

National 17/03/24 Judges Report

Judge Kerry Bradburn

Sunday 17th March was the date for our National Show, held at our usual venue of Calf Heath Village Hall.

The shows this year have been successful and we were hoping to improve on the numbers of last year's national which all considering were quite good and 50% increase on the previous year, sadly this year a couple of late pull-outs, due to unfortunate incidents (do hope you're feeling better Heather B and Anita) meant the numbers did suffer a little, but certainly the quality was there, with the top animals in each group being of excellent overall stamp and quality.

Like many shows across the USA and Europe 8 to 12 actual exhibitors are the usual number of attendees, it's just sometimes those have an average of 15 exhibits each where as our average number of exhibits per person is about 7. Still quality over quantity is what's important and you have to be in it to win it as they say.

We started as usual with the young females and the best group were the medium darks by some distance, the winner and eventual reserve best standard was a cracking 5 month old from Denise Oaten, this baby has bags of future potential with wonderful sharp clarity, true blueness, long silky fur, excellent size and conformation, a very worthy best young standard. 2nd from Andrew was also a good female that was well prepared and fine furred but sadly not the clarity of the 1st, The 3rd from Stephen Helmore was also well prepared with excellent veiling but a bit down in colour. Stephen also had a very nice 2nd ribbon in the dark young females that had lots of quality but was very out of condition.

Two mediums for Joanne Rycroft were awarded a 3rd and hc , both being ok for size and shape but needing better finish and to show improved clarity to compete high up the ribbons.

Young males produced 3 x 1sts, one for each colour phase, the 1st medium from Denise achieved reserve young male and was big blocky, clear but a little open furred but very much a baby, Andrew lee took the medium dark

with a chin that sadly was lacking in condition but had plenty of quality.

The star of the young males went to Stephen for his beautiful very young dark, that had fair shape and size but excellent veiling, eye appeal, good clarity and density and had been beautifully prepared, a very worthy reserve young standard. (i must say to Stephen and I hope he doesn't mind) these animals from you are the best I've seen him produce in the 22 plus years I've been exhibiting, so who says you can't teach and old dog new tricks lol wink wink !

The adult females were a very strong group as they have been all season, with 3 of the 4 colour phases producing a real top chinchilla in 1st place, 7 medium darks produced 6 ribbons with Denise coming out on top with a large blocky clear female with bags of fur but just off top condition but still excellent stamp and comfortably making the reserve adult standard award, 2nd went to Heather Arnstein for a well prepared, well presented chinchilla that was just down in all departments to the winner, James Buchan 3rd had the best clarity, very bright over the tips and high quality but the finish was extremely poor, sadly James had several very high quality exhibits on the day where they were badly affected by the damp conditions we've all been having, but the quality was there for sure. Stephen and Andrew shared the remaining exhibits all for solid chins.

James again had an extra dark 1st 8 month old female which had the same issue, the fur breaking open in chunks instead of flowing, nice and clean underneath but gave the impression the sand was not penetrating the fur, on talking to James after the show, i was surprised to find he doesn't use the very fine sand completely, but instead mixes it, could this be a contributing factor ? interesting debate, but the quality of James exhibits were right up there but the show condition badly letting them down.

The star group and the provider of our eventual GSC for the day was the dark class headed up by Sian Allcoat, what a beautiful female this was, clear blue, bright, correct conformation. good size, very good density and super veiling and very well presented, cleverly disguised primming lines having been expertly prepared. A very worthy national show champion, and i believe your

2nd one ?

Many congratulations!!!

Adult males were a good group but not as strong as the females on the day, nonetheless 2 of the colour phases producing 1sts and best and reserve adult males both belonging to Sian, both solid chins being of quality across all departments but just lacking the clarity and finish of the adult females. Other animals of note in this section from Andrew lee, Andy Marshall, Denise, Joanne, James and Stephen all sharing the rest of the ribbons for good chins overall.

Having decided our adult female was best standard and a top young female were reserve best standard we broke for an excellent lunch, Quality Sausage, chunky chips, beans and bread and butter (my dad would of been proud lol) organised by Sian for lunch and a good chat and giggles, complimented by an amazing chocolate crispy bake from Heather and Jayne for desert, thank you ladies for all your hard work it was delicious.

