

Media Releases July 2017

Tough shearing tour ends in Wales - July 31, 2017

The New Zealand shearing team has ended an otherwise triumphant year for its sport with a disappointing end to its month-long tour of Scotland, England and Wales.

Shearing on the CP Wool UK tour's last day at the Corwen Shears in Denbighshire on Saturday, new World champion John Kirkpatrick and former champion Rowland Smith were beaten by Wales for the fourth time in a row and also had to be content with the minor placings in the Corwen Shears Open final, which over the years has been particularly happy hunting-ground for New Zealand's best.

Winning the test by three points, Welsh combination Gwion Lloyd Evans and Richard Jones took Wales to its first 4-0 series win.

New Zealand has still not won a series in Wales since 2011, but Wales has never won a test match in New Zealand.

Smith, the reigning Golden Shears and New Zealand Open champion, also just missed-out on one last individual title on the tour, finishing runner-up in the Corwen Shears Open final. He was just three-tenths of a point from winner Matthew Evans, while defending champion Kirkpatrick was fifth after copping a maximum 5pts penalty during the six-man final over 20 sheep each.

New Zealand faced seven tests on tour, claiming two wins, both against England after starting the tour with a narrow loss to Scotland at the Lochearnhead Shears on July 1.

Smith, who won his World title in Ireland in 2014, shored in finals of four of the five Open all-nations events in which he competed on tour and won in the second outing, at the Lakeland Shears in Cumbria, on July 8. Three days later he was runner-up to brother and Cornwall-based shearer and farmer Matthew Smith in the Great Yorkshire Show Open final.

Kirkpatrick, who in Invercargill in February won the World Championships final at his fourth attempt, shored in six of the seven Open all-nations finals on tour, and won at the Lampeter Shears in Wales on July 2, when test-match newcomer Jack Fagan was runner-up.

Fagan was substituting for Smith who had his biggest moment of the month when he shored a World record 644 strongwool ewes in eight hours last Monday, in Cornwall.. Taking a two-show break from the tour he broke the previous record, set in New Zealand in February, by 39 sheep.

The highlight of the year was New Zealand's record at the 40th anniversary World Championships in Invercargill, with a cleansweep of the individual and teams shearing and woolhandling titles. Kirkpatrick teamed with Southland shearer Nathan Stratford to win the teams title, and Gisborne pair Joel Henare and Maryanne Baty were first and second in the woolhandling final and also claimed the teams woolhandling title.

Canterbury pair Tony Dobbs and Phil Oldfield were also second and third in the individual blade shearing final, and runners-up in the teams event.

Smith also won the Southland All Nations final in Invercargill, one of 26 wins in 30 finals during the season, and also featured in a New Zealand double in the Transtasman tests at the Golden Shears in Msterton, teaming with Stratford and Rakaia's Tony Coster to beat Australia in the shearing event, after Henare and Taihape's Sheree Alabaster had won the woolhandling test.

Results from the Corwen Shears on Saturday, July 29:

CP Wool Shearing Sports New Zealand UK Tour Test Series (20 sheep): Wales 96.9pts (Gwion Lloyd Evans 12min 31sec, 47.15pts; Richard Jones 13min 43sec, 49.75pts) beat New Zealand 99.9pts (Rowland Smith 13min 6sec, 49.85pts; John Kirkpatrick 13min 11sec, 50.5pts), by 3pts. Wales win the series 4-0.

Corwen Shears Open final (20 sheep): Matthew Evans (Wales) 12min 8sec, 47.4pts, 1; Rowland Smith (New Zealand) 12min 11sec, 47.7pts, 2; Gareth Daniel (Wales) 12min 42sec, 49.75pts, 3; Richard Jones (Wales) 13min 36sec, 50.3pts, 4; John Kirkpatrick (New Zealand) 12min 39sec, 54.6pts, 5; Gwion Lloyd Evans (Wales) 11min 55sec, 54.85pts, 6.



