

ANGLO NUBIAN BREED SOCIETY – ANNUAL BREED SHOW

Even though I am known for keeping/showing mainly British Toggenburgs I have always had an Anglo Nubian or two in the shed; my first being R122 Cheswardine Jama, dam of Cheswardine Mowgli Br.Ch., whom I bought from Winkie Tavener in 1971.

To say I looked forward to this judging appointment would be an understatement, in fact I refused an invitation for a week-end in Belgium judging Bulldogs and French Bulldogs because it coincided with the Breed Show.

I feel I must mention at the beginning of this report how I was more than disappointed to receive an email from Margaret advising that the committee had taken the decision to cancel the show. However, my disappointment soon transformed into anger when I was advised the reason for cancelling was due to lack of personnel to run the show. I will just pose one question – ‘What is the purpose of the club’s committee if not to combine and run one of the most important events in the club’s year?’. Thankfully commonsense prevailed, Maggi took on the paperwork but, sadly, it was necessary for someone outside the breed to take on the role of steward. Thanks are due to Joanne Smith, and Mum, whose sterling efforts on the day contributed hugely to the show’s success.

Now to the goats. At pre-milking inspection my initial impression was how Anglo Nubian udders have improved hugely over the years. Gone were the necky udders with bottle shaped teats; the majority of the goats before me had udders with excellent attachments, OK, there were some which could have been better, but still an improvement on years gone by. The improvement in udder attachments was complimented by the great improvement in teat shape, size and definition. Anglo Nubian breeders have worked hard over the years in this area.

My two main milkers provided a conundrum. One was a 1st kidder, the other a 2nd kidder, they both have well attached udders with good teat definition, ‘floor’ and both gave the same am. yield, 2.85kg. Whereas I prefer the size and scope of Kilbarchan Moonmagic I thought the eventual Best Milker, Nitram Ayliesha, just flowed under my hand with more bloom and finish.

I would love to own the Best Goatling, Treval Zezzie. The moment she walked into the ring I knew she was going to be my eventual winner. I feel she typifies an Anglo Nubian goatling. Extremely well grown with plenty of depth, bone, length and scope. A really good head with well placed/shaped ears, correct eye shape and an excellent nose. Klimova Tatiana, reserve goatling, again excelled in growth, head, ear-shape and body. I preferred Zezzie’s length of neck and ear placement.

My, the kids were difficult to judge! There were only eight weeks difference in age between the oldest/youngest but the growth rates were so dissimilar. The eventual winner, Braynusen Gabrielle, was a ‘little madam’ for her handler. However, I felt she scored with her super head and well developed body.

Then came the males and for me the first one to walk into the ring was my 'star of the day'. I thought Kilbarchan Moonstrike to be quite superb, he has everything I look for in an Anglo Nubian adult male. My, he was a handful for his handler! Full of breed type! Extremely well grown with plenty of bone and substance, all on sound legs and feet. Super, strong head with well placed ears and a superb nose without the mouth faults that sometimes occurs in animals with such good heads. Excellent fore-chest and brisket, well laid shoulders leading into a strong, well developed body. I was absolutely delighted with him. Second to him was Braynusen Samson, who whilst excelling in head and bodyshape was far too narrow in front.

Ivans Dodger, at 15 months old, was the only buckling forward. I thought him to be quite promising. His overall make and shape is all there. He has a strong head for a youngster and quite a long neck leading to a well developed body. He just needs to grow on and muscle up, which should come with age.

The best male kid, Kaprikel Klassyman, is, I think, a little corker. Very well grown with a most promising head. He has plenty of length and depth which, combined with good bone and sound feet, should have something to offer the breed.

For me, judging was over far too quickly as I really enjoyed my day. In fact at the end of judging I turned to Joanne and said 'I could start again now and do it all again'. My thanks the Anglo Nubian Breed Society for the opportunity to judge their show and to all the exhibitors for giving me the pleasure of examining their stock.

Graham Godfrey.