
Cystadleuaeth Coetiroedd Cystadleuaeth Cenedlaethol Cymru 2021

Woodlands Competition

ADRODDIAD Y BEIRNIAID JUDGES' REPORT

Sioe Frenhinol Cymru
Royal Welsh Show



Cyflwyniad Gwobrau

Presentation of Awards

Dydd Mercher 8 Medi, 2021

Wednesday 8 September, 2021

TBC

Beirniaid

Judges

Mr Tim Kirk

Mr Robert Jones-Perrott

Adroddiad y Beirniaid – Judges’ Report

We were very pleased that the woodlands competition could go ahead in these difficult/Covid times. However the forestry world, the private sector in particular, has continued to operate well, being the ultimate safe distancing activity! The competition cycle resumed with North Wales woodlands. We had nine estate entries, down from 13 last time, but 28 class entries in all. Nevertheless they contained a most interesting variety and selection of entries, with some fine larger plantations. The slow spring season did not help and managers everywhere were flat out with late planting and the extra busy timber market. It was disappointing that NRW had no entries, being such a vital and extensive part of the Wales woodland scene. Once again we used a score sheet for specific items, to help determine awards. For example; general impression, management plans, owner input, detailed management and conservation direction. But the chief item of “management activity” remains, and the occasional untouched re-entry did not score well, as there had been little or no input in 10 years. Overall the timber market activity with the Climate Change publicity given to timber products ensured high levels of fresh work in most entries. The timber market being the catalyst for many woodland tasks. In the plantations, the quality of tree stock now available to owners shone through. Disease was never far away, with dying ash trees all around, the most obvious being the mature ones. We saw ever fewer larch as *Phytophthora* recedes with less targets. But found two small areas of Swiss Needlecast on young Douglas fir, a potentially alarming additional problem for restocking. As ever a very diverse selection of woodlands to judge, and good to see the same enthusiasm from owners and managers prevailing on these properties. A big thank you to them for their hospitality during our inspections and for fitting into our tight time schedule.

Tim Kirk and Robert Jones-Perrott

TREFN Y GYSTADLEUAETH - COMPETITION ROTA

- 2021** - **NORTH** – Anglesey, Caernarfon, Denbighshire, Flintshire & Meirionnydd
- 2022** - **SOUTH EAST** – Brecon, Glamorgan & Monmouthshire
- 2023** - **MID** - Cardigan, Montgomeryshire & Radnorshire
- 2024** - **SOUTH WEST** - Carmarthenshire & Pembrokeshire
- 2025** - **Welsh National Competition** – by invitation from the Best Entries of 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024

YNEGAW / INDEX

WOODLAND	OWNER	FORESTER / MANAGER	CLASS / STAND
Bron Haul	David Brown & Ruth Pybus	David Brown & Ruth Pybus	2,A, B &G
Brenig	Mrs Julia Hands	Simon Miller - Tilhill Forestry	3 D
Coed Llandegla	The Church Commissioners for England	Simon Miller – Tilhill Forestry	4, D,E &H
Cwm Woods	T & N Brown	Charles Gittins – Scottish Woodlands	3,D,E & G
Hafod Boeth	Mr Giles Keating	Simon Miller – Tilhill Forestry	4, D &G
Hafodunos Farm Woodlands	Antoinette Sherratt	Charles Gittins – Scottish Woodlands	4,D,E &F
Nantclwyd Estate	Sir Philip Naylor-Leyland	Ben Butler – Pryor & Rickett	4, F
Roger Woodlands Bryn Dethol	Roger Dyke	Charles Gittins – Scottish Woodlands	2, D & F
Warren Woods	Woodland Skills Centre	Mr Rod Waterfield	2, H

BROADLEAVED, CONIFER AND MIXED WOOD OR STAND OF TREES (EXCLUDING POPLAR)

