

Judge's Report on Anglo-Nubian National Breed Show 2007

It gave me great pleasure to judge the 2007 show. The Breed is going from strength to strength and there were some first class goats forward for me to judge.

Unfortunately the weather (raining very hard) meant that judging was indoors, but it was a perfectly adequate area for judging. Some of the kids appeared to be adversely affected by the conditions. Photo opportunities were limited, but I did snatch a few pictures after the pairs judging. Two of the pictures were taken the following day at the Notts show, when the weather was much kinder.

My first class, First Kidders, had 9 entered and there were 8 forward. The first prize winner was a very promising goat bred by Miss Harris & Miss Morgan called Earthchild Liberty (see photo). She gave 3.10 Kg at the morning milking and had a well attached udder, with good teat shape and soft texture. She is a good size with strong bone and has a good head and ears, illustrating the breed type I like, and had a flowing movement with high head carriage when she walked. As a first kidder she obviously needs time to mature. I also liked Mrs Scales' Ivan's Sapphire (2.75 Kg a.m.) and Mrs Jermy's Jemaly Clary (2.60 Kg a.m.), who were second and third respectively, both promising youngsters.

The Second Kidders had 7 entered with 6 present. In this class I placed Ivan's Trulifair at the top of the line. She was shown in superb condition, good udder with excellent attachment, especially fore. She is a good size and good breed type. Her yield was 2.55 Kg at the morning milking. Second and third prizewinners in this class were Mrs Hardy's Kinmea Shelly and Miss T Holdbrook's Holdbrook Hexspirit. I liked both of these goats too, but Trulifair had the edge on the day. Hexspirit gave 3.15 Kg at the morning milking – a creditable yield, but I preferred Shelly's (2.55 Kg a.m.) general breed type.

There was only one entry in the Veteran AN (over 6 years) and this was Mrs Hardy's Kinmea Samantha, still looking well at 9 years old and deserving of her first prize. When it came to deciding on the Best Milker and Reserve I chose Earthchild Liberty, with Ivans Trulifair reserve. Trulifair gave way to Liberty on yield for age and elegance of movement from the side.

Liberty and Trulifair are an excellent pair of goats and a credit to their breeders/owners.

There were 25 goatlings entered and 19 forward for me to judge. They were split in 3 classes of roughly equal numbers. The overall standard was high. The winners of the three classes were Harris/Morgan's Earthchild Honesty, Hardy's Kinmea Suki and Kell's Kaprikel Karma. They were all excellent animals and a credit to their breeders. I liked all three in different ways, but on overall balance and on the day I made Honesty best goatling followed by Karma as reserve. In each class I felt the first three were all very promising goats, so I hope next years first kidders live up to the promise they show. (Photos of Honesty (taken at the breed show) and Karma (taken at the Notts show the next day)).

There were 17 female kids entered and 14 forward for me to judge in two classes. The first class was won by Thomasson's Abbotswell Keyaki (I thought this was an

outstanding kid and had a lovely feel to it), followed by Earl's Earls Mischief another promising youngster. The second class (younger kids) was won by Baldock's Sandell Phina, followed closely by Kell's Kaprikel Klassylass (who lives up to her name!). Very nice, the pair of them. I made Keyaki best female kid very closely followed by Phina. The standard in the kids overall was good at the top end, but at the lower end there were a few who seemed out of sorts, not showing themselves very well. On a different day, and outside in the sunshine, it would perhaps have been a different story. Unfortunately I didn't get any photos of the kids – probably owners thought better than taking them outside – probably right too!

In the Adult male class 4 were entered and 2 present. The first prize winner and best male overall was Edginton's Wayward Hanifh (see photo). He is a very sound male, standing four square with a leg at each corner, very wide from the rear, but tight in the shoulders.

In the buckling class there were 5 entered and three present. First prize went to Kell's Kilbarchan Moonstrike (see photo) followed by M Holdbrook's Kinmea Isobar. I liked them both, but Moonstrike had that leggy look about him (I like this in a buckling), was high and fine in the withers, good length, superb head and ears. A very fine prospect, just needs that little more time. He has not quite got used to those long legs yet when walking, but I still made him reserve best male to Hanifh.

Then we came to the final class, male kids, 11 entered and 10 present. I liked the first three in this class. The winner was Baldock's Sandell Clinton – very smart, well grown and well presented with good conformation. He was closely followed by Thomasson's Abbotwell Kilto and Edginton's Wayward Jameelah. It's been a long time since I had so many male kids in one class, again some seemed to be out of sorts – it was a damp cold day.

I must thank John Orr, my most efficient ring steward/judges steward – he seemed to be doing everything! There were a lot of other people working behind the scenes, too many to mention, but it was John who made my task a most pleasant and memorable one.

Finally I would like to say how great it was to see Brian Perry on the Sunday of the show weekend. Brian was to have judged the AN Breed Show this year, but a major heart operation meant a substitute was needed (me!). Good to see you looking so well Brian.

Peter Cox