



Delivered by
the RUAS



**BALMORAL
SHOW 2026**
13TH - 16TH MAY



Ulster Bank

SHEEP SHEARING

PRIZE SCHEDULE





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THE BALMORAL SHOW



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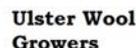
Longhorn Shorts available Summer 2026

Balmoral Show 2026

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.



Sheep Shearing Officials

Chief Steward: John Murphy

Deputy Chief Steward: David O'Neill

STEWARDS		
Alec Butler	Gerard Kelly	Chris Coulter
Liam Kelly	Matthew Cowan	Seamus Kelly
Graeme Davidson	Samuel McConnell	Robert Harkness
Eoghan McPartland	Jayne Harkness-Bones	Tom O'Neill
William Jones	Andrew Rea	Sam Jones
Jack Robinson	Brendan Kelly	

Commentators: Huw Condron, George Graham & Nigel Loughlan

Scorekeepers: Ellen Murphy

Assistant Board Referee: Wallace Boyd

Timekeeper: Stephen Wilson & Jayne Harkness-Bones

Screen Technician: Damian Nelson

JUDGING PANEL	
Andrew Barrett, Wiltshire	Gerard Kelly, Co. Antrim
Adrian Caldwell, Co. Tyrone	Graeme Davidson, Co. Antrim
Alex Butler, Co. Antrim	Ian Montgomery, Co. Antrim
Andrew Rankin, Dunbartonshire	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	Rhys Jones, Wales
Colin MacGregor, Perthshire	Seamus Kelly, Co Antrim
David Jones, Co. Antrim	Tim Creedon, Co Kerry
David O'Neill, Co Tyrone	Tom Halloran, Co Galway
Dilwyn Evans, Wales	William Jones, Co Antrim
Fionan Butler, Co. Antrim	

Entries

Entries Open – Monday 30th March at 10.00am

Entries Close – Friday 17th April at 5.00pm

Please note: **Entries will NOT be accepted after Friday 17th April at 5pm**

Enter online at

<https://balmoralshow.co.uk/competitions/sheep-shearing>

- Entries may be accepted on the day of shearing, subject to the availability of sheep.
- Shearing up is allowed if competitors have pre-entered.

ENTRY FEES			
Competition	Day	Entry Fee (inc VAT)	Competitors must report by
Junior Shearing	Wednesday	£19	8.30am
Intermediate Heats, Semi Final and Final	Wednesday	£22	11am
National Shearing Championship	Thursday	£27	8.30am
National Blade Shearing Championship	Thursday	£17	8.30am
National Wool Handling Championship	Thursday	£17	8.30am
Senior Shearing	Thursday	£27	8.30am
Novice Wool Handling Heats	Friday	£17	8.00am
Open Wool Handling Heats	Friday	£22	8.00am
Open Blade Shearing Championship	Friday	£22	8.00am
Open Shearing	Saturday	£32	8.00am

CONTACT DETAILS

Carolyn Greene
07809 907217
carolyn@ruas.org.uk



Timetable

Day	Start time	Competition
Wednesday	9am	Junior Heats
	10am	YFCU / Lister Shearing Equipment Ltd Novice & Advanced Sheep Shearing Championship followed by YFCU Wool Handling competition
	12.30pm	Break
	1.30pm	Intermediate Heats followed by Junior Semis Intermediate Semis, followed by Junior Finals & Intermediate Finals
Thursday	9.30am	Senior 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
		Seniors Semi Finals
		Royal Ulster National Shearing Championship – Semi Final
		Senior Finals
	3.30pm	Royal Ulster National Blade Shearing – Final
Royal Ulster National Shearing Championship – Final		

Timetable (continued)

Day	Start time	Competition
Friday	9am	Open Blade Heats
		Novice & Open Wool Handling Heats
		Open Blade Semi Finals
	12.30pm	Break
	1.30pm	Six Nations – Blades
	2.00pm	Wool Handling Development Test – 3 Way NI / Wales / Scotland (1 open & 1 Novice)
	3.00pm	Novice & Open Wool Handling – Semi Final
	3.30pm	Open Blade Final
4.30pm	Novice & Open Wool Handling – Final	
Saturday	9am	Open Heats
	10.30am	Open Semi Finals
	11.30pm	International Open Shearers Test
	12.00pm	Break
	1.30pm	Open Final
	2.45pm	Presentations



