



# The Supreme Show 2012

*Heavy rainfall and travel chaos did nothing to dampen the excitement at the NEC on 24th November. Carole Kemp reports from this year's Supreme Show*

**W**ell the weather forecasters had tried to tell us that the weather was going to be awful. They had been right with the amount of rain that had fallen over the last few days so it was a bit of a concern as to how many exhibitors would have a problem with floods preventing them from coming. As it turned out, there didn't seem to be a lot of people missing with their cats.

In total there were 796 pedigree entries, 20 Non Pedigree, 55 Pedigree Pets, 63 cats on club row, one previous winner on exhibition and 11 other cats on exhibition.

There were several of the well known cat stalls around: Purrsonal Touch, Crystal Clear,

**ABOVE:** Supreme Exhibit Gr Ch Gemkin Starwind  
**LEFT:** Supreme Kitten Hemlock Mafiosa



R & L Pet Products, Royal Canin and a few of the pet charities.

Best in Show at the Supreme is always a joy to watch when a certain Mr John Hansson is in charge of the proceedings. He always seems to get the crowd involved and gets everyone excited.

Before the main pedigree judging took place, the Household Pet and Pedigree Pet Judging was done on the main stage. This is just as an important event, as these cats have been to the shows alongside their pedigree friends and have competed for prizes just the

**BELOW:** Supreme Non Pedigree Missy



I was glad it was not me judging as the two most adorable kittens were brought onto the stage. Foxtrot Romeo, a red longhair owned by Miss G Nevin and Twilight, a charcoal tabby owned by Miss T Beckett. They were both so well behaved, considering how

same as they have. The show manager for this section was Mrs Lesley Szwed, who, as usual, ran the whole thing like clockwork. The judges were Miss Saffy Rabey, Mrs Georgina Anderson-Keeble and Mrs Kay Short. What a difficult task they had as first of all they had to decide who was the Overall BIS Household Pet 2012 between Mastercat Candice, a tortie and white longhair owned by Mrs L Smith, and Grand Mastercat Missy, a shorthair ginger tortie tabby owned by Mrs V Fletcher. In the end they went for the shorthair who will now be known as Supreme Grand Mastercat Missy. They then had the task of choosing the Overall BIS Pedigree Pet that was between GMC Bluebelle, a blue Point owned by Mr R and Mrs M Semos, and GMC Ollivander, a Red shorthair owned by Mrs S Miller. The Overall BIS Pedigree Pet was named as Supreme GMC Ollivander.

Next was the kittens section and



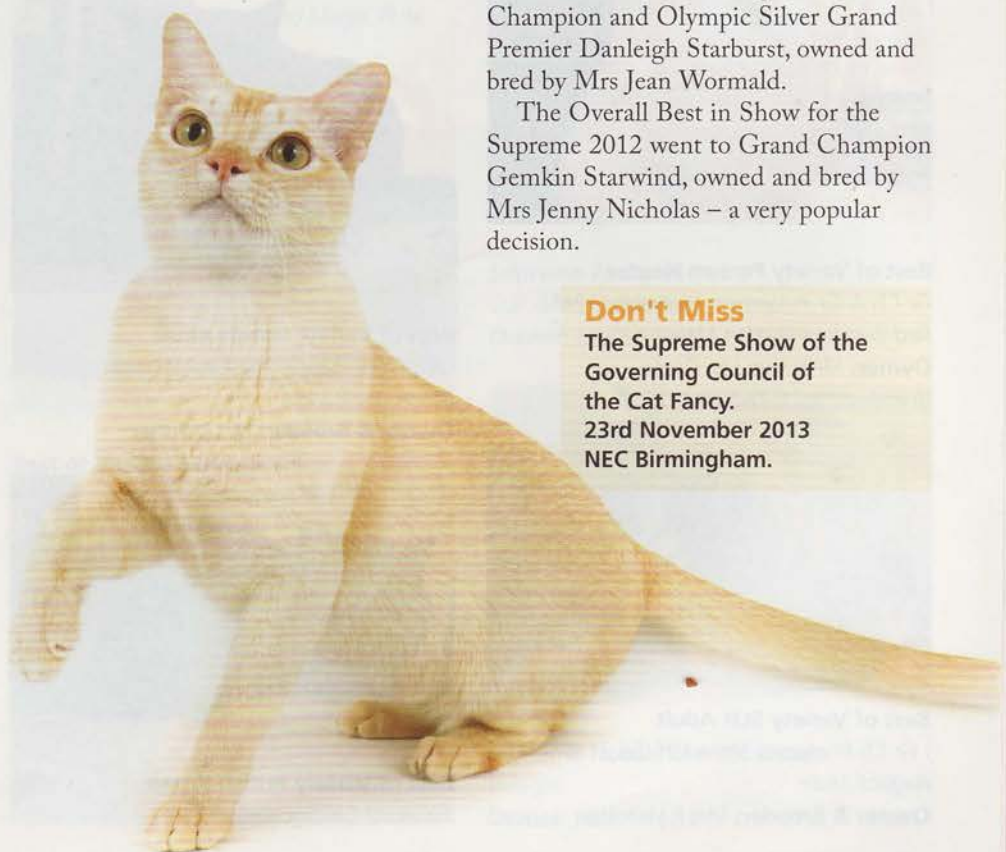
**LEFT** Supreme Neuter IGC Pippastro Majik Flute  
**BOTTOM:** Supreme Pedigree Pet GMC Ollivander

