

## OPENING MEET 2010

### "Bloodhounds Hit the Ground Running"

Entering its third season this new hunt, hit the ground running with riders from as far away as Aberystwyth and Port Talbot. Braving the weather to attend. Mr. and Mrs. Graham Coupar introduced the Mayor of Newcastle Emllyn, Cefin Evans and the Master, both speaking about the importance of the townsfolk and the farming community in the history and future of the town.



The Field represented a diversity of age and ability, the youngest - 5 year old Carys Evans, encouraged by mum Jane, to first time hunters, Max Huggins, riding experienced hunter "Elle". Young "die hard hunters", were represented by Sam Forester Evans, Matthew Coventry, Shauna Phillips, Ellie May Tromans and Charley Thomas, for some, the day, was their first true experience of hunting.

Special mention was made to Miss Katherine Bizley for her contribution to the Hunt and her efforts were recognised by the Masters, by presenting Katie with the Hunt Button on the day.



The Hunt moved out of town towards Adpar, as the overnight rain had swollen the Ceri and consequently the Teifi river, to cut off some of the country to be hunted.

The Opening Line produced some real jumping thrills as hunters were able to flavour a range of hedges, ditches and banks as the hunt moved up stream.

On the second line, Hounds cast above Cwmdu, with locally bred Otter Hound, Figaro speaking first, drawing the pack of black and tan, Blood and Otter hounds, towards the laid scent. Hunters had some challenging obstacles, as ground was wet and slippery underfoot. Some fine displays of jumping blind, while crossing the country behind hounds were demonstrated by the Field, developing a union between horse and rider, in the Chase.



Third and fourth lines saw horses settle to their purpose, allowing the field to group and unite as one, carried forward together in pursuit. In all the fun of the chase, it is however, difficult to continue when one of the field may be seriously injured.

Home was blown at 15.40, when Wales Air Ambulance attended to one of the young hunt members, later released with minor bruising. A flavour of the day's meet can be seen on local photographer, Emyr Rhys Williams' website "emyronline".

Donation from the day goes to the Mayor's chosen charity, HUTS.



### Hunt at Blaenbargoed Farm, Rhos 10/10/10

A new day brought new faces and a new sense of anticipation for our star rating system. This was the first "2 star" hunt, being slower and less distance than the 3 star Opening Meet, but faster than a Children's Meet at 1 star.

The sun shone on the Hall family farm, which saw just under 20 happy souls brave the humid day. Settling back into a routine of each Sunday, through until early May, the field experienced the variety of country, with open green fields followed by forestry. The hounds happy to be back in work, set about their task early on, with drive and vigour, not letting the drag get too far away. The scent rose quickly and did not hold in the open but held better under the trees where the dew resisted the heat of the sun. Youth member, Katie Hall, fully recovered from her tumble at Opening Meet, led the field over a variety of terrain on offer, providing an exhilarating chase.

The day ended with everyone enjoying home made cowl, kindly provided by Debbie Phillips. Thank you to Eurig and Jane Evans for providing the days raffle and to the landowners and farmers over whose land the Bloodhounds passed.

The Hunt's Autumn half term Children's Meet is at the family home of the Davies, Fron Las, Crymych on Wednesday 27th October, an ideal opportunity for children to meet hounds and puppies and experience the hunting field.

### Bloodhounds meet at Blaen Bran Farm



The Roworth Family did not disappoint the field and followers did not disappoint the Roworth family, with 20 horses turning out, with many more foot followers, enjoying the afternoon sun, with the Teifi Valley as the back drop. Unlike the previous week, the scent was not affected by the sun and hounds hunted well throughout the day.

Specially placed hunt jumps allowed the field to enjoy the challenges of jumping in tandem and in line behind hounds. Some fine displays of jumping throughout the day from Vicky Haines and Jan Harrison, among many with young horses. While Charlotte Roworth demonstrated true hunting style by having a second horse to take full advantage of the country presented, enjoying every moment.

The day ended with stories of 10 foot ditches being taken at full gallop, over home made cowl and cakes. Certainly, a day to be remembered !



