

## 2017 Results

## Annual Challenge

## 23<sup>rd</sup> International *Back to Back* Wool Challenge

Promoting Wool World Wide  
Fund Raising for Cancer Research

PLACE	TEAM	2017 TIME	PREVIOUS BEST TIME
<b>FIRST</b>	Groenewoud Netherlands/Germany Swalmen, The Netherlands	4hr 45min 53sec	5 hr 01 min 28 sec 2016
<b>NEW GUINNESS WORLD RECORD</b>			
<b>NEW MAINLAND EUROPE RECORD</b>		<b>NEW THE NETHERLANDS RECORD.</b>	
<b>SECOND</b>	Spinning Knitwits-Newcastle, Patterson, NSW, Australia	6 hr 24 min 27 sec	5hr 43min 26sec 2004
<b>THIRD</b>	San Diego County SpinnersBonita, California, USA	9 hr 9 min 37 sec	8 hr 9 min 5 sec 2015 <b>USA RECORD</b>
<b>FORTH</b>	Poly Westers, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada	10 hr 37 min 00sec	8hr 35min 27sec 2013
<b>FIFTH</b>	<i>Shabby Sheep</i> Sault Ste. Marie, Canada	13 hr 02min 23sec.	New Team
<b>SIXTH</b>	<i>Fibre Frenzy</i> , Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada	Unfinished	New Team

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### From sheep's back to theirs in World Record Time

On their sixth attempt, a Dutch team of handspinners & knitters & a blade shearer shored a sheep, handspun and knitted a jumper **in a world record time of 4 hours 45 minutes & 53 seconds** to win this year's 23<sup>rd</sup> International *Back to Back* Wool Challenge.

**The Groenewoud** team, competing in Swalmen, The **Netherlands** broke the Guinness World Record, previously held for the past 12 years by **Australia's Merriwa Jumbucks**, NSW and originally held by the Shetland Isles, Scotland.

The Australian team was hosted by **Tocal Agricultural College** at Paterson in New South Wales. The **Newcastle Knitwits**, the final team in the world to compete, gained second place in a time of **6 hours 24 minutes 27 seconds**.

Australia competed against teams from USA, across Canada and The Netherlands.

Each team consisted of a **blade shearer**, a country of origin **sheep** and **seven handspinners** (with spinning wheels) and **knitters** who follow the identical Challenge rules and pattern to knit **the adult size jumper**.

The world record team shored a Swifter sheep, spun on Ashford, Louet, Walther & Schwarzenstein spinning wheels, and the team was co-ordinated by the Guinness World Record holder of the world's fastest hand knitter, Miriam Tegels.

**The Back to Back teams** promote wool world wide in their own public venues by blade shearing wool from their sheep's back then handspinning & knitting the Challenge jumper for their backs.

Substantial *fun*ds are also raised for **Cancer Research** World Wide.

**Results:-**

**First :- Groenewoud Netherlands/Germany Swalmen, The Netherlands**  
**4 hours 45 minutes 53 seconds.**  
**Guinness World Record**

**Second:- Knitwits, Tocal Agricultural College, Paterson, NSW, Australia**  
**6 hours 24 minutes 27 seconds.**

**Third:- San Diego County Spinners, Bonita, California, USA 9 hours 9 minutes 37 seconds** .

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**New Guinness World Record Time :-**

**4 hours 45 minutes 53 seconds ~ Groenewoud ~  
Swalmen ~ The Netherlands ~ 2017**