

SCOTTISH SHOW 28TH OCTOBER 2012
JUDGES REPORT by Lyn Gardner

I set off for my journey to north of the border in brilliant sunshine and really looked forward to the journey.

I cannot describe my innermost feelings, but suffice to say it was with a certain amount of sadness that I set off alone, something I have not done for many years.

Ron and I made this journey together numerous times, and Ron always looked forward to the trip, and whether he was judging or showing our chins, he always enjoyed the company.

I arrived at the hotel mid afternoon, and after an excellent, leisurely dinner, I retired for the night, hoping to get some sleep, despite being a little anxious about the following day.

Sunday dawned, cold, wet and miserable, but at least there was none of the expected snow! I only had 10 miles or so to travel, so arrived in good time to witness an absolute hive of activity, and the warmth of the greeting from most of the people present, dispelled my fears and lifted my mood.

On to the business of the day, and we started with the young standard females, medium dark phase. The 1st and 2nd in this class were very similar in their characteristics, with tight fur, clear sharp colour and good size, and took Best Young Standard Female and Reserve respectively, for Richard and Eddie Crutchley. The 3rd and HC awards were both a little open furred.

The 1st in the dark phase had good conformation and tight silky fur, but was light over the hips; the 2nd award was not so sharp for colour and was priming. The first HC award was priming over the hips and small, but was a younger chin; the second HC was also priming and down in colour, but had good size.

The medium phase were a little disappointing and I didn't award a 1st ribbon. The 2nd award was very pale, lacking any amount of veiling, and the 3rd award had only tightish fur, but was a good size.

Next up were the medium dark phase young standard males. The 1st in this class had clearer, sharper colour with beautiful guard hair, the 2nd was a good size and conformation, but a slight drop in colour, and these two chins, as in the females, took Best Young Standard Male and Reserve, also Best Young Standard and Reserve again for Richard and Eddie. The 3rd in the class was open furred and breaking on the sides and the HC was a smaller chin and down in colour.

I then gave a dark phase Novice young male a 2nd ribbon, a nice young chin but on the small side.

The dark phase Champion animals gained a 1st for a chin with good colour, reasonable show condition, but with a slight break in the neck area, the 2nd was a good size but out of condition and open over the hips. The 3rd award was priming with numerous combing lines in the fur and was a little down in colour. The medium phase was again a little disappointing with no first award. There wasn't much to choose between the 2nd and 3rd awards, the 2nd had slightly better veiling coverage, and the 3rd although quite young, was smaller than I would like.

Two adult standard females were the next to be presented and were both very good examples of excellent standards. The first had good clear colour, excellent size and conformation, was in good condition and well presented, the 2nd award was slightly lighter, but also good size, but the colour not so sharp. The two automatically became Best Adult Standard and Reserve respectively, once more for Eddie and Richard.

One medium dark Novice adult standard male was awarded a 2nd ribbon, needing more size, and having slightly woolly fur. I awarded a 1st to the novice medium dark, having good size and reasonable show condition. The 1st award Champion medium dark was a nice, clear colour, reasonable size, but a little open furred, no 2nd award, the 3rd was very out of condition with tram lines all through the fur, but had good size. The dark phase adult males gaining a 1st and 2nd were two lovely chins. The 1st had good, even veiling coverage, was of good size and conformation, lovely sharp colour and was in good show condition. The 2nd award was equally as nice, but slightly out of condition and open over the hips. The 3rd ribbon was down in colour, breaking in the shoulders and light over the hips. The 1st and 2nd awards took Best Adult Male and Reserve respectively, plus Best and Reserve Adult Standard, Best and Reserve Standard and ultimately the 1st award became Reserve Show Champion, exhibited unsurprisingly by Richard and Eddie. Didn't they have a good morning!!?

After a welcome break for a warming soup and hot dog lunch, we resumed with a class of young mutations, AOC. Two pink whites gained a 1st and 3rd award. The 1st was good size and conformation, with fairly good colour, the 3rd, maybe its sibling, was smaller and lacking in the neck. Both had fairly soft fur. Two beiges were next, but only one gained a ribbon. 1st award had good clear colour, nice tight fur and good size in reasonable show condition. The 1st ribbon brown velvet was good size and shape, fair coverage for a very young chin, but was still slightly lacking in mutant fur over the hips. Good enough on the day to take Reserve Young Mutation for Richard and Eddie. I gave a 2nd award to a young violet that had long fur over the sides, reasonable colour but no sparkle, and was slightly wedgy in shape. I awarded an HC ribbon to a Novice violet that was unfortunately quite small, and lacking in the neck, the fur was breaking and was soft and woolly and the colour was not the best, but it had been fairly well prepared. There was just one Deutsch violet, to which I awarded a 2nd ribbon. For me it was a little small, light over the hips and in the neck area and the band of mutation fur was only down the middle.

The class of young black velvets produced the Best Young Mutation for Richard and Eddie. This 1st ribbon winner was a lovely, clear colour, with tight silky fur and good coverage; the 2nd award also had great coverage but a very pronounced dip in the neck which detracted from its overall appearance. The 3rd award was a little small, open over the hips, did not have great coverage but was fairly sharp and the HC was also not as sharp, had open fur and needed more coverage.

A Novice class of AOC's came next. Two Wilson whites gaining 1st and 2nd awards. The 1st having good strong guard hair and reasonable size, the 2nd being a large chin but was quite choppy on the sides. A 3rd award went to a pink white, with very soft fur, slightly wedgy in shape and quite creamy in colour, and also a 3rd award to a beige, with very soft fur, well prepared, but I didn't care for the colour. A self black also gained a 3rd award, being quite small, with long open fur, but was out of condition.

Adult champion animals came next. I awarded a 1st to a violet that although it was not bright was well presented. The final class of black velvets brought forth a comment from me that I would not normally use. WOW!! In front of me were 4 of the blackest, shiniest, largest black velvets that I have seen in a long time. After a fairly long deliberation and much ooing and aahing from me, I made my decision. The 1st ribbon, and I have to say this, was probably the finest example of a black velvet chin that I think have ever been privileged to see. (With over 30 years experience of showing chins, you can imagine I have seen quite a few!) This chin, (which proved to be a female, with the usual characteristics associated with female chins, i.e. she sprayed me) competed in a class of wonderful animals. It had fantastic coverage, was an intense inky black, and was in very good show condition. You will have probably guessed by now that this animal was Grand Show Champion, and a more worthy winner I cannot imagine. The 2nd ribbon was also an excellent example, but couldn't really compete with the winner. Both the 3rd and HC awards were also lovely chins. I heard a remark on the 3rd and HC winners that the exhibitors of these, having produced a stunning chin, would be disappointed to not win a bigger award on the day, but would be mindful of just what competition they had met with.

I have to give my congratulations (and envy) to both Richard and Eddie whose great morning turned into an even better afternoon. They exhibited some stunning chins, beautifully prepared and presented, and I thank them for their continued support of both myself and the Scottish region.

A very fitting note on which to end. The day ran very smoothly and my grateful thanks go to all of those involved in making the show a success, and making me feel very welcome and at ease.

LYN GARDNER