

Judges Report Joint WMW/Southern Show 9th February 2025

Judge –Kerry Bradburn

About 60 plus entries awaited me at this fabulous little venue at Horton Pavilion, Banbury.

The usual faces were in attendance, plus it was lovely to see Holly and Zoe who had both come quite some distance from opposite ends of the country.

We also had a lovely family who are very new to chinchillas, they not only stayed the whole day but also asked me lots of sensible questions through the judging process, I'm so sorry I can't remember all your names (except for Hannah) who was the 2nd Hannah we had met that day, that were new to chinchillas, we really enjoyed having you all.

After colour phasing, we pushed on with the young std females.

9 young females were split across the 3 usual colour phases, all producing 1st ribbons, Andrew lee took 1st 2nd and 3rd in the mediums, the 1st being of excellent potential being blue bright and sparkly, but with quite open baby fur twisting slightly at the tip.

The m/d from Sian was also a lovely chin, much more mature and with strong fur, nice colour and excellent size and conformation and in good show condition.

The star of this group and eventual grand show champion also went to Sian for a 6.5 month solid female, good size and conformation, excellent veiling coverage, silky strong fur with good deep tipping and well prepared with good colour, a truly worthy winner.

Many congratulations Sian.

Young males gave us the 3 usual colour phases again.

Stephen Helmore had a good first and 2nd in the m/dark colour phase,

The 1st had lots of future potential, will good strong fur and bright colour with guard hair and received the reserve young male award, beaten into reserve by Sian's 1st ribbon baby dark, whp took the group honours with lovely silky fur.

Bright colour and eye-catching guard hair, very very young so maybe one for the future, this boy going all the way to reserve show champion.

Zoe Daniel took 2nd in the novice young males with a fair size. Ok conformation baby male with good veiling and some eye appeal, just needs to grow on and fill out a little.

The adult females produced the group winner for Andrew in the extra dark colour phase.

Very flashy with eye appeal, excellent veiling, dense fur, and fair colour.

The adult males caused quite a lot of discussion once the group judging had been completed.

The best class the extra dark producing the group winners with the winner coming from Sian, this male was superb in every aspect sadly bar one. Superb silky fur with deep tipping, bright shining bar, loads of eye appeal and very blocky, absolutely gorgeous except he was only the size of a 5-month-old. This significant fault sadly meant he couldn't advance, such a shame especially on finding out later that mum and dad are both 900 plus grams each, chinchillas, eh? Always the challenge.

Andrew lee took reserve adult male, with a very decent male in all departments, but couldn't match the little flashy boy of Sian's who really was quite exceptional.

Holly earned a 1st ribbon with her very nice adult male who sadly was out of show condition but had lots of real quality and will be very useful.

We then broke for lunch with Sian providing a lovely hearty meal for everyone with 2nds available if anyone wanted it. Thank you Sian and Holly for helping.

Mutations kicked off with 4 pink whites. Heather Boncey took 1st and 2nd with 2 very different animals, I actually preferred the 2nd with its strong fur, teddy bear conformation and gorgeous long guard hair, but sadly quite down in colour, showing too much of the cream. The winner and eventual best young mutation was clearer in colour, reasonable size and shape but with beautiful silky fur and both were well prepared.

Heathe also too 1st with a good beige, who had strong fur, blocky, well prepared and fair colour.

Violets produced a 1st and 2nd for Stephen for 2 very different violets that turned out to be siblings, both were fairly blocky and reasonable size with me preferring the lighter colour with that beautiful sheen we don't see much of these days.

Two brown velvets produced a 1st for Heather and a 2nd for Andrew, both were decent browns with that usual teddy bear appearance, with the winner having the edge in clarity and coverage.

A first for a very young bv from Sian, needing more time to mature but showing potential, and Stephen showed very nice charcoal, that was silky, blocky and had a beautiful sheen to the fur, just showing slight tinge when looking over the tips sadly.

Zoe Daniel took 2nd and 3rd with 2 ebony whites that need to be a litter bigger but both having decent fur strength and density with the 2nd being clearer in colour. Well done.

12 Adult mutations produced some good animals with sadly not one in top condition on the day.

The best and standouts in this group really all belonged to Andrew.

The best and worthy group winner and overall best mutation in show was for Andrews pink white, that is a very good pw of quality that sadly had gone over the top condition wise, but sharp bright colour, blocky, large and good density.

Well done Andrew, almost the same comments for his very good beige who took reserve mutation, excellent density, fur type, large and blocky, but just starting to tinge at the tips sadly. Will make an excellent breeding animal and worthy reserve.

Finally, Andrew produced a very good gold bar or LRW which was clearer in colour, was large fairly blocky and one of the best I've seen of this mutation.

Overall, a very good show with some lovely animals, lovely friendly atmosphere and everyone in attendance enjoyed themselves,

Congratulations Sian, on the Gsc and reserve and to all the winners not only of the group awards but the breeders awards too, it takes a huge amount of effort to put a good number of stds and mutations forward, so well done to you all and thanks to everyone who helped during and after the show.