



Thursday 3 June, 2010

LIVERPOOL LEGEND PHIL THOMPSON TURNS BACK THE CLOCK FOR THE STANDARD CHARTERED GREAT CITY RACE 2010

Former Liverpool and England legend, Phil Thompson, dusted off his football kit to take part in a one-off penalty shoot out challenge with Richard Holmes, Standard Chartered's CEO Europe, in front of hundreds of City workers today as part of the build-up to The Standard Chartered Great City Race which takes place on Thursday 15 July.

Thompson, who is both an ambassador for the 2010 Standard Chartered Great City Race and Liverpool FC – the club Standard Chartered will sponsor next season - challenged Holmes and City workers to a penalty shoot out with a difference. Linking in with the race's official 2010 community partner, Seeing is Believing (SiB) - a global initiative to help eradicate avoidable blindness – each penalty taker was blindfolded before stepping up to the spot and for each goal scored, the Bank pledged to donate enough money to provide a person with sight-preserving vitamin A tablets for a year.

On a perfect summer's day, hordes of City workers including staff from UBS, Allen and Overy, Gartmore and Investec duly lined up to take a penalty shot with over 167 penalties scored successfully beating the goalkeeper over the course of their lunch break. It was a fitting build-up to The Standard Chartered Great City Race, the City's premier corporate team running challenge, after entries closed on Tuesday in record time following a surge for the final remaining places for the 5km run over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Reflecting on the event, three-time European Cup winner, **Phil Thompson**, commented: *"These days I'm more often found behind a desk in the TV studios as a football pundit so it was a pleasure to be outside here in central London today inviting City workers to get out from behind their desks and take part in a football challenge. It's great to see nearly 400 teams and some 6,500 people have already registered to take part in the forthcoming Standard Chartered Great City Race, where all the skills and teamwork required to play football will be needed in the 5km team challenge."*



Richard Holmes, Standard Chartered CEO Europe, added: *“With the World Cup on our doorstep, today’s event was a highly topical sporting challenge and, with the fantastic weather, it’s been great at getting people away from their desks and into the spirit of the forthcoming Standard Chartered Great City Race on the 15th July. Phil played on the centre stage of English, European and International football for many years so I’m glad we were blindfolded to even out the playing field slightly. The 167 penalties scored by City workers will raise enough to fund sight-preserving vitamins for a year to 167 people through Seeing is Believing.”*

In addition to £5 of each £25 entry fee being donated directly to SiB, runners in the Standard Chartered Great City Race are invited to fundraise for SiB and will be incentivised by Standard Chartered, who will provide the highest SiB fundraiser from the race with a trip to Tanzania to experience how fundraising through the race has been put into effect. The Bank has also pledged to match all SiB donations pound-for-pound and therefore double the impact. Last year, the race generated GBP 70,000 for SiB.

-Ends-

For media accreditation, filming and interview opportunities at The Standard Chartered Great City Race 2010, please contact:

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www.cityrace.co.uk

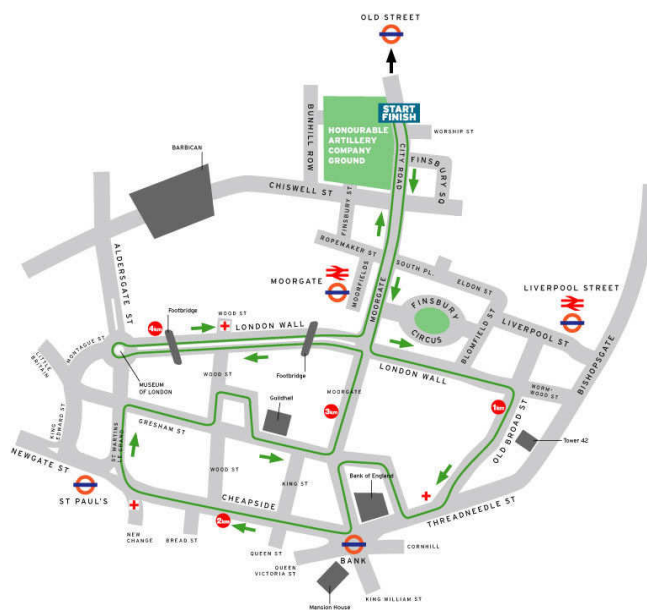
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Race Route Map:



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For more information on Standard Chartered, please visit www.standardchartered.com





About Seeing is Believing (SiB)

Seeing is Believing (SiB) is a major global public-private initiative to help tackle avoidable blindness and is a collaboration between Standard Chartered and the International Agency for Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) (registered charity, No. 1100559) along with its membership body of leading eye-care NGOs.

Started by Standard Chartered staff in 2003 as a way of celebrating the Bank's 150th anniversary, Seeing is Believing has raised over US\$17 million and impacted over 8 million people to date, including over 2.5 million who have benefited from sight restorations. The programme's latest commitment will invest a further US\$20 million by 2014 to provide comprehensive and sustainable eye care services to 20 million people in impoverished urban areas.

For more information, visit www.seeingisbelieving.org.uk