



**Press Release**  
**28<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

**ENGLAND CRICKET STAR ALASTAIR COOK OPENS THE BATTING FOR 2008 STANDARD CHARTERED GREAT CITY RACE**

England batsman, Alastair Cook, will launch the build up to this year's Standard Chartered Great City Race by setting the pace in a special Treadmill Challenge this Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April. Cook, who will shortly be in action for England against New Zealand in the first Test of the summer, will open the batting in the special running challenge as the race for this year's event on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July gets under way.

Looking to catch Cook out will be Standard Chartered's Europe CEO, **Brendon Hopkins**, who will lead his company's challenge in trying to beat Cook's time. Hopkins said, "*The Standard Chartered Great City Race is in its fourth year and is now firmly established as one of London's premier running events. We're delighted to have a sportsman of Alastair's status supporting the race and with him having so often opened England's innings' with great style he's the perfect man to get our race build-up underway.*"

*"I know he's used to sprinting between the wickets for England while scoring his centuries so I am sure I won't be able to compete with Alastair's time, but I will be sure to give it my best and hope that many city workers will follow suit over the next few months by getting out of their offices and getting active. While many top runners take part in The Standard Chartered Great City Race the aim is to create a unique event where all city staff, whatever their running ability, can get out from behind their desks and enjoy a fun run in a great team atmosphere."*

Also, in attendance on Wednesday will be Mr Motivator (aka Derrick Errol Evans) of GMTV fame, who will be on hand to spur both Alastair and Brendon on to reaching a top time. Evans, who lives in Jamaica, obtained a cult status amongst GMTV's audience in the early 1990's with his high-adrenaline fitness routines dressed in his trademark colour lycras.

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The race, which this year takes place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July at 19.15, is a unique 5k team race and is the only run of its kind which forces full road closures through the heart of the City. Last year the race attracted over 6,000 runners and its popularity is set to soar even further this year as team's from the banking, accountancy, legal, insurance and media fields all battle it out to be crowned with their coveted industry prize.

-ENDS-

**For interview opportunities and more info on Wednesday's media day please contact:**

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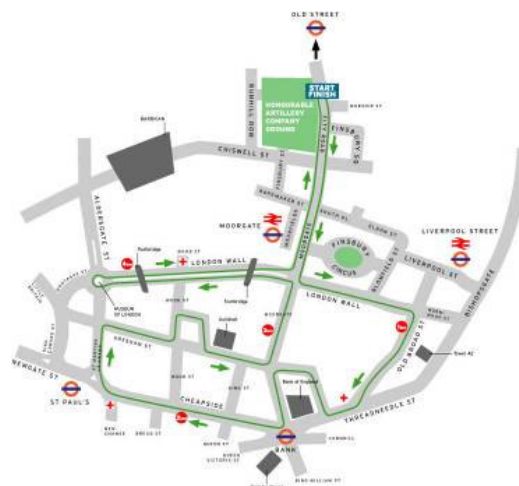
**[www.cityrace.co.uk](http://www.cityrace.co.uk)**

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**Race Route Map:**





## Standard Chartered Bank

Standard Chartered PLC, listed on both the London Stock Exchange and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, ranks among the top 25 companies in the FTSE-100 by market capitalisation. The London-headquartered group has operated for over 150 years in some of the world's most dynamic markets, leading the way in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Its income and the number of employees have more than doubled over the last five years primarily as a result of organic growth and supplemented by acquisitions.

Standard Chartered aspires to be the best international bank in its markets through leading by example to be the right partner for its stakeholders. The group now employs 73,000 people, representing 115 nationalities, in more than 1,700 branches and outlets located in over 70 countries. The bank derives more than 90 per cent of its operating income and profits from Asia, Africa and the Middle East, with balanced income derived from both Wholesale and Consumer Banking.

The group is committed to building a sustainable business over the long term and is trusted worldwide for upholding high standards of corporate governance, social responsibility, environmental protection and employee diversity. For more information, please visit: [www.standardchartered.com](http://www.standardchartered.com)



Breakthrough Breast Cancer is delighted to be the beneficiary of this fantastic event and your support is greatly appreciated.

We would like to encourage as many runners as possible to raise additional funds for this worthy cause by raising your own race sponsorship for the charity.

To find out more about fundraising for Breakthrough call 020 7025 2478 or email [running@breakthrough.org.uk](mailto:running@breakthrough.org.uk)

[www.breakthrough.org.uk](http://www.breakthrough.org.uk)

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The 2007 Standard Chartered Great City Race was the recipient of the Corporate Sponsorship Award at the 2008 Hollis Sponsorship Awards