young they were. In the end the judges chose Supreme Kitten Twilight.

The Overall Pedigree judges were Mrs Joyce Green, Mr John Harrison and Mrs Val Kilby. They had an enormous task ahead of them, having to choose a final three from seven adults, seven kittens and seven neuters. In the end the final three were Overall BIS Adult Grand Champion Gemkin Starwind, a stunning white male Persian owned and bred by Mrs Jenny Nicholas; Overall BIS Kitten was a black Oriental Hemlock

Bella Mafiosa, owned and bred by Mrs J Brownrigg; Overall BIS Neuter was a tortie Birman Imperial Grand Champion and Olympic Silver Grand Premier Danleigh Starburst, owned and bred by Mrs Jean Wormald.

The Overall Best in Show for the Supreme 2012 went to Grand Champion Gemkin Starwind, owned and bred by Mrs Jenny Nicholas – a very popular decision.



### Don't Miss

The Supreme Show of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy.  
23rd November 2013  
NEC Birmingham.

## Best of Variety results

Photos by Lisa Aggett and Carole Kemp



**Best of Variety Persian Adult, Supreme Adult & Supreme Exhibit**

Supreme Gr Ch Gemkin Starwind (2a)  
*Orange-eyed white Persian Male*  
**Owner & Breeder:** Mrs J L Nicholas



**Best of Variety Semi-Longhair Kitten**

Somantikks La Prima Donna (63)  
*Usual Somali Female*  
**Owner & Breeder:** Mrs L D Burns



*British Black Male*  
**Owner & Breeder:** Mr A Howard

**Best of Variety British Neuter**

I Gr Ch & Gr Pr Loraston Liberty Belle  
*British Bicolour Female*  
**Owner:** Mrs M LeMonnier  
**Breeder:** Mrs S Lorton-Hobbs



**Best of Variety Persian Kitten**

Farallon White Obsession (2b)  
*Odd-eyed White Persian Female*  
**Owner:** Mrs K Holloway  
**Breeder:** Marcel Le Tourneau



**Best of Variety Semi-Longhair Neuter**

I Gr Ch & OS I Gr Pr Danleigh Starburst (13c6)  
*Tortie Point Birman Female*  
**Owner & Breeder:** Mrs J Wormald



**Best of Variety Foreign Adult**

I Gr Ch Natango's Ghaniyah (78 30)  
*Bronze Egyptian Mau Female*  
**Owner:** J Lamb  
**Breeder:** Mrs H Horn



**Best of Variety Persian Neuter**

Gr Ch & Gr Pr Gemkin Invincible (12a5)  
*Red Bi-colour Persian Male*  
**Owner:** Mr & Mrs J M Case  
**Breeder:** Mrs JL Nicholas



**Best of Variety British Adult**

OB I Gr Ch Xzibit Chicago (15)  
*British Black Male*  
**Owner & Breeder:** Mrs V Fisher



**Best of Variety Foreign Kitten**

Cheysuli Snow Storm (76a 30)  
*Snow Spotted Bengal Female*  
**Owner:** Mrs H L Robinson  
**Breeder:** Mrs W Kerney



