

Judges Report Northern Region Show 24 November 2024

Judge – Stephen Helmore

We were fortunate on Sunday to avoid the worst of the weather affecting the rest of the UK. Unlike the prior Thursday that I decided to travel up to Sheffield leaving Devon in a snow storm! We missed the worst of Storm Bert and by Sunday temperatures had warmed up and all evidence of snow had melted and gone. That left us with a fine weather on Sunday.

The show started promptly and we soon completed the colour phasing of the 22 Standards. The first class up were 5 no medium young standard females. The 1 st ribbon winner came from Denise Oaten. A very good young chin at 4mths 3 weeks she was really well grown with good conformation, beautifully presented, clear white belly fur and a sharp bright colour with a dense strong but courser fur type. She was easily the best in the class and proceeded through the show to become our Reserve Best Standard and Reserve Grand Show Champion. Joanne Rycroft had a 3 rd ribbon for her chin with good colour but a smaller chin with narrow conformation. We then had a single medium dark from Joanne that received a 1 st ribbon with clear colour, really good size for 4 mths she was still showing a weaker baby fur. 2 No Dark young females with 1 st ribbon to Andrew Lee's chin with clear colour and good veiling coverage, her fur a little weak and open in neck and staining to her belly fur. Still a nice chin and received our reserve best young standard female. Andy Marshall had a 3 rd ribbon. His chin had a good clear colour but was way out of condition and very damp looking. 2 No dark Novice chins from Gemma Haliday received a 2 nd and 3 rd ribbons very small and narrow chins had clear colour but really need to grow on a bit.

Only 2 young males both colour phased as Medium Darks. Both good males with Andrew having the Best and Denise Reserve. Andrew's was the elder at 6 months with the stronger fur and veiling with good colour and conformation. He became our Reserve Best Young Standard. Denise's male had slightly the brighter colour and a clear white belly but at only 4mths 3days had a softer fur strength and grooming lines.

The Adult Standard Females we had a class of 3 no Medium Darks. All 3 very much out of condition, 2 nd to Andrew's chin that was priming from middle of her back down. She had strong fur behind her neck, clear colour and reasonable conformation.

The Dark class of 3 produced a 1 st and 2 nd . The 1 st from Denise was in really good condition with a fine silky fur , bright colour and excellent veiling right down to her white belly fur and reasonable conformation. Her condition carried her right through to Best Standard and Grand Show champion. 2nd came from Andy, his chin was verging on Extra Dark, clear colour and reasonable fur that was out of condition and a slightly narrow conformation.

Andy had both adult Standard Males. Both good chins but also out of condition. 1 st had the clearer colour and conformation, both good size 1 st became reserve Best Adult Standard.

We had 2no junior purchases from Cora Harkins. Both good basic chins 2 nd to the standard that I consider the better prospect with clear colour, reasonable size and fur strength. The 3 rd medium Ebony had a weaker open fur that was out of condition.

We moved onto the Young Mutations 9 main show and 4 Novice bred. First up was a good class of 3 Beige. 1 st from Joanne was a big blocky chin nearly 7 months clear colour strong tight fur in back that was slightly flat on the sides and became our reserve young mutation. 2 nd from Denise was only 4mths and paler in colour with reasonable fur strength an OK chin. Andrew's 3 rd was a very

much smaller version of the 1 st . I then assessed the Novice Beige from Thomas Jones. A good little chin at just 4mths it had a strong plushy fur lots of eye appeal with clear colour. Not only did it receive a 1 st ribbon, It became our Best Young Mutation.

We then moved to AOC with one wilson white . 3 rd to Joanne that was a bit 'yellow' in colour and a weaker open fur. 3 rd for a Sullivan Violet from Heather Arnstein that was slightly small with soft fur on the flanks with quite a dark colour phase that was clear. 2No Black Velvets had a 1 st for Heather with good size and conformation and good veiling coverage and strong fur, 2 nd from Denise had the brighter colour but was smaller and not so good conformation. 2No Black Pearls from Andrew had a 2 nd and 3 rd ribbons 2 nd had better size and conformation otherwise quite similar both a bit tinged with dirty bellies and soft fur on sides.

2no Novice Angora medium ebony, both from Gemma , Very different in appearance 1 st had a good clear bright colour with eye appeal with good length of fur and reasonable size and grey belly a better type all together from the HC that was dull, fur was not so long and a whiter belly.

Gemma also had a 2 nd for a medium Ebony. An ok chin as a building block but not showing much ebony influence with a white belly with good size ,bright colour and reasonably strong fur.

[after the show Gemma told me all 3 chins came from the same litter !!! I have not seen 3 chins being so different in their appearance and qualities.]

After a good lunch kindly prepared by Jayne Arnstein, we concluded with the 12 Adult Mutations. We started with another good class of 3 Beiges. 1 st and 2 nd went to Denise 1 st had good size and conformation with a bright clear colour and a silky strong fur in immaculate condition which became our Best Adult and Best Mutation. 2 nd was similar but with a courser fur type. 3 rd to Joanne that was down in colour and paler with reasonable fur strength.

A class of 3 Ebonies divided into 2 mediums and 1 medium dark . All 3 from Andrew . The 1 st medium was a very good chin with bright colour, grey belly ,good size and a strong dense fur that became our Reserve Adult and Reserve Best Mutation. The medium dark had a 2nd ribbon that was a reasonable chin but out over the sides and fur not as strong or dense as the medium.

Denise had a 1st ribbon for her Self Brown that was not a wrap around being much paler underneath. A good blocky chin ,very slightly tinged, fur being reasonably strong in back but soft on the sides.

Joanne had a 2nd for a Wilson White that had a very grey appearance and a bit dull. Reasonable size and conformation but out of condition.

Denise had a 1st for a Pink white, a good chin, clear colour reasonable fur strength with eye appeal.

Joanne had a 2nd for a Sullivan Violet that was an OK chin, colour was clear, reasonable size and conformation, fur strength was a bit soft and open.

Andrew had a 3 rd for a Black Velvet that was reasonable in size and conformation reasonable fur strength and colour but lacking in coverage and intensity of black mutant fur.

Andrew had a 2 nd for a Black Pearl with good intense black and coverage. Typical of type on the small side but had a very yellow pen stained belly.

Congratulations to Denise for bringing both Show Champion and the Reserve. My thanks to Andy as Show Manager , Heather as steward , Anita as registrar and Jayne for preparing and bringing lunch and all who came to make the day very pleasurable.

Stephen Helmore