

Show Report – West Mids & Wales, Bugbrooke, 11th Jan 2009

Judge: - Georgie Busher

Although for a variety of number of regular exhibitors attend the show at Bugbrooke there were still sixty animals or judge, making up some classes.

I started with 12 Young Females, plus three Novice

DID YOU KNOW?

**64 Animals were exhibited at the
WM & W Show, comprising 33
Standards and 27 Mutations
+ 4 X Class**

reasons a were unable to on 11th January, more for me to interesting

Standard entries.

In the Medium colour phase there was no first, but a second for a big and blocky animal with nice clear colour, but open fur. There were also two HC's awarded, one quite small but with nice fur and finish, and the other bigger and of better conformation, but not in such good condition. Both these chins were rather down in colour.

There were four Medium-Darks, and I gave a 1st ribbon to a very good animal with good fur and coverage, with nice clear colour. She went on to become Best Young Female and subsequently Best Young Standard. The second animal was also very good and may one day prove better than the first but was not in such good show condition on the day with the fur breaking down the sides.

The Dark class produced a 1st and a 2nd. The 1st had good size and good colour, was in very good condition and had been skilfully prepared. The 2nd did not have quite the same eye appeal but had good quality fur but was lighter and more open over the hips.

[Among the Young Standard Females was a very small "dwarf" type, which appeared to have a shortened backbone so the tail appeared tucked under the hind legs. It had very nice fur and finish but its conformation ruled it out of the ribbons. There were one or two of these animals about, and at one time I had two of them but they never bred. Hopefully the strain is now dying out as I think their deformity precludes the females from carrying and passing kits successfully.]

There were three Novice Young Females, with a third ribbon for a real baby at 4 ½ months. It was small and reasonably prime, but needing to develop sharper colour. There was also a HC for a much bigger chin, way out of prime, but lots of potential for the future.

The 1st Dark animal took Reserve Best Young Female and Reserve Best Young Standard, so congratulations to the Boncey's and the Crutchley's who had the runner up.

I expected a torrent of Young Standard Males (not champagne) but in fact there were fewer than the females and we only had two classes, with one Novice entry.

The Medium-Darks produced a first ribbon for a nice coloured chin with clear white belly fur, rather small, but lots of eye appeal. He went on to be Best Young Male. The 2nd ribbon had tighter fur but was rather down on colour and needed brightness.

In the Dark class there was a first for a good chin with nice tight fur, good coverage, shape and finish, and a second for an animal with totally different fur type, long and silky with long guard hair, slightly open but with lots of eye appeal. The first ribbon winner took Reserve Best Young Male, with the specials going to the Crutchley's and the Boncey's again taking it in turns.

I gave a first ribbon to the Novice entry which needs to grow, but was a good colour and well finished, if a bit open over the flanks.

There were five Adult Standard Females which I took as Medium-Darks, where the Crutchley's took a clean sweep with 1st, 2nd and 3rd ribbons. The first animal was very big with lots of good strong plushy fur and good coverage and she automatically became Best Adult Female. The second was very blue, but smaller and had more open fur and the third had lovely silky fur but was more open and light over the hips. There were no Novice entries in either of the Adult Standard classes.

The Crutchley's had further success with the Adult Standard Males, with four ribbons. Again, all the animals were put in a Medium-Dark class, and the first was a lovely animal, an extra-dark which although was not very big, was blue with very nice fur, good coverage and lots of eye appeal and sharp white belly and bar colour. The second was big and blocky, dark, but with more open fur which gave it a slightly uneven finish. The first winner went on to take Best Adult Male, Best Adult Standard, Best Standard and eventually Reserve Best In Show. So again, well done to the Crutchley's, they have some excellent animals.

After the usual good lunch, always welcome on a chilly day, we moved on to the mutations. The young ones produced four colour classes and an AOC class.

First off were three Wilson Whites, headed by a big animal of good conformation, with excellent strong fur and even fur length. The colour was good enough for a first ribbon. The second was a weaker furred animal, nice colour but out of condition.

The three Pink Whites had a first for a nice big chin with very good fur quality and good colour. The second also had a nice colour but had weaker fur and was not as well finished. The first in this class took Reserve Young Mutation and Reserve Best Mutation – The Crutchley's again!

There was a class of Sullivan Violets (to differentiate them from the Deutsch Violets just coming into the country), but there was nothing outstanding. A second ribbon for an animal of good size and fair colour but with soft fur lying a bit flat, and a third for one with long weaker fur, lacking brightness.

There were four Black Velvets and one Novice. The first was a good size with good mutation coverage and nice blue-black density of colour. The third had much longer, less tight fur, with fair mutation coverage and good size. The Novice on the other hand was very nice, with good coverage, good colour and nice tight fur so it got a first ribbon. This made two firsts for Ritchie Huxley so congratulations – both good animals coming on nicely.

The three AOC's produced a first for a cracking Brown Velvet exhibited by the Boncey's. It was a good big animal with excellent mutation coverage and colour, and beautifully presented. It went all the way from Best Young Mutation to Best Mutation to Best In Show. There was also a first and a second for two Beiges, both a good size and colour, but the first having the edge on prime and finish.

We then took the Adult Mutations, none of which made a class of three so they all went into the AOC class, plus one Novice entry.

The Black Velvets got a first and second, the first had good size and fur quality, and was a better colour than the second, and went on to take Reserve Best Adult Mutation for the Crutchley's.

There was a first for a very nice Wilson White which had lots of good quality strong fur, good colour and eye appeal and was Best Adult Mutation for Stephen Helmore – a just reward for being asked to manage the show at very short notice and making an excellent job of it!

A Beige got a first ribbon which had very nice colour and had good fur quality and was an attractive animal – Sandy King still knows how to produce a top class Beige chinchilla! The Pink Whites collected a second for a big chin with slightly weak fur and a bit down on colour, and the third lacked clarity. The Novice Pink White was a nice big strong furred animal, but again not bright enough in colour.

The Best In Show was a hard decision. There had been some excellent animals on the table during the day but it boiled down to the Crutchley's Adult Standard male versus the Boncey's young Brown Velvet, and in the end I went for the latter – it hadn't a hair out of place – but I would have happily taken either, or preferably both home with me! Congratulations to both owners and to all other top ribbon winners.

It was a lovely show, very friendly and well ran. Different people doing different jobs but it all seemed to work out very well. We were all upset to hear Ron Gardner's illness and sent a card to wish him well home with Lyn, and we missed Kerry, but hopefully they will both be with us next time. And at least the ice had cleared off the roads for the journey home. Thank you to everyone for an enjoyable day.

Georgie Busher