Dosbarth / Class 1

Best Managed Woodland 1 - 10 Hectares

0 Cais / Entries

No entries

Dosbarth / Class 2

Best Managed Woodland 11 - 50 Hectares

3 Cais / Entries

Bron Haul

Roger Woodlands - Bryn Dethol

Warren Woods

GOLD Bron Haul – 20 hectares

Sadly woods such as Bryn Haul are all too rare in the UK. Success here is down to innovation and hard work by the owners, who are helped by living on site. The recent thinning of mainly chestnut have shown good log sized products from their first plantings, and they are now cutting boards for a variety of uses. Early days for them in exploiting the timber they have established here, often wrestling with the problem of ensuring all species grow to their optimum level e.g. oak and shading. Wildlife abounds, flowers, birds, butterflies with the less welcome squirrels and fallow deer, which are heavily controlled. Help is on its way with an RFS sponsored student due in the Autumn.

SILVER Roger Woodlands - Bryn Dethol – 50 hectares

Bryn Dethol is located in the Pengwern Vale, east of Llangollen, above the busy A5. Mixed plantations established in 1987, and now well through their first rotations. A very fertile site capable of growing most tree species. One area has recently been felled and thinning where possible on quite steep slopes. Sadly, planted ash all looking very sick, so a challenging site. Well managed and producing a good variety of trees, now being exploited.

BRONZE Warren Woods – 20 hectares

The woods here are the means to the specific end of providing a lovely place for their extensive courses, often with attendees of many ages, with learning difficulties. There is occasional timber production for the small mill, so a peaceful place for their purposes, with an interesting variety of trees.

Dosbarth / Class 3
Best Managed Woodland 51 - 200 Hectares

2 Cais / Entries

Brenig
Cwm Woods

GOLD Cwm Woods - 128 hectares

A difficult woodland to manage, in a prominent position and with plenty of public access for many activities. Partially a PAWS site. Almost a property of two halves with the prominent crest area, dominated by scattered fine Scots pine and some larch, with a strong understory of hardwoods. Firmly a LISS area and prize winner in that category. All with minimal activity. Since being sold by the Forestry Commission the wood has had several owners, which has meant sporadic management programmes. In the last few years this has changed and we saw well established young spruce and Douglas fir plantations especially on the western face. Challenges remain, especially in the areas where gorse is a competitor, but overall the next rotation is looking good and management back on a firm footing.

SILVER Brenig – 151 hectares.

The privately owned Upper Brenig plantation was first established in the 1970s and is now well into its second rotation. Good access off the main road, and a fine series of access tracks. Superb examples of well stocked vigorous Sitka spruce, as the main species here. A very simple, but quality well managed plantation.

Dosbarth / Class 4
Best Managed Woodland Over 200 Hectares

4 Cais / Entries

Coed Llandegla
Hafod Boeth
Hafodunos Farm Woodlands
Nant Clwyd

GOLD Hafod Boeth – 254 hectares.

There are a few woodlands in Wales that offer so much by way of challenges, and great opportunities. Situated at the very centre of the Snowdonia National Park, with plenty of exposure to public interest on how the woodlands are managed. Partially a PAWS site, superb public access, challenging ground conditions, many archaeological sites, constant fire risk, with the Ffestiniog railway running through it, and throw in the very welcome Osprey's nest. All situated above the river with amazing views over to Porthmadog and Harlech down the estuary. Once partially an FC plantation, as well as a private forest, it is now well through establishing a second rotation, but all the time ensuring the PAWS areas are properly restored along the estuary "face", especially in dealing with the constant Rhododendron explosions. The reestablishment of quality Sitka spruce is everywhere, coupled with some Douglas fir. A very hard but rewarding woodland to manage with so many interests, and a great pleasure to visit and appreciate what has been achieved. Such results do not come cheaply, and the

support given by the owner for all the necessary work has been a key factor here, and his family can enjoy the converted boat house for holidays, as well for letting.

SILVER Coed Llandegla - 648 hectares.