**Best of Variety SLH Adult**

I Gr Ch Phatpaws Show Off (66 31a)  
*Ragdoll Male*  
**Owner & Breeder:** Mrs R Hamilton



**Best of Variety British Kitten**

Airlebird Chicago Dream (15)



**Best of Variety Foreign Neuter**

I Gr Pr Tobysden Balou (76 30)

*Brown Spotted Bengal Male***Owner:** Miss A M Coulter**Breeder:** Mrs S F Moreland**Best of Variety Burmese Adult**

Ch Shivarene Arctic Monkey (27c)

*Lilac, Male***Owner & Breeder:** Prof J E Bradley**Best of Variety Burmese Kitten**

Vintarn Verity (27h)

*Lilac Tortie Burmese Female***Owner & Breeder:** Vintarn Verity**Best of Variety Burmese Neuter**

GrCh &amp; GrPr Molyneux Gold Dust (27f)

*Cream Burmese Male***Owner:** Mrs S Robinson**Breeder:** Mr A & Mrs A Williams**Best of Variety Oriental Adult**

Neo Bon Voyage (41)

*Oriental Classic Tabby Male***Owner:** Mrs J Brownrigg**Breeder:** Mrs B Krcmárová**Best of Variety Oriental Kitten & Supreme Kitten**

Supreme Kitten Hemlock Bella Mafiosa (37)

*Oriental Black Male***Owner & Breeder:** Mrs J Brownrigg**Best of Variety Oriental Neuter & Supreme Neuter**

Supreme UK I Gr Pr Pippastro Magik Flute (62 43fn)

*Apricot Shaded Oriental Longhair Male***Owner:** Mrs C Whitby**Breeder:** Mrs P L Browning**Best of Variety Siamese Adult**

Gr Ch Mafdet Masquerade (24n)

*Caramel Point Male***Owner & Breeder:** Mrs C Bowles-Gowdy**Best of Variety Siamese Kitten**

Kamik Purple Rain (32b8)

*Carmel Tortie Point Siamese Female***Owner & Breeder:** Mrs K N Smout**Best of Variety Siamese Neuter**

Ch Jomese Jenni-Igotbluspots (32b2)

*Blue Tortie Point, Female***Owner & Breeder:** Mrs J Pound**Supreme Household Pet**

SUP GMC Missy

**Owner:** Mrs V Fletcher**Supreme Pedigree Pet**

SUP GMC Ollivander

**Owner:** Mrs S Miller**Supreme Household Pet Kitten**

Twilight

**Owner:** Miss T Beckett

## Winning at the Supreme

*Owner of Best of Variety Burmese kitten Vintarn Verity, Christine Stalker, gives Cat World an insight in to their eventful day*

I had a wonderful day at the show. It had been five years since I had last entered this very special show and I was really excited to be exhibiting there again. I entered my own bred lilac tortie Burmese kitten (Vintarn Verity) in the kitten class, way back in September.

Verity was born in March this year and I have been showing her at my local GCCF cat shows since July where she has done really well, winning Best of Variety at the Gwynedd, Chester & North Wales & Cheshire area shows. However, I knew that competition would be high at the Supreme as exhibitors come from all over the country.

The Supreme is different from other shows as it is "ring judged" which means the cats pens can be "dressed or decorated" – this all adds to the atmosphere as well as attracting visitors to the show. It does however, mean that there is more planning involved beforehand and the pens need to be set up before judging begins.

This year, my friend Jane offered to drive us to Birmingham from Cheshire the night before the show as she was entering her cream kitten, Vintarn Hobnob - who is Verity's brother.

So, after a good night's sleep at the onsite hotel, Jane, her son Benjamin & I all arrived at the NEC on the Saturday morning with our kittens - and lots of "cat luggage"! After vetting-in, we set up our pens and chatted to some of the 14 other Burmese kitten owners whilst we awaited the judges to begin their unenviable task.

Verity's Open Class was judged by Sandra Woodley and I was delighted that she awarded Verity 1st & Best of Breed. Verity's competitor was a very pretty chocolate tortie bred by Prof. Kym Jarvis.

The next stage of the day judges all the Best of Breed winners (six lovely kittens) against one another. Dr Peter Collin judged this class after lunch. Peter explained what he liked about each individual kitten to the small crowd of onlookers and we all held our breath as he deliberated and made his choice. I was absolutely over the moon when he



declared Verity as his winner – Best of Variety Burmese Kitten!

