



## WORLD SHEEP DOG TRIALS - INTRODUCING THE KEY PLAYERS

Here, we profile some of the key players on the local organising committee for the 4th International Sheep Dog Society (ISDS) World Trials at Lowther Park, near Penrith in Cumbria, from September 15 to 18, 2011.

### TIM AND LINDA LONGTON

ISDS English president Tim Longton, who heads up the World Trials organising committee, is one of the third generation of the famous Longton family to be involved in sheep dog trials.

Tim has represented England at the International on numerous occasions and has run at previous World Trials. Also a respected judge, he adjudicated at the English National in Bolton Abbey in 2003, as well as at many trials in Europe and America.

The family has farmed at Rooten Brook Farm, Quernmore, near Lancaster, for many years. It is a 800-acre hill farm running 600 Swaledale sheep and 60 suckler cattle.

Tim's wife Linda grew up in the middle of Liverpool, where her father was the last cow keeper, his father having moved from the Howgills, near Sedburgh. Linda moved from Liverpool to Lancaster when she was 18 and eventually joined the Young Farmers, where she met Tim. They married in 1978 and have three children - Jayne, Michael and Richard.

Michael farms with the family and has inherited the love of sheep dog trialing, having himself represented England at both International and World Trials on many occasions.

As the children grew up, Linda became more interested in the trialing world and although she does not run a dog, she is a great enthusiast - and critic, according to Tim! She has been secretary of Fylde Sheep Dog Society for ten years, as well as serving on many organising committees.

Tim said: "I saw the field at Lowther and thought it was an ideal site for the World Trials." Linda is organising the time-keeping, giving out competitors' bags - and anything else required of her!



Linda and Tim Longton with their grand daughter Eva

### NIGEL DAVIS

2011 World Trials organising committee chairman Nigel Davis is a solicitor who specialises in agricultural law, as indeed does the company that carries his name.

He has more than 35 years experience in his chosen field and operates from offices on his home farm in Derbyshire, and in Cumbria, dividing his time between the two locations.

Nigel also farms Rough Fell sheep and Hereford cattle on his farm in Derbyshire. He is a past secretary of the Derbyshire County Show and Brailsford Ploughing and Hedge Cutting Match, and is currently secretary of Dovedale Sheep Dog Society, having previously been its chairman on two occasions and president back in 1999.

Nigel has been involved with sheep dog trials for almost 30 years and has in the past competed himself. He was secretary of the English National Trials held at Dovedale in 2008 and both general and legal advisor to the International Trials held at Lowther in 2009.



Nigel Davis

## CLARE SAVINS

World Trials organising committee secretary Clare Savins, who lives on the Lowther Estate, has always had a passion for farming, having been born and bred into agriculture in the Midlands.

Over the last 20 years, she has enjoyed spending numerous hours with her father grooming and training pedigree Simmental cattle ready for participation in local and national shows, with great success.

Having trained at Warwickshire College in the early 1990s, Clare first worked in industry, before returning to the college as a full-time lecturer for six years. She progressed to take on the role as Livestock Manager for the Royal Agricultural Society of England, then moved to Cumbria when her partner started working for Lowther Estate.

Clare is also breed secretary for the British Alpaca Society. She comments: "Since moving to Cumbria, I have established a small flock of pedigree Swaledale sheep, from which I hope to breed a prize-winning ram! I have also taken on a yearling Dales pony, which I have already shown at local shows. He's quite a handful!

"Another passion during the winter months is beating and picking up on local shoots with my Black Labrador Oscar.

He has come on leaps and bounds over the last 12 months and enjoys the exercise with my terrier Tilly.

"The World Trials is set to be a very exciting event - a first in England - which will bring a lot of income into the local community."



Clare Savins

## JOHN AND CAROL PALMER

John and Carol Palmer farm together with their son Ashley in Twiston, near Clitheroe, the farm having been in the family for many generations.

Carol has been secretary of Trawden Sheepdog Society for 25 years, while John is the treasurer. He was chairman when the English National was held at Kirkby Lonsdale and Carol was secretary.

The couple have also helped at several other Nationals and Internationals. John has represented his country on three occasions. He finished seventh in the Supreme at the Mostyn International.

