

West Wales Competition 28/10/2017. Judge Pat Somerset.

Thank you to Mary Rayment and her team for asking me to judge Level 1 at their show.

I had an enjoyable day and would like to thank Donna Black for being my scribe. As always Level 1 has a large number of entries, some are experienced handlers and some are fairly new to rally, and in some cases have just taught themselves at home without the benefit of support from a trainer. Whichever category you fall into, I think all the teams competing did a brilliant job, the dogs were all happy doing their course, some with waggy tails, others just happy to be working and it was evident that the handlers had put a lot of work into their dogs. Nerves often play a part in competing, that's not a bad thing, we all get nervous, I still do at the thought of judging, but I like to encourage people in this level, the more you enjoy it the more likely you are to continue, the higher you go the stricter the judging becomes. So well done to all my competitors, I am not going to name any particular teams because you all worked well and more to the point, you all looked like you were enjoying it. For those who didn't have a qualification, keep at it, you will get there, even the best dogs have off days, and congratulations to all those that did get a qualification. See you around at other shows in the future, and maybe some of you would think about becoming a judge!