

THE 18TH

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THE INTERVIEW
Rick Shiels



**PROSTATE
CANCER UK**



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The Open Championship is undoubtedly one of the highlights in the golfing calendar. The tournament attracts the sport's top names, media from across the globe and millions of viewers.

Fans flock from around the world to watch the sport's oldest tournament and while most travelled to The Open – this year held at the iconic Old Course at St Andrews – by plane, train or car, one man tackled his 150-mile commute by foot – raising money for Prostate Cancer UK in the process.



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Rick Shiels, the world's most watched YouTuber, raised an incredible £120,000 by completing an epic golfing pilgrimage across Scotland in June, walking from the west coast to the east in just six days.

Shiels, whose channel boasts a whopping two million followers, began his mammoth commute at Prestwick Golf Club – the location of the first Open in 1860. He made his way westwards, stopping off at Cawder Golf Club and the famous Gleneagles Golf Resort before arriving at St Andrews' iconic Swilcan Bridge just shy of a week later.

The 35-year-old has shot hundreds of videos, with plenty in testing circumstances, across his 11-year YouTube career, but the former golf pro says his trek across Scotland was the most difficult challenge of his professional career.

"What an incredible week," he said. "The hardest challenge of my life and I'm truly humbled by the fans and people I don't even know who came to see

me and who sent me a supportive message. Truly motivating and inspiring. I've not done anything like this before.

"It was a real honour marching through Scotland, which is a wonderful country, visiting some fantastic golf courses, enjoying spectacular scenery, but to also learn more about prostate cancer and meet some of the people this terrible disease affects.

"I've watched The Open since I was a boy, so to walk from the birthplace of the tournament to where it was hosted this year was quite an emotional experience. There were massive highs and lows on each day of the walk, but the fantastic support I received – whether that was from Sky Blue Adventures, who looked after me, people waving as they drove past, everyone who donated and everyone who came to meet me at St Andrews, including my family – helped to get me over the finish line.

"I'm so proud to have raised over £120,000. I'll remember this experience forever. To be able to do this challenge for Prostate Cancer UK and to have done my bit in the fight against the most common cancer in men is a great feeling. It's so important for men to know of their risk of prostate cancer and I hope that this walk has helped shine a light on the disease and the work of Prostate Cancer UK."



IN THE GOLFING COMMUNITY

Clubmates help William's drive to five-figure tally

A Hampshire golfer had reason to celebrate last summer after his golf day raised over £11,000 for Prostate Cancer UK.

William Donnelly, of Gosport and Stokes Bay Golf Club near Portsmouth, decided to host a fundraising day of golf after he was diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer in 2020.



The fundraising was more than I ever dreamt we would achieve.

His clubmates rallied around him and through a raffle, auction and the golf day, which drew over 100 players – including a ladies team who had t-shirts specially made for the day, (pictured) – William was able to raise a fantastic £11,642.

And now the 62-year-old wants to use his prostate cancer experience to encourage his friends and loved ones to know their risk of the disease.

“The fundraising was more than I ever dreamt we would achieve,” he said.

“Everyone enjoyed the day so much. I'm incredibly grateful to all the members of the club who gave me so much support, especially Tony Keefe, who was a real driving force behind its success.

“My diagnosis has inspired me to persuade and cajole friends, family and acquaintances to talk to their doctors as the earlier it is caught, the greater chance there is of fighting the disease.”



Golfsupport team hit a fundraising century

Seventy-two holes of golf in one day is a big challenge for even the most experienced of golfers.

But that wasn't enough for the Golfsupport.com team, who conquered an incredible 100 holes in just 24 hours in August.

A four ball of John Lines, Rich Candlin, Jamie Boler and Sam Sanghera completed their century of holes – aptly dubbed ‘The Really Big Golf Race’ – at Shipley Golf Club in Yorkshire, raising an impressive total of over £4,600 for Prostate Cancer UK.

Golfsupport's epic effort is the latest in a long line of fundraising initiatives which began when deputy managing director John was inspired to join the fight against prostate cancer after losing his father, Bernard, to the disease.

