

Show Report, Scottish Region Show, Biggar, 26/02/2012 Judge: Kerry Bradburn

My trip to judge the Scottish show began on the Saturday before the show. Mark and I started off at lunchtime and had a traffic free journey up the motorway. The weather in the midlands after rather a cold snowy few weeks had gone incredibly mild and sunny but on approaching the Lake District things did turn quite rainy and damp. The morning of the show was a little drier and after breakfast we headed over to the hall.

On entering the hall it was lovely to see nearly every Scottish member in attendance and also one or two from the north and midlands regions. This resulted in a good number of entries for the region, the highest for quite some time.

We started as usual with the young females of which there were 14 split across the usual phases.

M/Darks produced a 1st for an animal of good useful type with a strong upright fur, even coverage, blocky of good size and clarity and in prime on the day, she eventually went on to win best standard and reserve GSC on the day. Well done Eddie and Richard Crutchley. The 2nd was also a desirable type from the same stable. She was of blocky shape and good size with a strong tight fur but just a drop down in clarity and finish on the day. She followed up the winner to achieve reserve young female. A useful 3rd and 3 decent HCs completed this class, all unfortunately lacking in finish and looking dull on the day.

Mediums failed to produce a 1st but delivered a 2nd from Eddie and Rich for a good sized blocky example with strong fur but in need of improved density and down in clarity of colour. The 3rd this time from Wendy French was also a good sized blocky chin but was very out of prime and a little further down in clarity of colour. An hc completed this class that had the best density of the group but was out of prime and had a creamy belly and bar.

One dark from Eddie and Rich and I awarded a 1st for her very good density, silky fur type and overall quality but she was suffering badly with condition and prime.

M/dark males were next and I could only award two hcs, both were of good size and blocky but both were choppy and open furred and unfortunately dull on the day from Steven king and David Blakey.

The mediums again fell short and could only deliver 2 hcs, both were again blocky and of good size but as with the previous class finish was completely missing and the animals were open furred and down in colour on the day, this time from Wendy French and David Blakey- the weather we have been having isn't conducive for priming chins and this did show in the young classes.

The darks were much more like it and were a good class overall. The winner was of blocky shape with a silky fur of long defined tip, plushy with plenty of eye appeal. 2nd and 3rd were like peas in a pod and were of better clarity than the winner showing blueness with a good strong fur type but could not compete on density, fur quality and eye appeal with the winner. All the above were from Rich and Eddie with the winner going on to win reserve best standard in show. One extra dark produced a 2nd for David Blakey which had volumes of dense silky fur but was out of condition and down in clarity of colour.

Medium dark adult females were next and produced a 1st for a big, blocky useful female of fair colour that was a little open furred especially over the hips, the second had the dense tight resilient fur but was breaking in the shoulders and looked to have gone over the top both from Eddie and Rich. The 3rd from Wendy French was also a solid female with fair

colour and fur type but very out of prime. I was very pleased to see a good novice 1st for Teresa Moir for her female which had tight dense silky fur, she was a little small for an adult but had been beautifully prepared for show and is a useful animal especially if she grows on. Well-done. The mediums again failed to deliver a 1st or 2nd but a 3rd for Wenda Christie for a blocky tight furred exhibit that had been well prepared but was very out of prime. Steven King's hc was long furred, big and blocky but unfortunately very open and lacking prime as was the hc from Wenda that was clear in colour and blocky. A hc also for the novice mediums from Kirsty Mitchell had plenty of fur but needs much improved clarity, conformation and finish.

The dark females produced a 1st and best adult std from Eddie and Richard that had nice plushy silky fur of sharp colour, clear belly, with a full neck and reasonable finish, she was a little small for an adult but at just over 7 months was a deserving winner. The second was also a nice female with good strong fur of correct length of good clarity just missing the eye appeal of the winner. The 3rd this time from Barry Thornton was also a useful female with intense dark colour, lovely veiling coverage, strong dense fur, lacking finish and just behind the top 2 in clarity of colour. A HC was awarded to a female from David Blakey that had lovely plushy fur type but was down in colour and badly lacking finish.

The m/dark males were next and produced a 2nd from Eddie and rich for a strong furred male with desirable fur length, fair size, shape and clarity but badly lacking in finish. The mediums also only produced a 2nd from Wenda for a tight furred dense male that was of fair colour but very salt and peppery in appearance.

The darks were better and produced the best and reserve adult male awards. The 1st was a tight furred animal with good even coverage, blocky and of acceptable size and clarity, he was in good prime on the day. The 2nd was a cracker of a male with attractive intense colour, high quality dense fur and was one of the best animals I saw on the day sadly he had no show finish and looked to be past his best from James Buchan.

The novice adult males produced a HC for Hana Latimer that was of fair size and shape and presented in nice clean form. The novice darks produced 3 ribbons all for Teresa Moir. The best a 3rd had good dense silky fur but was down in clarity as were the 2 HC's, all were however well prepared.

The two adult females taking the top adult STD awards but were beaten by the young female and male for best and reserve STD in show.