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- ✓ **90% of our collection sites** are within a one hour drive.
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Rules and Regulations

All sheep shearing competitions will be held under the World rules (published in the spring 2026 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 must comply with the general regulations and instructions of the Balmoral Show, as outlined in the Livestock Prize Schedule, available on the Balmoral Show website. Except where the Society's regulations provide a right of appeal, the Chief Steward's decision shall be final on any matters not specifically addressed by the British Isles Shearing Competition Association Rules Committee.

All shearers and wool handlers may be required to complete a declaration on the day confirming that their protective clothing and equipment have been cleaned and disinfected before arriving at the Show. Any competitor unable to provide such a declaration will not be permitted to compete. The RUAS reserves the right to inspect the clothing and equipment of all shearing and wool-handling competitors.

BISCA Disciplinary Procedure

Any conduct that is detrimental to the ethics of BISCA by either competitor or official shall be notified to the Disciplinary Committee in writing.

The Disciplinary Committee has the right to suspend, for a period, or remove any mistruant from their respective list.

The decision of the Committee shall be FINAL.

Shearers should note that no commercial logos or symbols may be worn unless provided by the competition sponsors or specifically approved by a Chief Steward.

Additional Information

Prize Money

Prize money and refunds will only be made payable to the account holder from which the entry was made. Prize money and refunds will be paid via transfer using the Trolley secure cloud-based payment platform only and will be available to claim before the end of August in the current year. Any monies not claimed within one year from the last day of the show shall be forfeited.

Parking

Limited parking is available on-site and must be pre-booked via the online portal. Weekly passes are available in the Yellow Car Park and Weekly and Daily can be booked in the Orange Car Park. Access to these car parks is via Gate 6 on the Bog Road, please see the Exhibitor Route Map on the online portal for directions. Parking is also available in the Public Car Park and does not need to be pre-booked. Access to this car park is via Gate 1 on the Halftown Road.

Wristbands

Competitors who have paid at least £25 (inc. vat) in entry fees for any section are entitled to a weekly admission wristband. Competitors who have paid less than £25 (inc. vat) will receive a daily wristband, valid on the day of their competition.

Additional exhibitor wristbands, weekly and daily, can be purchased via the Online Exhibitor Portal.

The wristband system operates as follows: Each competitor will receive a digital collection voucher which must be redeemed at the designated areas upon arrival at the Showgrounds in exchange for a wristband.

Competitors will not be permitted to exchange digital vouchers or collect a wristband on behalf of another individual. Digital Vouchers are not admission tickets.

Removal of or tampering with wristbands will result in them being 'void' and invalid for use.

Data Protection

The most up-to-date Privacy Policy is available at <https://balmoralshow.co.uk/privacy>

Shearing Prize Schedule

International Sheep Shearing Championships – Junior

Sponsored by Greenmount Country Stores LTD

Wednesday – Competitors to report to the Shearing Office by 8.30am

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.

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.

Moira Cross Country & Schooling Gallops will present £50 quality prize for the best pen of shorn sheep in the Junior.

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 Junior Shearing Competition.

Prize Money

1st Edwin Adams Trophy & £85, 2nd £60, 3rd £35, 4th £25, 5th £20, 6th £20

Results will contribute to the NISSA Sheep Shearing Circuit 2026.

International Sheep Shearing Championships – Intermediate

Sponsored by The Worshipful Company of Woolmen

Wednesday – Competitors to report to the Shearing Office by 11am

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.

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

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 Intermediate Shearing Competition.

Prize Money

1st Malcolm Fraser Trophy & £100, 2nd £85, 3rd £60, 4th £35, 5th £25, 6th £25

Results will contribute to the NISSA Sheep Shearing Circuit 2026.

International Sheep Shearing Championships – Senior

Sponsored by McKinty Construction

Thursday – Competitors to report to the Shearing Office by 8.30am

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.