New Zealand shearer Rowland Smith during his World Record of 644 strongwool ewes in eight hours at Trefranck Farm, St Clether, Cornwall, on July 24, 2017.

PHOTO: Simon Brock

For further information:

Doug Laing
Media Officer
Shearing Sports New Zealand
Ph 0274-690644
media@shearingsports.co.nz

Green light for World shearing record - July 24, 2017

The New Zealand shearing team has ended an otherwise triumphant year for its sport with a disappointing end to its month-long tour of Scotland, England and Wales.

Shearing on the CP Wool UK tour's last day at the Corwen Shears in Denbighshire on Saturday, new World champion John Kirkpatrick and former champion Rowland Smith were beaten by Wales for the fourth time in a row and also had to be content with the minor placings in the Corwen Shears Open final, which over the years has been particularly happy hunting-ground for New Zealand's best.

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For	further	information:
Doug		Laing
Media		Officer
Shearing	Sports	Zealand
Ph	New	0274-690644
media@shearingsports.co.nz		

Weighing game as Rowland Smith prepares for shearing record bid - July 23, 2017

Time's zeroing-in for champion New Zealand shearer Rowland Smith who is now in a weighing-game ahead of a World record bid startin in the UK early on Monday night(NZST).

Shearing at Trefranck Farm in Cornwall, England, Smith starts his bid for the World eight-hour solo strongwool ewes record at 6pm Monday (NZST), but with a hurdle to overcome first as World Sheep Shearing Record Society conduct a pre-sheer weigh overnight (Monday morning NZST) to establish the sheep, drawn from four properties and aged at least 18 months, are carrying enough wool.

Pre-crutched over the last week to conform with the rules, 10 sheep will be shorn and must average at least 3kg of wool.

While organisers expect no problems, the attempt could be abandoned if the wool-weight does not meet the requirement. The judges, drawn from three countries, can allow up to four sample-shears and wool-weighs.

Shearing four two-hour runs separated by a lunch break of an hour and two "smoko" breaks of 30 minutes each, Hawke's Bay shearer Smith, winner of 26 Open finals in New Zealand last summer, aims to break the record of 605 by the time the bid ends at 4am Tuesday (NZST).

He needs an average of almost 76 an hour, or one ewe caught, shorn and despatched every 47 seconds, to beat the record set by Southland gun Leon Samuels in a woolshed north of Gore on February 20 this year, beating the previous mark set six years earlier by just two sheep.

There will be live-streaming www.agricamera.co.uk/sheep-shearing-live-stream/



Sheep being mustered for New Zealand shearer Rowland Smith's World record attempt at Trefranck Farm, Cornwall, England, starting at 6pm Monday (NZST), 7am Monday UK time.

For further information:

Doug Laing
Media Officer
Shearing Sports New Zealand
Ph 0274-690644
media@shearingsports.co.nz

World Shearing Record - July 20, 2017

Editor's and broadcaster's note: New Zealand shearer Rowland Smith makes an attempt on the World eight-hour strongwool ewe-shearing record in the UK at 6pm Monday New Zealand time (7am UK time). It finishes at 4am Tuesday NZT. Updates will be on [Shearing Sports New Zealand facebook page](#) and the facebook page Rowland Smith's 8-Hour Strongwool World Ewe Shearing Record.

Full story follows...

New Zealand shearer and former World champion Rowland Smith is preparing for one of the busiest times of his life with a World record attempt and two test matches against Wales in just six days.

Smith will skip the first two of the four CP Wool New Zealand team tests against Wales on Friday and Saturday to prepare for his attempt on the solo eight-hours strongwool ewes record of 605 sheep in Cornwall on Monday, but will then join black singlets teammate and fellow Hawke's Bay shearer John

Kirkpatrick for the third test two days later at the Royal Welsh Show and the last match at the Corwen Shears on July 29.

