

Show Report – Southern & WM&W Joint Show,Bugbrooke
11/12/2011

Judge: - Richard Crutchley

JUI: - Fiona Browning

The final show of the 2011 calendar year brought me to Bugbrooke for the Joint Southern and West Midlands & Wales Christmas show. A good entry of 92 chins, with 85 being exhibited pleased me, especially given more than half of these were Standards – good for the future!

The weather on the run up to this show had been mild and wet, with a few days of cold, followed again by heavy rain. These conditions were clearly not ideal and many of the chins had multiple priming lines across their grotzens.

My Judge Under Instruction was Fiona Browning and we proceeded with the colour phasing of the young standards.

In the main show, a class of four Medium Dark young females brought a 2nd for Kerry Bradburn's blocky chin of good size, with strong fur type which was a little open, but with a drop in clarity of colour which cost it the 1st ribbon. There was also a HC for Stephen Helmore's silky furred chin which had improved density, but was dull.

The Medium colour phase of five chins again yielded just a 2nd for Kerry's large, blocky chin which was well veiled but was slightly down in colour and had long fur over the hips which wasn't finished. There was also a HC for Sandy King's blocky well presented chin which had fairly good density but was priming and dull on the day.

The Dark phase of just one exhibit gave a 1st for Kerry's chin which had even veiling, fair density, reasonable size, a silky fur type and was in better prime to the other chins and prepared well. This chin, although a little dull was definitely clearer than the 2nd ribbon winners and went on to become Best Young Standard Female.

The Novice classes yielded two colour phases, with four Mediums and two Medium Darks. All ribbon winners were from Chris Galt, with his Medium female winning 2nd ribbon for her good size and conformation, silky strong fur type, well presented but not in show prime and being open over the hips and a little dull. In the Medium Darks Chris also gained a 1st for his very large and blocky female which had a silky strong fur type, good density, fairly even veiling. This female went on to gain Reserve Best Young Standard Female – well done. Second ribbon in the class was also from Chris and was clear and bright, but with open fur and pale over the flanks, although with nice conformation.

The main show young standard males numbered just six across four colour phases. In the Medium CP there was a 3rd for Kerry's big, blocky chin which was pale over the hips and with open fur. In the Medium Darks a 2nd again for Kerry for her silkier furred chin which was of fair size and conformation but was slightly open furred.

In the Dark CP Kerry won a 1st for a very young chin just over 4 months which was bright, clear and had a blueness to it, of good size and conformation and fairly dense for its age. It was choppy around the sides and rear where the baby fur was still present, but was good enough to become Reserve Young Male and Reserve Young Standard down to its clarity and blueness (something we didn't see very often at this event!). In the Extra-Dark CP was another 1st for Kerry for her dense, well veiled, strongly furred chin, being well prepared and

overall high quality, but a little down in colour. Never-the-less this male achieved Best Young Male, Best Young Standard and Reserve Best Standard – well done Kerry!

In the Novice section, ten chins were exhibited spread across three colour phases. A series of 3rd and HC ribbons were awarded for young males which were generally not in top show conditioning, priming on the day, and also a little down in colour. There was a 1st for Chris Galt for his very nice male being bright with eye appeal, good density, and silky fur type. This chin had a couple of comb marks over its shoulders which I forgave it (and its owner) for but it could not progress beyond this.

In the main show adult females, all four entries were exhibited by Kerry, gaining a 1st and three 2nds, split amongst three colour phases. All these chins were useful, generally being of good size and conformation but a little past their best and showing dullness on the day. The Dark colour phase brought the group winner and Reserve with a fair sized, very blocky female with strong fur type and good density, in fairly good condition and well presented, but just off top clarity. The reserve was again a solid chin which was a littler open furred on the day.

Just one novice entry gave a 2nd for Chris Galt for his nice Medium female which was of good size and conformation, silky fur type of good density, but again not in top condition on the day.

