

Judges Report – Southern Region Chieveley 18/10/20

Judge Stephen Helmore

This wretched Covid virus continues to interrupt our daily lives but we did have some respite to enable us to host a show at Chieveley. Andrew and daughter Harriet brought through some new innovation to the NCS and filmed the show and we were relayed into the cyber world for those to observe from home. We were low on numbers both human and Chinchillas. With the humans keeping social distancing throughout the day.

After colour phasing the Standards, I judged the 3 young standard females, 2 mediums and 1 medium dark. Heather Boncey's young medium was the group winner with a very good size chin at 4 months 2 days with good conformation, clear colour and reasonably strong fur. She had a priming line across the middle of the back that let her down going forward. Sian Allcoat's medium dark [on the cusp of Dark] also had a 1st ribbon. A good all-round chin that was also out of condition with a soft fur down the flanks.

The 7 young males divided into 2 mediums, 4 medium darks and 1 dark. The mediums, both from Sian had a 2nd and 3rd ribbon. The 2nd had good size and conformation, clear colour and was well groomed, but the fur was open and tips curling that stopped it having a higher award. 3rd was way out of condition with uneven fur length giving it a 'salt and pepper' appearance. Conformation was narrow with a shorter fur but reasonably bright colour. The 4 medium darks were led by a 1st for Heather, a good chin with strong silky fur that was slightly open, clear colour. At 6 ½ months it could have been larger but it became Reserve Young Male and Reserve Young Standard. Andrew Lee's 2nd ribbon chin had the bluer colour, but a courser fur type, again at 5 ½ months it could have been blockier and larger. Sian's 3rd had a similar fur type to the first, but a bit narrow across the shoulders, however, all 3 were quite close in their qualities. The Dark male from Sian was the best of the seven that also became our Best young standard. A good chin with a strong silky fur, bright colour with good veiling coverage down the sides. At 6 months, size was OK but not large.

Seven adult standard females started with a class of 4 medium darks. 1st from Andrew was a good all round chin, large with clear colour, well groomed with a plushy not silky fur type. She became Reserve Adult Standard Female. Andrew also had 3rd and HC in the class, but both were very much out of condition. The 2 dark chins were headed by Sian's chin. A really good chin with strong silky fur, blue colour and veiling coverage that came down the sides and in show condition. At 8 months she was not overly large for an adult. Her qualities and condition took her through to Best Adult Female, Best Adult Standard, Best Standard and ultimately our Grand Show Champion. Andrew's 2nd was a much larger chin and blocky with good colour, but the fur was way out of condition but I could see a good chin underneath. The Extra dark chin from Andrew received a generous 1st. Not overly large for 13 months but with reasonably good conformation. She had a really strong dense fur with excellent veiling – the downside was the colour being slightly tinged.

A medium dark adult standard male was our only entry for this group from Andrew. Again, not overly large for 13 months but had reasonable conformation, a really good clear blue colour and a reasonably strong dense silky fur type, for which I gave him a 1st ribbon. It was not until I brought him forward for comparison with the other group winners that I appreciated his qualities as he went on to become our Reserve Adult Standard, Reserve Standard and Reserve Grand Show Champion.

Fifteen young mutations started with a class of 4 Wilson Whites. No 1st ribbon we had a 2nd for Andrew's chin with a grey patination, reasonable size and conformation and plushy but open fur type. Sian's 3rd had a stronger fur type but was a bit narrow across the shoulders and had a creaminess to the colour. 4 Beiges left Andrew with a 3rd and an HC ribbon. His 2 chins which I

thought to be siblings were a pale colour phase. Both had reasonable size and conformation with a plushy but very open fur. HC had the slightly better colour but fur was very ragged with a large patch in the back growing in. 3 Sullivan Violets with a 2nd ribbon for Cameron Holmes. Reasonable size and conformation, clear colour with strong fur in the middle of the back but with very soft weak fur on the flanks. 5 chins in the AOC class gave us our only 1st ribbon for Cameron's ultra violet. At 5 ½ months it had reasonable size and conformation. Good strong fur in the back with a clear attractive colour with even coverage right down the sides although fur was slightly weaker down the flanks. A nice chin that was our Best Young Mutation and Reserve Best Mutation. Also, in the AOC were 2 Brown Velvets with Heather's chin in 3rd place, was very small for 6 months, clear colour, reasonable coverage, out of condition with a longer uneven length courser fur. Andrew's HC was a similar size and a month younger; it was a bit narrow across the shoulders and a lighter colour with less coverage.

Nine adult mutations started with a class of 3 Sullivan Violets. All from Andrew had a 1,2,3. All 3 had good size but were different in their appearance. 1st had a pale blue violet colour not much sheen with a reasonable but not strong fur type. This chin became our Reserve Adult mutation. 2nd had clear colour and a strong fur but conformation let it down with narrow neck and shoulders. 3rd had the best conformation and fur type but was much down in clarity of colour to both the others. We then had a class of 6 in the AOC. Andrew had a very nice Pink White, Really good size and conformation with loads of dense strong fur with a beige clear colour. This became our Best Adult Mutation and Best Mutation. Andrew had a 3rd for a Beige with clear colour, it was way out of condition showing a plushy fur behind the ears but the rest was covered by a huge priming line. Sian had a 3rd for a Wilson White, a silver mosaic, slightly small for an adult and slightly narrow in the shoulders, the colour was creamy but the fur was reasonably strong with good tipping. 3rd was also given to Andrew's Ebony/Self- black. Although extra dark, it did not have a consistent wrap around colour with fur paling at the belly. The fur in the back was strong and silky with the sides very much out of condition but the colour was tinged. Andrew also had 2 Black Pearls. Both on the small side which denied them a top ribbon, I gave a 2nd and 3rd for two similar chins with clear colour coming down the sides to a white belly and a strong silky fur.

Congratulations to Sian with her Grand Show Champion Standard and Andrew having Reserve.
Stephen Helmore