



Reigning champions qualify for 2011 World Sheep Dog Trials

Reigning World Sheep Dog Trials champion, Welshman Aled Owen and his dog Roy, will defend their title at next year's renewal.

Aled, of Penyfed, Tŷ-Nant, Corwen, Denbighshire, finished fourth in the recent 2010 Welsh National Trials, which was good enough for the legendary duo to qualify for the 2011 World Sheep Dog Trials, which are now just 12 months away.

They are to be staged in England for the first time at Lowther Park Estate, near Penrith, on the edge of the Lake District in Cumbria, from September 15-18, 2011.

Aled and Roy landed the 2008 world title on home territory in Wales for the second time. He was also world champion with Bob at the inaugural trials in 2002 and will be bidding for what would prove a unique hat-trick.

With Roy, also Supreme Champion in 2007 and now aged seven, Aled must again have leading claims. "To win again at next year's 4th World Trials would be a once-in-a-lifetime achievement, but it's a milestone I will be going all out to attain," said the renowned handler.

He will face strong competition, including the 2005 reserve world champion, fellow Welshman Nigel Watkins, of Panthowel Lodge, Llanddeusant, Llangadog, Carmarthenshire, who qualified with two dogs – Jody and Floss – at this year's Welsh Nationals.

In fact, the majority of the 24 qualifiers from each of the four home nations are now known following national trials staged in Wales, Scotland, Ireland and England.

They will be among a total of 240 competitors representing 25 countries at the 2011 World Sheep Dog Trials, the pinnacle for working sheep dog enthusiasts around the globe. For the first time, Japan is fielding a team.

Administered by the International Sheep Dog Society (ISDS), organisation of the World Trials, which will also incorporate a Food & Country Festival promoting local food and crafts, is in the hands of a local committee headed by ISDS English president and well-known trialist Tim Longton, of Rooten Brook Farm, Quernmore, Lancaster.

Mr Longton said: "We are well on track for what will be one of the biggest events of its kind ever seen in Cumbria. The inclusion of a team from Japan for the first time further enhances the worldwide appeal of the trials.

"We are indebted to those who have already provided or promised sponsorship and are continuing in our quest to attract more sponsors, with sums both large and small, to enable us to achieve the target of £200,000 to ensure that the 2011 World Trials are the best yet."

One major sponsor already in place is CSJ Specialist Canine Feeds, based in Bodfari, Denbighshire, Wales, which also sponsored the 2008 ISDS World Sheep Dog Trials in Wales.

Run by well-known international sheep dog trialist and judge, Ceri Rundle, the company's natural canine feeds, herbal supplements and treats are used by many of the top dog handlers.

Ceri's – her father H. Glyn Jones is a former International Supreme and Reserve Supreme Champion – was the first lady to appear on One Man & His Dog.

Sponsorship opportunities remain available and companies or organisations interested in becoming involved with the high profile event should contact World Trials secretary Clare Savins at Lowther Park Estate on 01931 712516, e-mail clares09@btinternet.com

Full details are posted on the World Trials website at www.worldsheepdogtrials.org or visit www.isds.org.uk for trial information and results.

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Aled Owen and Roy taken at this year's Welsh National Trials lat month are attached.

Photo credit: Bruce Wallace.



World Trials sponsor Ceri Rundle, of CSJ Specialist Canine Feeds, is pictured with Norman Lorton, ISDS chief executive.

Further information: The 2011 World Trials at Lowther Park Estate, near Penrith, from September 15-18, are expected to attract up to 30,000 people and inject £2m-plus into the local economy.

Competitors will include trialists from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Faroes, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA.

Qualifying rounds will take place on three separate fields on the first two days of the trials, with the top seven from each field on the opening days going forward to the semi-final on the Saturday. The top 16 of these qualify for the final on the Sunday, from which a world champion will emerge.

Further info: World Trials PRO Robin Moule, Moule Media, on 01756-794027, mobile 07976-559961, e-mail: robin@moulemedia.com For interviews, World Trials president Tim Longton can be contacted on 07968 313119 and chairman Nigel Davis on 01524 784260.