

Show Report – WM&W and SR Show, Bugbrooke, 13th March 2011

Judge: - Georgie Busher

It is always good to arrive at this show to find everything set up, and to be greeted with smiling faces and a bacon buttie, plus a welcome cup of coffee. It's also nice not having to get up quite so early in the morning!

We used the new method of colour phasing all the Standard animals before I started judging, but modified it by only using two or three stewards, so it went much more quickly and smoothly than the first time I saw it done.

I started with eleven young standard females.

The Medium class was a bit disappointing and I did not award a first ribbon, because although the animals were a good size they were not in good show condition. There was a second ribbon for a nice blocky animal with reasonable colour, rather open fur on the hips, and needing to develop finish, and a third for another big animal of less good colour, also out of prime condition. There were three HC's, all for chins a bit out of condition, two of which were small, though quite well finished with their baby fur fully developed.

The Dark class was much better. Only two animals, both Kerry's, were much more the thing, the first having strong silky fur, good conformation and good coverage, and was a very nice colour. The second ribbon winner had nice tight fur, but not such a good neck as the first, and the colour was not so sharp.

There was one Medium-Dark which had been well prepared, but was rather small and needed more fur in the neck and was rather light on the hips. However it has good fur strength and could well improve. I gave this animal a second ribbon. Kerry's Dark became Best Young Female and the second was Reserve.

There were three Medium novice young standard females, which gave a first for a clear animal of fair size, though needing better coverage over the hips, a second for a smaller chin with good strong fur but not sharp enough for colour, and a third for an animal which was a better size and fair colour but which had softer fur which lacked strength.

There were four Medium-Dark novice females, two of which gained a second and a third. The second was a nice size of blocky conformation, with nice fur and a fair colour, and the third was small and clear but needed more king (or guard) fur to add lustre to the finish. It was undeveloped but could well improve. None of these novice animals quite came up to the standard of the top animals in the main show.

There was a large entry of young standard males, ten of which went into the Medium-Dark class. Here we had a first, second and third and three HC's. The first ribbon winner was a big animal of good conformation and colour, with good strong fur and well finished. The second was a quite different type, even bigger with longer fur which was not so sharp for colour but had a lovely flowing movement to it. The third was smaller, sharp, but breaking slightly, though it could improve.

There was one Medium young male which had an HC only, being rather narrow and lacking sufficient density.

There were two young Darks; the first a little bit small but with good fur, density and finish with a nice sharp underbelly, and a HC for an animal of very good size, which was out of condition and priming.

Four Novice Medium-Dark young males gained a first, a third and 2 HC's. The first was a nice animal, though not very big, well finished with good coverage, and was reasonable for colour. The third winner was bigger but not in good condition as it was priming. One HC was a bigger animal with longer, looser fur which needs to tighten up but which had potential. The other was a very young baby in good condition and good colour, but really far too small, but so appealing I stifled my professional judgement and gave it a ribbon.

There was also a first for a Medium young novice male which had good conformation, a nice type of fur with a good neck and fair colour. Kerry's Dark young standard male was best young male with her Medium-Dark animal reserve. But the male was pipped to best young standard by the dark young female, both were really desirable animals, and congratulations to Kerry on the double.

The standard adult classes were more limited in number, though not in quality, and the first ribbon winning Medium adult female had very nice tight silky strong fur, clear and with good coverage. There was also a second for a bigger animal which was blockier but not so clear or well finished.

There was one Dark animal, a great big blocky chinchilla with quality fur, a lovely white belly fur, and good coverage, beautifully presented.

The Medium-Darks produced a first for a small, sharp well finished chin with nice tight fur, a second for a bigger animal which had more open fur and not such clear colour. It had unfortunately been sprayed by another animal, which I ignored. A third went to a good sized animal with a rather woolly type of fur, a bit dull, but with very good density.

The one novice standard female did not get a ribbon being out of condition and down on colour.

Kerry's very good Dark female took Best Adult Standard Female, closely followed by Ritchie Huxley's Medium-Dark, two really nice breeding females.

