

MEDIA INFORMATION

Thursday 14th July 2011

THOUSANDS OF CITY WORKERS COMPLETE STANDARD CHARTERED GREAT CITY RACE IN SUPPORT OF SEEING IS BELIEVING



The streets of the City of London were transformed from a bustling financial hub into a buzzing running track tonight as nearly 5000 workers from 400 City-based firms took part in The Standard Chartered Great City Race, which was raising funds and awareness for Seeing is Believing, a global initiative that tackles avoidable blindness.

Entries for the race were more popular than ever before with the event selling out in record time, and the men's event saw a new winner with Chris Busaileh of law firm Speechly Bircham crossing the line first in a lightning fast time of 15mins 35secs, with Ben Shearer of Standard Chartered Bank in second and Paul Halford of Athletics Weekly in third.

It was a familiar story in the women's race with Emily Wicks of Punter Southall capturing the women's title for the third year in a row in a time of 16mins 50secs, with Lara Bromilow of HSBC second in 17mins 50secs and Azmera Gebrezgi third in 18mins 26secs.

Celebrating her victory Emily said, "The race is my favourite event of the year: it's always got a great crowd and atmosphere. I'm delighted to have won my third title here and definitely looking forward to coming back again next year to try for a fourth!"

Now in its seventh year the race is firmly established as the City's premier corporate running challenge, attracting all the major firms from the banking, legal, accountancy, insurance and media sectors.

Standard Chartered led the way with 400 staff taking part in the race which was started by Seeing is Believing ambassador Sir Ranulph Fiennes Bt OBE. Among the Standard

Chartered staff running were Richard Holmes, CEO Europe who ran as guide for Paralympic legend and visually impaired runner Noel Thatcher MBE.

£5 from each runner's entry was donated to Seeing is Believing (SiB) and Standard Chartered further incentivised teams to help raise funds for SiB by pledging to match all funds raised pound for pound.

Speaking at the race Sir Ranulph Fiennes said, *"When I heard the statistics around avoidable blindness I was shocked. Amazingly there are 285 million people living with blindness and visual impairment yet 80% of cases could have been prevented. Tragically one child goes blind every minute and 60% of these will go on to die within a year.*

"When I plan for an expedition I'm fortunate that I know I have all my faculties and most importantly my sight, I can't imagine having to live without sight. So to learn that 80% of visually impaired and blind people could be cured was shocking. The measures to help visually impaired people are quite simple and cost effective, a sight saving cataract operation costs just £20. Through tonight's race we hope to raise enough funds to help improve the sight of 6,500 children."

Richard Holmes, CEO Europe at Standard Chartered Bank, added: *"It has been a truly memorable evening and yet another landmark year for The Standard Chartered Great City Race with all 6,500 entries being snapped up within 8 weeks of opening. I'm sure I speak for not just our staff members but also every runner here today when I say how proud we are to get behind an event which has the ability to bring the City community together whilst raising money for such an incredible cause as Seeing is Believing."*

A full list of team and individual results can be found at the race website www.cityrace.co.uk from mid-day on Friday 15th July.

All results are provisional and subject to ratification.

Top Three Men:

Chris Busaileh - 15 minutes 35 seconds
Ben Shearer - 15 minutes 48 seconds
Paul Halford - 15 minutes 48 seconds

Top Three Women:

Emily Wicks - 16 minutes 50 seconds
Lara Bromilow - 17 minutes 50 seconds
Azmera Gebrezgi - 18 minutes 26 seconds

-Ends-

To make donations to Seeing Is Believing, follow training tips, view pictures and video please visit the race's Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/standardcharteredsgrace

For further information and hi- res visuals please contact:

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