



Press Release
1st May 2008

ENGLAND CRICKET STAR ALASTAIR COOK SETS THE PACE FOR THE 2008 STANDARD CHARTERED GREAT CITY RACE

England batsman Alastair Cook set a blistering time of 3 minutes and 50 seconds as part of The Standard Chartered Great City Race 'Treadmill Challenge' which was set up to kick-start this year's event and encourage city workers to get in shape ahead of the run on Thursday 17th July. Cook appeared at Standard Chartered's new global head office in the City along with their European Chief Executive Brendon Hopkins and Mr Motivator, supporter of the race's official charity partner, Breakthrough Breast Cancer. The 5k run, now in its fourth year, passes by some of London's most important landmarks including the London Stock Exchange and St Paul's Cathedral.

Cook's time however was only good enough to tie with Standard Chartered employee and keen runner Jenny Lundgren as they both came in at an impressive 3 minutes and 50 seconds. **Cook** commented, *"It is a great pleasure to be here today in the heart of London's financial hub to launch The Standard Chartered Great City Race. Although cricketers are now fitter than they have ever been I wasn't able to beat Jenny but I am still delighted to be able to match her time. She is obviously an excellent runner and I hope our times will give city workers the encouragement they need to get up from behind their desks and get involved."*

Brendon Hopkins, CEO Europe, Standard Chartered Bank, added, *"I am delighted to welcome both Alastair and Mr Motivator here today to our new office to launch what will certainly be a bigger and better race than ever before. Our sponsorship of Alastair perfectly reflects the bank's commitment to partnership and teamwork as well as providing us with fantastic opportunities for staff engagement as we have witnessed today. I know Alastair must be tremendously busy with the first test match of the season only two weeks away and we are very grateful that he has taken time out of his schedule to visit us today."*

Mr Motivator, sporting his trademark bright coloured lycras, was on-hand at the 'Treadmill Challenge' to provide fitness tips and cheer on the runners.

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As a supporter of the official charity partner, Breakthrough Breast Cancer, he's encouraging runners in this year's Standard Chartered Great City Race to raise vital funds for Breakthrough. The charity needs to raise at least £25 million each year for the next three years to support its vital research, campaigning and education work.

The race, which this year takes place on Thursday 17th 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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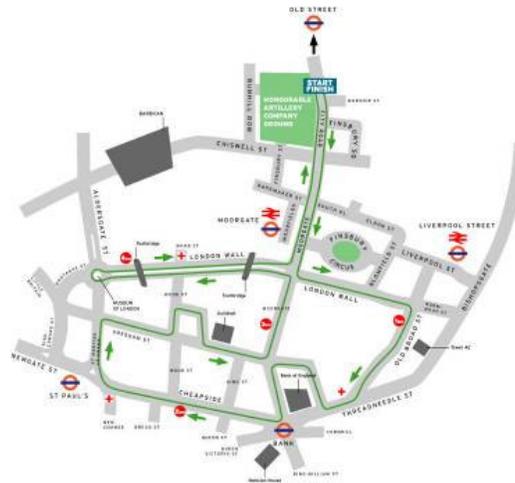
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Race Route Map:



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



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

Breakthrough Breast Cancer is the UK's leading charity committed to fighting breast cancer through research, campaigning and education.



Over 44,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer each year and it claims the lives of more than 1,000 women every month.

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 2483 or email running@breakthrough.org.uk

www.breakthrough.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 1062636



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

