him in the class was a similar animal, not quite so big and lacking in condition but an animal of similar quality.

In general I was not impressed by the Young Mutations. The lack of condition and short fur along with pen stain and dullness in colour were the main problems. However I did find a Black Velvet in champion and novice classes respectively. Both of these animals had good size and conformation, well covered with strong silky stand up fur supported by plenty of guard hair. The Novice animal won Best young Mutation on better condition. Two quality animals.

Adult Mutations were better in quality than their younger combatants. A nicely coloured Pink-white gained a 1<sup>st</sup> ribbon. It had reasonable size and good conformation and had a good length of strong fur which was slightly open on the flanks. A Wilson-white was of similar type and quality but was marred by a

hint of a tint to the fur and gained a 2nd ribbon. A big blocky Brown-velvet with wonderful coverage of strong upright but rather coarse fur which was also slightly dull was awarded a 2<sup>nd</sup> ribbon. A Sullivan Violet which had plenty of fine fur on a body of good conformation and size gained a 2<sup>nd</sup>. It had a nice sheen to the fur but was not bright and the fur opened on the flanks. A nice class of Black-velvets was headed by a lovely blue-black animal with lovely quality fur of even coverage shown almost to perfection, some grooming lines were evident. The overall quality of this animal took it to Best in Show. The 2<sup>nd</sup> in the class also had great quality but was not quite so well covered and slightly smaller.

Congratulations to the Southern Region on a good show at a very good venue. Also congratulations to Sian Allcoat and Annie Thickens who took the majority of the specials. All did not go quite so well for Barry Thornton who soldiered through the show suffering from pneumonia and ended the day by ambulance in Swindon hospital. He is now well on the way to recovery at home. A big thank you to Sian Allcoat who stepped in and took Sue Thornton home with the dog which she looked after for a few days.

Thank you for inviting me, I very much enjoyed it.

Eddie Crutchley.