There were five Adult Standard Males in the main show, but no Novices. In the Medium class I gave a first to Kerry's big, good quality chin which had good conformation and density, and was a good colour.

There was a second for Ritchie Huxley's Medium-Dark which had good quality fur but needed better conformation and more fur in the neck area. There was another first for Kerry in the Dark class for a really cracking animal with really good fur and colour and size and bags of eye appeal, and a third for Adele Robson's much smaller chin which had very nice fur type.

There was also a first for an Extra Dark male, another lovely great big male with lots of fur and excellent coverage, again belonging to Kerry.

The Dark took the honours as Best Adult male over the Extra Dark, which was just not quite as well finished on the day. The Dark male then went on to become Best Standard animal for Kerry with her young females taking Reserve. Well done for breeding such outstanding chinchillas, Kerry, and well done to the other ribbon winners too - it has not been easy to get animals into show condition this winter.

I then moved on to the Young Mutations. Three Wilson Whites didn't take my fancy at all. Their colour was muddy rather than clear blue/white, and although they got lower ribbons for size they all had rather open fur, which was weak over the hips. Sorry!

The Beiges were a different matter, and the first was really good, a nice size with good conformation, really clear colour and beautiful silky fur - It really was spot on. There was a third for a lighter coloured animal which was smaller and needed a better neck, and two HC's for quite good chins, but one had an uneven finish and the other was very slightly tinged.

There was first for a good Black Velvet with well developed coverage and good strong silky fur and a second for another which had the tighter fur of the two but needed to mature.

There was also a third for a small Sullivan Violet which was a good colour and could develop into a good animal in time.

The Novice Mutations produced one HC for a Wilson White for Julie Rose, and a first and a second for Alan & Carol Mills' two Beiges - The first had rather open fur but was a good colour and a reasonable size, the second was a little tinged.

There was a first for a good sized Sullivan Violet belonging to Julie Rose which had that nice sheen which is so desirable though its fur was a little soft.

The Adult Mutations in the main show had three Wilson Whites which went first, second and third, and were all good for colour compared with their younger brethren. The first was big, clear and blocky with fur in reasonably good condition, the second had softer fur and was slightly down on colour compared to the first. The third had better quality silkier and stronger fur and was bigger than the other two, but sadly it was rather yellow.

The AOC class produced yet another outstanding Beige, this time belonging to Sandy King. This was an excellent animal again with good fur quality and size, and very good clear colour.

There was a first and a third for Deutsch Violets belonging to Lyn and Ron, the first being very good but needing a slightly better neck and finish, and the second being smaller and rather out of condition.

There was a third for Ritchie Huxley's Black Velvet which still needs to develop better coverage of mutation fur down the sides.

The Novice Adult Mutations AOC class produced a first for a Wilson White belonging to Lisa Proctor, which was a good big animal with plenty of fur and a reasonably clear colour.

There was a third ribbon for a Sullivan Violet which was really too small for an adult and needed better fur strength, and an HC for a Deutsch Violet which had long and thin conformation but got a ribbon because of the good intensity of colour in the centre of its back.

The Best Young Mutation was Kerry's Beige with her Black Velvet in reserve. The Best Adult mutation was Sandy's Beige, with Kerry's Wilson White in reserve.

I then had to judge for show champion which was really difficult, as there were some very good animals on the table at the end of the show. In the end I went for the two Beiges, Kerry's youngster just pipping Sandy's adult for top spot. They were two beautiful animals at the top of their game on the day, in perfect condition and beautifully prepared, well done ladies - they were worthy winners.

Congratulations to all the ribbon winners, it has been a difficult year. I enjoyed my one judging outing of the season, the other having been cancelled due to the snow. Many thanks to the stewards and registrar, and especially to everyone who puts the show up and breaks it down at the end, and of course those who keep us supplied with tea and coffee and an excellent lunch during the day. We are very lucky to have you.

Georgie Busher

