Among the 11 Welsh entries is a 10-month-old black and white bitch from Ceredigion’s Dewi Jenkins, of Tal-y-bont, who continues to produce some of the country’s most sought-after and top-selling working sheep dogs, many sold through Skipton,

His sole entry, the fully home-bred Tynygraig Jet, is a daughter of Kemi Taff, sold for top price of 7,600gns at Bala last October, out of Fly, a full sister to Mr Jenkins’ main stud dog Jock, who is also the father of another bitch and dog sold by the same handler at two recent online sales in Wales for £12,500 and £12,900 respectively. Mr Jenkins will also be represented with Jock at next year’s rearranged World Sheep Dog Trials at Castle Howard Estate, near York. He is Welsh team captain.

Also from Wales, legendary trialist Kevin Evans, who is based near Brecon in Powys, is represented with a brace of well-bred fully broken bitches. First up is the two-year-old Kemi Floss, whose sire is a Supreme Champion and dam an International Brace Champion, followed immediately by the younger 18-month-old Eve, by Mr Evan’s own Derwen Doug, a European Nursery Champion and Welsh National Brace Champion.

Three dogs from Shetland, Aberdeenshire and South Lanarkshire have been entered in the opening Scottish sale, which will be followed by ten dogs from English vendors, among them a trio of fully broken entries from Surrey-based handler Mark Banham, of Chipstead

Two have already made their mark on the trials field. The three-year-old Jack won the South East England Nursery Aggregate, finished runner-up in the South East Nursery Final, competed in the English Nursery Final and holds an entry in the European Nursery Championship, as does Mr Banham’s second dog, the November, 2017, Bob, also placed in both the south-east nursery aggregate and final.

The strong Irish contingent features entries from Counties Down, Tyrone, Antrim, Donegal and Derry – from the last mentioned teenager and already accomplished trialist Shannon Conn, of Limvady.

As a 16-year-old in May, 2018, Shannon headed the Skipton selling prices at 6,800gns with a two-year-old bitch, Rosie, and is represented at the online renewal by a three-year-old dog, Grip (Gyp), already placed third in this year’s North of Ireland Nursery Final and also with Open points to her name.

Regular Northern Ireland vendor and buyer Seamus Gormley, of Kilcreen Sheep Dog Centre in Claudy, Co Derry, has three well-bred dogs on offer, one a two-year-old by Ricky Hutchinson’s famed trials dog Sweep, plus two older dogs by Mr Gormley’s own highly regarded Zac.

From Co. Donegal, several entries from Michael McHugh, of Milford, include a promising youngster, the January-born Mulroy Jack, whose sire finished third in this year’s All Ireland Nursery Final.

Source: Moule Media.