### Cae Top nr. Blaengwenllan Cross Roads

Sunday 24th saw us hunting non stop from Blaenwenllan through Brongest to Felin Ceri and back. Despite the previous days rain, the river jumps were on !. Hounds hunted through the farm of Dolgoch with true spirit and provided the Field with an outstanding display of hunting in open fields above Cwmdu. Scenting conditions were good and the music from these hounds did not disappoint. Some of the day and the previous weeks hunting was captured on camera by Foot Follower, Jim Bizley. We have managed to put the footage on our website under the Horses for Sale page.

The day ended back at Blaengwenllan with cowl and home made cakes from the Master's mother, amongst tales of the music and view from these black and tans, hunting. Raffle for the day was kindly donated by Mr and Mrs Humfreys.

### Fron Las Isaf Children's Meet

The Autumn Half Term Children's Meet was another one to be remembered by the many young people who sought the challenge of riding with hounds.



Llyr Davies, at 3 years of age, rode up through the family farm onto the mountain - geni i hela.



Always a favourite Meet, amongst the young members of the hunt, the day did not disappoint. Children listened to the stories from Field Masters past and present, of the importance, of looking after each other and enjoying how the hunt was organised. Lady Master, Julie Hughes asked the young members to look out for the hounds which spoke off the scent first and gave an explanation of why these hounds were bred in this way.

Pictures of the day could be viewed in editorials of the Tivyside and Carmarthen Journal papers of the 2nd November and 3rd November 2010 respectively. Leaving the farm yard and taking the lane up through fields to below Mountain Gate, hounds put on a fine display of voice allowing the children to see and hear hounds hunt, at first hand. Under the gentle guidance of Field Master, Julie Forrester Evans, with Tracey Huggins and Liz Howells, the children were given every opportunity to experience the Hunting Field across open hillside, with plenty of natural obstacles and a few man made, thrown in by Wyn Davies.



Field Masters judged 8 year old, Matthew Coventry as best turned out and Hannah Parry as best young rider of the day. Fine displays of riding ponies behind hounds across the open hill could be viewed by the many foot followers. The day ended with bangers, beans and mash back at the home farm of the Davies.

Pictures of the day can be found on [www.emryonline](http://www.emryonline). Hunt Certificates were presented to the Children and Masters thanked the Davies family for a truly enjoyable day.



### Hunting the Spirit of Halloween?

Witches, Spooks and Goblins did not deter the Bloodhounds hunting from the family farm of the Edwards near Tegryn. Hounds hunted the spirit of the laid line up through open fields before being led spell bound by the views from the Freni's. Hounds locked on to the scent in full voice, giving everyone a great view of the ability of these hounds hunting like ghosts of the past.



The field enjoyed covering the terrain to keep up with hounds, using every skill available to cover this country. Sisters, Hope and Mille Davies took a break from eventing and show jumping to flavour hunting with the bloodhounds, along with Lynn Davies and Jacqui Mitchell for whom the Halloween spirit of some in fancy dress further added to the day.

Namely, Matthew Coventry - Dracula, Charley Thomas - Witch of the North, Shauna Davies - Black Cat and Emily Hughes - Vampire's Sister, who hunted the day hauntingly, while ghostlike faces were displayed by many, including Debbie Phillips who provided her own interpretation of ghoulish faces, proudly copied by son Llyr.



Home made cawl and witches brew were generously donated by Colin and Rosemary Tinker for all the weary souls, as dusk fell.

### Hunting the Coastal Path

Sunday 7th November saw the Hunt meet at Nant-y-croi, Ferwig, the family home of the Master. The pressure was on to deliver a display of hunting hounds. Sara Jane Absalom had first reported this hunt from here, three seasons ago and what a learning curve it has been and continues to be for this young pack. However, the hard work of producing a hound to hunt the laid line was in full view, as hounds competed with the stunning scenery, to give the field a good days hunting.





Those walking and cycling this prestigious piece of Mid Wales Coast also got a glimpse and joined in the pleasure of seeing and hearing hounds at work. Hounds hunted a variety of terrain giving the field an opportunity to test riders' confidence and horses' agility. The field keeping up with the pack, could see how Hounds checked, cast, feathered, regain, then own the laid line - over some challenging country, including plough, much to the delight of foot followers. A good days hunting, ending with true welsh hospitality back at the Thomas's was enjoyed by all, with tales to be told of an emerging "Thomas Hound".



