

INVESTEC ASHES CYCLE CHALLENGE RAISES £250,000 FOR GOOD CAUSES

After 4.5 days and 340 miles cycling in temperatures often exceeding 30°C, the Investec Ashes 2013 Cycle Challenge team reached Lord's Cricket Ground on Wednesday 17th July, having raised over £250k for a number of local charities, as well as the Lord's Taverners*.

Over 70 cyclists, including staff from Investec Wealth & Investment and their guests, took part in the ride which covered all five Ashes Test grounds, starting at Emirates Durham International Cricket Ground on Saturday 15th July and taking in Emirates Old Trafford, Trent Bridge and the Kia Oval, before finishing at Lord's in London.

Cricket legend Mike Gatting OBE and TV celebrity diving judge Leon Taylor took part in the challenge, as did former England international cricketer Allan Lamb (Milton Keynes to Lords), internationally renowned tenor Sean Ruane, and three Ashes winning ladies Isa Guna, Ebony Rainford-Brent, and Caroline Atkins.

Mike Gatting OBE, the former England Ashes winning captain, said: "It's been a gruelling few days, especially in this heat, but there has been a fantastic team spirit all the way. Everyone helped each other along and we've managed to have fun at the same time. But not forgetting what this has been all about - raising money for some really good causes, such as the Lord's Taverners and many other local charities. We've had amazing support and it's thanks to the hard work, great organisation and fundraising efforts of everyone involved that this challenge has been such a success."

Justin Yeldham, senior investment director, Investec Guildford said: "One of the highlights for me was meeting some of the kids that benefit from the Lord's Taverners minibuses. It certainly gave me the added inspiration required to get over the hills."

Simon Tabb, investment director, Investec Guildford said: 'A 5 day heat wave including some incredibly steep hills, made the journey tricky, but we were supporting some very worthy causes!'