

## **CHLOE CROPPER, ENGLAND**

**Home:** Dean, Bacup, Lancashire

**Occupation:** Self-employed Sheepdog Trainer

**Accomplishments:** 'One Man and His Dog' Young Handler Champion 2008; English Team Member 2008, 2010, 2011

**Dog:** Ned (ISDS 00/292887)

There are few names as well-known as 'Cropper' in the sheepdog trialling world. One of the rising stars, and some predict will be the best Cropper yet, is Chloe Cropper. In 2008, then sixteen year old Chloe was the youngest ever competitor at a World Sheepdog Trials. Three years on, Chloe is still the youngest World Trial competitor and among the most talented sheepdog handlers in England. With countless trial wins to her name, Chloe's trophies and list of accomplishments are rapidly accumulating. Chloe has literally been born into the sport and she looks set to fulfil a destiny the family name bestows upon her.

Chloe was 12 when she visited her Uncle Jim and Auntie Shirley's farm and realised she wanted to work with sheepdogs. 'Uncle Jim' is none other than Jim Cropper, who is probably England's best-known sheepdog handler s. Chloe would spend weekends and school holidays at their farm, watching and learning. She ran her first trial when she was 14 years old. Her first dog was Rap who was a gift from her uncle. Naturally, Jim has influenced Chloe tremendously.

In 2008, Chloe ran her dog Roy (ISDS 262387) at the World Trial. It was with Roy that Chloe beat a talented field of all male handlers to win the world renowned BBC's 'One Man and His Dog' Young Handler competition. Now almost 9 years old, Roy will be Chloe's alternate dog for the competition while her younger dog, Ned, will take centre stage. Ned is the first dog Chloe has trained by herself and from a young age he showed an extraordinary amount of natural talent. Like Chloe, Ned got an early start to his career. He ran his first trial at 11 months old, finishing second. It seems that in a sport where age, experience and maturity count, Chloe and Ned demonstrate there are always exceptions to the rule.



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.

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