

8th October 2018

RURAL CHARITY CELEBRATES FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

RSABI Great Glen Challenge 2018 has raised a record breaking £65,637 to support people in Scottish agriculture

RSABI is celebrating following confirmation that its annual Great Glen Challenge event, held at the end of August, has raised £65,637, breaking the previous fundraising record set in 2015. The popular event has raised over £300,000 in recent years with support from around 550 rural competitors, representing over 125 company teams since being established in 2012.

This year's Great Glen Challenge event, sponsored once again by Ledingham Chalmers, solicitors, and supported by Bank of Scotland, Rettie & Co, The Scottish Farmer and Royal Bank of Scotland, saw 104 competitors cycle, kayak, walk and run 46km from Fort Augustus to Fort William on 31st August. The Challenge was a sell-out with 26 teams of four people from a wide spectrum of agricultural and other land-based businesses and organisations.

Glasgow based Begbies Traynor, were crowned winners, with teams from Algo (Blairgowrie) Ltd, team B and Knight Frank following closely behind in second and third position.

With £65,637 raised to date, these funds will help RSABI provide emotional, practical and financial support to individuals and their families across the agricultural sector including farming, crofting and growing.

RSABI's Paul Tinson who co-ordinates the event said:

"We have literally been bowled over by the record amount raised this year and the fundraising impact provided by a range of new teams as well as returning competitors. My colleagues and I thank all those who took part in Great Glen Challenge 2018, our headline sponsors, Ledingham Chalmers, solicitors, our partner organisations, volunteer stewards and the hundreds of people who donated so generously up and down the country to our teams this year.

"In recent years we have experienced a surge in demand for our services, at an average cost to the charity of £500,000 each year, so a flagship event such as this, as well as our growing supporter scheme, become ever more important to us".

Ledingham Chalmers, solicitors partner Jim Drysdale said:

“The role of RSABI has arguably never been more important as the industry works together to create a sustainable future in the face of continuing uncertainty, as well as challenging market and weather conditions.

“We are once again delighted to support this fantastic event that raises essential funds to help so many people throughout rural Scotland”.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

- The attached photograph (courtesy of media sponsor The Scottish Farmer) shows **David Leggat**, RSABI Trustee, receiving a cheque from **Linda Tinson** of headline sponsor Ledingham Chalmers LLP flanked by key sponsors. Left to right: **George Lawrie** volunteer, **Brian Murphy**, Royal Bank of Scotland, Jim Drysdale Ledingham Chalmers LLP, Ken Fletcher, The Scottish Farmer and **Sandy Hay**, Bank of Scotland. The cheque represents all funds raised to date for RSABI by the event teams.
- RSABI is a registered charity which provides emotional, practical and financial support to individuals and their families across the agricultural sector including farming, crofting and growing. Contact: rsabi@rsabi.org.uk/0300 111 4166.
- Individuals, businesses and organisations wishing to volunteer for or support RSABI financially are urged to contact rsabi@rsabi.org.uk or visit www.rsabi.org.uk