

SHEEP SHEARING SCHEDULE



**BALMORAL
SHOW 2025**
14TH - 17TH MAY



Ulster Bank





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SHEEP SHEARING, WOOL HANDLING & BLADE SHEARING PRIZE SCHEDULE

The Society is indebted to the following sponsors who's financial or in-kind assistance has made the competitions possible.



The Society would like to thank all those who provide sheep for the competitions, and competitors for their careful handling of the sheep.

Thank you to Lister Shearing Equipment Ltd who supply the shearing machines and technical support for all the shearing competitions.

Thank you to A McIlrath & Son (Husqvarna) for their sponsorship of the Shearing Pavilion.

Thank you to KDM Hire for their sponsorship of the Shearing Pavilion TV Screens

NISSA contributed towards the building of the sheep shearing stand in memory of the late Maurice Megahey



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SHEEP SHEARING OFFICIALS

Chief Steward: John Murphy

Deputy Chief Steward: David O'Neill

Stewards

Alec Butler	Liam Kelly
Crosby Cleland	Seamus Kelly
Graeme Davidson	Samuel McConnell
Robert Harkness	Eoghan McPartland
Jayne Harkness - Bones	Tom O'Neill
William Jones	Andre Rea
Gerard Kelly	Jack Robinson
Brendan Kelly	

Commentators: Huw Condron, George Graham & Nigel Loughlan

Scorekeepers: Ellen Murphy

Assistant Board Referee: Wallace Boyd

Timekeeper: Wallace Boyd & Joanna Boyd

Screen Technician: Damian Nelson

Judging Panel

Andrew Barrett, Wiltshire	Fionan Butler, Co. Antrim
Adrian Caldwell, Co. Tyrone	George Graham, Co. Wexford
Alan Longstaff, Co. Antrim	Gerard Kelly, Co. Antrim
Alex Butler, Co. Antrim	Graeme Davidson, Co. Antrim
Andrew Rankin, Dunbartonshire	Ian Montgomery, Co. Antrim
Billy Donnellan, Galway	Jack Robinson, Co. Londonderry
Brendan Kelly, Co. Antrim	John Ivor Davis, Powys
Brian Megahey, Co. Antrim	John Murphy, Co. Antrim
Bryan Wilson, Co. Antrim	Richard Schofield, North Yorkshire
Colin Crowe, Westmeath	Seamus Kelly, Co Antrim.
David Jones, Co. Antrim	Tom Dunne, Wicklow
David O'Neill, Co Tyrone	William Jones, Co Antrim

ENTRIES

ENTRIES OPEN – MONDAY 31st MARCH AT 10AM
ENTRIES CLOSE - FRIDAY 25TH April AT 5PM

Enter online at www.balmoralshow.co.uk

- Entries received after the close date will be considered as a late entry and therefore will **not** receive a show pack or entry wristband and will have to pay full admission price at the gate.
- Entries may be accepted on the day of shearing, subject to the availability of sheep.
- Shearing Up will be allowed subject to availability of sheep.

Entry Fees			
Competition	Day	Entry Fee (inc VAT)	Competitors must report by
Junior Shearing	Wednesday	£18	10.00am
Intermediate Heats, Semi Final and Final	Thursday	£21	8.00am
National Shearing Championship	Thursday	£26	8.00am
National Blade Shearing Championship	Thursday	£16	8.00am
National Wool Handling Championship	Thursday	£16	8.00am
Senior Shearing	Friday	£26	8.00am
Novice Wool Handling Heats	Friday	£16	8.00am
Open Wool Handling Heats	Friday	£21	8.00am
Open Shearing	Saturday	£31	8.00am
Open Blade Shearing Championship	Saturday	£21	8.00am
Ladies Shearing	Saturday	£26	9.00am