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

Prize Money

1st Wallace Boyd Trophy & £150, 2nd £100, 3rd £70, 4th £50, 5th £40, 6th £30

Results will contribute to the NISSA Sheep Shearing Circuit 2026.

The top two shearers from Northern Ireland in this class, will qualify to compete at the Royal Highland Show – Senior Shearers Development Test on Friday 19th June 2026.

For more details on this contact carolyn@ruas.org.uk

Royal Ulster National Sheep Shearing Championship

Sponsored by Randox Health

Thursday – Competitors to report to the Shearing Office by 8.30am

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.

Moira 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.

Prize Money

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

Royal Ulster National Blade Shearing

Sponsored by Lucky Day Competitions

Thursday – Competitors to report to the Shearing Office by 8.30am

The top two Blade Shearers in this competition will represent Northern Ireland in the Six Nations Blade Shearing Championships to be held at Balmoral Show on Friday 15th May.

Prize money

1st £100, 2nd £75, 3rd £50, 4th £25

Royal Ulster National Wool Handling Competition

Sponsored by Ulster Wool

Thursday – Competitors to report to the Shearing Office by 8.30am

The top two Wool Handlers in this competition will represent Northern Ireland in the Six Nations Wool Handling Championships to be held at the Royal Bath & West Show (29 – 30 May).

Prize money

1st £100 2nd £75, 3rd £50, 4th £25

Open Blade Shearing Championship

Sponsored by Lucky Day Competitions

Friday – Competitors to report to the Shearing Office by 8am

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.

Wool Handling Competition – Novice

Sponsored by Lucky Day Competitions

Friday – Competitors to report to the Shearing Office by 8.00am

Heats – 3 sheep per competitor or any number of sheep predetermined by Chief Steward.

Final – 4 sheep per competitor or any number of sheep predetermined by Chief Steward.

Prize Money

1st £100, 2nd £80, 3rd £60, 4th £40, 5th £25, 6th £15

Special Prize £25 – for the best Northern Ireland novice wool handler provided by NISSA.

Ulster Wool have kindly provided the T-Shirts for the resident wool workers.

Wool Handling Competition – Open

Sponsored by Lucky Day Competitions

Friday – Competitors to report to the Shearing Office by 8am

Heats – 5 sheep per competitor or any number of sheep predetermined by Chief Steward.

Final – 7 sheep per competitor or any number of sheep predetermined by Chief Steward.

“The Mooreview Jug” for the winner of the Open Wool Handling Competition. Presented by Jayne Harkness-Bones

Special Prize £25 – for the best Northern Ireland open wool handler kindly provided by NISSA.

Ulster Wool have kindly provided the T-Shirts for the resident wool workers.

Prize money

1st £200, 2nd £165, 3rd £150, 4th £140, 5th £130, 6th £120

Six Nations Shearing Championships – 2026

The Balmoral Show will host the Six Nations Blade Championships on Friday, 15th May. **Competitors should report to the Shearing Office on arrival.**

The NI Team for the Blade Shearing will consist of the top two competitors in the National Blade Shearing Competition.

Northern Ireland team selection for the upcoming Six Nations competitions will be based on the following results from Balmoral Show 2026:

Machine Shearing Team – top two open shearers, with the competition taking place at the Royal Welsh Show, 20–23 July 2026.

Wool Handling Team will consist of the top two competitors, with the competition taking place at the Royal Bath & West Show, 29–30 May 2026.

Wool Handling Development Test – 3 Way Scotland / Wales / Northern Ireland

Sponsored by Ulster Wool

Friday – Competitors to report to the Shearing Office by 1.30pm

Each team will consist of one Novice and one Open.

Prize Money

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

International Sheep Shearing Championships – Open

Sponsored by Ulster Wool Growers

Saturday – Competitors to report to the Shearing Office by 8.00am

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.

The top two Shearers in this class will represent Northern Ireland in the Six Nations Blade Shearing Championships to be held at the Royal Welsh Show (20-23 July).

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

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.

