

Show Report, West Midlands, Wales & Southern Joint Show at Hornton Pavilion 09/01/22

Judge: Stephen Helmore JUI: Andrew Marshall

Our winter in the South West has been very mild with only a handful of frosts and barely a snowflake fallen from the skies. A new venue at Hornton Hall near Banbury was easily found and was quite fresh and spacious having been recently fitted out with new modern kitchen and toilet facilities.

A comparatively low turnout didn't mean we had a drop in having some quality chinchillas to judge. Andy Marshall joined me behind the bench for his initiation as Judge under Instruction and doubling up as Steward. Thank you, Andy.

After colour phasing the 15 standard chinchillas, we started with 3 young females. 2 medium darks had 1st and 2nd awards, the good-sized chin with good conformation, reasonably clear colour and a strong plushy fur type and in top condition from Sian Allcoat having the decision over Andrew Lee's chin at 51/2 months just ok for size with colour slightly brighter than the 1st and reasonably strong fur in the middle of her back but otherwise way out of condition on the day.

The other young female a medium from Andy Marshall received an HC, at just 4 months size and conformation were ok but with baby fur still being weak and open she had a nice clear white belly but standard fur quite down on colour.

Only one young standard male from Heather Boncey received a 3rd award. A 6-month-old chin with reasonable size but narrow shoulders, he had a good plushy fur type, not silky, priming over the hips, colour was slightly down.

We then had 2 medium Adult Standard females. This time Andrew's 8-month-old chin with good conformation, reasonably dense fur and clear but not bright colour received a 2nd award putting Sian's chin into a 3rd award with not so good conformation being slightly narrow across shoulders, a silky fur type that was open, colour similar to 2nd being clear but not bright.

The 2 Novice Medium dark female from Holly Woolliscroft [which I learnt afterwards were litter sisters] received 2nd and HC awards. Although in the same colour phase both being clear and on the darker side of medium dark. The 2nd had much better size and conformation with a good plushy fur rather than silky type both had good veiling coverage coming down the sides.

2 Extra Dark females had a 'generous' 1st award for Andrew's chin that was 2 days over 7 months with good size and conformation, a good dense plushy fur that was clear colour but not as bright as I would have liked but she was way out of condition. Sian had a 3rd Award with a chin much smaller, narrow conformation with a darker colour and a shorter silky fur type.

The 5 adult males split into 3 Extra Darks and 2 Darks all good chins. The 3 Extra darks from Sian had 1st, 2nd, and 3rd awards. 1st was a very good chin out of condition but at 13 months his qualities shone through. Good size and conformation a really dense fur with a reasonably bright colour. Got the 1st award over her 2nd that was in much better finish but also 13 months was smaller but still with good conformation and with a plushy dense fur. These 2 chins became our Best and Reserve Standards with the 1st going onto be the Reserve Show Champion. The 3rd had narrow conformation with a shorter but very nice silky fur type. Not as bright a colour as the top two and with veiling failing in the neck.

The 2 Dark chins both from Andrew. The 1st was a good chin in top condition. Good conformation and dense plushy fur. Colour was clear but his 2nd award chin was brighter but smaller and narrow conformation. He had good strong fur with prominent guard hairs in middle of the back.

The young mutations started with a class of 4 Wilson Whites. Heather's 1st had a good clear white colour with good size and conformation, a plushy fur that was slightly open. We dropped to a 3rd award for Andy's chin that at just 4 months had a nice plushy fur good conformation but was quite 'yellow' in colour. HC's both from Heather one was quite a chunky chin at 6 months similar colour to 3rd but not such a dense fur. The other was a 'grey' white clear in colour with reasonable size and conformation but fur was very soft and open.

We then had 4 Beiges. A very good 1st from Andrew with good colour, a tight plushy fur in top condition. This chin caught my eye and went on to become Best Mutation and Show Champion. 2nd Award to Heather. Her chin at 4 months had good size and conformation with a clear colour with soft baby fur down the sides. 2 Hc's one was 6 months and starting to oxidise and out of condition OK for size but still had a soft fur down the flanks. The other had a very pale clear colour with clear white belly, open soft fur and conformation that was narrow across the shoulders.

We then had 5 Black velvets a good class with all showing an intense depth of Black mutant fur. The class was headed by Sian's very nice chin, good conformation, with an intense clear blue-black colour, strong fur with long guard hair and good veiling coverage coming down the sides to a clear white belly. This chin became Reserve Best Mutation. This was followed by 2 chins from Sandy King. 2nd was not as bright as the 1st but still had a really intense black mutant fur with a standard 'ruff' around the neck, good size and conformation. 3rd was a big blocky chin down on colour to the top 2, veiling coverage was reasonable. The 2HC's were both just 4 ½ months one had narrow conformation but good veiling coverage. The other a bit highly strung was smaller and slightly down in colour but still had a good intense black appearance.

The AOC Class consisted of 7. 2 Self Browns from Andrew had 1st and 2nd awards. 1st was a darker wrap around clear colour good size and conformation reasonably strong fur but out of condition. 2nd was much lighter but still had an even wrap around clear colour and a strong fur type size and conformation were ok. A Lowe's recessive white from Andrew had an HC with a gingeriness and a very soft weak fur type. Andrew also had a 3rd award for his Pink White chin that was a bit 'creamy' in colour, size and conformation were ok with a reasonably plushy fur type. A Homo Brown from Heather received 2nd with a clear bright colour, good size and conformation. Fur type was ok but weaker than Pink White. We finished off with a 1st for Andrew's medium dark Ebony at just 4 months was a very nice chin with clear bright colour, strong fur and good conformation.

The 8 Adult Mutations all came as one AOC class. 2 Wilson Whites both from Andrew received a 1st and 2nd both good chins. 1st had a really strong fur type, good size and conformation that was the best of the group. 2nd had the better colour but a weaker fur. Heather had a 1st for her Pink White with good size and conformation, clear colour with a plushy but slightly open fur type. The Beige from Andrew was a good size but the very pale colour had oxidised with very weak fur and a swirl in the back received an HC. Andrew's sullivan violet faired a bit better with a 3rd at just over 7 months slightly down on colour and slightly narrow in the shoulders I referred to as an 'ok' chin. Another 3rd for Andrew's self-brown had a good strong fur but colour had begun to oxidise and brown didn't wrap around. A 3rd award also for Heather's Black Velvet that had a narrow conformation across the shoulders, an intense black mutant fur with reasonable veiling coverage. Sian received a 1st for her Black Pearl that had a striking clear intense black colour that went down to a slightly pen stained belly with a strong silky fur. Conformation was narrow with the fur laying a bit flat along the sides.

Congratulations to Andrew with his Beige Show champion and to Sian and her Standard Reserve Show Champion. My thanks to all who attended and to Sian for preparing and bringing lunch for us.