Bukumbi Bound

With the trip to Tanzania only days away, Dental Tribune details recent fundraising efforts and a growing sense of panic!

It's one week to go before the trip, and I'm getting in a right flap about everything! What to pack, what not to pack, remembering any of the Swahili phrases which might come in handy, sourcing my malaria tablets... you name it, I'm flapping about it!

Of course, all of this flapping is covering up my anxiety about the trip. Don't get me wrong, I'm extremely excited, but you can't help worrying about whether or not you're up to the task or if you'll cope in the heat. However, I know that when we get out there all the worrying will be in vain as I know that we will be a very motivated and committed team and will throw ourselves into the experience.

Speaking of committed, or needing to be, four intrepid fundraisers stepped out very early into the Kent countryside to complete a marathon hike around Bewl Water, the perimeter of which is 17 miles. Having endured all the 'jokes' about walking around Bluewater, which for those not living in the Southeast is a shopping complex (and believe me by the end of it I was wishing it was Bluewater!) it was time for Schülke UK's Andrew Thurston, Anne Harris, Jacqui Entwistle and myself to follow the picturesque Round Bewl Water walk. This name is a bit of a misnomer, as for long stretches of the walk we couldn't even see the water! However, it was a beautiful place to trek for miles, we were extremely lucky with the weather as it was a lovely sunny Spring day with just enough breeze to stop us from overheating and we were suitably exhausted at the finish to regret any plans more energetic than sitting in a warm bath that we had made for the rest of the weekend!

A big congratulations to the team for completing the walk and keeping their enthusiasm and spirits up, even in the face of Andrew's terrible jokes (it'll be a long two weeks in Tanzania if that was his best material...); even bigger congrats to Jacqui who did the majority of the walk with an extremely painful blister on her foot and who by the end was barely able to hobble.

Another fundraising effort from a member of the team going to Bukumbi was led recently by Henry Schein Minerva's Len Camporeale, who with some members of the HSM team (Louie (Marketing) and Wayne (Warehouse)) camped in the car park of the company's UK head office and asked the TSMs to donate a day or a week's commuting expense to the project. From all accounts, it was more comfortable than some of the hotels the team had stayed in!

To support these fundraising efforts, go to www.justgiving.com/bukumbibound and donate. This easy way of helping us raise money for this worthy cause goes straight to the charity, and allows you to add Gift Aid to your donation.

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