I was very close to tears at this point and thanked Peter & his stewards – this truly was 'beyond my wildest dream'.

I then took Verity to the Best in Show pens, located beside the stage, and spent some time talking to her and reassuring her that all was well. She was a little over awed and a wee bit nervous about what was happening.

At about 4pm, Mr. John Hansson, acting as MC with his microphone on stage, introduced the judges (Mrs. Joyce Green, Mr. John Harrison & Mrs. Val Kilby). One by one, the kittens were brought up onto the stage and were assessed by the three very experienced & well respected senior judges.

When it was Verity's turn she suddenly had a moment of fright & her steward returned her to her pen. I was very anxious at this point but after a few moments, Verity reappeared with judge Sandra Woodley who managed to handle her beautifully for the judges, restoring Verity (and me) to a semblance of calm! I was so proud of my lovely kitten and it was an honour to see her in the final.

The judges' eventual choice was the beautiful Oriental Black male kitten, Hemlock Bella Mafiosa. Verity won a beautiful rosette, a framed certificate and an engraved piece of crystal from the sponsors, Royal Canin. A Burmese breeder from the Pearl cattery in South Africa also gave her a lovely rosette as a special gift.

It was truly a remarkable day for me. I have owned Burmese since 1975 and never did I think my own cat would be 'up there' with the winners

My thanks to my fellow competitors for their messages of congratulations and good sportsmanship, to her judges & stewards and to GCCF for a really memorably happy day!

## Best of Variety winner

**Lady Audrey Saye and Teddy (Esaya Lord-of-the-Rings)**

We started our arrangements for the Supreme seven days before the show. We bathed, groomed and titivated our cats for several days.

Drapes and other necessary items, dishes etc, in keeping with such a prestigious (also different) show, were packed to travel with us. For most shows it's all white blankets etc to keep the exhibits anonymous but as the cats are taken to the judge in a ring situation at the Supreme, the pens are large, dressed and decorated. This looks good but does add pressure for the exhibitor who has to travel there on the day.

We set off at 3.00 am on the morning of the show, arriving at the NEC at 7.46 am. The queue was already quite long and we stood for 45 minutes waiting to be vetted in. This is a worrying time, as vets may find something, that could even be due to the stress of travelling for hours but, nevertheless, means they have to refuse admission. If this occurs, not only do the cats involved need checking but so do the owners' other cats which can be very costly so we are always very nervous at this stage.

Luckily our cats were all vetted in ok and we proceeded to get them penned.

The drapes were awkward to secure and I had to enlist the help of someone much taller than me. However, once we were all settled, the day went well. Teddy - Esaya Lord-of-the-Rings got his 1st and BOB, and so did my Siberian Esaya Alexia. Teddy was runner up for Best of Variety and Alexia was in the final five so I was delighted.

We had a wonderful but very tiring day. It took four hours to travel back home, then we had all our wonderful cats to attend to.

I have been breeding Birmans for over 25 years now and involved with the breeding of Siberians for over six years.

I judge both breeds for the Governing Council of The Cat Fancy and it is a privilege to do so.

## A judge's view

*Anne Gregory gives Cat World a judge's view of the Supreme Show*

I love judging at the GCCF Supreme Show and look forward to it for months, as I book my team of stewards and plan my journey to the NEC. It is, without doubt, the showcase of the Governing Council where the largest number of cats converge on Birmingham once a year to compete for the coveted title of "Supreme Exhibit in Show". Judges are thrilled to be invited, comparing notes on which classes each is judging and looking forward to meeting the crème de la crème of the Cat World.

This year I was judging in the Semi-Longhair Section and my day was challenging from first cat to last, as the quality was so very high. I had Somalis with wonderfully rich colours, smiling expressions and beautifully defined ticking; there were Turkish Vans with pristine, chalk white coats and excellent auburn markings; the Birmans had bright blue eyes with soft, gentle expressions that just melted my heart...it was very difficult to decide upon my winners when the competi-

tion was so tight.

After my breed classes were finished, I judged intermediate candidates from the GCCF's Young Exhibitors' Scheme (YES!). They are teenagers whose enthusiasm, superb handling of their cats and great presentation skills really promise a viable future for the Fancy.