After a nice cup of homemade soup from Wendy French and a few other goodies we pressed on with the mutations.

The AOC class provided us with a Wilson white to which I awarded a 2nd ribbon, fair size, conformation and clarity with a strong but open fur type from Barry Thornton. The beiges produced a 1st and 2nd ribbon, the 1st again from Barry was of good size and shape with a fine strong dense fur and showing some blueness but just a very faint hint of oxidisation over the tips, the 2nd from Wendy French was also of good size, shape and better finished but down in clarity of colour. Pink whites produced a 2nd with reasonable colour, fur type and density but narrow in the shoulders and lacking finish from Barry. The violets produced a 1st, 2nd and HC. The 1st was a lovely baby in baby prime with good clear colour, plenty of fur and a nice sharp belly from Trevor Pugsley. The 2nd from Steven King was also a nice example with fine fur and a touch of the satin sheen but unfortunately clarity and finish was

down to the 1st. The HC from David Blakey was open furred and choppy over the hips but again had a touch of the satin sheen and may improve with condition. The young Black Velvets were next and contained the eventual GSC from Eddie and Richard. This young BV was of fair size, blocky shape with very good coverage of blue black mutation fur and an attractive scattering of silky guard hair, good density with prime and shine on the day made it an easy stand out winner. The 2nd and reserve young mutation from the same herd had the better size and plenty of quality but just down in all departments to the winner other than clarity which was on par with the 1st, the 3rd this time from James Buchan was also not too far off the pace with good blocky shape, plenty of fur good clear colour, good coverage but not the sharpness of the winner but still a useful chin. Three self Blacks produced a 1st and 3rd from David Blakey. The 1st was a big blocky example with plenty of resilient dense fur and ok for colour. The 3rd was of better colour, sharper, but as often seen with this mutation, missing the desirable blocky full neck shape and lacking density. We had 2 good novice exhibits from Teresa Mior gaining 2nds, both the pink white and the Wilson white were useful chins with good shape and size both well prepared but both needing better clarity of colour, the pw being a little too peachy and the ww being a little flat in colour. Twenty adult mutations started off with a good class of Wilson whites to which I awarded 5 out of 6 ribbons. The 1, 2 and 3 were all from James Buchan and were all good useful chins with the 1st clearly the best. Big, blocky of clear colour showing some blueness with attractive guard hair, a strong but slightly open fur type going to win best adult mutation and reserve mutation overall –well-done James. The 2nd also big and blocky with plenty of fur but a drop down in clarity of colour and the 3rd a attractive mosaic pattern with a more silky plushy fur than the 1st and 2nd but a little too creamy in colour. Two reasonable HC's completed this class. The Deutsch violets had 3 exhibits all from Eddie and Rich that achieved a 1st, 3rd and HC. The 1st was a lovely example big and blocky with plenty of dense, intense fur that was just going over the top but still achieved reserve best adult mutation. The 3rd was also a good chin with plenty of fur but was out of prime and a little small for an adult. A class of 3 black velvets produced a 1st for Eddie and Rich with good size and shape, plenty of strong fur, clear colour but not sharp and with slight grey in the neck. The 2nd from Wendy French was sharper for colour and a more intense black but was small, narrow and out of prime. The HC from David Blakey was plushy furred and an intense black but with a slight tinge and out of prime. A large class of self blacks produced a 1st, 3rd and 3 HCs all for Barry Thornton. The 1st was a good chin with impressive size and shape rarely seen in this mutation, dense fur and good sharp clarity although not every hair shiny black was deserving of its 1st ribbon. The 3rd was more typical of what we have come to expect from self blacks being small and narrow but with sharp clarity and every hair shiny black. The 3 HCs were awarded for good volume of fur and reasons for using them with the correct mates if your passion is self blacks. I awarded a 1st ribbon to a single violet from Trevor Pugsley that had good size and shape with plenty of strong fur of fairly good colour but lacking finish.

Two beiges from Wendy French awarded a 2nd and 3rd finished off the main show mutations. Although we can never be sure until we uncover the breeding mechanics of an animal and its genetic makeup but these two beiges certainly had the phenotypical appearance of homo beiges, both had good size, blocky shape and plenty of strong plushy fur, unfortunately both had a hint of a undesirable tint about them instead of the blue beige hue we are looking for.

Three novices AOC produced another 1st for Teresa Mior for her clear blue violet of fair size and shape but with plenty of that lustrous satin sheen, but needing better show condition to go further. A 3rd again for Teresa for her Black Velvet which was of fair size and shape but needs improved coverage , clarity and condition to achieve better results. The last ribbon an HC for a pink white from Kirsty Mitchell had fair size and a decent volume of fur but narrow in the shoulders and too creamy in colour.

When judging for best at the end of the show the young STD female couldn't compete with the black velvet which shimmered as it moved under the lights. My congratulations, to Rich and Eddie and all who won ribbons on the day, although a very long journey I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and found the Scottish team most pleasant and welcoming and this all made for a most enjoyable show. Thanks again.

Kerry Bradburn. NCS Judge.