

My congratulations to Shropshire and Gwynedd on the clubs' first joint show venture which lead to an excellent entry and lots of really wonderful cats. My thanks to Janet and her hard working team for inviting me. My very special thanks to Val Kaye for working so hard as my steward, it was great for us to have the day together again.

USUAL SOMALI

BOB, HACK'S UK & OBIGC SUPATOFT SONYA, SOL n (63L), F, 09.03.10

Usual. This mature female just oozes presence, an absolute delight to handle. Large ears, pricked and cupped to give her a very alert expression. Very pleasing head shape with gentle contours to the moderate wedge, a slight nose break and a slight indentation forming the muzzle. Bright eyes, gold/green and almond shaped. Long lithe body, very well muscled and long elegant limbs and tufted toes. Long tail, nicely furnished with a brush. Lovely soft dense coat with ruff and breeches present. The warm rich apricot base was very well ticked with black and she had very well marked heels, darker spinline and facial markings. Very confident both in and out of the pen and she was in tip top condition.

CC, MACDOWALL & BARBER'S CRESCO COOKIE, SOL n (63L), F, 27.03.14

Usual. A very promising youngster, only just into adulthood, though I felt that she was well grown and nicely balanced for ten months. Lovely large well furnished ears, set high on the head, cupped and pricked with a crescent shape between them when viewed from the back. Head has a good moderate wedge with gentle contours starting to develop and a slight indentation forming the muzzle. Slight nose break with a slight rise to the forehead. Chin quite firm and of good depth. Obliquely set green eyes, bright and large. She feels very muscular, body length balances the head nicely and she had long limbs which gave her a very elegant appearance. Well tufted oval shaped feet. Long tail, reaching the shoulders with furnishings already well developed. Coat typically on the shorter side as she has lost her baby coat and the adult coat is just starting to lengthen with ruff beginning to develop. Warm rich apricot agouti base, black ticking was already very well developed and overall she gives the impression of rich golden brown cat. I will watch her development with great interest.

2ND TAYLOR'S BRIZLINCOAT ELMYRASMIDNITE, SOL n (63L), F, 03.02.12

Usual. A mature female with very good breadth to the head and well developed gentle contours. Proportionately large ears, nicely furnished though today she had a tendency to flare them rather than prick them up for us. Almond shaped green eyes, quite obliquely set. Good slight nose break. An indentation formed the muzzle though she was puffing out her whisker pads and this made the muzzle appear rather square until felt. The combination of ear set and muzzle meant that I didn't like her quite as much as the young female today, although I did debate for several minutes before making my placings decision as it was a close call between the older female and the baby. Firm chin. Long body, deceptively weighty and well muscled. Long limbs and oval shaped feet with tufted toes. Tail reached the shoulders and was quite well furnished. Medium length coat, currently she is between coats and consequently the coat was a little open. I felt that hormones were playing a part today and wondered if she had recently called or had had kittens. She had quite a full ruff and well developed breeches. Cooler toned pale apricot agouti which was very well ticked with black. Warmer toned apricot to the tummy area. She was good to handle though perhaps she wasn't really showing us her best side as she was in an end pen. I was glad to see her more 'laid back' when I passed later in the day.

I also considered for BOB:

COONEY'S CH HARRY SOM DE KISMAYOU, SOL n (63L), M, 21.07.12

Usual. Wow – he really wanted to steal my teaser so much, Such a happy playful boy. He has a long muscular elegant body and long limbs with tufted feet. Long tail, nicely

furnished. Large ears, though he did have a tendency to flare them until he saw the teaser and then they came up well. Head of good length, it shows a moderate wedge though at this age I would like to see a little more breadth and gentle contour development. His chin was not as strong and firm as my females' chins today. Wonderful vivid green eyes. Rich golden colour with a very warm apricot agouti, nicely ticked with black. Very soft silky feel to the medium length coat. Beautifully shown and very playful indeed.

CHOCOLATE OR LILAC BIRMAN KITTEN

1ST & BOB, GELSTHORPE'S PHANDAVIAN CASPER-GOLD, SBI c (13c4), M, 22.06.14

Lilac Point. A beautifully presented young man with a really full pale coat which contrasted with his points and feet. An impressive young man, he already has a lovely breadth to the rounded head with wide set ears of medium size. Large, almost round mid blue eyes. Slight dip to the medium length nose, well developed muzzle and full chin. Wonderful body, really long and heavy with substantial boning to medium length limbs which end with short strong paws. Very well furnished tail, balancing the body length. Lovely coat for length & texture and the pale off-white colour which contrasts well with the developing pinkish-grey points. Colour to ears and nose, other points still developing depth. Nicely marked feet all round. A promising boy who was a joy to handle and beautifully presented in lovely condition.

