



# Sioe Frenhinol Cymru Royal Welsh Show

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*22 - 25 Gorffennaf • July 2024*

Noddwr / Patron: His Majesty King Charles III  
Llywydd / President: Mr Denley Jenkins FRAGS

**Atodlen Dringo Polion  
Pole Climbing Schedule**

*cafc.cymru  
rwas.wales*



*Entries Close:  
3rd July 2024*

## Ceisiadau Olaf

### Closing date for entries

3 Gorffennaf / July 2024

## Tâl Ymgeisio

### Entry Fee

£20.00 per entry

## Manylion cyswllt

### Contact details

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## Cyfarwyddwr Cynorthwyol Anrhydeddus a Cadeirydd - Coedwigaeth

### Assistant Honorary Director & Chair - Forestry

Mr Iwan Lloyd-Williams

## Prif Stiward Adrânnol

### Chief Sectional Steward

Mrs Victoria Laurie - MWMAC

## **Cystadlaethau Dringo Polion Frenhinol Cymru The Royal Welsh Pole Climbing Competitions**

The Society was established 120 years ago and now owns a well-developed 150 acre showground in mid Wales which attracts some 200,000 attendees over the 4 days. It features competitions, trade stands, displays and demonstrations and showcases its charitable objectives of promoting Agriculture, Forestry, Horticulture etc.

The Forestry section is a well-established and respected aspect of the Show and includes a good cross section of relevant industry companies present with trade stands. Wood chopping, stick making competitions; awards for Tree Felling, Woodlands, Children's/schools competitions.

Therefore, the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society is extremely pleased to reintroduce the Pole Climbing Competition to its renowned Royal Welsh Show in 2024 with two new 80ft poles being sourced and erected along with a practice poll for professional climbers.

We are extremely grateful to the Forestry Committee members and sponsors who have supported the charity to stage this once again and sincerely hope that there will be great interest from amongst previous and new competitors in the field.

New equipment, and services with a professional team are in place to ensure the safe running of the competition in its new location near the pond. The timetables for the pond and competition have been designed to complement one another.

We look forward to welcoming professionals from the forestry industry that have made this their area of expertise.

We know that the public really enjoy watching this exciting skilled competition and we will all be looking forward to seeing competitors in action at the event.

# CYSTADLAETHAU DRINGO POLION

## 80ft POLE CLIMBING COMPETITIONS

### Monday 22 July:

Open - Male and Female

Format : **Heats** - from 10.30am & 1.00pm                      **Finals** 4.30pm

**Gwobrau / Prizes**      (Open)                      £100: £50: £30: £20: £10

### Tuesday 23 July:

Open - Male and Female

Format : **Heats** - from 10.30am & 1.00pm                      **Finals** 4.30pm

**Gwobrau / Prizes**      (Open)                      £100: £50: £30: £20: £10

### Wednesday 24 July:

Open - Male and Female

Format : **Heats** - from 10.30am & 1.00pm                      **Finals** 4.30pm

**Gwobrau / Prizes**      (Open)                      £100: £50: £30: £20: £10

### Thursday 25 July:

Open - Male and Female

Format : **Heats** - from 10.30am & 1.00pm                      **Finals** 4.30pm

**Gwobrau / Prizes**      (Open)                      £100: £50: £30: £20: £10

# The Royal Welsh Pole Climbing Competition 2024

## Rules & Regulations

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1. **EVENT:**

The event is called "The Royal Welsh Pole Climbing Competition 2024". It is a competition to establish who can climb up a free-standing wooden pole, with appropriate climbing aids and associated PPE, in the fastest possible time.

#### 2. **DATE AND VENUE:**

The event will be held during the Royal Welsh Show on 22 - 25 July 2024 at the Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd, Powys.

#### 3. **ELIGIBILITY FOR ENTRY:**

All entrants must:

- a. Be aged over 18 years.
- b. Be fit, healthy and capable of the extreme physical exertion required by the event.
- c. Have their own climbing equipment and associated PPE.
- d. Be sufficiently experienced and competent in pole climbing techniques.
- e. Hold a minimum of Lantra QCF or City & Guilds NPTC Award or CoC in Tree Climbing & Aerial Rescue, or equivalent professional pole climbing experience, and evidence this upon application.
- e. Hold their own liability insurance to cover their climb, equipment, and PPE. Participants must have either public liability for their business (if they are climbing as a business activity) or personal liability (if it is a sport or pastime) and that level has a minimum indemnity limit of £1 million. This must be evidenced upon application.
- f. Complete the entry form online, including declaring any special health conditions such as epilepsy, diabetes, etc.

