

News release

Executive Questers celebrate raising £50,000 for Leicestershire charities

2 November 2012

More than a dozen Leicestershire people who raised more than £50,000 for the hospice LOROS and prostate cancer charity PROSTaid last night celebrated at the awards ceremony for the 2012 Grant Thornton Executive Quest.

The Quest has seen people from business and other walks of life conquer self-imposed challenges in aid of the charities. With several quests still to be completed, the money raised is expected to grow.

At the ceremony last night [November 1] at Leicester's Athena, all the participants were invited on stage to be thanked for their exploits.

Two awards were also made:

- **Most Money Raised** - Hinckley & Rugby Building Society and Market Harborough building society bosses Chris White and Mark Robinson
- **Most Imaginative Quest** – De Montfort University vice-chancellor Dominic Shellard

Chris White, from Hinckley & Rugby, and Mark Robinson, from Market Harborough, raised more than £6,000 on a circuit of the six building society HQs in Leicestershire. They used unusual transport on the day-long trip, including a milk float, horse-drawn carriage, steam powered car, canal boat and tandem.

Dominic Shellard is completing his quest on November 7 when he aims to lead more than 5,000 people in a mass flash mob dance outside DMU – setting a new world record.

Grant Thornton partner Chris Frostwick hosted the ceremony and said: "Our congratulations go to all those who took on challenges this year. You have raised a lot of money for two great charities and Grant Thornton, LOROS and PROSTaid are very grateful."

In total, the Quest has now raised more than £210,000 for PROSTaid and LOROS since the annual challenge was established in 2010.

The other questers whose achievements were applauded at the ceremony were:

- Richard Everard of Everards Brewery, who cycled 190 miles beside the River Lot in France
- Dennis Kent from DRK Innovative Management. In October, Dennis did aerobatics in a light aircraft above Leicestershire
- Arch Deacon of Loughborough David Newman, who memorised the gospel of St Mark and recited it in five churches across Leicestershire within 48 hours
- Leicester Mercury editor Richard Bettsworth and publisher David Simms who trained respectively with the Leicester Tigers and Leicester City
- Mark Dunkley of Harvey Ingram Shakespeares who this month is to walk from the Northampton Saints ground to the Leicester Tigers' Welford Road stadium
- Tom Shepherd of NFU Mutual who ran the London Kilomathon, a distance of 26.2 kilometres, despite only taking up running this year
- Mark Sherwin, from Sherwin Hall Kitchens, who completed the Leicester Marathon in October
- Trevor Shaw from Grant Thornton, who walked the 100 mile Leicestershire Round in four days
- Paul Hancock from Grant Thornton, who flew to 12,000 feet for his first (and, he says, last) skydive
- Nigel Balme from Berkeley Insurance and Leicester Tigers' Peter Wheeler – who are yet to complete their challenges.

Leicester Tiger Matt Cornwell was the guest speaker, describing his biggest challenge – supporting his friend and fellow England under 21 player Matt Hampson who was paralysed after a training accident. Matt talked about the challenge of funding his friend's round the clock care and establishing the Matt Hampson Foundation to help others who suffer serious injury in sport.

Matt told the questers: "What the Executive Quest and you do is absolutely amazing and long may it continue."

Alex Gamble, corporate fundraiser at Leicestershire hospice LOROS, said: "Everyone who took on a challenge has stepped outside of their comfort zones, and their efforts mean so much to LOROS and its patients. Thank you to Grant Thornton and to all those who have taken part."

Rob Banner, a founder of prostate cancer charity PROSTaid, said: "It has been super to hear all the wonderful things that have been done for the charities. We really do appreciate it because we can only do the work we do with such support."

-ENDS-

Photos:

Executive Quest 1: (l-r) Leicester Tiger Matt Cornwell with award winners Mark Robinson (Market Harborough Building Society) and Chris White (Hinckley & Rugby BS), and Chris Frostwick of Grant Thornton

Executive Quest 2: (l-r, front row) Chris Frostwick (Grant Thornton), Chris White (Hinckley & Rugby BS), Mark Robinson (Market Harborough BS), Mark Dunkley (Harvey Ingram Shakespeares), Archdeacon David Newman, (middle row) Tom Shepherd (NFU Mutual), Dennis Kent (DRK Innovative Management), Trevor Shaw (Grant Thornton), (back row) Richard Bettsworth (Leicester Mercury), Paul Hancock (Grant Thornton), Alex Gamble (LOROS), Rob Banner (PROSTaid), Tanya Edwards and Matt Dummigan (on behalf of Dominic Shellard of DMU)

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LOROS

LOROS, the Leicestershire and Rutland Hospice, is a charity whose aim is to enhance the quality of life of patients with Cancer, progressive neurological conditions and end stage Heart, Renal and Respiratory failure for whom curative treatment is no longer possible.

Over 2,500 patients access our services each year. LOROS services include:

- • An In-patient unit of 31 beds
- • A Palliative Day Therapy Unit
- • A Counselling Service for patients and their families
- • Lymphoedema Clinics
- • Medical Outpatients Clinics
- • Complementary Therapy Clinics
- • A Community Nurse Specialist Team
- • Family Support Services
- • Chaplaincy

All of these services are provided free to patients and their families. LOROS needs to raise a minimum of £4 million annually to fund these services and to provide development. The Charity relies on the support of the local community and businesses in order to raise these vital funds.

www.loros.com

PROSTaid

PROSTaid are a group of volunteers who have been affected by Prostate Cancer, founded originally in 2004 now an independent registered charity (No 1116935) with Trustees and a Management Committee. They offer local support, information, befriending and awareness of Prostate Cancer. And also fund two Prostate Cancer specialist nurses, one at the point of diagnosis and one working in the community giving palliative care for local men with advanced prostate cancer, the very first nurse in the UK! In addition they fund new treatment equipment for local hospitals. The Trustees are members of University Hospitals of Leicester Urological Faculty, patients who have been affected by Prostate Cancer and local professionals who bring the required skills to the Charity.

www.prostaid.co.uk