Such a busy lifestyle is nothing new to the 30-year-old father-of-two, soon to be three, who grew-up around Ruawai in Northland and who in addition to shearing for a living runs about 30 hectares at Maraekakaho, near Hastings, with wife and fellow shearing record breaker Ingrid (nee Baynes), from Wairoa.

In the space of six months from October to April, he shored in more than half the 63 Open shearing competitions that were held throughout New Zealand, reaching 30 finals and winning 26.

He also shored for New Zealand in tests in Australia and in Masterton, and the NZ Rural Games Speedshear in Palmerston North, where he was also named inaugural Rural Sportsperson of the Year, a few months after being acclaimed as a Master Shearer by Shearing Sports New Zealand.

Crowned World Champion in Ireland in 2014, he just missed out on a place in the New Zealand team to defend his title, but still beat the best in the World in the open-entry Southland All Nations final during the 2017 World Championships in Invercargill in February.

It was one of 19 consecutive wins he amassed in just over 10 weeks to the end of the season at Easter, from Invercargill in the south to Auckland in the north. It included an unprecedented cleansweep of the Golden Shears and New Zealand Open titles and the events' two all-breeds championships, the PGG Wrightson National and the NZ Shears Circuit.

Just days after winning in Invercargill he won on successive days at Gore and at Pukekohe, where he posted his 100th Open-class wins, in a career that started in the Spring of 2006 after a successful lower grades career which included winning the Golden Shears Junior and Senior titles.

He completed the season with another inter-island dash, winning two days apart at the Royal Easter Show in Auckland and the Mackenzie Shears in Fairlie, South Canterbury.

In January 2011 Rowland Smith shored 562 as he and brother Doug shored a two-stand ewes record of 1066 at Waitara Station, between Napier and Taupo, where third brother Matthew Smith had shored an eight-hour solo record of 578 a year earlier. In 2009 Ingrid Smith shored 470 lambs in eight hours as she and mother Marg, of Wairoa, set a two-stand women's record of 903.

It's Matthew Smith who has set the scene for Monday's record bid. Settling in Cornwall on the family farm of wife Pippa he on July 26 last year, using sheep mainly from the property, launched the first World shearing record bid in the Northern Hemisphere and claimed the ultimate prize of a new solo nine-hours strongwool ewes record. He shored 731, beating the previous record of 721 shored by fellow Hawke's Bay shearer Rodney Sutton more than nine years earlier.

The eight-hour record being attempted by Rowland Smith on Monday had also gone unbroken for almost six years after Te Kuiti shearer Stacey Te Huia shored 603 in December 2010.

Southland shearer Leon Samuels set the new mark of 605 with successive two-hour runs of 149, 153, 151 and 152 at Argyle Station in Northern Southland on February 20 this year.

Smith will have to shear an average of at least 151.5 per run (75.75 an hour) to break the record.

That's an average of 47.52 seconds a sheep, but given that 5-7 seconds elapse switching off, despatching the shorn sheep, catching the next and switching-on again, the target average shearing time is under 42 seconds a sheep.

The sheep must average over 3kg of wool each, which will be tested in a pre-record sample shear on Sunday (UK time), the record being overseen by four World Sheep Shearing Records Society referees

from three countries. The referees are Eddie Archer, from South Africa, Welsh officials Martyn David and Arwyn Jones, and New Zealand team manager and qualified judge Johnny Fraser, of North Otago.

A special feature will be that unlike with the larger flocks of New Zealand, the Romney sheep will be drawn from four properties up to an hour apart, although about two thirds are from Trefranck Farm.

In the planning for a year, costs include a records society single-stand challenge fee of \$US1800 (currently \$NZD2466), but with considerable other costs in feeding an army of helpers and the "shout" for the team at the end of the day.

