

## Show Report – Scottish Region Show, Biggar, 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2010

Judge:- Ron Gardner

Having watched the weather some trepidation for several set off at 10am on Saturday knowing quite what to expect.

We needn't have worried grey and miserable morning in and did not seem to improve at up the A1. We turned onto the Corner, and it seemed almost

entered a different world. The road itself was completely clear of any snow, but there was an enormous amount on the hills for as far as the eye could see. The sun began to shine, and we both started to relax and enjoy the journey. There was very little traffic, so we made good time, and crossed the Scottish border way ahead of our schedule.

Biggar seems to be quite a popular base for tourism, and we did explore a little. Only a little mind, as being "soft southerners" we were taken aback by how cold it was!! We found a decent restaurant and had dinner, and then headed to the B & B for the rest of the evening.

Sunday morning dawned, and as we looked out of the window, it was snowing! Oh joy, we thought, and expected a rubbish turn out, and an even worse journey home. The B & B was just about 20 yards from the Municipal Hall, so after a short but brisk walk, we put in an appearance. A lovely sized hall, with plenty of all the essentials. Everyone was very busy, several exhibitors grooming their chins, tables and chairs already arranged, and a warm welcome was given to us both.

The show began on time, and I was pleased to note an entry of 55 exhibits. I have to say the quality has much improved since my last visit (to Bowness several years ago) and although many lacked show condition, there were some very nice chins on show.

I began with a class of four Medium-Dark young females, but only awarded a 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and HC ribbon. The 2<sup>nd</sup> award is, I'm sure going to be a lovely chin, with a clear bar but was too far out of condition to gain a 1<sup>st</sup>. The 3<sup>rd</sup> award had long silky fur, but was blotchy.

The Medium phase was a little better, with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> awards. The 1<sup>st</sup> was good colour, but was breaking and could have done with a little more in the neck, but achieved Best Young Female for James Buchan. The 2<sup>nd</sup> in the class had silky strong fur, but was narrow in the neck and not as bright as the 1<sup>st</sup>, but gained Res Young Female, this time for Wendy French.

The young males again split two colour phases, Medium-Dark and Mediums. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> m/d were both excellent animals, the 1<sup>st</sup> having good colour with a clear belly, and excellent fur quality, and will improve as it ages, good enough on the day to take Res Young Male for James Buchan. The 2<sup>nd</sup> in the class had short fur in the neck and lacked width in the shoulders.

The Medium phase again took the top award. The 1<sup>st</sup> although not finished and a little light over the hips, had strong, silky stand up fur, good colour and clarity, and went all the way to Show Champion, for Wenda Barron.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

**55 Animals were exhibited at the Scottish Show, comprising 37 Standards and 18 Mutations**

forecast with days, Lyn and I morning, not

though. It was a Ruskington, all on our way A66 at Scotch as if we had

I had two classes of Adult females and I began with the Medium phase. My initial comment was all were very well groomed and presented in lovely 'clean' cages. (No paint all over my hands)

The 1<sup>st</sup> ribbon winner became Best Adult Female and Res Adult standard, was a lovely blocky chin, in prime, and very deserving of the awards for Wenda Barron. The 2<sup>nd</sup> in the class was priming every which way, had good veiling coverage, but was not as bright as the 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Medium-Dark colour phase produced the Res Adult Female for Shelly Williams, with another lovely female, that was not finished, but did have good colour and plenty of fur in the neck.

Onto 3 classes of adult Standard Males, and four Medium phase animals. The 1<sup>st</sup> ribbon was of a good size and the colour was quite pleasing. This chin was also in prime and deserving of a 1<sup>st</sup> award, Best Adult Male, Best Adult Standard, and Reserve standard Animal, all for Stephen King. The 2<sup>nd</sup> ribbon was also a big, blocky chin, that I actually preferred to the 1<sup>st</sup>, but was short of fur in the neck and very out of prime.

The four Medium-Dark animals gave me another chin that was very flashy with bright colour and was in prime, but quite a lot smaller than the rest, this time from Wendy French, the 2<sup>nd</sup> ribbon that I referred to as a "Jolly Green Giant" from James Buchan, had bags of long fur and broad shoulders, a beautiful male, but so far out of prime it could only be a 2<sup>nd</sup> on the day. Better to come perhaps.

There were four males in the Dark phase, and I commented that they were all 1<sup>st</sup> class males. The 1<sup>st</sup>, from Stephen King again had good colour and excellent coverage, strong fur and was blue, not something that I saw a great deal of. This chin attained Res Adult Standard Male, and I could have taken him home! The 2<sup>nd</sup> in the class was very light on the hips but still a good quality chin.

After a break for a light lunch of piping hot soup and a hot dog, I resumed with the Young Mutations. The first class was of four Wilson Whites and they gained 4 awards. The 1<sup>st</sup> was a big chin with reasonable guard hair, but was not as good colour as the 2<sup>nd</sup>, but managed Res Young Mutation for Wenda Barron, the 2<sup>nd</sup> had exceptional guard hair and brilliant white colour, but was not finished. I commented that this animal had a lot better to come.

We then had an AOC class and two Beiges were awarded a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. The 2<sup>nd</sup> being short of fur in the neck and was a little woolly. The lone pink white had a lot of strong fur, good conformation, and good colour, and went on to take Best Young Mutation, Best Mutation and Reserve Show Champion, all for Wenda Barron. There was young Self Brown (Tan) that was just a baby, not tinged as so many are, but had a long way to go, and I awarded just an HC. Lastly in this class there was a good coloured but not wrap around Self-Black to which I awarded a 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The last class of young mutations was Black Velvet, the 1<sup>st</sup> ribbon of which had better colour and more fur than the 2<sup>nd</sup> which although bigger and with better coverage was off colour.

The Adult Mutations were few in number and again I had a 1<sup>st</sup> Wilson White, that was in good condition and good colour, a 2<sup>nd</sup> in the same class that was a big, blocky chin, but was breaking quite badly. The only Sullivan Violet in the show also gained a 1<sup>st</sup> for lovely colour and pure white belly fur, but went no further as it was little on the small side and rather narrow in the neck and shoulders. The last class of the day was 3 good black velvets. The 1<sup>st</sup> ribbon, Best Adult Mutation and Reserve Mutation was better finished than the other two with better coverage and colour, a very good Black Velvet from Wendy French. The 3<sup>rd</sup>

ribbon had good fur and reasonable colour, and as it was a younger animal, will probably improve with age. The 3<sup>rd</sup> ribbon was bigger with a better neck, but not at its best on the day.

This concluded the judging, and all that remains for me now is to thank the Scottish region for their friendly welcome and hospitality. I must mention young Cameron French, who at the tender age of just 9 spent his day stewarding, complete with a pristine white coat with his name proudly emblazoned across the breast pocket. He did a very good job, and has ambitions to be the youngest NCS Judge when he is a little older. He tells me he has his own chins, but does help out his Mum Wendy, whenever she needs it! A very polite and likeable young man, for whom I have great hopes for the future.

**Ron Gardner**