Both are heavily involved with the organisation and actual running of the World Trials. John is acting as co-ordinator, while Carol's duties include looking after the well-being of spectators and organising a raffle.



John & Carol Palmer

## RICHARD PRICE

Richard Price, Farm Manager for Lowther Estate, hails from a Shropshire farming family, predominantly mixed farming - beef, sheep, dairy and arable.

He trained at Warwickshire College and worked as shepherd/stockman for Pilkington's Estate in Warwickshire, before upping sticks to spend 12 months in the USA working on a combining crew from Texas to Canada.

Richard returned to the UK and took up a post as farm manager for Warwickshire College in 2002. He moved north to Cumbria and Lowther Estate in 2008.

He said: "We hosted the 2009 International Sheep Dog Trial, which was extremely successful.

I have always enjoyed working my own sheep dogs, but haven't competed in any trials as yet. Who knows - one day, perhaps?"



Richard Price

## SANDRA FAWCETT

World Sheep Dog Trials treasurer Sandra Fawcett hails from a Cumbrian farming family and has been involved with livestock and sheep dogs throughout her life.

Work in the financial arena has taken her to Cheshire, Manchester and London. This has been predominantly with farming customers, but also with agricultural commodity traders.

Her current role as Agricultural Manager with NatWest in Penrith means a keen interest in farming and rural events in general and, hence, a natural interest in the World Sheep Dog Trials highlight. At home, Sandra runs a small sheep enterprise, ably assisted by a well-trained Collie dog!

Her role as treasurer involves managing the budgets and, in due course, 'counting the cash!'



Sandra Fawcett

## RACHEL CAPSTICK

Rachel Capstick, PA to Nigel Davis, is a farmer's daughter from Howgill, near Sedbergh, and lives on the family farm with her parents, Frank and Judith Capstick.

The family is very well known in Rough Fell Sheep circles, where her father Frank and her uncle Edmund, who farm together in partnership, have won many championships over the years. Rachel and her sister Sarah also have their own small flock.

In 2008, Rachel was instrumental in setting up the Cumbrian-based arm of Nigel Davis Solicitors at Dalton Hall, Burton in Kendal, and has proved an invaluable part of the office team. For the World Trials, she is very much involved with the Trade and Craft Stands and Display Arena.



Rachel Capstick

## JOHN HARRISON & PETER HORN

John Harrison is head shepherd at Lowther Estate, with Peter Horn the new boy in the fold!

From farming stock, John was born, bred and still lives locally in Shap and has worked at Lowther for four years, the past 18 months as head shepherd. He and his wife Claire raise pedigree Swaledale sheep as a hobby. John was heavily involved in the sheep dog trialling world for many years, running in his first trial at the age of 16.

He went on to much bigger and better things, winning the English National in Dorking, Surrey, in the early 1990s with Craig, also finishing third the same year with a second dog, Meg. John represented the English team on no less than three occasions.

Peter Horn, who lives on the Estate, was born and raised on his parents' sheep farm in Appleby - they also milked sheep to make their own ice cream!

After spreading his wings and working away from home, though still in agriculture, Peter returned to his roots and a job at Lowther last year. He recently acquired his first two working dogs - Hemp and Meg - and, under the expert eyes and guidance of John, could well be a triallist to be reckoned with in the future.

John and Peter will be ensuring that the sheep to be used at the World Trials are in peak order - a true test for the world's best.



John Harrison & Peter Horn

## ROBIN MOULE

World Trials PRO Robin Moule runs Moule Media in Skipton and has a particular love of all things agricultural and rural-related, nurtured as a young haymaker, milking parlour assistant and on-farm golfer with working Border Collie as retriever of errant shots!

Along with award-winning butchers, farm shops, country pubs and restaurants, Skipton Auction Mart is a long-standing client and through his coverage of Skipton's seasonal sales of working sheep dog, along with handling the PR for the 2006 Internationals at Kirkby Lonsdale in 2006 - in both words and pictures - Robin has made many contacts in the working dogs world.

"If I had the space and time for a dog, it would have to be a Border Collie - no question about that!" comments Robin.



Robin Moule

*Pictures by Ruth Downing, Rural Pictures, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.*