## Sunday 14th November - Remembrance Sunday

Lady Ambassador for the West Wales Farmers Bloodhounds, Mrs. Mary Thomas, handed a donation on behalf of the Hunt to the Mayor of Newcastle Emlyn, Kevin Evans and his chosen charity H.U.T.S. represented by Mrs. M Spowart-Davies, Trustee and Secretary.

A minutes silence was observed before the field moved off from Ludo's, Newcastle Emlyn to Gilwen Farm.

We acknowledge and thank all those who died in our Country's wars to provide for us and what we are capable of achieving today.

Recent rain meant the land was lying heavy, so horses were confined to cow tracks. Hounds hunted around the headlands in full view of the mounted field and foot followers, providing plenty of voice and energy.



This emerging pack of hounds is a real pleasure to watch and observe hunting. They are fast, nimble but studious in their hunting; they are honest and true to the laid line, expertly asked by their Master.

Hunting now for nearly three seasons with this young Master, who has worked hounds since his teenage years, one gets a sense that these hounds would hunt, as asked of them. The feel one gets, therefore when hunting with these hounds is, can we follow them?

Second line was around Aberhalen Farm, which nicely warmed the horses up for the next set of lines up through the wooded valley. Here the experienced hunters enjoyed the Chase, with retired Team Chaser Jan Harrison, as Field Master, giving everyone a chance to experience hunting, while still looking out for each other and keeping the field together. For some it was the first time hunting with the Bloodhounds and these were given first hand experience of crossing country behind hounds, which will be remembered for sometime.



Kate Bizley demonstrated climbing banks to round fallen trees, which could not be jumped, while Katie Hall and Charlotte Rowarth showed how some fallen trees could

be jumped, with style! The field had to use their initiative and riding skills to keep up with hounds across this type of country, meeting many fallen trees, banks, river stream and undergrowth. For some of the younger hunters - Charley Thomas (7 yrs old), Shauna Phillips (10 yrs old) the day will be remembered, while Mathew Coventry (8 yrs old) was heard to describe over cowl at the end of the day how his riding instructor had once spoken of how to ride such banks, of which he had just experienced ! Home was blown at 16.05. Raffle was provided by Mrs. D Rooney of Shiral Equestrian Centre.

Further pictures are shown in the December edition of Welsh Rider pg. 41

### HUNTING INTO WINTER - 21ST NOVEMBER

With temperatures plummeting towards winter, the Blood Hounds enjoyed a great scenting day from the Penllwynddu. A traditional pub, with local warmth and hospitality experienced by all on the day. Travelling across country, respecting others' country pursuits, to farms east of Penparc, Hounds could be heard each step of the way. The benefits of hunting hounds as a pack, whilst maintaining the spirit and disciplines of riding with hounds, was recognised by the Field, but particularly their respect and appreciation for those over whose land they hunted, as some had travelled from beyond Aberystwyth and Tregaron for their days sport.



Home was blown at 16.05 with a proper Sunday dinner served at the Penllwynddu, over stories of the day's hunting and previous Meets of the season, completing the day's hunting.



The 2010 season draws to a successful end with the Hunt meeting in Cardigan on Boxing Day, 27th December, celebrating the 900 th anniversary of the Town of Cardigan. The Donation from the day will be to the Mayor's chosen Charity, we hope you will be able to join us at the Guild Hall.



**MEETS OF 28TH NOVEMBER, 5TH, 12th and 19th DECEMBER HAD TO BE CANCELLED DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS**

Brrrrr..... Temperatures of (-18) were experienced at kennels, with the Ceri river freezing over in parts but all did not stop as pups, hounds and hunt horses continued to be exercised



These pups are the next generation of the Thomas Hound, a new bloodline grafted from an intelligence dating many centuries but created with the future of Hunting in mind. Only time will be their Master.



