

Judges Report National Show March 16th 2025

Judge – Stephen Helmore

Another year's show season was completed with the National held at Calf Heath . A chilly morning to drive up but mainly dry made a 3 hour drive not too arduous and I arrived quite relaxed to be warmly welcomed on my arrival.

The Show got on the way after the Standard colour phasing with a class of 4 medium young females. Andrew Lee took 1st ribbon with a 5month old chin that was clear and blue with blocky conformation and reasonably plushy fur that was still quite soft . Andrew also had 3rd and HC but both chins were narrow in conformation and did not possess the qualities of the 1st.

We then had an AOC class of 3 all of a different colour phase brought by Kerry Bradburn Jones. First up was a Medium Dark with good size and conformation, clear blue colour and strong fur that could have been denser. However still a very good chin and she went on to become our Reserve Best Young Standard. Next up was a Dark, in my notes this early in the show I wrote " Excellent chin, good size, excellent veiling coverage and strong dense upright fur" and then went on to say " I expected I would be seeing her a lot more during the course of the show" this proved to be the case as she progressed from Best Young Standard female to Best Young Standard to Best Standard and ultimately to the highest accolade of Grand Show Champion. Well done Kerry a beautiful chin. Last of the young females was an extra dark that got a 2nd ribbon at 6 1/2 months was smaller with a narrow conformation and slightly down in colour to the blue of the medium dark and dark chin.

We also had 7 young males all judged as an AOC . 2 no mediums from Heather Arnstein received a 3rd and HC ribbons. 3rd was clear but not blue and HC was slightly down to that otherwise they were quite similar with open fur and both out of show condition. The 2 medium darks from Denise Oaten had a first with a good chin of 5 months, blue colour and good strong fur priming over the hips. 3rd was not as bright and a little narrow in conformation. Kerry had a 1st for her Dark, a good chin, bright and blocky with strong dense fur whose belly was slightly creamy. 2 Extra Darks 1st from Kerry and 2nd to Sian Allcoat. Kerry's was the better all round chin with good conformation but slightly dull to Sian's that was smaller and a bit narrow but with an attractive guard hair and silky fur type. Best young standard male was the medium Dark from Denise to Kerry's Dark but neither came up to challenge "our" Champion female for Best Young Standard.

16 Adult Standard Females produced a class of 6 Medium Darks. 1st to Kerry's with very good strong silky fur over to 2nd from Sian's blocky chin that was clearer in colour but out of condition. 3rd and HC went to Denise with 3rd just over 7 months was blue with reasonable fur strength but a bit on the small side. Denise had 1st and 2nd in the Medium class. 1st a good chin with good size and silky stand up fur that was reasonably bright became the Reserve Adult standard Female. 2nd was blocky with loads of plushy fur that was clear in colour but out of condition. The top 3 darks were good chins Denise had 1st and Best Adult Female with her chin that had good size and conformation, bright colour and a strong dense fur type. Sian's 8 month old chin took 2nd also bright and strong fur but a bit of cage stain on belly made the difference. Kerry came 3rd with another good chin but her fur was slightly open in the middle of her back that put her down to that position.

A group of 7 Adult Standard Males gave us another AOC class. The Medium from Denise had a 1st for a chin just over 7 months with a good strong plushy fur type. 2 medium darks with 1st to Denise with a nice chin with a strong silky fur that just missed out on going further. Andrew Lee had 2nd ribbon that at just over 7 months had reasonable size and conformation clear colour but out of condition. The 2 Darks both good chins had a 1st and 2nd with Denise with her male with good size and veiling coverage taking over Kerry's 7 month chin with a shorter plushy fur and the brighter colour. Denise chin receiving both Reserve adult male standard and Reserve Adult Standard

Awards. However the stand out chin of the group came from Kerry's Extra Dark Standard Male. An Excellent chin, bright, good size and conformation, a very silky fur with excellent veiling. After becoming the Best Adult Standard he followed the "Champion" female to become Reserve Show Champion.

