

If you're reading this . . . then the chances are that you know Gale Hall. For those that don't know the place it's 1000ft ASL with fabulous views of the Eden Valley and the North Lakeland fells. And so, with that comes above average rainfall and below average temperatures especially when there's a trial. Check out Glenn Bennett's photos from 2016 to visualise the place - in good weather.

Andrew Woodhead and his pole crew set the hills out along the main North – South valley.

It was back to the bog for Hill 1, down in the far South-Western corner, it should be sponsored by Karcher but at least you looked like you'd been in a trial.

Hill 2 – was just a bumble in the bracken but Hill 3 was definitely a different kettle of cod and came with built in rabbit holes just where you didn't want them.

Hill 4 started with a wiffle round a bump on the western slope the back down and across the main track then diagonally up the bracken eastern slope. Tricky, especially after some bright spark decided to move the 5 gate uphill and everyone had to do the Time Warp. (It's just a jump to the left. And then a step to the right.)

Dickie Milne marshalled Hill 5. A canny little hill that featured three passes of a ridge that ran down the slope followed by a controlled! descent over a sheep track and a steady climb back up over the same track if you were lucky.

Mia was definitely in charge of Hill 6 which provided the daunting prospect of two monster climbs, the first was OK until the detour round the bomb-hole then it was back down for go at massive piece of fiercely sloping real estate terraced by sheep and pock-marked by rabbits.

Hill 7 was straight-forward - in theory. Diagonally up to the seven gate then down, left and straight up to a finish – simples! Colin marked the cards on this one.

Hill 8 was pegged out on the notorious bit of ground just down to the left when you enter the site. There was the sweeping run up to the top then down by the wire fence and a final ascent, you hope, over corrugated ground to the smiling Ginette. At the bottom runs the