2ND DAVIES' ALIGHIERI VOECKLER, SBI b (13C3), M, 05.07.14

Chocolate Point. A well grown male with a really solid feel to his long body. Head of good breadth with cheeks filling out nicely and a slight dip to the medium length nose. Ears were set quite wide apart, still typically a little on the large side at the moment. Two toned eyes with mid blue rims and quite deep blue centres. Full chin. Well boned medium length limbs, short strong paws. Balanced tail with furnishings lengthening. Medium length coat, very pale ivory colour, ruff starting to lengthen around the neck. White socks covered the back feet and the gauntlets tapered nicely. Unfortunately his white gloves extended above the paw/leg angle on both front legs. A little unsure of his surroundings today. Very well presented with pristine whites.

AOC SOMALI KITTEN

1ST & BOB, HORSLEY'S SABLE KLAN HENRY FORD, SOL A (63Lc), M, 05.08.14

Blue. This young man had a lovely body length and shape, it was well muscled and lithe with long elegant limbs and oval shaped tufted paws. His tail was very well furnished with a full brush, the length balanced the body and easily reached the shoulders. He has really large ears, they are well furnished, sitting high on the head which makes him appear very alert indeed. Head shows a moderate wedge, it is still on the narrow side as the breadth and gentle contours are yet to develop. Good slight nose break present. Green colour to almond shaped eyes, large and set obliquely. Chin could be a little firmer for perfection. Medium length coat with a soft silky texture. His ruff is just starting to develop and he already has quite full breeches. The warm mushroom base colour is even in depth to tummy, chest and limbs. He has deep blue ticking and over the back and sides the base colour is rather pale, though not quite white. I would like to see more colour to the base in this area, however, I didn't feel that he was a silver cat as his base colour is so even in colour everywhere else. He is still wearing his baby coat so today I made allowance for the pale base colour. Really active and playful, a confident young man, he was very well groomed for the show.

MAINE COON BROWN/BLUE TABBY (INC BI-COLOUR) NEUTER

I had four really lovely boys in this class, it was a real privilege to judge them.

BOB, BURGESS'S UK & I OGIGP KASSARO CISCOKID, MCO n 03 22 (64 41w), MN, 14.05.09

Classic Brown Tabby & White. The finished article, wonderful strong masculine head, lovely long rectangular body and huge boning to limbs. Beautifully furnished tail, reaching the shoulders. Currently in full winter coat with a super ruff and breeches, the coat is shorter over the shoulders and increasing in length down the back and sides of the body. The pristine whites contrast really well with the rich warm classic brown tabby pattern. He has such presence, he is lovely and he knows it. I later made him best SLH neuter and I see that he went on to become best SLH in Show. My congratulations to his owner and breeder.

I also considered:

BURGESS'S IGR PR COONARIA EL CAPITAN, MCO n 22 (64 41), MN, 23.04.09

Classic Brown Tabby. This male also has a very pleasing rectangular body shape and substantial boning to limbs and paws. His head is balanced though not quite as strong as my winner's. Well developed coat, nicely marked classic brown tabby, slightly cooler colour than Cisco.

LLOYD'S PR KASSARO GOODWOOD, MCO n 22 (64 41), MN, 29.04.13

Classic Brown Tabby. The baby of the class and I do like his expression. Although his head was not quite as well developed and balanced as the older boys' heads, he has a good strong square shape to the muzzle and a firm deep chin. Long heavy body, well boned limbs and a long flowing tail. Cooler toned brown tabby pattern, his coat was well developed with ruff and breeches present.

WOODCOCK'S CH & IGR PR BEARDWOOD LEONARDO DAVINCI, MCO n 03 22 (64 41w), 28.02.09

Classic Brown Tabby & White. So much to really like about this boy, he really does have a lovely expression, very typical of the breed. Well balanced head of medium length with large well placed ears and very expressive green eyes. Well muscled rectangular body, long flowing tail and substantial boning to limbs. Rich warm brown tabby coat of very good length over the body, though the ruff is currently on the shorter side. It was a close call between him and Cisco for BOB and today Cisco had the edge on coat development.

NORWEGIAN FOREST NEUTER MALE

Sixteen cats entered in this breed class and thirteen present. Every one of them was worthy of a certificate and it made my job really hard today. My thanks to the exhibitors for a wonderful turn out of cats. There was a rather unhappy BSH adult close by and he insisted on making some very strange and threatening noises from his pen. This did make some of the NFC cats penned close by feel very wary and not as relaxed as usual.

BOB, WHITTLE'S PR NORSPIRIT SILVER SHADOW, NOF ns 09 23 (67 44sz), MN, 14.01.14

Silver Mackerel Tabby & White. Only just a year old and I was really impressed with this boy's size, coat development and expression. He has large well placed ears, sitting well on a clear triangular shaped head with beautiful obliquely shaped green eyes and long straight line to the nose. Really well grown with a long heavy body, substantial boning and back legs slightly longer than the fronts. Long tail, reaching the shoulders and very well furnished. Currently in full winter coat with lots of woolly undercoat and a really good slightly harsher waterproof topcoat. In a class of super cats, it was his coat development that won him the BOB today.

