

Show Report – Southern Show, Markyate, 28th Sept 2008

Judge: - Richard Crutchley JUI: - Kerry Bradburn

A very pleasant and dry week show, something we have seen of over the 2008 summer arrival I and my father were bacon butties and coffee, which welcomed, although the entry of exhibits did disappoint both the Region committee and helpers, were working hard throughout staging this event.

My Judge-Under-Instruction for the day was Kerry Bradburn, and we took the low turnout as a good opportunity to discuss the exhibits.



preceded this seldom little months! On treated to was greatly just 45 Southern all of which the day

Young Standard Females

Eight youngsters were split into two colour phases, with four in each.

The Medium Colour Phase brought a second ribbon for Heather & Steve Boncey's chin which was blue and fairly clear in colour, with fair conformation but not so dense. There was also a HC for a large and blocky chin which although had been prepared well, was priming over the hips and exhibited soft woolly baby fur around its rump. This I'm sure will improve and show better for Clair Turner.

The Medium-Dark Colour Phase brought two really nice young females. The first was not in top condition but was clear and blue, quite bright with eye appeal, and possessed a good volume of silky strong fur. This chin although not in top condition went on to become Show Champion for Heather and Steve, despite picking up a wet mark across its back, which I made every attempt to ignore. Second in the class went to Ron & Lyn Gardner's very nice female which was in good show condition, was clear in colour, with fine strong fur, but not quite the blueness and density of the winner. This chin went on to become Reserve Best Young Standard, so well done.

Young Standard Males

A novice entry opened up the young males, which gained a HC for Andrew Lee. This chin had good clarity of colour, with silky fur type and a deep defined tip, but was a little small and also narrow through the shoulders.

The five main show animals were judged together, and a second ribbon awarded for an otherwise excellent male, which unfortunately was quite down in colour. Third in the class was a reasonable animal which was clear in colour, but was lacking veiling over the flanks and needed more density, which may come with time.

Adult Standard Females

Again the only novice entry gained a HC for Ritchie Huxley for his large, silkily furred animal which was a good breeding type but was priming everywhere. I look forward to seeing this female's progeny next season!

Two colour phases gave us three Mediums, which brought a second ribbon for Stephen Helmore's very large, blocky animal which was out of condition on the day, and slightly loose over the flanks. This animal had long fur, as did the third ribbon winner, and I'm sure will improve when the priming lines finally reach and pass the flanks.

The Medium-Dark phase brought ribbons for all five of the entries, with the winner coming from Fiona Garnett. This chin was large, blocky, in good condition and had good veiling coverage, although perhaps needing a touch more density and blueness. This chin was one of the best on condition at this event and went on to become Reserve Best Standard. Second in the class was Clair Turner's large female which had a silky fur type, but was quite long furred and was suffering from lack of condition on the day. Never-the-less this chin was good enough to become Reserve Best Adult Standard.

Adult Standard Males

Just one Adult Standard Male was exhibited, which surprised me. I would have expected the best of those born at the back end of 2007 and early 2008 to have made it to this show.

A third was awarded to Heather and Steve's male which had silky strong stand-up fur type, good veiling coverage with deep tipping, although was not in top condition and had loose fur over the top of his coat.

Young Mutations

Unlucky for some – thirteen young mutations were split into just two classes, a Beige class of three chins and an AOC of ten! Overall this didn't turn out to be too bad for the exhibitors, with all but two gaining awards.

The Beige class brought a second ribbon for Heather and Steve's clear, blocky, good sized animal which was priming and was open and woolly over the flanks. This was a nice animal spoilt by prime and I'm sure will improve with a little time.

The AOC class gave me two firsts and five second ribbon winners, so not bad at all... The best youngster on the day was Georgie Busher's Black Velvet which was intensely black, well veiled down the sides and fully black through the neck, had good tight silky fur, and was in good show condition. This chin was slightly small but was very nice and well deserved its Reserve Best Mutation award! The other first was for Lyn & Ron's Self Black. This youngster was fully black everywhere, had nice fine fur which was fairly dense, and was in good condition save a little baby fur over the upper thighs. I liked the clarity of this chin coupled with fur qualities, and she well deserved Reserve Best Young Mutation.

Onto the second winners:-

- A Pink White which was large and blocky, but had soft fur over the hips, probably due to not having primed out.
- A Violet which again was of fair size and excellent conformation with a thick neck, fine fur and good density, but was down in colour.
- An Ultra Violet which again had lots of eye appeal, good dark mutant coverage, good conformation and fair size, but was tinged and had a yellow belly.
- A Brown Velvet which was blocky, large, had strong stand-up fur type, perhaps a lack of dark mutant coverage, but looked to have oxidised over the tips of the fur.
- A Self Black, which turned out to be litter mate of the 1st ribbon winner, which was not quite as good in coverage and intensity, slightly muddy clarity but very nice fine dense fur in the centre of the back.

Adult Mutations

Two Novice adult mutations earned a first for Ritchie Huxley's large and blocky Pink White which had lots of Beige veiling, but was clear in colour with a lovely sharp white belly, well prepared and in reasonable condition. This chin went on to become Reserve Best Adult Mutation, so well done!

Five mutations in the main class were judged as the AOC group, and yielded ribbons for all. A first for Fiona Garnett's Wilson White which was clear, blue, blocky and large, in good

show condition but slightly open furred. This chin shone for clarity, blueness and condition, and eventually made it all the way to Reserve Show Champion.

Also a first for Heather and Steve's Pink White which again was large and blocky, clear in colour but also slightly open furred.

A second ribbon was awarded for a Violet from Stephen Helmore which was large and blocky through the shoulders and neck, but was slightly tinged.

Breeders Award

I like to make note of those who win the breeders award, since it is generally these breeders who have the high quality across their herds and provide the shows with a few more animals to be judged. To this end, many thanks to Steve and Heather Boncey, Lyn & Ron Gardner and Georgie Busher for bringing along their chins, and for giving me the opportunity to see some quality animals.

I hope more southern members take account of the results and achievements of those winning the breeders awards, and take the step to breed some animals of quality and then to exhibit them. Whatever you feel is holding you back, please ask your fellow senior NCS members for help and assistance, and start to breed, exhibit, and properly support your society. If quality chinchillas are to exist in this country, it is highly likely in my opinion that they will originate from knowledgeable NCS members and breeders who learn, develop, breed and improve their animals in every way through membership of the NCS and participation in shows. The reason these shows exist is to help you, the breeders and members, to learn about your animals, to network with other experienced breeders, to breed and improve the animals, and to check and test your progress by attending shows and seeing if you are going in the right direction.

I hope more of you realise that exhibiting is essential if you wish to fully understand and raise healthy, quality animals in the long-run.

Richard Crutchley