

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Saturday 19th March 2016



SPORT RELIEF RAISES A RECORD BREAKING TOTAL OF £55,444,906 (SO FAR)!

The Sport Relief Weekend kicked off this evening with a fantastic night of sporting fun and sketches galore, as this year's Sport Relief Night of TV (BBC One and BBC Two) entertained the nation while raising an incredible £55,444,906 so far. The money will help make a real difference to people living incredibly tough lives here at home in the UK and across some of the world's poorest communities, with more still coming in from fundraisers taking part in the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Games this Sunday.

"Thank you so much to the wonderful British public for their generosity and to everyone who has done their bit this Sport Relief – I could not be prouder! The amazing amount of money raised is going to make a huge difference to people living incredibly tough lives, not only in the world's poorest communities but right here at home in the UK too – thank you!" David Walliams.

Included in the overall total and the largest corporate contribution on the night was £7,060,681 raised by Sainsbury's colleagues and customers who have been doing themselves proud across the country by carrying out fundraising events. Sainsbury's also raised money by selling the range of must-have merchandise, which includes the official Sport Relief t-shirt, available to buy in store and online until 22nd March.

Hosting the TV spectacular on the BBC were John Bishop, Alesha Dixon, Greg James, Gary Lineker, Davina McCall, David Walliams and Claudia Winkleman. The return of the Clash of the Titans was hosted by Dan Walker and Ore Oduba and Sir Steve Redgrave and Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff were the captains of the two teams, with Team Flintoff winning an epic battle.

The overall total also includes money raised by this year's BT Sport Relief Challenges. **Jo Brand's Hell of a Walk** saw the comedienne take on an incredible 135.7 miles as she walked from east to west, across the width of the country. The toughest challenge of Jo's life raised an incredible £1,159,220 with £360,331 of that pledged by BT.

The One Show's **Alex Jones**, TV presenter **Angellica Bell**, comedian **Hal Cruttenden**, actress **Doon Mackichan**, and TV presenters **Ore Oduba** and **Suzi Perry** all took part in the BT Sport Relief Challenge: *Hell on High Seas* which saw the team battle fearsome winds, freezing temperatures and

rough seas, in a feat of pure physical, mental and emotional endurance. The mammoth challenge raised a fantastic £1,062,868 with £160,000 of that pledged by BT.

BT also handled more than 104,000 calls to the donation line during the live TV show, peaking at 88 calls per second with BT over 6,000 volunteers at 79 call centres across the UK.

Through its 'Flying Start' partnership, British Airways has raised £2,509,528 this Sport Relief from money donated by customers on board, as well as from staff competing in fundraising events.

Reflecting the UK public's generous support for Sport Relief, the UK government Department for International Development has matched £10million of the 50% of public donations that will be spent internationally to help young people overcome the obstacles they face. HM Treasury has also donated £3 million to the campaign as part of a funding partnership with Comic Relief to transform the lives of women and girls in the UK.

Global healthcare company GSK donated £3 million to help fight malaria and improve health as part of a new five-year partnership launched with Comic Relief in 2015.

Greg James also took on an epic challenge, BBC Radio 1's *Gregathlon for Sport Relief*. The challenge saw the DJ complete a triathlon a day for five consecutive days, across five different UK cities, raising a phenomenal £1,041,001.

The Premier League continued their fantastic backing for Sport Relief by contributing an astonishing £1,050,638 for the campaign. This included their support of BBC 5 Live's Battle of the Five-A-Sides with footballing legends **Alan Shearer** and **Robbie Savage** taking on a challenge for Sport Relief once again. This time round the pair held Sport Relief's biggest ever five-a-side football match, which saw over 1,100 players take part in over 57 hours of continuous football. The stars were also joined by **Danny Jones**, **Rachel Riley** and **Josh Cuthbert**, who all played 12 hours straight of continuous football. Alan Shearer came out on top when the final whistle blew.

Sport Relief (BBC One and BBC Two) was packed with incredible entertainment, with highlights including:

- Live events from LeeValley Velopark and Aquatics Centre as **Sir Steve Redgrave** and **Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff** captained two teams of celebrities in the return of the Clash of the Titans, hosted by **Dan Walker** and **Ore Oduba**.
- **Paddy McGuinness** and **Harry Judd** went head-to-head in a wrestling spectacular, **Russell Kane** and **Will Young** sported nose pegs for synchronised swimming routines and **Freddie Flintoff** and

Darren Gough had their twirling batons at the ready as they took to the floor for rhythmic gymnastics.