We kicked off after lunch with the Wilson whites, and another 1st for Sian with a clear blocky sharp baby who will improve even more with time, 2nd for Andrew for more of a dapple grey version of the wilson white , well furred, well presented but just lacking sparkle. A hc for Gemma for a clean well-presented wilson white that had unfortunately too much of a yellow tone.

The best class of the mutations overall was the young beige class and i ask someone to find me a better group of beiges. The top animal was an absolute delight, ultra blocky shape, good size, beautiful even veiling coverage, sharp clear beige colour with true blueness and resented to perfection, this baby went through the rest of the show's mutations winning at a stroll to be honest. Others in the class from Sian and Thomas were both very nice young beiges but Denise really is producing some incredibly nice beiges, i honestly haven't seen better at any time in my exhibiting journey here or abroad.

The violets were a nice group and a very good top animal won best national violet award, again Stephen came out on top, for a clear, well presented, blue baby violet, with good blocky shape and a strong fur.

Joanne also had a couple of very nice violets in 2nd and 3rd place that were good quality overall and would of been worthy of the best violet award if Stephens hadn't of been in the class.

AOC produced a few animals of note, the best of these were a solid black velvet from Andrew lee, a blocky dense furred by with excellent coverage and good colour that was just sadly priming to much when compared for the group awards at the end, but worthy of the best bv at the national trophy donated in my dads name, so well done Andrew. The other was our reserve young mutation, a pink white from Sian that had very good clarity of colour, good strong fur with density and beautifully presented but I would of liked a touch more in the neck to be critical.

Our last group was of course the adult mutations, only beiges and self blacks made full classes and the rest were AOC but plenty animals of note, the first being a solid good beige from Denise Oaten and a good 2nd and 3rd from James, the 2nd and 3rd were both top chins that were sadly very out of condition but displayed many good qualities although had started to oxidise, Denises 1st just holding off the oxidisation with excellent tight fur good size , brilliant fur resilience, but I'd like slightly blockier in the shoulders.

The self blacks were split into colour phases and both the medium darks and darks were good quality, the star of this group and the winner of the nationals best ebony award went to an absolute sparkler from Denise, best ebony I've seen for 3/4 years, really clear bright and blue, good density, good conformation but sadly a little small for 8 months, but of course could grow on. Other animals of note in the ebs were from Heather, Denise and Andrew.

AOC adults as usual provided some good chins, a good 1st and 2nd in the pink whites from Andrew and James were of nice stamp with Andrews having the stronger fur and better condition, a 1st for Heathers chunky ultra violet that is nice chin with bags of fur but was sadly past its best, Joanne took a 2nd for a decent black velvet with good coverage and density and a interesting angora that was a point of discussion on the day, I wonder when we will see a few more.

The best by some distance in the adult mutations went to Sian's black and

white cross who was a real crowd favourite, big teddy bear type with excellent size and conformation, long strong dense fur and pretty good clarity of colour, a real solid allrounder. Well done Sian, in the adult mutations roles were reversed with Sian taking best in section and Denise reserve with her adult beige.

The young beige really could not be denied as best mutation and really was in genuine contention for the GSC award, its condition absolutely spot on for the day, however although the std had just started to lose out condition wise at the end of the day (this is common when those priming lines have been expertly hidden) the standard just couldn't be denied with its superior density and tightness of fur over the hips and just as bright and blue as the sparkly beige. My sincere congratulations to both you ladies, Sian on her superb standard GSC and Denise on her fantastic reserve GSC baby beige. Very well done to you both.

Thanks to all who worked hard and made this show a complete success, the beautiful new ribbons going down a storm and a smashing dinner and very well supported raffle means the show made a good profit to spend on future shows.

All those who worked so hard, stewarding. registrar duties, cooks and bottle washers, everyone who stayed behind and helped we thank you so much, without you, it's really not possible to hold these events.

To the winners of the breeders' awards, give yourself a big pat on the back because you insure there is enough in the show to keep classes interesting and viable, it takes dedication and skill to put a good number of quality exhibits out. So well done.

Anita and Heather B hope your both feeling better and we see you soon, we missed you.

Thanks for having me, Kerry (senior NCS judge)