

BOBBY DALZIEL, SCOTLAND

Home: Ettrick, Scotland

Occupation: Farmer

Accomplishments: Three-time International Supreme; Five-time Scottish National Champion; 7th World Trial 2005; Two-time Reserve Supreme Champion.

Dog: Joe (ISDS 272330) – 2006 Supreme Champion; 2009 Scottish National Champion

The 'original' Ettrick Shepherd, James Hogg, the Scottish poet and novelist, looms large in sheepdog history. "Like no other literary figure, James Hogg had an appreciation of the role played by the shepherd's dog in the sheep industry in Scotland" writes Carole Presberg. Over two centuries later, a modern day Ettrick shepherd is quietly revising sheepdog history and leaving his mark on a new generation of sheepdog triallists and shepherd's dogs. This is three-time International Supreme Champion and five-time Scottish National Champion, Bobby Dalziel.

A bone fide Ettrick shepherd, Bobby and his close-knit, yet small, team of dogs work the Scottish braes almost every day of their lives. It is 36 years ago on the 4th of July that Bobby started his trialling career – the day after his first child, Steven, was born. By all accounts, his first trial did not go so well. But that was then. Now Bobby has carved himself an enviable record on the trial field, and earned himself a reputation as a masterful handler, exacting competitor, and modest mentor.

His dogs are legendary around the globe. Wisp and Dryden Joe are two whose names liberally roll off the tongue when talking about 'great' dogs. Another gifted dog, and the one Bobby will run at the 2011 World Sheep Dog Trial, is 7-year-old Joe.

At the age of 2, Joe won the Supreme Championship, making him one of the youngest dogs to have ever won this prestigious event. Three years later he won the Scottish National Championship. No dog in the history of the World Trial has ever won a National Championship, a Supreme Championship and a World Championship. Joe has a chance at this. Would there be anything more thrilling for the history of the shepherd's dog to see an Ettrick Shepherd and his dog, Joe, win this rare hat trick?



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