After a break for lunch and a 'chin chat', we continued with the Young Mutations and a class of 4 Pink Whites with Kerry's 1st with good strong fur, clear colour, good size and conformation over Heather Boncey's chin with similar size and conformation but slightly more creamy in colour and not as dense fur. Up next were 4 Beiges, 2 real youngsters at just 4 months for 1st and 2nd at 4 1/2 months from Andrew. I was really taken with the 1st with good clear colour a lovely plushy strong fur with good size and conformation for a baby became the Reserve Young mutation. His 2nd was not quite as bright as 1st and not as well finished. Denise chin took 3rd being older was a reasonable type but not as dense fur. Heather B HC also older chin was slightly tinged and down in colour but with strong dense fur. An AOC Class of 12 followed. 3rd for Joanne Rycroft's Sullivan Violet at nearly 7 months was a bit small, clear colour but no sheen with soft fur on the flanks. 2 black velvets had 2nd for Kerry's chin with better coverage and reasonable conformation over 3rd for Sian that had the better colour but narrow conformation. A 1st for Andrew's Brown Velvet, a good little chin with soft fur down the flanks but good coverage and slightly narrow conformation. 2 Black Pearls both from Kerry were very good chins with strong silky fur and intense black colour and clear white bellies. The 1st became Best Young Mutation and Reserve Best Mutation had the better size and conformation to the 2nd that was a little clearer. Kerry's Homo Beige also had a 1s that had good strong fur and a clear colour. Denise had a 1st for her Wilson White with good blocky conformation, good clear colour a longer fur type that was open and not so dense. Denise also had a 1st for her Self Brown Tan at 4 1/2 months was still developing with a lighter belly colour that was clear, strong fur in the middle of the back but soft on the sides. A Self Black from Denise had 3rd that was narrow in conformation, slightly tinged in colour and not as intense black with soft fur on the sides. Joanne brought a very young Blue Diamond at 4 1/2 months was quite small, good colour and reasonably strong fur in the middle of back but very soft on the sides.

The 18 Adult Mutations started with 4 Pink Whites. Top 2 were very good chins with Denise's 1st having excellent fur qualities with exceptionally strong dense fur, good size and clear colour that took it to Best Adult Mutation and Best Mutation. 2nd to Kerry' chin that had a bit more beige influence, good blocky conformation whose fur was a bit more open. 4 Sullivan violets had a 1st for Joanne that had good colour and sheen with reasonably strong fur slightly narrow across the shoulders but a good type. Heather A had 2HC that were quite small. 3 very good Black Velvets were headed by Joanne that was a very intense black with good veiling coverage and clear colour. 2nd to Kerry that had much better size and conformation but also much lighter down the sides. 3rd from Heather A was also a good chin more like the 1st but a bit narrow conformation and colour was not as intense. 3 Black Pearls with a 1st for Kerry's that was 7 1/2 months was acceptable for size and conformation with good strong fur and intense black down to a white belly. 3rd and HC to Andrew's chins that were both smaller with narrow conformation with 3rd having the better intense colour of the two. This left 5 chins in the AOC class. 2 Wilson Whites but very different 1st from Kerry was an excellent chin, large and blocky with loads of plushy fur and bright colour that became Reserve Adult Mutation . HC went to Joanne's chin with a dull grey appearance, choppy fur and narrow conformation. A 2nd and 3rd to Denise's Beiges. Both reasonable chins 2nd was a Darker colour with strong fur in the back and 3rd was a more typical paler colour with plushy fur that was a bit open. Last up was Andrew's Medium Ebony with a 3rd award had clear colour but was on small side and a bit narrow in conformation. A close decision between Denise Pink White and Kerry's Wilson White with the pink whites exceptionally tight dense fur swaying my choice on the day.

Ultimately the Mutations couldn't challenge Kerry's Young female Standard or the Adult Standard male both really beautiful chins. Well done Kerry. This concluded the show with my thanks to all that attended to make another enjoyable show day.