The icing on the cake for me though was picking my Best of Variety Semi-Longhair Kitten. The line-up was amazing with some truly promising youngsters... Birmans, Maine Coons, Ragdolls, Norwegian Forests, Somalis and a RagaMuffin. Each was an excellent example of its breed, with a personality and sweet temperament that was outstanding. I had to narrow that long line-up down to just three kittens and, after much deliberation, chose:

In third place, Varley & Mace's Littlerags Blue Diamond, 66a, F, 17.5.2012 – A Colourpointed Ragdoll of excellent type and style. A kitten who was just old enough to be at the show but who had great personality and confidence. I loved her head type and correct profile with the slightly retroussé tip to the nose. She had excellent muscle and boning for her tender age and a beautiful, silky coat with pale blue points and glacial contrast to her body.

My runner-up was Saye's Esaya Lord-of-the-Rings, 13c11, M, 22.3.2012 – A very handsome Birman of excellent type with both substance and boning. He had an excellent head showing strength of skull, with full cheeks and a well-developed muzzle. His large, almost round eyes were of excellent blue with a soft, gentle expression. He had excellent seal tabby points and superb contrast to the body with snow gloves and gauntlets. The preparation and presentation was excellent too.

However, for me the shining star of the show, who just oozed personality, presence and charisma was Burns' Somantikks La Prima Donna, 63, F, 1.5.2012. She is just SO beautiful with excellent type and a rich apricot colour with clearly defined black ticking and markings. She had curving contours to her head, giving her the crucial "Somali Smile". I realised later that she was the same kitten I made Best Semi-Longhair at the Three Counties Show. She is fulfilling all of that early promise and I am sure she will have a successful future.

What an exciting day it had been; truly a Supreme experience!

## Best in Show at the Supreme

*Jenny Nicholas describes how it felt to have her cat Grand Champion Gemkin Starwind voted Best in Show at the Supreme*

Our day started at 03.50 am. After seeing to all our other animals, we prepared our two boys ready to go to the NEC and eventually managed to get away by 05.20. The road conditions were pretty alarming as freezing fog met us most of the day.

Problems continued as the post code took us to an "encore" building at least two miles away from the Supreme hall. We eventually arrived at the correct destination to be directed to the north car park, quite a hike from the hall. We unloaded as quickly as we could but our brand new trolley decided to fold up every time we tried to move it! By the time we got to the hall it was 08.20 and after planning to be there for 07.15, you can imagine how much I was panicking.

As both boys had travelled very well, not a hair seemed to be out of place so after a quick freshen up, in to the pens

they went. Boodles is the type of cat who really doesn't like to miss a thing going on; he insists on trying to greet as many people as he can and often draws a few people around his pen because of this. He really seems to enjoy the excitement.

Before we knew it, Boodles was being judged for his Imperial certificate followed by the Best of Breed. We were absolutely delighted that he achieved both, awarded by Mr Mark Pearman.

After a short time to relax and catch up with old friends, judging soon started again. Boodles had won his Best of Breed so would be judged alongside all the other adult Persians who had also won the best of breeds. There were some truly amazing cats on show but our judge, Joan Smith, held Boodles high in the air and announced he was the winner! Boodles was going into the Best in Variety pens at the Supreme. WOW!

Boodles was then transferred to a nice gold and brown pen, the Supreme colours, looking quite wonderful and very pleased with himself. There were

some truly beautiful cats here and we knew this was not going to be an easy task at all. At this point we were just truly over the moon that Boodles was amongst them all.

Finally it was time for Boodle's class. By now I felt as though my legs had turned to jelly; Boodles was down to the final three at the SUPREME!

Just when I thought I had to walk away, as I couldn't bear to look, Mr Hansson made an announcement asking all three owners to come onto the stage and hold their cats. Somehow or other, the three of us managed to stumble up those stairs and hold our cats with such pride. Down to the last two, I looked at Boodles and he looked at me. Mr Hansson announced: "...and the winner is...a big white fluffy cat." Boodles had done it!

He had won the Supreme at just two days away from being 17 months old. Boodles was very calm but my heart was racing and filled with pride. What a wonderful, wonderful day. Thank you to all our best in show judges: Mrs J Green, Mr J Harrison and Mrs V Kilby.