

## **ALED OWEN, WALES**

**Home:** Corwen, North Wales

**Occupation:** Farmer/Entrepreneur

**Accomplishments:** Two-time World Champion (2002 and 2008), Three-time International Supreme Champion, Three-time Welsh Champion

**Dog:** Roy (ISDS 266416) – Reigning World Champion; 2007 Supreme Champion

If ever there was a candidate for inclusion in the aristocracy of the sheepdog world, Aled Owen, from Corwen in North Wales, would have his name right at the top of the ballot paper. Among the most decorated handlers of all time, perhaps surpassed only by the legendary J.M. Wilson, Aled has twice beaten the best the world can throw at him and is the reigning World Champion. Fresh on the heels of winning the 2007 International Supreme, the holy grail for U.K.-based working sheepdogs, Aled won the 2008 World Championship with Roy, the dog he will again compete with at the 2011 World Sheepdog Trials. Roy's father Bob won the World Trial in 2002. Aled has firmly secured his reputation as one of the all-time greats in the sport.

A farmer by trade, Aled now divides his time among his farming duties, his sheepdogs, and the family enterprises of Ewe-phoria, where he gives sheepdog, sheep and sheep shearing demonstrations, and the adrenaline pumping off-road quad biking tours at Adventure Mountain.

A quiet, modest man by nature, Aled has inspired many people around the world not only with his sheepdog acumen and his long list of accomplishments but also with his work ethic. Not one to sit back and rest on his laurels, Aled's World Championship wins have come about honestly. Spending even a short period of time with Aled, one quickly realizes just how hard he works.

The pressure to win a third World Championship must surely be enormous. True to form, though, Aled bears both the blessings and burdens of fame in his typical down-to-earth manner. Come September when Aled steps onto the field at the World Trial, he won't be thinking of the competitors who have run before him or his history with the event. He'll be thinking about getting the job done without fanfare but certainly with polish. Winston Churchill once said "History is written by the victors." Win or lose, the partnership between Aled and Roy has already found its place in the history book but is there yet another chapter to be written about this dynamic team?



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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