### Monday 27th December 2010

Respite from recent freezing conditions allowed a small representation from the West Wales Farmers Bloodhounds to present the Hunt at the Guild Hall, Cardigan for the final highlight of the town's 900th year celebration. Heading out from the Black Lion Hotel, after a warm reception of hot drinks and hwyl, the Hunt was lead by the town's Mayor Mair Morris to the Guild Hall who met a smaller than usual crowd there.



The Mayor spoke, both in Welsh and English, of the importance of the town's heritage, and in particular of its application for Lottery Funding. Recognition of the Hunt's contribution towards local charities and good causes was acknowledged, including that of local mountain and fell runner Mike Kallenberg's achievement this season of running for Great Britain, as well as Wales.

Master Robert Thomas spoke of the Hunt's hounds being a mixture of Welsh, Otter and Blood Hound, the Welsh and Otter bloodlines being descended from rough coated hunting hounds, mentioned in Hwel Dda laws, valued then at 20 pence

each, and these same bloodlines having walked the streets of Cardigan 900 years previously.

Collection from the day went to the Mayor's chosen charities Cardigan Castle and Help the Heroes.

Reports of the day can be seen in the Tivyside Newspaper 4th January 2011 and Carmarthen Journal 5th January 2011 each providing coverage of the day.

Further photos from the day can be viewed on the papers photographer's website [www.emyronline.co.uk](http://www.emyronline.co.uk)

### New Year's Day

With temps dropping to -18 and rising to -6 during the day over the previous 4/5 weeks, a thaw began to present itself from the Boxing Day. The New Years Day Meet was always going to be a difficult call given the conditions for hunting from the previous week's antarctic temps.

Farms over which the Hunt would be going still had frost patches - difficult to judge at the gallop!

Hence this New Year's Meet was going to be about presenting hounds and getting horses back into work. In true tradition of the family home of a Knight who gave up the honour of the Lord Mayorship of London to remain.....regrettably, only hound exercise was to be the order for the day.

However, it was a real privilege to be at this venue, recalling and restoring old hunting traditions.



Master Robert Thomas was accompanied by a small number of true hunting enthusiasts on a 12 mile hack. The Field of some 20 + set off on hound exercise, heading towards Cligerran and travelling round Abercych. The Field got the chance of a 2 mile canter through a grassy glade in order to release the energies built up over the weeks of confinement.

It was great to meet up with old and new enthusiasts, with members from the Evans family hacking some 9 miles just to make it to the meet.

A warm welcome awaited upon return and in front of log fires, amongst dear friends and open bar, stories of hunting past and present were recalled - a fitting end to 2010.

### **BACK HUNTING - SUNDAY 9TH JANUARY 2011 - Poppit Sands** **with a SPLASH !**

Hunting with a Splash! See February's Welsh Rider - Front Page and on pages 19 and 44

Our 2011 part of the season began with a return to coastal farms, so we could hunt despite frost, snow or ice that might be forecast.

Acknowledging the work put in by Debbie Phillips and family to clear the ground she and her sister Eirian grew up riding as children, it was nostalgic to see the next generation of daughters of both sisters, hunt with hounds, as their mothers would have done previously.

The first line was up hill allowing horses an opportunity to let go, releasing any pent up energy, with Mandy Davies riding her experienced hunter Purdy giving stability to the field. 7 year old, Charley Thomas riding her Shetland pony Annie, took a fall on the first line which made both appear like they had visited Charlie's Chocolate Factory.



Kate Bizley returned admirably to the roll of first whip despite the 5 week break due to snow and ice. Hounds, excited by the opportunity to hunt were eager and spoke well on the scent, but it was not until the field opened out onto open farmland that the hard work of the pack could be witnessed. Before this, avid hunter Jo Dean's horse obtained a cut that required immediate attention. Lady Master, Julie Hughes proffered her stock - the age old hunting bandage, which saw the horse home safely. The field continued to hunt open fields much to the delight of those seeking to jump llech banks. The day provided an opportunity for many to experience hunting, namely

Edward Cooke hunting for the first time, while father and daughter team, Mathew and Ellie May Tromans were viewed galloping across open fields behind hounds.



Home was blown at 3.15 pm with a well deserved wash in the sea, followed by home made cowl and cakes and happy birthday sang to Gordon Thomas, father of the Master.

