

Show Report – Southern Region Show, Bugbrook

16th Oct 2011

Judge: - Eddie Crutchley

JUI: - Fiona Browning

I must first apologise for the delay in writing these comments as I left to go on holiday three days later and didn't find the time within that period to commit to the task.

My journey down was uneventful and pleasant but I did have difficulty parking due to the wonderful turnout of young rugby union players training on the adjacent pitches. Good to see.

As there was not a large entry I decided that Fiona, my JUI for the day, should gain some hands on experience under my guidance. Fiona would place the animals which I would then go over and place as I would like, where there were differences of opinion we discussed them, in this way experience is more quickly gained.

Young Standard Females in both Champion and Novice were not of top show quality, the pick of them being the Novice animal. I was a little worried at this stage as we do need to see good quality in young stock.

Young Standard Males proved somewhat better where the Med. Dk. colour phase animals just produced a first for a clear blue animal with strong upright fur which was paling on the hips. It also tended to draw itself out to show narrowness in the shoulder. Second to this was a nice blocky animal with silky strong fur in the centre of the back but was badly out of condition. The above animals went on to become Best and Reserve Young Standard Animals. The Med. Colour phase animals were not up to the required standard for first or second ribbons.

Adult Standards were represented by two animals, one of each sex, both Novice animals. These were a quantum step in quality from the animals seen so far, thus the trepidation which I had earlier was dispelled. Here were animals, which I later discovered were bred by the exhibitors, of real quality. The female was a Dark colour phase animal with silky strong stand up fur which was blue and clear with almost faultless coverage (a slight break on the hips). She was big and blocky and had lovely eye appeal and automatically became best Adult Standard, Best Standard and Best in Show. In the judging for Show Champion she was well clear of any opposition here such was her quality. The male also had similar qualities being big and blocky with silky strong stand up fur of good length and density. The fur was blue but not quite so clear as the female, this may well have been due to a drop in condition which on another day may improve. In the final analysis for Reserve Best in Show it was this lack of sharpness which cost him. He was awarded Best Adult Standard Male and Reserve Best Standard Animal. This animal was also bred by the exhibitor. Both of these animals would give more than a good account of themselves in higher company, they were well worthy of the awards they obtained. The future of Chinchilla is in good hands congratulations to Lisa and Julie.

Young Mutations. There were only three first winners in this group. A Pink-white of good size and conformation with silky strong stand-up fur, something you rarely see in this mutation. In excellent condition and clear in colour its extensive patches of pale beige spread into the white areas giving a rather deeper peachy colour than the ideal. One thing is certain it is not off colour. An Ultra-violet of good size and blocky conformation with clear blue fur evenly distributed was another first winner. The fur was fine but could be

denser, however it was rather loose around the rump so perhaps when in condition it will look even better. The third animal to gain a first was a Self-black. Quite unusually for this colour it had good conformation and that wrap around every hair shiny black colour. It had plenty of good dense fur which was a touch on the short side but it glowed and really asked for its award of Best Young Mutation. Other animals of note were a Wilson-white which gained a second, this animal has good size and conformation and had plenty of fur, albeit rather soft and open, with just a touch of creaminess. A Beige animal also took my eye, although rather small for its age it had a lovely blue-beige colour which paled a little on the flanks. It was blocky with reasonable fur quality though it was slightly open. It will perhaps do better later as it matures and grows on. Novice Young Mutations produced the class of the day, Black Velvets of quality. The winner had good conformation and size with silky strong blue-black fur well covered down the flanks. Another animal with that classy eye appeal which went on to become Reserve Best Young Mutation. The second in the class was very similar in all respects except for the intensity of its blue-black mutation fur. Other animals of note gaining second ribbons were a Brown-velvet which had nice conformation and size for a 4month old, though it paled a little on the flanks being slightly short of mutation fur. Give it time, but thanks for showing it. A Self-black with good size, for its age, but rather narrow in conformation and not yet every hair shiny black also gained a second. This had good strong fur in the centre of the back but was rather loose round the flanks and rump.

Adult Mutations. There were only three animals in this section but the Black-velvet was outstanding. This was an animal of great quality and eye appeal having silky strong stand up fur on a big blocky frame. The blue-black mutation fur covered well down the flanks and it showed only a smattering of standard fur in the neck (where so many BV's fail). It was sad to see that there was a lot of loose fur left on it from grooming and I endeavoured to move it as the animal deserved it. I did feel it was necessary to make comment about this as I have seen animals of this quality placed out of the top spot due to lack of, or careless grooming. This animal became Best Adult Mutation, Best Mutation and Reserve Best in Show. A Violet animal gained a second award, it was big and blocky with plenty of fur which appeared to be somewhat woolly. The colour was clear though not as blue as I would like but it may improve as it gains full prime. The Novice Adult Mutations also had three animals entered. A very nice Wilson-white took a first ribbon, this was an animal of good size and conformation with plenty of strong clear upright fur. There was a slight hint of blue in the fur but not that persil white-blue that we so desire. It became Reserve Best Adult Mutation and Reserve Best Mutation.

Thank you for inviting me to judge your show which although low in numbers did have some memorable animals in the entry. Thanks should also go to my JUI Fiona who mused over the animals carefully and accepted my interventions with equanimity. Thanks Fiona I enjoyed your company and I hope you gained from the experience.