Record attempt spokesman and shearing commentator Huw Condron says they're starting to gather in Cornwall and will include Ingrid Smith, Doug Smith, woolhandlers Lianna Wharerau, of Hastings, and Gwennan Paewai, of Wales, "gear man" Ants Bryant, of Taumarunui, major sponsor Heiniger Australasian shearing machinery research and development manager Selwyn Williams, and shearer's dad Allan and wife Lyn, and in-laws Colin and Marg Baynes.

Several New Zealand names are among the sponsors and supporters, including meat company Affco, Levno/Ensol dairy and fuel tanks, livestock identification tag specialist Allflex, outdoor clothing specialist Swazi, Hastings shearing contractors Shearing NZ and principle Colin Watson Paul, Dannevirke butchery The Meat Company, and Hawke's Bay farmers Lloyd Holloway, of Waitara Station, and John Sorensen, of Maraekakaho.

The British Wool Marketing Board are also major supporters, with farm fencing specialist McVeigh Parker, animal nutrition specialist Biocell Agri, and North Devon farm bike distributors OHG Quads Can Am also involved.

Funds raised on the day through donations from spectators will go to the Little Harbour Children's Hospice in nearby St Austell.

The record attempt will start on Monday at 7am (6pm NZST) and will end at 5pm (4am Tuesday NZST), with Smith taking mid-morning and mid-afternoon breaks of 30 minutes each and an hour for lunch, in a routine based on the standard eight-hour day in New Zealand woolsheds.

Te Kuiti shearer Jack Fagan, recent winner of the French Open, the 2015 Royal Welsh Open champion and son of Kiwi shearing legend Sir David Fagan, will substitute for Rowland Smith in the two tests against Wales on Friday at Cothi and Lampeter on Saturday.



Rowland Smith shearing in competition in New Zealand
in February 2016

For further information:
Doug Laing
Media Officer
Shearing Sports New Zealand
Ph 0274-690644
media@shearingsports.co.nz

Jack Fagan wins French shearing title - July 16, 2017

New Zealand shearer Jack Fagan has won the French championships All-Nations Open final.

The event was held at Martel in southwest France, and about 190km south of of central France town Le Dorat, where the next World shearing and woolhandling championships will be staged in 2019.

Shearing the 20 sheep in 12min 7sec, Fagan, from Te Kuiti, finished more than a sheep ahead of the rest in the four-man final, and overall claimed the title by a margin of 4.55pts from defending champion and France World championships representative Loic Leygonie, of Martel, who has also shorn regularly in New Zealand summers since 2011.

Third was Christophe Riffaud, the France World championships committee chairman and who recently was one of a pair who established a French two-stand shearing record of 1328 in nine hours, while fourth place went to Pierre Grancher, of Sisteron, and who in 2015 was runner-up in the New Zealand crossbred lambshearing championships Intermediate final at the Winton A and P Show.

Son of former shearing great Sir David Fagan and a former top lower grades competitor, Jack Fagan had his biggest win in the Royal Welsh Open two years ago, and in February he won the Open Speedshear during the World Championships and Southland All Nations Championships in Invercargill.

Another feature of the championships in Martel was the Six Nations blade shearing championships win by Wales World championships pair Elfed Jackson and Gareth Owen. It was a triumph in big terms after they were beaten by fellow Six Nations teams Ireland and England when the three countries were fourth, fifth and sixth in the World Championships teams blade shearing final five months ago.

Result:

French Shearing Championships Open final (20 sheep): Jack Fagan (New Zealand) 12min 7sec, 46.2pts, 1; Loic Leygonie (France) 13min 17sec, 50.75pts, 2; Christophe Riffaud (France) 12min 41sec, 53.6pts, 3; Pierre Grancher (France) 13min 23sec, 59.1pts, 4.



Finalists in the French Shears Open final won on by Te Kuiti shearer Jack Fagan at Martel in southwest France on Friday. From left Pierre Grancher(fourth), Christophe Riffaud(third), Jack Fagan, and runner-up Loic Leygonie.

