

Judges Report – Chieveley 1/12/19

I had an early start and was somewhat surprised to find my car thick with ice after a few milder days. I made a poor choice on my way to Kerry's and got stuck in a rolling road block travelling around 10mph all the way from one junction to the next! Once I got to Kerry's a little later than planned, we were quickly on our way and made good progress reaching the show at 10am as we had originally hoped. We were greeted with fresh bacon sandwiches thanks to Andrew's wife and Harriet and it was good to see a reasonable turn out and a few new faces.

Young Standard Females

Medium Dark

After colour phasing the Standards, we started the judging with a class of 6 Medium Dark young females. The first-place animal from Heather Boncey had good size and conformation and a lovely silky fur with very attractive tipping and even coverage, this female went on to take Best Young Standard Female and Best Young Standard. No second ribbon was awarded but 3rd place also went Heather with a blocky female of reasonable size that was sadly priming quite badly and had longer fur over the hips whilst the fur in the centre of the back was much shorter. 3 HCs were also awarded – 2 for Heather and one for Stephen Helmore, all were useful animals particularly if they were at the lower end of the age range as they appeared

Medium

A group of 3 Medium females gave another 1st for Heather – this 4-month old female still had a lot of baby fur however was of good size and conformation and clear in colour, it went on to take Reserve Young Standard Female. The other two in this class both took HCs with both having weaker fur than the 1st place animal but may improve with time. We also had a Novice Medium Young Standard female from Sue Sturdy which was awarded a 3rd as it was clear in colour with reasonable fur strength but was a little small for its age of 6 months and slightly narrow in the neck.

Young Standard Males

Medium Dark

Next came a class of 5 Medium Dark males all of which were worthy of ribbons. The first was awarded to Andrew Lee with a 5-and-a-half-month old chin very clear in colour whilst it was priming over the hips, he had strong stand up fur in the centre of the back, this male went on to win Best Young standard Male and Reserve Young Standard. Second place and Reserve Young Standard Male was awarded to Sian Allcoat, this animal was sadly very out of condition however was clear and showed good fur strength in the centre of the back. 3rd in the class from Andrew had strong silky fur with a lot of sheen however was light over the hips and the belly fur was down on colour. Completing the class were two HCs from Heather and Dave Green, both had good size and conformation with Heather's having clear colour however weaker fur laying a little flat, and Dave's being the complete opposite with strong fur but down on colour.

Medium

A class of 3 Mediums also all gained ribbons however sadly no 1st or 2nd ribbon was awarded. The 3rd place animal from Andrew Lee was reasonably clear with adequate conformation however the fur was slightly weak over the hips. Two HCs also from Andrew were quite similar with a good strong fur type however both were a little narrow in the neck and out of condition.

Adult Standard Females

AOC

Next, we moved on to an AOC class of Adult Standard Females. The Medium Dark female from Andrew Lee was awarded a 3rd ribbon for its good size and conformation however was very out of condition. The dark female had excellent veiling coverage and clarity but was also sadly out of condition, this female also from Andrew took a 1st Ribbon and Best Adult standard female and went on to win Reserve Adult Standard.

Adult Standard Males

AOC

Unfortunately, the Class of adult males was similarly small giving and AOC class of two Medium Darks and one Extra Dark. The Medium Darks gave a 3rd for Andrew for an animal with clear colour and strong stand up fur however it was a little on the small side for an adult. The Extra Dark Male strong, long plushy fur, good density and was clear in colour. This beautiful male had excellent veiling coverage and eye- catching deep tipping and was excellently groomed and presented - he was awarded a 1st, Best Adult Standard Male and made it all the way to Grand Show Champion – Congratulations to Sian Allcoat who bred this lovely male.

Young mutations

Pink White

After a lovely Christmas dinner, we started back with the young mutations and a class of 3 Pink Whites. The first ribbon winner from Andrew Lee was of excellent size with attractive guard hair, whilst reasonably clear in colour it was a little dull. Heather Boncey was awarded a 3rd ribbon for her animal which was brighter in colour but a little creamy, it had tight dense fur and was a reasonable size however was slightly narrow in conformation.