The online golf retailer has donated a percentage of every sale to Prostate Cancer UK, while also offering customers the option of rounding up their order with a donation. It has also provided £3,000 worth of Mizuno golf gear to be won in the Big Golf Race's prize draw.

And after conquering the Big Golf Race, John has set his sights on taking his fundraising tally to six figures before he steps away from the business next year.

He said: “To date the money we've raised has exceeded £80,000, so my target has to be £100,000 before I officially leave the business. I'd really love to achieve this milestone; I know this would have made my father proud.”



Captain's log: Tanya toasts golf day success

A Barnet family swapped their walking boots for golf clubs this summer to raise a fantastic £12,790 for Prostate Cancer UK.

The Wilson family, led by keen golfer Tanya, have taken part in our March for Men events since 2017, and decided to continue their support by hosting a golf day at Arkley Golf Club.

Tanya, who is Lady Captain at the Hertfordshire club, has backed Prostate Cancer UK through her club after her husband, Kevin, was diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer in 2016.

“Part of my challenge was to raise as much awareness as possible due to the few symptoms my husband had,” she said. “It’s scary to think he had the slightest symptom, went to get checked and was told it was advanced prostate cancer.”

Supported by her daughter Chloe and clubmates, Tanya’s golf day was contested by more than 50 players. Her fundraising tally was also bolstered by a live auction and the support of friends and local businesses, taking her overall total for the year so far to an impressive £16,575.

“The highlight was everyone getting together and knowing that everyone came to support us as a family,” Tanya said.

“It’s been a tough journey, so we appreciate everyone’s willingness to help raise awareness and money. My piece of advice to incoming captains would be to choose your charity well in advance. Prostate Cancer UK’s website was very helpful and was easy to use.”



Supporters celebrated at our Golf Championships

The Prostate Cancer UK Golf Championships triumphantly returned to courses across the country this year, uniting captains and fundraisers in celebration of raising an incredible £1.5 million through golf in 2021.

Captains and vice captains of clubs from across the UK were invited to a series of five special golf days hosted by Prostate Cancer UK, dedicated to acknowledging and toasting their work in raising the vital funds, which will go towards research into prostate cancer.

Want to face other top fundraisers in our Golf Championships in 2023? Choose us as your chosen charity at your club for your chance to bag a spot.

The Championships were kicked off at Sandy Lodge Golf Club in Hertfordshire on 1 September, before some of our biggest fundraisers were invited to a special day at Little Aston Golf Club in Birmingham on 7 September to celebrate their continued support.

We then returned to the Midlands to Moor Hall in Sutton Coldfield on 28 September, before Shipley Golf Club in Leeds proved to be a fitting finale for the final instalment of 2022’s Golf Championships on 5 October.



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**PROSTATE
CANCER UK**

RESOURCES FOR YOU

Support us

We can support you every step of the fairway! For a typical golf day we can provide you with: branded golf balls, tees, pencils, pin badges and a range of awareness literature, posters and banners. Clubs who use our branded materials raise significantly more awareness and funds.

We are happy to provide these materials for free to help you make the most of your day and reach as many golfers as you can. Register at

prostatecanceruk.org/golf



Speak to our Specialist Nurses

0800 074 8383*
prostatecanceruk.org

Whether you've been diagnosed or have concerns about prostate cancer or prostate problems, we're here to support you. We can also help partners, family members, friends, and health professionals with any questions you may have.

Call our Specialist Nurses from:

Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm
Wednesdays 10am – 5pm



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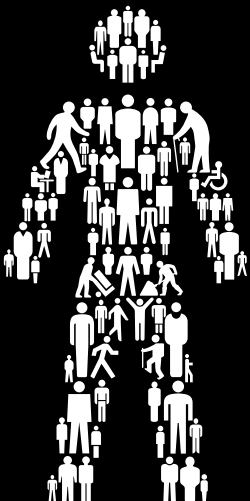
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