### PANT Y BWLCH MEET 16TH JANUARY 2011

It's brightening.....could be heard around kennels this morning. After torrential rain for some 36 hours previously and more promised for the day, Master Robert Thomas gave the nod for the meet to go ahead. Rain was forecast to ease by 14.00!

The decision to hunt at Pant Y Bwlch was the right one and the country allowed horses to hunt with hounds, in some great jumping country without damaging valuable farmland. So the field moved off into nearby woodland, with Mark Fox laying varied lines to challenge hounds and allow horses to maximise the rough jumping and crossing of country the valley provided. 1st Whip, Kate Bizley, supported well, up on the pace. Solid displays of jumping were led by a number of the experienced hunters within the field, namely Grahame Smith, Cathie Nunn and Katie Hall, with Field Master Jan Harrison ensuring everyone got over safely. Smiles of delight could

be seen on the faces of the experienced jumpers in the field, while squeals of fright could be heard from the very young members, who under the gentle guidance of dad and mums were encouraged over natural obstacles, down slopes and along river banks. A real achievement and one to be remembered and recalled for many years. Particularly the Tromans, who hunted for the first time as a family, with Wendy Tromans returning, for the first time since a child, to the hunting field, accompanied by husband Mathew and daughter Ellie May.

The field moved up and out into open country where the field and foot followers had sight and sound of hounds hunting in the back drop of the Teifi Valley, over Newcastle Emlyn before turning south across farms towards the Wind Turbines on the A 4333. With the Master following on foot across dairy pastures sodden by the recent rain, horses followed on road and tracks before joining up with the pack in full cry. Despite the wet ground hounds hunted with passion and drive, giving plenty of voice and providing the field a good pace by which to follow.

Home was blown at 16.05. The field returned to boxes and relived the days hunting over soup, sandwiches and hot drinks provided by Mary Thomas.

### **SUNDAY 23RD JANUARY 2011 - NANT-Y-CROI**

The day did not disappoint. Leaving Nant-y-croi the first line was laid along fields adjacent to the sea giving hunters the thrill of the chase with the sound of waves breaking over the cliff face below. The hunt went around Mwnt avoiding fields, with ewes heavy in lamb, to farms and cover where most of the day was spent. Here hounds could be viewed, by foot followers and field alike, cast and then pick up the scent, with music from this home bred pack letting everyone know the chase was on.

This emerging pack of cwn hela gwaed cymraeg staying true to the line despite other foil and fields part covered with slurry. Hunters had the opportunity of ditches and banks to jump or go round, while keeping pace with hounds. Some 5 miles were covered in all, before the hunt headed back towards Nant-y-croi, returning through back fields allowing a full view of Cardigan Island and the estuary.

### **SUNDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2011 - PENRALLT HOTEL, ABERPORTH**

As moderate gales from earlier in the week were replaced by a fresh breeze, the Hunt moved off from the Penrallt Hotel, Aberporth across country to Felin Wynt. The field enjoyed the scope of open fields, particularly sisters Celyn and Sioned Evans. Hounds pursued the laid line with thrust and vigor, despite the day's conditions allowing the scent to fall lightly for hounds to pick up and follow only millimetres from the surface. The pack could be viewed scenting the trail down wind while, with slight of foot the line runner turned and twisted requiring the more deeply scenting hounds, on occasions to lead the way.

A spectacular sight as each hound's scenting ability was tested and successfully displayed. Making the most of this stunning part of the Ceredigion coast, the ability of the hunter to ride efficiently on sticky ground and with the runs very open, even the best held together horses failed to make it past 3 o'clock. Home was blown at 3.30 pm with the field returning to an open fire and servings of Chef's special cowl and bread rolls.

## VALENTINE'S HUNT MEET AT BLAEN BRAN FARM



Champagne and strawberries served by a 007 - Edward Cooke dressed in Black Tie, opened the Valentine's Day Meet of the West Wales Farmers Bloodhounds, but there was no license to kill. The Field were presented with a variety of man made challenges, across open fields of Blaen Bran Farm, by kind permission of the Roworth Family, before hunting the cwm and coming back out, with open ditches running fresh from the overnight rain, causing a faller or two.