- **Jo Brand** and **Greg James** re-lived their outstanding fundraising challenges, whilst **Eddie Izzard** nears the climax of his epic 27 day Marathon Man endeavour in South Africa.
- **Alex Jones, Hal Cruttenden, Ore Oduba, Angellica Bell, Doon Mackichan** and **Suzi Perry** looked back on their sail around the UK that saw them battle fearsome winds, freezing temperatures and rough seas, in a feat of pure physical, mental and emotional endurance.
- **David Walliams** brought back popular Little Britain character, Emily Howard, for a special one-off sketch with comedian **Micky Flanagan** and Stoke City striker **Peter Crouch** as you've never seen him before.
- **Jack Whitehall** enlisted the help of **Gareth Bale** in a bid for English football glory at the Euros this summer in a special one-off sketch, which also featured **Kevin Pietersen, Kriss Akabusi MBE, Ryan Giggs, Rob Brydon, Sir Tom Jones, Alex Jones, Aled Jones** and **Robbie Savage**.
- **James Corden** reprised his much-loved character, Smithy, for a spoof in which he runs for FIFA President with some of footballs greatest names including **Sir Geoff Hurst**, Brazilian football legend **Pele**, England icon **Steven Gerrard** and the 'Special One' himself, **Jose Mourinho**.
- A one-off *Luther* special as **Idris Elba** starred alongside **Sir Lenny Henry** and a whole host of sports stars including **Rio Ferdinand, Denise Lewis, Louis Smith, Ian Wright** and **David Haye**.
- Returning to his role after 40 years, **Michael Crawford**, who performed all of his own stunts, sported his beret as the disaster prone Frank Spencer in an exclusive *Some Mothers Do Ave 'Em* sketch with **Michele Dotrice** and cameos including **Sir Bradley Wiggins**.
- There was also live music from **Birdy** and **James Bay** who gave a special performance of his track 'Running', the official Sport Relief single.
- There were powerful reminders of the serious side of Sport Relief with moving appeal films that were presented by the likes of **Danny Dyer, Marvin** and **Rochelle Humes** and **Olivia Colman**, who showed how the money raised could help change lives both here in the UK and around the world.

Some of the issues highlighted in the programme included Ebola, maternal mental health, HIV, malaria, and dementia. Money raised through donations to Sport Relief will go towards supporting these, and many other issues, to help make a real difference.

For those who missed out or just can't get enough of the Sport Relief TV gold, bundles featuring the sketches from the night and exclusive behind-the-scenes content are available on the BBC Store and iTunes. Also available to download is 'Running (Live from Abbey Road Studios)', the official Sport Relief single by James Bay.

And this is just the beginning... Sunday 20th March will see the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Games take place around the country including flagship events in London (at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park), Belfast, Cardiff, Glasgow, Norwich and Sheffield. There are also hundreds of local events taking place across the nation. To find out how to get involved visit www.sportrelief.com.

Sport Relief would like to thank each and every person who donated or gave their time and made themselves proud – we could not have done it without you.

ENDS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Comic Relief Media Team:

020 7820 2500

Out of hours: 07984 510 473

media@comirelief.com

www.comirelief.com/media-centre

NOTES TO EDITORS:

David Walliams Little Britain Sport Relief sketch

David Walliams brought back popular Little Britain character, Emily Howard, for a special one-off sketch with comedian Mickey Flanagan and Stoke City striker Peter Crouch as you've never seen him before.

Jack Whitehall's Euros 2016 Sport Relief sketch

Jack Whitehall enlisted the help of Gareth Bale in a bid for English football glory at the Euros this summer in a special one-off sketch, which also featured Kevin Pietersen, Chris Akabusi MBE, Ryan Giggs, Rob Brydon, Sir Tom Jones, Alex Jones, Aled Jones and Robbie Savage. Disillusioned by years of disappointment as an England football supporter, Jack led a mission to return the English football team to its former glory of 1966.

James Corden's Smithy Sport Relief sketch

James Corden reprised his much-loved character, Smithy, for a spoof in which he runs for FIFA President. Some of football's greatest names supported Smithy's vision for the future of the beautiful game, including; England World Cup winning hero **Sir Geoff Hurst**, Brazilian football legend **Pele**, England icon **Steven Gerrard** and the 'Special One' himself, **Jose Mourinho**.

Luther Sport Relief sketch

Idris Elba starred as Luther in this one-off Sport Relief sketch, alongside Lenny Henry and a whole host of sports stars including Rio Ferdinand, Denise Lewis, Louis Smith, Ian Wright and David Haye.

Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em Sport Relief Sketch

After nearly 40 years off our screens, Michael Crawford reprised his role as the iconic Frank Spencer in a special one-off Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em sketch for Sport Relief. Michele Dotrice returned to her role as long suffering wife, Betty, for the special. The sketch saw hapless Frank in a number of calamitous escapades culminating in a chance meeting with cycling legend Sir Bradley Wiggins at the Lee Valley VeloPark with hilarious consequences.

iTunes / BBC Store details:

- Bundles available on iTunes and the BBC Store are priced at £2.99 each and include:
 - David Walliam's Little Britain Sport Relief sketch (2016)
 - Jack Whitehall's Euros 2016 Sport Relief sketch (2016)
 - James Corden's Smithy Sport Relief sketch (from 2016 and previous years)
 - Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em Sport Relief Sketch + behind-the-scenes (2016)

- Luther Sport Relief sketch + behind-the-scenes (2016)
- Only Fools and Horses Sport Relief sketch + behind the scenes (2014)

The following amounts, which include 100% of iTunes' share, will go to Sport Relief:

- At least £0.54 for each download from iTunes of the single Running (Live From Abbey Road) by James Bay will go to Sport Relief, an initiative of Comic Relief, registered charity 326568 (England & Wales); SC039730 (Scotland).
- At least £2.43 for each download of the TV series with come to Sport Relief, an initiative of Comic Relief, registered charity 326568 (England & Wales); SC039730 (Scotland).
- To download the track on iTunes visit: <http://po.st/JBRunningLive>
- To download the Sport Relief Night of TV bundle on the BBC Store, visit: <https://store.bbc.com/sport-relief>
- To download the Sport Relief Night of TV bundle on iTunes, visit: <itunes.com/sportrelief>

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.
- 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 Sainsbury's 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).*