PC, HOBSON'S NOYNAROCK SHERMAN, NFO N 09 21 (67 31t), MN, 06.04.14

Brown Tabby & White. This young man had wonderful type and expression, he really looks down his long straight nose at you. large ears, well furnished and following the outer edge

lines of the triangular head. Oval shaped green eyes, set obliquely. Firm chin. Lovely long weighty body, really large boning to limbs and paws. Long bushy tail, easily reaching the shoulders. He has a very well developed coat for ten months old with a woolly undercoat and longer waterproof guardhairs. Full ruff and knickerbockers present. Beautifully presented with pristine whites which contrast very well with the rich warm brown tabby. He was upset by the BSH and really not happy out of the pen today. Had he had better manners towards us, he could have walked away with the BOB too.

2ND BENNER'S NOYNAROCK REGINALD STILL, NFO ns 03 (67 31s), MN, 06.07.13

Black Smoke & White. Unlucky to meet Sherman in this class as I did like this boy. Lovely large ears on a triangular head of very good overall length, he has a ruler straight profile. Green eyes, obliquely set and oval shaped. Chin quite firm. Long body, deceptively weighty and muscular with well boned limbs and feet. Tail was nicely furnished and reaches the shoulders. His coat had a good woolly undercoat and a glossy topcoat with some good slightly harsher texture over the rump. Overall, his coat was not quite as well developed as my winner's today, hence his placing. No points for colour, but I would like to mention that he has a really good black smoke pattern and snow white colour to the face, chest, tummy and limbs. Great to handle, he took everything in his stride.

3RD COWARD'S NOYNAROCK KINGOLAV, NFO ns (67 36), MN, 01.04.14

Black Smoke. A well grown boy with an excellent long muscular body and substantial boning to limbs and feet. His tail easily reached the shoulders and was nicely furnished with a bushy texture. Large ears, set well and nicely furnished. The ears continue the triangular lines of the head. Green/gold eyes of good oval shape, they are set quite obliquely, though not quite as well set as my second placed male in this class. Good long straight line to the nose. Firm chin. His coat has a woolly undercoat with a glossy topcoat, the waterproof harshness is just starting to develop over the rump. Although colour is irrelevant in the breed, I would like to mention that he is a solid back as there is no evidence of a silvery white base colour. Very easy to handle and shown in lovely condition.

4TH CONNERTON'S FJALLKATTEN RALPH, NFO d 09 21 (67 31dt), MN, 03.02.11

Red Tabby & White. A mature four year old, his head balanced the body size well. Good triangular head shape with clear lines and he has well placed large ears. Long nose, generally straight though he does have a tiny bump present. Obliquely set oval shaped eyes, though they are a little small and deep set. Chin could be a touch firmer to really balance the rest of the head. Lovely body size and shape, he is heavy and very well muscled with well boned legs and paws. The back legs are slightly longer than the front ones. Beautifully furnished tail, reaching the shoulders. He has lots of woolly undercoat present though his topcoat is rather soft at the moment, considering he is a mature male in winter. He is worthy of a PC and I would happily award him one, today his placing was because of his eye set, chin and softer coat. He was a delight to handle, perfect manners and he was beautifully presented in lovely condition.

I also considered for BOB:

BENNER'S PR NOYNAROCK RONALD COPPER, NFO d 03 21 (67 31dt), MN, 24.07.13

Red Tabby & White. A regal male, good size and balance with well boned limbs and a long tail. Nice expression with a good triangular head. Lots of woolly undercoat though the topcoat was not as well developed as my BOB male today.

BREWOD'S IGR PR NOYNAROCK LARS-MORGAN, NFO n 09 21 (67 31t), MN, 27.03.10

Brown Tabby & White. One of my favourite boys, he has a lovely expression and wonderful balance. Good slightly coarser topcoat with some woolly undercoat present. Unfortunately the upset BSH had affected this boy, he is usually great to handle, but he

really didn't want to be out of his pen for long today. A great shame as he was a strong contender for the BOB. I heard later that he gained his Olympian Bronze title today, my congratulations to his owner and breeder.

EMERY'S GR PR SKOGVENNS ODIN, NFO a 09 (67 31a), MN, 08.05.11

Blue & White. A large heavy male, very well muscled and deceptively heavy with very well boned legs and paws. Bushy tail, balancing the long body very well and reaching the shoulders. Clear triangular head shape, he has a typical NFC expression. Very good slightly harsher guardhairs evident, some woolly undercoat though not quite as well developed as my BOB winner's coat today. Very easy to handle.