Valiance was the order of the day as the Field were tempted by a variety of terrain to cross, from forestry to open common covered in heather and fern. Hounds hunted with purpose and poise, remaining steadfast and loyal to the line despite other scents and distractions. Moving up onto some higher ground the weather changed for the better with fine displays of hounds hunting and with the Field in the distance, jumping banks, with a classic road crossing, provided foot followers with the excitement of the chase.



## FEB. HALF TERM - CHILDREN'S MEET @ CWMDU

Children were given a short presentation on Hunting Etiquette and how to look after their ponies in such country, as the ground was heavy and careful attention was needed when jumping.

Before setting off photos were taken as for some it was their first time hunting, particularly of the most junior member - 6 month old Andrew Hall, sitting up on his Aunt Katie's pony.

Hounds drew the first cover and came out speaking within yards of the lead reins and foot followers, providing a splendid view of hounds working the laid line. Field Master for the first time and knowing the country, Emily Hughes led the Field on the second line. Maximising the opportunity to jump, Miss Hughes took the Field down a gentle bank and up over some gorse hedges, giving them a straight run of some 500 yds with 8 hunt jumps on offer, before holding the Field to watch as hounds checked, pick up the line and catch their quarry, much to the delight of the lead reins and foot followers.

Some fine displays of jumping by Victoria Haines, Rosheen Wood and Rochelle Coleman began to build confidence in this young Field and the third line saw 7 yr old Ellie May Tromans jump open ditches at the gallop behind her father. While Katie Hall rode her pony which she had broken to ride just 3 weeks earlier.

Three year old lead rein Llyr Davies having had enough "wobbling" offered his mount to sister Shauna who joined the Field for the remainder of the day. Fourth and fifth lines took the children down the valley, providing mums and dads with clear views of the Field and this pack of welsh black and tans.

The valley filled with the ancient noise of hunting horn and hounds in full cry. Hounds were seen to over run and pick up the final line too early. Katherine Bizley, First Whip quickly responded and hounds were called back off the line onto the chosen one, in true sporting fashion and to the delight of foot followers.



Home was blown at 14.45 and children were presented with Hunt certificates. Jane Hall judged Charley Thomas as best turned out and Ellie May Tromans as most improved rider. The day ended with bangers and beans and home made trifle, ice cream and jelly, over stories of hunting tales and how best to jump banks and open ditches.

## SATURDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2011 @ CROSS INN, GLANDY CROSS

Mae'r swm or cerdd yn fyw ar y bryniau. "The hills are alive with the sound of music, was to be heard this particular Saturday as the Bloodhounds were invited back to this traditional family run pub on the Ceredigion/ Pembrokeshire highway. With daffodils emerging in readiness for Dydd Dewi Saint the Hunt had a short hack up onto the Preseli's.



Moving off towards Mynachlog Ddu hounds struggled on the first line and the field found its own course across the lower slopes before doubling back, finding a bog which brought Matthew Tromans' able steed to a standstill. Field Master, Julie Forrester led the field back onto the second line with much more success, having recovered from jumping a six bar gate. Hounds sang on the second line, thanks to able Whips Kate Bizley and Debbie Phillips, the latter relinquishing her mount to the Master of Hounds (on foot) bringing an end to hunting that part of the mountain.



The Field next moved off to Careg Waldo with some of the Field retiring early to pick up the Match.



Here Hounds screamed amongst the gorse and early spring grasses. Choughs were observed hanging above the sheep tracks, with hounds ignoring all other foil. The distance with gradient of these mountains began to test the better horses and while hounds looked on for another run, eager to hunt the vastness of the country on offer, home was blown at 4.10 pm The Field returned to homemade cowl back at the Cross Inn, joining in the hwyl from the success of rugby.



## SUNDAY 6TH MARCH - LLANDYFRIOG

Llandyfriog Meet did not disappoint, as hounds hunted across country through Coedy Bryn to Pentrecrwt. The Field enjoyed a variety of lanes, tracks and open woodland paths amongst some very picturesque valleys. Gates overseen by Alex Nicholls on Jimmy Mac were securely closed and tied, ensuring safety of stock and the respect of landowners, while those which could be jumped or had hunt jumps alongside were ably jumped. Cathie Nunn riding Lola and Katie Hall on Penn demonstrating how.

