

Show Report – North Region Show, Notton, 21st Sept 2008

Judge: - Eddie Crutchley

JUI: - Lyn Gardner

As we are joint Show Managers for Richard and I set out early on what be a lovely day. We were not first to arrive at the venue, beaten Bradburn who was anxiously groom her animals. The hall didn't set up, but we started slightly late two were delayed on the way.

I had the welcome company of Lyn Judge Under Instruction and we

some classes at some length. Whilst this may seem tedious for the audience it is a very necessary part of the training process. The animals in general were not in full show condition and this does make judging that little more difficult.

We began with the Young Standard Females which were split into two classes of 10 Mediums and 8 Medium-Darks. The Med-Darks were first up and produced a very nice big blocky animal with good coverage of strong stand up fur which was blue but not sharp. This animal went on to become Best Young Standard Female. The second in the class was very similar but was more open down the flanks; this animal became Reserve in section. The Mediums were not of the same quality. I awarded a 2nd and 3rd to animals of reasonable conformation and size, the former having good density but fur lying back and the latter had very choppy uneven fur. Both may benefit with time.

The sixteen Young Standard Males were separated into three colour phases. The Mediums and Medium-Darks didn't have a 1st winner.

The 2nd in Medium was blocky with strong bluish upright fur in the back but was breaking badly down the flanks. The 2nd Medium-Dark was a nice animal, blocky conformation with good tipping to blue fur but it lacked sharpness which would give it the necessary eye appeal. The Dark class were all quality animals, the winner went on to become Best Young Std & Res Best Std with the 2nd became Res Young Std to him. The 1st had lovely conformation with sharp blue stand up fur and lovely tipping down to the belly fur line. The 2nd was similar in all respects but was spoiled by comb lines down the back.

Nine Adult Standard Females were all similar in colour and were judged together. Colour was the only attribute they were similar in, the majority were good conformation blocky animals but condition varied enormously. As Lyn had had several JUI's I set her free on this class without prior notice. I quickly realised that it was a particularly difficult class and stepped in to offer whatever support was required. I am pleased to say that the support was minimal and we chatted through the animals and appropriate comments together. The 1st and Best Adult Female was a big blocky animal with strong blue upright fur in the centre of the back, which had a hint of silkiness; however the rest of the fur was choppy and uneven. Second and Reserve Adult Standard Female was another big blocky animal with strong blue upright fur in the back but had a slight dullness. There was one Novice Standard Female of good size and silky strong stand up fur with muted blueness but showed narrowness in the shoulder which gained a 1st ribbon.

Only four Adult Standard Males were presented but from them came the Best and Reserve Adult Standard Animals. The 1st and Reserve Show Champion was a lovely animal not quite in top condition with correct conformation and clear blue strong stand up fur. When competing for the Show Champion award it was the lack of both condition and silkiness to



the year, proved to however the by Kerry waiting to take long to as one or

Gardner as discussed

the fur which cost him the top award. Second in the class may well in future beat the top animal today as he was similar in all respects and also had that silkiness which gives that extra eye appeal which we so desire. Sadly he was priming quite markedly in the back which marred his chance at this level. He will win on other days.

Twenty-four Young Mutations were presented and were split into their respective colours. In the Wilson Whites a 2nd was awarded to an animal of good conformation which had strong upright fur in the back but had soft baby fur elsewhere, showing promise for the future. The Brown Velvets brought just a 3rd ribbon. This is a colour which deserves to be persevered with as they are very beautiful when in full bloom. A Pink White in AOC was given a 2nd which had good size and conformation. The winner of the Beige class had beautiful colour a real blue-beige with good conformation and strong stand up fur. Second to the above was another animal with almost identical properties but not quite so clear in colour. The Black Velvets held sway with both top awards in the section going to the 1st and 2nd in this class. The winner was a blocky animal of an intense black colour spreading well down the flanks. Strong fine fur of good density completed the picture. The 2nd was a blue-black with not quite so much mutation coverage. Two very nice chins.

Adult Mutations were five in number and so were presented as an AOC class. There were two 1st winners, a Pink White, which I have judged before, having good volume of fur on a massive conformation, not at its best on the day. It had a similar fault to the young Pink White in that the fur in the back leaned towards the head. Unlike the youngster the rest of the fur was upright though slightly open. The Black Velvet was presented in immaculate form. Big blocky and plenty of silky strong stand up fur, it was a pleasure to behold. This animal went on to take Best Mutation with the Pink White as Reserve.

Regrettably I did not write down the comments on the Novice Adult Mutations but I do remember that the animals were of quality and should be persevered with in the breeding cage, indeed I think that the quality of animals which the Novices are now presenting, though low in number, augers well for the future.

When judging for the BIS award the Black-Velvet showed to perfection and though not so clear as the Adult Standard Male it did have the extra condition and much finer fur. Well done.

The show ran very smoothly and my thanks go to the Show Manager, Registrar and the hard working Stewards. A Special Thanks to Richard Lowe who has stepped in to the kitchen to cater for us.

Thank you for inviting me to judge your animals.

Eddie Crutchley