#### 4. **SUPERVISION:**

This event will be run under the supervision of MWMAC Ltd, a Training and Assessment organisation for the Forestry and Arboricultural sectors. MWMAC Ltd is an organisation which is primarily concerned with the safety and professionalism of the industry and this competition, and its supervisory role ensures that the highest standards are achieved.

### EXPLANATION OF THE CATEGORIES AND COMPETITION ROLES

#### 1. **CLIMBER CATEGORIES:**

**Novice Climber:** A novice climber is defined as a person who is relatively new to the sport. Novice climbers can come from a tree work or a utility background and should be familiar with the use of spikes. One of the objectives of this competition is to encourage those who have not taken part in this sport to have a go. To facilitate this, novice climbers will be offered a mandatory place on a "training event" prior to the main competitions.

**Expert Climber:** An expert climber is defined as a person who has previously competed within this sport. Expert Climbers can come from a tree work or a utility background and will be fully proficient with the use of spikes.

## 2. **SUPERVISORS:**

Individual "Supervisors" of this competition will be current instructors and assessors for Arboriculture within the UK, and as such they are experts within their field.

Supervisors are those responsible for overseeing safety and the ensuring the practice, heats and finals are undertaken within the parameters of the competition rules.

## 3. **BELAYERS:**

The Belayer is the person responsible for controlling the ascent and descent of the climber, managing the rope and belay device to prevent a ground fall.

If the climber is incapacitated for any reason, during their climb, then the Belayer will take full control of recovering the climber.

All belayers must be competent in tree climbing and aerial rescue and have sufficient belayer training prior to the competition.

## 4. **THE STARTER**

The Starter is the person responsible for starting each race, with the words: "Climber by your pole. Three, two, one, GO"

## 5. **THE STEWARD**

The Steward is the person responsible for recording the timings of each race.

## 6. **THE HEALTH & SAFETY OPERATIVE**

The Health & Safety Operative is the competent and qualified person who is responsible for operating the MEWP and undertaking any rescues from the pole.

# SAFETY

## 1. **EQUIPMENT:**

All entrants should bring the following climbing equipment:

- Combination Helmet with earmuffs, visor & chin strap.
- Protective boots, with good grip and ankle support
- Non-Snag outer clothing
- Gloves
- Tree Climbing Harness (incl LOLER Report or Records)
- Pole Strop
- Climbing Spikes

All equipment will be inspected before the event by a Supervisor to ensure that it is safe and appropriate for the competition.

Safety ropes and all fixings to the poles will be provided by the Competition.

## 2. **INSURANCE:**

All entrants will be responsible for their own Liability Insurance to cover their climb and their equipment & PPE. This will need to be evidenced with their application to compete.

Participants **MUST** have either public liability for their business (if they are climbing as a business activity) or personal liability (if it is a sport or pastime) of a minimum indemnity limit of £1 million. Higher limits would be preferred. (Proof of insurance must be provided when entering online).

## 3. **SAFETY PROCEDURES – PRIOR TO CLIMB:**

The Supervisor will check each entrant on the following points prior to allowing a climb to proceed:

- a. The climbing equipment is correctly fitted, secured, and adjusted.
- b. The pole stop is around the pole and secured to the harness at both ends.
- c. The safety line is running free through the top of the pole and secured to the correct coupling on the climber's harness.
- d. The person belaying the climber understands the task and is ready.
- e. The climber is ready and outwardly capable of completing the climb.

Once the Supervisor is satisfied that these requirements have been met, they will allow the Starter (competitor) to start the climb.

When the climb is completed, the climber should rest until sufficiently recovered to climb down the pole with the belayer controlling the descent.

## 4. **SAFETY PROCEDURES – DURING CLIMB - MEWP:**

The Health & Safety Operative will be a person or persons who are trained and competent in the operation of the MEWP and in the rescue of climbers from the pole, should this type of incident occur.

The Health & Safety Operative will ensure that the MEWP is in good operational working order at the start of each day.

The Mobile Elevated Work Platform will be deployed before each competition session, in readiness, should an incident occur during the climb(s).

## 5. **PRACTICE FOR EACH DAY:**

Practice for the events on the first three days will follow the same procedure:

- Each practice will be held on the two poles in the Forestry Action Ring.
- Each practice will start at 9.30am and will run until 11.15am.