This Meet gave the opportunity of up and coming young hunt enthusiasts the opportunity to take on responsibility and congratulations were passed to Victoria Haines, who was Field Master for the first time and ensured everyone kept up with hounds and had a good day. Sisters, Celyn Evans riding her grandfathers coloured horse Rastus and Sioned Evans riding Monty kept well up with the pace, while Billy Bob, a 4 yr Irish Draught, locally bred at the Hazevern Stud, came of age, by completing his first hunt. Home was blown at 16.50.

## CAWDOR, NEWCASTLE EMLYN - SUNDAY 13TH MARCH 2011



With a few exceptions there was an unusually young Field out and the two young Field Masters, Victoria Haines and Katiee Hall, in new country, kept everyone up on the pace, spotted the lines of fences and gave good leads all day. Hunting with the Bloodhounds across fields ready for the new crop, was like a taste of Spring.



Hounds echoed along the banks of the Teifi, despite modern industrial farming, pushing Spring earlier with slurry spread and ploughing in full swing. The Hunt next crossed town, moving up into woodland and enjoyed the remainder of the day behind Hounds hunting the laid line, across fallen trees through woodland tracks, testing both rider and hound in this natural environment, much to the pleasure of all. Home was blown at 3.45 pm.



### Mountain Gate, Crymych - SUNDAY 20TH MARCH

Privileged to be invited to hunt from Mountain Gate , Crymych before lambing gets into full swing, the Bloodhounds made the most of the day. Visibility was good at 900 feet, but as the Hunt moved onto the mountain, visibility at 1000 feet was down to 30 yards giving limited space to lay lines and hunt the full scope of the country on offer. With the fog closing in, at 1.50 pm, Masters decided to blow for home, not before giving the Field a good hunt across the foot of the mountain.

As like the pack, the Field kept close together, realising the threat from the falling mist. Cousins Melissa Davies and Shauna Phillips, riding Welsh Mountain ponies and both having grown up riding the mountain, felt at home, despite the worsening conditions.

The Field moved off the mountain and ended the day enjoying traditional Welsh hospitality. The Davies Family of Fron Las have very kindly offered their ground for Clear Round Cross Country jumping, on Sunday 8th May commencing 10.00 am. Please see Events Page for further information.

## **Hunt Springs into Summertime at The Nags Head 27/03/11**

Despite clocks going forward, a good crowd turned out for the Bloodhounds' Meet at the Nag's Head, Abercych. With a true feel of Spring in the air, hunters were given a send off by Land Lady Sam in traditional hunting style. The first cover took the Field hunting lines across fields that seemed like vast maes. Riders had to negotiate river banks, deep ditches and hedges whilst in hot pursuit of their Field Master Katie Hall. The spring sun usually making it difficult for hounds to hunt, did not deter this home bred pack which are adapting well, to hunting later in the season.

Foot followers were able to observe hounds hunting and watch as the Field kept pace. The Hunt next turned towards Cenarth and hunted more wooded covers before returning to the river to wash down and return for late Sunday dinner, at this locally renowned family pub. Hunting continues until the 1st May. Please see Meet or Events pages for details.

## **CHILDRENS MEET - SHIRAL EQUESTRIAN CENTRE - SUNDAY 3RD APRIL**

Leaving Shiral Equestrian Centre, Abercych, excitement began to mount.. A hack across the Cych Valley took the Hunt to Nant Farm, Boncath where hounds were laid onto the first cover. Children watched as hounds worked to pick up the laid line and then speak letting all know the chase was on. Skills learnt in the riding school and elsewhere were soon called upon as children were given a new sense of riding - that of riding with hounds.

The first line saw hounds hunt the rising scent as the Spring sun soon dried the previous night's rain. Going was good and with a quick assessment of the Field's confidence the hunt moved onto the open hill. The Field climbed, enjoying the open views, passing a trig point before the terrain fell away and as hounds screamed across the hillside the concentration of the Field was focused on keeping behind Field Master Vicky Haines, who set a safe pace going down hill, with displays of horsemanship from many of the Field.