GREEN'S GR PR NOYNAROCK MAGNOR, NFO n 21 (67 20), MN, 24.02.12

Brown Tabby. This male had a very nice head shape and expression with a good long straight line to the nose and obliquely set green eyes. Long body, though currently he appears rather rangy and not quite balanced at the moment. Currently in shorter coat, some woolly undercoat evident. Nicely boned limbs and paws. Shows promise, just needs a bit of time for everything to come together.

NORWEGIAN FOREST NEUTER FEMALE

PC, PRICE & LEWIS'S NORSKWOOD MISTLETOE KISSES, NFO a 09 (67 31a), FN, 11.12.12

Blue & White. An impressive mature female, she is really large, weighty and well balanced. Lovely large ears, nicely furnished and set high on the head. Clear triangular shape to the head and the outer edges of the ears follow the headlines. Oval shaped green eyes, set in a good oblique set. Nose shows a very slight change in direction rather than being ruler straight. Chin quite firm. Long heavy body, substantial boning to limbs and large paws. Her bushy tail balancing the body length very well, reaching the shoulders. She is currently in full winter coat with lots of woolly undercoat covered with longer, slightly harsh waterproof guardhairs. Well developed ruff and knickerbockers. Really easy to handle, she was beautifully presented and had the best coat quality in the female class today. A very nice female all round.

2ND PRICE & LEWIS'S NORSKWOOD HOLLY BERRY, NFO g 09 (67 22a), FN, 11.12.12

Blue Tortie & White. Another large female and I now see that they are litter sisters as well as stablemates. Well furnished ears of good large size and set well on the head. Her head is triangular in shape though she does have a tendency to puff out the whisker pads. Large oval shaped green/gold eyes, set obliquely. Like her sister, the profile shows a slight change in direction. Firm chin. Large long muscular body, well boned limbs with back legs slightly longer. Tail reached the shoulders and was well furnished with a bushy texture. Well developed woolly undercoat, guardhairs slightly softer than my winner's today. She had a full ruff framing the face and knickerbockers down the back legs. I felt that she had a very attractive mingled blue tortie coat with a large cream flash up the face. Super to handle and very well presented. Today I felt that her sister had the edge on coat texture though they were both really nice girls.

3RD BENNER'S NOYNAROCK VIOLET PIXIEDUST, NFO f 09 (67 22), FN, 04.04.14

Tortie & White. A very attractive young lady, such a bright flashy tortie and white coat. Only just into adulthood, she has a clear triangular head shape with a very good long straight line to the nose. Obliquely set green/gold eyes of oval shape. In comparison to her head, I would like to see the ears a touch larger although they are very well furnished indeed. Firm chin of nice depth. Long well muscled body, nicely boned limbs and paws. Nicely furnished bushy tail, reaching the shoulders. For ten months old, her coat was well developed with woolly undercoat and longer guardhairs present. As expected at this age, it

is currently on the softer side though should be very nice once her full adult coat comes in. Very well presented with pristine white areas. Very easy to handle.

4TH LOVELL'S NORSVANA SNOLOKKE, NFO ns 03 21 (67 31ts), FN, 10.10.13

Silver Tabby & White. This girl was very well muscled indeed and she had a long weighty body. Nicely boned legs and paws with back legs clearly slightly longer than the front ones. Tail just about reached the shoulders though it was well furnished with a bushy texture. Lovely large ears, sitting quite high on the triangular head. Good straight nasal profile. Firm chin. I wondered if she had been affected by the upset cat further down the row as she was nervous and unsure today which made her eyes rather large, bold and round and this spoilt the typical NFC expression for me. This was my main reason for her placing today as she was timid when being assessed. She had a woolly undercoat and good harsher topcoat, especially over the rump, her adult coat is developing well with some ruff and quite full knickerbockers present. I hope that her nervousness was a one-off as she has some very nice features. She was well presented for the show.

NEBELUNG NEUTER ASSESSMENT

1ST , MERIT & BOB, MERIT & BOB, KEMP'S BRUMEUX MAN OV STEEL, NEB (69), MN, 14.01.14

A very alert young man who really enjoyed playing with the teaser. Very nice head shape with a medium wedge, high set cheekbones and prominent whisker pads. Straight nasal profile. Firm chin. Large almond shaped green eyes, I felt that his eye colour was well developed for his age. Long slender limbs with neat rounded paws. He gives the impression of elegance with his long muscular body. Balanced tail, well furnished. His coat is well developed for age, fine undercoat with longer guardhairs evident. Ruff present and he had well grown breeches. His coat is a medium shade of blue, even throughout in depth with slight silver tipping present. Blue nose leather and paw pads. He was shown in super condition. Although a little unsure of some rather noisy neighbours, he did handle well. A promising youngster who really wanted to keep my cat toy!