

For the love of the game



On Thursday 12 May, Personal Lines and Endsleigh (PL&E) took part in its 3rd O2 Annual Charity Touch Rugby Tournament at Rugby Union HQ – Twickenham! Over the past few months we have been gathering together our team of 10 players and 4 guests and they started their fundraising efforts.

One team, one dream!

After an early start, the day began with breakfast and introductions by none other than sports pundit John Inverdale (pictured right)! However, the familiar format was soon interrupted by the surprise element of the day: a live demonstration and lesson from the London Maori group who performed traditional Maori dances and of course the legendary Haka which is synonymous with international rugby! (Pictured below.)

After getting the blood pumping with the Maoris, the crowd of nearly 300 people were shepherded to their designated areas – players to the immaculate England changing rooms and spectators out to pitch side to soak up the stadium. The players were lined up in the tunnel and on the call of their team/company name, ran out under the lights, smoke and flags to the cheers of those supporting.

The team headed to their very own team gazebo to discuss team tactics, strategy and got hydrated for the day ahead.

Scrum and get us!

Soon the tournament began with 4 rounds in the group and PL&E winning three out of four games and one draw, putting them us to the quarter finals. The brave effort fell short and the team were unfortunately knocked out of the running, although consolation was found from this team going on to win the tournament, A further two games for 3rd/4th playoff resulted in PL&E finishing 3rd overall. Although disappointed, the team did really well considering a lack of training time and were competitive to the end.

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Once the tournament was over, there was an attempt to break a Guinness World Record for the most consecutive rugby passes over 5 meters by individual challengers. Each pass had to be made by a different person – the record stood at 287! On the side of the pitch 288 people, players, supporters and staff lined up to attempt the record...

The first pass was made by none other than the current England captain, Dylan Hartley who passed it to an individual that could be considered as “inexperienced” at holding, let alone passing a rugby ball! After a couple more shaky passes down the line and jeers from the crowd, it soon became apparent the record wasn't going to be broken and sure enough after four attempts the highest that was achieved was 178 (poor lady who dropped it).

The day rounded off with a presentation to the winning teams, an open question session with Dylan Hartley and John Inverdale, a delicious buffet dinner and a drink or two from the bar.

Once again, the flagship O2 charity event was a great success with everyone having a great day and vowing to attend next year.

Many thanks to all colleagues, family and friends who gave money to Zurich Cares which was the main aim of the event. We had a personal target of £3,000 to raise and were successful raising £3,284 which when added to the total for the event stood at just under £100,000! Well done to all involved and hopefully we can achieve this and more next year!