Donna Rooney returning from maternity leave, brought the less experienced Field up on the pace, giving everyone a taste and feel of hounds hunting. Home was blown at 14.55 and returning to Shiral Equestrian Centre, refreshments and hunt certificates were received over stories of the day's highlights. Best Turned Out, Juniors :- Dewi and Carys Evans, Senior :- Beth Mc Carthy; Most Improved Rider, Junior :- Shauna Phillips, Senior :- Meg Ross. Closing Meet - 1st May at Emlyn Arms Hotel, Clear Round Cross Country, 8th May nr. Crymch. See Events page for more details.

## **DONATION TO MAYOR'S CHOSEN CHARITIES - 10TH APRIL, NEW MILL ROAD MEET**

A hot Spring morning saw the Hunt back in Cardigan to meet the Town's Mayor, Mair Morris and hand over a donation towards her chosen charities before heading off towards farms lying to the north of the town. With the Master allowing hunt coats to be removed, the Field passed through Capel up onto green fields of Oernant for the first few lines, allowing horses a gallop and great view of hounds hunting the laid line. Skirting the sand pits and continuing to hunt up through Pant-y-dwr the Field hit stubble fields of Ferm Troed-y-rhiw giving riders and hounds the challenge of hunting varying terrain.



Turning round and covering a different route back the Field had the delight of jumping open ditches and climbing banks with some traditional hunting styles on view from Field Master Katie Hall and Ruhi Hamilton. Despite the heat of the day Hounds put on a fine display of hunting, demonstrating their ability to hunt over any ground. Riders, horses and hounds replete from their days sport, Master blew for Home at 16.40, with everyone looking forward to Closing Meet and the Hunt's Cross Country, to end the season



Picture in Tivyside Newspaper 19/04/2011. Photo by Emyr Rhys Williams

### **FERM BLAEN BARGOED - 17TH APRIL**

The pace did not slow as the season for the Bloodhounds winds down to Closing Meet on the 1st May. With a number of the Field out on horses preparing for the Cross Country season, riders were offered a different terrain again. Avoiding fields with ewes and lambs, cows and calves, the first line gave riders a line of jumps which caught many by surprise. Hounds hunted with voice and passion, baying at their quarry when caught, much to the delight of the Field.





*Katie Hall, Field Master recovering from a dip in the river!*

The hunt next moved up into country that provided more natural obstacles, with Field Master Katie Hall, knowing the area well, providing every opportunity to jump, while still keeping hounds in full view. Hounds hunted the scent with vigour enjoying covers of leafy glades and river crossings, with the Field in hot pursuit. Clear round Cross Country on 8th May will allow skills learnt over the season to be put into practice.



THANK YOU TO THE HALL FAMILY FOR OPENING THIS COUNTRY.

### **CLOSING MEET - EMLYN ARMS 1ST MAY 2011**

The third season of this pioneering Hunt, ended where it had begun, at the Emlyn Arms Hotel. The Master, thanked farmers and landowners who had permitted this Hunt over their land and spoke of the contribution from families and the importance of passing on the tradition to the next generation. The day did not disappoint. With the splendour of the Royal Wedding still in the air and a busy bank holiday weekend ahead, the Davies family found time to give the Bloodhounds a send off. Kevin Davies ensuring everyone received local Welsh hospitality and the traditional Stirrup Cup.

The Hunt moved off towards Pont Ceri and hunted up through the valley of the Ceri River all the way to Brongest. The three sisters from the Hall family enjoying hunting together again since their childhood. Foot followers and Field watched in awe as the pack hunted over ground dry as a tinder box. Adapting to conditions, hounds could be viewed at first casting, then picking up the scent and holding the line,

checking, and speaking, keeping the pack focused while giving the Field the thrill of the Chase. The Field were delighted by the jumps and obstacles on offer, testing their skills and confidence built up over the season. The day ended back at the Hotel to servings of Chef's homemade cowl and plenty of craic from the days hunting. Keep watching the Hunt's website for summer events.