Seven Adult Standard males and two novice entries made up groups D and ND respectively, across four colour phases. 1st in the Darks for Kerry was a very nice, large male which was again a little down in colour. In the Extra-Darks were the eventual group winners, with the 1st Best Adult Male, going all the way to Grand Show Champion for James Buchan. This male was BLUE AND CLEAR, bright, with silky dense fur! He was of fair size and conformation but had bags of eye appeal and that elusive clarity and blueness. A stand out winner on the day – well done James. Second in this class and eventual Reserve Adult Male was for Kerry's excellent chin in every regard, but down in colour. It was such a shame this caste affected so many chins on the day, and this male was beaten by the Adult female which had slightly better clarity.

Overall there were a significant number of chins showing off colour which made me feel pretty sad. Top clarity and a blueness was present, albeit in maybe three or four of the Standard entries, which was disappointing as all other attributes were in abundance. These are (perhaps) the hardest attributes to achieve and maintain, but have the power to turn good animals into great animals, so are very much worth striving for!

The presence of a few clear and blue animals makes me think the decoration of the hall (orange floor & ceiling plus red curtains!) or the show lights didn't significantly affect the chins on display, but this can't be ruled out, especially given one of the set of lights did fade towards the (unused) end of that second set. Perhaps it is time all regions refreshed their bulbs, or at least checked them over...

As usual, an excellent lunch followed and we got started with the mutations. A good number of exhibits gave us three classes plus the AOC class.

First up were the Wilson Whites which numbered seven. First ribbon, third and HC for James Buchan for three good quality exhibits. The first was large and blocky, with the fine fur type and density of the bunch, with clear colour and some blueness, only very slightly

creamy in the patches where less standard veiling came through. Third ribbon was similar, being very blocky with slightly improved silkier fur type but a shade down on clarity and a touch less dense to the first ribbon winner.

Next came a class of three Beige chins which was very disappointing, winning no awards. Sadly these chins were not of the desired quality, being open furred and/or very off colour.

Next came a class of Black Velvets which were more like it! First for Kerry's very large chin of good conformation, good density and reasonable veiling and intensity for its age, plus good clarity. This chin became Best Young Mutation.

The Any-Other-Colour class brought a 1st for Kerry's Brown Velvet, being lovely blocky teddy-bear shape with a thick neck, fairly good clarity but with a baby-woolly type of fur. Hopefully the fur will prime through and improve but overall this was an attractive chin, prepared well with good intensity and even coverage.

A 3rd for Georgie Busher's Pink White which had good fur qualities, was reasonable for size if not a little pinched in the neck, but with too much peachiness for me.

Also a 2nd for Rosemary Paxman's Ultra-Violet which was of good size and conformation, was clear but had no blueness, but again had a coarse fur type and was out of condition around sides and over the rump.

Kerry's young Black and James' Wilson White became group and reserve winners respectively.

In the Novice young mutations all six exhibits achieved awards, with just one first for Sian Allcoat's Black Velvet which was a good chin with fine dense fur, bright with some eye appeal, reasonable veiling coverage and well prepared.

The adult mutations were less numerous with seven exhibits winning six awards, with a 1st for Kerry's Wilson White, being big, blocky, finely furred and in good condition, but not so tightly furred.

The two Black Velvets were very good, with Kerry's large, blocky clear bright chin (showing some blueness) with good veiling went on to take Best Adult Mutation and eventually Reserve Show Champion. Second to this was Georgie Busher's very intense, well veiled, very dense black which was not in such good show condition and was a touch dull compared to the winner. Still good enough (by some way) to reach Reserve Best Mutation – very well done!

Three Novice exhibits yielded two awards for a Self Black which had decent fur in the centre of the back but which was priming, and for a Sullivan Violet which again was out of condition on the day.

Congratulations must go to all who attended and brought along chins, plus to all the helpers for making the show a success.

Final congratulations for Kerry Bradburn, James Buchan and Georgie Busher who took the top honours on the day, plus to Chris Galt for making his successful journey despite very little sleep after working two jobs recently!!!

Thanks to the regions for inviting me to judge this show, and many thanks to my Judge Under Instruction on the day, Fiona Garnett, who for her third appointment made some insightful observations and commented well on one class. – well done Fiona!

Richard Crutchley

