

**** UNDER STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL 00.01 TUESDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2016 ****

Sir Steve Redgrave and Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff MBE set to lead 'Clash of the Titans' teams for Sport Relief 2016



Today the BBC and Comic Relief announce that five-time Olympic champion rower Sir Steve Redgrave and cricket legend and broadcaster Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff MBE as the team captains for the return of the hugely popular 'Clash of the Titans' for Sport Relief. Redgrave and Flintoff will each captain a team of celebrities as they go head to head in a number of Olympic sporting challenges at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park as part of the Sport Relief Night of TV on Friday 18th March.

Sir Steve Redgrave is recognised as one of the greatest British sportsmen of all time. With gold medals at five successive Olympic Games, three Commonwealth Games gold medals and nine world championships under his belt he is more than qualified to lead his Titans team.

Sir Steve says "Winning gold medals at the Olympic Games was one thing, leading my team to victory in Clash of the Titans is another matter altogether. Freddie Flintoff, bring it on".

Freddie Flintoff is a household name and synonymous with English cricket. The England all-rounder played a major role in the 2005 home Ashes victory over Australia and is no stranger to captaincy having led the England team during his international career. Freddie also captains a team on the sports-based comedy panel show A League Of Their Own.

Fun-loving and competitive, Freddie says "I took part in Clash of the Titans last time but we were robbed under John Bishop's leadership. This time I'm back and I'm not leaving without that trophy."

The two rival teams will be made up of famous faces from the worlds of entertainment and sport. With the 'Clash of the Titans' trophy up for grabs, the competition will be fierce and the challenges demanding but there'll be plenty of laughs along the way.

The celebrities will be put through their paces as they compete in a number of Olympic sporting challenges: Track Cycling, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Synchronised Swimming, and for the first time Wrestling, plus a Triathlon race which will see one team take the title.

Clash of the Titans first became a Sport Relief fixture in 2014 when Lord Sebastian Coe and his team of celebrities narrowly beat a team led by comedian John Bishop, in front of sell-out crowds across the two venues of 8000 people.

On the night, sports TV presenters Ore Oduba and Dan Walker will host all the action live from Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

It promises to be a night filled with tension, entertainment and sporting rivalry and the public has the opportunity to buy tickets to watch all the action from the two venues; the Velodrome at Lee Valley VeloPark and the London Aquatics Centre to cheer on their favourite team. Tickets go on sale on today (0900 Tuesday 16th February 2016) and are £16 plus booking fees applied by SeeTickets.

Sport Relief Night of TV returns to BBC One on Friday 18th March at 7pm.

On Friday 18th March, viewers will be treated to a Sport Relief Night of TV on BBC hosted by John Bishop, Gary Lineker, David Walliams and Claudia Winkleman, to name just a few. Luther returns to our screens for a one off sketch which will see Idris donning his infamous Luther coat to uncover a serious case of hilarity. The super sleuth will be joined by Lenny Henry, Rio Ferdinand, David Haye, Denise Lewis, Cecilia Noble, Louis Smith, Ruth Wilson and Ian Wright.

Alongside numerous other comedy sketches, musical performances and some extra special surprises on the night, everyone can get involved in raising money for Sport Relief 2016. There will be further announcements on the Clash of the Titans team line up in due course plus more news of exciting sketches and cameos in the coming weeks.

To buy tickets for Clash of the Titans go to <http://www.seetickets.com/tour/sport-relief-2016/> £2.50 from the sale of each ticket will go directly to Sport Relief.

The Sport Relief Weekend takes place from Friday 18th to Sunday 20th March and sees the return of the Sport Relief Games. This year, the public can walk, run, swim or cycle their way to raising life-changing cash. Find out more at sportrelief.com.

Money raised this Sport Relief will make a massive difference to people living incredibly tough lives, here at home in the UK and across the world's poorest communities.

ENDS

For more information about Clash of the Titans or the Sport Relief Night of TV please contact:

Harriet.Rhodes@bbc.co.uk

Mary.Jones@bbc.co.uk

Notes to editors

ABOUT SPORT RELIEF

Sport Relief brings the entire nation together to get active, raise cash and change lives. Since 2002, Sport Relief has raised over £262 million. The money raised by the public is spent by Comic Relief to help people living incredibly tough lives, across the UK and the world's poorest communities. It all leads up to the Sport Relief weekend and an unmissable night of TV on the BBC, broadcasting live from Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Sport Relief 2016 will take place from Friday 18th to Sunday 20th March 2016. You can run, swim, cycle or even walk yourself proud at events across the country. There's a distance for everyone in the Sport Relief Games, whether you're sporty or not. Find out more at www.sportrelief.com.

Comic Relief is a UK charity, which aims to create a just world, free from poverty.

Since 1985, Comic Relief has raised over £1billion. That money has helped, and is helping, people living incredibly tough lives, both at home in the UK and across the world.

For information about Comic Relief and the work it carries out, please visit www.comicrelief.com

Comic Relief, registered charity 326568 (England/Wales); SC039730 (Scotland)