

## **GUILLAUME JOSIEN, FRANCE**

**Home:** Picardy, France

**Occupation:** Pharmaceutical Sales Representative

**Accomplishments:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the 2010 French National Championship

**Dogs:** Killiebrae Gyp (Jip) and Bob

Guillaume Josien from France epitomizes the saying “There are no speed limits on the road to excellence.” In three short years, Guillaume ascended to the very top of French sheepdog trialling when he dominated the 2010 French National Championship by finishing first with his main dog, Killiebrae Gyp, and third with his youngster, Bob. Where it is customary for one to take years to master the art of shepherding, Guillaume has joined a rare group of individuals who have an uncanny aptitude for the craft.

Perhaps most surprising is the fact that Guillaume has no farming background, works full-time in the pharmaceuticals industry, and owns very little land and only a handful of sheep. Guillaume represents a new breed of sheepdog triallist. These are the ones who enter the sport as a hobbyist, fall head over heels for the sport and the dogs, and then compromise and rearrange their lives to suit their training and competitive schedules. When Guillaume moved from Paris to Picardy, he had to find a house with a small field for his dogs, his sheep and him to train. In a deal with his partner, Alexandra, she got to pick the home of her dreams and Guillaume got the promise of the purchase of another dog. So go the negotiations with an ardent sheepdog triallist.

Guillaume got his start in trialling in Wales. He and some fellow French trialling enthusiasts spent a week in Wales at the height of the trialling season. They watched many top handlers and participated in as many trials as they could find. Back in France, Guillaume bought many DVDs on how to train a sheepdog, enlisted the help of other French handlers and set about training his dogs with renewed purpose. During the course of the last 3 years, Guillaume has also had the opportunity to visit and learn from many top handlers in the UK and on the Continent. With this new found knowledge, youthful enthusiasm for the sport and obvious talent, Guillaume looks set to well represent the new breed of sheepdog triallist.



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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