

Show Report – Northern Region, Plumley, 1st March 09

Judge:- Georgie Busher

After a comfortable night in a off the motorway I duly arrived which is very convenient for a with a separate grooming room, a plenty of parking.

Unfortunately, what I didn't have entries, due presumably to the shows being held at the time, but sixty three, which gave me quite

mostly from the Crutchley's but including breeders from Scotland, Paul Spooner, and others.



nice pub just at the hall, small show, kitchen and

was lots of number of there were a bit to do,

Four well prepared Medium Young Standard Females all had ribbons, which was a good start. The first was a good colour and size, had slightly open fur, but lots of eye appeal. The second was smaller, with tighter fur and a good colour but was light over the hips. The third was similar but needed better finish.

In the Medium Darks the first was a nice big, well furred animal, with good conformation and even coverage. It went on to take Best Young Female and Best Young Standard. The second was also a good animal, not as clean as the first, and still priming over the hips. This became Reserve Young Female. The third had good conformation and good fur quality but was open furred over the hips.

Four Medium Young Males produced a first and a third for the Crutchley's. The first was big, well furred and blocky, with nice even strong fur, but it could have been sharper. It became Reserve Best Young Standard Male. The third had much more open fur and was priming, but had good clarity.

The Medium Dark Young Standard Males had a first for a very good, well formed animal, in good condition and a good clear colour, which became Best Young Standard Male and Reserve Young Standard, and Paul Spooner had a second ribbon for a smaller chin, slightly down on colour, but with nice tight fur where it wasn't priming. The third had strong fur, priming, and was a bit wedgy, and the HC had potential, although small with good silky quality fur, but needing a better neck.

Congratulations to Richard and Eddie who took all the top awards in these classes.

There were nine Adult Standard Females and one Novice, so we made three classes of them. In the Mediums, there was one ribbon, a second for the Crutchley's for a small slightly necky chin, with nice fur quality and really clean blue/white belly fur. In the Medium Darks the Crutchley's went first and second; the first having very good tight fur and nice clear colour; and the second being bigger but with breaking fur and not so sharp. There was also an HC for a much smaller chin with good colour and good fur quality, but with potential to improve in the future.

In the Darks there was a beautiful animal with lots of strong silky fur, a good size, blocky, and very well finished. This chin took Best Adult Standard Female, Best Adult Standard and eventually Best In Show. There was also a third ribbon for a chin with good conformation, reasonable fur, slightly down in colour and rather open on the hips. Fred Seddon had a HC for another smaller animal with a way to go but with good colour and good fur.

I also gave a HC to the one Novice Adult Standard Female which unfortunately was rather nervous and lacked clarity and a good neck but had reasonable fur quality.

Moving on to the Adult Males of which there were eight. The Medium Dark class was headed by an animal with lots of eye appeal, nice strong fur, good colour and a nice sharp white underbelly. It was however a bit small for an adult. The third ribbon lacked finish as it was priming, and was down on colour on the first, but it had good size and conformation.

The Darks produced a first and a second, the first having good overall quality in colour and fur, though a little small, and the second being bigger and priming over the hips, but tight fur where it was prime. The HC was small, a very good colour but lost out on finish.

There were no Novice Adult Standard Males, so the Crutchleys took the top awards again, with the two Darks being Best and Reserve, but the Female Dark piped the Male Dark for Best Adult Standard and Best Standard animal.

What principally impressed me about the Crutchley's Standard animals was what a level lot they are, and how uniformly good their fur quality and colour looks under the lights, the main differences only being those of size, finish and condition. Well done to them!

The ribbons went round a bit more in the mutations which was nice. In the young Beige class there was a first for a smallish chin with good blue colouring and nice fur quality and conformation, a second for a big animal with very good conformation and fur but with just a slight haze overall and a third for the homozygous Beige type which had nice strong fur, a bit open, but a slight tinge.

The AOC class had a first for a Black Velvet with very good strong stand up fur, good blue colour, good coverage and in reasonable condition. The second animal; also a Black Velvet, was bigger but the fur was weaker over the hips and lacked strength and it needed better coverage of mutation fur. There was a third for a Brown/White cross which lacked fur strength but was a reasonable colour; a big Wilson White which was not blue enough, could do with stronger fur but had good conformation also got a third ribbon.

The Crutchley's Black Velvet beat their Beige for Best Young Mutation award.

There were actually fifteen Adult Mutations which gave me a jolt at the end of the day – a class of three Deutsch Violets and nine AOC's. I was very interested to judge the former, which turned out easier than expected as under the lights it is quite easy to tell one from t'other as a good chinchilla is a good chinchilla. I gave them 1, 2, 3 ribbons. The first was big and blocky, well furred, a clear (Welsh Slate?) colour with excellent fur strength. The second had weaker fur, was a good size but needed a better finish and was not such a good colour as the first. The third was small with nice tight fur but was somewhat down in colour. The AOC's produced three firsts, one for a Black Velvet of good size and fur quality and excellent depth of mutation fur colour and coverage; another for a large Wilson White which was just a tad yellow but was otherwise a very good animal all round, and another first for a Self Black with good coverage and reasonable fur quality but a little small for an adult. The two second winners were another Black Velvet whose coverage was not quite so good as the first and another small Self Black with dense wrap around colour but not blue enough. There was also a third ribbon for a Beige animal with open fur and a lack of coverage but big and a fair colour; another third for a Wilson White which was nice but open furred and rather dull. The one Novice Adult Mutation was a Black Velvet which had a third ribbon - it was out of condition and needed better mutation coverage.

The Black Velvet took the Adult Mutation award over the Deutsch Violet and this order prevailed for Best and Reserve Mutation, but Best In Show was the Dark Adult Standard Female with the Adult Black Velvet in Reserve. Any one of which I would have happily taken home.

Congratulations to Eddie and Richard for a very consistent performance and for the overall quality of their animals, and congratulations to those who made the long journey south from Scotland and elsewhere in the North to join us. Thanks to the Stewards and to the chef. I drove home in beautiful sunshine after a very pleasant day.

Georgie Busher

