



International *Back to Back* Wool Challenge 2019

Media Release Quarter Century *Back to Back* World Wool Challenge

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For the last **twenty five years**, teams around the world have competed for the coveted, renown & famed Scottish Wool Centre's International Wool Challenge Trophy.

Foundation record holders, the Shetland Isles, to the latest **Guinness World Record holders**, Swalmen (The Netherlands), **140 individual teams** from eight different countries have competed, **seventy from Australia and twenty seven in Canada.**

From the Czech Republic to Chiba in Japan, Manitoba to Minnesota, Christchurch to Cairns, Bloemfontein to Devonport, even Merriwa to Maine, teams of handspinners & knitters gather to knit the Challenge jumper from freshly blade shorn wool racing against the clock.

The San Diego County Spinners, Bonita, California, USA were this year's winners, **breaking the USA record from just over 8 hours to just under.**

Canada gained second place, their time being 10 hours and 10 minutes also **breaking a *Back to Back* record, having competed for the past 18 years.**

A first time **New Zealand team** were third grinding out their time to almost **fifteen hours** and **The Mainely Spinners** team from Maine, USA toughed it out even further to finish in almost **sixteen hours.**

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 *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 funds are also raised for *Cancer Research* World Wide.

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2019 Results:-

First :- San Diego County Spinners, Bonita, California, USA.
7 hours 52 minutes 00 seconds. New USA Record.

Second:- PolyWesters, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada
10 hours 10 minutes 00 seconds. Record for competing for the past 18 years.



Third:- For Sheep Sake, Ashhurst, Manawatu, New Zealand.
14 hours 55 minutes 10 seconds.

For further information contact:-

International Co ordinator:-

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Guinness World Record Time :-

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

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