

JIM WILSON – NEW ZEALAND

Home: Feilding, New Zealand

Occupation: Farmer

Accomplishments: 2008 World Trial Finalist

Dogs: Rose and Duffy.

From the far reaches of the earth, and from a country that runs a very different style of trial to those in the northern hemisphere, comes a finalist at the 2008 World Trial – Jim Wilson. Jim and his dog, Tweed, almost single-handedly put New Zealand on the map for sheepdog trialling. They were the first ever ‘kiwi’ finalists and served notice to the rest of the World that those from ‘down under’ are highly competitive in this sport.

A Scotsman by birth, Jim lived in Ettrick as a boy. His family moved to Geltsdale Farm in England, a hill farm situated within the North Pennines and not far from this year’s World Trial venue. Jim’s brother, Tom still farms there to this day . Cumbria is Jim’s boyhood stomping ground and an area in which he has spent many a day trialling. It will be a homecoming of sorts.

Since 1984 Jim and his wife, Marion, have lived in New Zealand and now run a 500-acre sheep and cattle farm. Jim first started trialling in 1986 with New Zealand Huntaways. This is a very intelligent dog that uses its voice to move stock. With Huntaways, Jim has been tremendously successful. Soon he also started dabbling with heading dogs, or what we call border collies. In 2003, he began running this type of dog more often and good results soon followed. By 2008 he was on his way to the UK with Tweed and the New Zealand team for the World Trial and the rest, as they say, is history.

Although Tweed is now retired, Jim will be bringing with him to the UK a daughter of Tweed’s called Rose, and a grandson named Duffy. Travelling 11,500 miles to the other side of the globe with two dogs, at an enormous cost, all in the hopes of becoming the 2011 World Champion might seem crazy. But to an avid sheepdog man, it is all part of competing at the highest level.

Victory in any competition is seldom a matter of chance, and it seldom comes without sacrifice. The sacrifices Jim, and others, have made to be able to attend the 2011 World Trial is testament to the esteem with which this event is held globally.



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