

Double For Aled

Wales: Michelle Thomas

North Wales' trial on Sat 7th July at Aberdaron a'r Cylch, saw sheepdog trial enthusiasts born as tourists from the popular National Trust "Whistling Sands" location made their way across the car park to the trial opposite to watch Alwyn Williams, Penmachno with Max win the Open. This combination have been placed so far, but this is their first Open win this season. The course, run on a slight incline and with a modest outrun, fielded Texel cross Suffolk sheep who were strong to handle throughout. Judge Huw Pritchard had Alwyn and Max down 11 just ahead of 2nd placed Aled Owen and Llangwym Cap on 13.

The sandy course of Llanllyfni was suffering under the current heat wave and resembled something found in the Middle East rather than North Wales, situated near the shoreline and Caernarfon airport it was a pretty location for Saturday 7th July's trial, although the 250 yard outrun along a fairly flat field caught quite a few dogs out and had them coming in too soon and crossing the course in an attempt to find the Mules. Those that did outrun well, found their sheep challenging to handle, they certainly tested the dogs and yet under experienced combinations they worked well and gave the impression of being easy. There was a morning and afternoon session and under both judges experience determined the placings. Judging in the morning, Rhion Owen had Aled Owen and Llangwym Cap his winner. This pair have been on form over the last few months proving hard to beat, with Cap seeming to relish the Welsh heatwave and challenging sheep.

While it was Cap's full sister, Llangwym Glesni (age 5, from a different mating to Cap age 7) who won the afternoon session under Judge J.R. Jones. Both of these homebred dogs are by Aled's old Mac and both were chosen from pups – Aled not one for blue eyes usually, said he couldn't ignore Cap's bold temperament as a pup and had to keep him. Good decision!

Photo: Llanllyfni Trial