Sullivan Violets

We then moved on to a large class of Sullivan Violets which gave 4 ribbon winners all of which were bred by Andrew Lee. A 2nd ribbon was awarded to a very well-prepared Violet which was reasonably clear in colour with a lovely bright white belly however was a little small for its age of 6months, preventing it from achieving a 1st. The 3rd ribbon winner was also 6months and shared many of the attributes of the 2nd place animal however was unfortunately in worse condition on the day. Two HCs were also awarded with one having reasonable size for its age of 4 and a half months but lacking fur strength and the other having a nice silky fur type but down on clarity and condition.

Black Velvet

Next came a class of 3 Black Velvets. The first ribbon was awarded to a 4month old chinchilla from Heather Boncey with strong silky fur, good clarity and reasonable coverage for its age, however did not have the intense black desired of a black velvet. The second place animal from Georgie Busher at nearly 7 months old was a bigger and blockier animal, with slightly better coverage however the coverage was a little down on what would be expected for the age.

Black Pearl

Following on from the Black Velvets was an unusually large class of 5 Black Pearls – certainly the biggest class of black pearls we have seen so far on the UK show bench. The first ribbon winner from Andrew Lee was a lovely example of this new mutation with intense black strong silky fur and a bright white belly along with reasonable size and conformation for the age, this lovely young black pearl went on to win reserve Young Mutation. The second ribbon winner also from Andrew Lee was slightly sharper in colour however was down on conformation compared to the 1st place animal and the colour faded a little over the lower shoulder area. The 3rd ribbon winner, also from Andrew, was a little down on clarity in the belly and was sadly lacking condition on the day. Finally, a HC was awarded, again to Andrew, this animal had slightly weaker fur than the top ribbon winners and was a little down on clarity of colour.

AOC

We then moved on to a Large AOC class of 13 animals. First up was 2 Wilson Whites, a 1st was awarded to Heather for her Wilson White that had strong upright fur, good size and excellent conformation along with reasonable clarity of colour. A HC was awarded to Dave Green's white

which has reasonable size and conformation for a young animal but was a little down on clarity and sadly out of condition on the day. The Wilson Whites were followed by 2 Black White Crosses. A 1st was awarded to Heather for her well prepared animal with good fur strength, this animal was clear in colour however lacking sparkle on the day. A 3rd was awarded to Dave Green for his black white cross which had good fur density and excellent size but was down in colour compared to the first placed animal.

Next came a Blue Diamond from Dave which was of reasonable size with good conformation and silky fur which was strong in the centre of the back but choppy over the sides, it was clear in colour but not quite as blue as is desired with this mutation, it was awarded a 3rd. A pair of beiges gave a 2nd for Andrew with reasonable clarity and size and good conformation, whilst condition left this animal choppy over the hips it was clearly very well groomed - it goes to show that good grooming and presentation can make a big difference to the animals appearance even when fighting against poor condition. Following from the beiges was a young Pearl (beige violet) from Cameron Holmes – this animal was very much a baby at only a few days over 4months – it had excellent clarity and good veiling coverage, adequate size for the age and good conformation, this animal still had some baby fur as expected for the age but still the fur was strong and silky in the centre of the back – this youngster went on to take Best Young Mutation.

We then moved on to a Royal Blue (TOV Sapphire) from Dave Green which had dense plushy fur however was slightly oxidised and very out of condition, still an admirable effort worth of a 3rd ribbon for this unusual mutation. Following from this Dave exhibited another rare sight on the UK show bench - a pastel (Beige Charcoal) which had strong fur of reasonable density however was quite oxidised – unfortunately an attribute of all beige related mutations, this along with poor condition held this animal back and it was awarded a 3rd. Finally, we moved on to a Brown velvet from Andrew Lee – whilst this brown was slightly oxidised it still had reasonable colour and reasonable coverage of mutation fur for a youngster. The fur was dense and plushy but choppy over the hips – this chin was awarded a 2nd.

Adult Mutations

Moving on to the Adult Mutations, the only full class we had was a class of 3 Pink Whites. The 1st went to Andrew, this animal had clear colour, long but strong plushy fur along with good size and conformation, this animal had been expertly well prepared and was presented in top condition on the day – it went on to win Best Adult Mutation, Best Mutation and Reserve Grand Show Champion. A 3rd was also awarded to Georgie Busher, again this animal had good size but it was a little down on clarity and slightly narrow when compared with the first ribbon winner.