## 6. **HEATS FOR EACH DAY:**

Heat 1 will take place from 11.30am and Heat 2 will take place from 1.30pm.

All climbers must be suitably warmed up and equipped/dressed ready to climb when instructed.

All climbers will race against the clock to find the fastest climber; the times will determine the poles and the climbing order in the final.

## 7. **FINALS FOR EACH DAY:**

The final is intended to be the climax of the day where the fastest climbers race to determine the overall champion.

The 11th and 12th fastest climbers from the heats will go in the first race and so on until the 1st and 2nd fastest climbers from the heats will go in the last and final race.

The fastest climber from these final races will be the Royal Welsh Champion of the day.

## **ORGANISATION OF EACH CLIMB.**

### 1. **STARTING AND FINISHING THE CLIMB:**

All competitions will start when the Supervisor is satisfied that the safety preparation has been observed, the starting will be undertaken by the Starter.

When the climber and belayer are ready, the climb will be started by the words: "Climber by your pole. Three, two, one, GO", upon which the Steward will start the clock.

On "GO", the climber will start the climb and when at the top of the pole, the Steward will stop the clock.

### 2. **TIMING AND RECORDING:**

The timing will be recorded, and recordings will be used for ratification in the event of protests.

The time will start as the Climbers' foot leaves the ground, the clock stops when the Climber hits the bell/stop button on the top of the pole.

All times will be recorded in writing by the Steward on the record sheet.

### 3. **TIME CHECKING AND DISPUTES:**

Every time in each event will be recorded in writing by the Steward on the record sheet(s).

It is the responsibility of each climber to check the recorded times and agree them with the Steward directly after their event.

Any disagreement must be brought, in writing, to the Supervisor before the following climb commences to allow for a rapid investigation and decision.

The Supervisor will be responsible for settling any disputes and their decision will be final.



# GENERAL RWAS RULES

- 1 The Royal Welsh Agricultural Society is committed to protecting your personal data and processing it only in accordance with legal requirements. For more details you should request a copy of our GDPR policy. We process your personal data as it is necessary for the performance of our contract with you to facilitate your entry to the Show. We will not transfer your data outside of the UK and EEA (European Economic Area) and will not share your data with third parties. Results will also be circulated with members of the Press and published on our website. We retain your data in accordance with our retention schedule to simplify future applications. You have various rights in the data we hold including rectification and objecting to processing.
- 2 If the exhibitor is under 18 years of age then the entry online has to be completed by a parent/guardian who is over 18 years of age. Please note that whoever completes the entry form takes full responsibility for complying with all rules and regulations.
- 3 The Society reserves the sole right to nominate person(s) to conduct interviews with the media. Permission must be sought from the Society if any camera crews wish to accompany an exhibitor during the event.
- 4 All Prize money will be paid via BACS to successful exhibitors within an eight-week period after the Show (except in cases of protest).

## CYDNABYDDIAETH / ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Mae CAFC a'r Adran Coedwigaeth yn cydnabod gyda diolch cefnogaeth parhaol gan:

The RWAS and the Forestry Section acknowledges with thanks continued support by:

**Pontrilas Sawmills Ltd**  
**Flintshire Woodlands / Scottish Woodlands**  
**Doldowlod Estate**  
**Wye Valley Forestry**

## PENCAMPWRIAETHAU DRINGO POLION FRENHINOL CYMRU THE ROYAL WELSH POLE CLIMBING COMPETITION

**Ceisiadau Olaf / Entries close: 3 July 2024**

Information for commentary: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Jobs, length poleclimbing,  
best time etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

### **DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY TO COMPETITORS** **Pole Climbing**

The term 'Competitor' shall include all persons taking part in Pole Climbing Competitions at the 2024 Royal Welsh Show. Save for death or personal injury caused by breach of its duty, the Society will not be responsible for death, injury, disease, damage or loss caused to any competitor from whatever cause may arise. Save as aforesaid the competitor shall indemnify the Society against all claims, damages and expenses whatsoever in any way arising out of the presence of the competitor and shall assume full responsibility, therefore.

### **DECLARATION BY COMPETITOR**

#### **Pole Climbing**

I agree to make this entry at my own risk and subject to the regulations and instructions of the Society's Competition officials. I further agree to notify the Society of any medical condition which might be to the detriment of my ability to take part in the Pole Climbing competitions, and full and effectually indemnify the Society from or against any claim or action in respect of any personal injury I might sustain taking part in this competition.