Prize Money

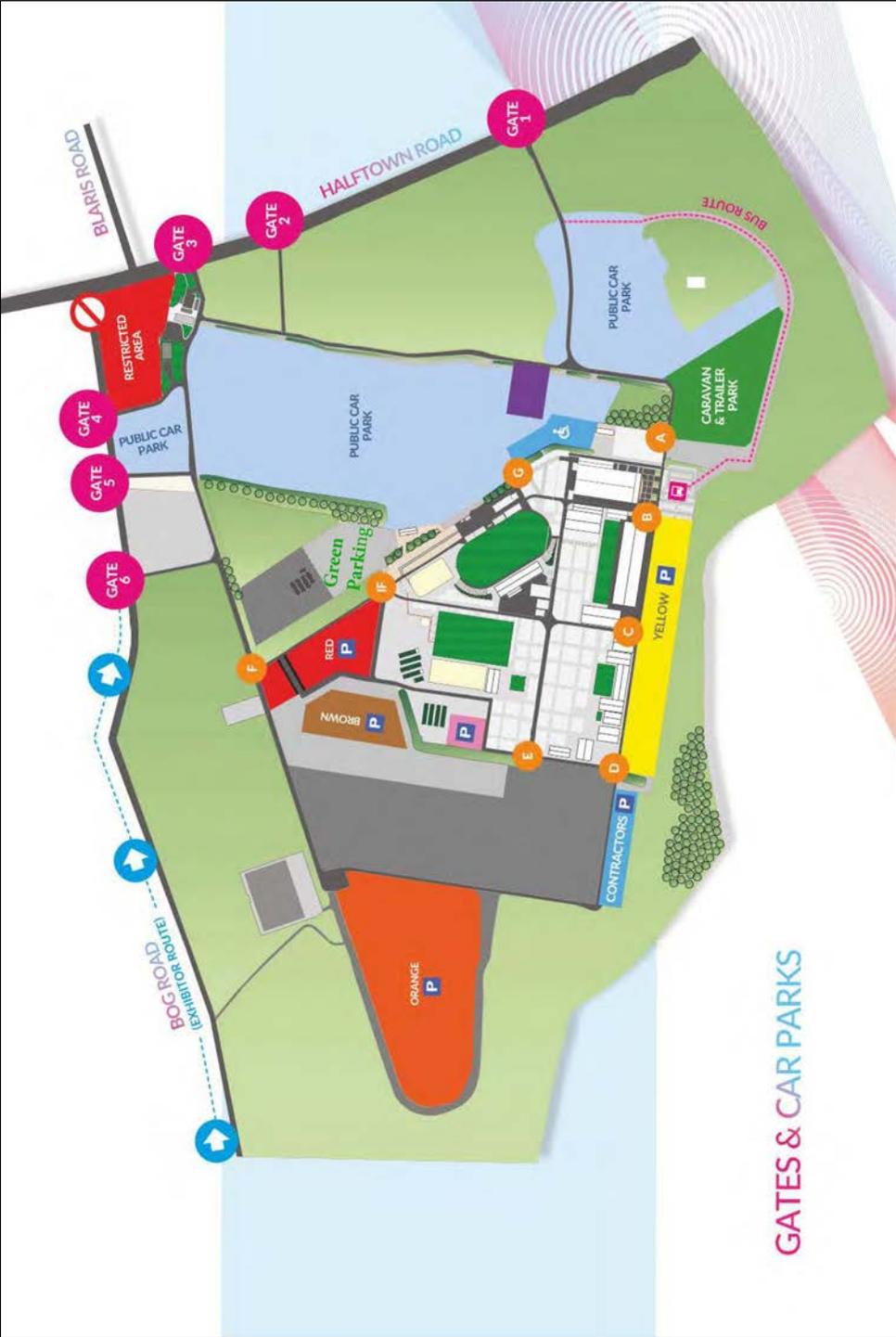
1st Gartree Trophy Presented by Robert Harkness & £600, 2nd £350, 3rd £300, 4th £250, 5th £200, 6th £175

Results will contribute to the NISSA Sheep Shearing Circuit 2026.

The Open Shearing Championships is part of the Welsh and English Circuit 2026.

BALMORAL SHOW EXHIBITOR ROUTE MAP





GATES & CAR PARKS

BALMOREAL FOR 2026



**BALMORAL
SHOW 2026**
13TH - 16TH MAY



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