For further information:
Doug Laing
Media Officer
Shearing Sports New Zealand
Ph 0274-690644
media@shearingsports.co.nz

NZ shearers claim 2-0 series win over England - July 13, 2017

The New Zealand shearing team has completed a 2-0 series win over England with victory in the second match at the Great Yorkshire Show in Harrogate early today(NZ Ttime).

Continuing from a first-test win at the Lakeland Shears in Cumbria at the weekend, the CP Wool New Zealand team of new World champion John Kirkpatrick and 2014 champion Rowland Smith, both of Hawke's Bay, beat the England team of Adam Berry and Antony Rooke by 2.1pts.

Berry however claimed unindividual honours, his fastest time enabling him to head-off Smith by just 0.05pts, the black-singlet pair effectively winning the match on better quality.

But all four in the test match had to doff their hats to Smith's brother, Cornwall farmer and World Record-holding shearer Matthew Smith, who won the six-man Great Yorkshire Show All-Nations Open final.

Shearing the fastest time of 14min 9sec for the 20 sheep Matthew Smith headed a quinella for the Smith brothers, who are from Ruawai in Northland but have based much of their shearing in Hawke's Bay.

Matthew Smith beat Welsh shearer Gareth Daniel off the board by 13 seconds, and Rowland Smith by about a full sheep and a final margin of one point on the scoreboard. Berry was third and Kirkpatrick fourth.

The performances extended New Zealand's good record at Harrogate, where the Kiwis also beat England last year, when Kirkpatrick also won the Great Yorkshire final.

The test was the third of seven on the Shearing Sports New Zealand CP Wool UK tour, the first having ended in a narrow defeat by Scotland at the Lochearnhead Shears on July 1.

With a 2-1 tour record, the Kiwis now have a competition break before a four-test series against Wales starting at Cothi on July 21 and ending at Corwen eight days later.

The remaining tests will sandwich Smith's July 24 bid on the World eight-hour strongwool ewes record of 605, at Trefranck Farm, where Matthew Smith and his wife farm near St Clether, Cornwall, and where

Matthew Smith shore a nine-hour record of 731 in July last year.

Results:

CP Wool New Zealand team tour test match (20 sheep) New Zealand 103.4pts (Rowland Smith 13min 36sec, 50pts; John Kirkpatrick 14min 28sec, 53.4pts) beat England 105.5pts (Adam Berry 13min 21sec, 49.95pts; Antony Rooke 14min 22sec, 55.55pts). New Zealand won the series against England 2-0.

Great Yorkshire Show All Nations Open final (20 sheep): Matthew Smith (Ruawai NZ/St Clether England) 14min 9sec, 56.95pts, 1; Rowland Smith (New Zealand) 14min 49sec, 57.95pts, 2; Adam Berry (England) 14min 53sec, 58.65pts, 3; John Kirkpatrick (New Zealand) 15min 11sec, 58.85pts, 4; Antony Rooke (England) 15min 20sec, 59.1pts, 5; Gareth Daniel (Wales) 14min 22sec, 61.3pts, 6.



New Zealand brothers Matthew (left) and Rowland Smith after finishing first and second in the Great Yorkshire Show All Nations Open shearing final at Harrogate, England today (NZ time). From Northland, they've both been based in New Zealand, although Matthew Smith now farms in Cornwall where he last year shored a World record of 731 ewes in nine hours. Rowland Smith will attempt the eight-hour record of 605 on July 24.



The New Zealand shearing team, from left: Shearer Roswland Smith, of Hastings, manager Johnny Fraser, of North Otago, and John Kirkpatrick, of Napier, after completing a 2-0 CP Wool NZ Tour shearing series win over England at the Great Yorkshire Show. The Kiwis won the first test at Cockermouth, Cumbria, on Saturday.

For further information:

Doug Laing

Media Officer

Shearing Sports New Zealand

Ph 0274-690644

media@shearingsports.co.nz