Contact Details

Carolyn Greene
 07809 907217
carolyn@ruas.org.uk



Day	Start time	Competition
Wednesday	9.30am	YFCU / Lister Shearing Equipment Ltd Novice & Advanced Sheep Shearing Championship followed by YFCU Wool Handling competition
	11.30am	Junior Heats
	12.30pm	Break
	1.30pm	Junior Semi Finals & Final
Thursday	9.30am	Intermediate Heats
		Royal Ulster National Shearing Championship – Heats
		Royal Ulster National Blade Shearing - Heats
		Royal Ulster National Wool Handling – Heats
	12.30pm	Break
	1.30pm	Royal Ulster National Wool Handling – Final
		Intermediate Semi Finals
		Royal Ulster National Shearing Championship – Semi Final
		Intermediate Finals
		Royal Ulster National Blade Shearing - Final
	3.30pm	Royal Ulster National Shearing Championship – Final
Friday	9.00am	Senior Heats
		Novice & Open Wool Handling Heats
		Senior Semi Final
	12.30pm	Break
	1.30pm	Wool Handling Development Test - 3 Way ?/?/? (1 open & 1 Novice)
	2.00pm	Novice & Open Wool Handling - Semi Final
	3.00pm	Novice & Open Wool Handling - Final
	3.30pm	Senior Final
Saturday	9.00am	Open Heats
	10.00am	Blades Heats/Semi Final
	10.45am	Open Semi Finals
	11.15am	Ladies Shearing Competition
	11.30pm	International Open Shearers Test
	12.00pm	Break
	1.00pm	Blade Final
	2.00pm	Open Final
	2.45pm	Presentations



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Competitions Details

LISTER SHEARING / YFCU NOVICE & ADVANCED SHEEP SHEARING CHAMPIONSHIP



Sponsored by Lister Shearing Equipment Ltd

Lister Silver Handpiece Perpetual Challenge Trophy & commemorative engraved medallion presented to the winner of the competition and supplied by Lister Shearing. Shearing vests provided by Lister Shearing.

The winner of the novice section will receive the James Gilpin Perpetual Cup

The Robert Camac award (bronze medal) will be presented by the Worshipful Company of Woolmen.

ROYAL ULSTER NATIONAL SHEEP SHEARING CHAMPIONSHIP



Sponsored by Randox Health

Entrants must be born in Northern Ireland or resident three years in Northern Ireland, not having represented any other country within three years of the day of the competition.

Only plain shearing vests may be worn where show sponsors vests are not provided.

Heats - Each competitor will be required to shear 5 sheep or any number of sheep predetermined by Chief Steward.

Final - Each competitor will be required to shear 10 sheep or any number of sheep predetermined by Chief Steward.

The 'Ringer' Perpetual Challenge Trophy, presented by the late Maurice Megahey, will be presented to the winner of the National Shearing Championship.

Prize Money: 1st gold medal and £100, 2nd silver medal and £75, 3rd bronze medal and £50, 4th £35, 5th £25, 6th £25

Moir Cross Country & Schooling Gallops will present £100 quality prize for the best pen of shorn sheep in the final.

Jim Allen Perpetual Silver Salver, for best pen of shorn sheep, in the heats, semi finals or finals - in memory of Jim Allen presented by Margaret Allen.



INTERNATIONAL SHEEP SHEARING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Junior

sponsored by



Intermediate

sponsored by



Senior

sponsored by



Open

sponsored by

**Ulster Wool
Growers**

Note: Competitors will be required to shear a number of sheep as predetermined by the chief steward. Competitors will only be able to shear in their classified category as set out in the spring edition of Newsclip.

Only plain shearing vests may be worn where show sponsors vests are not provided.

Prize Money

Junior	1 st Edwin Adams Trophy & £85, 2 nd £60, 3 rd £35, 4 th £25, 5 th £20, 6 th £20
Intermediate	1 st Malcolm Fraser Trophy & £100, 2 nd £85, 3 rd £60, 4 th £35, 5 th £25, 6 th £25
Senior	1 st Wallace Boyd Trophy & £150, 2 nd £100, 3 rd £70, 4 th £50, 5 th £40, 6 th £30
Open	1 st Gartree Trophy Presented by Robert Harkness & £600, 2 nd £350, 3 rd £300, 4 th £250, 5 th £200, 6 th £175

Perpetual Rosebowl will be Presented by Robert Harkness and Jayne Harkness-Bones to the top NI Shearer in the Open, in memory of Rosemary Harkness.

Moir Cross Country & Schooling Gallops will present £50 quality prize for the best pen of shorn sheep in the Junior and £100 for the Intermediate, Senior and Open Finals.

Lister will offer a prize of a voucher to be used on the Lister website for the purchase of any Lister products to the value of £150.00 Inc VAT for the Junior and Intermediate winners.

Ulster Wool have kindly donated £200 to the Junior shearing competitions.

The junior competition is a qualifier for the Worshipful Company of Woolmen Junior competition final to be held at the Royal Welsh Show with £1,600 prize money on offer. The top two junior Northern Ireland shearers who meet the following criteria will qualify. Must hold either a blue or bronze seal only and be under 26 years on 1st May in the current year and have shorn in the UK only.

As a means of encouragement to junior and intermediate shearers Lister Shearing Equipment Ltd has offered prizes for each of the finalists in the junior and intermediate. All finalists in these championships will receive a special trophy and a championship Lister shearing vest.

