

Englishman King of the Hill

Sarn a'r Cylch trial on Sat 30th saw the 7 year old Llangwym Cap and Aled Owen take their 7th consecutive win. The Welsh crossbred sheep ran consistently throughout, under judge Elis Wyn Edwards, points were lost on the cross-drive and pen. Aled and Cap with a masterful run lifted the Farmer's Marts Cup and £100 prize money.

On Sunday 1st July, the top 18 competitors from Mr. Glyn Jones and family's Berwyn Fundraising trial (May 20th & raising £1000 for the Welsh National), were invited to compete against each other for the coveted title of "Champion of the Berwyn".

The brainchild of the "Berwen Shepherds Committee", this is a tough, double gather hill final.

The course, with 2 fetches of over 1000 yards each, ran out and down to the right, crossing a stream, heading uphill through a gap in the fence and onto unimproved mountain to the first packet of sheep. These were brought down and across the mountain before dropping down again through a set of fetch gates, at which point the dogs were asked to look back for the 2nd packet of 7. Mown tracks helped with the fetches and the light sheep worked well for dogs who stayed in contact. Once regathered the packet of 14 were driven towards gates set on the right of the course, then turned sharply downhill, across the stream and up to the handler in the shedding ring. For the pen handlers had to first shed the 3 collared sheep plus another of their choice, penning those 4.

Judge Cyril Roberts, watching from a strategic location and through binoculars, said that on such a tough course it was inevitable that all dogs would lose points; the fetch caused a lot of issues. He commented that all fared well in the heat and added he didn't penalise for dogs stopping for water. His winner was clear when Ricky Hutchinson and Denwyn Moya - a young, 3 year old Welsh bred bitch by Ricky's own champion dog Jock, put up an effortless run, where "nothing went wrong", ensuring they crowned Champion of The Berwyn.