A total contrast to the winner, with this wholly commercial plantation first established in the 1970s. The managers have had to concentrate on a felling programme that ensures a better spread of age classes, and this has been well carried out over 15 years. The new crops are thriving, and the original spruce selling well, into the local mills. Access is excellent to all corners. All this is achieved with extensive public access for cycling, plus running routes and 20 kilometres of marked walking routes, with Offa's Dyke at the centre. There is also a bird hide on the moorland edge run jointly with the RSPB, for watching Black Grouse.

BRONZE Hafodunos Farm Woodlands - 205 hectares.

Hafodunos plantations are a rarity in Wales, and demonstrate what farmers could achieve in upland tree planting that is proving so elusive for current planting targets. Whilst there are areas of older woods on the estate, the main planting took place in the 50/60/70s, in many blocks, using the poorest ground and offering shelter for stock. It overlooks Snowdonia to the west and is at a high elevation and exposed, so great care is need in thinning - if at all. The managers have created successive felling coups, with quality restocking, mostly with improved spruce, plus other species on the more fertile soils. We saw recent work in a steep dingle, with the produce on its way to Kronospan. Interesting features include Monkey Puzzle avenues, which hopefully may be repeated to recognize the important Victorian era on the estate.

STAND CLASS WINNERS

Class A – Broadleaf planting or restocking under 10 years old

Gold Medal Bron Haul

Class B – Broadleaf woodland 11-40 years old

Gold Medal Bron Haul

Class C – Broadleaf woodland over 40 years old

No Entries

Class D - Conifer planting or restocking under 10 years old

Gold Medal Coed Llandegla

Silver Medal Hafod Boeth

Bronze Medal Hafodunos

Class E – Conifer Woodland 11-30 years old

Gold Medal Coed Llandegla

Silver Medal Hafodunos

Bronze Medal Cwm Woods

Class F - Conifer woodland over 30 years old

Gold Medal Hafodunos

Silver Medal Nant Clwyd

Bronze Medal Bryn Dethol

Class G – Area managed using LISS

Gold Medal Cwm Woods

Silver Medal Hafod Boeth

Bronze Medal Bron Haul

Class H – A Community or Public Access Woodland

Gold Medal Warren Woods

Silver Medal Coed Llandegla

GWOBRAU ARBENNIG - SPECIAL PRIZES

- SP1 The Milford Silver Medal** awarded to the Best Broadleaf Entry in Stand Classes A, B & C
WINNER – Bron Haul – David Brown & Ruth Pybus
- SP2 The Charles Shakerley Memorial Perpetual Challenge Cup** awarded to the Best Conifer Entry in Stand Classes D, E & F
WINNER – Coed Llandegla
- SP3 The EFG Perpetual Challenge Cup** awarded for the Best Entry in Woodland Classes 1, 2, 3 & 4
WINNER – Hafod Boeth
- SP4 The Meirion Davies Memorial Perpetual Challenge Cup** awarded to the Best Community Woodland or Public Access Woodland in Stand Class I
WINNER – Warren Woods – Woodland Skills Centre
- SP5 Cash Prize of £100** awarded for the Best Farm Woodland
NO ENTRIES
- SP6 The RC Williams-Ellis Perpetual Challenge Cup** and awarded to a **Privately Owned Woodland** gaining the highest cumulative number of points for the Stand Classes entered
WINNER – Coed Llandegla
- SP7 The Wilson Memorial Shield** awarded to the Forester or Manager of a privately owned Woodland gaining the highest cumulative number of points for the Stand Classes entered
WINNER – Charles Gittins
- SP8 The Royal Forestry Society of England, Wales and Northern Ireland Gold Medal Certificate** awarded to the Best Entry in all Stand Classes
WINNER – Bron Haul – David Brown & Ruth Pybus
- SP9 The ICF Challenge Trophy** for the **Best Professional Management** in all Woodland Classes
WINNER – Simon Miller – Tilhill Forestry