

Show Report, Scottish Region, Denny 20/02/22

Judge: Kerry Jones

The weather forecast for the week leading up to the Scottish show at Denny was horrendous for pretty much most of the UK, with areas in the south and Welsh regions being hit the hardest. With high winds and copious amounts of rain hammering the UK if I am honest, Mark and I were a little bit worried about our 600 round mile trip to judge the show, especially because of my extra home commitments now. I had contacted James a couple of weeks previous to see if the show was likely to be on, since in the last 3 years the Scottish region has usually had to cancel one of their shows because to make the show reasonably viable, we need all of the 5/6 members from the region to be in attendance.

We were delighted to hear everyone who could attend was intending to come along, so we pushed on with the planning of the show. Sadly, on arriving at the hall I was disappointed to hear poor David and Aileen plus 20 chins were broken down around 30 miles away from the hall, we all felt really sorry for them as we know how much hard work goes into grooming 20 chins and with David's recent health concerns and Aileen's health struggles, they must have been so disappointed. I really hope to see you soon, I was looking forward to seeing you both and your animals.

Although an unfortunate start, we didn't let it spoil the day with all of us having a good natter, bit of banter and plenty of chinchilla debate. It also meant that we could take our time and talk through a few of the qualities in more detail and we even talked a little about genetics etc.

We only had 3 young stds in the entire show and all were male, however this didn't prevent this group from producing the days GSC for James Buchan with his lovely young male who was just under 7 months, correct size and conformation, lovely clear blue colour, fine furred, dense enough with a very clear belly and in top condition, a lovely male. The reserve young std came from Kelly Buchan for her bright sharp blue baby that will improve but, on the day, paled a little over the hips and lacked finish but it has potential.

Adult females gave us our best adult std award and reserve best std in show again for Kelly. This female was of high quality with silky dense fur (having a velvety appearance) lots of really dark tipping, good size and conformation and well groomed, but somewhat down in condition. I found out later that this female is 2 plus years old so acquitted herself well. Kelly also took the reserve female and reserve adult std award with another good chin, having similar qualities to the section winner, but with a further drop in condition.

Wendy French (lovely to see you again Wendy) was awarded a first for a good blocky medium female which had a slightly courser fur type but was still well worth using but had quite a lot of loose hair still on it. Wendy later said she had forgotten to groom it! Can't get the staff these days can you, lol ■

Only 2 adult males in the main show with these achieving a 1st and 2nd and gave us our best and reserve in the section with Wendy's chin getting the better of James's. Both were good animals with blocky shape, strong stand-up fur, ok for colour but both lacked flash and finish, probably not helped by the lack of condition.

Joanne showed 3 adult std females which I'm sure were brought along for an appraisal pre-putting then into breeding. All 3 females were worth breeding with and I awarded a 1st for the dark, 1st for

the medium dark and 2nd for the medium. All were of good size and shape and all had fine silky fur, with the dark and medium dark having better clarity of colour but lacking a little in density, thus requiring them to be put with a good dense mate. The medium, although a little denser had a course fur type but all can help in the quest to breed good chins if paired correctly.

After more chat and some of Wendy's gorgeous soup, we pushed on to the young mutations. As a group the mutations were a good quality bunch with many nice examples of several of the colours we recognise. A 1st for Wendy's ebony white baby, well groomed, good stand-up fur, clear colour, a nice chin. Echo the same comments for the tan white that also received a 1st but the fur was slightly weaker than its sibling.

James Buchan's Black Velvet (BV) was a lovely chin, nearly 7 months old with excellent size and conformation, sharp colour showing blueness and this took the best in section award. However, the colour although clear, really did lack the deep intensity and appeared more of slate black, which cost it later on. The 2nd ribbon BV also from James, had the deeper mutation intensity but was down in all other departments to the winner. Wendy also received a 2nd ribbon for her young ebony which was ok for size, conformation and fur type, but paled over the hips and was slightly down in clarity.

Kelly Buchan had a very nice baby black pearl, with good shape and a good length of fur, clear sharp colour but out of condition with the fur breaking in chunks. A stubborn bather maybe?

Our reserve in section came from Joanne Rycroft who produced a lovely blue diamond and although this chin is a little small in size, it has good conformation, dense fine fur and an attractive clear blue colour. Well-done Joanne.

Adult mutations contained some very good examples. James again received a 1st for another top black, that this time had the required depth of colour, silky fur, good density and good veiling coverage, it just needed to be a bit bigger but was not far into adulthood. This chin went on to win the best adult mutation award and the reserve show champion, well done!

The 2nd BV from Wendy French was also not a bad example, having good size and dense fur but not having the clarity or finish of the winner. In the pink whites' the positions were reversed, with Wendy taking 1st with a big blocky pw, good fine fur, clean, well prepared and an acceptable amount of peachy beige tone. James took 2nd with a big blocky pw, if anything it had a little more flash and eye appeal, but it was showing more creaminess under the lights.

Wendy was awarded a 2nd for her ebony, that was of good size and fur type, but lacked veiling over the hips and in the neck. The main show was completed by 2 good beiges from James, the hetero-beige achieved a 1st for being well furred, dense with veiling over the hips but just failing due to lack of finish. This beige showed good blueness in areas of the fur, but had just started to oxidise. His homo beige was the better of the two, still holding onto a lovely clear blue colour, excellent size and conformation and in good condition, it made for a very deserving reserve adult mutation.

Joanne gave us 2 lovely violets and an ultra, this group being a credit to her. The 2 violets received a 1st and 2nd, the 1st being large, blocky, with a good clear colour and sharp belly but sadly out of condition. The 2nd was almost as good, but lacked further in condition and had a few white hairs showing. The ultra was of good size, fair shape and deep lustrous colour, it had the typical slightly courser fur type often seen with ultras and had just started to oxidise. However, you could see clearly this was again a lovely breeding animal.

As disappointing as it was to lose David and Aileen on the day, the show although small, was held in a great friendly spirit and contained animals of quality with a good spread of ribbons among those in attendance.

Well done to all the breeders prize winners and of course to James for his splendid GSC and Reserve GSC. Thank you for inviting me, it was a shame about the weather but I enjoyed it all the same.

Kerry Jones (senior NCS judge)