Results will contribute to the NISSA Sheep Shearing Circuit 2025.



LADIES SHEARING COMPETITION

Sponsored by Lister Shearing Equipment Ltd



All Comers Ladies Competition with a minimum of a bronze seal.

Prize Money: - 1st £150, 2nd £100, 3rd £60, 4th £40, 5th £30, 6th £20

Lister will offer a prize of a voucher to be used on the Lister website for the purchase of any Lister products to the value of £150.00 Inc VAT for the winner of the Ladies Shearing Competition.

ROYAL ULSTER NATIONAL WOOL HANDLING COMPETITION

Sponsored by Ballyutoag Training



Prize Money 1st £100 2nd £75 3rd £50 4th £25

OPEN BLADE SHEARING CHAMPIONSHIP

Sponsored by Lucky Day Competitions



Heats - 2 sheep per competitor or any number of sheep predetermined by Chief Steward.

Final - 3 sheep per competitor or any number of sheep predetermined by Chief Steward.

Prize Money 1st £175, 2nd £125, 3rd £85, 4th £65, 5th £55, 6th £45.

The winner will be presented with the Walter G Hoy Memorial Trophy

Blade shearing competition is part of the Irish Blade shearing circuit.

ROYAL ULSTER NATIONAL BLADE SHEARING

Sponsored by Lucky Day Competitions



Prize money 1st £100, 2nd £75, 3rd £50, 4th £25

WOOL HANDLING DEVELOPMENT TEST

– 3 Way Scotland / Wales / Northern Ireland

Sponsored by Ulster Wool

Each team will consist of one Novice and one Open.

Prize Money 1st Prize £100, 2nd Prize £75, 3rd Prize £50.



WOOL HANDLING COMPETITION



Sponsored by Lucky Day Competitions

Novice & Open

"The Mooreview Jug" – Presented by Jayne Harkness-Bones – Presented to the winner of the Open Wool Handling Competition.

Prize Money Open - 1st £200, 2nd £165, 3rd £150, 4th £140, 5th £130, 6th £120
Novice - 1st £100, 2nd £80, 3rd £60, 4th £40, 5th £25, 6th £15

Special Prize £25 - for the best Northern Ireland novice wool handler

Special Prize £25 – for the best Northern Ireland open wool handler

Both awards are kindly provided by NISSA

Ulster Wool have kindly provided the vests for the resident wool workers.

SIX NATIONS SHEARING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2025 6 Nations Shearing Championships will be held;

Machine Shearing held at Royal Highland Show 19th – 22nd June 2025

Blade Shearing held in France 7th April 2025

Wool Handling held at Clonamny 5th & 6th August

The teams from Northern Ireland will be as follows:

Machine Shearing – Top 2 Open Shearers from the Balmoral Show 2025

Wool Handling - Top 2 competitors from Balmoral Show 2025.



RULES AND REGULATIONS

All sheep shearing competitions will be held under the World rules (published in the spring 2025 edition of Newsclip). Additional RUAS rules as listed are also included: -

1. Time points calculation – one penalty for 40 seconds for juniors and young farmers.
2. Competitors who either cut teat, pizzle or wound scoring 20 or more penalties, even though they have been placed, may not be eligible for any prizes in cash or kind.
3. Competitors entering the competition on the day will not be refunded their entry into the showgrounds.
4. Grinders will not be available for sharpening and are not permitted at the show. Anyone caught using or in possession of a grinder will be automatically disqualified and asked to leave the show grounds.

In the interest of safety, the use of worm drives is compulsory.

All competitors are also bound by the general regulations and instructions for the Society's Annual Show as contained in the main prize schedule - copies available online. Subject to any right of appeal contained in the Society's regulations and instructions to exhibitors, the chief steward's ruling shall be final on any matter not covered by British Isles Shearing Competition Association rules committee.

All shearers/wool handlers may be required to complete a declaration on the day confirming that they cleaned and disinfected their protective clothing and equipment before coming onto the Show premises. Any shearer/wool handler unable to complete such a declaration will not be permitted to compete and the RUAS reserve the right to inspect the clothing and equipment of all shearing/wool handling competitors.

Shearers should note that NO commercial symbols may be worn by competitors unless they have been provided by the sponsors for the competitions or approved by a chief steward.

Competitors should note that prize money will not be paid on the day. Cheques for prizes awarded (except where an objection is open) will be forwarded by post to the exhibitor to whom they have been awarded within 90 days after the Show.





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