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Clarion

Yorkshire entrepreneur takes on ‘City Three Peaks’

Leeds law firm Clarion has helped The Outward Bound Trust in bringing to fruition the ‘most ambitious charity fundraising event in the City of London’s history’. The firm advised the education charity on a contract to enable a group of chief executives, philanthropists and entrepreneurs, including Yorkshire-based entrepreneur and founder of DFS Lord Kirkham, to abseil three London landmarks.

The Outward Bound City Three Peaks Challenge in association with The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC) saw the first ever descents of the outside of 30 St Mary Axe (‘The Gherkin’), The Leadenhall Building (‘The Cheesegrater’) and 20 Fenchurch Street (‘The Walkie Talkie’) last week.

Taking inspiration from the long-running Three Peaks Challenge, in which hikers attempt to climb the highest mountains of Scotland, England and Wales in the space of 24 hours, the city equivalent saw a 40 strong group abseil a total of 1,916ft down three of London’s most iconic buildings.

Doncaster businessman and philanthropist Lord Kirkham, founder of the DFS Furniture chain, was among the group of participants who completed the descent of each tower one after the other, achieving the longest civilian abseil in history.

The commercial team at Clarion were the legal advisors to The Outward Bound Trust, working on the various commercial terms agreed between all the parties involved and enabling the Trust to secure the support of 30 St Mary Axe, The Leadenhall Building and 20 Fenchurch Street.

Fiona Marr, senior associate in the commercial team at Clarion and who advised on the drafting of the contracts, explained: “The Outward Bound Trust has been a longstanding client of Clarion and to be able to assist them with this somewhat unusual contract, knowing that the money raised from the abseil will help them aid the development of more young people, has been particularly rewarding.”
Each participant committed to raising £100,000, with the aim of the event being to generate £4 million in funds for The Outward Bound Trust and RNRMC.

The money raised from the City Three Peaks Challenge will help fund life-changing experiences for young people across the UK – many of whom come from disadvantaged backgrounds – through The Outward Bound Trust. The charity partners with schools, colleges and youth groups, to provide challenging outdoor experiences that equip young people with skills and confidence, which can be transferred back into their home, school and work environments.

The event was facilitated by The Royal Marines. The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity is the principal charity of the Royal Navy. It helps to boost morale, improve facilities and ease the pressure that life in the Service can bring, as well as providing crucial support for families and veterans.