AOC

We then moved on to a large class of 14 AOCs (plus 3 novices and one purchased animal) which were split into light and dark animals for ease of fitting them on the show bench. Sian Allcoat took a first for her Wilson which had good clarity of colour, and reasonable fur strength but was just a little open over the hips, this well prepared chinchilla went on to win Reserve Adult Mutation and Reserve Mutation in Show. Next a Violet White from Georgie was awarded a 3rd, it had good size and conformation and reasonably dense fur however some of the white patches were a little creamy coloured and unfortunately the animal was out of condition. A Brown White Cross from Dave was awarded a HC this chin had reasonably strong fur and good size however was very out of condition and was down in colour in some areas.

A pair of Beiges gave a 1st for Andrew Lee, this animal was beautifully prepared with reasonable colour, good size and good conformation, the fur was strong however a little woolly rather than the silky fur type we prefer to see. The other Beige, also from Andrew, had the desired silky strong fur type however was quite oxidised and out of condition. A Homo Beige from Dave was awarded a 2nd,

this chinchilla was an excellent size with good conformation and filled the show cage space nicely, unfortunately it appeared to be “passed its best” having oxidised and being down in condition, but it was clear this had been an outstanding animal in its prime. A Sullivan Violet from Andrew was awarded a 1st, whilst it was out of condition on the day it had reasonable colour a lovely strong silky fur. A Brown velvet from Dave was awarded a 3rd having reasonable size and good conformation and reasonably strong fur however it was very oxidised.

Completing the “light” AOCs were two Novice Adult Mutations both of which were Angoras bred by Sue Sturdy – these are still an unusual sight on the show bench and present an interesting challenge when judging as their fur type is so different to that of a normal chin. A first was awarded to a fantastically clear Pink White Angora, whilst the fur was long as expected for an angora it was still strong enough to stand upright in the centre of the back. The size and conformation were reasonable and this animal had an attractive mane - this animal was awarded the Judges Choice Novice Award – Congratulations Sue! The Sullivan Violet angora was reasonably clear and had similar size and conformation to the pink white however did not have the fur strength of the pink white with the fur lying back somewhat – fur strength is clearly quite a challenge with angoras.

We then moved on to the darker AOC Adult Mutations starting with a Charcoal which achieved a HC for its strong stand up fur however is was off colour and a little narrow in the neck. We had 2 Black Velvets which gave a 1st for Cameron for his chin with had good size and conformation, lovely silky fur and good coverage. A second went to Sian, whilst this chinchilla had a clearer colour it did not have the intensity of black of the 1st ribbon winner and was a little narrower in the neck.

Two Self Blacks from Georgie were awarded a 3rd and a HC with the 3rd ribbon winner having reasonable colour and silky fur with a full wrap of colour but was a little on the small size and narrow in the neck. The HC appeared to have a Black Velvet influence – unfortunately TOV ebonies tend to be a bit off colour as was the case with this chin, however is had good size and conformation and the velvet influence seemed to give the animal better fur density. We also had a Purchases adult Self Black from Katie Tyler which did not quite have the full wrap of colour, being slightly paler on the hips however it had good dense fur and clarity and was very well prepared but was a little small for an adult.

I had a really enjoyable day at the show catching up with other breeders and seeing the same fresh faces as the October show was lovely – it was great to see them interested and eager to learn more about showing and breeding. I would like to thank Kerry for having me along as JUI for this show and Congratulations to all of the winners!

Report Written by Hannah Mitchell, JUI

Kerry Bradburn senior judge - it was a pleasure to share the day with Hannah on her 3rd outing as JUI. I'm sure everyone in attendance will agree that her first time commentating was clear and confidently done and I'm happy to report we agreed on all the winners and all the general placings.

When training to become a judge one of the most important things is to be able to write a clear, concise report and portray to the membership how the show went and I'm sure you'll agree Hannah has done very well with her report following my comments closely.

Thanks to southern region for another lovely show, that Everyone appeared to enjoy so much on the day. Thanks for inviting me.

Kerry

Senior judge.