



RHINO BOY RUNS GREATEST RACE OF HIS LIFE
ATLANTIC SUPPORTS SAVE THE RHINO AT THE FLORA LONDON MARATHON 2009





On 26th April 2009 Atlantic Corporate Relocation employee Chris Green, 33, completed the London Flora Marathon, dressed as a rhinoceros. His official race time, despite being constrained by the giant foam costume, was an impressive 5 hours and 41 minutes.

Looking at it from the sidelines, you may think that the Marathon is gruelling enough, but strapped awkwardly into a rhino suit and running in 21 degrees, surely that was just diabolically awful? Not for Chris Green. Chris is on cloud nine about the whole experience: "It was the greatest run of my life. I loved every second, which is strange to say when I did have moments of intense pain. I didn't train in the suit, so the first few miles were a real shock, and at one stage I thought to myself, "I just can't do this." But the crowds just lifted me back up. They chanted for me – "Rhino, Rhino" and the other runners were patting me on the back, giving me water, and kids were holding out their hands to high five the rhino. From the minute the gun went off – the rhino was an instant success."

Chris has a giant soft spot for the Rhino after his first hand experiences with the animal in Africa. "I've been lucky enough to visit Africa and see the rhinos. It was an honour to run the rhino, and it's great to know that I've helped Save the Rhino ensure that future generations will have the same opportunities I've had to see these incredible animals surviving in their natural habitat."

Save the Rhino International works to conserve rhinos in Africa and Asia, and with three out of the five species of rhino classed as critically endangered, they certainly need all the help they can get. By funding field projects and through education, Save the Rhino work to conserve Rhino populations and other endangered species and ecosystems, whilst delivering material benefits to the communities that share their environment with the Rhino.

Before the race, Chris said his main goal was to raise awareness for Save the Rhino, which he did in spades. However he has also managed to raise over £2300 for the charity with around £200 more to come – smashing his target of £2000. "Atlantic sponsored me with £1000, and Atlantic employees and other friends have also given me financial and moral support. Lots of my colleagues and of course my family came down to cheer me on, which meant a lot to me." Atlantic are always keen to support charities where they can make a difference.



So what now for Chris Green? Has one marathon as Rhino Boy been enough to deter him? "After the race my back was very sore, and I can't touch my feet any more, but that will all pass by the end of the week. I'd love to run for Save the Rhino again. I'm already thinking I could run in the rhino suit in the South Pole. So this is just the beginning. I think I'll feel like Rhino Boy for the rest of my life!"



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