

Show Report, North Region Show, 11th March 2012

Judge: Stephen Helmore

The venue is some 300 miles from my home in Devon, I decided to travel up the Saturday evening and stay locally overnight.

An entry of 50'ish chins was disappointing but not totally unexpected with Scottish Region having had a show only 2 weeks previously and the National show coming 3 weeks after. It didn't attract exhibitors from outside the region.

The Young standards were colour phased and the 6 young females resulted in 2 mediums, 2 medium darks and 2 darks. Neither of the mediums merited a 1st ribbon with Alan Mills 2nd having a reasonable colour and a strong fur type but with a dirty white belly, 3rd from Sandy King had a better colour and conformation but with a very soft breaking fur. Of the 2 medium darks, a 1st for Eddie and Richard Crutchleys' youngster with a clear blue colour and a plushy fur type with full neck. The Dark class also had a 1st for Eddie and Richard, quite different from the medium dark in fur type and conformation, she had a longer fur with very good veiling coverage but wasn't as bright a colour as the medium dark and with fur breaking in the neck and shoulders I placed the Medium Dark Best Young Female and the Dark Reserve.

Obviously unknown to me at the time these 2 chins went through to become Best and Reserve young Standards, Best and Reserve Standards and all the way to Grand and Reserve show champions.

We had a class of 5 medium young standard males with a 1st and 2nd to Eddie and Richard, exactly 5 months the 1st shows good potential with a bright colour and a silky fur type in the back it still had soft baby fur down the sides and flanks. The 2nd was similar, not so bright but better coverage and finish on sides. The 4 Medium Darks only awarded one ribbon a 1st to Eddie and Richard, another 5 month youngster with a strong silky fur type, reasonable conformation and size, the colour was clear but not blue, he became Best Young Standard male with the 1st placed Dark from Sandy King that also was 5 months was reserve—there wasn't much to choose between these 2 chins. The 3 chins in the Extra Dark class were older with 2nd and 3rd from Eddie and Richard at 61/2 months the 2nd had a silky strong fur and reasonable clear colour but wasn't big enough and out of condition put him down a place with the 3rd ribbon chin was larger but not as clear.

The 6 Adult Standard Females gave us a class of 3 medium darks with 2nd and 3rd for Eddie and Richard. Good females with good size but narrow shoulders which need to be put with a blocky male. The Medium from Chris Galt had a 2nd ribbon with blocky conformation reasonably strong fur and clear but not blue colour. The only 1st ribbon was for a Dark also from Chris, she became Best Adult Standard, a good blocky chin with a plushy strong fur but not finished over the hips.

The 2 adult males both from Chris, both received 3rd ribbons. The Dark was reasonable size but wedgy narrow shoulder conformation with off white belly, the Extra Dark had good veiling and a short tight fur that was small and probably just into the adult age group.

After a very nice buffet lunch we resumed with a class of 3 Beige young mutations. A 1st to Alan with a good type, plushy fur that had no guard hairs, clear colour, good size and conformation that became Best Young mutation and Best Mutation.

A class of 7 young Black Velvets followed. The 1st and 2nd ribbon winners from Eddie and Richard were very much better than the others in the class. The 1st a real youngster at 41/2 months has loads of potential, already showing good coverage, a blue black colour and strong fur type. The 2nd was larger and a good type but wasn't showing the coverage of the 1st.

In the A O C class Paul Spooner had 1st for a Sullivan Violet, good size and conformation, clear colour, with slightly soft fur type- I would have to have seen more of the violet sheen. Paul also had 1st for a Self Black with a good sharp colour and wrap around coverage and strong fur but was small for its age. This chin became Reserve Young Mutation and Reserve Best Mutation.

The 6 Adult Mutations were all in one AOC class. The only 1st ribbon was for Alan's Pink White, large and blocky was slightly creamy in colour and soft fur type. 2nd for Eddie and Richards Deutsch Violet, good size and strong fur type that could have been brighter and had an off white belly. They also had 2nd and 3rd awards with 2 Black Velvets. The 2nd was just over 7 months and very small but otherwise a cracking animal, attractive long guard hairs that enhanced the blue black colour and coverage. The 3rd was a better size with plushy fur but down on colour and eye appeal to the 2nd. A 2nd ribbon also for a beige from Chris, a reasonable type but badly out of condition over the hips.

Congratulations to Eddie and Richard for bringing Grand and reserve Show Champions. My thanks to the hospitality of North Region and to those members present.

Stephen Helmore .NCS Judge